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67. 'Wolbachia method' is sometimes talked about with reference to which one of the following?
- (a) Controlling the viral diseases spread by mosquitoes
  - (b) Converting crop residues into packing material
  - (c) Producing biodegradable plastics
  - (d) Producing biochar from thermo-chemical conversion of biomass

UPSC Prelims 2023

- 13) With reference to the 'Wolbachia method', consider the following statements:

1. It aims to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to transmit Zika, dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever to humans.
2. The method does not risk natural ecosystems or human health.
3. The Wolbachia method was introduced by the World Health Organisation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Fortune Prelims Test 08  
(2023)



**13) Answer: (a)**

- When *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes carry the natural bacteria called Wolbachia, the bacteria compete with viruses like dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever. This makes it harder for viruses to reproduce inside the mosquitoes. And such mosquitoes are much less likely to spread viruses from person to person.
- So, the World Mosquito Program breeds Wolbachia mosquitoes in partnership with local communities and releases them into areas affected by mosquito-borne diseases.
- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The World Mosquito Program's Wolbachia method helps to protect communities from mosquito-borne diseases like Zika, dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The method is natural and self-sustaining. It does not suppress mosquito populations or involve genetic modification (GM), as the genetic material of the mosquito has not been altered. It does not pose a risk to natural ecosystems or human health.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** The Wolbachia method was **introduced by the World Mosquito Program.**



84. Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002 :

Statement-I :

One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm × 400 mm.

Statement-II :

The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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- 49) Recently 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign was launched by the government, consider the following statements with reference to the flag code of India:

1. The flag can be of any size but ratio of the length to the height of the flag shall be 3:2.
2. The national flag should be made of hand spun and hand-woven khadi bunting only.

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

Fortune Prelims Test 03  
(2023)

49) Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The national flag shall be rectangular in shape. It can be of any size. The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the flag shall be 3:2.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The Flag Code of India, 2002 was amended vide Order dated December 30, 2021, and National Flag made of polyester or machine made flag have also been allowed. Now, the National Flag shall be made of hand-spun, hand-woven or machine-made **cotton/polyester/wool/silk/khadi bunting**, as per the amended flag code. The government had launched 'Har Ghar Tiranga'- a nationwide campaign to encourage people to hoist the Tricolour at their homes to mark the 75th Independence Day



43. With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were well known as

- (a) capital cities
- (b) ports
- (c) centres of iron-and-steel making
- (d) shrines of Jain Tirthankaras

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48) With reference to Sangam period, consider the following statements:

1. The ports of Muziris, Korkai and Puhar are mentioned in the Sangam literature.
2. The unarmed Dravidian martial art, Kuttu Varisai was first mentioned in the Sangam literature.
3. Untouchability was present in the Sangam period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Fortune Prelims Test 06  
(2023)

48) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The **Muziris port in the Malabar Coast** belonging to the Chera Kingdom of 1<sup>st</sup> century BC is mentioned in **Sangam literature** for its export of spices semi-precious stones, ivory, Chinese silk, Gangetic spikenard and tortoise shells to Persia, Rome, Greece and Egypt.
- The **Korkai port** of early Pandyan Kingdom in Tamil Nadu is mentioned in **Sangam literature** as a famous centre of pearl fishery.
- **Silapadikaram** mentions **Puhar or Kaveri Poompattinam port** of the early Chola dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** **First mentioned in Sangam literature, Kuttu Varisai**, an unarmed Dravidian martial art, is mainly practiced in Tamil Nadu. Grappling, striking and locking are the major techniques used. Animal based sets such snake, eagle, tiger, elephant and monkey are also used. It is considered as an **unarmed component of Silambam**.



34. In India, which one of the following Constitutional Amendments was widely believed to be enacted to overcome the judicial interpretations of the Fundamental Rights?
- (a) 1st Amendment
  - (b) 42nd Amendment
  - (c) 44th Amendment
  - (d) 86th Amendment

67) Arrange the following events in the correct chronological sequence of their occurrence:

1. Goa became a part of independent India.
2. Supreme Court judgement in the Kesavananda Bharati Case.
3. Enactment of the 52nd Amendment Act of the Constitution.
4. Addition of Ninth Schedule to the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 4 - 1 - 2 - 3
- (b) 3 - 2 - 1 - 4
- (c) 4 - 2 - 1 - 3
- (d) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Prelims Test 06  
(2023)

67) Answer: (a)

- **Option (a) is CORRECT.**
- **Ninth Schedule** was added by the **1st Amendment Act (1951)** to protect the laws included in it from judicial scrutiny on the ground of violation of Fundamental Rights.
- **India acquired the territories of Goa, Daman and Diu from the Portuguese** by means of a police action **in 1961**. They were constituted as a Union Territory by the 12<sup>th</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1962.
- **The Kesavananda Bharati judgement** was a landmark decision of the Supreme Court of India that outlined the 'basic structure' doctrine of the Indian Constitution. The judgement was delivered in **1973**.
- **52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 1985** (popularly known as **Anti-Defection Law**) provided for the disqualification of the members of the Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection.

61. Consider the following countries :

1. Bulgaria
2. Czech Republic
3. Hungary
4. Latvia
5. Lithuania
6. Romania

How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) Only five

UPSC Prelims 2023

92) Consider the following countries:

1. Belarus
2. Turkey
3. Poland
4. Slovakia
5. Bulgaria

Which of the above countries have borders with Ukraine?

- (a) 1, 3 and 5
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 2, 3 and 5
- (d) 3, 4 and 5

Fortune Prelims Test 02  
(2023)

92) Answer: (b)

- Option (b) is CORRECT. Ukraine is bordered by **Belarus** to the north, **Russia** to the east, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea to the south, **Moldova** and **Romania** to the southwest, and **Hungary**, **Slovakia**, and **Poland** to the west.

Source: Atlas





64. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The temperature contrast between continents and oceans is greater during summer than in winter.

Statement-II :

The specific heat of water is more than that of land surface.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

23) The temperature variation over sea is less compared to that over land. Which among the following could be the possible reason for this?

- (a) Higher rate of evaporation over sea than land.
- (b) Less cloud cover over land.
- (c) Specific heat of land is less than that of water.
- (d) Sea heats up and cools down quickly.

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Prelims Test 02  
(2023)

23) Answer: (c)

- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** Compared to land, the sea gets heated slowly and loses heat slowly i.e., **the specific heat of water is greater than that of land, therefore water both absorbs and releases heat more slowly than land.** Therefore, the variation in temperature over the sea is less compared to land.

**Source:** Class XI NCERT - Fundamentals of Physical Geography - Chapter 9



29. Consider the following :

1. Demographic performance
2. Forest and ecology
3. Governance reforms
4. Stable government
5. Tax and fiscal efforts

For the horizontal tax devolution, the Fifteenth Finance Commission used how many of the above as criteria other than population area and income distance?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

UPSC Prelims 2023

10) Arrange the following criteria used by the 15th Finance Commission for tax devolution, in the decreasing order of their weightage:

1. Income Distance
2. Area
3. Tax and Fiscal Efforts
4. Demographic Performance

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 > 2 > 3 > 4
- (b) 1 > 2 > 4 > 3
- (c) 2 > 1 > 4 > 3
- (d) 2 > 4 > 1 > 3

Fortune Prelims Test 05  
(2023)

10) Answer: (b)

- Six criteria were used by the 15th Finance Commission for 2021-26 to calculate the tax distribution - Income Distance, Area, Population (2011), Demographic Performance, Forest and Ecology, and Tax and Fiscal Efforts.
- The criteria used by the Commission to determine each state's share in central taxes, and the weight assigned to each criterion are as follows:





24. Which one of the following activities of the Reserve Bank of India is considered to be part of 'sterilization'?

- (a) Conducting 'Open Market Operations'
- (b) Oversight of settlement and payment systems
- (c) Debt and cash management for the Central and State Governments
- (d) Regulating the functions of Non-banking Financial Institutions

47) With reference to 'Sterilization' by RBI, consider the following statements:

1. Sterilisation is a monetary action used by central banks in order to stem the negative effects emerging from capital inflows or outflows from a country's economy.
2. Sterilisation can be achieved through a host of methods such as restrictions that may increase cash reserve ratio (CRR) of commercial banks, or a ceiling on the total credit extended.

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

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Fortune Open Mock Test  
(2023)

47) Solution: (c)

- Both the statements are CORRECT.
- Sterilisation is a monetary action used by central banks in order to stem the negative effects emerging from capital inflows or outflows from a country's economy.
- Sterilisation can be achieved through a host of methods such as restrictions that may increase cash reserve ratio (CRR) of commercial banks, or a ceiling on the total credit extended.
- This most frequently involves the purchase or sale of financial assets by a central bank and is designed to offset the effect of foreign exchange intervention. The sterilization process is used to manipulate the value of one domestic currency relative to another and is initiated in the foreign exchange market.

Source: [Sterilization Definition \(investopedia.com\)](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/sterilization-definition/)



80. Consider the following statements in respect of election to the President of India :

1. The members nominated to either House of the Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies of States are also eligible to be included in the Electoral College.
2. Higher the number of elective Assembly seats, higher is the value of vote of each MLA of that State.
3. The value of vote of each MLA of Madhya Pradesh is greater than that of Kerala.
4. The value of vote of each MLA of Puducherry is higher than that of Arunachal Pradesh because the ratio of total population to total number of elective seats in Puducherry is greater as compared to Arunachal Pradesh.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two  
(c) Only three  
(d) All four

27) With reference to the election of the President of India, consider the following statements:

**Statement 1:**

The value of the vote of the members of the Lok Sabha is more than the value of the vote of the members of the Rajya Sabha.

**Statement 2:**

The value of the vote of each MLA varies from state to state.

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

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation for Statement 1.  
(b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation for Statement 1.  
(c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct.  
(d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct.

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(2023)

**27) Answer: (d)**

- The President is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of:
  - the elected members of both the Houses of the Parliament;
  - the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
  - the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.
- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT and Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Every elected member of the legislative assembly of a state shall have as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by the total number of the elected members of the assembly. **As the vote value of an MLA depends on the population of the state from which he/she is elected, value of the vote of MLAs varies from state to state.** For example, in Uttar Pradesh, the value of the vote of each MLA is 208; 176 in Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu; and 175 in Maharashtra.
- Every elected member of either House of the Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to members of the legislative assemblies of the states by the total number of the elected members of both the Houses of the Parliament. Hence, **the values of the vote of the members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are the same.**
- The value of the vote of an MP in the 2022 Presidential Election was **700**.



32. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

In India, prisons are managed by State Governments with their own rules and regulations for the day-to-day administration of prisons.

Statement-II :

In India, prisons are governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 which expressly kept the subject of prisons in the control of Provincial Governments.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

64) Consider the following statements:

1. Prisons is a Concurrent List subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
2. Administration and management of prisons is governed by Prisons Act, 1894 and prison manuals of state governments.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs provides regular guidance and advice to states and UTs on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above

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Fortune Comprehensive  
Test 05 (2023)

64. Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** 'Prisons' is a "State List" subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, removal of prisoners from one State to another State is a part of the Concurrent List.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of state Governments. **It is governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 and prison manuals of respective state governments.**

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- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The Ministry of Home Affairs provides regular guidance and advice to states and UTs on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.



37. With reference to Finance Bill and Money Bill in the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements :

1. When the Lok Sabha transmits Finance Bill to the Rajya Sabha, it can amend or reject the Bill.
2. When the Lok Sabha transmits Money Bill to the Rajya Sabha, it cannot amend or reject the Bill, it can only make recommendations.
3. In the case of disagreement between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, there is no joint sitting for Money Bill, but a joint sitting becomes necessary for Finance Bill.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

69) With reference to money bills introduced in Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. It can be issued only in Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha.
2. It can be introduced only by a minister and not by a private member.
3. It can be introduced only on recommendation of the President of India.
4. It can be detained by Rajya Sabha for a maximum period of one month only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Fortune Comprehensive  
Test 01 (2023)

69) Answer: (b)

- **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are CORRECT:** Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills. The Constitution lays down a special procedure for the passing of money bills in the Parliament. **A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha only and that too on the recommendation of the President.** Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and **can be introduced only by a minister.**
- **Statement 4 is INCORRECT:** After a money bill is passed by the Lok Sabha, it is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its consideration. The Rajya Sabha has restricted powers with regard to a money bill. It cannot reject or amend a money bill. It can only make the recommendations. **It must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, whether with or without recommendations.** The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.

**Source:** Chapter 22, 'Parliament', Indian Polity by M. Laxmikant 6th edition



42. With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements :

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics.
3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

5) With reference to the Buddhism, consider the following statements:

1. Stupas are large hemispherical domes that house relics of Buddha or some Buddhist monk.
2. The Piprahwas relics, excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India are accepted as real relics.
3. Piprahwa relics are the only documented authentic relics of Buddha in Sri Lanka.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

47) Consider the following statements:

1. Stupas are a part of Vedic traditions.
2. Sanchi stupa in Madhya Pradesh is the oldest stupa in India.

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

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Fortune Comprehensive  
Test 01 & Test 04 (2023)  
Respectively

5) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Large hemispherical domes with a central chamber containing relics of Buddha or some Buddhist monk in a small casket are called **Stupas**. Stupa was one of the important features of post Mauryan art and architecture.

47. Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Although popularised by the Buddhists, **the burial mounds known as stupas were a Vedic tradition, prevalent in India from the Vedic period.** It is a conventional representation of a funeral cumulus in which relics and ashes of the dead were kept.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** **Piprahwa stupa in Uttar Pradesh is the oldest stupa.** Sanchi Stupa in Madhya Pradesh is the most famous of the Ashokan stupas.



22. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

In the post-pandemic recent past, many Central Banks worldwide had carried out interest rate hikes.

Statement-II :

Central Banks generally assume that they have the ability to counteract the rising consumer prices via monetary policy means.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

19) Which among the following are the consequences of synchronized monetary tightening by world economies?

- 1. Weakening of the US dollar.
- 2. Equity outflows to the US.
- 3. Rise in bond yields.
- 4. Rise in global output.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Fortune Excellence  
Test 04 (2023)

19) Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT and Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Led by the US Federal Reserve, central banks have been hiking policy rates and rolling back liquidity to rein in inflation synchronously. **The rate hike by the US Fed drove capital into the US markets.** The capital flight subsequently led to the **strengthening of the US Dollar** against other currencies.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Inflation and monetary tightening led to a **hardening of bond yields** across economies and resulted in an **outflow of equity capitals** from most of the economies around the world into safe havens like the US.
- **Statement 4 is INCORRECT.** Rising inflation and monetary tightening led to a **slowdown in global output** beginning in the second half of 2022.

Source: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey/doc/eschapter/echap01.pdf>



57. Which one of the following countries has its own Satellite Navigation System?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Canada
- (c) Israel
- (d) Japan

56) Consider the following statements:

1. GAGAN is an Indian Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) jointly developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
2. GAGAN works just like the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), but within a 1,500-km radius over the sub-continent.

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

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Fortune Prelims Test 06  
(2023)

56) Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT. GAGAN is an Indian Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) jointly developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and ISRO.** It is the first such system developed for India and neighboring countries in the equatorial region. The main objectives of GAGAN are to provide Satellite-based Navigation Services with the accuracy and integrity required for civil aviation applications and to provide better air traffic management over Indian airspace.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT. There are only four Satellite based Augmentation Systems available in the world - India (GAGAN), US (WAAS), Europe (EGNOS) and Japan (MSAS).** GAGAN is the first such system developed for India and neighboring countries in the equatorial region.
- **India's equivalent of the Global Positioning System (GPS) is NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), or the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).** It is a constellation of seven satellites that is akin to the American GPS, the European Galileo and the Russian GLONASS, and can be used to track location. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region **extending up to 1500 km from its boundary**, which is its primary service area.



65. Consider the following statements :

1. In a seismograph, P waves are recorded earlier than S waves.
2. In P waves, the individual particles vibrate to and fro in the direction of wave propagation whereas in S waves, the particles vibrate up and down at right angles to the direction of wave propagation.

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

20) With reference to earthquake waves, consider the following statements:

1. P-waves are similar to sound waves and can travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials, whereas S-waves can travel only through solid materials.
2. The S-waves are the last to get detected on the seismograph and they cause displacement of rocks and collapse of structures.
3. Reflection causes waves to rebound whereas refraction makes waves move in different directions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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Fortune Prelims Test 02  
(2023)

20) Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** There are two types of body waves. They are called P and S-waves.
  - **P-waves move faster** and are the first to arrive at the surface. These are also called 'primary waves'. The **P-waves are similar to sound waves. They travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials.**

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- **S-waves arrive at the surface with some time lag.** These are called secondary waves. An important fact about **S-waves** is that they **can travel only through solid materials**. This characteristic of the S-wave has helped scientists to understand the structure of the interior of the earth.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The **surface waves are the last to detect** on the seismograph. These waves are more destructive. **They cause displacement of rocks, and hence, the collapse of structures occurs.**
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** **Reflection causes waves to rebound whereas refraction makes waves move in different directions.** The variations in the direction of waves are inferred with the help of their record on the seismograph.

**Source:** Class XI NCERT - Fundamentals of Physical Geography - Chapter 3



78. Which one of the following countries has been suffering from decades of civil strife and food shortages and was in news in the recent past for its very severe famine?

- (a) Angola
- (b) Costa Rica
- (c) Ecuador
- (d) Somalia

95) According to a report released by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 2022, which one of the following regions in the world has entered the fifth consecutive failed rainy season?

- (a) Mediterranean Region
- (b) Sub-Saharan Africa
- (c) Central America
- (d) Greater Horn of Africa

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Prelims Test 10  
(2023)

95) Answer: (d)

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** According to a recent report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in 2022, the Greater Horn of Africa has experienced a fifth consecutive failed rainy season. This is expected to deepen the drought crisis faced by millions of people in the region. The cumulative rainfall in the drought affected regions of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia is predicted to be severely below the average.





15. Which of the following organisms perform waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food?

- (a) Butterflies
- (b) Dragonflies
- (c) Honeybees
- (d) Wasps

UPSC Prelims 2023

42) 'Apis karinjodian', 'Apis cerana', and 'Apis indica' are species of:

- (a) Crabs
- (b) Frogs
- (c) Honeybees
- (d) Moths

Fortune Prelims Test 10  
(2023)

42) Answer: (c)

- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** Recently, a new species of endemic **honeybees** was discovered in the Western Ghats. The new species has been named **Apis karinjodian** (Common Name: **Indian Black Honeybee**). The distribution of *Apis karinjodian* ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu. The new species is **endemic to the Western Ghats**. They are cavity nesting honey bees - that are grown by apiculturists for commercial purposes.
- With this discovery, the tally of native cavity nesting honey bee species goes up to three in India, the rest being wild and hard to tame. They are **Apis indica, Apis cerana, and Apis karinjodian**, the last being visibly dark in appearance.



66. With reference to coal-based thermal power plants in India, consider the following statements :

1. None of them uses seawater.
2. None of them is set up in water-stressed district.
3. None of them is privately owned.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

9) Which of the following are the benefits of 'biomass co-firing' in thermal power plants?

1. Reduction in coal dependence.
2. Reduction in air pollution.
3. Recharge of ground water.
4. Preservation of soil culture.
5. Income generation for farmers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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9) Answer: (c)

- **Biomass co-firing** is a low-cost method for efficiently and cleanly converting biomass to electricity by adding biomass as a partial substitute fuel in high-efficiency coal boilers.
- Biomass co-firing has been shown to reduce the carbon footprint of coal power plants in Europe, U.S. and U.K., according to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). One of the objectives of the National Mission on the use of Biomass in Thermal Power Plants (**SAMARTH Mission**), launched by the Ministry of Power in India, is to increase the level of co-firing of biomass waste in thermal power plants.
- Biomass co-firing in Thermal Power Stations (TPS) has several benefits:
  - Reduction in the amount of coal used for power generation, thus reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This would also reduce the sector's dependence on coal. Hence, **Option 1 is CORRECT.**
  - Reduction in stubble burning and the resulting reduction in the release of pollutants will lead to a reduction in the air pollution. Hence, **Option 2 is CORRECT.**
  - There is **no direct impact on the recharge of groundwater** from bio mass co-firing. Hence, **Option 3 is INCORRECT.**
  - Biomass from stubble, which is often burned by farmers in open fields. This destroys essential nutrients and microorganisms in the soil. Biomass co-firing eliminates this problem and preserves soil quality as well as soil culture. Hence, **Option 4 is CORRECT.**
  - Farmers are generating additional income by selling the stubble/biomass for conversion into torrefied/non-torrefied biomass pellets. In addition, manufacturing, storage, handling and transportation of pellets generate income for farmers and create job opportunities. Hence, **Option 5 is CORRECT.**



3. Consider the following trees :

1. Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*)
2. Mahua (*Madhuca indica*)
3. Teak (*Tectona grandis*)

How many of the above are deciduous trees?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

29) Consider the following statements regarding the types of forests found in India:

1. The tropical evergreen forests, also known as monsoon forests, receive over 200 cm of rainfall.
2. Rosewood, teak, sal, and sandalwood are the main species found in the tropical deciduous forests.
3. Tropical thorn forests occur in the areas which receive less than 50 cm of rainfall.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 3 only

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29) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** The tropical evergreen forests are found in the western slopes of the Western Ghats, hills of the north-eastern region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are found in warm and humid areas with an annual precipitation of over 200 cm and mean annual temperature above 22°C.
- **Tropical deciduous forests** are the most widespread forests in India. They are also called the **monsoon forests**. They are spread over regions which receive **rainfall between 70-200 cm**.
- **Tropical deciduous forests** are classified into two types:
  - **Moist deciduous forests** - They are found in the north-eastern states along the foothills of the Himalayas, eastern slopes of the Western Ghats and Odisha. **Teak, Sal, Shisham, Hurra, Mahua, Amla, Semul, Kusum, and Sandalwood** etc. are the main species of these forests.
  - **Dry deciduous forests** - These forests are found in the higher rainfall regions of the Peninsular Plateau and the Northern Indian Plain. **Tendu, Palas, Amaltas, Bel, Khair, Axle wood, etc.** are the common trees of these forests.
  - **Rosewood, mahogany, etc. are found in tropical evergreen and semi evergreen forests. Hence, statement 2 is INCORRECT.**

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- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Tropical thorn forests occur in the areas which receive rainfall less than 50 cm. These consist of a variety of grasses and shrubs. It includes semi-arid areas of south-west Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.



62. With reference to the Earth's atmosphere, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The total amount of insolation received at the equator is roughly about 10 times of that received at the poles.
- (b) Infrared rays constitute roughly two-thirds of insolation.
- (c) Infrared waves are largely absorbed by water vapour that is concentrated in the lower atmosphere.
- (d) Infrared waves are a part of visible spectrum of electromagnetic waves of solar radiation.

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19) With reference to water vapour in the atmosphere, consider the following statements:

1. It is a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude.
2. It is transparent to the incoming solar radiation.
3. It acts like a blanket, allowing the Earth neither to become too cold nor too hot.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

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19) Answer: (c)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Water vapour is a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude. In the warm and wet tropics, it may account for four per cent of the air by volume, while in the dry and cold areas of desert and polar regions, it may constitute less than one per cent of the air. Water vapour also decreases from the Equator towards the Poles.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** It absorbs part of the insolation from the Sun and preserves the Earth's radiated heat.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** It acts like a blanket, allowing the Earth neither to become too cold nor too hot.



93. Consider the following pairs :

<i>Regions often mentioned in news</i>	<i>Reason for being in news</i>
1. North Kivu and Ituri	: War between Armenia and Azerbaijan
2. Nagorno-Karabakh	: Insurgency in Mozambique
3. Kherson and Zaporizhzhia	: Dispute between Israel and Lebanon

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

59) Which of the following pairs of countries is involved in a dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region?

- (a) Russia and Ukraine
- (b) Iraq and Syria
- (c) Afghanistan and Pakistan
- (d) Azerbaijan and Armenia

77) Which among the following pairs is **not** correctly matched?

<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>
(a) Sevastopol	Crimean Peninsula
(b) Sharm El-Sheikh	Egypt
(c) Kherson	Ukraine
(d) Bakhmut	Russia

35) Consider the following pairs:

<b>Event in News</b>	<b>Associated Nation(s)</b>
1. Closure of Nord Stream 2 Pipeline	- Germany and China
2. Attack on prison in Hasakah	- Syria
3. Tussle over Falkland Islands	- Britain and Argentina
4. Seizure of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant	- Belarus

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Test 02, Prelims Test 17 &  
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Respectively

59) Answer: (d)

- The breakaway region of **Nagorno-Karabakh in the South Caucasus has been at the center of three wars and multiple clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia.**

77) Answer: (d)

- **Option (c) is CORRECTLY matched. Kherson is a port city of Ukraine** that serves as the administrative center of Kherson Oblast. In November, the city of Kherson was liberated by Ukrainian troops. The loss of the city was a major setback for Russia.

35) Answer: (a)

- **Pair 4 is INCORRECTLY matched. Zaporizhzhia is the largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine.** The plant has come under **attack by Russia.**



31. In essence, what does 'Due Process of Law' mean?

- (a) The principle of natural justice
- (b) The procedure established by law
- (c) Fair application of law
- (d) Equality before law

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83) With reference to the difference between the Indian and United States' Federal Courts, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Supreme Court has the power of judicial superintendence and control over state high courts due to the integrated nature of the judicial system whereas the American Supreme Court has no such power.
2. The scope of 'judicial review' for the Indian Supreme Court is limited whereas the American Supreme Court has very wide power for 'judicial review'.
3. The Indian Supreme Court has advisory jurisdiction whereas the American Supreme Court has no advisory jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Fortune Prelims Test 16  
(2023)

83) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The Constitution of India provides for a single integrated judicial system. This means that unlike some other federal countries of the world, India does not have 'separate' state courts. The structure of the judiciary in India is pyramidal with the Supreme Court at the top, high courts below them and district and subordinate courts at the lowest level. The lower courts function under the direct superintendence of the higher courts. American Supreme Court has no such power due to double (or separated) judicial system.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The scope of 'judicial review' for the Indian Supreme Court is limited whereas the American Supreme Court has very wide power for 'judicial review'. Indian Supreme Court defends rights of the citizen according to the 'procedure established by law', whereas its American counterpart defends rights of the citizen according to the 'due process of law'. The Supreme Court of America exercises the power of judicial review, whereby it can declare acts of the Congress or the state legislatures unconstitutional. Executive, administrative, and judicial actions also are subject to review by the American SC.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The Indian Supreme Court has advisory jurisdiction over matters that are specifically referred to it by the President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution. Whereas the American Supreme Court has no such power.

**Source:** Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth



82. Consider the following pairs :

Site	Well known for
1. Besnagar	: Shaivite cave shrine
2. Bhaja	: Buddhist cave shrine
3. Sittanavasal	: Jain cave shrine

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

73) This cave in Tamil Nadu was a major centre of Jain influence for 1,000 years just before the Christian era. This is also the only place in Tamil Nadu where one can see Pandya paintings.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the description?

- (a) Mandagapattu
- (b) Sittanavasal
- (c) Arittapatti
- (d) Thiruchirapalli

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**73) Answer: (b)**

- Sittanavasal is the name used synonymously for the hamlet and the hillock that houses the Arivar Kovil (temple of Arihats - Jains who conquered their senses), 'Ezhadipattam' (a cavern with 17 polished rock beds), megalithic burial sites and the Navachunai tarn (small mountain lake) with a submerged shrine. A small village in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu was a major centre of Jain influence for 1,000 years just before the Christian era. This is the only place in Tamil Nadu where one can see Pandya paintings.





59. Consider the following statements regarding mercury pollution :

1. Gold mining activity is a source of mercury pollution in the world.
2. Coal-based thermal power plants cause mercury pollution.
3. There is no known safe level of exposure to mercury.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two  
(c) All three  
(d) None

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31) Consider the following statements:

1. Burning coal for power and heat is a major source of mercury emissions.
2. Certain cosmetic and pharmaceutical products contain inorganic mercury in significant amounts.

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

Fortune Prelims Test 07  
(2023)

31) Answer: (c)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Burning coal for power and heat is a major source of mercury emissions. Coal contains mercury as well as other hazardous air pollutants that are emitted when the coal is burned in coal-fired power plants, industrial boilers and household stoves.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Mercury is contained in many products, including batteries, measuring devices such as thermometers and barometers, electric switches and relays in equipment's, lamps (including some types of light bulbs), dental amalgam (for dental fillings), skin-lightening products and other cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, etc.
- Inorganic mercury is added to some skin-lightening products in significant amounts. Many countries have banned mercury-containing skin-lightening products because they are hazardous to human health.



14. Consider the following fauna :

1. Lion-tailed Macaque
2. Malabar Civet
3. Sambar Deer

How many of the above are generally nocturnal or most active after sunset?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

87) Which of the following animals are included in the Species Recovery Programme of the Union Environment Ministry?

1. Asiatic Elephant
2. Nilgiri Tahr
3. Snow Leopard
4. Bengal Tiger
5. Gangetic River Dolphin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

72) In India, which one of these animals is naturally found only in one of the states?

- (a) Lion-tailed macaque
- (b) Greater one-horned rhino
- (c) Asiatic wild dog
- (d) Asiatic lion

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87) Answer: (b)

- So far, **22 species** have been identified under the Species Recovery Programme. These are the **Snow Leopard**, Bustards (including Floricans), **Gangetic River Dolphin**, Hangul, **Nilgiri Tahr**, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer, Jerdon's Courser, the Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, Red Panda and Caracal.
- **Tigers and Elephants are not included in the programme as they have separate schemes.** (Project Elephant and Project Tiger.)

72) Answer: (d)

- **Option (d) is CORRECT. Asiatic lions** are found in the Gir National Park in Gujarat. For the last 130 years, this lion subspecies has been **found only in Gujarat.**
- The **Lion-tailed macaques** are found only in the rainforests of India's Western Ghats. According to the IUCN, there are 2400 - 2500 macaques across **Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.**



46. With reference to ancient Indian History, consider the following pairs :

Literary work	Author
1. <i>Devichandragupta</i>	: Bilhana
2. <i>Hammira-Mahakavya</i>	: Nayachandra Suri
3. <i>Milinda-panha</i>	: Nagarjuna
4. <i>Nitivakyamrita</i>	: Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

7) With reference to the history of ancient India, Ashvaghosha, Vasumitra and Nagarjuna were proponents of Buddhism who belonged to the court of:

- (a) Kanishka
- (b) Rudradaman I
- (c) Gautamiputra Satakarni
- (d) Ashoka

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7) Answer: (a)

- Option (a) is CORRECT. Kanishka, the Kushana ruler patronised great scholars and eminent personalities of that era.
- Ashvaghosha was a Buddhist scholar who wrote the hagiographic *Buddhacharita* (the sacred biography of the Buddha) and composed the *Saundarananda* (a Sanskrit kavya).
- Vasumitra was an eminent philosopher who authored the encyclopaedia of Buddhist philosophy called *Mahavibhasa*.
- Nagarjuna is often termed an Indian Einstein who proposed the Theory of Relativity in his time in the form of a *Sutra*, the *Prajnaparamita Sutra*. He was also a great exponent of the Mahayana doctrine and propounded the *Madhyamaka* (also known as *Sunyavada* School) which focuses on sunyata or emptiness.



18. Consider the following statements :

1. Some microorganisms can grow in environments with temperature above the boiling point of water.
2. Some microorganisms can grow in environments with temperature below the freezing point of water.
3. Some microorganisms can grow in highly acidic environment with a pH below 3.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

8) Consider the following statements:

1. Kharif crops are more likely to be affected by pest attacks due to climate change compared with Rabi crops.
2. Increasing cold waves in northern India have worsened the destruction of crops by pests.

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

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8) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** Rabi crops are more likely to get affected by pest attacks due to climate change compared with Kharif crops, said V K Singh, director at ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA).
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** Warming temperatures have worsened the destruction of crops by pests brought out by climate change. Higher temperatures from global warming, mainly due to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>, will mean that

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**more numbers of pests will survive the winter season.** Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> will help in easier over-wintering of pathogens while higher temperatures will favour thermophilic fungi. Higher temperatures will lead to a poleward spread of many pests and diseases in both hemispheres. This will lead to more attacks over longer periods in the temperate climatic zone.



83. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day.

Statement-II :

It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

52) Consider the following pairs

Place	Leader who spread the Swadeshi Movement
1. Bombay	Sayed Haider Raza
2. Delhi	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
3. Punjab	Ajit Singh
4. Madras	Chidambaram Pillai

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

- (a) Only 1 pair
- (b) Only 2 pairs
- (c) Only 3 pairs
- (d) All four pairs

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52) Answer: (b)

- **Pair 1 is INCORRECTLY matched.** On 7<sup>th</sup> August 1905, the Swadeshi movement was formally announced in the Calcutta Townhall. Though the Swadeshi movement was restricted in its spread outside Bengal compared to other national movements, it was spread to an extent by various prominent leaders. In **Poona and Bombay**, it was led by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**.
- **Pair 2 is INCORRECTLY matched.** In **Delhi**, the movement was led by **Syed Haider Raza**.
- **Pair 3 is CORRECTLY matched.** The Swadeshi Movement was led by Bhagat Singh's uncle and freedom fighter, **Ajit Singh, and Lala Lajpat Rai** in **Punjab**.
- **Pair 4 is CORRECTLY matched.** **Chidambaram Pillai** was responsible for the spread of Swadeshi Movement in **Madras**.



47. "Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects."

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Shaivism
- (d) Vaishnavism

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2. Consider the following statements about Jainism:

1. The most important idea in Jainism is that the entire world is animated.
2. According to Jaina teachings, the cycle of birth and rebirth is shaped through karma.
3. Jaina scholars produced a wealth of literature in a variety of languages including Sanskrit and Tamil.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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1. Consider the following statements :

1. Jhelum River passes through Wular Lake.
2. Krishna River directly feeds Kolleru Lake.
3. Meandering of Gandak River formed Kanwar Lake.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two  
(c) All three  
(d) None

53) With reference to Kolleru Lake, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated between the Krishna and Godavari River deltas and lies at an elevation of about 3 meters above sea level.
2. The lake is fed by several small streams, including the Arkavati and Hemavati Rivers.
3. It drains into the Bay of Bengal through the Upputeru River.

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

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 3 only  
(d) 1 and 3 only

39. Consider the following statements:

1. Kaladan River acts as an international boundary between India and Myanmar.
2. Gandak River flows from Nepal to India.
3. Manas River is a transboundary river between Bhutan and India.
4. Barak River flows from India to Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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39) Answer: (d)

- **Context:** During the inaugural address of Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI) Asian Confluence River Conclave 2022, the External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, said that, the North-Eastern neighbours, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar, along with Japan, are the most trusted global partners of India.
- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Kaladan River, also known as Chhimituipi Lui in the local language, is the biggest river in Mizoram. It connects the Arakan and Chin states, flowing for about 250 kilometres in length (220 miles) from Mizoram until the fertile plains of the Arakan state of Myanmar. It also forms an international border between India and Myanmar.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Gandak River is also called the Narayani River. It is formed by the union of the Kali and Trisuli Rivers, which rises in the Great Himalayan Range in Nepal and flows into India.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The Manas River is a transboundary river in the Himalayan foothills between southern Bhutan and India. It is the largest river system in Bhutan.
- **Statement 4 is CORRECT.** The Barak River originates from the Manipur Hills, from Liyai village in the Senapati district in Manipur. It then flows through Assam and further down to Bangladesh, where it is known as the Surma, the Kushiya and the Meghna.

53) Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Kolleru Lake is located in Andhra Pradesh, on the east coast of India. It is situated between the Krishna and Godavari river deltas and lies at an elevation of about 3 meters above sea level. The lake has a maximum length of about 35 kilometers and a maximum width of about 25 km, with a surface area of approximately 245 square km.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The lake is fed by several small streams, including the Budameru and Tammleru Rivers, and it drains into the Bay of Bengal through the Upputeru River.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The Kolleru Lake is connected to the sea through Upputeru with two channels, an old original mouth, and a new artificial mouth. Arkavati and Hemavathy are the tributaries of the Cauvery River.



27. Consider the following statements :

1. The Government of India provides Minimum Support Price for niger (*Guizotia abyssinica*) seeds.
2. Niger is cultivated as a Kharif crop.
3. Some tribal people in India use niger seed oil for cooking.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

3) Which among the following crops are covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime?

1. Niger seed
2. Groundnut
3. Cardamom
4. Cashew
5. Sesamum

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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3) Answer: (a)

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The MSPs are **announced by the Government of India** at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops **on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**. CACP submits its recommendations to the government in the form of Price Policy Reports, every year.
- As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of **23** commodities, which comprise 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), 7 oilseeds (**groundnut**, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, **seasmum**, sunflower, safflower, **nigerseed**), and 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute) Government announces MSPs for 22 mandated crops and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane.





45. Consider the following dynasties :

1. Hoysala
2. Gahadavala
3. Kakatiya
4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in early eighth century AD?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) None

1) Consider the following statements:

1. The dynasties of Pandya and Yadavas were contemporaries.
2. Owing to continuous fighting among each other, they refrained from providing patronage to art and architecture.
3. The dynasties came to an end by the early fourteenth century.

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

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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1) **Answer. (b)**

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** By the early thirteenth century, Pandyas and Hoysalas had replaced the Cholas in the south while the Yadavas and Kakatiyas took over the later Chalukyas. Thus, the Pandyas, Yadavas, Hoysalas and Kakatiyas were contemporary dynasties.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The state under Pandyas, Hoysalas, Kakatiyas and Yadavas extended patronage to arts and architecture. However, the continuous fighting among the kingdoms led to sacking of towns and destruction of architecture including temples.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** All the four dynasties who were in their weakened states were destroyed by the Delhi Sultanate in the early fourteenth century.

**Source:** The Chola Empire, NCERT Medieval India by Satish Chandra



20. Consider the following :

1. Aerosols
2. Foam agents
3. Fire retardants
4. Lubricants

In the making of how many of the above are hydrofluorocarbons used?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

79) Which of the following are categorized as ozone depleting substances?

1. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
2. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
3. Halons
4. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs),
5. Methyl bromide
6. Methyl chloroform

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only

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Fortune Prelims Test 12  
(2023)

79) Answer: (c)

- **Options 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are CORRECT.** Ozone depleting substances include:
  - Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
  - Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
  - Hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs)
  - Halons
  - Methyl bromide
  - Carbon tetrachloride
  - Methyl chloroform
- They have been used as refrigerants in commercial, home and vehicle air conditioners and refrigerators, foam blowing agents, components in electrical equipment, industrial solvents, solvents for cleaning (including dry cleaning), aerosol spray propellants, fumigants, etc.
- **Option 2 is INCORRECT.** Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are being used since the early 1990s as an alternative to CFCs and HCFCs. HFCs do not contribute to ozone depletion, but they are potent greenhouse gases.



60. With reference to green hydrogen, consider the following statements :

1. It can be used directly as a fuel for internal combustion.
2. It can be blended with natural gas and used as fuel for heat or power generation.
3. It can be used in the hydrogen fuel cell to run vehicles.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

UPSC Prelims 2023

76) With reference to Green Hydrogen, consider the following statements:

1. The more renewable energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the greener the hydrogen produced.
2. Hydrogen can potentially replace the coal and coke in iron and steel production.
3. Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles run on hydrogen fuel and have no harmful emissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Fortune Current Affairs  
Test 05 (2023)

76. Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power, rather than through fossil fuels. The carbon intensity ultimately depends on the carbon neutrality of the source of electricity i.e., the more renewable energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the "greener" the hydrogen produced.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Steel manufacturing is one of the largest carbon emitters in the world. Decarbonising this sector using hydrogen is expected to have significant impact on our climate goals. The **green steel method uses hydrogen to reduce the iron pellets into sponge iron, metallic iron that can then be processed to form steel.** This process is also done at high temperature but below the melting point of iron (800 – 1,200 °C), saving energy costs. Thus, in industry, hydrogen can potentially replace the coal and coke in iron and steel production.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) are powered by hydrogen. They are more efficient than conventional internal combustion engine vehicles and **produce no 'tailpipe' emissions** - they only emit water vapor and warm air.



98. In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught the international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them?

- (a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements
- (b) Establishment of Chinese military bases
- (c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert
- (d) Successful coups

UPSC Prelims 2023

56) 'Darfur' region often mentioned in the news is in which country?

- (a) Ethiopia
- (b) Yemen
- (c) Sudan
- (d) Ukraine

Fortune Excellence  
Test 04 (2023)

56) Answer: (c)

- **Darfur is a region in Sudan**, home to a population of around six million people, from nearly 100 different tribes.
- The Bashir-led government was accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against non-Arab communities in the Darfur region of Sudan. Nearly 300,000 people were killed and 2.5 million were killed in the ongoing Darfur war which first began in 2003.



58. Consider the following statements :

1. Ballistic missiles are jet-propelled at subsonic speeds throughout their flights, while cruise missiles are rocket-powered only in the initial phase of flight.
2. Agni-V is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile, while BrahMos is a solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile.

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

UPSC Prelims 2023

92) Consider the following statements:

1. Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
2. With increased range compared to the Agni-V missile, it can reach targets in the entire Chinese mainland.

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

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

Fortune Prelims Test 08  
(2023)

92) Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system. Being a canisterised missile, it can be easily transported and fired at very short notice.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** Agni-P is a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms. Though **its range is too short to reach targets in the Chinese mainland**, it can cover all of Pakistan's territory.



39. With reference to 'Scheduled Areas' in India, consider the following statements :

1. Within a State, the notification of an area as Scheduled Area takes place through an Order of the President.
2. The largest administrative unit forming the Scheduled Area is the District and the lowest is the cluster of villages in the Block.
3. The Chief Ministers of the concerned States are required to submit annual reports to the Union Home Ministry on the administration of Scheduled Areas in the States.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

5) Which of the following statements regarding the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh is correct?

- (a) They were the only new states created through the States Reorganization Act of 1956.
- (b) These states have bicameral legislatures.
- (c) Tribal habitations in these states have not been brought either under the Fifth or the Sixth Schedule.
- (d) President's Rule has never been imposed in these states.

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Prelims Test 16  
(2023)

5) Answer: (c)

- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any state other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Tribal habitations in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and UT of Jammu & Kashmir have not been brought either under the Fifth or the Sixth Schedule.**
- **Option (a) is INCORRECT.** The **States Reorganization Act of 1956** established the new **State of Kerala** by merging the Travancore – Cochin State with the Malabar District of Madras State and Kasaragod of South Canara (Dakshina Kannada). It merged the Telugu-speaking areas of Hyderabad State with the Andhra State to create the **Andhra Pradesh State**. Further, it merged the Madhya Bharat State, Vindhya Pradesh State and Bhopal State into the **Madhya Pradesh State**. Similarly, it merged the Saurashtra State and Kutch State into that of the **Bombay State**, the Coorg State into the **Mysore State**; the Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) into the **Punjab State**; and the Ajmer State into the **Rajasthan State**. Moreover, it created the new **Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands** from the territory detached from the Madras State.
- **Option (b) is INCORRECT.** At present, **six states of India have a bicameral legislature.** These are **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka.**
- **Option (d) is INCORRECT.** **President's Rule was imposed in all these states.**



63. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

The soil in tropical rain forests is rich in nutrients.

Statement-II :

The high temperature and moisture of tropical rain forests cause dead organic matter in the soil to decompose quickly.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

88) With reference to equatorial tropical rain forests, consider the following statements:

1. The growing season is all the year round and doesn't follow seasonal pattern.
2. Trees of tropical rain forests are found in pure strands of single species.
3. Distinct layer arrangement of trees is a characteristic feature of equatorial vegetation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Prelims Test 02  
(2023)

88) Answer: (c)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Unlike the temperate regions, **the growing season here is all the year** round; seeding, flowering, fruiting and decaying do not take place in a seasonal pattern, so some trees may be in the flowering stage, while others only a few

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yards away might be bearing fruit. There is neither drought nor cold to check the growth in any part of the year.

- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The trees of **tropical forests are not found in pure strands.** This has made commercial exploitation of timber a most difficult task.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Through thick canopy of foliage, all plants struggle up-wards for sunlight, resulting in a peculiar layer arrangement. Thus, tropical rain forests have a distinct layer arrangement.

Source: Certificate Physical and Human Geography - Goh Cheng Leong



9. Consider the following statements :

1. Amarkantak Hills are at the confluence of Vindhya and Sahyadri Ranges.
2. Biligirirangan Hills constitute the easternmost part of Satpura Range.
3. Seshachalam Hills constitute the southernmost part of Western Ghats.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

83) Consider the following statements regarding Narmada River:

1. The source of the Narmada River is located at the meeting point of the Vindhya and Satpura Ranges.
2. The Maheshwar dam is one of the large dams of the Narmada Valley Development Project.

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

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

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Fortune Comprehensive  
Test 02 (2023)

83) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The origin of the river is a tiny reservoir named Narmada Kund, which is situated on the **Amarkantak Hill** in Anuppur District of East Madhya Pradesh at an elevation of 1,057 m (3,467.8 ft). **Amarkantak is the meeting point of the Vindhya and the Satpura Ranges**, with the Maikal Hills being the prominent one among them.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The Maheshwar dam is one of the large dams of the Narmada Valley Development Project, which envisages the construction of 30 large and 135 smaller dams in the Narmada valley.





97. Consider the following pairs :

Area of conflict mentioned in news	Country where it is located
1. Donbas	: Syria
2. Kachin	: Ethiopia
3. Tigray	: North Yemen

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

77) Which among the following pairs is **not** correctly matched?

City	Location
(a) Sevastopol	Crimean Peninsula
(b) Sharm El-Sheikh	Egypt
(c) Kherson	Ukraine
(d) Bakhmut	Russia

10) 'Tigray', a conflict-ridden region which was seen in the news, is in?

- (a) Syria
- (b) Nigeria
- (c) Libya
- (d) Ethiopia

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Prelims Test 17,  
Current Affairs Test 04,  
(2023) Respectively

77) Answer: (d)

- **Option (a) is CORRECTLY matched. Sevastopol is the largest city in the Crimean Peninsula.** Moscow's Black Sea Fleet is stationed in this area of Russian-annexed Crimea.
- **Option (b) is CORRECTLY matched. Sharm El-Sheikh is in Egypt.** The Climate Change Conference (COP 27) was held at Sharm el-Sheikh.
- **Option (c) is CORRECTLY matched. Kherson is a port city of Ukraine** that serves as the administrative center of Kherson Oblast. In November, the city of Kherson was liberated by Ukrainian troops. The loss of the city was a major setback for Russia.
- **Option (d) is INCORRECTLY matched. Bakhmut** rests in the gentle rolling hillocks of the **Donbas**, a countryside feature that is rare in the **Ukrainian steppe**. During the past 10 months of Russia's war on the country, the city has risen to infamy for being regularly referred to as the most contested and kinetic part of the 1,300km frontline in Ukraine.

10) Answer: (d)

- The **Tigray Region is the northernmost regional state in Ethiopia**. The Tigray War is an ongoing civil war that began on 3 November 2020. The war is primarily being fought by the Ethiopian Federal Government and Eritrea on one side, and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on the other. Ethiopia was an imperial state that gradually weakened over the course of time with the emergence of regional and religious rivalries. The first formal African Union-led peace talks between an Ethiopian government team and Tigray forces (since the war of 2020 with Tigray) are underway.



**21. Consider the following statements :**

**Statement-I :**

Interest income from the deposits in Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) distributed to their investors is exempted from tax, but the dividend is taxable.

**Statement-II :**

InvITs are recognized as borrowers under the 'Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002'.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**17)** With reference to Hybrid Securities, consider the following statements:

1. Hybrid securities are investment instruments that combine two or more different financial instruments.
2. Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are classified as hybrid securities.

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

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Fortune Prelims Test 08  
(2023)

**17) Answer: (c)**

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Hybrid securities are investment instruments that combine the characteristics of two or more different financial instruments. That is, a hybrid security can possess the characteristics of both bonds and equities.
- The most common type of hybrid security is a convertible bond that has the features of an ordinary bond but is heavily influenced by the price movements of the stock into which it is convertible.
- They are bought and sold on an exchange or through a brokerage.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are classified as hybrid securities
- While a **REIT comprises a portfolio of commercial real assets**, a major portion of which is already leased out, **InvITs comprise a portfolio of infrastructure assets**, such as highways and power transmission assets.
  - Both REITs & InvITs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and accordingly, SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 regulate InvITs while REITs are regulated by the SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.
- **Context:** SEBI has set up an advisory committee on hybrid securities. The 20-member committee will be chaired by K. V. Kamath.

23. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :

Carbon markets are likely to be one of the most widespread tools in the fight against climate change.

Statement-II :

Carbon markets transfer resources from the private sector to the State.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

26) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Cap-and-Trade' system in the Carbon Market:

1. Governments issue permits up to the agreed amount of emissions to the companies.
2. The companies which curbs its own carbon emissions significantly below the cap will get monetary support from the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

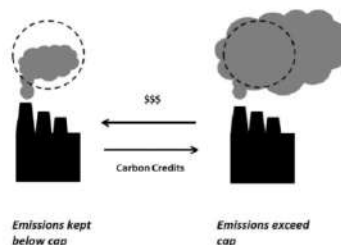
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Current Affairs  
Test 02 (2023)

26) Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** In the **Cap-and-Trade system, an overall limit or cap is set on the amount of emissions that are allowed from significant Sources of carbon, including power industry, automotive and air travel. Governments issue permits up to the agreed limit.**
- The Carbon Market is also commonly referred to as a "cap-and-trade" regime. A limit (or "cap") is set for countries or companies on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions they can emit. If they exceed the limit, they are required to buy carbon credits from others. Those with spare carbon credits may sell surplus credits to emitters that require more (the "trade").



- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** If a company curbs its own carbon significantly below the cap it can trade the excess permits on the carbon market for cash. **There is no government intervention in buying and selling of permits.**
- Under the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) launched in 2005, member countries can set a cap or limit for emissions in different sectors, such as power, oil, manufacturing, agriculture, and waste management. This cap is determined as per the climate targets of countries and is lowered successively to reduce emissions.



71. Consider the following statements with reference to India :

1. According to the 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006', the 'medium enterprises' are those with investments in plant and machinery between ₹ 15 crore and ₹ 25 crore.
2. All bank loans to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises qualify under the priority sector.

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

2) With reference to a 'pre-pack' resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India, consider the following statements:

1. A pre-pack envisages the resolution of the debt through a public bidding process.
2. It guarantees the continuity of the businesses by adopting a Debtor in Possession model.
3. All MSMEs are eligible for resolutions under the Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process.

Which of the statements given above are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

22) Which among the following are eligible for credit under the Priority Sector Lending programme?

1. Startups
2. Solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps
3. Export Credit
4. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Select the correct answer using the code 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

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Fortune Prelims Test 05,  
Prelims Test 03, (2023)  
Respectively

2) Answer: (c)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PIRP) envisages the **resolution of the debt of a distressed company through a direct agreement between secured creditors** and the existing owners or outside investors, **instead of a public bidding process.**
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** PIRP is a quicker, cost-effective process designed to serve the MSME sector. It **guarantees the continuity of the businesses by adopting Debtor in Possession model, compared to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process where the board of directors of the Corporate Debtor is suspended.**
- PPIRP ensures that the promoter continues to run the business.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** PIRP is available for resolution of stressed corporate MSMEs. **Only corporate debtors which qualify as MSMEs under Section 7(1) of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, can avail this facility.** An MSME may trigger the PIRP for a minimum default of Rs.10 lakhs, but the Central Government holds the power to increase the default threshold up to Rs. One crore.

22) Answer: (d)

- Priority Sector means those sectors which the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India consider as important for the development of the basic needs of the country and are to be given priority over other sectors. The banks are mandated to encourage the growth of such sectors with adequate and timely credit. The categories of priority sector are as follows:
  1. **Agriculture:**
    - Loans to farmers for installation of stand-alone **solar agriculture pumps and for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps.**
  2. **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**



79. Consider the following statements :

1. In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees are key to the realization of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access and benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.

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

92) Which one of the following is a function of the National Biodiversity Authority?

- (a) Maintain data about local vairs and medical practitioners using biological resources.
- (b) Issuing benefit sharing guidelines.
- (c) Preparing People's Biodiversity Register.
- (d) Regulate commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resources by Indians.

69) Certain coastal and marine sites have been identified as "Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas (ICMBAs)" in India. With reference to ICMBAs, consider the following statements:

1. ICMBAs are established to achieve the goals under the Aichi Biodiversity Target.
2. ICMBAs can be upgraded to the level of Protected Areas such as Conservation Reserves or Community Reserves.

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

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Fortune Prelims Test 10,  
Prelims Test 07, (2023)  
Respectively

69) Answer: (c)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** India has taken several steps to achieve the **National Biodiversity Target No: 6** and **Aichi Biodiversity Target No: 11**, which aim to conserve a substantial portion of the coastal and marine areas in the country and world respectively. **Towards achieving these two targets, 106 coastal and marine sites have been identified and prioritized as Important Coastal and Marine Areas (ICMBAs) by the Wildlife Institute of India.** Sixty-two ICMBAs have been identified along the west coast of India, and 44 have been identified along the east coast.
- The **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** were twenty actions adopted under the '**Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**', which was a ten-year framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to save biodiversity and enhance its benefits for the people. The targets, adopted during the **2010 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) summit in Nagoya**, located in Japan's Aichi prefecture, included goals such as reducing

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deforestation by at least half during the decade and curbing pollution so that it no longer harmed the ecosystems. The world was **supposed to meet these targets by 2020**. But, **none of the 20 targets have been met.**

- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** ICMBAs can be upgraded to Protected Areas such as Conservation Reserves or Communities Reserves. **Of these 106 ICMBAs, 22 have been prioritized for immediate conservation actions and were proposed to be upgraded as Protected Areas under categories such as Conservation or Communities Reserves,** to increase the participation of the local communities in the governance of these areas.

92) Answer: (b)

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** performs **facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions** for the GoI on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.
  - **All matters relating to requests by foreign individuals, companies or institutions** and all matters relating to the transfer of results of research to any foreigner, approvals for intellectual property protection where biological resources and associated knowledge are involved, will be dealt with by NBA. **All matters relating to access by Indians for commercial purposes** will be under the purview of the concerned State Biodiversity Board. However, **the benefit-sharing guidelines are to be issued by the NBA.**
  - Regulating, by granting approvals or otherwise, the request for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resources by Indians is the function of **State Biodiversity Board.**
  - Functions of **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)**
    - Prepare, maintain and validate People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in consultation with the local people.
    - Provide advice on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or NBA for granting approval.
    - Maintain data about local vairs and medical practitioners using biological resources.

Source: <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/2046/1/200318.pdf>  
[https://nbaindia.org/uploaded/pdf/AR\\_English\\_2020-21.pdf](https://nbaindia.org/uploaded/pdf/AR_English_2020-21.pdf)



50. By which one of the following Acts was the Governor General of Bengal designated as the Governor General of India?

- (a) The Regulating Act
- (b) The Pitt's India Act
- (c) The Charter Act of 1793
- (d) The Charter Act of 1833

89) With reference to the changes introduced by the Charter Act of 1853, consider the following statements:

1. It added one law member to the Governor-General's Council for professional advice on law-making.
2. Local representation was introduced in the Indian (central) legislative council.

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

UPSC Prelims 2023

Fortune Prelims Test 11  
(2023)

89) Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** One law member was added to the Governor-General's Council for professional advice on law-making through the **Charter Act of 1833**. **Charter Act of 1853 made the law member a full member of the Governor-General's executive council.**
- The Charter Act 1833 which was enacted by the British Parliament provided for the establishment of a Law Commission for consolidation and codification of Indian Laws. The said Act provided for the addition of a fourth ordinary Member to the Governor General in Council for India who was to be a legal expert in the making of laws. Lord Macaulay was appointed as the fourth ordinary Member and was entitled to participate in the meetings of the Governor General in Council for making of laws.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The Act **introduced local representation** in the Indian legislature (**Indian Legislative Council**). However, the laws promulgated required the assent of the Governor-General and the Governor-General could veto any bill passed by the legislative council.



36. Consider the following statements :

1. If the election of the President of India is declared void by the Supreme Court of India, all acts done by him/her in the performance of duties of his/her office of President before the date of decision become invalid.
2. Election for the post of the President of India can be postponed on the ground that some Legislative Assemblies have been dissolved and elections are yet to take place.
3. When a Bill is presented to the President of India, the Constitution prescribes time limits within which he/she has to declare his/her assent.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

66) With reference to the Veto powers enjoyed by the President of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Absolute veto is the power to withhold assent to a bill passed by the Parliament so that the bill ends there and does not become an act.
2. In case of suspensive veto, Parliament can override the veto power by the repassage of bill by an ordinary majority.
3. Once a bill is presented to the President for his/her assent, he/she has to give assent within a period of 14 days.
4. In case of Money bills, the President enjoys pocket veto but cannot exercise his / her power of suspensive veto.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

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66) Answer: (c)

- A bill passed by the Parliament can become an act only if it receives the assent of the President. When such a bill is presented to the President for his assent, he has three alternatives (under Article 111 of the Constitution):
  1. He may give his assent to the bill, or
  2. He may withhold his assent to the bill, or
  3. He may return the bill (if it is not a money bill) for reconsideration of the Parliament.  
However, if the bill is passed again by the Parliament with or without amendments and again presented to the President, the President must give his assent to the bill.
- **Statement 1 is CORRECT: Absolute veto** refers to the power of the President to **withhold his assent** to a bill passed by the Parliament. The bill then ends and does not become an act.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT:** The President exercises suspensive veto when he returns a bill for reconsideration of the Parliament. However, if the bill is passed again by the Parliament with or without amendments and again presented to the President, it is obligatory for the President to give his assent to the bill. **This means that the presidential veto is overridden by a repassage of the bill by the same ordinary majority** (and not a higher majority as required in the USA).
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** The President, through pocket veto, can take no action on a bill presented to him for his assent. **The Constitution does not prescribe any time-limit within which he has to take the decision with respect to a bill presented to him for his assent.** In the USA, on the other hand, the President has to return the bill for reconsideration within 10 days.
- **Statement 4 is CORRECT. The President can either give his assent to a money bill or withhold his assent to a money bill but cannot return it** for the reconsideration of the Parliament. Normally, the President gives his assent to money bill as it is introduced in the Parliament with his previous permission.



72. With reference to Central Bank digital currencies, consider the following statements :

1. It is possible to make payments in a digital currency without using US dollar or SWIFT system.
2. A digital currency can be distributed with a condition programmed into it such as a time-frame for spending it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62) CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)?

1. It is same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.
2. It can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain.
3. CBDCs enable the user to conduct both domestic and cross-border transactions which do not require a third party or a bank.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 1,2 and 3

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62) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** According to the RBI, "CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency. Only its form is different."
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The digital fiat currency or CBDC can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain. Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by Bitcoin, it is different from decentralized virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the state and lack the 'legal tender' status.

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- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** CBDCs enable the user to conduct both domestic and cross-border transactions which do not require a third party or a bank.





38. Consider the following statements :

Once the Central Government notifies an area as a 'Community Reserve'

1. the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State becomes the governing authority of such forest
2. hunting is not allowed in such area
3. people of such area are allowed to collect non-timber forest produce
4. people of such area are allowed traditional agricultural practices

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

67) Consider the following statements:

1. In India, entry into forests is governed by the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act empowers the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) to frame laws for tourists entering Protected Areas.
3. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has the powers to set rules for tiger reserves under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

10) In India, Protected Areas are constituted under the provisions of:

- (a) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- (b) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- (c) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- (d) Biological Diversity Act, 2002

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67) Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** In India, entry into forests is governed by two laws — The Indian Forest Act, 1927, and The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The first applies to all reserve forests and bars trespassing. Everyone other than the people who live in villages inside reserve forests, needs permission from the divisional forest officer concerned for entering these forests for any purpose.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT and statement 3 is CORRECT. The Wildlife Protection Act empowers the Chief Wildlife Warden of a state to frame laws for tourists entering Protected Areas** — sanctuaries and national parks. Under the same Act, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has the powers to set rules for tiger reserves.
- Deputy Conservator of Forest, also known as the Division Forest Officer is responsible for the forests, environment, and the wildlife-related issues of that forest division of the state.

10) Answer: (b)

- Protected Areas are those areas in which human occupation or at least the exploitation of resources is limited. There are several kinds of Protected Areas, which vary by level of protection depending on the enabling laws of each country or the regulations of the international organizations involved.
- There are five types of **Protected Areas in India, constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.** They are National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves and Marine Protected Areas. India has a network of 990 Protected Areas including 106 National Parks, 565 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 100 Conservation Reserves and 219 Community Reserves - covering a total of 1,73,306.83 km<sup>2</sup>. which is approximately 5.27% of the total geographical area of the country (as of May 2022).



16. Consider the following statements :

1. Some mushrooms have medicinal properties.
2. Some mushrooms have psycho-active properties.
3. Some mushrooms have insecticidal properties.
4. Some mushrooms have bioluminescent properties.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

58) With reference to 'Cordyceps militaris', sometimes mentioned in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a high value parasitic fungus.
2. Wild Cordyceps mushroom are found in the Western Ghats.
3. It is called 'super mushroom' because of its tremendous medicinal properties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

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58) Answer: (c)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** *Cordyceps militaris* is a **high value parasitic fungus, lab-grown** at the Department of Biotechnology's Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) in Bodoland University.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** A unique aspect of *Cordyceps* is its existence as an entomopathogenic fungus (a type of fungus that can kill or seriously disable insects) in the natural environment. **These species are endemic to the Himalayas at locations 2000 m above the sea level. Wild Cordyceps mushroom are found in the eastern Himalayan belt.**

**Statement 3 is CORRECT.** *Cordyceps militaris* is called **super mushroom because of its tremendous medicinal properties.** It **adds bioactive components to the synthesis of gold nanoparticles for better penetration.** Biosynthesized nanogold particles indicate a new application of nanoparticles in the development of therapeutic drugs which can be delivered as ointments, tablets, capsules, and in other forms. Recently, Cordy gold nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs), the outcome of a collaborative experiment by scientists from four Indian institutions, has earned an international patent from Germany. The inhabitants of China, Tibet, Nepal and India have consumed *Cordyceps* for centuries in order to adapt their bodies to difficult high terrain conditions such as low ambient temperature, high atmospheric pressure and reduced oxygen content in the environment.



35. Consider the following organizations/bodies in India :

1. The National Commission for Backward Classes
2. The National Human Rights Commission
3. The National Law Commission
4. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

How many of the above are constitutional bodies?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

92) With reference to the National Commission for Backward Classes, consider the following statements:

1. The 102nd Amendment Act of the Constitution conferred constitutional status on the Commission.
2. The Commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and not more than ten members.
3. Its chairperson should be a retired Chief Justice of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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92) Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), established in 1993, is a **constitutional body** under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It was formed under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. The 102<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of the Constitution conferred constitutional status on the NCBC.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** NCBC consists of a chairperson, vice-chairperson and three other members. They are appointed by the President.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** There is no such qualification prescribed for the chairperson of NCBC. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the chairperson, vice-chairperson and other members is determined by President.

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth



33. Which one of the following statements best reflects the **Chief** purpose of the 'Constitution' of a country?

- (a) It determines the objective for the making of necessary laws.
- (b) It enables the creation of political offices and a government.
- (c) It defines and limits the powers of government.
- (d) It secures social justice, social equality and social security.

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94) Which of the following most accurately describes the term "constitutionalism"?

- (a) Adherence to or being faithful to bottom line principles of constitutional values.
- (b) It is a doctrine which endorses the sacrosanctity of the Constitution.
- (c) It refers to the principle that the authority of a government is derived from and is limited by a body of fundamental laws.
- (d) Strict adherence to the judicial interpretation of the core values of principles and philosophy of the Constitution.

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94) Answer: (c)

- **Option (c) is CORRECT. Constitutionalism means that a government's authority is determined by a body of laws or a constitution.** It indicates the efforts to prevent the formation of an arbitrary government. Constitutionalism insists on limiting the powers of the government while acknowledging the need for a government with authority.
- Despotism and unconstitutional authority are the antithesis of constitutionalism. A government loses credibility and authority if it oversteps its bounds. Therefore, a constitution should be infused with constitutionalism and have some built-in constraints on the powers it grants to governmental organs in order to preserve the fundamental rights of the individual and to maintain his/her dignity and personality.



2. Consider the following pairs :

- | Port                  | Well known as                                       |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Kamarajar Port     | : First major port in India registered as a company |
| 2. Mundra Port        | : Largest privately owned port in India             |
| 3. Visakhapatnam Port | : Largest container port in India                   |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

43) With reference to the ports in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. In terms of volume of cargo handled, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port is the largest port in India.
- 2. Kandla Port is the largest commercial port in India.
- 3. The State of Maharashtra has the highest number of major ports in India.

Which of the statements given above are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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43) Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** Constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving western India, **Kandla Port (Deendayal Port)** is now a major seaport of Gujarat. **It is the largest port in the country, in terms of volume of cargo handled** and, on that account, has retained the title of **India's No. 1 Port** since the year 2007-08 for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- Deendayal Port was the first major port in India to achieve handling of 100 MMT cargo in a year.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** **Mundra Port** is a deep draft, all-weather port. With state-of-the-art infrastructure, it is the **largest commercial port in India.**
- It has the **largest Coal Import Terminal** which enables faster cargo evacuation and minimal turnaround time.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** The State of **Tamil Nadu**, with three major ports, stands on top of the list of states with the maximum number of major ports in India. The **three major ports in this state are the Kamarajar Port, the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, and the Chennai Port.**
- The Major Ports in India are:
  - Kolkata in West Bengal
  - Paradip in Odisha
  - Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh
  - Kamarajar (Ennore), Chennai and V.O. Chidambaranar in Tamil Nadu