

October 2020, Current Affairs MCQ Compilation

1. With reference to the International Day of Older Persons, consider the following statements:

1. International Day of Older Persons is being observed on 1 October.
2. This year has been recognised as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

International Day of Older Persons is being observed on 1 October.

On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.

This was preceded by initiatives such as the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, which was adopted by the 1982 World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed later that year by the UN General Assembly.

The year 2020 marks the 30th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons.

This year has also been recognised as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife”. International Day of Older Persons 2020 will highlight the role of the health care workforce in contributing to the health of older persons, with special recognition of the nursing profession.

The 2020 observance will also promote the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030) and help bring together experts to discuss the five strategic objectives of the Global Strategy and Action plan on Ageing and Health.

Hence both statements are correct.

2. With reference to the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, consider the following statements:

1. BrahMos surface-to-air supersonic cruise missile features indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other ‘Made in India’ sub-systems.
2. The BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile was cruising at a top speed of Mach 2.8.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

India today successfully test-fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with several indigenous features.

The test firing of the missile was carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO from Balasore in Odisha.

BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile features indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' sub-systems.

Defence Ministry said, the BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile was cruising at a top speed of Mach 2.8. It is one more major step in enhancing the indigenous content.

This successful launch has paved the way for the serial production of the indigenous booster and other indigenous components of the powerful BrahMos Weapon System.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

3. With reference to the southwest monsoon, consider the following statements:

1. Weak monsoon means rainfall less than half the normal.
2. Vigorous monsoon means rainfall 1 ½ to 3 times the normal.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

India has received above normal monsoon during the four-month South West Monsoon season from June to September. According to India Meteorological Department, IMD, this is for the second consecutive year that the country received above normal rainfall.

Criteria for describing activity of southwest monsoon:

Weak monsoon: Rainfall less than half the normal.

Normal monsoon: Rainfall half to less than 1½ times the normal.

Active monsoon: Rainfall 1 ½ to 4 times the normal.

Vigorous monsoon: Rainfall more than 4 times the normal.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

4. Which of the following sector has the most weight in the Index of Industrial Production?

- A. Steel
- B. Electricity

- C. Refinery Products
- D. Coal

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity

The eight core industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

Industry	Weight (In percentage)
Petroleum & Refinery production	28.04
Electricity generation	19.85
Steel production	17.92
Coal production	10.33
Crude Oil production	8.98
Natural Gas production	6.88
Cement production	5.37
Fertilizers production	2.63

5. Consider the following statement (s) related to the similarity of El Nino and La Nina.

1. They are part of a larger cycle called ENSO, or El Niño–Southern Oscillation.
2. They are known to alter climate across more than half the planet and dramatically impact weather patterns.

Code:

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is an irregularly periodic variation in winds and sea surface temperatures over the tropical eastern Pacific Ocean, affecting the climate of much of the tropics and subtropics. The warming phase of the sea temperature is known as El Niño and the cooling phase as La Niña. The Southern Oscillation is the accompanying atmospheric component, coupled with the sea temperature change: El Niño is accompanied by high air surface pressure in the tropical western Pacific and La Niña with low air surface pressure there. two periods last several months each and typically occur every few years with varying intensity per period.

6. Tribes India e-Marketplace is an ambitious initiative of:

- A. TRIFED
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda will virtually launch India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace- Tribes India E-Marketplace on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Tribes India e-Marketplace is an ambitious initiative through which TRIFED aims to onboard 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicraft, handloom, natural food products across the country and brings to you the best of tribal produce.

The suppliers comprise of individual tribal artisans, tribal SHGs, Organisations/ Agencies/ NGOs working with tribals.

This path breaking initiative of TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country. It will help them market their products directly.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

7. With reference to the Pakur Honey, consider the following statements:

1. Pakur Honey is 100% natural honey which is Multi Floral and Forest Fresh.
2. It is gathered by Naga tribes.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda will launch Pakur Honey on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Pakur Honey is 100% natural honey which is Multi Floral and Forest Fresh.

It is gathered by Santhal Tribals and Vulnerable Pahadhiya tribes from Pakur, Jharkhand.

Natural Multiflora honey is a good source of anti-oxidants and antiseptic vitamins, nutrients, enzymes and other herbal properties that no other super-food can provide.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

8. RAISE 2020 is a first of its-kind, global meeting of minds on:

- A. Artificial Intelligence
- B. Dark Net
- C. Quantum Computing
- D. Blockchain technology

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog are organizing a Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,' from October 5-9, 2020. The Summit will be inaugurated by PM Modi.

RAISE 2020 is a first of its-kind, global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision for social transformation through responsible AI.

It is being Organized by Government of India along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog.

The event will witness robust participation from global industry leaders, key opinion makers, Government representatives and academia.

Industry analysts predict that AI could add up to USD 957 billion to India's economy by 2035.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

9. With reference to the International Day of Non-Violence 2020, consider the following statements:

1. International Day of Non-Violence 2020 is being observed on 2nd October.
2. It commemorates the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

International Day of Non-Violence 2020 is being observed on 2nd October.

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

According to General Assembly resolution of 15 June 2007, which established the commemoration, the International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness"

There are three main categories of non-violence action:

protest and persuasion, including marches and vigils;

non-cooperation; and

non-violent intervention, such as blockades and occupations.

Hence both statements are correct.

10. With reference to the rules for the protection of Good Samaritans, consider the following statements:

1. The rules provide for the Rights of Good Samaritan which include that a Good Samaritan shall have the rights as detailed in the rules and shall be treated respectfully without any discrimination on the grounds of religion, nationality, caste or sex.

2. No police officer or any other person shall compel a Good Samaritan to disclose his/her name, identity, address or any such other personal details.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published the rules for the protection of Good Samaritans (people helping the road accidents victims on the spot).

The rules provide for the Rights of Good Samaritan which include that a Good Samaritan shall have the rights as detailed in the rules and shall be treated respectfully without any discrimination on the grounds of religion, nationality, caste or sex.

No police officer or any other person shall compel a Good Samaritan to disclose his/her name, identity, address or any such other personal details.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, inserted a new section 134A, viz. "Protection of good Samaritans".

It provides that a Good Samaritan shall not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of the victim of an accident involving a motor vehicle while rendering emergency medical or non-medical care or assistance.

Hence both statements are correct.

11. With reference to the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The government has decided to remove the clause for offsets if the equipment is being bought either through deals or agreements between two countries, or through an ab initio single-vendor deal.
2. The offset is an obligation by an international player to boost India's domestic defence industry if India is buying defence equipment from it.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Defence Ministry came up with its latest Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 (DAP 2020), which comes into effect from Thursday, October 1.

Changing a 15-year old policy, the government has decided to remove the clause for offsets if the equipment is being bought either through deals or agreements between two countries, or through an ab initio single-vendor deal.

The offset is an obligation by an international player to boost India's domestic defence industry if India is buying defence equipment from it.

Since defence contracts are costly, the government wants part of that money either to benefit the Indian industry, or to allow the country to gain in terms of technology.

Offsets is a "mechanism generally established with the triple objectives of:

partially compensating for a significant outflow of a buyer country's resources in a large purchase of foreign goods,

facilitating induction of technology and

adding capacities and capabilities of domestic industry".

An offset provision in a contract makes it obligatory on the supplier to either "reverse purchase, execute export orders or invest in local industry or in research and development" in the buyer's domestic industry, according to CAG.

The policy was adopted on the recommendations of the Vijay Kelkar Committee in 2005.

The first offset contract was signed in 2007.

Hence both statements are correct.

12. With reference to the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit, consider the following statements:

1. It is being organized by 200 Indian academic institutes and S&T departments, led by Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India.

2. The aim of the summit is to bring out a comprehensive roadmap leveraging the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for addressing emerging challenges for universal development.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit, a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians.

Over 3000 Academicians & Scientists of Indian Origin and over 10,000 Indian Scientists are participating in the Summit.

it is being organized by 200 Indian academic institutes and S&T departments, led by Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India.

The deliberations will be held from 3rd October to 25th October 2020, with consolidation of outcomes on 28th October. The summit will conclude on the occasion of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Jayanti i.e. 31st October 2020.

The aim of the summit is to bring out a comprehensive roadmap leveraging the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for addressing emerging challenges for universal development.

Hence both statements are correct.

13. Consider the following statements regarding Atal Tunnel:

- 1. It connects Manali to Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh.
- 2. It is the longest highway tunnel in the world.
- 3. The tunnel is built in the Dhauladhar range of Himalayas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Prime Minister has inaugurated the Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang, which connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The 9.02-km tunnel is the 'longest highway tunnel' in the world situated at a height of 3,000 metres. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Atal Tunnel or the Rohtang tunnel has been built in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

14. With reference to the Wild Life Week, consider the following statements:

1. Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India between October 1 and 8.
2. The annual theme of the campaign is to promote the preservation of fauna – i.e. animal life.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Wild Life Week is being celebrated in India.

Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India between October 1 and 8.

The annual theme of the campaign is to promote the preservation of fauna – i.e. animal life.

Wildlife Week was conceptualized in 1952 with the overall goal of raising awareness to serve the long-term goal of safeguarding the lives of wildlife through critical action.

In addition, the Indian Government established an Indian Board of Wild Life which works to improve awareness towards the preservation of wildlife.

Hence both statements are correct.

15. With reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sand is a 'minor mineral' according to the prevailing law in the country.
2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Central Government.
3. State Governments have the power to frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only

- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

According to section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 “Minor Minerals” means building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand other than sand used for prescribed purposes[1], and any other mineral which the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare to be a minor mineral. (For the purposes of this Act, the word “minerals” includes all minerals except mineral oils- natural gas and petroleum)

Statement 2 is incorrect: The central government has the power to notify “minor minerals” under section 3 (e) of the MMDR Act, 1957. On the other hand, as per Section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957 State Governments have complete powers for making Rules for grant of concessions in respect of extraction of minor minerals and levy and collection of royalty on minor minerals.

16. Ravi Chopra committee, recently seen in news, is related to:

- A. Review Char Dham Project
- B. Small Scale Industries.
- C. Banking Supervision
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The chairman of a Supreme Court-appointed expert committee has alleged violations of the court orders in the execution of the Chardham road project — a 900 km, ₹12,000 crore enterprise to connect pilgrimage spots in Uttarakhand.

The top court ruled last month that a width of 5.5 metre be enforced as it was in conformity with a 2018 recommendation of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for mountain roads. The MoRTH is also the key coordinator of the Chardham project.

Ravi Chopra is the chairman of the High Powered Committee (HPC).

In the great Himalayas in Uttarakhand, the four pilgrim-destinations namely Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath are collectively known as Chardham.

Traditionally, this pilgrimage tour should begin from the West and end in the East. Thus, the Char Dham Yatra commences from Yamunotri, then proceeding to Gangotri and finally to Kedarnath and Badrinath.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

17. With reference to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF), consider the following statements:

1. The fund is collected under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
2. The CAF is shared between Centre and States.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

In 2016, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (CAMPA), 2016 was passed by Parliament to ensure expeditious and transparent utilization of compensatory levies realized in lieu of forest land diverted for non-forest purpose, which presently is of the order of about Rs. 49,000 crore.

Highlights of the CAMPA act:

The Bill establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.

These Funds will receive payments for: (i) compensatory afforestation, (ii) net present value of forest (NPV), and (iii) other project specific payments. The National Fund will receive 10% of these funds, and the State Funds will receive the remaining 90%.

These Funds will be primarily spent on afforestation to compensate for loss of forest cover, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wildlife protection and infrastructure development.

The Bill also establishes the National and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authorities to manage the National and State Funds.

18. With reference to the postal ballot, consider the following statements:

1. The form required to opt for the postal ballot would be delivered at the residence of all those aged above 50 and people with disabilities by the booth level officer under his polling station.
2. As per the instructions, the returning officer would deploy polling teams, which will deliver and collect the postal ballot on pre-informed dates and then deposit it with the returning officer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both
- D. Neither

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Seeking to make the procedure to opt for postal ballot more convenient for those above 80 years of age and people with disabilities, the Election Commission has come out with a set of new instructions.

The form required to opt for the postal ballot would be delivered at the residence of all those aged above 80 and people with disabilities by the booth level officer under his polling station. It would be up to these two categories of voters to opt for postal ballot.

If he/she opts for postal ballot, then the Booth Level Officer (BLO) will collect the filled-in form 12-D from the house of the elector within five days of the notification and deposit it with the returning officer forthwith.

These instructions have been issued based on the feedback the poll panel received from civil society and media during its visit to poll-bound Bihar last week.

The EC said the fresh instructions would be applicable to all elections and byelections.

As per the instructions, the returning officer would deploy polling teams, which will deliver and collect the postal ballot on pre-informed dates and then deposit it with the returning officer.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

19. With reference to the ‘India PV EDGE 2020’, consider the following statements:

1. India has become the third-largest solar capacity country in the world and set an ambitious target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, comprising 300 GW of solar capacity.
2. India’s NDC document of the Paris Agreement in 2015 called for extraordinary leadership to combat climate change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both
- D. Neither

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

To catalyse cutting-edge PV manufacturing in India, NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Invest India, are organizing a global symposium virtually, ‘India PV EDGE 2020’, on October 6, 2020, from 5–8.40 pm.

India has become the third-largest solar capacity country in the world and set an ambitious target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, comprising 300 GW of solar capacity.

The major factor behind the rise of solar deployment is giga-scale solar manufacturing and the continuous adoption of innovations to reduce prices.

Cutting-edge giga-scale solar manufacturing stands on three pillars:

disruptive PV chemistries,

manufacturing by custom-engineered advanced production equipment, and

utilisation of innovative BOM components like special glasses and coatings.

India's NDC document of the Paris Agreement in 2015 called for extraordinary leadership to combat climate change. India PV EDGE 2020 is one small step towards that ambition.
Hence both statements are correct.

20. With reference to the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART), consider the following statements:

1. SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range.
2. It has been successfully flight tested from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) has been successfully flight tested from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range.

This launch and demonstration is significant in establishing Anti-Submarine warfare capabilities.

A number of DRDO laboratories including DRDL, RCI Hyderabad, ADRDE Agra, NSTL Visakhapatnam have developed the technologies required for SMART.

Hence both statements are correct.

21. With reference to a report "Economic valuation of ecosystem services, National Zoological Park, New Delhi", consider the following statements:

1. It highlights the importance of habitats such as zoos to human wellbeing and the need of replication across India.
2. It was released by Centre for Science and Environment.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Union Minister of Environment launched a report of the CZA-TERI titled ‘Economic valuation of ecosystem services, National Zoological Park, New Delhi ‘.

- The report by Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and TERI highlights the importance of habitats such as zoos to human wellbeing and the need of replication across India.
- The study first of its kind in India and perhaps the entire World, pegs the total annual economic value of the ecosystem services (biodiversity conservation, employment generation, carbon sequestration, education and research, recreational and cultural) at around 423 crore (2019-20).
- The total value of the one-time cost of services such as carbon storage and land value provided by the zoo is estimated to be around 55,000 crore.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

22. Which of the following are included in Quad countries?

1. India
2. Japan
3. U.K

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.1 only
- B.1 and 2 only
- C.2 and 3 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Foreign ministers of all four Quad countries – India, US, Japan, Australia – will meet in the Japanese capital Tokyo on October 6, 2020.

- Foreign Ministers will discuss the post-COVID-19 international order and the need for a coordinated response to the various challenges emerging from the pandemic.
- Four ministers will also discuss regional issues and collectively affirm the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- This is the second such Quad foreign ministers meet. In 2019, all the foreign ministers of Quad countries met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.
- It takes place even as India and the US are getting ready for 2+2 foreign and defence ministers meeting that will take place later this month.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

23. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Nobel Prize for Physiology in 2020 has been awarded for the discovery of the Hepatitis C Virus.
2. The National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) was launched to eliminate Hepatitis C by 2030 in India.
3. Hepatitis C vaccine is included under India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.1 and 2 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 3 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Hepatitis B is included under India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) which provides free of cost vaccination against a total of 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.

24. With reference to the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013, consider the following statements:

1. The jurisdiction of Lokpal does not include the Prime Minister.
2. The term of office fixed for Lokayukta is of 5 years duration or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Jurisdiction of Lokpal includes Prime Minister, Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect. The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

25. Who among the following were chosen for the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology 2020?

- A. Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice
- B. Julius Axelrod and Ulf von Euler
- C. Konrad Lorenz and Nikolaas Tinbergen
- D. Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Luc Montagnier

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton were chosen for the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus.

- The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1,118,000), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.
- The World Health Organisation estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis worldwide and 400,000 deaths each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver inflammation and cancer.
- The medicine prize carries particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

26. Nobel Prize in Physics 2020 has been awarded, with one half to Roger Penrose and the other half jointly to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for their discoveries about:

- A. theoretical nuclear physics
- B. fluid dynamics
- C. gravitational physics
- D. Black hole

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Nobel Prize in Physics 2020 has been awarded, with one half to Roger Penrose and the other half jointly to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for their discoveries about Black hole.

- Roger Penrose used ingenious mathematical methods in his proof that black holes are a direct consequence of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity.
- Einstein did not himself believe that black holes really exist, these super-heavyweight monsters that capture everything that enters them. Nothing can escape, not even light.
- Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez each lead a group of astronomers that, since the early 1990s, has focused on a region called Sagittarius A* at the centre of our galaxy.
- Their pioneering work has given us the most convincing evidence yet of a supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

27. Which of the following are the tributaries of Krishna River?

1. Tungabhadra
2. Koyna
3. Ghataprabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only

- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Centre will determine the jurisdictions of the Krishna and Godavari river management boards (KRMB and GRMB), Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said.

- He was speaking after convening an apex council meeting involving the Centre, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the second since 2016.
- The meeting is primarily to resolve the conflict between the two States over executing irrigation projects and sharing water from the Krishna and Godavari rivers.
- The headquarters of the KRMB would be located in Andhra Pradesh.
- With regards to sharing of river waters, the Telangana Chief Minister agreed to withdraw the case filed in Supreme Court, to allow the Centre to refer water sharing issues to the Krishna Godavari tribunal.
- Regarding the sharing of Godavari waters, both the States were asked to send in their requests to the Centre so that it could refer them to the tribunal, a statement from the Water Resources Ministry said.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and his Telangana counterpart had taken tough stands on projects such as the Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme and enhancement of the carrying capacity of the Pothireddypadu head regulator.
- The tributaries of Krishna River include Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

28. Sittwe port, recently seen in news, is located in:

- A. Myanmar
- B. Malaysia
- C. Indonesia
- D. Laos

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

India and Myanmar have agreed to work towards the operationalization of the Sittwe port in the Rakhine state in the first quarter of 2021.

- Situated at the mouth of the Kaladan River, the Sittwe Port is being financed by India as a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, a collaboration between India and Myanmar.
- The project is aimed at developing transport infrastructure in southwestern Myanmar and north-eastern India.
- The announcement came post conclusion of the two-day visit of Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Myanmar.
- They also discussed the progress in the ongoing Indian-assisted infrastructure projects such as the Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.
- India announced a grant of two million US Dollars for the construction of the border haat bridge at Byanyu/Sarsichauk in Chin State that will provide increased economic connectivity between Mizoram and Myanmar.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

29. With reference to Cotton, consider the following statements:

1. India is the 2nd largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.
2. India produces about 51% of the total organic cotton production of the world, which demonstrates India's effort towards sustainability.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Minister of Textiles launched the 1st ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on 2nd World Cotton Day on 7th October.

- Now India's premium Cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton Trade.
- The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.
- Cotton is one of the principal commercial crops of India and it provides livelihood to about 6 million cotton farmers.
- India is the 2nd largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.
- India produces about 6.00 Million tons of cotton every year which is about 23% of the world cotton.
- India produces about 51% of the total organic cotton production of the world, which demonstrates India's effort towards sustainability.
- A mobile app, "Cott-Ally" has been developed by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for providing latest news regarding weather condition, Crop situation and best farm practices.

- **Hence both statements are correct.**

30. With reference to the ‘Natural Gas Marketing Reforms’, consider the following statements:

1. The policy aims to provide standard procedure for sale of natural gas in a transparent and competitive manner to discover market price by issuing guidelines for sale by contractor through e-bidding.
2. The policy has also permitted Affiliate companies to participate in the bidding process in view of the open, transparent and electronic bidding.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved ‘Natural Gas Marketing Reforms’ to move towards gas based economy.

- The policy aims to provide standard procedure for sale of natural gas in a transparent and competitive manner to discover market price by issuing guidelines for sale by contractor through e-bidding.
- This will bring uniformity in the bidding process across the various contractual regimes and policies to avoid ambiguity and contribute towards ease of doing business.
- The policy has also permitted Affiliate companies to participate in the bidding process in view of the open, transparent and electronic bidding.
- The policy will also grant marketing freedom to the Field Development Plans (FDPs) of those Blocks in which Production Sharing Contracts already provide pricing freedom.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

31. With reference to the Right to Protest, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court has said that occupying public places for protests is not acceptable and such a space cannot be occupied indefinitely.
2. The judgment upheld the right to peaceful protest against a law but made it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied, and that too indefinitely.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has said that occupying public places for protests is not acceptable and such a space cannot be occupied indefinitely.

- The verdict came on a plea against the Anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December.
- It said that public places cannot be occupied indefinitely like during the Shaheen Bagh protests.
- The judgment upheld the right to peaceful protest against a law but made it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied, and that too indefinitely.
- In a democracy, the rights of free speech and peaceful protest were indeed “treasured”. They were to be encouraged and respected, the court said.
- But these rights were also subject to reasonable restrictions imposed in the interest of sovereignty, integrity and public order. Police regulations also weighed in.
- Fundamental rights do not live in isolation. The right of the protester has to be balanced with the right of the commuter. They have to co-exist in mutual respect.
- The bench also said that Delhi Police ought to have taken action to clear Shaheen Bagh area from the protesters. It was entirely the responsibility of the administration to prevent encroachments in public spaces.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

32. With reference to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA snipping “scissors”.
2. The first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA snipping “scissors”, the first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team.

- Ms. Charpentier, 51, and Ms. Doudna, 56, are just the sixth and seventh women to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- Using the tool, “researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision”.
- The CRISPR-Cas9 tool has already contributed to significant gains in crop resilience, altering their genetic code to better withstand drought and pests.
- The technology has also led to innovative cancer treatments, and many experts hope it could one day make inherited diseases curable through gene manipulation.
- CRISPR’s relative simplicity and widespread applicability has, however, triggered the imaginations of rogue practitioners. In 2018 in China, scientist He Jiankui caused an international scandal when he used CRISPR to create what he called the first gene-edited humans.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

33. The 2020 Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to:

- A. Louise Glück
- B. Andrea M. Ghez
- C. Roger Penrose
- D. Reinhard Genze

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The 2020 Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to American poet Louise Glück.

- Ms. Glück, 77, was honoured “for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal,” the Academy said.
- A professor at Yale University, Glück made her debut in 1968 with her collection titled 'Firstborn'. She is seen as one of the most prominent poet and essayist in American contemporary literature.
- She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for her collection *The Wild Iris* and the National Book Award for her latest collection, *Faithful and Virtuous Night*, in 2014.
- She is the fourth woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize in the past decade — after Olga Tokarczuk, Svetlana Alexievich and Alice Munro — and only the 16th since the Nobel prizes were first awarded in 1901.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

34. With reference to the TRPs (Television Rating Points), consider the following statements:

1. TRPs represent how many people, from which socio-economic categories, watched which channels for how much time during a particular period.
2. Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India is a statutory body.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Mumbai police is looking into a scam about manipulation of TRPs (Television Rating Points) by rigging the devices used by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India, which has the mandate to measure television audience in India.

- TRPs represent how many people, from which socio-economic categories, watched which channels for how much time during a particular period.
- **Methodology:**
 - This could be for an hour, a day, or even a week; India follows the international standard of one minute. The data is usually made public every week.
 - For calculating TRP, BARC has installed “BAR-O-meters” in over 45,000 empanelled households. These households are classified into 12 categories under the New Consumer Classification System (NCCS)
- **Importance of TRPs:**
 - Television ratings in turn influence programmes produced for the viewers. Better ratings would promote a programme while poor ratings will discourage a programme.
 - TRPs are the main currency for advertisers to decide which channel to advertise on by calculating the cost-per-rating-point (CPRP).

BARC?

- It is an industry body jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies, represented by The Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India.
- Though it was created in 2010, the I&B Ministry notified the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India in 2014 and registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

35. With reference to the World Post Day, consider the following statements:

1. World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October.
2. It was declared World Post Day by the Universal Postal Union Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

- It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. The proposal was submitted by Shri Anand Mohan Narula, a member of the Indian delegation.
- Since then, World Post Day has been celebrated all over the world to highlight the importance of the postal services.
- The Universal Postal Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system. It also oversees the Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives.
- It was established in 1874 by the Treaty of Bern.
- The UPU's headquarters are located in Bern, Switzerland.
- It's Parent organization is United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

36. With reference to the Air Force Day, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Air Force celebrated the 88th Air Force Day on October 8.
2. October 8 is celebrated as the Air Force Day because on this day, the Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Indian Air Force celebrated the 88th Air Force Day on October 8.

- October 8 is celebrated as the Air Force Day because on this day, the Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.
- The first operational squadron came into being in April 1933.
- After participation in World War II, the Air Force in India came to be called the Royal Indian Air Force in the mid 1940s.

- In 1950, after the republic came into being it became the Indian Air Force. From six officers and 19 Hawai Sepoys back in 1933, the Air Force now is the fourth largest in the world.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

37. Which of the following reports are released by the World Bank?

1. South Asia Economic Focus report
2. Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report
3. Global Financial Stability Report
4. Global Gender Gap Report

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.1 and 2 only
- B.1, 2 and 3 only
- C.1, 3 and 4 only
- D.1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The World Bank releases the South Asia Economic Focus report and Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report. The latest South Asia Economic Focus report estimated that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can contract by 9.6% in 2020-21.

The latest Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report estimates that Covid-19 will push over 1.4% of the world's population into extreme poverty.

The Global Financial Stability Report is released by the International Monetary Fund.

The Global Gender Gap Report is released by the World Economic Forum.

Hence, option A is correct.

38. With reference to the World Mental Health Day, consider the following statements:

1. World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year.
2. Its objective is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.

The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide.

The goal of this year's World Mental Health Day campaign is increased investment in mental health. According to WHO, Countries spend on average only 2% of their health budgets on mental health.

Hence both statements are correct.

39. With reference to the World Migratory Bird Day 2020, consider the following statements:

1. World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is being organized on October 11.
2. This year the theme of World Migratory Bird Day is "Birds Connect Our World" to highlight the importance of conserving the ecological connectivity that support the natural movements of migratory birds.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is being organized on October 10.

WMBD is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats.

The annual day was initiated in 2006.

Since 2018, it is celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October.

The campaign is organized by two international wildlife treaties administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – the Convention on the Conservation of

Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) - together with Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

This year the theme of World Migratory Bird Day is “Birds Connect Our World” to highlight the importance of conserving the ecological connectivity that support the natural movements of migratory birds.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

40. Which of the following institution won the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020?

- A. World Food Programme (WFP)
- B. International Atomic Energy Agency
- C. Amnesty International
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020 to the World Food Programme (WFP) for its efforts to combat hunger.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security.

Founded in 1961, it is headquartered in Rome.

In 2019, the WFP provided assistance to close to 100 million people in 88 countries who are victims of acute food insecurity and hunger.

In 2015, eradicating hunger was adopted as one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The WFP is the UN's primary instrument for realising this goal.

The World Food Programme was an active participant in the diplomatic process that culminated in May 2018 in the UN Security Council's unanimous adoption of Resolution 2417, which for the first time explicitly addressed the link between conflict and hunger.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

41. Consider the following pairs with reference to Maharashtra state:

- State animal : : Flying squirrel
- State bird : : Domestic pigeon
- State butterfly : : Blue Mormon

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Maharashtra already has the state tree (mango), state animal (giant squirrel), state bird (green pigeon), state butterfly (Blue Mormon), and state flower (jarul).

42. With reference to the Registration of Political parties, consider the following statements:

1. Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
2. A party seeking registration under the said Section with the ECI has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by it in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution 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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Election Commission of India (ECI) has relaxed Public Notice Time Period for Registration of Political Parties. It has given a relaxation and has reduced the notice period from 30 days to 7 days for the parties who have published their public notice on or before 07.10.2020.

Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

A party seeking registration under the said Section with the ECI has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by it in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India.

As per existing guidelines, the applicant association is, inter-alia, asked to publish proposed Name of the party in two national daily news papers and two local daily newspapers, on two days for submitting objections, if any, with regard to the proposed registration of the party before the Commission within 30 days from such publication.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

43. With reference to missile ‘Rudram-1’, consider the following statements:

1. It is an air-to-surface missile, designed and developed by the DRDO.
2. It is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile of the country.
3. It will enhance the Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) capability of Indian Air Force.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 and 2 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 3 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

It is an air-to-surface missile, designed and developed by the DRDO. It can be launched from altitudes of 500 m to 15 km and speeds of 0.6 to 2 mach. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile of the country for Indian Air Force (IAF). Once the missile locks on the target, it is capable of striking accurately even if the radiation source switches off in between. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It will enhance IAF’s Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) capability. It can play a key role in neutralising any jamming platforms of the enemy or take out radar stations thereby clearing a path for own fighters to carry out an offensive and also prevent own systems from being jammed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

44. With reference to the World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-governmental organisation independent of the United Nation.
2. It focuses on emergency assistance as well as rehabilitation and development aid.
3. The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the World Food Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The World Food Programme (WFP) was established in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and became a full-fledged UN programme in 1965. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Its headquarter is in Rome, Italy.

WFP focuses on emergency assistance as well as rehabilitation and development aid. Two-thirds of its work is in conflict-affected countries, where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than elsewhere. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the World Food Programme (WFP), a United Nations (UN) agency, for its efforts to combat hunger, bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

45. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding 'National Commission for Protection of Child Rights'?

1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
2. It inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009.

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

It monitors the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

46. Which of the following monetary policy measures can be taken by the Reserve Bank of India for infusion of liquidity in the market?

1. Buying Government Securities from commercial banks
2. Increase in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) requirement of commercial banks
3. Long Term Reverse Repo Operation (LTRO)

Choose 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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Open Market Operations (OMO): OMOs are conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities (g-secs) to adjust money supply conditions.

The central bank sells g-secs to commercial banks to remove liquidity from the system and buys back g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): Banks are required to hold a certain proportion of their deposits in the form of cash. This minimum ratio (that is the part of the total deposits to be held as cash) is stipulated by the RBI and is known as the CRR.

It is one of the main components of the RBI's monetary policy, which is used to regulate the money supply, level of inflation and liquidity in the country. The higher the CRR, the lower is the liquidity with the banks and vice-versa. Increasing the CRR requirement will decrease liquidity. Hence, option 2 is not correct.

Long Term Reverse Repo Operation (LTRO): It is a mechanism to facilitate the transmission of monetary policy actions and the flow of credit to the economy. This helps in injecting liquidity in the system. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**

Funds through LTRO are provided at the repo rate. This means that banks can avail one year and three-year loans at the same interest rate of one day repo. But usually, loans with higher maturity period (here like 1 year and 3 years) will have a higher interest rate compared to short term (repo) loans.

Repo Rate: It is the rate at which the central bank of a country lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.

Low repo rates encourage banks to borrow from the RBI, allowing them to lend more. This adds liquidity in the economy.

47. Which of the following are the beaches that have been awarded the 'BLUE FLAG'?

1. Ghoghla
2. Kappad
3. Radhanagar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.1 only
B.1 and 2 only

- C.2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Union environment minister announced that 8 beaches of India, spread across five states and two union territories, have been awarded the “BLUE FLAG” by an International Jury comprising of eminent members viz UNEP, UNWTO, FEE, IUCN.

The beaches that have been awarded the ‘BLUE FLAG’ are Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (AP), Golden (Puri-Odisha) and Radhanagar (A&N Islands).

India is also the first country in “Asia-Pacific” region which has achieved this feat in just about 2 years’ time. Japan, South Korea and UAE are the only other Asian nations who have been conferred with a couple of Blue Flag beaches, however, in a time frame of about 5 to 6 years!

India is now in the league of 50 "BLUE FLAG" countries. India began its humble journey in 2018 for development of pilot beaches (one each in coastal states/UTs) and presented the first set of 08 beaches for the certification for the ensuing tourist season 2020.

SICOM, MoEFCC, in its pursuit of “Sustainable Development” of the coastal regions of India embarked upon program “BEAMS” (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under its ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project.

This was aimed at striving for the coveted International eco-label "Blue flag", accorded by The Foundation of Environment Education, FEE Denmark.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

48. With reference to the Bharatmala Pariyojana, consider the following statements:

1. Bharatmala Pariyojana is an umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
2. This will be done only by development of Economic Corridors and Inter Corridors.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

A total of 322 projects in a length of 12,413 Km have been awarded under Bharatmala Pariyojana till August, 2020. Further, 2921 Km has been constructed under the Project till the same date.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken up detailed review of NHs network.

It has given overall investment approval for Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase I Scheme for development of about 34,800 km (including 10,000 Km residual NHDP stretches) at an estimated outlay of Rs 5,35,000 Crore.

Bharatmala Pariyojana is an umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.

This will be done by development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

49. With reference to the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, consider the following statements:

1. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction will be observed on 13 October, 2020.
2. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction will be observed on 13 October, 2020.

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly.

Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reigning in the risks that they face.

In 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, the international community was reminded that disasters hit hardest at the local level with the potential to cause loss of life and great social and economic upheaval.

Hence both statements are correct.

50. Aarey is an 1,800-plus acres of green space located in:

- A.Maharashtra
- B.Kerala
- C.Tamil Nadu
- D.Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced that the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government has decided to move the proposed car-shed for the underground Metro 3 rail out of Aarey to Kanjurmarg, an eastern suburb.

This has long been a contentious issue between environmental activists and the government. The tussle has been ongoing since 2014. While the 33.5-km underground Metro 3 is an ambitious project connecting Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ, the location for the car-shed was identified as Aarey.

Aarey is an 1,800-plus acres of green space in suburban Goregaon, which is home to 290 species wild of flora and fauna, and surrounded on many sides by concrete structures.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

51. Nechiphu Tunnel, recently seen in news, is located in:

- A.Arunachal Pradesh
- B.Sikkim
- C.Himachal Pradesh
- D.Ladakh

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Union defence minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the Nechiphu Tunnel on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The 450m-long tunnel, which will bypass the existing road, will be D-shaped and comprise two lanes of 3.5m width each.

Another 1.8 km-long tunnel is also being constructed on the BCT road and both will reduce distance to the area bordering China by 10km.

It will be constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

52. Which of the following country has approved a draft law to include death penalty as the highest punishment for rape?

- A.Bangladesh
- B.Barbados
- C.Malaysia
- D.Gambia

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Bangladesh Cabinet approved a draft law to include death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.

The decision to amend the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act-2000 was announced after the Cabinet meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka. The ordinance will be issued after getting approval of the President as Parliament is not in session. Currently, the highest punishment for rape is life imprisonment.

Bangladesh has been witnessing widespread protests over the last several days against the gang rape of a woman in Noakhali which came to light on 4th of October.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

53. With reference to the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering, consider the following statements:

1. APG is a regional affiliate of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
2. The APG Secretariat is located in Sydney, Australia.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Taking note of Pakistan's "meagre progress" in combating money laundering and terror financing, the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering retained the country on its 'Enhanced Follow-Up' list.

APG is a regional affiliate of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The APG Secretariat is located in Sydney, Australia. APG was founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand, and currently consists of 41 member jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region.

The APG said, Pakistan will remain in the enhanced follow-up list and will have to continue to report back to the APG on progress to strengthen its implementation of comprehensive Anti-money Laundering and Terrorist Financing measures.

Pakistan is desperate to move out of 'grey list' as its inclusion in the list has adversely impacted its economy and image.

The FATF had placed Pakistan in the grey list in June 2018. China, Pakistan's all-weather ally, has prevented it from being blacklisted by the FATF for the past two years, with support from Turkey and Malaysia. Three votes are necessary at the FATF meet to prevent blacklisting.

Hence both statements are correct.

54. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Leave Travel Concession (LTC) Cash Voucher Scheme, the Government has decided to give cash payment to employees in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21.
2. Special Festival Advance Scheme which was meant for non-gazetted government employees is being revived as a one-time measure, for gazetted employees too.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Finance Minister announced two sets of measures to generate consumption demand and boost capital spending in the economy.

Under Leave Travel Concession (LTC) Cash Voucher Scheme, the Government has decided to give cash payment to employees in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21, in which full payment on Leave encashment and tax-free payment of LTC fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on class of entitlement will be given.

Special Festival Advance Scheme which was meant for non-gazetted government employees is being revived as a one-time measure, for gazetted employees too. All central govt. employees can now get interest-free advance of Rs. 10,000, in the form of a prepaid RuPay Card, to be spent by March 31, 2021.

Capital Expenditure Boost for States: A special interest-free 50-year loan to states is being issued, for ₹ 12,000 crore capital expenditure (the interest-free loans given to states are to be spent by March 31, 2021):

₹ 200 crore each for 8 North East states

₹ 450 crore each Uttarakhand, Himachal

₹ 7,500 crore for remaining states, as per share of Finance Commission's devolution

Hence both statements are correct.

56. With reference to the Exercise Suraksha Kavach, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise for both Indian Army and Maharashtra Police.
2. The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures of both Army and Police for activating anti-terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) to counter any terrorist actions in Pune.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Agnibaaz Division organized Exercise Suraksha Kavach, a Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise for both Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar Pune.

- The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures of both Army and Police for activating anti-terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) to counter any terrorist actions in Pune.
- The exercise involved participation of Quick Reaction Teams, Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of Army as well as Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Quick Reaction Team of Maharashtra Police.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

57. With reference to Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded to Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson.
2. It is awarded for development of auction theory.
3. It is also known as Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel prize in Economic Sciences, 2020 to Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson (both from the USA) for their work on commercial auctions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Milgrom and Wilson improved the auction theory and invented new auction formats for auctioning off many interrelated objects simultaneously, on behalf of a seller motivated by broad societal benefit rather than maximal revenue. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Auction theory studies how auctions are designed, what rules govern them, how bidders behave and what outcomes are achieved.

The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences is officially titled the "Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel". Hence, statement 3 is correct.

It was created in 1968 by a donation from Sweden's central bank Sveriges Riksbank to the Nobel Foundation to commemorate the bank's 300th anniversary and includes a 10 million Swedish kronor award money — roughly Rs 8.33 crore.

58. World economic outlook report is released by:

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. World Trade Organization
- D. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Global output is projected to shrink 4.4% in 2020, the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook October 2020 report titled, “A Long and Difficult Ascent”.

- For the world as a whole, the 2020 growth projection has been revised upwards by 0.8 percentage points relative to June. After 2021, global growth is expected to ease off at 3.5% in the medium term.
- India’s economy is expected to contract 10.3% in the current fiscal year as the country and the world reel from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The projection for India is a downgrade of 5.8 percentage points from its June forecast. India is expected to rebound in the fiscal year beginning in April 2021 with 8.8% growth — an upgrade of 2.8 percentage points relative to the June update.
- Consumer prices in India are expected to grow at 4.9% this year and by 3.7% in the next fiscal. The current account balance is projected to grow by 0.3% this year and -0.9% next year.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

59. With reference to the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States - STARS project, consider the following statements:

1. The Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing and evaluating interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.
2. It will cover all States in 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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States -STARS project.

- The Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing and evaluating interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.
- The total project cost is 5,718 crore rupees with the financial support of World Bank amounting to 500 million US dollar.
- STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of School Education and Literacy.
- It will cover six States, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

60. Zojila Tunnel, recently seen in news, is located in:

- A. Sikkim
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister will initiate simultaneous blasting for Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

- The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh on NH-1 and will bring about an all-round economic and socio-cultural integration of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It involves construction of a 14.15-kilometre long tunnel at an altitude of about three thousand metres under Zojila pass on NH-1 connecting Srinagar and Leh through Dras and Kargil.
- Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) has been awarded with the contract of construction of ZojiLa Tunnel between Baltal and Minamarg within six years and nearly 19-KM approach roads on both sides in two and half years.
- Both on the east portal of ZojiLa Tunnel at Meenamarg on Kargil side in UT Ladakh and the west portal of Nilagrar tunnel in Ganderbal district of UT Jammu & Kashmir, tunnel works would begin with simultaneous blasts.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

61. With reference to the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), consider the following statements:

1. It aims at organizing one-woman member from each rural poor household into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and enabling them to implement their livelihoods plans through accessing financial resources from their own institutions and the banks.

2. DAY-NRLM has been implemented in the erstwhile state of J&K by the Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRLM) as "Umeed" programme.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved a Special Package worth Rs. 520 crore in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh for a period of five years till FY 2023-24 under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

- This will ensure sufficient funds under the Mission, as per need to the UTs and is also in line with Government of India's aim to universalize all centrally sponsored beneficiary-oriented schemes in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh in a time bound manner.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a centrally sponsored programme that was launched in 2011 to eliminate rural poverty through promotion of multiple livelihoods for the rural poor households across the country.
- DAY-NRLM seeks to reach out to all rural poor households, estimated at about 10 crore households.
- It aims at organizing one-woman member from each rural poor household into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and enabling them to implement their livelihoods plans through accessing financial resources from their own institutions and the banks.
- It is implemented in a Mission mode by special purpose vehicles (autonomous state societies) with dedicated implementation support units at the national, state, district and block levels.
- DAY-NRLM has been implemented in the erstwhile state of J&K by the Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRLM) as "Umeed" programme.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

62. With reference to the World Food Day 2020, consider the following statements:

1. World Food Day 2020 is being celebrated on 16 October.
2. It is being celebrated with the theme "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together".

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

World Food Day 2020 is being celebrated on 16 October with the theme "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together".

- World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year around the world on 16 October.
- It is celebrated in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.
- The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with food security, including the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- In 1979 for the first time it was observed as a Day for action against hunger.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

63. With reference to Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), consider the following statements:

1. It is the selling of foodgrains by Government agencies at predetermined prices in the open market.
2. It is done by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) refers to selling of foodgrains by Government / Government agencies at predetermined prices in the open market from time to time to enhance the supply of grains especially during the lean season and thereby to moderate the general open market prices especially in the deficit regions. Hence, statement 1 is correct. OMSS is carried out by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

In addition to maintaining buffer stocks and making a provision for meeting the requirement of the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), Food Corporation of India (FCI) on the instructions from the Government, sells wheat and rice in the open market from time to time to enhance the supply of wheat and rice especially during the lean season and to moderate the open market prices especially in the deficit regions.

64. With reference to the Madhuca Diplostemon, recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a species of non-flowering plant which has been listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List.
2. The tree species was long believed to be extinct and has been rediscovered after a gap of 184 years.
3. The tree was discovered by the Forest Research Institute.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Madhuca Diplostemon is a species of flowering plant from the Sapotaceae family. It has been listed as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

A tree species, long believed extinct, has been rediscovered after a gap of 184 years from a sacred grove in Kollam district or Kerala. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) at Palode have identified the tree of Madhuca diplostemon (family Sapotaceae), as a threatened species of the Western Ghats whose specimen was first collected in 1835.

Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

The JNTBGRI is planning to undertake the ex situ conservation of this species through the institute's species recovery programme.

65. With reference to the Global Handwashing Day 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Global Handwashing Day is being observed on October 15, 2020.
2. This year's theme, 'Hand Hygiene for All'.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Global Handwashing Day is being observed on October 15, 2020.

- The day is observed on October 15 each year to raise awareness and highlight the importance of handwashing as an effective means of disease prevention.
- This year's theme, '**Hand Hygiene for All**', highlights the fact that to beat the virus and ensure better health outcomes beyond the pandemic, handwashing with soap is a priority.
- This year it marks a critical reminder for the world that this simple, cost-effective practice can save lives. Handwashing has always been one of the most effective ways of keeping diseases at bay and is also one of the key cornerstones of COVID-19 prevention.
- The first Global Handwashing Day was held in 2008.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

66. With reference to the United Nations Human Rights Council, consider the following statements:

1. Pakistan along with China, Russia and Cuba has been elected on the United Nations Human Rights Council.
2. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Pakistan along with China, Russia and Cuba have been elected on the United Nations Human Rights Council despite their abysmal human rights records. United States Secretary of State slammed the UN body tasked with defending human rights for this election.

- The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.
- It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.
- It was founded in 2006. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) that had been strongly criticised for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members.
- **Functions:**
 - It investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in UN member states.

- It also addresses important thematic human rights issues such as freedom of expression, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.
- The UNHRC works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- **Membership:**
 - The Council is made of 47 Member States, which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution.
 - Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
 - India has been elected to the UNHRC for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019. India had previously been **elected to the UNHRC for the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017 terms.**

Hence both statements are correct.

67. In which of the following states Inner Line Permit is applicable?

1. Manipur
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Nagaland

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.1 and 3 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The concept of Inner Line Permit (ILP) originated from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.

The Inner Line separates the tribal-populated hill areas in the Northeast from the plains. To enter and stay for any period in these areas, Indian citizens from other areas need an Inner Line Permit (ILP).

The ILP is a system in which a special permit is required by people from other regions of India to visit the state.

Currently the ILP is applicable in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.

Hence, option D is correct.

68. With reference to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, consider the following statements:

1. Contributions to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
2. The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare is under the Ministry of Home.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation :

Government has requested all citizens to connect with the cause of war-widows, Ex-Servicemen, wards of the martyred soldiers and contribute generously to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund in solidarity with the soldiers and their next of Kin or dependents.

Contributions to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare in Ministry of Defence has been working for the welfare and rehabilitation of war widows, wards of martyred soldiers and Ex-Servicemen. This is done by providing financial assistance for their identified personal needs such as penury grant, children's education grant, funeral grant, medical grant and orphan or disabled children grant.

This financial assistance is provided out of the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for which contributions are received from the general public on the Armed Forces Flag Day which is celebrated on 7th December every year.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

69. With reference to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2020, consider the following statements:

1. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2020 is being observed on 17 October.
2. The theme for the Day this year is "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all".

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2020 is being observed on 17 October.

- The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated each year on October 17 throughout the world.

- The theme for the Day this year is "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all."
- The first commemoration of the event took place in Paris, France in 1987 when 100,000 people gathered to honour victims of poverty and fear at the unveiling of a commemorative stone by Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.
- In 1992, four years after Wresinski's death, the United Nations officially designated October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- In its resolution 72/233, the General Assembly proclaimed the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027).
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

70. With reference to the ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme (APFP), consider the following statements:

1. Under the APFP, one thousand fellowships will be provided exclusively to the ASEAN citizens.
2. It is funded by the Government 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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually addressed the students from ASEAN member states who have been selected for the prestigious ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme (APFP) funded by the Government of India.

- The ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme was announced on 25th January 2018, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of leaders of all the ten ASEAN member states.
- Under the APFP, one thousand fellowships will be provided exclusively to the ASEAN citizens.
- APFP is also the largest capacity development programme undertaken by the Government of India for foreign beneficiaries.
- APFP will open many doors to synergies in the field of technology and research for the academicians, researchers and the scientists from India and ASEAN.
- The students of the ASEAN member states have got the opportunity to study in the IITs, which are among the best global institutions.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

71. With reference to a report “India Human Development Survey (IHDS) data, 2005”, consider the following statements:

1. Interreligious marriages are greater among the women living in urban areas at 2.9 % compared to 1.8 % for rural areas.
2. The prevalence of women marrying outside their faith is the highest amongst Christians.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The featuring of an interfaith couple in an advertisement aired by the Tata-owned Tanishq led to accusation of it promoting love jihad. Tanishq finally withdrew the advertisement fearing a larger impact on the brands.

- Central Government-run International Institute for Population Sciences had presented a paper on interfaith marriages in India in 2013 by analysing data from the “India Human Development Survey (IHDS) data, 2005.”
- The study suggests that 2.21 % of all married women between the age of 15-49 had married outside their religion.
- The proportion of inter-religious marriages is highest at 2.8 % among the women of the young age group (15-19) than other age groups which decrease with increasing age at marriage with 2.3 % for those in the age group 20-24, 2 % for 25-29 and 1.9 % for those above 30.
- Interreligious marriages are greater among the women living in urban areas at 2.9 % compared to 1.8 % for rural areas.
- **Scenario in religious groups:**
 - The prevalence of women marrying outside their faith is the highest amongst Christians with 3.5 % of women having mixed marriages.
 - Sikhs come second at 3.2 %, Hindu’s 1.5 % and Muslims 0.6 %.
- **States Scenario:**
 - Punjab has the highest mixed marriages at 7.8 %. Jharkhand at 5.7 % and Andhra Pradesh at 4.9 % also have a high proportion of mixed marriages.
 - The lowest percentage of mixed marriages are in Bengal at 0.3 %, Chhattisgarh 0.6 % and Rajasthan 0.7 %.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

72. ‘Zero Rajdhani’ train recently seen in news, is running :

- A. New Delhi and Dibrugarh
- B. New Delhi and Patna
- C. New Delhi and Lucknow
- D. New Delhi and Mumbai

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Bogibeel, India’s longest rail-and-road bridge throughout the Brahmaputra, had in December 2018 introduced the 2 banks of Assam nearer by greater than seven hours. A ‘zero Rajdhani’

train via this 4.94 km bridge has now brought the people of the 2 banks closer to New Delhi by more than 100 km.

- The 02505/02506 between New Delhi and Dibrugarh on October 12 is technically not a Rajdhani, a superfast train whose number starts with 2 while those of mail express trains start with 1. The zero makes it a special train, the likes of which are operated temporarily.
- Railway officials said the special ‘Rajdhani’ could be the first of its kind, deviating from the definition of such trains – connecting the national capital with the capitals or nearest largest city of the States.
- The train bypasses Guwahati, Assam’s principal city and the original terminal for the Rajdhani, by some 50 km.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

73. With reference to the Solidarity Trial, consider the following statements:

1. Solidarity Trial is the world’s “largest” multinational human trials on Covid-19 therapeutics.
2. It was initiated by WHO and its partners in March to help find an effective treatment for Covid-19.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The World Health Organization (WHO) made available interim results from the Solidarity Therapeutics Trial. The findings put a dampener on expectations from these therapies — including remdesivir, once seen as promising.

- Solidarity Trial is the world’s “largest” multinational human trials on Covid-19 therapeutics. It was initiated by WHO and its partners in March to help find an effective treatment for Covid-19.
- It covers four repurposed drugs or drug combinations — remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon (in combination with rotinavir and lopinavir).
- The main aim was to help determine whether any of these repurposed therapies could at least moderately affect in-hospital mortality, and whether any effects differed between moderate and severe disease, said Dr Sheela Godbole, national coordinator of the Solidarity Trial in India.
- The initiative included 26 trials in parts of India with a high burden of cases.
- Drugs like hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir, in fact, had already been dropped over the course of the last six months for not showing much promise.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

74. With reference to the World Economic Outlook, consider the following statements:

1. IMF has projected the Indian economy to contract 10.3 per cent in 2020-21.
2. India's per capita GDP, in nominal US dollar terms, is projected to be \$1,876.53 in 2020, lower than \$1,887.97 projected for Bangladesh.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Former Chief Economist of the World Bank Kaushik Basu has said that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) latest projection of Bangladesh's real per capita GDP surpassing India's real per capita GDP, after India had a lead of 25 per cent five years ago, is shocking, and calls for "bold fiscal/monetary policy".

- In its latest World Economic Outlook released this week, the IMF has projected the Indian economy to contract 10.3 per cent in 2020-21, a deeper hit than the June estimate of 4.5 per cent contraction in the wake of the economic slump due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- India's per capita GDP, in nominal US dollar terms, is projected to be \$1,876.53 in 2020, lower than \$1,887.97 projected for Bangladesh. On average, India's per capita GDP has been 24 per cent higher than Bangladesh's during the last five years, IMF data show.
- After a blip however, India's per capita GDP is expected to overtake Bangladesh's per capita GDP in 2021, with the IMF projecting it to be \$2,030.62 as against \$1,989.85 of the latter.
- However, the trend is not expected to sustain for long as India's per capita GDP is then again expected to slip below Bangladesh's per capita GDP in 2024 to \$2,544.26 as against \$2,544.32.
- In 2025, India's per capita GDP is projected to be \$2,729.24, again lower than Bangladesh's projected per capita GDP of \$2,756.10, the IMF said.
- India's per capita GDP in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms in 2020 was estimated by the IMF at \$6,284, compared with \$5,139 per capita GDP (PPP) of Bangladesh for 2020, the report said.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

75. With reference to the Gorkhaland, consider the following statements:

1. Gorkhaland region consists of Nepali-speaking people of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and other hilly districts of West Bengal.
2. Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) is a semi-autonomous administrative body for the Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills in West Bengal and it was created by Parliament.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had invited the West Bengal government, the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA), and the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) for a tripartite meeting to “discuss issues related to Gorkhaland”.

- Gorkhaland region consists of Nepali-speaking people of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and other hilly districts of West Bengal.
- The crisis in Gorkhaland has been brewing for many decades and the stems from language. The first demand for Gorkhaland was submitted in 1907 to Morley-Minto Reforms panel.
- Since then from time to time the region has witnessed various violent protests for creation of separate state.
- Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA): GTA is a semi-autonomous administrative body for the Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills in West Bengal, India. It was created by West Bengal Legislative Assembly by passing a bill in 2011.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

76. The bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 is between Indian Navy and which of the following country's Navy?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Malaysia
- C. Thailand
- D. Sweden

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Eighth Edition of annual Indian Navy (IN) – Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 is scheduled off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October 2020.

- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam in September 2019.
- SLINEX-20 aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- Interaction between the SLN and IN has also grown significantly in recent years, in consonance with India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and PM's vision of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

77. Which of the following country is now the fourth Arab country in the Middle East - after the UAE, Egypt and Jordan - to recognise Israel?

- A. Qatar
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Oman
- D. Bahrain

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Israel and Bahrain have formally established diplomatic relations after signing the US brokered deal in Arab country's capital Manama.

- The two countries are now expected to open embassies.
- Bahrain is now the fourth Arab country in the Middle East - after the UAE, Egypt and Jordan - to recognise Israel.
- Bahrain is a sovereign state in the Persian Gulf.
- The island nation comprises a small archipelago made up of 40 natural islands and an additional 51 artificial islands, centered around Bahrain Island which makes up around 83 percent of the country's landmass.
- The country is situated between the Qatari peninsula and the north eastern coast of Saudi Arabia, to which it is connected by the 25-kilometre King Fahd Causeway.
- The capital and largest city is Manama.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

78. With reference to BrahMos Missile, consider the following statements:

- 1 It is a hypersonic missile.
2. It does not require further guidance after launch.
3. It can hit targets upto 450-600 Km.

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

- A.1 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

BrahMos is a supersonic missile travelling at a speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound) whereas Hypersonic speed is above Mach 5. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia.

It operates on the "Fire and Forget" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Initially, the range of BrahMos Missile was up to 290km. Its range has been recently enhanced from 300 Km to 450-600 Km. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

The increasing the missile's range became possible after India's induction into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016.

79. With reference to Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, consider the following statements:

1. India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020.
2. India continues to be in the "serious" hunger category.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 and continues to be in the "serious" hunger category, though it has made some progress, particularly since the enactment of National Food Security Act.

- Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.
- The neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too were in the "serious" category but ranked higher than India in this year's index as has been the trend for several years.
- While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan were in the 78th and 88th position respectively. Nepal and Sri Lanka were in 73rd and 64th position and were in the "moderate" hunger category.
- India's score has decreased consistently, a positive sign in this ranking, from 32.2 in 2010 to 31.1 in 2018 and last year the score was 30.3.
- In the 2020 report, India's score stood at 27.2. Going by this pace of progress, it is likely to take some more years for India to be in the "moderate" category. Countries that have scores between 10 and 19.9 are categorised as moderate ones.
- The report said 14% of India's population was undernourished and the country recorded a 37.4% stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3%. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7%.
- The GHI is calculated by using a three-step process and the indicators used are percentage of undernourished population, percentage of children under five years suffering from wasting and stunting, and child mortality.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

80. With reference to the minimum age of marriage for women, consider the following statements:

1. Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 years and 18 years for men and women respectively.
2. Recently Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force headed by Jaya Jaitely to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

PM Modi said that the central government has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women.

- Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 years and 18 years for men and women respectively. Personal laws of various religions that deal with marriage have their own standards, often reflecting custom.
 - For Hindus, Section 5(iii) of The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, sets 18 years as the minimum age for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom.
 - In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid.
 - The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.
- The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority which is gender-neutral. An individual attains the age of majority at 18 as per the Indian Majority Act, 1875.
- On June 2, the Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.
- Headed by former Samata Party president Jaya Jaitely, the committee includes Member Health at the NITI Aayog, Dr Vinod Paul, and several Secretaries to the Government of India.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

81. With reference to Ghar Tak Fibre Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to connect all 45,945 villages of Bihar with high-speed optical fibre internet by 31st March 2021
2. It will be implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Ghar Tak Fibre Scheme** aims to connect all 45,945 villages of Bihar with high-speed optical fibre internet by 31st March 2021. **Hence, statement 1 correct.**
- Under the scheme, Bihar has to provide at least five fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connections per village and at least one WiFi hotspot per village.
- The Scheme will be implemented by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Scheme will lead digital services including e-Education, e-Agriculture, Tele-Medicine, Tele-law and other social security schemes in Bihar ensuring easy access to all state natives.
- It is also likely to boost the local employment generation with the implementation of Bharat Net initiative which will be done by recruiting local workers.

82. With reference to the Malabar 2020 Naval exercise, consider the following statements:

1. The Malabar series of Naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise.
2. Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

As India Seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy.

- The Malabar series of Naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise. Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015.
- This annual exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018, off the coast the Japan in 2019 and is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.

- The participants of Exercise Malabar 2020 are engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain. They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

83. With reference to the District Development Councils (DDCs), consider the following statements:

1. The District Development Councils (DDCs) are set to become a new unit of governance in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. A legislation to this effect was brought in by the Ministry of Home Affairs through an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Centre on October 17 amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, to facilitate the setting up of District Development Councils (DDC), the members of which will be directly elected by voters in the Union Territory.

- The District Development Councils (DDCs) are set to become a new unit of governance in Jammu and Kashmir. A legislation to this effect was brought in by the Ministry of Home Affairs through an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.
- This structure will include a DDC and a District Planning Committee (DPC).
- The J&K administration has also amended the J&K Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, to provide for establishment of elected District Development Councils in J&K.
- This system effectively replaces the District Planning and Development Boards in all districts, and will prepare and approve district plans and capital expenditure.
- Their key feature, however, is that the DDCs will have elected representatives from each district.
- The term of the DDC will be five years, and the electoral process will allow for reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.
- The Additional District Development Commissioner (or the Additional DC) of the district shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the District Development Council.

Hence both statements are correct.

84. With reference to the SCO Startup Forum, consider the following statements:

1. The forum will lay the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement among the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States to develop and hone their startup ecosystems, collectively.
2. India is currently the largest startup ecosystem in the world.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The first-ever SCO Startup Forum will be launched on 27th October 2020 ahead of the SCO trade ministers meeting on 28th October.

- The forum will lay the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement among the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States to develop and hone their startup ecosystems, collectively.
- The Forum shall identify areas of cooperation by launching multiple entrepreneurial activities like startup showcases through a dedicated virtual platform, mobilizing capital for startups, sharing of best practices, procuring social innovations etc.
- Innovation and Startups will be the key focus area of SCO Heads of Government meeting on 30th November 2020 to be hosted by India.
- India is currently the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world with over 35,000 startups, close to 25% of which are core technology startups operating in areas of AI, Robotics, Cloud Computing, IoT, Digital Health, Financial & Education Technology.
- The 'Startup India' has launched 10 bilateral bridges since its inception and has helped many technology-based startups to expand their businesses to global markets.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

85. With reference to the Ayushman Sahakar scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
2. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development will extend term loans to cooperatives.
3. The scheme provides interest subvention to women majority cooperatives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.1 and 3 only
- C.2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has launched **Ayushman Sahakar**, a scheme to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Ayushman Sahakar** is formulated by **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**.
 - NCDC would **extend term loans to prospective cooperatives** to the tune of Rs.10,000 crore in the coming years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund.
 - The scheme covers establishment, modernization, expansion, repairs, renovation of hospital and healthcare and education infrastructure.
- NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.
 - The scheme also provides working capital and margin money to meet operational requirements.
 - Further, the scheme **provides interest subvention** of 1% to women majority cooperatives. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

86. With reference to Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The MRPs of all fertilisers are decontrolled or fixed by the private.
2. It intends to increase the consumption of fertilizers so that the ratio of NPK fertilization is achieved.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme, the fertilizers are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers.
 - Apart from this, fertilizers which are fortified with secondary and micronutrients such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are given additional subsidy.
- Urea is outside the scheme. The urea remains under price control and NBS has been implemented only in other fertilisers. Only the MRPs of non-urea fertilisers are decontrolled or fixed by the companies. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - However, the Centre pays a flat per-tonne subsidy on these nutrients to ensure reasonable prices.
- NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that optimum balance (N:P:K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- This would improve soil health and as a result the yield from the crops would increase resulting in enhanced income to the farmers.

87. Consider the following statements:

1. India was the largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2019.
2. Equity capital, Reinvested earnings and Intra-company loans are the components of FDI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- According to the World Investment Report 2020 by the UNCTAD, India was the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- FDI has three components, viz., equity capital, reinvested earnings and intra-company loans.
 - Equity capital is the foreign direct investor's purchase of shares of an enterprise in a country other than its own.
 - Reinvested earnings comprise the direct investors' share (in proportion to direct equity participation) of earnings not distributed as dividends by affiliates, or earnings not remitted to the direct investor. Such retained profits by affiliates are reinvested.
 - Intra-company loans or intra-company debt transactions refer to short- or long-term borrowing and lending of funds between direct investors (or enterprises) and affiliate enterprises.
 - **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

88. Consider the following statements about Taiwan:

1. Taiwan became the newest state to join the United Nations General Assembly.
2. Luzon strait separates Taiwan from mainland China.

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

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Taiwan - the Republic of China (ROC), home to twenty-three million people, is an island off the southern coast of China that has been governed independently from mainland China since 1949.
- Taiwan is the most populous state that is not a member of the United Nations and the largest economy outside the UN. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Taiwan Strait, also known as the Formosa Strait, is a 180-kilometer wide strait separating Taiwan and mainland China. The strait is currently part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.
- The Luzon Strait is the strait between Taiwan and Luzon island of the Philippines. The strait thereby connects the Philippine Sea to the South China Sea. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

89. Consider the following statements:

1. New START Treaty is a treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation for the reduction of strategic offensive arms.
2. The United States of America withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in the year 2019.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **The New START Treaty is a treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.
 - It continues the bipartisan process of verifiably reducing U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals by limiting both sides to 700 strategic launchers and 1,550 operational warheads.
 - Recently, the Russian President has proposed extending by one year the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) between the USA and Russia expiring in February 2021.
- **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty is another treaty that was signed during the Cold War.**
 - It was a nuclear arms-control accord reached by the United States and the Soviet Union in 1987 in which the two nations agreed to eliminate their stocks of intermediate-range and shorter-range (or “medium-range”) land-based missiles (which could carry nuclear warheads).

- The United States withdrew from the Treaty on 2nd August 2019. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

90. With reference to Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile, consider the following statements:

1. The SANT missile is being developed by the DRDO's research centre, Imarat, in collaboration with the Indian Air Force.
2. It will have both Lock-on after Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capability.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India successfully test-fired the Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile off the coast of Odisha.

- The SANT missile is being developed by the DRDO's research centre, Imarat, in collaboration with the Indian Air Force.
- It will have both Lock-on After Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capability.
- It is, reportedly, an upgrade on India's Helina missile believed to have a range of 7 to 8km.
- The new missile is said to have a range of between 15 and 20km and comes equipped with a nose-mounted active radar seeker, enabling the launch platform to be located at a safe distance from the target area.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

91. With reference to election expenditure, consider the following statements:

1. The poll spending limit for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been enhanced by 10 percent.
2. For Assembly election, it has been hiked from Rs. 28 lakh to Rs. 30.80 lakh.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The poll spending limit for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been enhanced by 10 percent.

- Centre has approved this based on the recommendation of the Election Commission that contestants be allowed to spend more on campaigning keeping in mind difficulties they may face due to COVID-19 curbs.

- The notification issued by the Law Ministry last night said the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls is now Rs. 77 lakh. It was Rs. 70 lakh earlier.
- The last time the expenditure ceiling was enhanced was ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in 2014.
- For Assembly election, it has been hiked from Rs. 28 lakh to Rs. 30.80 lakh.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

92. What is Bennu, often mentioned in news?

- A. An asteroid
- B. Exoplanet
- C. Mini Satellite
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

NASA's OSIRIS-REx — Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer — spacecraft briefly touched asteroid Bennu, from where it is meant to collect samples of dust and pebbles and deliver them back to Earth in 2023.

- The asteroid was named after an Egyptian deity by a nine-year-old boy from North Carolina in 2013 who won NASA's "Name that Asteroid" competition.
- The asteroid was discovered by a team from the NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research team in 1999.
- Bennu is an asteroid located at a distance of about 200 million miles away from the Earth.
- OSIRIS-REx mission is NASA's first mission meant to return a sample from the ancient asteroid. The mission was launched in 2016, it reached its target in 2018 and since then, the spacecraft has been trying to match the velocity of the asteroid.
- Scientists study asteroids to look for information about the formation and history of planets and the sun since asteroids were formed at the same time as other objects in the solar system. Another reason for tracking them is to look for asteroids that might be potentially hazardous.
- Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. According to NASA, 994,383 is the count of known asteroids, the remnants from the formation of the solar system over 4.6 billion years ago.
- Asteroids are divided into three classes.
- First, those found in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, which is estimated to contain somewhere between 1.1-1.9 million asteroids.
- The second group is that of trojans, which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. NASA reports the presence of Jupiter, Neptune and Mars trojans. In 2011, they reported an Earth trojan as well.
- The third is Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA), which have orbits that pass close by the Earth. Those that cross the Earth's orbit are called Earth-crossers. More than 10,000 such asteroids are known, out of which over 1,400 are classified as potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs).
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

93. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation System is in:

- A.Karnataka
- B.Telangana
- C.Kerala
- D.Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

On October 12, the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, ruled that the Environmental Clearance given to the Kaleshwaram project in December 2017 was void as the Telangana government subsequently changed the design of the project to increase its capacity.

- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation System is considered to be one of the world's largest multi-purpose projects.
- It is designed to provide water for irrigation and drinking purposes to about 45 lakh acres in 20 of the 31 districts in Telangana, apart from Hyderabad and Secunderabad.
- Telangana will harness water at the confluence of two rivers with Godavari by constructing a barrage at Medigadda in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district and reverse pump the water into the main Godavari River.
- The project has set many records with the world's longest water tunnels, aqueducts, underground surge pools, and biggest pumps.
- The cost of the project is Rs 80,000 crore, but is expected to rise to Rs 1 lakh crore by the time it is completely constructed by the end of 2020.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

94. With reference to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, consider the following statements:

1. It extends an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year (FY2019-20).
2. The companies approved under the scheme will bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 11,000 crore.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY) has approved 16 eligible applicants under the PLI Scheme.

- Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing was notified on 1st April, 2020.

- It extends an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year (FY2019-20).
- Over the next 5 years, the approved companies under the PLI Scheme are expected to lead to total production of more than INR 10.5 lakh crore).
- The companies approved under the scheme are expected to promote exports significantly. Out of the total production of INR 10,50,000 crore in the next 5 years, around 60% will be contributed by exports of the order of INR 6,50,000 crore.
- The companies approved under the scheme will bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 11,000 crore.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

95. Consider the following statements about the OSIRIS-REx Mission:

1. The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has recently touched down the surface of Mars to collect the rock samples.
2. Launched in 2016, the mission is a ten-year-long voyage and will return back to Earth in 2026.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Recently, NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft briefly touched down on the surface of asteroid Bennu to collect rock and dust samples. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Bennu is an ancient asteroid, currently more than 200 million miles from Earth.
 - So far, it is known that this asteroid is a B-type asteroid, implying that it contains significant amounts of carbon and various other minerals.
- It is the United States' first asteroid sample return mission, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to earth for scientific study.
- The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu.
- The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the Earth (in 2023). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

96. Which of the following are the components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana?

1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)
2. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
3. On-Farm Water Management (OFWM)
4. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

- A.1 and 3 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.3 and 4 only
- D.1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2015 with the motto of "Har Khet Ko Paani".
- PMKSY has the following components:
 - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti).
 - Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) - Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.
 - On-Farm Water Management (OFWM) - Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC).
- PMKSY- Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY- PDMC): Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing PMKSY- PDMC which is operational in the country from 2015-16.
 - The PMKSY- PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System.
 - Besides promoting micro Irrigation, this component also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities as Other Interventions to supplement source creation for Micro Irrigation.
 - **Hence, option D is correct.**

97. Which of the following missiles are included in IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program)?

1. Prithvi
2. Agni
3. Trisul

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.1 and 3 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program) was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program are:

Prithvi: Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.

Agni: Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e. Agni (1,2,3,4,5)

Trishul: Short range low level surface to air missile.

Nag: 3rd generation anti-tank missile.

Akash: Medium range surface to air missile. **Hence, option D is correct.**

98. Which of following institutions releases Global Wealth Report:

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. Credit Suisse Group
- D. World Bank

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Recently, Credit Suisse has released the Global Wealth Report 2020. Credit Suisse is a financial services company based in Switzerland. Hence, option C is correct.
 - The Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of information on household wealth worldwide.
- Highlights of Global Wealth Report 2020
 - In 2019, total global wealth rose by USD 36.3 trillion and wealth per adult reached USD 77,309, which is 8.5% more when compared to 2018.
 - In India, wealth inequality remains quite high. There is considerable poverty reflected in the fact that 73% of the adult population had wealth below USD 10,000 at the end of 2019.
 - At the other extreme, a small fraction of the population (2.3% of adults) had a net worth over USD 1,00,000.
 - Further, between January and April 2020, unemployment rates approximately tripled in India to 24%.

99. With reference to the Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), consider the following statements:

1. The labour ministry has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2018.
2. Following the change in base year, the index will give 39% weight to food and beverage consumption of workers now as against 46.2% earlier.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The labour ministry has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016, giving more weight to spending on housing, education and health in inflation index calculation.

- The revision in base year will reflect changing consumption pattern of the working-class population over the years.
- Following the change in base year, the index will give 39% weight to food and beverage consumption of workers now as against 46.2% earlier. In contrast, spending on housing will get almost 17% weight as against 15.2% earlier.
- Among consumption categories, a segment comprising spending on heads like education, health and transport by workers has been given a sizable jump in weight from 23% earlier to 30% now.
- The CPI-IW is used as a benchmark for calculating dearness allowance for government employees, dearness relief for pensioners and wages for industrial workers in some sectors.
- Though it may not impact the salary of industrial workers and DA of government staff immediately, it will have a cascading impact on salary, DA and DR of workers, and pensioners.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

100. Consider the following statements:

1. The G-20 membership comprises the world's largest advanced economies only.
2. The permanent secretariat of G-20 grouping is located in Paris.
3. The G-20 agreed on the Anti-Corruption Action Plan, 2019-2021 in Buenos Aires.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- G-20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the IMF and the World Bank.
- The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product (GDP) 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The G20 operates as a forum and not as an organisation. Therefore, it does not have any permanent secretariat. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- The G-20 agreed on the Anti-Corruption Action Plan, 2019-2021 in Buenos Aires in 2018. In the framework of this action plan, G-20 members look forward to developing targeted actions where the G-20 can best add value in promoting international efforts in the fight against corruption. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

101. With reference to ‘monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs)’, consider the following statements:

1. These are man-made proteins, made by cloning a unique sample of plasma.
2. It is recently invented and can be used for the treatment of cancer.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Monoclonal Antibodies are man-made proteins that act like a human antibody in the immune system. They are made by cloning a unique white blood cell. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - They are designed to perform many roles, like they can be used to carry drugs, toxins, or radioactive substances directly to affected cells.
 - mAbs are used to treat many diseases, including some types of cancer.
- Recently, neutralising monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against SARS-CoV-2 were co-invented by IAVI and Scripps Research. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - They are widely considered to be promising candidates for Covid-19 treatment and prevention.
 - Encouraging results for Covid-19 antibody treatment have emerged from preclinical research and from initial clinical trials.

102. With reference to the Flash Flood Guidance services, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Earth Sciences recently dedicated Flash Flood Guidance services, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
2. It has been developed by India Meteorological Department.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Ministry of Earth Sciences dedicated Flash Flood Guidance services, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka on 22 October 2020.

- It has been developed by India Meteorological Department.
- Under it, an automated mode of dissemination is to be established with the stakeholders along with the use of social media, so that the information reaches to concerned disaster authorities in a timely manner.
- The Guidance for flash floods in the form of Threats (6 hours in advance) and Risks (24 hours in advance) will be provided by Regional Centre to National Meteorological & Hydrological Services, National and State Disaster Management Authorities for taking mitigation measures to reduce the loss of life and property in the South Asian Region countries.
- Flash Floods are highly localized events of short duration with a very high peak and usually have less than six hours between the occurrence of the rainfall and peak flood.
- The Fifteenth WMO Congress had approved the implementation of a Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) project.
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has entrusted India with the responsibility of Regional Centre of South Asia Flash Flood Guidance System for coordination, development and its implementation.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

103. With reference to the International Snow Leopard Day 2020, consider the following statements:

1. International Snow Leopard Day 2020 was observed on October 23.
2. India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

International Snow Leopard Day 2020 was observed on October 23.

- Government of India has been conserving snow leopard and its habitat through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL). The PSL was launched in 2009.
- India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.
- The Centre hosted the 4th Steering Committee of the GSLEP program in 2019 at New Delhi. This meeting resulted in the “New Delhi Statement” of strengthening the resolve of the snow leopard range countries towards conservation of the mountain ecosystems of Central and South Asia.
- Government is committed to landscape restoration for snow leopard habitat conservation, and implementing participatory landscape-based management plans. India has identified three large landscapes, namely,

- Hemis-Spiti across Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh;
- Nanda Devi – Gangotri in Uttarakhand; and
- Khangchendzonga – Tawang across Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Government of India has identified the snow leopard as a flagship species for the high-altitude Himalayas.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

104. With reference to the International Labour Organization, consider the following statements:

1. Apurva Chandra, Secretary (Labour and Employment) has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for the period October 2020- June 2021.
2. At present ILO has 199 members.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

After 35 years, India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of International Labour Organization.

- Apurva Chandra, Secretary (Labour and Employment) has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for the period October 2020- June 2021.
- Apurva Chandra belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
- The Governing Body (GB) is the apex executive body of the ILO which decides policies, programmes, agenda, budget and elects the Director-General.
- At present ILO has 187 members.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

105. With reference to the United Nations Day 2020, consider the following statements:

1. United Nations Day 2020 is being observed on 24 October.
2. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 100 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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

United Nations Day 2020 is being observed on 24 October.

- UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.
- The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.
- The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories.
- The name "United Nations" was coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt and first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, during Second World War.
- 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

106. With reference to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to keep Pakistan on its "grey list".
2. The FATF is a global watchdog that was founded to tackle money laundering initially but its role became prominent post the 9/11 terror attacks.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to keep Pakistan on its "grey list", saying that the country has failed to act on six key mandates. The FATF urged Pakistan to complete an internationally agreed action plan by February 2021.

- The FATF is a global watchdog that was founded to tackle money laundering initially but its role became prominent post the 9/11 terror attacks. Following the attacks, the FATF expanded its operations and included terror financing under its purview.
- Its membership includes 39 jurisdictions.
- The FATF maintains two lists – a blacklist and a grey list. Countries on its blacklist are those that the watchdog deems non-cooperative in the global effort to curb money laundering and terror-financing.
- The grey list are officially referred to as ‘Jurisdictions Under Increased Monitoring.’
- It constitutes those nations that present significant risks of money laundering and terror-financing but which have committed to working closely with the FATF in the development and implementation of action plans that address their deficiencies.

- If the country is not actively tackling money laundering or terror funding, it is then blacklisted. So far, only two countries have been blacklisted, they are Iran and North Korea.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

107. Kisan Suryodaya Yojana, recently seen in news, is an initiative of which of the following state governments?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana in Gujarat for providing 16 hours of power supply to farmers.

- To provide day-time power supply for irrigation, the Gujarat Government had recently announced the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana'.
- Under this scheme, farmers will be able to avail power supply from 5 AM to 9 PM.
- The state government has allocated a budget of Rs.3500 crore for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by 2023.
- 234 '66-Kilowatt' transmission lines, with a total length of 3490 circuit kilometers (CKM) will be established under the project, in addition to 220 KV substations.
- Dahod, Patan, Mahisagar, Panchmahal, Chhota Udepur, Kheda, Tapi, Valsad, Anand and Gir-Somnath have been included under the Scheme for 2020-21. The remaining districts will be covered in a phase-wise manner by 2022-23.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

108. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the world's longest temple ropeway project at:

- A. Girnar
- B. Gulmarg
- C. Jammu
- D. Keylong

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the world's longest temple ropeway project at Girnar in Junagadh.

- Girnar ropeway project consists a total of 25 cabins and is of 2.3 kilo meters length and 900 meters height. It operates at a capacity of 800 passengers per hour and 8000 per day.
- The Rupees 130 crore project will attract more tourists and pilgrims to this historical place which will boost employment opportunities.

- In addition to this, the ropeway will also provide a scenic view of the lush green beauty surrounding the Girnar mountain.
- Mount Girnar is a major igneous plutonic complex which intruded into the basalts towards the close of the Deccan Trap period.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

109. With reference to ‘yellow dust’, consider the following statements:

1. It is actually sand from deserts in China and Mongolia that high speed surface winds carry into both North and South Korea during specific periods every year.
2. The sand particles tend to mix with other toxic substances such as industrial pollutants, as a result of which the ‘yellow dust’ is known to cause a number of respiratory ailments.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

North Korean authorities have urged citizens to remain indoors to avoid contact with a mysterious cloud of ‘yellow dust’ blowing in from China, which they have warned could bring Covid-19 with it.

- Asian Dust (also known as yellow dust, yellow sand, yellow wind or China dust storms) is actually sand from deserts in China and Mongolia that high speed surface winds carry into both North and South Korea during specific periods every year.
- The sand particles tend to mix with other toxic substances such as industrial pollutants, as a result of which the ‘yellow dust’ is known to cause a number of respiratory ailments.
- Usually, when the dust reaches unhealthy levels in the atmosphere, authorities urge people to remain indoors and limit physical activity, particularly heavy exercise and sport.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

110. With reference to the Dhammachakra Pravartan Day, consider the following statements:

1. Dhammachakra Pravartan Day (DhammaChakra Anupravartan Din) is a day to celebrate the Buddhist conversion of B. R. Ambedkar in October 1956.
2. It is primarily celebrated at Deeksha Bhoomi, Nagpur every year.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

In Maharashtra, 64th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day will be celebrated in a limited manner at Nagpur Holy's Deekshabhoomi due to prevailing covid-19 situation.

- Dhammachakra Pravartan Day (DhammaChakra Anupravartan Din) is a day to celebrate the Buddhist conversion of B. R. Ambedkar and approximately 600,000 followers in October 1956 at Deekshabhoomi on the occasion of Vijayadashami.
- It is primarily celebrated at Deeksha Bhoomi every year.
- Deekshabhoomi is a sacred monument of Navayana Buddhism located at Nagpur city in Maharashtra; where the B. R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism.
- Deekshabhoomi is one of two places of considered to be of great importance in the life of Ambedkar, the other being Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

111. Consider the following statements regarding 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana':

1. It is aimed at providing day-time electricity to farmers.
2. It is the centrally sponsored scheme.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, the Prime Minister has launched the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' aimed at providing day-time electricity to farmers in Gujarat (but not in Haryana and Punjab) for irrigation and farming purposes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It would complement irrigation projects of the State- Sujalam Sufalam and SAUNI (Saurashtra-Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) yojana.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented to expand cultivated areas with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency and ensure "Har Khet Ko Paani". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

112. With reference to UDAN Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country.
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
3. The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The objective of the scheme is to create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
- The scheme envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through the revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years. **Hence, statement 1 and 3 are correct.**

113. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Central Vigilance Commission?

1. It advises various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.
2. It is only responsible to the Parliament.
3. It was set up on the recommendations of the K. Santhanam Committee.

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

- A.1 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.3 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an independent body and is only responsible to the Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The Parliament enacted Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 (CVC Act) conferring statutory status on the CVC.
- It was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by K. Santhanam. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

114. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian is ranked in the top fifty countries in the Global Hunger Index 2020.
2. Bangladesh is ranked far ahead of India in the latest gender parity rankings.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Over the past two decades, Bangladesh has improved on several social and political metrics such as health, sanitation, financial inclusion, and women's political representation.
 - For example, despite a lower proportion of the population having access to basic sanitation, the mortality rate attributed to unsafe water and sanitation in Bangladesh is much lower than in India.
- Bangladesh is also far ahead of India in the latest gender parity rankings. Out of 154 countries mapped, Bangladesh is in the top 50 while India is at 112. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Bangladesh with the 75th rank, is ahead of India, with 94th rank, in the Global Hunger Index 2020. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

115. With reference to the plasma therapy, consider the following statements:

1. Plasma is the liquid part of the blood.
2. Convalescent plasma, extracted from the blood of patients recovering from an infection, is a source of antibodies against the infection.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently published findings on convalescent plasma therapy on Covid-19 patients have triggered a debate over its efficacy.

- After the country's largest such trial, known by the acronym PLACID, found that convalescent plasma was ineffective in arresting Covid-19, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been considering dropping this option from the national guidelines.
- Plasma is the liquid part of the blood. Convalescent plasma, extracted from the blood of patients recovering from an infection, is a source of antibodies against the infection.
- The Plasma therapy involves using their plasma to help others recover. For Covid-19, this has been one of the treatment options. The donor would have to be a documented case of Covid-19 and healthy for 28 days since the last symptoms.

- Hence both statements are correct.

116. With reference to the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), consider the following statements:

1. According to the 2019 annual report of SIAC, China was the top user of its arbitration seat with 485 cases being referred to SIAC.
2. India now has its own international arbitration centre in Mumbai.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

A tribunal in Singapore restrained Future Group and Reliance Industries Limited from proceeding with a Rs 24,713-crore deal signed in August for Future Retail to sell its units to Reliance Retail and Fashionstyle.

- The emergency order by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) came on a plea from global e-commerce giant Amazon.
- Singapore has emerged as the preferred location for international arbitration involving Indian companies as foreign investors typically want to avoid the rigmarole of the Indian courts.
- According to the 2019 annual report of SIAC, India was the top user of its arbitration seat with 485 cases being referred to SIAC, followed by Philippines at 122, China at 76 and the United States at 65.
- India now has its own international arbitration centre in Mumbai. But in context of arbitration, this is a recent development.
- Currently under Indian law, there is no express mechanism for enforcement of the orders of the Emergency Arbitrator. Typically, the parties voluntarily comply with the Emergency Award.
- However, if the parties don't comply with the order voluntarily, then the party which has won the emergency award, can move the High Court in India under Section 9 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, to get similar reliefs as granted by the Emergency Arbitrator.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

117. Hadoti region, often mentioned in news, is located in:

- A.Gujarat
- B.Rajasthan
- C.Bihar
- D.West Bengal

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series titled "Bundi: Architectural Heritage of a Forgotten Rajput Capital" on 24th October 2020 focused on Bundi, Rajasthan.

- Bundi is a district in the Hadoti region of Rajasthan. Bundi was the erstwhile capital of Hada Rajput province known as Hadoti located in south-eastern Rajasthan.
- Bundi is also known as City of stepwalls, blue city and also as Chotti Kashi.
- Bundi was known as Chotti Kashi owing to presence of over hundred temples within and around the hada capital.
- Temples constructed in early phase of Bundi's growth were in classical Nagara style, while in later phases new temple typologies emerged from amalgamation of architectural form of traditional haveli with the classical Nagara style.
- Jain temples formed third type of temple type constructed in an introvert form.
- A fourth temple type emerged in the form of raised or elevated temple. Absence of monumentality in their scale is a distinctive feature of temples in Bundi.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

118. With reference to Indian Tsunami Early Warning System, consider the following statements:

1. It is based in Chennai.
2. It was established by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
3. It also provides the services for Indian Ocean Rim countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Indian Tsunami Early Warning System (ITEWS) was established in 2007 and is based at & operated by INCOIS, Hyderabad. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is an integrated effort of different organizations including the Department of Space (DOS), Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Survey of India (SOI) and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Recently, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO (also known as UNESCO-IOC) accredited Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) as Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) for 28 Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries, along with Indonesia and Australia in 2011, for issuing regional warnings. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

119. Consider the following statements:

1. The impeachment process is used for the removal of judges of the Supreme Court only.
2. Article 121 bars any discussions in Parliament with respect to the conduct of any Judge of the Supreme Court or of the High Court.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The Constitution of India protects the independence of judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court by making them removable only through a process of impeachment. Article 121 and 211 expressly bars the Parliament and State Legislatures from discussing the misconduct of judges. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 121 states that no discussions shall take place in Parliament with respect to the conduct of any judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his duties except upon a motion for the removal of the judge. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

120. Which of the following documents announced during the 3rd India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue?

1. MoU for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences.
2. Agreement for the Electronic Exchange of Customs Data between the Postal Operators.
3. Arrangement extending the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and the USA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held the third edition of the 2+2 talks with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.

Documents announced during the 3rd India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:

1. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Department of Defence of United States of America.
2. MoU for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences.
3. Agreement for the Electronic Exchange of Customs Data between the Postal Operators.
4. Arrangement extending the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and the USA.

5. Letter of Intent between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi and the Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Cancer Institute, Government of the USA for cooperation in the field of Ayurveda and Cancer Research.
- USA is the top export destination for India (~17%) which is also reflected in exchange of goods through postal channel.
- In 2019, around 20% of outbound EMS and 30% of Letters & Small Packets transmitted by India Post were destined to USA whereas 60% of the Parcels received by India Post were originated from USA.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

121. With reference to interest waiver on loans, consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India has asked all lending institutions to credit the interest waiver on loans upto two crore rupees for the six months moratorium period beginning March 1, 2020.
2. Under the scheme, the lending institutions have been mandated to grant ex-gratia payment to certain categories of borrowers through crediting the difference between simple interest and compound interest for the period between March 1- August 31, 2020.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India has asked all lending institutions to credit the interest waiver on loans upto two crore rupees for the six months moratorium period beginning March 1, 2020.

- The government announced the scheme for grant of ex-gratia payment of difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months to borrowers in specified loan accounts.
- Under the scheme, the lending institutions have been mandated to grant ex-gratia payment to certain categories of borrowers through crediting the difference between simple interest and compound interest for the period between March 1- August 31, 2020.
- The lending institutions shall credit the difference between compound interest and simple interest with regard to the eligible borrowers in respective accounts for the said period irrespective of whether the borrower availed the moratorium on repayment of loan or not.
- The government has asked banks to credit the amount to borrowers by 5th of November.
- Post payment, lenders can claim the amount from the central government.
- The scheme will cover education, housing, automobile loans, MSME loans, personal loans to professionals, credit card dues, consumer durable loans and consumption loans.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

122. With reference to Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:

1. Currently petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, natural gas and crude oil fall outside India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.
2. Bringing natural gas under the GST regime would lead to a reduction in the cascading impact of taxes on industries such as power and steel, which used natural gas as an input.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Global energy majors have called on the Government of India to bring natural gas under the GST regime at the India energy Forum being held this week.

- Currently petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, natural gas and crude oil fall outside India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.
- Government officials have also indicated that the government is considering bringing natural gas under the ambit of the GST regime.
- Bringing natural gas under the GST regime would lead to a reduction in the cascading impact of taxes on industries such as power and steel, which used natural gas as an input.
- it would do away with the central excise duty and different value added taxes imposed by states.
- This would lead to an increase in the adoption of natural gas in line with the government's stated goal to increase the share of natural gas in the country's energy basket from 6.3% to 15%.

Hence both statements are correct.

123. With reference to Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), consider the following statements:

1. It will help improve the accuracy of India's missiles in precision strikes.
2. BECA is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is one of the four foundational military communication agreements between India and the USA. The other three are: General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), and Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA).
 - It will enable the exchange of geospatial data and information between the two countries and will improve the accuracy of India's missiles in precision strikes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The geospatial maps and charts to be shared, will be acquired from multiple sources like satellites, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), reconnaissance aircraft, aerostats among others.
 - BECA is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the USA. Predator-B uses spatial data for accurate strikes on enemy targets. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

124. With reference to Maritime India Vision 2030, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual blueprint for the maritime sector.
2. A pan-India port authority will be set up under the new Indian Ports Act.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Maritime India Vision 2030 is a ten-year blueprint for the maritime sector which will be released by the Prime Minister of India at the Maritime India Summit in November 2020. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It will supersede the Sagarmala initiative and aims to boost waterways, give a fillip to the shipbuilding industry and encourage cruise tourism in India.
- A pan-India port authority will be set up under the new Indian Ports Act (to replace the old Indian Ports Act 1908) for enabling oversight across major and non-major ports, enhance institutional coverage for ports and provide for structured growth of the ports sector to boost investor confidence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid project aims to develop regional connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

125. Consider the following statements:

1. A superconductor is a substance that conducts electricity without resistance.
2. A superconducting material does not exhibit perfect diamagnetism.

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Superconductors are materials that exhibit zero (or close to zero) resistance to electrical currents as well as perfect diamagnetism (the Meissner Effect). When a current is started in a superconducting loop, it persists for a very long time without an applied potential difference.

126. India recently extended the provision of one billion US dollar Line of Credit for priority developmental projects in fields such as energy, IT, healthcare, education and agriculture in which of the following region?

- A. Central Asia
- B. Latin America
- C. Middle East
- D. Northern Africa

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The second meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was held under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

- Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the meeting.
- The Foreign Minister of Central Asian Countries welcomed the provision by India of one billion US dollar Line of Credit for priority developmental projects in fields such as energy, IT, healthcare, education and agriculture in the region.
- The Ministers emphasized the need to continue close cooperation between the Sanitary and Epidemiological Services of India and the Central Asian countries in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Ministers appreciated India's efforts to modernize the infrastructure of the Chabahar port in Iran, which could become an important link in trade and transport communications between the markets of Central and South Asia.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

127. GREEN initiative (Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation) is by:

- A. Japan Bank for International Co-operation
- B. IMF
- C. World Bank
- D. New Development Bank

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

In the first funding for NTPC Ltd under Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC)'s GREEN initiative, India's largest power producer today entered into foreign currency loan agreement with Japanese Government's financial institution for JPY 50 billion (approx. USD 482 million).

- GREEN initiative stands for Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation initiative. The facility is extended under JBIC's outreach for projects, which ensure conservation of global environment.
- JBIC will provide 60% of the facility amount and the balance will be given by commercial banks (viz., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, the Bank of Yokohama Ltd., the San-In Godo Bank Ltd., the Joyo Bank Ltd. and The Nanto Bank Ltd.), under JBIC guarantee.
- The loan proceeds will be utilized by NTPC Ltd, the PSU under Ministry of Power, for funding its capex for Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) & Renewable Energy projects.
- FGD, substantially reduces the SO_x emission in the flue gases of thermal power plants and is a critical step towards environmental sustainability.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

128. With reference to the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. As per the new rules, a patentee gets flexibility to file a single Form-27 in respect of single or multiple related patents.
2. The time available to patentees for filing Form-27 has also been extended to six months, against the current three months, from the expiry of the financial year.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Centre has streamlined the procedures to submit statements regarding the working of a patented invention on a commercial scale, giving additional flexibilities to the patentee.

- The Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2020, which came into effect on October 19, 2020, has further streamlined the requirements related to filing of Form 27 and submission of verified English translation of priority documents, which is not in English language.
- The rules were amended following a Delhi High Court order on the matter in April 2018.
- As per the new rules, a patentee gets flexibility to file a single Form-27 in respect of single or multiple related patents. Where a patent is granted to two or more persons, such persons may file a joint Form-27.

- Moreover, patentees would now be required to provide 'approximate revenue/value accrue' while authorised agents would be able to submit Form-27 on behalf of patentees, the release said.
- The time available to patentees for filing Form-27 has also been extended to six months, against the current three months, from the expiry of the financial year. Patentees will not be required to file Form-27 in respect of a part or fraction of the financial year.
- There are also important changes with reference to Rule 21 on filing of priority documents. If the priority document is available in WIPO's (World Intellectual Property Organisation) digital library, the applicant would not be required to submit the same in the Indian Patent Office.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

129. Which of the following defence exercises are held between India and France?

1. Exercise Shakti
2. Exercise Varuna
3. Exercise Indra
4. Exercise Garuda

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

- A.1 and 2 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.3 and 4 only
- D.1, 2 and 4

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial exercise which is held between armies of India and France. It is conducted alternately in both countries.
- Varuna naval exercise is an integral part of France–India strategic relationship in the 21st century and consists of naval cooperation drills.
- Ex Garuda is a bilateral air training exercise between India and France.
- Exercise INDRA is a joint, tri services exercise between India and Russia. The INDRA series of exercise began in 2003. It was conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries. However, the first joint Tri Services Exercise was conducted in 2017. **Hence, option D is correct.**

130. With reference to India-Central Asia Dialogue, consider the following statements:

1. It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and all the Central Asian countries.
2. All the countries participating in the dialogue are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO).

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **India-Central Asia Dialogue** is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and all the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - All five nations became independent states after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, post-Cold war.
- All the countries participating in the dialogue, **except for Turkmenistan**, are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

131. With reference to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, consider the following statements:

1. He headed the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights in the constituent assembly.
2. He is Known as the Iron Man of India.
3. He is remembered as the Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.3 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Headed various Committees of the Constituent Assembly of India, namely:
 - **Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights.**
 - Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas.
 - Provincial Constitution Committee.
 - **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He is known as the **“Iron Man of India”** for playing an important role in **unification and integration of Indian princely states into the Indian federation** and for convincing princely states to align with the Indian Union. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- He is remembered as the **‘Patron Saint of India’s Civil Servants’** as he established the modern all-India services system. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

132. With reference to Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH), consider the following statements:

1. It is a programme undertaken by NITI Aayog.

2. Odisha is one of the role model states selected by NITI Aayog for the project.
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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Odisha government has identified around 8,000 schools in 15 districts which will be merged with other schools due to low enrollment (less than 20 students).
- The merger is being carried out under the **NITI Aayog's Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) project**, and has been termed Consolidation and Rationalisation of schools. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **SATH-E Project:**
 - Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) focusses on two main sectors - Education and Health and to build three 'Role Model' States.
 - SATH-E aspires to be a 'saathi', to the educational system with the student and the teacher at its centre".
 - In 2017, Odisha was among three role model states, along with Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, to be selected by NITI Aayog for the project. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

133. Sardar Patel Zoological Park and Geodesic Aviary Dome is located in:

- A. Kevadia, Gujarat
- B. Surat, Gujarat
- C. Patna, Bihar
- D. Jaipur, Rajasthan

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Patel Zoological Park and Geodesic Aviary Dome in Kevadia, Gujarat.

- The Jungle Safari is in the state of the art zoological park spread over an area of 375 acres at seven different levels ranging from 29 to 180 meters. It has more than 1100 Birds & Animals and 5 lakh plants. It is the fastest ever built Jungle Safari.
- The zoological park has two aviaries - one for domestic birds and another for exotic birds. It is the world's largest geodesic dome for aviary.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

134. With reference to the Integrated Development of Kevadia, consider the following statements:

1. Arogya Van has 5 lakh plants of 380 different species spread over an area of 17 acre.
2. Arogya Kutir has a traditional treatment facility named Santhigiri wellness centre which will provide healthcare based on Ayurveda, Siddha, Yoga and Panchakarma.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated various projects under Integrated Development of Kevadia in Gujarat. He inaugurated Arogya Van and Arogya Kutir. He also inaugurated the Ekta Mall, and Children Nutrition Park.

- **Arogya Van** has 5 lakh plants of 380 different species spread over an area of 17 acre.
- **Arogya Kutir** has a traditional treatment facility named Santhigiri wellness centre which will provide healthcare based on Ayurveda, Siddha, Yoga and Panchakarma.
- **The Ekta Mall** displays a diverse range of handicrafts and traditional items from all over India symbolizing unity in diversity and is spread over 35000 sq. ft. The mall consists of 20 Emporia each representing a specific state in India and is built in just 110 days.
- **Children Nutrition Park** is the world's first ever technology driven nutrition park for children and is spread over an area of 35000 sq. ft.
- **A Nutri Train** runs across the park to various exciting theme based stations. It will raise nutritional awareness through various edutainment activities like Mirror Maze, 5D Virtual reality theatre and Augmented reality games.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**