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## Current Affairs

### Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Wasteland Atlas 2019:

1. It has been prepared by the Department of Land Resources of the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. An increase in the wasteland area was observed in the categories of land with dense scrub, marshy land, sandy areas, and degraded pastures.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

### Options:

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

**Answer: A**

### Explanation:

Wasteland Atlas 2019 has been prepared by the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Department of Space.

It is the fifth edition of the atlas (2000, 2005, 2010 & 2011).

The new wastelands mapping exercise was carried out by NRSC using the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data.

A reduction in the wasteland area was observed in the categories of land with dense scrub, marshy land, sandy areas, and degraded pastures.

The wastelands have undergone a positive change in the states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal.

### Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the Asian Elephant:

1. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
2. It is listed in Appendix II of CITES.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

India's proposal to include Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican in Appendix I of UN Convention on migratory species was unanimously accepted at the undergoing CMS CoP in Gandhinagar.

Asian Elephant is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. It is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**Question 3:**

Consider the following statements about Aditya-L1:

1. The mission will be the first scientific expedition to study the Sun by ISRO.
2. It will be launched using the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
3. The mission aims to study the Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

Which of these statements is / are correct?

**Options:**

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



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**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Aditya-L1 of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be the first scientific expedition to study the Sun by ISRO.

It will observe the Sun from a close distance and try to obtain information about its atmosphere and magnetic field.

Aditya L1 is categorized as a 400 kg-class satellite and will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

It will also be ISRO's second space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat.

It will have seven payloads (instruments) to study the Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun.

The mission will be undertaken in collaboration between various labs of ISRO and other national institutes

**Question 4:**

Libra cryptocurrency, recently in news is associated with:

**Options:**

- A. Facebook
- B. Apple
- C. Google
- D. Microsoft

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Facebook has announced a digital currency called Libra that will roll out for use in 2020 and allow the platform's billions of users across the globe to make financial transactions online.

The currency will be serviced by a collective of companies called the "Libra Association". It functions as what is known as a "stablecoin", pegged to existing assets like the dollar or euro, in the aim of making it less subject to the volatility that many cryptocurrencies experience.



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## Question 5:

With reference to the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag, consider the following statements:

1. GI is governed by WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
2. Controller-General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks is the Registrar of Geographical Indications.

Which of these statements is / are incorrect?

### Options:

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

**Answer: D**

### Explanation:

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.

GI is covered as an element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. At international level, GI is governed by WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In India, Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 governs it.

The Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks appointed under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, shall be the Registrar of Geographical Indications.

## Science & Technology

### 1. Consider the following statement about Elephantiasis

1. Elephantiasis is also known as lymphatic filariasis.



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2. It's caused by parasitic worms, and can spread from person to person through mosquitoes.

3. It's more common in tropical and subtropical areas of the world, including Africa and Southeast Asia.

**Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:**

(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2,

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

**Answer -d**

Elephantiasis is also known as lymphatic filariasis. It's caused by parasitic worms, and can spread from person to person through mosquitoes. Elephantiasis causes swelling of the scrotum, legs, or breasts. Elephantiasis is caused by parasitic worms that are spread by mosquitoes. There are three types of worms involved: *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi*, and *Brugia timori*. The worms affect the lymphatic system in the body. The lymphatic system is responsible for removing waste and toxins. If it becomes blocked, then it doesn't properly remove waste. This leads to a backup of lymphatic fluid, which causes swelling. Elephantiasis can affect people at any age. It appears in both women and men. It's more common in tropical and subtropical parts of the world, such as: Africa, Southeast Asia, India, South America. Common risk factors for elephantiasis include: living for a long time in tropical and subtropical areas having a high exposure to mosquitoes living in unsanitary conditions.

**2. Consider the following statement about Gaganyaan-**

1. It is a crewed orbital spacecraft which is expected to carry four people into the space for ten days.

2. The total programme is expected to be complete before 2022.

3. GSLV Mk III, the three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle, will be used to launch Gaganyaan as it has the necessary payload capability.

**Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:**

(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2 & 3



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(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer –b

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Gaganyaan Programme with demonstration of Indian Human Spaceflight capability to low earth orbit for a mission duration ranging from one orbital period to a maximum of seven days. A human rated GSLV Mk-III will be used to carry the orbital module which will have necessary provisions for sustaining a 3-member crew for the duration of the mission. The necessary infrastructure for crew training, realization of flight systems and ground infrastructure will be established to support the Gaganyaan Programme. ISRO will collaborate extensively with National agencies, laboratories, academia and industry to accomplish the Gaganyaan Programme objectives.

Gaganyaan Programme will establish a broader framework for collaboration between ISRO, academia, industry, national agencies and other scientific organizations.

It This will allow pooling in of diverse technological and industrial capabilities and enable broader participation in research opportunities and technology development benefitting large number of students and researchers.

Gaganyaan Programme is a national effort and will involve the participation of the Industry, Academia and National Agencies spread across the length and breadth of the country. Human Spaceflight capability will enable India to participate as a collaborating partner in future Global space exploration initiatives with long term national benefit.

ISRO has completed the development of launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III which has the necessary payload capability to launch a 3-member crew module in low earth orbit. ISRO has also tested the crew escape system which is an essential technology for human space flight. The aerodynamic characterization of crew module has been completed as part of GSLV Mk-III X mission flight. Elements of life support system and Space suit also have been realized and tested. In addition, the orbital & re-entry mission and recovery operations have been flight demonstrated in Space Capsule Re-entry experiment (SRE) mission. ISRO has developed and demonstrated most of the baseline technologies essential for undertaking human spaceflight mission. Globally also, there is a renewed interest in undertaking manned exploration initiatives.

### 3. Recently in news the term Geotail its related-

- It converts chemical energy in light energy.
- Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
- Earth's extended magnetosphere plasma around Moon.



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d. none of above

**Answer –c**

Our Sun emits a continuous outflowing stream of electrons and protons into the solar system, called the solar wind. The solar wind plasma which has charged particles embedded in the extended magnetic field of the Sun, moves at speeds of a few hundred km per second. It interacts with solar system bodies including Earth and its moon. Since the Earth has a global magnetic field, it obstructs the solar wind plasma and this interaction results in the formation of a magnetic envelope around Earth, called the magnetosphere. The Earth's magnetosphere is compressed into a region approximately three to four times the Earth radius (~22000 km above the surface) on the side facing the Sun, but is stretched into a long tail (geotail) on the opposite side that goes beyond the orbit of Moon. Approximately, once every 29 days, Moon traverses the geotail for about 6 days centered around full moon. Thus Chandrayaan-2 also crosses this geotail and its instruments can study properties of geotail at a few hundred thousand kilometers from Earth.

#### 4. Consider the following statement about Navic-

1. Global standards body 3GPP, which develops protocols for mobile telephony, has approve India's regional navigation system NaVIC.
2. it will boost commercial use of NaVIC by international and domestic mobile device makers.
3. The project covers cellular telecommunications technologies, including radio access, core network and service capabilities,

**Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:**

**(a) Only (1) & (3)**

**(b) Only 2& 3**

**(c) Only 1 & 2**

**(d) All the above**

**Answer –d**

Global standards body 3GPP, which develops protocols for mobile telephony, has approved

India's regional navigation system NaVIC. The specification approval will boost commercial use of NaVIC by international and domestic mobile device makers. The manufacturers can now mass-produce navigation devices compatible with NaVIC so that users of these devices can easily access NaVIC signals. Acceptance of NaVIC by 3GPP would also bring NaVIC technology to the commercial market for its use in 4G, 5G and Internet of Things(IOT). Indian Companies and Startups will have an opportunity to develop Integrated circuits and products based on NaVIC. The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) unites 7



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telecommunications standard development organizations (ARIB, ATIS, CCSA, ETSI, TSDSI, TTA, TTC). The project covers cellular telecommunications technologies, including radio access, core network and service capabilities, which provide a complete system description for mobile telecommunications.

## 5. Consider the following statements regarding a particular water borne disease:

1. Sustained high fever ( $39^{\circ}$  to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), weakness, stomach pain are some of the common symptoms.
2. Intestinal perforation and death may occur in severe cases.
3. It is caused by pathogenic Salmonella bacterium species.

Which of the following diseases has all of the above characteristics?

(a) Malaria

(b) Typhoid

(c) Cholera

(d) Kala azar

**Answer –b**

Typhoid fever has all those characteristics: o Sustained high fever ( $39^{\circ}$  to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), weakness, stomach pain, constipation, headache and loss of appetite are some of the common symptoms of this disease . o Intestinal perforation and death may occur in severe cases. o Salmonella typhi is a pathogenic bacterium which causes typhoid fever in human beings. These pathogens generally enter the small intestine through food and water contaminated with them and migrate to other organs through blood. Typhoid fever could be confirmed by Widal test

## Economy

### Question 1.

Which among the following are the characteristics of Crowding-in Effect?

1. Decrease in the Government Expenditure
2. Increase in the Private Sector Expenditure
3. Increase in the GDP Growth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:





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

**Answer C:**

## Question 2.

Consider the following statements related to Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme 2019:

1. This scheme has been launched to address the pendency of tax related cases of Excise duty and Service Tax.
2. This scheme provides for opportunity to the tax payers to pay the outstanding tax and be free from any consequence under the law.

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

**Answer C:**

## Question 3.

Partial credit guarantee scheme announced in the budget of 2019- 20 was aimed at?

- A. To improve investment in Public sector enterprises
- B. To improve the Corporate bond markets
- C. To improve the liquidity situation of NBFCs
- D. None of the above

**Answer C:**

## Question 4.

Which of the following were within the purview of the Bimal Jalan Committee?

1. Review justification of various reserves and buffers presently provided for by the RBI



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2. Suggest an adequate level of risk provisioning that the RBI needs to maintain
3. To propose a suitable profits distribution policy for the RBI
4. Treatment of surplus reserves created out of realized gains

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

**Answer D**

## Question 5.

Which among the following activities is/are undertaken by the Development Banks?

1. Providing both short term and long term credit.
2. Buying the shares of the Infrastructure Financing Companies.
3. Guaranteeing the repayment of Bonds issued by Companies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer C:**

## Polity

### Question 1:

Biosimilars, recently in the news, refers to

#### Options:

- A. Species with same DNA structure
- B. Species with the same blood group
- C. a biologic medical product that is almost an identical copy of an original product
- D. different plants having the same genetic makeup



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**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

WHO prequalifies first biosimilar medicine– trastuzumab- to increase worldwide access to life-saving breast cancer treatment. Trastuzumab – a monoclonal antibody – was included in the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015 as an essential treatment for about 20% of breast cancers.

**What are Biosimilars?**

It is a biologic medical product that is almost an identical copy of an original product that is manufactured by a different company.

They are officially approved versions of original “innovator” products and can be manufactured when the original product’s patent expires.

Reference to the innovator product is an integral component of the approval.

**Characteristics:**

Biological medicines contain active substances from a biological source, such as living cells or organisms.

Most biological medicines in current clinical use contain active substances made of proteins.

Difference between biosimilars and generics:

Biosimilars involve developing equivalent of biological entity while generics involve developing equivalent of a chemical entity-the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient.

**Question 2:**

Consider the following statements about the PPM Ujjwala scheme.

1. Applicant must a woman above the age of 18 and a citizen of India.
2. Applicant should belong to a BPL (Below Poverty Line) household.
3. No one in the applicant’s household should own an LPG connection.
4. Applicant must not be a recipient of other similar schemes provided by the government.

Which of these statements is correct?

**Options:**

- A. 2 & 3 only
- B. 1, 2 & 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

CAG report raises concerns about Ujjwala scheme.

**Recommendations made by CAG:**

- There should be scrutiny of the entire LPG database to identify and restrict anomalies.
- Aadhaar numbers of all adult family members of existing as well as new beneficiaries should be entered to make de-duplication effective.
- Appropriate measures in distributors’ software should be put in place to restrict issuance to ineligible beneficiaries.



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## Key features of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

- Aim: To provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households.
- Key features: A deposit-free LPG connection is given to eligible with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre.
- The scheme gained traction with its ambit being expanded to include 80 million poor families from the earlier target of 50 million families with an additional allocation of Rs4,800 crore.

### Eligibility criteria:

- Applicant must be a woman above the age of 18 and a citizen of India.
- Applicant should belong to a BPL (Below Poverty Line) household.
- No one in the applicant's household should own an LPG connection.
- The household income of the family, per month, must not exceed a certain limit as defined by the government of the Union Territories and State Government.
- The name of the applicant must be in the list of SECC-2011 data and should match with the information available in the BPL database that Oil Marketing Companies have.
- Applicant must not be a recipient of other similar schemes provided by the government.

## Question 3:

'Zero FIR' refers to which of the following

### Options:

- A. any police station can register this FIR irrespective of jurisdictional area
- B. an online FIR
- C. FIR filed for a financial fraud
- D. None of the above

### Answer: A

### Explanation:

In the context of the Hyderabad Veterinary doctor rape & murder case, her family alleged that the Shamsabad police station delayed the filing of an FIR citing jurisdictional issues. FIR which stands for First Information Report has serial number, date of occurrence, time of occurrence, place of occurrence, contents of complaint etc. and it is lodged because of commission of cognizable offence (an offence in which police can take suo moto action and no prior approval from court is required). Every police station has jurisdictional area for which they can take up the investigation if commission of cognizable offence area found under their jurisdiction. But in Zero FIR, any police station can register FIR irrespective of jurisdictional area but the investigation will be taken up by the police in which place of occurrence reported in FIR.

The police station can register the zero FIR marking its serial number zero and transfer to the competent jurisdictional area which can carry out the investigation. The sanctity of legal process remains same in zero FIR. It is very helpful for people as it facilitates them by not allowing making rounds of different police stations for lodging the FIR.

## Question 4:



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Consider the following statements about the office of the Lokpal

1. The Lokpal selection committee is headed by the Prime Minister and consists of the Lok Sabha Speaker, leader of the opposition in the lower house, the Chief Justice of India or a judge of the apex court nominated by him, and an eminent jurist who could be nominated by the President or any other member.
2. There is a provision for a chairperson and a maximum of eight members in the Lokpal.
3. Of these, four need to be judicial members. Not less than 50 per cent of the members of the Lokpal shall be from amongst the persons belonging to the SCs, the STs, OBCs, minorities and women.
4. Upon selection, the chairperson and members shall hold office for a term of five years or till they attain 65 years of age.

Which of these statements is correct?

**Options:**

- 3 & 4 only
- 2 & 3 only
- 1 & 4 only
- 1, 2 & 3 only

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The Lokpal Act, which envisages establishment of the anti-graft body Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed in 2013. The Lokpal selection committee is headed by the Prime Minister and consists of the Lok Sabha Speaker, leader of the opposition in the lower house, the Chief Justice of India or a judge of the apex court nominated by him, and an eminent jurist who could be nominated by the President or any other member.

**Composition of Lokpal**

There is a provision for a chairperson and a maximum of eight members in the Lokpal. Of these, four need to be judicial members. Not less than 50 per cent of the members of the Lokpal shall be from amongst the persons belonging to the SCs, the STs, OBCs, minorities and women. Terms of Office .

Upon selection, the chairperson and members shall hold office for a term of five years or till they attain 70 years of age. The salary and allowances of the chairman of the Lokpal will be same as that of the Chief Justice of India, and that of members will be same as that of a judge of Supreme Court. The chief and members of the Lokpal are not eligible for reappointments.

They will also not be eligible for any diplomatic assignment, appointment as administrator of a Union territory and for further employment to any other office of profit under the government of India.

**Question 5:**

IS 10500:2012, is a quality standard for

**Options:**



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Natural Gas  
Crude Oil  
Milk  
Drinking water

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Government stated that the Bureau of Indian Standards is preparing the ground for enforcement of piped water quality standards – IS 10500:2012, in cooperation with state departments. However, it is not yet clear whether the Centre's own flagship mission (Jal Jeevan Mission) to provide piped water to all households by 2024 will implement the BIS standard.

Unlike the BIS standard for bottled water, which is mostly produced by private companies, the standard for piped water — largely supplied by government agencies — is not yet mandatory. Jal Shakti is the nodal Ministry for the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide functional household tap connections to 14.6 crore rural households by 2024.

**About Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**

It is a statutory body established in 1987 under the BIS Act 1986. It replaced the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), a body set up under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It works under the guidance of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The objective of BIS is to achieve harmonious development of the activities of standardization, certification marking and quality certification of goods. BIS is involved in various activities such as Standards Formulation, Product Certification Scheme, Hall Marking Scheme, Laboratory Services etc.

## International Relations

**Question 1:**

Order of "Zayed" is the highest civilian award of which of the following nations?

**Options:**

- E. Saudi Arabia
- F. Qatar
- G. UAE
- H. Malaysia

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

India – OIC Relation:

India's relationship with Pakistan has always been tense and has a direct impact on India OIC relations, with Pakistan being a founding member of the OIC. India has pushed for the OIC to accept India as a member, Pakistan opposes India's entry into the OIC. For the first time in five decades, the United Arab Emirates invited foreign minister of India Sushma Swaraj to attend the inaugural plenary 46th meeting of OIC foreign ministers. (Pakistan boycotted the meet). From the mid-1990s, when this Contact Group was formed, it has issued several statements on behalf of Pakistan (on Kashmir issue).



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The United Arab Emirates, for instance, conferred the Order of “Zayed”, its highest civilian award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, more than a week after New Delhi’s moves on Article 370, and declared that Kashmir was India’s internal matter.

## Question 2:

Consider the following statements regarding India – Palestine relations.

1. In 1974, India became the first non-Arab state to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
2. In July 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Palestine.
3. India has made a commitment of investing over \$12 million, to develop a Technopark in Palestine which will serve as an IT hub in Palestine.

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:

- A. 1 & 2 only
- B. 2 & 3 only
- C. 1 & 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

### Explanation:

India released one more tranche of funds worth \$3 million, for the construction of a Palestine-India Techno Park. In total, India has made a commitment of investing over \$12 million, part of India’s broader framework of capacity building in Palestine. The Indian government pays \$3 million on a half-yearly basis. Once completed, the Technopark will serve as an IT hub in Palestine with complete IT facilities offering a one-stop solution to all IT-related service requirements, providing state-of-the-art technology, hosting IT companies and foreign companies benefitting local business, Universities and other institutions

The park will be located next to the Birzeit University Academic Campus located in West Bank near Ramallah. In 2017, the park became a member of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP), a global network of science and technology parks.

### India-Palestine Relationship

In 1974, India became the first non-Arab state to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. India maintained its support for the two-state solution and championed a “sovereign, independent, united” Palestine with its capital in East Jerusalem. In 1996, India opened its Representative Office to the State of Palestine in Gaza, which was shifted to Ramallah in 2003. In July 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Palestine. Trade between India and Palestine stands at roughly US \$40 million and spans automotive spare parts, medical tourism, agro-products, textiles, agro-chemicals and pharmaceuticals among others.



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## Question 3:

Consider the following statements regarding India – Australia relations

1. The joint bilateral maritime exercise of Australian and Indian navies is code-named “AUSTRAL HIND”.
2. From 2016-18, the armies of the countries conducted a joint military exercise dubbed AUSINDEX.
3. Initially, the “Quad” members included India, Japan, the US, and Australia; however Australia chose to withdraw when Kevin Rudd was Prime Minister. However, Australia later rejoined the dialogue in 2017.

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:

- A. 1 & 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 & 3 only
- D. All of the above

### Answer: B

### Explanation:

India and Australia moved closer to closing in on the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), as the Foreign and Defence Secretaries from both countries met recently. The dialogue comes ahead of Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s scheduled January 13-16 trip to India. The first such two-plus-two meeting happened in December 2017. The LSA will be one of the key agenda points during Prime Minister Morrison’s visit. The Agreement will allow the two countries to use each other’s military bases for logistics support, including food, water, and petroleum. During their meeting, the two sides carried out a comprehensive review of their strategic engagement and the regional security scenario, which is continuously evolving given China’s military expansion and economic influence.

### India-Australia bilateral relations.

When it comes to defence, India and Australia share a common concern over China. While Australia is worried about China’s presence in the Pacific, India is worried about China’s increasing activities and influence in the Indian Ocean. Earlier this year, the Australian and Indian navies concluded a two-week-long bilateral maritime exercise code-named AUSINDEX. The exercise was conducted to strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation and interoperability between the IN (Indian Navy) and RAN (Royal Australian Navy), providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of professional views between the personnel of the two navies. From 2016-18, the armies of the countries conducted a joint military exercise dubbed “AUSTRAL HIND”.

Significantly, for the first time in 2017, Australia’s Foreign Policy White Paper identified India as being at the “front rank” of Australia’s international partnerships, “on par with the US, Japan, Indonesia, and China”.

### The Quad

The informal strategic Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) that was initiated by Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007 was largely in response to China’s growing power and influence. Initially, the “Quad” members included India, Japan, the US, and Australia; however Australia chose to withdraw when Kevin Rudd was Prime Minister, since it did not want to be a part of an anti-China alliance at the time. However, Australia later rejoined the dialogue in 2017 on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit, signalling a re-ignition in Australia’s interest in the dialogue.





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## Question 4:

Which of the following nations recently decided to set up the Gandhi prize to promote Gandhi ji's ideals?

### Options:

- A. South Africa
- B. Mexico
- C. South Korea
- D. Portugal

**Answer: D**

### Explanation:

Portugal sets up the Gandhi prize

Portugal would launch the prize in order to promote Gandhi's ideals. Every year, the prize would be inspired by Gandhi's thoughts and quotes. The first edition of the prize would be dedicated to animal welfare. Gandhi said "the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated"

### About National Committee for the Commemoration Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary

The National Committee was constituted for commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the national and international, presided by the President of India. This Committee includes Vice-President, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of all states, representatives from across the political spectrum, Gandhians, thinkers, and eminent persons from all walks of life. The Committee also has nine international members, including two former Secretaries-General of the United Nations – Mr Kofi Annan and Mr Ban Ki-Moon. Portuguese Prime Minister is the only foreign Prime Minister to be a part of the committee

## Question 5:

Which of the following agencies releases the 'Gender Inequality Index'?

### Options:

- A. UNDP
- B. UNEP
- C. UNICEF
- D. UN Women

**Answer: A**

### Explanation:

The GII is an inequality index released by UNDP. It measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development— reproductive Health, measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; Empowerment, measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some secondary education; and Economic status, expressed as labour market participation and measured by labour force participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years and older.



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The GII is built on the same framework as the IHDI—to better expose differences in the distribution of achievements between women and men. It measures the human development costs of gender inequality. Thus the higher the GII value the more disparities between females and males and the more loss to human development. In the Gender Inequality Index (GII), India is at 122 out of 162 countries. Neighbours China (39), Sri Lanka (86), Bhutan (99), Myanmar (106) were placed above India. The report forecasts that it may take 202 years to close the gender gap in economic opportunity.

## History

**Question 1.** Which of the following was not one of the cardinal principles of Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine of satyagraha?

- Truthfulness
- Non violence.
- Fearlessness.
- Abstinence.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- **Satyagraha**, (Sanskrit and Hindi: "holding onto truth") concept introduced in the early 20th century by [Mahatma Gandhi](#) to designate a determined but nonviolent resistance to evil. Gandhi's satyagraha became a major tool in the Indian struggle against British imperialism and has since been adopted by protest groups in other countries.
- Satyagraha draws from the ancient Indian ideal of [ahimsa](#) ("noninjury"), which is pursued with particular rigour by [Jains](#), many of whom live in Gujarat, where Gandhi grew up.

**Question2 .** Which of the following persons was /were not involved with the foundation of the Anushilan Samiti of Calcutta in 1902?

- Promotha Mitter.
- Abani Mukherji.
- Barindra Kumar Ghosh.
- Jatindranath Banerjee.
- Pulin Das.

Select the correct code:

- 2 and 4 .
- 3 and 5 .
- 2 and 5.



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d. 3 and 4.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- The Anushilan Samiti was established by Pramathanath Mitra, a barrister from Calcutta.
- The people associated with this samiti were Sri Aurobindo, Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Tagore, Jatindranath Banerjee, Bagha Jatin, Bhupendra Natha Datta, Barindra Ghosh etc.
- Out of them Bhupendra Nath Datta was brother of Swami Vivekananda.
- Barindra Ghosh was sent to Paris to learn the science of Bomb Making and here he came in touch with Madam Cama. Madam Cama was already associated with the India House and the Paris India Society.

Question 3. Which of the following did not play an important part in the swadeshi agitation?

- Peasants.
- Students.
- Women.
- Muslims.

Ans. a.

Explanation:

- The Swadeshi movement was undertaken by the Indian nationalist leaders to remove the British from power and improve India's economic conditions. The movement involved boycotting British products and using domestic products and production processes instead. The movement was the strongest in Bengal and was also called the Bandemataram movement.
- Except peasants, all participated in the swadeshi movement.

Question 4. Who among the following viceroys became a victim of one of the convicts during his visit to the Andamans?

- Lord Dufferin.
- Lord Mayo.
- John Shore.
- Lord Rippon.

Ans. b.

Explanation:



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- **Sher Ali Afridi**, also called **Shere Ali**, is known for killing [Lord Mayo](#), the [Viceroy of India](#), on 8 February 1872. He was a prisoner on the [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#) at the time, sentenced for murder.

Question 5. The play Nil Darpan (1860) of the famous Bengali writer Dinbandhu Mitra portrays the oppression of –

- Artisans.
- Handloom weavers.
- Tribals.
- Indigo planters.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- **Nil Darpan** (*The Indigo Mirror*) is a [Bengali](#) play written by [Dinabandhu Mitra](#) in 1858–1859. The play was published in [Dhaka](#) in 1860, under a pseudonym of the author.
- The play was essential to *Nil Vidroha*, better known as the [Indigo Revolt](#) of February–March 1859 in Bengal, when farmers refused to sow indigo in their fields to protest against exploitative farming under the [British Raj](#).

## Geography

1) Consider the following statements on **Indian Economic Census** :-

- 5th Economic Census was launched in December 2019.
- To conduct this census digital platform was used for the first time in 2013.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- only i
- only ii
- both
- none

**Answer d**

**Explanation :-**



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**Indian Economic Census:** It is the census of the Indian economy which counts all entrepreneurial units in the country involved in any economic activities of either agricultural or non-agricultural sector which is engaged in production and/or distribution of goods and/or services and not for the sole purpose of own consumption. The economic census provides information on operational and other characteristics such as number of establishments, number of persons employed, type of ownership, source of finance, etc. These information which the census provides is used for micro level/ decentralized planning and to assess contribution of various sectors of the economy in the gross domestic product (GDP). It was first launched in 1977. So far 6 census have been conducted in the years 1977, 1980, 1990, 1998, 2005, 2013. The economic census 1980 and 1990 were integrated with population census.

**7th Economic Census:** On December 13, 2019, 7th Economic Census was launched in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Delhi is the 26th state where the survey has been launched. It is being carried out by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) in collaboration with Common Service Centre (CSC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Electronics and IT.

It is for the first time the census is being conducted on digital platform named ICT (Information and Communication Technology). Digital platform has reduced time of survey to 6 months from 2 years earlier. It is expected to be completed by March 2020. About 1.5 lakh trained enumerators who have been employed in the census will visit 35 crore households and establishments to carry out the census.

- 2) Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, authorizing National Highways Authority of India, NHAI to set up Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs), as per Guidelines issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI. Consider the following statements on that :-
- (i) It may hold assets either directly or through a Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) or a holding.
  - (ii) I will enable NHAI to monetize completed national highways.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both
- (d) none

**Answer c**

**Explanation :-**

**NHAI:** It refers to the National Highways Authority of India. It was constituted under National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988. It is a nodal agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

It is responsible for the development, Management and maintenance of National Highways entrusted to it and for matters connected or incidental there.



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Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, authorizing National Highways Authority of India, NHAI to set up Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs), as per Guidelines issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI. This will enable NHAI to monetize completed National Highways that have a toll collection track record of at least one year and NHAI reserves the right to levy a toll on the identified highway.

**NHAI's InvITs:** InvIT Trust will be a trust formed under Indian Trust Act, 1882 and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014. It will be formed with an objective of investment primarily in infrastructure projects. It may hold assets either directly or through a Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) or a holding.

The trust will provide greater flexibility to investors and it is expected to create opportunities like the generation of specialized Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Concessionaires, attract long-term capital to the Indian highway market and retail domestic savings and corpus of special institutions such as mutual funds, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), among others is expected to be invested in the infrastructure sector.

- 3) According to the biggest study of its kind, undertaken by conservation group IUCN, there is a continuous decrease in the amount of oxygen in the oceans due to climate change. Consider the following statements that :-
- (i) Oxygen level has decreased by 5% in oceans.
  - (ii) Nitrogen and phosphorus from farms and industry impact the levels of oxygen in the sea waters and are the primary factors.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both
- (d) none

**Answer b**

**Explanation :-**

**IUCN:** It refers to International Union for the Conservation of Nature. IT is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and education. Its headquarterd in Gland, Switzerland. It was founded by Julian Huxley on 5 October 1948.

According to the biggest study of its kind, undertaken by conservation group IUCN, there is a continuous decrease in the amount of oxygen in the oceans due to climate change. As per the report, Oxygen level has decreased by 2% in oceans. This deoxygenation in the oceans is having a negative effect on marine organisms that require more oxygen and one million animals are on the verge of extinction due to human activities.



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Around 700 ocean sites are now suffering from low oxygen, compared with 45 in the 1960s. The threat to oceans are from nutrient run-off of chemicals such as nitrogen and phosphorus from farms and industry has long been known to impact the levels of oxygen in the sea waters and still remains the primary factor, especially closer to coasts. As more carbon dioxide is released enhancing the greenhouse effect, much of the heat is absorbed by the oceans. In turn, this warmer water can hold less oxygen. The scientists estimate that between 1960 and 2010, the amount of the gas dissolved in the oceans declined by 2%.

In recent years the threat from climate change has increased. According to the paper was published in the journal Ecology Letters. In 2014, researchers found that alpine goats appeared to be shrinking due to warming temperatures. The same year, another study found salamanders had shrunk rapidly in response to climate change. Even the size of the birds has shrunk due to climate change. It builds on a growing body of evidence that suggests animals are shrinking as the climate warms.

- 4) **White Island**, also known as Whakaari located 48 kilometers off the coast of New Zealand's North Island was in news recently. What type of island is this ;-
- (a) Simple Fold
  - (b) Depositional
  - (c) Coral
  - (d) Volcanic

**Answer d**

**Explanation :-**

**White Island:** It is also known as Whakaari located 48 kilometers off the coast of New Zealand's North Island. It is the summit of a large volcano around 16 km wide and 18 km long. Most of the volcano is below water, and only a 2-kilometre-wide section of the cone is visible. The Maori name for the island is "Te Puia o Whakaari", which means "The Dramatic Volcano". The largest and longest series of eruptions ever recorded on White Island happened between 1976 and 1982. Molten rock rose up near the surface and ejected lava bombs and blocks of rock, and huge clouds of ash.

Deadly eruption hit New Zealand volcano tourist town White Island and transformed tourist destination to disaster zone as the volcanic activity drew thousands of tourists annually escalated with deadly consequences.

- 5) Jal Jeevan Mission, is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. Consider the following statements on that :-
- (i) States/ UTs have to create water supply infrastructure so that every rural household has Functional Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024.
  - (ii) GPs/ rural communities to maintain their own in-village water supply systems.

Choose the correct alternative :-



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- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both
- (d) none

**Answer c**

**Explanation :-**

Jal Jeevan Mission, is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting. The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission. JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.

Vision

Every rural household has drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities.

Mission

Jal Jeevan Mission is to assist, empower and facilitate:

- States/ UTs in planning of participatory rural water supply strategy for ensuring potable drinking water security on long-term basis to every rural household and public institution, viz. GP building, School, Anganwadi centre, Health centre, wellness centres, etc.
- States/ UTs for creation of water supply infrastructure so that every rural household has Functional Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024 and water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality is made available on regular basis.
- States/ UTs to plan for their drinking water security
- GPs/ rural communities to plan, implement, manage, own, operate and maintain their own in-village water supply systems
- States/ UTs to develop robust institutions having focus on service delivery and financial sustainability of the sector by promoting utility approach
- Capacity building of the stakeholders and create awareness in community on significance of water for improvement in quality of life
- In making provision and mobilization of financial assistance to States/ UTs for implementation of the mission.

Objectives

The broad objectives of the Mission are:

- To provide FHTC to every rural household.





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- To prioritize provision of FHTCs in quality affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages, etc.
- To provide functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, GP buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings
- To monitor functionality of tap connections.
- To promote and ensure voluntary ownership among local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labour and voluntary labour (shramdaan)
- To assist in ensuring sustainability of water supply system, i.e. water source, water supply infrastructure, and funds for regular O&M
- To empower and develop human resource in the sector such that the demands of construction, plumbing, electrical, water quality management, water treatment, catchment protection, O&M, etc. are taken care of in short and long term
- To bring awareness on various aspects and significance of safe drinking water and involvement of stakeholders in manner that make water everyone's business

## Components Under JJM

The following components are supported under JJM

- Development of in-village piped water supply infrastructure to provide tap water connection to every rural household
- Development of reliable drinking water sources and/ or augmentation of existing sources to provide long-term sustainability of water supply system
- Wherever necessary, bulk water transfer, treatment plants and distribution network to cater to every rural household
- Technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue
- Retrofitting of completed and ongoing schemes to provide FHTCs at minimum service level of 55 lpcd;
- Greywater management
- Support activities, i.e. IEC, HRD, training, development of utilities, water quality laboratories, water quality testing & surveillance, R&D, knowledge centre, capacity building of communities, etc.
- Any other unforeseen challenges/ issues emerging due to natural disasters/ calamities which affect the goal of FHTC to every household by 2024, as per guidelines of Ministry of Finance on Flexi Funds