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Date: 04<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Set 13)

## Current Affairs

### Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Bengal Florican:

1. It has been included in Appendix II of the UN Convention on Migratory Species.
2. It has been listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.

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:

Bengal Florican has been included in Appendix I of the UN Convention on Migratory Species at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) held in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

It has been listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List. The bird is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972 and Appendix I of CITES

It occurs in Indian Subcontinent mainly in India (Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.) and terai region of Nepal.

### Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the FEDOR:

1. It is the first humanoid robot to be sent to space by the USA.
2. It can emulate movements of the human body.

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:B**

**Explanation:**

FEDOR, which stands for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, the Skybot F-850 is the first humanoid robot to be sent to space by Russia.

The robot's main purpose is to be used in operations that are especially dangerous for humans onboard spacecraft and in outer space.

FEDOR can emulate movements of the human body.

**Question 3:**

Which of the following statements are correct about GISAT-1:

1. It is a communication satellite launched by ISRO.
2. It will operate in geostationary orbit.
3. It will have high-resolution cameras which will help to monitor any changes in borders and the overall geographical condition of the country.



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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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch GISAT-1, a new earth observation satellite.

It will operate in geostationary orbit above the Southern India region after being launched from Sriharikota, India.

It will have high-resolution cameras which will help to monitor any changes in borders and the overall geographical condition of the country, etc.

**Question 4:**

Deinotherium indicum, recently in news, is associated with which of the following?

**Options:**

- A. An ancient human species
- B. An ancient elephant species
- C. A new plant species discovered in Western Ghats
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**



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Recently, the scientists carrying out excavation in the Kutch region of Gujarat, stumbled upon a premolar tooth, which belonged to an extinct ancient elephant, called *Deinotherium indicum*.

Using a technique called biostratigraphy, it was noted that *D. indicum* lived roughly between 11 and 7 seven million years ago in India.

## Question 5:

With reference to Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), consider the following statements:

1. It is constructed on the White Nile River.
2. It is the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa.

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: B**

### Explanation:

Egypt and Ethiopia have locked horns over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile.

The GERD, a \$5 billion project that will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa,

The dam is located on Ethiopia's flank of the Blue Nile, just 12 miles from its border with Sudan.



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## Science & Technology

### 1. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fiftieth flight (PSLV-C48), successfully launched RISAT-2BR1 along with nine commercial satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on December 11 2019.
2. RISAT-2BR1 is radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg.
3. The satellite will provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management.
4. A book titled 'PSLV@ 50' was released by Dr. Sivan on this occasion. He further added that this versatile launcher has lifted off 52.7 tonne into space, of which 17% belongs to customer satellites.

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

- (a) Only (1) & (3)
- (b) Only (2) & (3)
- (c) Only (1,2,3)
- (d) All the above

### ANSWER-D

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fiftieth flight (PSLV-C48), successfully launched RISAT-2BR1, an earth observation satellite, along with nine commercial satellites of Israel, Italy, Japan and USA from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

PSLV-C48 lifted-off at 1525Hrs (IST) on December 11, 2019 from the First Launch Pad of SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota. PSLV-C48 was the 75th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota. This is the 2nd flight of PSLV in 'QL' configuration (with 4 solid strap-on motors).

About 16 minutes and 23 seconds after lift-off, RISAT-2BR1 was injected into an orbit of 576 km at an inclination of 37 degree to the equator.

RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg. The satellite will provide services in the field of Agriculture,



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Forestry and Disaster Management. The mission life of RISAT-2BR1 is 5 years. 9 Commercial satellites were also successfully injected into designated orbit. These satellites were launched under commercial arrangement with New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

A book titled 'PSLV@ 50' was released by Dr. Sivan on this occasion. He further added that this versatile launcher has lifted off 52.7 tonne into space, of which 17% belongs to customer satellites.

RISAT-2BR1 is radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg.

The satellite will provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management. The mission life of RISAT-2BR1 is 5 years. The nine customer satellites of Israel, Italy, Japan and USA were precisely injected into their designated orbits. These satellites were launched under a commercial arrangement with New Space India Limited (NSIL).

## 2. Which of the following institute of India has recently developed an Anti

### Diabetic Medicine?

- (a) IIT Kanpur
- (b) IISc
- (c) CSIR
- (d) AIIMS New Delhi

### ANSWER-C

The diabetic population in the country is close to hitting the alarming mark of 69.9 million by 2025, which denotes that the country is expected to witness an increase of 266%.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), through its constituent laboratories namely CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow; and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow developed scientifically validated herbal product NBRMAP-DB as anti-diabetic formulation and the knowhow for the product was licensed to M/s AIMIL Pharma Ltd., Delhi who are manufacturing and marketing it as BGR-34, across the country.

The Central of Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS), and autonomous body under Ministry of AYUSH has been engaged in extending research oriented Ayurveda based on integrative health care services for the management of Madhumeha which is Diabetes Mellitus.



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### 3. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. ROTAVAC-5D designed and developed by Bharat Biotech in New Delhi.
2. ROTAVAC is said to be an example of a true social innovation that was realized through a partnership between scientists from India and the U.k.
3. India is firmly committed to ending morbidity and mortality in children caused due to diarrhea by 2022.
4. The first generation, Rotavirus vaccine, ROTAVAC developed under a Public-Private Partnership with the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India.

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

- (a) Only 1,3,& 4
- (b) Only (2) & (3)
- (c) Only (1,2,3)
- (d) All the above

**ANSWER-a**

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday launched the new Rotavirus vaccine - ROTAVAC-5D® designed and developed by Bharat Biotech in New Delhi.

On the occasion, the Vice President said that he believed that ROTAVAC is an example of a true social innovation that was realized through a partnership between scientists from India and the USA.

He added that India is committed to the goal of protecting the health of each and every one of its children. Vicepresident added that India is firmly committed to ending morbidity and mortality in children caused due to diarrhoea by 2022.

The first generation, Rotavirus vaccine, ROTAVAC developed under a Public-Private Partnership with the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, has put India on the global map for setting new standards in pharmaceutical Research and Development.

### 4. On 27 December 2019, Russia has inducted which hypersonic missiles

**into service?**

- (a) Avangard
- (b) Kinzhal
- (c) RS-26 Rubezh
- (d) RS-28 Sarmat



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## Answer-a

Russia inducted first Avangard hypersonic missiles into service. Avangard is also known as Objekt 4202, Yu-71, and Yu-74. It is a Russian hypersonic glide vehicle that can be carried as a MIRV payload by the UR-100UTTKh, R-36M2 and RS-28 Sarmat heavy Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles. The Avangard has a range of over 6,000 km, weighs approximately 2,000 kg, and can deliver both nuclear and conventional payloads. This intercontinental hypersonic weapon can fly 27 times the speed of sound and is capable of sharp manoeuvres in the atmosphere en route to target making it much harder to intercept. The Avangard can carry a nuclear weapon of up to 2 megatons.

A multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) is a missile payload containing several warheads, each capable of being aimed to hit a different target.

Hypersonic Cruise Missiles travel at a speed of more than 5 Mach. Many countries are working to develop Hypersonic Cruise Missiles. BrahMos Aerospace is also in the process of developing a hypersonic cruise missile, **BRAHMOS II**, which would fly at a speed greater than 5 Mach.

## 5. The term Rancidity refers to:

- (a) decrease in pH of soil after acid rain.
- (b) oxidation of unsaturated fat present in food products causing unpleasant odour or flavour.
- (c) conversion of basic solution into acidic due to addition of hydrogen ions.
- (d) the process of formation of photochemical smog.

## Answer-b

Rancidity is a very general term and in its most general meaning, it refers to the spoilage of a food in such a way that it becomes undesirable (and usually unsafe) for consumption. During the process of oxidative rancidity, oxygen molecules interact with the structure of the oil and damage its natural structure in a way that can change its odor, its taste, and its safety for consumption.





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## Economy

### Question 1.

Consider the following statements with respect to changes made in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by the Central Government:

1. Centre has increased share of premium to be paid by farmers for Rabi, Kharif and Horticulture crops.
2. Centre has decided to cap its share under the scheme
3. The changes will increase burden of share on states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer A:**

**Explanation:**

**Changes approved:**

1. Allocation of business to Insurance Companies to be done for three years.
2. Central Subsidy under PMFBY/RWBCIS to be limited for premium rates upto 30% for unirrigated areas/crops and 25% for irrigated areas/crops.
3. Districts having 50% or more irrigated area will be considered as irrigated area/district.
4. Flexibility to States/UTs to implement the Scheme with option to select any or many of additional risk covers/features like prevented sowing, localised calamity, mid-season adversity, and post-harvest losses.
5. For estimation of crop losses/admissible claims, two-Step Process to be adopted based on defined Deviation matrix" using specific triggers like weather indicators, satellite indicators, etc. for each area along with normal ranges and deviation ranges.
6. Enrolment under the Scheme to be made **voluntary for all farmers**.

Central Share in Premium Subsidy to be increased to 90% for North Eastern States from the existing sharing pattern of 50:50

**Benefits:**

1. With these changes it is expected that farmers would be able to manage risk in agriculture production in a better way and will succeed in Stabilizing the farm income.
2. Further, it will increase coverage in north eastern region enabling farmers of NER to manage their agricultural risk in a better way.
3. These changes will also enable quick and accurate yield estimation leading to faster claims settlement.

**Background:**

Under the PMFBY, which was launched in February 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **it is mandatory for loanee farmers to take insurance cover under this scheme**. Currently, 58 percent of the total farmers are loanee. Various farmers' body and states were raising some concerns on this.

**About PMFBY:**



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Launched in **2016**.

**Merged schemes include** National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS). It aims **to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum.**

**Coverage:**

The Scheme covers all Food & Oilseeds crops and Annual Commercial/Horticultural Crops for which past yield data is available and for which requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) are being conducted under General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES).

**Premium:**

1. 2% for Kharif crops.
2. 1.5% for Rabi crops.
3. 5% for commercial and horticultural crops

**Question 2.**

Which among the following organisations has constituted ""PRODUCE Fund"" for the benefit of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)?

- A. SFAC
- B. NABARD
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

**Answer B:**

**Explanation:**

FPOs are farmers' collectives, with membership mainly comprising small/marginal farmers (around 70 to 80%). Presently, around 5000 FPOs (including FPCs) are in existence in the country, which were formed under various initiatives of the Govt. of India (including SFAC), State Governments, NABARD and other organizations over the last 8-10 years. Of these, around 3200 FPOs are registered as Producer Companies and the remaining as Cooperatives/ Societies, etc. Majority of these FPOs are in the nascent stage of their operations with shareholder membership ranging from 100 to over 1000 farmers and require not only technical handholding support but also adequate capital and infrastructure facilities including market linkages for sustaining their business operations.

**Question 3.**

Consider the following statements related to Farmer producer Organisations (FPOs):

1. All the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are legally registered as Cooperatives under the State Cooperative Societies Act.
2. The NABARD acts as a nodal agency for the promotion of FPOs within 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

**Answer D:**

**Explanation:**



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A congenial ecosystem is a must for development of producer organizations because they have to deal with the most vulnerable part of agri-value chain, which starts from the farm and goes on till processing and the far-away markets. The critical ecosystem services include emergency credit, consumption credit, production credit, retail services of inputs for agriculture and other agricultural production services required by the small and marginal farmers. Unless these services are provided by a producer organization, it cannot divert the surplus produce from the local trader or shop keeper to the producer organization. In addition, the producer organization can take up other services related to facilitating linkage with the banks and line departments for ensuring the infrastructure access for the business.

#### Question 4.

Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Appellate Body of WTO?

1. It is composed of 7 members appointed for a term of 4 years by the dispute settlement body.
2. The dispute settlement body comprises of all the members of WTO

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

#### Answer C:

#### Explanation:

The Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (WTOAB) is a standing body of seven persons that hears appeals from reports issued by panels in disputes brought on by WTO members. The Appellate Body is composed of seven members who are appointed by the DSB to serve for four-year terms, with the possibility of being reappointed once. The Appellate Body membership shall be broadly representative of membership in the WTO. The Appellate Body receives administrative and legal support from the appellate body secretariat.

#### Question 5.

Consider the following statements with respect to Central Board of Directors of RBI.

1. Deputy Governors are fulltime official directors of the Central Board
2. The members of the Central Board are appointed by the Governor, RBI
3. The deputy governors are not eligible for re-appointment to the Board.

Which of the above given statement/s is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. None of the above

#### Answer A:

#### Explanation:

The Reserve Bank's affairs are governed by a central board of directors. The board is appointed by the Government of India in keeping with the Reserve Bank of India Act.

- Appointed/nominated for a period of four years
- Constitution:
  - **Official Directors**
  - Full-time : Governor and not more than four Deputy Governors
  - **Non-Official Directors**
  - Nominated by Government: ten Directors from various fields and two government Official



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- Others: four Directors - one each from four local boards.

## Polity

### Question 1:

Consider the following disqualification criteria for legislators with regards to the anti-defection law under the 10<sup>th</sup> schedule.

1. He voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
2. He votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.
3. An independent candidate joins a political party six months after the election.
4. A nominated member joins a party after he becomes a member of the legislature.

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:

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

### Answer: C

### Explanation:

The Supreme Court has recently held that disqualification petitions under the tenth schedule should be adjudicated by a mechanism outside Parliament or Legislative Assemblies. The Court has suggested a permanent tribunal headed by a retired Supreme Court judge or a former High Court Chief Justice as a new mechanism. This would require an amendment to the Constitution.

### Disqualification under the Tenth Schedule:

The Anti-Defection Law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd amendment to the Constitution. It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution.

According to it, a member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House, if:

- He voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
- He votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.
- An independent candidate joins a political party after the election.
- A nominated member joins a party six months after he becomes a member of the legislature.

### Exceptions to the disqualification on the ground of defection:

If a member goes out of his party as a result of a merger of the party with another party. A merger takes place when two-thirds of the members of the party have agreed to such merger.

If a member, after being elected as the presiding officer of the House, voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or rejoins it after he ceases to hold that office



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## Question 2:

Which of the following cities is proposed to be the 'judicial capital' for the state of Andhra Pradesh?

### Options:

- A. Armavati
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Kurnool
- D. Hyderabad

### Answer: C

### Explanation:

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly has passed The Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Equal Development of All Regions Bill, 2020. This law paves the way for three capitals for the state. The three capitals:

Amaravati– legislative capital.

Visakhapatnam– executive capital.

Kurnool– judicial capital.

### Need for three capitals:

The government says it is against building one mega capital while neglecting other parts of the state. Three capitals ensure equal development of different regions of the state.

Decentralisation has been the central theme in recommendations of all major committees that were set up to suggest a suitable location for the capital of Andhra Pradesh. These include Justice B N Srikrishna Committee, K Sivaramakrishnan Committee, G N Rao Committee etc.

### What are the other examples of multiple capital cities?

Several countries in the world have implemented the concept.

- In Sri Lanka, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte is the official capital and seat of national legislature, while Colombo is the de facto seat of national executive and judicial bodies.
- Malaysia has its official and royal capital and seat of national legislature at Kuala Lumpur, and Putrajaya is the administrative centre and seat of national judiciary.
- Among Indian states:
- Maharashtra has two capitals– Mumbai and Nagpur (which holds the winter session of the state assembly).
- Himachal Pradesh has capitals at Shimla and Dharamshala (winter).
- The former state of Jammu & Kashmir had Srinagar and Jammu (winter) as capitals.

## Question 3:



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The National Startup Advisory Council will be chaired by

**Options:**

- A. Prime Minister
- B. President of FICCI
- C. Minister for Commerce & Industry
- D. Chairman of SEBI

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The Union Government has notified the structure of the National Startup Advisory Council to advise on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.

**Composition:**

- The Council will be chaired by Minister for Commerce & Industry.
- It will consist of the non-official members, to be nominated by Central Government, from various categories like founders of successful startups, veterans and persons capable of representing interests of incubators and accelerators etc.
- The term of the non-official members of the Startup Advisory Council will be for a period of two years.
- The nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, will be ex-officio members of the Council.
- Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will be the Convener of the Council.

**Question 4:**

Bru tribal people, recently in the news, will now be allowed to permanently settle in which of the following states?

**Options:**



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Assam  
Odisha  
Tripura  
Mizoram

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

A quadripartite agreement in New Delhi, allowed some 35,000 Bru tribal people, who were displaced from Mizoram and are living in Tripura as refugees since 1997, to settle permanently in Tripura. The Centre, State governments of Tripura and Mizoram, and representatives of Bru organisations signed the agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister.

The "solution" has evoked mixed reactions with rights activists fearing it could "legitimise" the ejection of minority communities by ethnocentric states.

**Who are the Bru refugees?**

According to a report, the Brus, who are spread across Tripura, Mizoram and parts of southern Assam, are said to be the most populous tribe in Tripura.

They are also known as the Reangs in Mizoram, as they are essentially ethnically different from the Mizos, and have their own distinct language and dialect and thus form one of the 21 scheduled tribes of Tripura. While in Tripura their numbers stand at approximately 32,000, spread across six refugee camps in the state, Mizoram has as many as 40,000 Brus living in the state.

For their livelihood they pursue Hilltop Jhum Cultivation, several activities of food gathering including collection of jungle fruits, leaf, plants, fishing in stagnant water in hill slopes, hunting of wild animals and birds, etc. They are nomadic tribes. It is said that they are polytheists and believe in multiple Gods and Goddesses. They pray different deities like Mwtaikotorma, Tuibuma, Mailoma, Ganga etc.

They also believe in spirits and existence of soul. We can say that by religion they are Hindus. Let us tell you that among Reangs followers of Vaishnavism are also found in good numbers.

Like other Tripuri tribes of Tripura, the marriage system is similar. There is no dowry system. They are endogamous and don't marry outside their community.

The village council chief is "RAI" who permits Divorce and Widow Marriage. They cremate their dead bedside of the river or chara after observing series of rites and rituals and funeral procession.

**Question 5:**

Z Morh tunnel, recently in the news, is being built in which state or UT?

**Options:**

- A. Puducherry
- B. Jammu & Kashmir
- C. Nagaland
- D. Ladakh

**Answer: B**



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## Explanation:

Govt awarded over Rs 2000 cr for completing Z Morh tunnel. The 6.5-kilometre long Z-Morh tunnel is located in Jammu and Kashmir. The tunnel is capable of allowing 1,000 vehicles an hour at a speed of 80 km per hour.

Border Road Organization (BRO) was the previous implementation agency of the project. The project was however transferred to IL&FS in 2016. APCO will now complete the balance work.

## International Relations

### Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty.

1. The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. Presently, it has 190 member states.
2. The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states (NWS) as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1964. All the other states are therefore considered non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS).
3. The Treaty does not affect the right of state parties to develop, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:

- E. 1 & 2 only
- F. 1 only
- G. 1 & 3 only
- H. 2 & 3 only

### Answer: C

### Explanation:

Iran has warned to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the European Nations refer the dispute over its atomic programme to the United Nation Security Council. Britain, France and Germany launched a process last week charging Iran with failing to observe the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal. This move could eventually see the Security Council reimpose international sanctions on the country.

Iran has accused the three EU member states of inaction over sanctions the United States reimposed on it after unilaterally withdrawing from the landmark accord in 2018.

### What is NPT?

The NPT is a multilateral treaty aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons including three elements: (1) non-proliferation, (2) disarmament, and (3) peaceful use of nuclear energy. These elements constitute a "grand bargain" between the five nuclear weapon states and the non-nuclear weapon states. The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. Presently, it has 190 member states.

Implications:

- States without nuclear weapons will not acquire them.
- States with nuclear weapons will pursue disarmament.
- All states can access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, under safeguards.





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## Key provisions:

- The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states (NWS) as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967. All the other states are therefore considered non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS).
- The five nuclear weapon states are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The Treaty does not affect the right of state parties to develop, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

## Question 2:

Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the Most Favoured Nation status?

## Options:

- A. It is the first clause in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- B. India has taken back this status from Pakistan
- C. It is a treatment accorded to a trade partner to ensure non-discriminatory trade between two countries vis-a-vis other trade partners.
- D. None of the above

## Answer: D

## Explanation:

The Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF) has released a report highlighting the impact of trade shutdown between India and Pakistan on people across borders. The report is called "Unilateral Decisions, Bilateral Losses". Following the Pulwama attacks, trade between India and Pakistan across the Wagah-Attari border and the Line of Control (LoC) Salamabad-Chakhan da Bagh routes was closed in 2019.

MFN (most favoured nation) status to Pakistan was also cancelled.

## What is Most Favoured Nation status?

- A treatment accorded to a trade partner to ensure non-discriminatory trade between two countries vis-a-vis other trade partners.
- It is the first clause in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Under WTO rules, a member country cannot discriminate between its trade partners. If a special status is granted to a trade partner, it must be extended to all members of the WTO.

## Question 3:



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Which of the following will be counted in the US as a separate ethnic group in the 2020 census for the first time?

**Options:**

- A. Parsi
- B. Jain
- C. Sikh
- D. Buddhist

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Sikhs in the US will be counted as a separate ethnic group in the 2020 census for the first time.

Over a million Sikhs are estimated to be living in the US. One of the reasons for advocating the inclusion of Sikhs as a separate ethnic group is so “that action can be taken to address Sikh issues of significance such as bullying, intimidation and hate crimes against the community.”

**How are race and ethnicity defined under the US Census?**

The US Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity as two distinct and separate concepts. It adheres to the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity. There are five broad categories under which race is categorised. These are White, Black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. This is a social definition of race recognised and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. Ethnicity determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not. For consideration under the US Census, ethnicity is broken down into two categories: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino.

**Question 4:**

The Henley passport index, which gives a global ranking of passports, rates the nations on which of the following parameters?

**Options:**

- A. according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa
- B. according to the highest visa fee
- C. according to the duration of the passport validity
- D. according to the fastest processing time for Visa



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**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The latest edition of Henley Passport Index has been released. It is a global ranking of countries according to the travel freedom for their citizens. Started in 2006 as Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index (HVRI) and was modified and renamed in January 2018.

**How are the countries ranked?**

The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information, and enhanced by the Henley & Partners Research Department. The Index lists the world's passports "according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa". The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.

**Performance of various Countries:**

Japan is at the top. It has been topping the Index for three straight years; according to the 2020 index, its citizens are able to access 191 destinations without having to obtain a visa in advance.

**Question 5:**

'HSN', recently in the news, stands for

**Options:**

- A. Harmonized System of Nomenclature
- B. Harmonized System of Numbers
- C. Heavy System of Nomenclature
- D. Harmonious System of Names

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

India not to allow imports without HSN code. This will enable India's exports to be accepted globally due to the quality of goods and services. What does the HS code mean?- Harmonised System, or simply 'HS':

It is a six-digit identification code. Of the six digits, the first two denote the HS Chapter, the next two give the HS heading, and the last two give the HS subheading.

- Developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).
- Called the "universal economic language" for goods.
- It is a multipurpose international product nomenclature.



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- The system currently comprises of around 5,000 commodity groups.

## HSN:

HS Code is also known as HSN Code in India. Goods are classified into Harmonized System of Nomenclature or HSN. It is used up to 8 digit level.

HSN classification is widely used for taxation purposes by helping to identify the rate of tax applicable to a specific product in a country that is under review. It can also be used in calculations that involve claiming benefits.

## History

### Question 1. Which among the following were the provisions of Pitt's India Act 1784?

1. The British government would exercise supreme control over the Company's affairs and its administration.
  2. It established the Board of Control to look after the affairs of India.
  3. The Board of Control was to guide and control the work of the Court of Directors and the Government of India.
  4. The Act clearly empowered the Governor-General in Bengal to subordinate the Bombay and Madras presidencies.
- Select the correct code:
- a. 1 and 3 only.
  - b. 2, 3 and 4 only.
  - c. 1, 2 and 3 only.
  - d. All the above.

Ans. d. (NCERT-XII – Bipan Chandra, pg. no. 65.)

Explanation:

- The Pitt's India Act of 1784 was named after *William Pitt the Younger Prime Minister of Britain* at that time.
- This act set up a **board of control** in Britain through which the British government could fully control the company's civil, military and revenue affairs in India.
- The company, however, continued to have the monopoly of trade and the right to appoint and dismiss its own officials.
- Thus, a system of dual government of British India by the British government and the company was set up.
- Governor-General was given the power to overrule his council on important matters. Presidencies of Bombay and Madras were brought under his authority and he was made the commander-in-chief of all the British troops in India, both of the company and of the British government.
- The principles laid down by the act of 1784 formed the base of the British administration in India.
- One of the provisions of the Pitt's India act to forbade the policy of conquest. But this provision was seldom observed. Fresh conquests were necessary to serve the



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economic interests of Britain, i.e. wider market for the finished goods coming out of factories and finding new sources for collecting raw materials.

## Question 2: What was 'investments' in the British economic policy?

- Bringing investor's money to develop means of transportation and railways in India.
- To make payment of company's office expenditure in London.
- To purchase Indian goods out of the revenue of Bengal and to export them.
- Company's servants used to carry home immense fortune extorted from Indian rulers, zamindars, merchants and the common people.

Ans. c. (NCERT XII - pg no. 72)

Explanation:

- In 1765, the Company acquired the *dewani* of Bengal and thus gained control over its revenues.
- It began to purchase Indian goods out of the revenue of Bengal and to export them. These purchases were known as '**Investments**'. Thus, through '**Investments**', Bengal's revenue was sent to England.
- The Company, even more than its servants, soon directly organized the drain. It began to purchase Indian goods out of the revenue of Bengal and to export them.
- This 'Economic Drain' was peculiar to British rule. Even the worst of previous Indian governments had spent the revenue they extracted from the people inside the country.

## Question 3. Who headed the Law Commission in 1833 formed by the British Govt. in India ?

- Lord William Bentinck.
- Lord Macaulay.
- Lord Cornwallis.
- Lord Wellesley.

**Ans. b.**

**Explanation:**

- The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the *Charter Act of 1833*. It was presided by Lord Macaulay.
- Few of the most important recommendations made by this First Law Commission were those on, Indian Penal Code (first submitted in 1837 but enacted in 1860 and still in force), Civil Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code (enacted in 1898, repealed and succeeded by the *Criminal Procedure Code of 1973*), etc. Thereafter three more Law Commissions were established which made a number of other recommendations the Indian Evidence Act (1872) and Indian Contract Act (1872), etc. being some of the significant ones.

## Question 4. In 1865 , High courts were established in India. Which among the following was not among the lists of High Courts?

- Calcutta High Court.
- Patna High Court.
- Madras High Court.



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d. Bombay High Court.

**Ans. b.**

**Explanation :**

- The Indian High Courts Act of 1861 was an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom to authorize the Crown to create High Courts in the Indian colony.
- Queen Victoria created the High Courts in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay by [Letters Patent](#) in 1862. Finally in 1865, it got established in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.
- The Act abolished the [Supreme Courts](#) at [Calcutta](#), [Madras](#), and [Bombay](#); the [Sadar Diwani Adalat](#) and the [Sadar Faujdari Adalat](#) at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.
- Patna High Court is the High Court of the state of Bihar. It was established on **3 February 1916** .

Question 5. **Cornwallis is said to be the real establisher of the British Empire in India. Which among the following was started by him in India?**

1. Civil Service.
2. Police.
3. Judiciary.

Code:

- a. 1 and 2 only.
- b. 1 only.
- c. 1 and 3 only.
- d. All the above.

Ans. a . (NCERT-pg. no. 83)

Explanation:

- Warren Hastings gave a start to judiciary in India, but the system was established by Cornwallis in 1793.
- Rest both Civil Service and Police were established by Cornwallis only in India.

## Geography

1) Consider the following statements on **Colistin**, a valuable antibiotic :-

- (i) It is a medicine for use on food producing animals.
- (ii) It is not allowed on humans in any case.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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



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**Answer d**

**Explanation :-**

**Colistin:** It is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic whose manufacture, sale and distribution for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements have been prohibited in an order issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves human lives in critical care units. Indiscriminate use of colistin has led to rise of anti-microbial resistance in the country. If the use of colistin as a growth factor in animals is cut down and it is limited to therapeutic usage only, the chances of developing resistance to it goes down.

2) What is **JATAN** :-

- (a) It is virtual Museum software.
- (b) It is a flagship programme of GOI to increase farm productivity.
- (c) It is the name for the under-development satellite of ISRO.
- (d) It is the pilot project to fight covid 19 epidemic.

**Answer a**

**Explanation :-**

**JATAN:** It is software for Digitization of Archaeological Museum. Human Centres Design and Computing Group has developed JATAN which is a virtual Museum software which is used for creating the digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are used in background for managing the National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.

3) Deep Ocean Mission, a mission of Ministry Of Earth Sciences under which Rs 8000 Crore will be spent to Boost India's Sea Exploration Capabilities. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It will work on all aspects except deep sea mining.
- (ii) A desalination plant powered by tidal energy will be a part of this.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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



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**Answer b**

**Explanation :-**

**DOM:** It stands for Deep Ocean Mission is a mission of Ministry Of Earth Sciences under which Rs 8000 Crore will be spent to Boost India's Sea Exploration Capabilities. The mission proposes to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration started by ISRO about 35 years ago. The focus of the mission will be on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics related technologies. Two key projects planned in the 'Deep Ocean Mission' report include a desalination plant powered by tidal energy and a submersible vehicle that can explore depths of at least 6,000 metres. The 'Deep Ocean Mission' plan will enable India to develop capabilities to exploit resources in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB). India has been allotted 75,000 square kilometres in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by UN International Sea Bed Authority for exploration of poly-metallic nodules. CIOB reserves contain deposits of metals like iron, manganese, nickel and cobalt.

4) **What is meant by Regulatory Sandbox :-**

- (a) It is a type of superconductor to regulate the supply of energy from one part to another within India as well as to Bhutan.
- (b) It is a mechanism to regulate the activities of Indian Navy and Coast Guards near the tourist beach areas.
- (c) It is a safe harbour, where businesses can test innovative products under relaxed regulatory conditions.
- (d) It is a pilot project of the government of India for the control over sand mining specially in the pockets of Bundelkhand and Malwa region

**Answer c**

**Explanation :-**

**Regulatory Sandbox:** It is a safe harbour, where businesses can test innovative products under relaxed regulatory conditions. It was in the news as the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will soon allow the use of regulatory sandbox (RS) to promote new, innovative products and processes in the industry. Typically, participating companies release new products in a controlled environment to a limited number of customers for a limited period of time. For the IRDAI sandbox, an applicant should have a net worth of Rs 10 lakh and a proven financial record of at least one year. Companies will be allowed to test products for up to 12 months in five categories. The "regulatory sandbox" will help fintech companies launch innovative products at a lower cost and in less time.





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5) **29th July is** celebrated as Global Tiger Day, often called International Tiger Day, which is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
- (ii) In India highest number of tigers is found in West Bengal.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

**Answer a**

**Explanation :-**

**29th July:** It was recently celebrated as Global Tiger Day, often called International Tiger Day, which is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation. It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit. The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues. On the eve Global Tiger Day, a census report of tigers in India-'The Tiger Estimation Report 2018'- was released according to which 2967 tigers are present in India. Highest numbers of tigers have found in Madhya Pradesh (526), after that Karnataka has 524 and Uttarakhand is accommodating 442 tigers.