



Goaltide
A Prelims IAS Academy

JULY 2023

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UPSC PRELIMS 2023 EXAM DAILY QUIZ COMPILATION-JULY

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Q1. Consider the following statements regarding **Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS)**.

1. Food Corporation of India sells surplus stocks of wheat and rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) at pre-determined prices through e-auction.
2. As per the revised rules, single bidder can purchase 3000 MT (metric tonnes) in a single bid under OMSS.
3. States are not allowed to procure foodgrains under OMSS.
4. The aim of OMSS is to give more grains to states to meet the target of distributing foodgrains under National Food Security Act.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

First statement is correct:

Food Corporation of India sells surplus stocks of wheat and rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) at pre-determined prices through e-auction in the open market from time to time to **enhance the supply of food grains, especially wheat during the lean season and thereby moderate the open market prices specially in the deficit regions. Fourth is incorrect.**

Yes, states do take part in auction if they need more grains for NFSA. Usually, states are also allowed to procure food grains through the OMSS without participating in the auctions, for their needs beyond what they get from the central pool to distribute to NFSA beneficiaries. **Third statement is incorrect.**

Recently, the Centre decided to restrict the quantity that a single bidder can purchase in a single bid under the OMSS. **While the maximum quantity allowed earlier was 3,000 metric tonnes (MT) per bid for a buyer, it will now range from 10-100 metric tonnes (MT). Second statement is incorrect.**

Q2. As per the recent study, which of the following species sleep found to have active and quiet phases, similar to human sleep?

- a. Jellyfish
- b. Honey bee
- c. Octopus
- d. Ants

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

Octopuses' sleep found to have active and quiet phases, similar to human sleep

Scientists further determined the waves to occur in octopuses' brain regions associated with learning and memory

July 03, 2023 02:27 pm | Updated 02:27 pm IST

Q3. Consider the following statements.

1. Almost 60% of all orchids found in India are epiphytic, which means they grow on other plants for mechanical support.
2. The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Orchids are listed under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms: epiphytic (plants growing on another plants including those growing on rock boulders and often termed lithophyte), terrestrial (plants growing on land and climbers) and mycoheterotrophic (plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant).

About 60% of all orchids found in the country, which is 757 species, are epiphytic, 447 are terrestrial and 43 are mycoheterotrophic.

The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim 560 species and West Bengal; Darjeeling Himalayas have also high species concentration, with 479 species.

Changes in orchid flowering patterns are being observed in Arunachal Pradesh too, said Jumer Nyorak, researcher at the Tippi Orchid Research Centre in the state. This is considered the orchid state of India with 40% of the total orchid species found in India. According to the World Wildlife Fund, India has 1,256 recorded orchid species of which 307 are endemic to our country.

The entire orchid family is **listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)** and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally.

Q4. **Research Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG)** is an initiative of which of the following platform?

- a. G-20
- b. ASEAN

- c. SCO
- d. UNFCCC

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Research Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) is a new initiative of G20 Forum.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding National Security Act in India?

1. The National Security Act was promulgated during the Indira Gandhi government.
2. Both Central and State Government has power under this Act to detain a person.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The National Security Act was promulgated on September 23, 1980, during the Indira Gandhi government and its purpose is "to provide for preventive detention in certain cases and for matters connected therewith". It applies to the entirety of India, except Jammu and Kashmir. As per the National Security Act, the grounds for preventive detention of a person include:

A. acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, or the security of India.

B. regulating the continued presence of any foreigner in India or with a view to making arrangements for his expulsion from India.

C. preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community it is necessary so to do.

3. Power to make orders detaining certain persons.—(1) The Central Government or the State Government may,—

(a) if satisfied with respect to any person that with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, or the security of India, or

(b) if satisfied with respect to any foreigner that with a view to regulating his continued presence in India or with a view to making arrangements for his expulsion from India,

it is necessary so to do, make an order directing that such person be detained.

Q6. Ladakh shares boundary with:

1. Pakistan and China only
2. Pakistan, Afghanistan and China
3. Pakistan only
4. Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan and China

Solution: d

Explanation:



Q7. Separation of the Judiciary from the executive and Legislative is enjoined by:

- a. Preamble
- b. Directive Principle
- c. Seventh Schedule
- d. None of the above.

Solution: d

Explanation:

Read carefully. Only Executive.

Article 50 (DPSP) of the Indian constitution talks that the State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State. It is one of the liberal intellectual principles.

50. Separation of judiciary from executive.—The State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State.

Q8. While a proclamation of emergency (article 352) is in operation in the country, the state government:

- a. Cannot Legislate
- b. Can legislate only on subjects in the Concurrent List
- c. Can legislate on the subject in the state list
- d. is suspended.

Solution: c

Explanation:

After proclamation of the emergency under article 352 federal structure of the polity changes into unitary and **centre can legislate on any matter of the state lists**. These laws made on state subjects become inoperative after 6 months of the cease of emergency.

It is to be noted that state legislatures are not suspended but rather normal distribution of legislative powers get suspended in emergency and become subject to overriding powers of the parliament. **So, states can also make laws during the emergency**. But it can be over-ride by Parliament.

Q9. Which of the following aspects can lead to appreciation in the exchange rate of the Rupee?

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

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

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

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

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

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

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

Q10. Nasik inscriptions describes the achievements of:

- a. Chandragupta-1
- b. Kanishka
- c. Gautamiputra Satakarni
- d. Pushyamitra Sunga

Solution: c

Explanation:

Nasik inscriptions describes the achievements of GautamiputraSatakarni.

Q11. With respect to Puga Valley, consider the following statements.

- 1. Puga Valley is situated in the Changthang Valley in Ladakh.
- 2. Puga valley is one of the major geothermal provinces in Himalayan belt region.

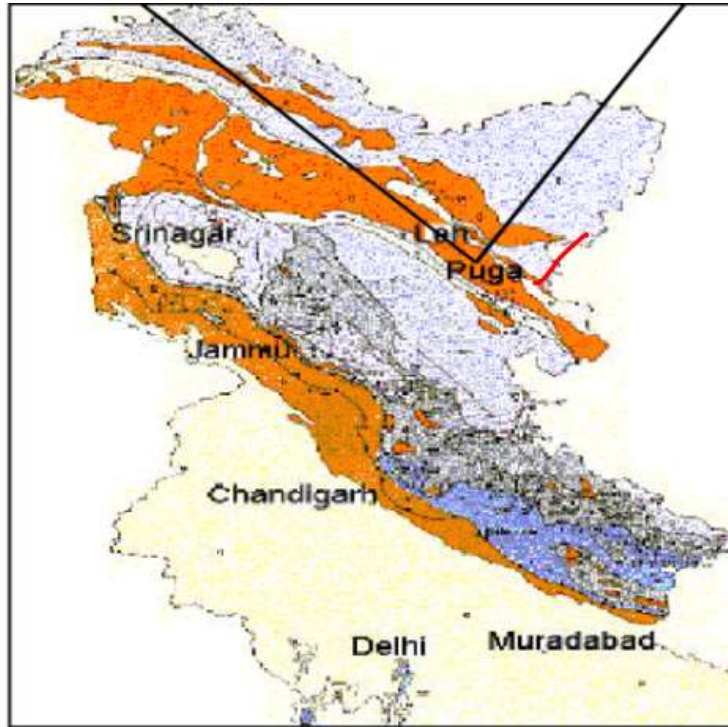
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

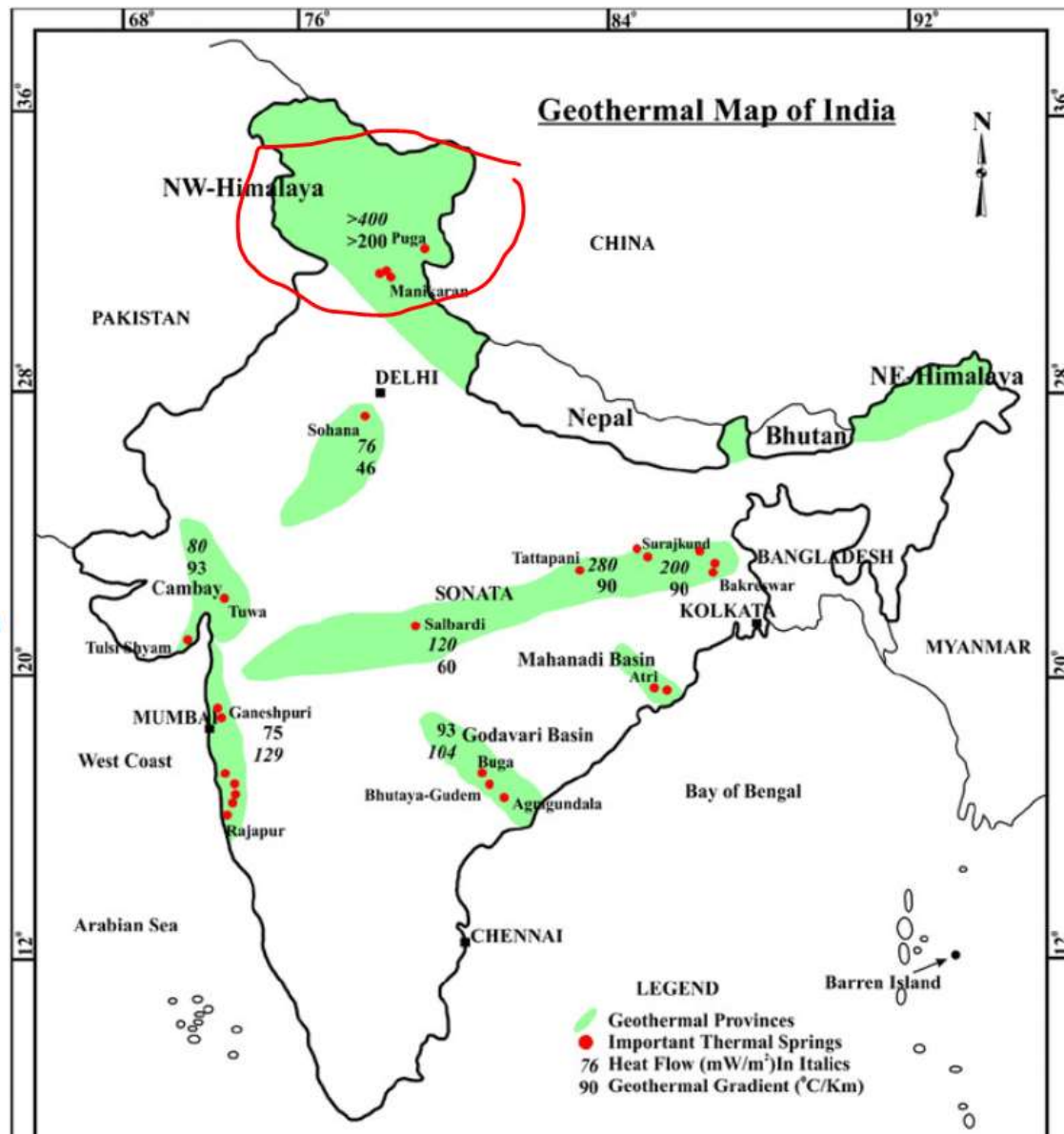
Puga Valley is situated in the Changthang Valley in the south-eastern part of Ladakh.



Puga valley is one of the major geothermal provinces in Himalayan belt region and represents one of the most extensive hot spring activities in India. It is situated at an altitude of about 4400 m above mean sea level with surrounding hills rising up to an altitude of about 6000 m.

Puga valley is well known for its numerous hot springs with temperatures up to 84 °C (the boiling point of water at that altitude) and occurrences of sulfur and borax deposits.

Geothermal map of India.



Q12. In the context of algae-based biofuel processes, consider the following statements.

1. Catalytic hydrothermal liquefaction technology is used to convert algae biomass to oil.
2. Under this process, water is used as solvent under high temperature and pressure to extract oil from the biomass.
3. The benefits of this technology include direct utilisation of wet biomass without any need for drying and conversion of every organic fragment of biomass into oil.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Algae came to the limelight in the world's fight against climate change about a decade ago for its vast benefits in industrial production. It can synthesise large volumes of oil (20 times more than that of mustard per acre), grow fast (10 times quicker than terrestrial plants) and capture carbon dioxide (CO₂).

But, as of today in 2022, have we really come up with any algae biofuel industry?

India's Reliance Industries Ltd recently has been successfully running large algae raceway ponds the last five years at their facility near Jamnagar, to convert sunshine, CO₂ and seawater into bio-oil.

It also displayed the utilisation of **catalytic hydrothermal liquefaction technology to convert algae biomass to oil.**

Under this process, **water is used as solvent under high temperature and pressure to extract oil from the biomass.**

The benefits of this technology include **direct utilisation of wet biomass without any need for drying and conversion of every organic fragment of biomass into oil** and without any wastage.

Q13. With respect to the regulation of the State Emblem of India, consider the following statements.

1. No person shall use the emblem for the purpose of any trade, business, calling or profession.
2. As per the Act, Parliament is only empowered to regulate the use of emblem.
3. On 26.01.1950, the State Emblem was adopted as a symbol and seal of the newly formed Republic of India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

About Emblem.

First and third are correct statements.

On 26.01.1950, the **State Emblem was adopted as a symbol** and seal of the newly formed Republic of India. The statute came into existence in 2005. It describes the State Emblem of India as an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka which is preserved in the Sarnath Museum.

4. Prohibition of use of emblem for wrongful gain.—No person shall use the emblem for the purpose of any trade, business, calling or profession or in the title of any patent, or in any trade mark or design, except in such cases and under such conditions as may be prescribed.

5. Prohibition of registration of certain companies, etc.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no competent authority shall,—

- (a) register a trade mark or design which bears the emblem, or
- (b) grant patent in respect of an invention which bears a title containing the emblem.

Second statement is incorrect:

6. General powers of Central Government to regulate use of emblem.—(1) The Central Government may make such provision by rules as appears to it to be necessary, to regulate the use of the emblem in official seal that is used in offices of the Central Government and the State Governments and their organisations including diplomatic missions abroad, subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government shall have powers—

(a) to notify the use of emblem on stationery, the method of printing or embossing it on demi-official stationery by the constitutional authorities, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, officers of the Central Government and the State Governments;

(b) to specify the design of the official seal consisting of the emblem;

(c) to restrict the display of emblem on vehicles of constitutional authorities, foreign dignitaries, Ministers of the Central Government and the State Governments;

(d) to provide for guidelines for display of emblem on public buildings in India, the diplomatic missions and on the buildings occupied by India's consulates abroad;

(e) to specify conditions for the use of emblem for various other purposes including the use for educational purposes and the armed forces personnel;

(f) to do all such things (including the specification of design of the emblem and its use in the manner whatsoever) as the Central Government considers necessary or expedient for the exercise of the foregoing powers.

Q14. 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.



Q15. In most of the accounts, Ashoka has been referred to as 'Devanampiya Piyadassi'. In which place does the name 'Ashok' find its mention?

- Maski edicts, Karnataka
- Ujjain edicts, Madhya Pradesh
- Palkigundu edicts, Andhra Pradesh
- 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.

Q16. Consider the following statements.

- The nomination paper of a candidate for the Presidential election has to be subscribed by at least fifty electors as proposers.
- No President in India has been elected twice.
- The President shall vacate his office immediately after expiry of his term.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Solution: a

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[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.

Q17. Which of the following describes “Regenerative Agriculture”?

1. reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter
2. No use of synthetic fertilizers and substances that disrupt the biological structuring of the farming system
3. increase water percolation, water retention, and clean and safe water runoff

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

All statements are correct. You will read the link given below. Save it.

“Regenerative Agriculture” describes farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity – resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle.

Regenerative Agricultural Practices are:

Practices that (i) contribute to generating/building soils and soil fertility and health; (ii) increase water percolation, water retention, and clean and safe water runoff; (iii) increase biodiversity and ecosystem health and resiliency; and (iv) invert the carbon emissions of our current agriculture to one of remarkably significant carbon sequestration thereby cleansing the atmosphere of legacy levels of CO₂.

Q18. Consider the following statements with reference to taxation.

- 1. Higher direct taxes help in controlling Inflation in the economy
- 2. Higher indirect taxes help in controlling the Inflation in the economy

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

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

Solution b

Explanation:

Higher direct taxes will mean that the people will be left with smaller disposable incomes, lower disposable incomes do not generate higher demand. This causes the inflation to be controlled.

Whereas higher indirect taxes will increase the prices of the commodities because the cost of production will increase. **This will lead to Cost-push inflation.**

Q19. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Narrative panels are key feature of Bharhut sculptures
- 2. Queen Mayadevi’s dream is shown in one such narrative of Bharhut.
- 3. Depiction of Ruru Jataka is the part of Sanchi stupa sculptures.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Bharhut

Bharhut sculptures are tall like the images of *Yaksha* and *Yakhshini* in the Mauryan period, modelling of the sculptural volume is in low relief maintaining linearity. Images stick to the picture plane. In the relief panels depicting narratives, illusion of three-dimensionality is shown with tilted perspective. Clarity in the narrative is enhanced by selecting main events. At Bharhut, narrative panels are shown with fewer characters but as the time progresses, apart from the main character in the story, others also start appearing in the picture space. At times more than one event at one geographical place is clubbed in the picture space or only a single main event is depicted in the pictorial space.

Availability of the space is utilised to the maximum by the sculptors. Folded hands in the narratives as well as single figures of the *Yakhshas* and *Yakshinis* are shown flat clinging to the chest. But in some cases, especially in later times, the hands are shown with the natural projection against the chest. Such examples show how artisans who were working at a collective level had to



Narrative reliefs at Bharhut show how artisans used the pictorial language very effectively to communicate stories. In one such narrative, showing Queen Mayadevi's (mother of Siddhartha Gautam) dream, a descending elephant is shown. The queen is shown reclining on the bed whereas an elephant is shown on the top heading towards the womb of Queen Mayadevi. On the other hand, the depiction of a *Jataka* story is very simple—narrated by clubbing the events according to the geographical location of the story like the depiction of Ruru *Jataka* where the Bodhisattva deer is rescuing a man on his back. The other event in the same picture frame depicts the King standing with his army and about to shoot an arrow at the deer, and the man who was



Jataka panel, Bharhut



Queen Maya's dream, Bharhut

Q20. Consider the following statements:

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

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: c

Explanation:

Transmission

Zika virus is primarily transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito from the *Aedes* genus, mainly *Aedes aegypti*, in tropical and subtropical regions. *Aedes* mosquitoes usually bite during the day, peaking during early morning and late afternoon/evening. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Zika virus is also transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation.

Q21. In the context of India, consider the following statements.

1. Governor cannot be part of the cabinet system of governance.

2. If Governor is member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature, he shall vacate his seat in that House on the date on which he enters upon his office as Governor.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is NOT the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Solution: a

Explanation:

Article 158 assumes significance as a Governor is expected to not be a member of either the Parliament or a State Assembly. **He is not a part of the cabinet system of governance.**

158. Conditions of Governor's office.—(1) The Governor shall not be a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any State specified in the First Schedule, and if a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any such State be appointed Governor, he shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in that House on the date on which he enters upon his office as Governor.

Q22. In respect to **Industrial Park rating system (IPRS)**, consider the following statements.

1. IPRS is an initiative by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
2. IPRS 2.0 framework is designed based on the international guidelines for the Industrial Park developed by United Nations Industrial Development Organization.
3. It aims to enhance industrial competitiveness.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) is a major initiative by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.

Read from original document:

FOREWORD

India is firmly positioned on a rapid and sustainable growth trajectory due to numerous reforms undertaken by the Government of India under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. The Government has introduced key programmes, such as 'Make in India' and the multi-pronged 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' to give a fillip to every sector and transform India into a self-reliant economy. The programme's objective is to establish India as the preferred investment destination globally and developing a high-quality industrial infrastructure to attract a sustained flow of investment.

A major step in this direction is the introduction of the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) to enhance industrial competitiveness. The pilot of IPRS was launched in 2018. The current exercise, IPRS 2.0, builds on the findings from the pilot and identifies measures to further enhance industrial competitiveness and attract investment.

park), the DPIIT introduced 'IPRS 2.0' as a key enabler for identifying additional measures to enhance industrial competitiveness. IPRS 2.0 has the following broad objectives:

- **Recognise best practices** to help improve industrial infrastructure and promote competitiveness.
- **Benchmark and identify gaps** to structure interventions. This will allow states to use existing industrial infrastructure assets and services more optimally and plan for new infrastructure.
- **Enable states** to demonstrate their strengths and **promote investment in the state industrial ecosystem.**
- **Enable policymakers** to plan a **strategy for future industrialisation and better capacity utilisation** based on insights from the rating exercise.

1.2.2. IPRS 2.0 framework development

Globally known frameworks were referred for developing the initial concept of IPRS 2.0 viz. the **International Guidelines for Industrial Park (IGIP) developed by UNIDO, and the Eco-Industrial Park (EIP) framework developed by UNIDO, World Bank, and GIZ.**⁴ Both the IGIP and EIP frameworks comprehensively cover various pillars and parameters of industrial infrastructure development that include economic, environmental, and social performance; management quality; and infrastructure and service quality. These frameworks align with the objective of IPRS, given that some key objectives of these frameworks included increasing park management and governance performance; enhancing the environmental performance and industrial park competitiveness; supporting industrial park decision-making; improving industrial park efficiency; and promoting industrial park sustainability.

Q23. Consider the following methods of plantation.

1. determine the plant species native to a given area
2. improve the soil by mixing in organic material
3. Plant seedlings of native trees are planted densely.

Such practice Of plantation can be seen in:

- a. Vertical farming method
- b. Miyawaki forestry method
- c. Dryland farming method
- d. Crop rotation

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Miyawaki forestry method follows the practice of cultivating fast-growing groves of native vegetation in an area lacking trees. While the method has found keen restorers all over the globe, some say it promises more than it can deliver. They say that some practitioners are planting Miyawaki groves where they don't belong.

Developed in the early 1970s by the late Japanese forest ecologist Akira Miyawaki, the method involves the following steps: determine the plant species native to a given area; improve the soil by mixing in organic material; plant seedlings of native trees and understory plants in a dense, mixed manner (about three seedlings per square metre) meant to simulate a natural forest; remove weeds from the site for up to three years after planting, if necessary.

After that, the grove is left to its own devices. Due to the dense planting, the seedlings grow quickly as they compete for sunlight.

Q24. Consider the following statements regarding District Mineral Foundations in India.

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

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

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

Now, coming back to our question:

First and second statement is incorrect:

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

District Mineral Foundation.

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

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

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

Third statement is correct:

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

Q25. "LIFE SWiPE" Programme in Europe aims to:

- a. to reduce the number of wildlife crimes
- b. to stop drug trafficking
- c. to stop green house gas emissions from industries
- d. to regulate cryptocurrency

Solution: a

Explanation:

The project "Successful wildlife crime prosecution in Europe" (LIFE SWiPE) aims to discourage, and ultimately reduce the number of wildlife crimes, through better enforcement of EU environmental regulations and more successfully prosecuted crimes, helping thus restoring the endangered European biological diversity and ecosystem health.

Most wildlife crimes remain invisible or go unpunished in Europe, flagged a new report. On an average, about 60 per cent of complaints of wildlife crimes reported to the prosecution did not lead to indictments, noted the document published by LIFE SWiPE project on July 5, 2023.

The most common punishment issued was suspended imprisonment, added the report, *Uncovering the Invisible: Successes and Challenges for Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe*.

LIFE SWiPE analysis covered wildlife crimes in 11 European countries. LIFE SWiPE is a project that aims for successful wildlife crime prosecution in Europe.

Q26. With respect to United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), consider the following statements.

1. It is a unique collaborative effort that brings together UN entities, governments, Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and the broader civil society to advance disability rights around the world.
2. UNPRPD supports coalition-building and capacity-development at country level to facilitate the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
3. International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are the UN entities participating in UNPRPD.

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:

So, all statements here are correct.

✓ The UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) is a unique collaborative effort that brings together UN entities, governments, Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and the broader civil society to advance disability rights around the world. In particular, the UNPRPD supports coalition-building and capacity-development at country level to facilitate the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In doing so, it contributes to the realization of a "society for all" in the 21st century.

✓ The UN entities participating in the UNPRPD are the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The UNDP Poverty Group serves as the Technical Secretariat for the Partnership.

Q27. Which of the following rivers originate in China and flows through at least one other country?

1. Brahmaputra
2. Yellow River
3. Mekong River

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

First is incorrect.

The Yellow River is the sixth-longest river in the world and is also the most sediment-laden.

Also known as Huang He, it originates in the province of Qinghai, flows through the Loess Plateau, where it takes sediment that gives its waters their characteristic yellow colour. It then flows across the flat North China Plain before draining into the Bohai Sea, a part of the Yellow Sea.



The Mekong River is the longest river in Southeast Asia. **The river, flowing from its source on the Tibetan Plateau in China through Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam.**



Q28. Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal.

1. NGT was established during priministership of Rajiv Gandhi.
2. The Chairperson has to a Judge of the Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of a High Court.
3. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice.

4. Any person aggrieved by order of the Tribunal can file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Read this before proceeding to explanation: Purpose of setting up of NGT.

THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ACT, 2010

ACT NO. 19 OF 2010

[2nd June, 2010.]

An Act to provide for the establishment of a National Green Tribunal for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

AND WHEREAS India is a party to the decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm in June, 1972, in which India participated, calling upon the States to take appropriate steps for the protection and improvement of the human environment;

AND WHEREAS decisions were taken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992, in which India participated, calling upon the States to provide effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy and to develop national laws regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage;

AND WHEREAS in the judicial pronouncement in India, the right to healthy environment has been construed as a part of the right to life under article 21 of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS it is considered expedient to implement the decisions taken at the aforesaid conferences and to have a National Green Tribunal in view of the involvement of multi-disciplinary issues relating to the environment.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

First statement is wrong, as you can see it was established in 2010.

Second statement is correct:

5. Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson, Judicial Member and Expert Member.—(1)

A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairperson or Judicial Member of the Tribunal unless he is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of a High Court:

Provided that a person who is or has been a Judge of the High Court shall also be qualified to be appointed as a Judicial Member.

Third statement is correct.

19. Procedure and powers of Tribunal.—(1) The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Tribunal shall have power to regulate its own procedure.

(3) The Tribunal shall also not be bound by the rules of evidence contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872).

Fourth statement is correct:

22. Appeal to Supreme Court.—Any person aggrieved by any award, decision or order of the Tribunal, may, file an appeal to the Supreme Court, within ninety days from the date of communication of the award, decision or order of the Tribunal, to him, on any one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908):

Q29. As per the provisions mentioned in the Constitution, consider the following statements.

1. An election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.
2. The person elected to fill the vacancy of the President shall be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

67. Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of President and the term of office of person elected to fill casual vacancy.—(1) An election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.

(2) An election to fill a vacancy in the office of President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after, and in no case later than six months from, the date of occurrence of the vacancy; and the person elected to fill the vacancy shall, subject to the provisions of article 56, be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he

Q30. In the context of the cultural history of India, a mudra called “Katakamukha Hasta” has been a favourite of most of the classical dances. Which one of the following statements best describes it?

- a. The fingers are held in such a manner as if to ask ‘why’
- b. Three fingers are joined to symbolize ‘Om’
- c. The fingers are held straight and close together like the ‘stop sign’
- d. All the fingers are held straight and together except the thumb finger

Solution: b

Explanation:



Katakaamukha means “Opening in a Bracelet”. Its done by bringing together the index finger, middle finger and thumb. The ring finger and the little finger are raised at angles. Katakaamukha is generally used to express the following

- a. Plucking or picking flowers
- b. Holding a necklace or a garland
- c. Pulling the bow string
- d. Talking and Seeing
- e. To show preparing a paste of sandal or musk
- f. Offering Beetle leaves

Here, it best describes Three fingers are joined to symbolize ‘Om’. So, option (b) is correct.

Q31. Consider the following statements.

1. United Nations peacekeeping operations are deployed based on a mandate from the United Nations Security Council.
2. The first Peace Keeping Mission was in the year 1948 to monitor the agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.
3. As per the report, India lost the greatest number of its nationals in Peace Keeping Missions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

First statement is correct:

1.4. ~~Security Council Mandates~~

~~United Nations~~ peacekeeping operations are deployed on the basis of a mandate from the United Nations Security Council. The tasks that a United Nations peacekeeping operation will be required to perform are set out in the Security Council mandate. ~~Security Council mandates differ from situation to situation, depending on the nature of the conflict and the specific challenges it presents. Since United Nations peacekeeping operations are normally deployed to support the implementation of a cease-fire or a more comprehensive peace agreement, Security Council mandates are influenced by the nature and content of the agreement reached by the parties to the conflict.~~

Second statement is correct:

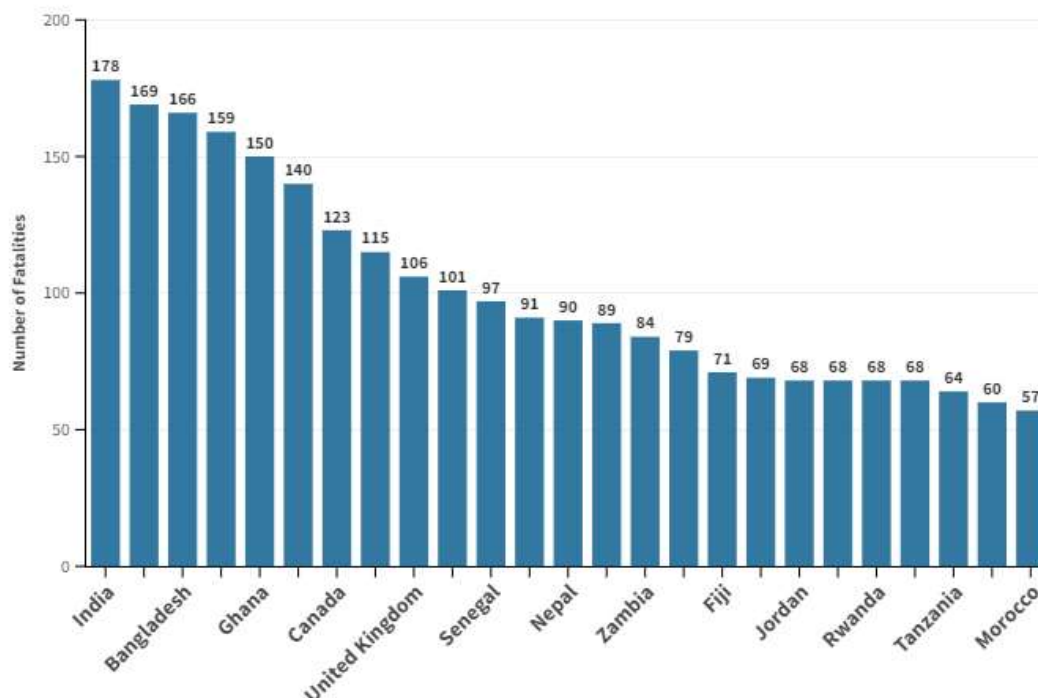
~~United Nations Peacekeeping began in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East.~~

The mission's role was to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours – an operation which became known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

Third statement is correct:

Fatalities in UN Peacekeeping Mission - by Nationality

(as on 31 May 2023)



Source: [Dataful's Collection on UN Peacekeeping](#)

FAQTLY

Q32. Consider the following statements regarding **Indus Waters Treaty**.

1. The Indus Waters Treaty was signed during priministership of Jawahar Lal Nehru
2. Permanent Indus Commission is chaired by World Bank.
3. Court of Arbitration is appointed by the World Bank to resolve disputes arising between India and Pakistan under Treaty.
4. The Treaty allocates the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Sutlej) to Pakistan and the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Chenab) to India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Second and fourth are incorrect:

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the World Bank, which is also a signatory.

The Treaty allocates the **Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan and the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India**. At the same time, the Treaty allows each country certain uses on the rivers allocated to the other.

Permanent Indus Commission is not chaired by World Bank.

How the Treaty works:

The Treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers, known as the Permanent Indus Commission, which has a Commissioner from each country. The Treaty also sets forth distinct procedures to handle issues which may arise: "questions" are handled by the Commission; "differences" are to be resolved by a Neutral Expert; and "disputes" are to be referred to an *ad hoc* arbitral tribunal called the "Court of Arbitration."

As a signatory to the Treaty, the World Bank's role is limited and procedural. In particular, its role in relation to "differences" and "disputes" is limited to the designation of individuals to fulfill certain roles in the context of Neutral Expert or Court of Arbitration proceedings when requested by either or both of the Parties.

Both neutral expert and Court of Arbitration is set up by World Bank.

Q33. Which of the following components are part of village industries under Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY)?

1. Wellness and Cosmetic industries
2. Cement Industries
3. Food processing industries
4. Service Industry

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

Delhi Lieutenant Governor distributes Honey Bee-Boxes and Toolkits to 130 beneficiaries under 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojna'

Cement Industry is not part of this.

1. Introduction of KGVY

Khadi and Village Industries sectors had various independent schemes, developed to meet the needs of KVI sector in the past plan periods. In November, 2019, all the existing KVI schemes/sub-schemes/components were merged, and brought under one umbrella scheme namely Khadi and Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (KGVY). KGVY is a Central Sector Scheme and there is no State component involved in this scheme.

KGVY has following three components:

“Khadi Vikas Yojana (KVI)” scheme is for promotion and development of Khadi sector i.e. cotton, woolen, silk and the existing schemes like Modified Market Development Assistance (MMDA), Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC), Khadi Reforms Development Programme (KRDP), Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans, Strengthening infrastructure of existing weak Khadi Institutions and Assistance for Marketing Infrastructure, Khadi (S&T) and Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Khadi.

“Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY)” scheme is for promotion and development of village industries through common facilities, technological modernization, training etc. & other support and services for promotion of village Industries. GVY has the following components/ verticals from the activities under Village Industries:

- Wellness & Cosmetics Industry (WCI)
- Handmade Paper, Leather & Plastic Industry (HPLPI)
- Agro Based & Food Processing Industry (ABFPI)
- Mineral Based Industry (MBI)
- Rural Engineering & New Technology Industry (RENTI)
- Service Industry

“Khadi Grant” covers all the establishment expenses of the Officers/Staff members of the KVIC.

Q34. Consider the following pairs.

Recent events/regions	location
1. phenomenon of the 'Blood Falls' on Taylor Glacier	Antarctica
2. Second Thomas Shoal	Caribbean Sea

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

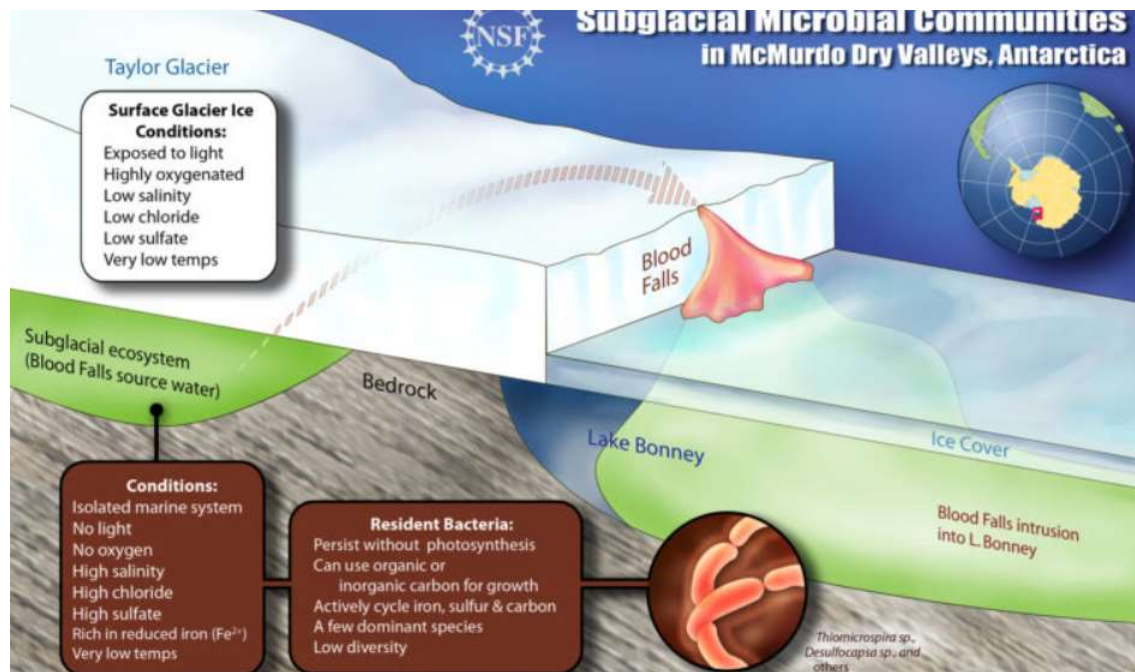
- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a

Explanation:



After more than a century of intrigue, scientists have discovered why Taylor Glacier in Antarctica bleeds 'crimson red' drool from its tongue. The reason for the iconic red hue was the presence of little 'iron-rich nanospheres'.



Q35. World Investment Report 2023 was recently published by:

- WTO
- UNCTAD
- World Economic Forum
- World Bank

Solution: b

Explanation:

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently released its World Investment Report 2023, providing valuable insights into foreign direct investment (FDI) trends in developing countries.

Q36. Consider the following Nations.

- Turkmenistan
- Syria
- Pakistan
- Afghanistan

Which of the above nations **share boundaries with Iran**?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

There are seven countries that Iran shares this long land border with. **These countries are Iraq, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.** Of these countries, Turkmenistan shares the longest border with Iran.



Q37. Consider the following statements.

1. The Supreme Court should mandatorily report to President if President has asked for an opinion related to public importance.
2. The Constitution has given power to Parliament to increase the number of judges of High Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

It is **not mandatory for Supreme Court** to respond for such opinion. See article 143 below. The Constitution has given power to **President** to increase the number of judges of High Court. Refer article 216 below.

Central Government Act

Article 143 in The Constitution Of India 1949

143. Power of President to consult Supreme Court (1) If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon

Central Government Act

Article 216 in The Constitution Of India 1949

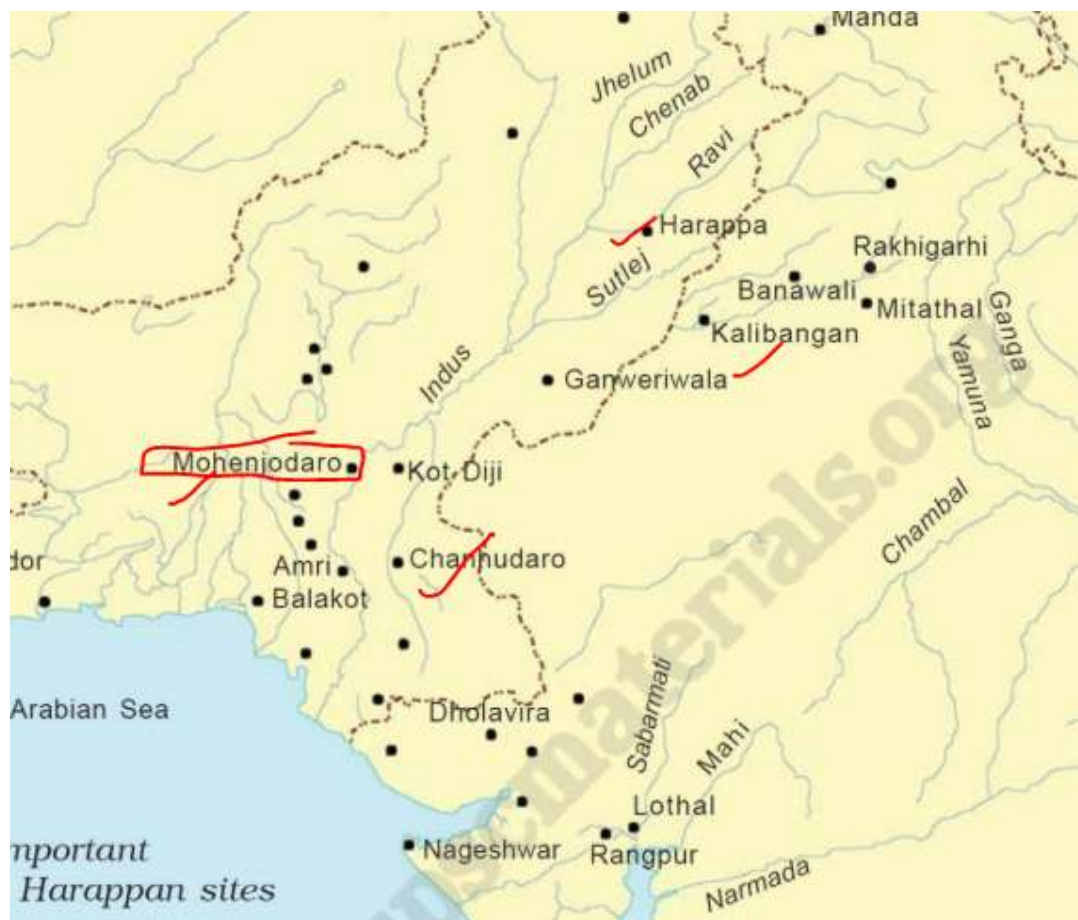
216. Constitution of High Courts Every High Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may from time to time deem it necessary to appoint

Q38. The western most Harappan site amongst the following is:

- a. Chanhudaro
- b. Kalibangan
- c. Mohenjo-Daro
- d. Harappa

Solution: c

Explanation:



Q39. Consider the following statements regarding **Treasury Bills**.

- 1. They are the short- term debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
- 2. Interest rate is decided by the government only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Treasury bills or T-bills, which are **money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India** and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91-day, 182 day and 364 days.

Treasury bills are **zero coupon securities and pay no interest**. Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity. For example, a 91-day Treasury bill of ₹100/- (face value) may be issued at say ₹ 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, ₹1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of ₹100/-. **Interest rates are not used here.** *Therefore, second statement is wrong.*

Q40. Consider the following statements regarding **Monetary Policy Committee**.

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

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

First statement is correct.

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

Open and Transparent Monetary Policy Making

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

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

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

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

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

Second statement is incorrect.

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

45ZA Inflation target.

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

Third statement is correct.

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

Q41. Consider the following statements.

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

News:

BREAKING | Supreme Court Invalidates Extensions Of ED Director SK Mishra's Term; Permits Him To Continue Till July 31

Awstika Das

11 July 2023 2:15 PM

See below:

- (a) the Central Government shall appoint a Director of Enforcement in the Directorate of Enforcement in the Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of—
- (i) the Central Vigilance Commissioner — Chairperson
 - (ii) Vigilance Commissioners — Members;
 - (iii) Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Central Government — Member;
 - (iv) Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Personnel in the Central Government — Member;
 - (v) Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance in the Central Government — Member;
- (b) while making a recommendation, the Committee shall take into consideration the integrity and experience of the officers eligible for appointment;
- (c) no person below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India shall be eligible for appointment as a Director of Enforcement;
- (d) a Director of Enforcement shall continue to hold office for a period of not less than two years from the date on which he assumes office;

Q42. With respect to the **global stocktake of the Paris Agreement (GST)**, consider the following statements.

1. It is an annual process for taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
2. The Conference of the Parties shall undertake its first global stocktake in 2023.
3. The GST is designed to complete its work before beginning of each new cycle of Nationally Determined Contribution so that they assess well before they submit next NDCs.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two

- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

When I clicked UNFCCC website, the entire page was filled with Global Stocktake: So I framed this question.



The global stocktake of the Paris Agreement (GST) is a process for taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement with the aim to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and its long-term goals (Article 14).

Article 14

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall periodically take stock of the implementation of this Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals (referred to as the "global stocktake"). It shall do so in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.
2. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall undertake its first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.
3. The outcome of the global stocktake shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement, as well as in enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

Background

The first GST will run from 2021 to 2023 and will be repeated every 5 years thereafter.

The GST facilitates the assessment of global collective progress on three thematic areas:

Mitigation

Adaptation

Means of implementation and support

The GST also considers the social and economic consequences of response measures and efforts to address loss and damage. The collective assessment takes inputs on equity into consideration and makes use of the best available science in a cross-cutting manner.

The outcomes of the GST will inform countries on updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their climate actions and support, as well as on enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

The GST is intended to increase the ambition of actions and support for collectively addressing climate change without focusing on individual countries or groups of countries. GST outputs will consist of key political messages and recommendations, best practices, new opportunities and lessons learned for all thematic areas without being policy-prescriptive.

The GST is designed to complete its work before the beginning of each new cycle of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This allows Parties to take into consideration the outputs of the collective assessment when formulating and submitting subsequent NDCs.

Q43. Consider the following pairs.

Climate initiatives	Launched by/aims to
1. Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook	UNEP and UNFCCC
2. new collective quantified goal (NCQG)	Sims to strengthen climate response by providing resources to developing countries.

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: c

Explanation:

Reason of first initiative is very obvious, so I asked only bodies.

Second you should also know the aim.

UN Climate Change News, 29 June 2023 – The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Climate–Change–convened Fashion Charter launched the **Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook**, a guide for consumer–facing communicators in the global fashion industry to align efforts to sustainability targets, incorporating both environmental and social factors.

Background

By decision 1/CP.21, para. 53, Parties decided that, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) shall set a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) from a floor of USD 100 billion per year, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries, prior to 2025.

The CMA, by decision 14/CMA.1, decided to initiate deliberations on setting the NCQG and agreed to consider in those deliberations the aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate–resilient development.

Q44. Consider the following statements.

1. Sustainable Development Goals are not legally binding on parties.
2. To monitor progress on SDGs, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF).
3. At present, there are more than 250 indicators in NIF.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The SDGs came into force with **effect from 1st January, 2016**.

The SDGs are **not legally binding**, but have become de-facto international obligations and have potential to reorient domestic spending priorities of the countries up to 2030.

National Indicator Framework for SDGs

Monitoring plays a crucial role in the implementation and progress tracking of the SDGs. It involves the systematic compilation, analysis, and reporting of data and information to assess the advancements, challenges, and gaps in achieving the SDGs.

Towards this endeavor, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF) in 2018** consisting of 306 national indicators **along with identified data sources and periodicity following due consultation process** with concerned Ministries/ Departments, UN Agencies and other stakeholders.

✓ NIF, similar to GIF, is evolving in nature, hence, Government of India has constituted a High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Statistician of India (CSI) & Secretary, MoSPI with members from NITI Aayog, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Finance and MoSPI to periodically review and ✓ refine the NIF.

At present, there are 284 indicators in the NIF, 2023. At national level, MoSPI coordinates with the data source Ministries/ Departments for getting data on SDG indicators in NIF.

Year	Theme for Statistics Day
2019	Sustainable Development Goals
2020	SDG 3 (Good Health and Well Being) & SDG 5 (Gender Equality)
2021	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)
2022	Data for Sustainable Development
2023	Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals

Q45. With respect to **Deputy Speaker**, consider the following statements.

1. As per the rules, the election of a Deputy Speaker shall be held on such date as the President may fix.
2. Unlike Speaker, resolution is not passed in the House to remove Deputy Speaker from the office.

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:

CHAPTER III

ELECTION OF SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER AND NOMINATION OF PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

7. (1) The election of a Speaker shall be held on such date as the President may fix, and the Secretary-General shall send to every member notice of this date. **Election of Speaker.**

Election of Deputy Speaker.

8. (1) The election of a Deputy Speaker shall be held on such date as the Speaker may fix, and the Secretary-General shall send to every member notice of this date.

This is important, and does not matter if you read Lakshmikanth 50 times, this difference you can never find there and notice even after reading. If you are part of Test Series, you must solve this question.

Second statement is also incorrect.

93. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of the People.—The House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof and, so often as the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the House shall choose another member to be Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be.

94. Vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.—A member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House of the People—

(a) shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the House of the People;

(b) may at any time, by writing under his hand addressed, if such member is the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, and if such member is the Deputy Speaker, to the Speaker, resign his office; and

(c) may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then members of the House;

Q46. Who appoints the Acting Chief Justice for the High Courts?

- a. CJI in consultation with President
- b. CJI in consultation with Governor
- c. CJI in consultation with High Court Judge
- d. President

Solution: d

Explanation:

News:

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Vineet Kothari, senior-most Judge of Gujarat High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of that High Court with effect from the date Shri Justice Vikram Nath relinquishes the charge as Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court consequent upon his appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Shri Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya, senior-most Judge of Gujarat High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court with effect from 02nd September, 2021 consequent upon the retirement of Shri Justice Vineet Kothari.

Also see article:

~~223. Appointment of acting Chief Justice.~~—When the office of Chief Justice of a High Court is vacant or when any such Chief Justice is, by reason of absence or otherwise, unable to perform the duties of his office, the duties of the office shall be performed by such one of the other Judges of the Court as the President may appoint for the purpose.

Q47. Which of the following states in India have both the Indian Standard Meridian as well as Tropic of Cancer passing through them?

1. Madhya Pradesh
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Bihar
4. Chhattisgarh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

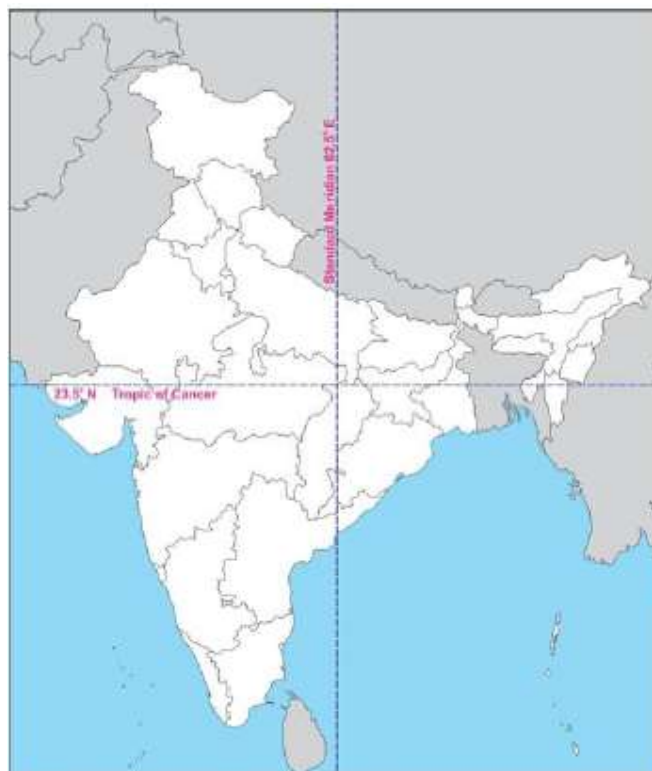
Solution: b

Explanation:

The Indian Standard Meridian passes through 5 states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

The Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.

Thus, from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the Indian Standard Meridian, as well as Tropic of Cancer, passes.



Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

Q48. Which of the following correctly defines Bioprospecting?

- a. Use of modern technologies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of wildlife
- b. process used to treat contaminated media, including water, soil and subsurface material, by altering environmental conditions to stimulate growth of microorganisms and degrade the target pollutants
- c. systematic and organized search for useful products derived from bioresources including plants, microorganisms, animals, etc., that can be developed further for commercialization and overall benefits of the society.
- d. Majorly used in Oceans, to develop an interlink between biotic and abiotic resources and develop a chain between them and use it as a criterion for protecting biodiversity

Solution: c

Explanation:

Bioprospecting

Bioprospecting or biodiversity prospecting is the exploration, extraction and screening of biological diversity and indigenous knowledge for commercially valuable genetic and biochemical resources. In the early stages, prospecting largely centred on the plants from the forest ecosystem. However in recent times, various other forms of biodiversity like insects, algae and microorganisms have been explored with considerable success (Kumar and Tarui, 2004). The bioprospecting of plants and living organisms for pharmaceutical purposes is useful not only to the pharmaceutical firms but also to the host country and the local people, who are benefited from the ownership of the biological resources. Although the discovery of medicinal products by bioprospecting is

Q49. Consider the following statements regarding World Trade Organization (WTO).

1. In the WTO, power is not delegated to a board of directors or the organization's head.
2. WHO rules are enforced by the members themselves under agreed procedures that they negotiated including the possibility of trade sanctions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Very important. Please read *dhyan se*.

The WTO is run by its member governments. All major decisions are made by the membership as a whole, either by ministers (who meet at least once every two years) or by their ambassadors or delegates (who meet regularly in Geneva). Decisions are normally taken by consensus.

In this respect, the WTO is different from some other international organizations such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. In the WTO, power is not delegated to a board of directors or the organization's head.

When WTO rules impose disciplines on countries' policies, that is the outcome of negotiations among WTO members. The rules are enforced by the members themselves under agreed procedures that they negotiated, including the possibility of trade sanctions. But those sanctions are imposed by member countries, and authorized by the membership as a whole. This is quite different from other agencies whose bureaucracies can, for example, influence a country's policy by threatening to withhold credit.

Q50. Which of the following can potentially lead to a higher credit growth in the Indian banking sector?

1. Reduction in the Capital Adequacy Ratio by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. Cut in the Repo Rate by the RBI.
3. Increase in interest rates offered by small savings schemes.
4. Improvement in macroeconomic indicators of the economy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

The term bank credit refers to the amount of credit available to a business or individual from a banking institution in the form of loans. Higher credit growth in the Indian banking sector means banks have higher deposits which they can lend.

First statement is correct.

Reduction in the Capital Adequacy Ratio by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is a measurement of a bank's available capital expressed as a percentage of a bank's risk-weighted credit exposures. So, its reduction will increase the capital available with the bank to lend thus it will increase the credit growth of the bank.

Second statement is correct:

Cut in the Repo Rate by the RBI – decreased lending rate by RBI to banks will increase the borrowing of banks and in turn, increase the lending capacity of banks to the businesses (credit growth)

Third statement is incorrect.

Increase in interest rates offered by small savings schemes – It will attract public to withdraw their money from bank deposits to these small saving schemes because of relatively high interest rates.

So, the credit growth of banks will decrease.

Fourth statement is correct.

Improvement in macroeconomic indicators of the economy- It will strengthen the overall economy and ultimately banking sector. For e.g., Increased GDP will increase the purchasing power of the public thus **increase in deposits in bank.**

Q51. In reference to **Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF)**, consider the following statements.

1. A fund has been established under the Finance Act, 2015 for the promotion of the welfare of senior citizens.
2. As per the Act, all the unclaimed amounts under insurance companies for more than 10 years are transferred to SCWF.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Read both images.

G.S.R. 322(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 128 of the Finance Act, 2015, 20 of 2015 the Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

1. Short title, extent and commencement .—

1. These rules may be called Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund Rules, 2016.
2. They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.—

1. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—
 - a. "Act" means the Finance Act, 2015.
 - b. "Government" means the Government of India.
2. Words and expressions used in these rules and not defined but defined in the Act shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

3. Establishment of Fund.—

1. The Central Government hereby establishes a Fund to be called the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund for promoting the welfare of the Senior Citizens and for such other purposes as specified in Chapter VII of the Act.

Unclaimed amount for a period more than 10 years to be transferred to Senior Citizens Welfare Fund.

Ref.: IRDA/F&A/CIR/Misc/173/07/2017

Date: 25.07.2017

All Life/ General/ Health Insurers

Master Circular: Unclaimed Amounts of Policyholders

The Authority has issued various directions regarding the Unclaimed Amounts of Policyholders from time to time. All the earlier directions are now being consolidated and issued in the form of a Master Circular which is attached herewith.

The Government of India has brought in the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund Act, 2015 (SCWF) as a part of the Finance Act, 2015, which mandates the transfer of Unclaimed Amounts of Policyholders to the Fund (SCWF) after a period of 10 years. It has also notified a set of Rules under the SCWF, which specify the entities that are required to transfer the amounts to the Fund and the administration of the Fund. The Master Circular also provides for convergence in

Q52. The **Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)** is a partnership between:

- a. ASEAN nations
- b. United Nation Entities
- c. European Union countries
- d. SCO nations

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:

2023 HESI Global Forum is going to take place in July.

The **Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)** is a partnership between several United Nations entities and the higher education community, currently chaired by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Sulitest Association - a non-profit organization and online platform aimed at improving sustainability literacy for all. Other UN partners include UNESCO, UN Environment Programme, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative, UN University, UN-HABITAT, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UN Office for Partnerships and UN Academic Impact.

The Vision Statement by the Secretary-General on Transforming Education, "Transforming Education: an urgent political imperative for our collective future" – the formal outcome of the Transforming Education Summit held in 2022 – notes that education is a great enabler, but today, in many cases, it is also the great divider. The Vision Statement further notes

Q53. In reference to **United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**, consider the following statements.

1. It was established by United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).
2. The HLPF is the central United Nations platform for the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

High-Level Political Forum

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), through its outcome on "The Future We Want", established the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2012.

The HLPF is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. It is the apex of the architecture for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda established by the 2030 Agenda and General Assembly resolution 70/299.

The General Assembly in its resolution 67/290 decided that the Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days. For the positioning of the HLPF in the UN system, please click [here](#).

Q54. Consider the following statements regarding **Nirbhaya Fund**.

1. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund that is administered by the Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic affairs.
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry to recommend the proposals that can be funded under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Nirbhaya Fund was constituted by the Government of India, as a corpus fund to support initiatives and measures taken to ensure the safety of women. **This was created in conjunction with the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, commonly known as the Nirbhaya Act.**

First statement is correct.

The Ministry of Finance has issued guidelines on 25 March 2015, regarding the framework of the Nirbhaya Fund. **It is a non-lapsable corpus fund that is administered by the Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic affairs.**

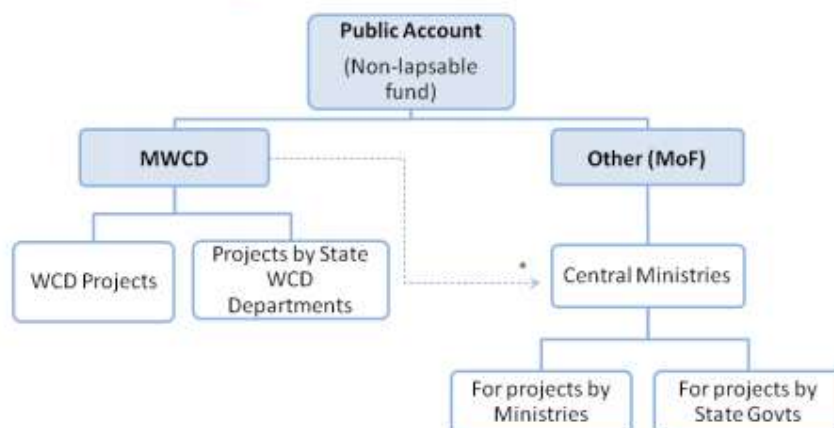
Second statement is incorrect.

The **Ministry of Women & Child Development** is the nodal ministry to appraise the proposals of the recommended schemes that can be funded under the Nirbhaya Fund.

In this context, and following the tragedy of December 2012, the Government has set up a dedicated fund – Nirbhaya Fund – which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

As per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance dt 25.03.2015, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the nodal Ministry to appraise/recommend proposals and schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. MWCD further has the responsibility to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned schemes in conjunction with the line Ministries/Departments.

FUND FLOW UNDER NIRBHAYA:



Q55. With reference to **Stockholm conference of 1972**, consider the following statements.

1. India set up its ministry of environment and forest after this Conference.
2. The conference gave birth to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).
3. Important Conventions, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species came into force after this Conference.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

First statement is correct.

After the Stockholm Conference, the National Council for Environmental Policy and Planning was set up in 1972 within the Department of Science and Technology to establish a regulatory body to look after the environment-related issues. **This Council later evolved into a full-fledged Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).**

MoEF was established in 1985, which today is the apex administrative body in the country for regulating and ensuring environmental protection and lays down the legal and regulatory framework for the same.

Second statement is correct.

The three dimensions of this conference were: Countries agreeing not to “harm each other’s environment or the areas beyond national jurisdiction”; an action plan to study the threat to Earth’s environment; **and establishment of an international body called the UN Environment programme (UNEP) to bring in cooperation among countries.**

Third statement is correct:

Since that conference fifty years ago, there have been many environmental victories, a primary one being the development of international environmental laws. These include the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) in 1973 to the Convention on **International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1975, and the Convention on Migratory Species in 1983**, and the Rio Conventions (climate, biodiversity, desertification) in 1992 and the 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Q56. Consider the following.

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

Arrange the above nations from North to South

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

Solution: c

Bahrain-Qatar-Yemen-Djibouti



Q57. Consider the following statements.

1. As per the Constitution, advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court.
2. As per the Constitution, the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President elected unanimously by Council of Ministers.

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:

First statement is correct.

74. Council of Ministers to aid and advise President.—³[(1) There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice:]

⁴[Provided that the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.]

(2) The question whether any, and if so what, advice was tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court.

Second statement is incorrect: Elected unanimously part is not mentioned.

75. Other provisions as to Ministers.—(1) The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

¹[(1A) The total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed fifteen per cent. of the total number of members of the House of the People.]

Q58. Consider the following statements:

- 1. An amendment to the Constitution of India can be initiated by an introduction of a bill in the Lok Sabha only.
- 2. If such an amendment seeks to make changes in the federal character of the Constitution, the amendment also requires to be ratified by the legislature of one-third of the States of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated by introduction of a bill in either house of the Parliament.

368. ⁵ [Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure therefor.]— ⁶ [(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament may in exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in this article.]

⁷[(2)] An amendment of this Constitution may be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament, and when the Bill is passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting, ⁸[it shall be presented to the President who shall give his assent to the Bill and thereupon] the Constitution shall stand amended in accordance with the terms of the Bill:

If the bill seeks to amend the Federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of **half of the states by a simple majority**.

(c) any of the Lists in the Seventh Schedule, or

(d) the representation of States in Parliament, or

(e) the provisions of this article,

the amendment shall also require to be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States ^{1***} by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures before the Bill making provision for such amendment is presented to the President for assent.

Q59. Arrange the following in increasing order of their pH value.

1. Lemon Juice
2. Blood
3. Cow's milk
4. Sea Water

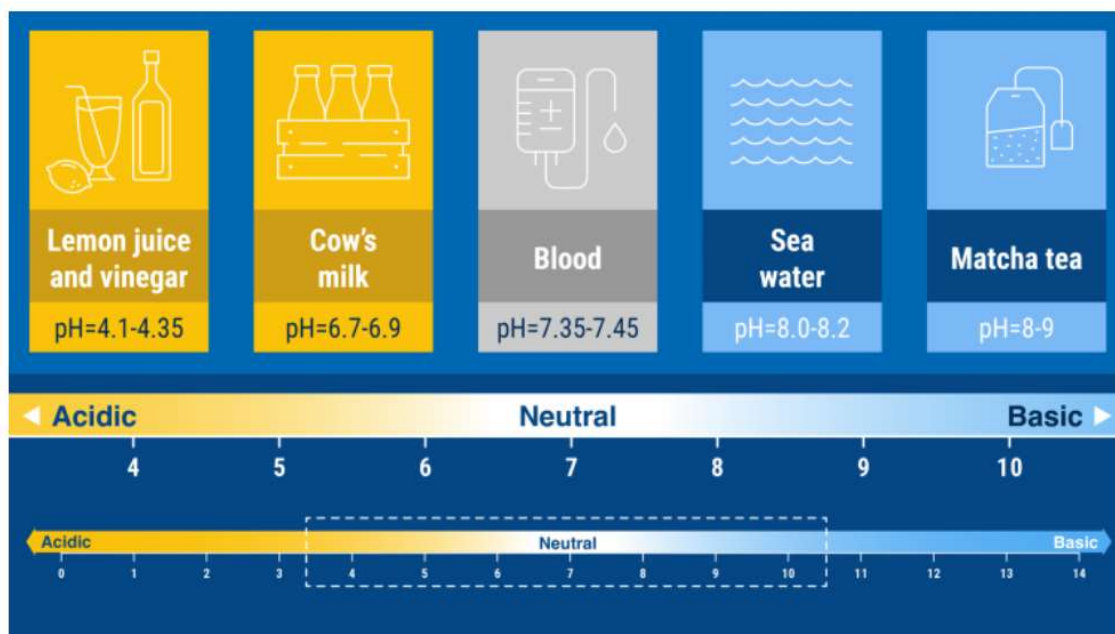
Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Prior to the Industrial Revolution of the 18th to 19th centuries, the ocean's average pH was about 8.2. Today, the ocean's average pH is 8.1. This means that the ocean today is about 30 per cent more acidic than in pre-industrial times. By 2100, the pH of the ocean could decrease to about 7.8, making the ocean 150 percent more acidic and affecting half of all marine life, *according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report*.



Q60. *Samyaktarshana, Samyakjnana, Samyakcharita*" are doctrines related to which religion?

- a. Hinduism
- b. Buddhism
- c. Sikhism
- d. Jainism

Solution: d

Explanation:

~~The~~ Three Jewels of Jainism

The aim of Jain life is to achieve liberation of the soul.

This is done by following the Jain ethical code, or to put it simply, living rightly by following the three jewels of Jain ethics.

There are three parts to this: right faith, right knowledge and right conduct. The first two are very closely connected.

Right faith - ~~Samyak darshana~~

This doesn't mean believing what you're told, but means seeing (hearing, feeling, etc.) things properly, and avoiding preconceptions and superstitions that get in the way of seeing clearly.

Some books call samyak darshana "right perception". You can't achieve this unless you are determined to find the truth, and distinguish it from untruth.

Right knowledge - ~~Samyak jnana~~

This means having an accurate and sufficient knowledge of the real **universe** - this requires a true knowledge of the five (or six) substances and nine truths of the universe - and having that knowledge with the right mental attitude.

One writer puts it like this: "if our character is flawed and our conscience is not clear, knowledge alone will not help us achieve composure and happiness".

Today this means having a proper knowledge of the Jain **scriptures**.

Some writers describe right knowledge as meaning having a pure **soul**; a soul that is free from attachment and desire... others say that a person who has right knowledge will naturally free themselves from attachment and desire, and so achieve peace of mind.

Right conduct - ~~Samyak charitra~~

This means living your life according to **Jain ethical rules**, to **avoid doing harm** to living things and freeing yourself from attachment and other impure attitudes and thoughts.

Q61. Consider the following statements regarding **National Research Foundation (NRF)**, recently proposed under National Research Foundation Bill, 2023.

1. National Education Policy recommend for the establishment of NRF.
2. Prime Minister will be the ex-officio President of the Governing Board of NRF.
3. Once established, it will repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Mostly this bill will be passed. So, we will wait for the Parliament procedures. Till then remember these explanations. No need to go beyond this.

Cabinet approves Introduction of National Research Foundation Bill, 2023 in Parliament to strengthen research eco-system in the country

Posted On: 28 JUN 2023 3:50PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in the Parliament. **The approved Bill will pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.**

The bill, after approval in the Parliament, **will establish NRF**, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per **recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP)**, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 crores during five years (2023-28).

17.9. To build on these various elements in a synergistic manner, and to thereby truly grow and catalyze quality research in the nation, this policy envisions the establishment of a **National Research Foundation (NRF)**. The overarching goal of the NRF will be to enable a culture of research to permeate through our universities. In particular, the NRF will provide a reliable base of merit-based

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the **administrative Department of NRF** which will be governed by a **Governing Board** consisting of - **the Prime Minister will be the ex-officio President of the Board and the Union Minister of Science & Technology & Union Minister of Education will be the ex-officio Vice-Presidents.**

The bill will also repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament in 2008 and subsume it into NRF which has an expanded mandate and covers activities over and above the activities of SERB.

Q62. Which of the following agreement/Treaty is/are signed under **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**?

1. 1994 Treaty establishing International Seabed Authority
2. Fish Stock Agreement, 1995
3. Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty

How many of the above agreements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Just first paragraph of the Hindu, I have framed this question.

The story so far: On June 19, the UN adopted the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) or the High Seas Treaty. It became the third agreement to be approved under UNCLOS, after the 1994 and 1995 treaties, which established the International Seabed Authority and the Fish Stocks agreement.

Every week I am teaching students, how to read Prelims from newspaper, be part of this course as soon as possible. Every single day counts.

Q63. Consider the following statements.

1. Gravity hole is a region on Earth where the gravitational pull is significantly weaker compared to the surrounding areas.
2. Indian Ocean Geoid Low (IOGL)- in Indian ocean is one such Gravity hole.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

Indian scientists unravel origin of giant 'gravity hole' in Indian Ocean

A team of Indian scientists has identified what caused the giant "gravity hole" covering more than three million square kilometres in the Indian Ocean.

Gravity Hole is a region on Earth where the gravitational pull is significantly weaker compared to the surrounding areas -sea level may be lower than average due to the weaker gravitational force acting upon the water.

Indian Ocean Geoid Low (IOGL)- in Indian ocean is one such Gravity hole.

The gravity hole is not actually a perfect sphere, as Earth's gravitational field is not uniform due to variations in density and mass distribution.

The distribution of mass within Earth is not homogeneous, with denser regions in some areas and less dense regions in others. These variations in density and mass create differences in gravitational attraction, leading to the formation of the geoid.

The irregularity in the gravitational field causes anomalies, resulting in differences in the strength of gravity at different locations on the Earth's surface, which influences the Earth's shape. The shape is also affected by the planet's rotation, gravitational forces, and internal structure.

Q64. Consider the following pairs.

Recent events	region
1. recently declared a state of national emergency in response to a significant increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) cases.	Kenya
2. First ever IIT campus to be set up outside India	Zanzibar, Tanzania

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: b

Explanation:

Peru has recently declared a state of national emergency in response to a significant increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) cases.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar-Tanzania was signed today between India, IIT Madras **and Zanzibar- Tanzania**. This is the first ever IIT campus to be set up outside India.



Q65. Consider the following statements.

1. Under the Act, Forest Rights Committee will be set by state government to initiate the process of determining the nature and extent of forest rights.
2. While land and access rights of forest-dwelling communities in terrestrial protected areas are legally protected under the Forest Rights Act of 2006, no equivalent statute exists to safeguard the rights of fishing communities.
3. Under the Act, there is no need of providing any evidence for recognition and vesting of forest rights such as public documents, Government records.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

First is incorrect.

Forest Rights Committee” means a committee constituted by the Gram Sabha.

3. Gram Sabha.-

- (1) The Gram Sabhas shall be convened by the Gram Panchayat and in its first meeting it shall elect from amongst its members, a committee of not less than ten but not exceeding fifteen persons as members of the Forest Rights Committee, wherein at least two-third members shall be the Scheduled Tribes.⁷

Provided that not less than one-third of such members shall be women:

Provided further that where there are no Scheduled Tribes, at least one-third of such members shall be women.

12. Process of verifying claims by Forest Rights Committee.-

- (1) The Forest Rights Committee shall, after due intimation to the concerned claimant and the Forest Department:-
- (a) visit the site and physically verify the nature and extent of the claim and evidence on the site;
 - (b) receive any further evidence or record from the claimant and witnesses;
 - (c) ensure that the claim from pastoralists and nomadic tribes for determination of their rights, which may either be through individual members, the community or traditional community institution, are verified at a time when such individuals, communities or their representatives are present;

Second is correct.

While land and access rights of forest-dwelling communities in terrestrial protected areas are legally protected under the Forest Rights Act of 2006, no equivalent statute exists to safeguard the rights of fishing communities.

Third is incorrect.

13. Evidence for determination of forest rights.-

- (1) The evidence for recognition and vesting of forest rights shall, inter alia, include -
- (a) public documents, Government records such as Gazetteers, Census, survey and settlement reports, maps, satellite imagery, working plans, management plans, micro-plans, forest enquiry reports, other forest records, record of rights by whatever name called, pattas or leases, reports of committees and commissions constituted by the Government, Government orders, notifications, circulars, resolutions;
 - (b) Government authorised documents such as voter identity card, ration card, passport, house tax receipts, domicile certificates;
 - (c) physical attributes such as house, huts and permanent improvements made to land including levelling, bunds, check dams and the like;
 - (d) quasi-judicial and judicial records including court orders and judgments;

Q66. Which of the following state has **northernmost tip**?

- a. Manipur
- b. Tripura
- c. Meghalaya
- d. Nagaland

Solution: D

Explanation:



Q67. Which of the following measures can help in tackling rupee appreciation?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Currency appreciation is an increase in the value of one currency in relation to another currency. A strong currency makes imports cheaper and can improve living standards. However, it can also make exports less competitive and lead to lower economic growth. So, to stabilise the currency, various measures are adopted to increase the quantum of domestic currency and reduce the volume of foreign currency. **Statements (1), (2) and (3) lead to an infusion of domestic currency among the**

public and reduces the foreign currency in the market; thus, it helps in tackling rupee appreciation (a feature of managed floating currency). However, the sale of Government securities to the public reduces the amount of currency held by the public. So, it cannot tackle rupee appreciation. **So, statement (4) is incorrect.** Hence, option b is the correct answer.

Q68. Consider the following statements:

1. If a sitting member of one House of the Parliament is elected to the other House also, his seat in the first House becomes vacant.
2. If a disqualified person is elected to the Parliament, the Constitution lays down no procedure to declare the election void.

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: c

Explanation:

Double Membership: A person cannot be a member of both Houses of the Parliament at the same time. Thus, the Representation of People Act (1951) provides for the following:

- a. If a person is elected to both the Houses of Parliament, he must intimate within 10 days in which House he desires to serve. In default of such intimation, his seat in the Rajya Sabha becomes vacant.
- b. If a sitting member of one House is elected to the other House also, **his seat in the first House becomes vacant.**

~~69. Vacation of seats by persons already members of one House on election to other House of Parliament.—~~
(1) If a person who is already a member of the House of the People and has taken his seat in such House is chosen a member of the Council of States, his seat in the House of the People shall, ⁷[on the date on which he is so chosen], become vacant.

(2) If a person who is already a member of the Council of States and has taken his seat in such Council is chosen a member of the House of the People, his seat in the Council of States shall, ⁷[on the date on which he is so chosen], become vacant.

If a disqualified person is elected to the Parliament, the Constitution lays down no procedure to declare the election void.

This matter is dealt with by the Representation of the People Act (1951), which enables the High Court to declare an election void if a disqualified candidate is elected. The aggrieved party can appeal to the Supreme Court against the order of the High Court in this regard. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Therefore, the correct answer is (c).

Q69. Consider the following statements.

1. Constitution has provided protection from removal to Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner.
2. Election Commission and State Election Commission is responsible for conducting elections for Parliament and State legislature respectively.

Select The correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

First statement is incorrect.

The Constitution provides protection from removal only to Chief Election Commission. Election Commission can be removed on mere recommendation of CEC.

Provided that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment:

Provided further that any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Second statement too is incorrect.

Both Parliament and State Election under control of CEC. Stat Election Commission role is in election of Panchayats and Municipalities.

Q70. The image represents the Buddha with two Bodhisattva attendants. The Buddha is seated in *padmasana* (cross-folded legs) and the right hand is in the *abhayamudra*, raised a little above the shoulder level whereas the left hand is placed on the left thigh. The *ushanisha*, i.e., hair knot, is shown with a vertically raised projection. The image is found in:

- a. Sarnath
- b. Mathura
- c. Gaya
- d. Kushinagar

Solution: b

Explanation:



Q71. UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms was launched by:

- UNFCCC Secretariat
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- UNEP Secretariat
- Food and Agricultural organization

Solution: b

Explanation:

Read below:



In response to several recent General Assembly resolutions on Combating sand and dust storms, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Parties officially launched the UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms committing the UN System to a proactive approach to combat Sand and dust storms (SDS), and to enhance cooperation and coordination on SDS at global, regional and sub-regional levels.

The mandate of the UN Coalition on Combating SDS, as defined by the participating entities is as follows:

- Promote and coordinate a collaborative UN System response to SDS;
- Facilitate exchange of knowledge, data and best practices among Coalition members to promote effective and coherent actions on SDS across the UN system and beyond;
- Encourage and promote collaboration on initiatives and actions among members of the Coalition, including advocacy and funding initiatives;

Q72. With respect to **Lambani embroidery**, consider the following statements.

- Lambani craft tradition involves skilfully stitching together small pieces of discarded fabric to create a beautiful fabric.
- Lambani embroidery is majorly practiced in several villages of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

News:

Culture Working Group under India' G20 Presidency sets a Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Display of Lambani' items

Shri Prahlad Joshi inaugurated the exhibition at Yeduru Basavanna complex, Hampi today

Posted On: 10 JUL 2023 7:22PM by PIB Delhi

Lambani embroidery is a vibrant and intricate form of textile embellishment characterized by **colourful threads, mirror work, and a rich array of stitch patterns.**

It is practised in several villages of Karnataka such as Sandur, Keri Tanda, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur, and Kamalapur.

The sustainable practice of patchworking is found in many textile traditions of India and around the world. **Lambani craft tradition involves skilfully stitching together small pieces of discarded fabric to create a beautiful fabric.**

Q73. With respect to **Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)**, consider the following statements.

1. It is led by World Economic Forum along with World Health Organization.
2. GAVI plays a critical role in strengthening primary health care and bringing us closer to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), ensuring that no one is left behind.
3. India is GAVI participating country.

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: b

Explanation:

First statement is incorrect.



First read history, how it came into existence.

History

By the late 1990s, the progress of international immunisation programmes was stalling. Nearly 30 million children in developing countries were not fully immunised against deadly diseases, and many others went without any immunisation at all.

At the heart of the challenge was an acute market failure; powerful new vaccines were becoming available, but lower-income countries simply could not afford most vaccines.

In response, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a group of founding partners brought to life an elegant solution to encourage manufacturers to lower vaccine prices for the poorest countries in return for long-term, high-volume and predictable demand from those countries.

 In 2000, that breakthrough idea became the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation – today Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. 

Created in 2000, Gavi is an international Organisation – a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together **public and private sectors** with the shared goal of saving lives and protecting people's health by increasing equitable and sustainable use of vaccines.

More important points from website:

- a. Gavi's impact draws on the strengths of its core partners, **the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, and plays a critical role in strengthening primary health care (PHC), bringing us closer to the

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), ensuring that no one is left behind.



- b. Gavi also works with donors, **including sovereign governments, private sector foundations and corporate partners; NGOs, advocacy groups, professional and community associations, faith-based organisations and academia; vaccine manufacturers**, including those in emerging markets; research and technical health institutes; and implementing country governments.

India is Gavi-eligible country.

Q74. Consider the following statements.

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

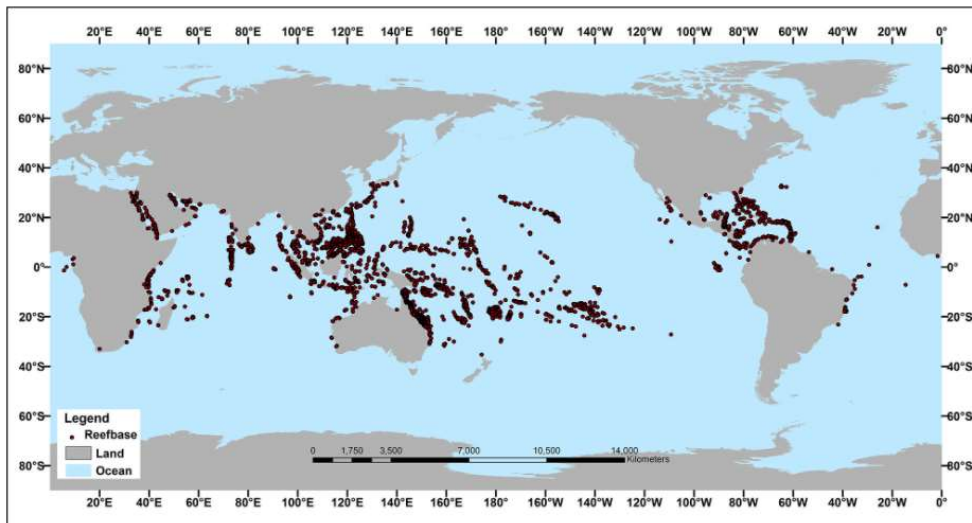
Solution: c

Explanation:

First statement is correct.

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

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



Second statement is incorrect.

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

Third statement is correct.

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

Fourth statement is correct:

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

Q75. Consider the following statements.

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

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

First Statement is correct. Article 102.

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

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

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

✓(c) if he is an undischarged insolvent;

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

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

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

Disqualifications of Members

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

(2) No person shall be a member both of Parliament and of a House of the Legislature of a State ^{2***}, and if a person is chosen a member both of Parliament and of a House of the Legislature of ³[a State], then, at the expiration of such period as may be specified in rules⁴ made by the President, that person's seat in Parliament shall become vacant, unless he has previously resigned his seat in the Legislature of the State.

Q76. As per the Constitution, 'Unsound mind' is one the way for the disqualification from membership of which of the following?

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

How many of the above bodies is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finance Commission:

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

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

(a) if he is of unsound mind;

(b) if he is an undischarged insolvent;

(c) if he has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude;

(d) if he has such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a member of the Commission.

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

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

Q77. 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.**

Q78. According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, currently, which of the following animals **cannot** be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?

1. Ganges river dolphins
2. Tiger
3. Great Indian Bustard

Select the correct answer using the code given below:


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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Under WPA, 1972, it is mentioned:

CHAPTER III
HUNTING OF WILD ANIMALS

 **§19. Prohibition of hunting.**—No person shall hunt any wild animal specified in Schedules I, II, III and IV except as provided under section 11 and section 12.]

Now, from above given three examples, it is very much clear, three species do not belong to Schedule 5 (where you can hunt animals, so all are correct).

There are six schedules under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. You should have basic idea of such schedules.

Q79. Consider the following countries.

- 1. Malawi
- 2. Zimbabwe
- 3. Mozambique
- 4. South Sudan
- 5. Niger

How many of the above countries are land-locked?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:



Q80. *Vaibhashika* and *Sautrantika* belongs to which sect?

- a. Jainism
- b. Buddhism
- c. Vaishnavism
- d. Shaivism

Solution: b

Explanation:

Hinayana was later divided into two sects i.e., *Vaibhashika* and *Sautrantika*.

There are four principal Buddhist philosophical schools that together create the four pillars of Buddhist doctrine. These are known as the (1) *Vaibhashika*, (1) *Sautrantika*, (3) *Cittamatra* [Mind Only], and (4) *Madhyamaka* schools.

The *Vaibhashikas* believe that relative truth is that which can be broken down into parts, whereas ultimate truth is indivisible.

The *Sautrantikas* accept the selflessness of persons but not the selflessness of phenomena.

The *Cittamatrins* accept the selflessness of both self and phenomena, but believe in the true existence of mind.

Finally, the *Madhyamikas* claim that things appear to be real and substantial but are actually without inherent true existence.

Q81. Which of the following countries does Tropic of Capricorn doesn't pass?

- a. Australia
- b. New Zealand
- c. Madagascar
- d. Chile

Solution: b

Explanation:

It passes through these countries or overseas territories:

- Chile ✓
- Argentina
- Paraguay
- Brazil
- Namibia
- Botswana
- South Africa
- Mozambique
- Madagascar ✓
- Australia ✓



Q82. Which of the following is very near to Tropic of Cancer?

- a. Andaman Sea
- b. Gulf of Khambhat
- c. Gulf of Kachchh
- d. Gulf of Aden

Solution: c

Explanation:



Q83. Sea of Japan (East Sea) is located in:

- a. South of Korea Peninsula
- b. East of Korean Peninsula
- c. South of Japan
- d. East of Japan

Solution: b

Explanation:



Q84. A horizontal line to Black Sea (at any point) will never cross:

- a. Adriatic Sea
- b. Aegean Sea
- c. Caspian Sea
- d. Mediterranean Sea

Solution: b

Explanation:





Q85. Consider the following countries.

1. Malawi
2. Zimbabwe
3. Mozambique
4. South Sudan
5. Niger

Which of the above countries are land-locked?

- 1, 4 and 5 only
- 2, 4 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Solution: c

Explanation:



Q86. 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.



Q87. Identify the correct sequence, when one is travelling from **North to South**?

- Palk Strait-Adam's Bridge-Gulf of Mannar-Palk Bay
- Palk Strait-Palk Bay-Adam's Bridge-Gulf of Mannar
- Gulf of Mannar-Adam's Bridge-Palk bay-Palk Strait
- Adam's Bridge-Palk Strait—Palk Bay-Gulf of Mannar

Solution: b

Explanation:



Q88. A horizontal line drawn across Delhi will cross which of the following states?

1. Punjab
2. Haryana
3. Uttar Pradesh
4. Bihar
5. Arunachal Pradesh

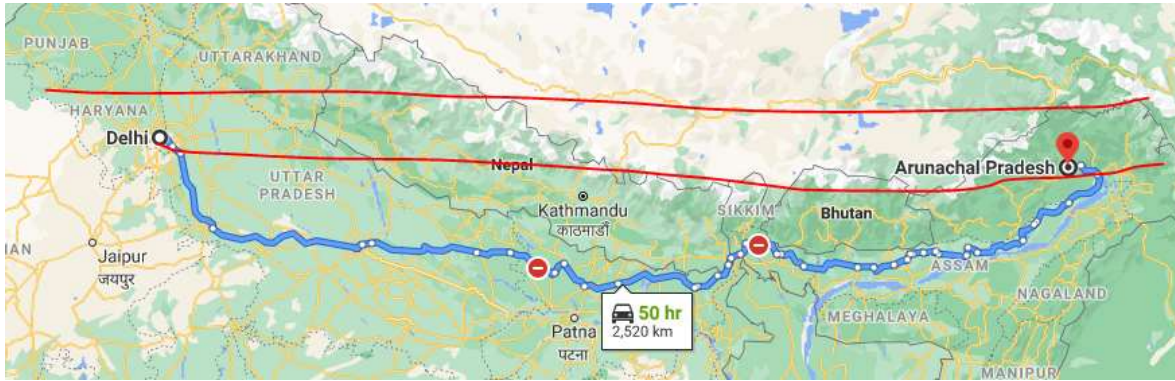
Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:





Q89. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'?

- Andaman and Nicobar
- Nicobar and Sumatra
- Maldives and Lakshadweep
- Sumatra and Java

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Ten Degree Channel is a channel that separates the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands from each other in the Bay of Bengal.



Q90. If one need to go **from India to Kazakhstan**, what is the minimum number of country/countries one can cross between two, *provided no movement restrictions in any country?*

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

India-China-Kazakhstan

