

UPSC PRELIMS

2019

ABHYAAS -

MOST COMPREHENSIVE

CURRENT AFFAIRS

TEST SERIES



CORRIGENDUM

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Hello Dear Aspirants!!

Life's battles don't
always go to the
stronger or faster
man. Sooner or later
the man who wins is
the man who thinks
he can. -Vince

We believe that you have all prepared really well for your upcoming UPSC Prelims 2019 and are burning the mid night oil to ace it. We hope that our Test Series – “ABHYAAS” has helped you to augment your current affairs preparation and with the help of this test series you have been able to revise the most important current affairs of the past one and a half years.

In this document we have prepared a consolidated list of a few questions along with their explanations wherein certain corrections and addition of facts had to be made.

These rectifications have also been updated in the Online Test as well as the Explanation Pdfs wherever necessary.

Wishing you all the best D-Day of 2nd June 2019!!

Thanks, and Regards,

Team CivilsTap

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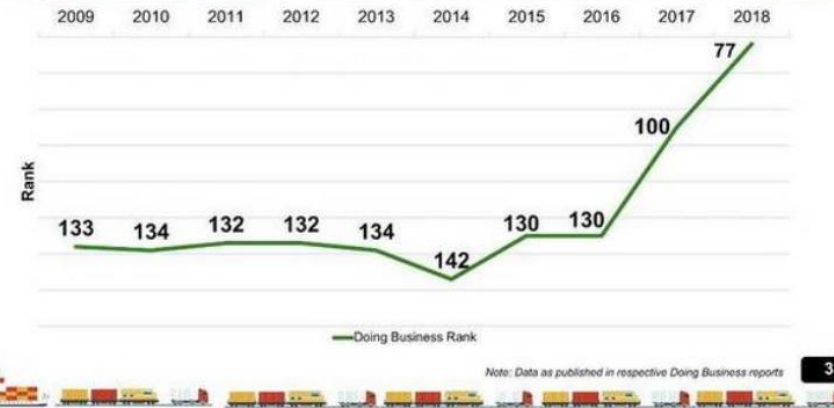
Test No	Question Number	Question	Correct Answer	Explanation
1	21	<p>Consider the following statements about the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It has three satellites in geosynchronous orbit and four satellites in geostationary orbit.2. It can service regions extending up to 1500 km around India's boundary.3. It has a total of nine satellites of which six are currently in orbit. <p>Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. 1 and 2 onlyb. 1 and 3 onlyc. 2 onlyd. 1, 2 and 3	C	<p>What is IRNSS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IRNSS stands for Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System.• It is a set of satellites which together can provide India a regional positioning system similar to the GPS.• According to the ISRO website, the system is designed to give position accuracy better than 20 metres to users in its primary coverage area.• It can also service regions extending up to 1500 km around India's boundary.• ISRO has built a total of nine satellites in the IRNSS series of which eight are currently in orbit. <p>How many IRNSS satellites are already in orbit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are currently seven IRNSS satellites (1A to 1G) in orbit. IRNSS 1I will be the eighth in the series.• A, B, D, E, I are placed in a geosynchronous orbit, which means they seem to be at a fixed location above the Earth and they orbit along with the Earth.• C, F, G, are located in geostationary orbit-they seem to be at a fixed location above the Earth along the equator and orbit along with the Earth. <p>Specifications of IRNSS-1I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The IRNSS-1I weighs 1425 kg at lift-off and is the eighth satellite in the IRNSS satellite constellation.• It will be placed in a sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit and at its closest point will be 284 km above the Earth and at its farthest will be 20,650 km above the Earth.• Like all other IRNSS satellites, IRNSS-1I will also carry two payloads – navigation payload and ranging payload - the former to transmit signals for determining position, velocity and time and the latter for determining the frequency range of the satellite. <p>What are the applications of IRNSS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These satellites help not just in land navigation but also in marine and aerial navigation.• The data from these satellites can be used to give vehicle drivers visual and voice navigation assistance.• They also help in disaster management and in proper time-keeping.

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Test No	Question Number	Question	Correct Answer	Explanation
1	78	<p>In context of Ease of Doing Business Index, which of the following statement/s is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It ranks countries of the world across 10 indicators. India jumped 77 ranks in Ease of Doing Business Index 2018 as compared to the previous year. <p>Select the correct code:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 only 2 only Both 1 and 2 Neither 1 or 2 	A	<p>Recent Context: Recently India has reached 77th rank in the Ease of Doing Business Index, 2018.</p> <p>Who releases Ease of Doing Business Index?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It released by World Bank on an annual basis. The Index ranks 190 countries across 10 indicators ranged across the lifecycle of a business from 'starting a business' to 'resolving insolvency'. <p>Hence statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Indicators under Ease of Doing Business Index</p> <p>The World Bank uses the following indicators to rank the countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Starting a business Dealing with construction permits Getting electricity Registering property Getting credit Protecting investors Paying taxes Trading across borders Enforcing contracts Resolving insolvency <p>India's performance in Ease of Doing Business Report (see the diagram below)</p>

Doing Business (DB) – India successively scales greater heights



Source: Indian Govt

- India **jumped 23 ranks** from its performance of last year and has **reached rank 77** in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2018. (Hence statement 2 is incorrect as it says India has *jumped* 77 ranks).
- India was ranked 100 last year and 130 in 2016 and 2015. When Modi government took over in 2014, it was ranked 142 among 190 nations.

Performance of other countries:

- **New Zealand topped the ranking for the third time consecutively.**
- Among the **BRICS Nation**, the ranking in 2018 is as follows:

BRICS Nation	Ranking
Russia	31
China	46
India	77
South Africa	82
Brazil	109

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among India's Neighbouring States, the rankings of the nations are as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>India's Neighbour</th> <th>Ranking</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bhutan</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sri Lanka</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nepal</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pakistan</td> <td>136</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myanmar</td> <td>171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bangladesh</td> <td>176</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	India's Neighbour	Ranking	Bhutan	81	Sri Lanka	100	Nepal	110	Pakistan	136	Myanmar	171	Bangladesh	176
India's Neighbour	Ranking																	
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1	89	<p>With reference to 'Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP), which of the following statement/s is/are correct?</p> <p>1. It has been launched under Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation</p> <p>2. It was launched in 2012 by Central Water Commission</p> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>a. 1 only</p> <p>b. 2 only</p> <p>c. Both 1 and 2</p> <p>d. Neither 1 nor 2</p>	B	<p>Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Scheme has now been extended till June 2020 with total cost of Rs 3466 crore.</p> <p>About Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) is a state sector scheme with central component to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach. The project was launched in 2012 by Central Water Commission (CWC) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation with assistance from World Bank. It provides for repair and rehabilitation of about 198 dams across the seven states of India, namely Jharkhand (DVC), Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. Originally the scheme was scheduled for six years with closure in June 2018 with total original cost of Rs. 2100 crore. It is an externally-aided project. 80% of the total project is provided by the World Bank as loan/credit and remaining 20% is borne by the States / Central 														

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				<p>Government (for CWC). Govt. of India has not sought funding from any internal agency for this project.</p> <p>Objectives of DRIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitation of old dams in country experiencing distress and are in need of attention for ensuring their structural safety and operational efficiency.• Strengthening institutional capacity and project management in this area.• Bring greater awareness on dam safety issues and finding novel solutions to address them by pooling best knowledge, technologies and experience available around world. <p>Important Links: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179851</p>
1	92	<p>Consider the following statements regarding “Kamorta”:</p> <p>1. It is a class of Indian Navy anti-submarine warfare stealth corvettes to be built in India</p> <p>2. It is a village in the Nicobar district of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.</p> <p>Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?</p> <p>a. 1 only b. 2 only c. Both 1 and 2 d. Neither 1 or 2</p>	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• India and Russia have sealed a \$500 million deal for construction of 2 missile frigates of Talvar Class for the Indian Navy.• These are a class of guided missile frigates designed and built by Russia for the Indian Navy.• They are modified Krivak III class frigates from Russia.• The Kamorta-class corvettes or Project 28 are a class of anti-submarine warfare corvettes currently in service with the Indian Navy• They are the first anti-submarine warfare stealth corvettes to be built in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.• Kamorta or Kalatapu is a village on the Kamorta Island, in the Nicobar district of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The corvettes derive their name from this place and therefore statement 2 is also correct. <p>Also note that they are the first anti-submarine warfare stealth corvettes to be built in India.</p>
2	79	<p>With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA),</p>	A	<p>In January 2018, The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has crossed one crore mark in antenatal check-ups.</p>

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		<p>which of the following statements is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was launched in the year 2016 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 2. It provides free health check-ups to pregnant women at government health centres and hospitals 3. It is applicable only for pregnant women in their pregnancy period of 6 to 9 months <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 and 3 only c. 1 and 3 only d. 1, 2 and 3 		<p>About the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme was launched in the year 2016. • It is a scheme implemented by Health Ministry to provide free health check-ups to pregnant women at government health centres and hospitals in both rural and urban areas. • The national programme aims to provide pregnant ladies free ante-natal services (ANC) and required treatment for free on 9th of every month, symbolizing the 9 months of pregnancy. <p>Eligibility: The scheme is applicable only for pregnant women in their pregnancy period of 3 to 9 months. This is because 2nd trimester starts from 3rd month of pregnancy and the 3rd trimester starts from 6 months and extends up to the 9th month of the pregnancy. Hence women in 2nd or 3rd trimester are basically 3 to 9 months pregnant women.</p> <p>What are the objectives of the scheme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide healthy life to the pregnant women • Lowering the maternity mortality rate • Making pregnant women aware of their health issues and diseases • Making sure safe delivery and healthy life of the baby
3	93	<p>Consider the following statement about “Bamboo”:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. India is the largest producer of bamboo in the world. 2. It can be planted to reclaim severely degraded sites and wastelands. 3. It has tap root system. 4. Taxonomically it belongs to grass. <p>Which of these statements given above is/are incorrect?</p>	D	<p>The first thing to be noted is that the question asks for the incorrect statements, therefore the incorrect statements should actually appear in our answer.</p> <p>Recent Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Govt has launched Restructured Bamboo Mission and allocated whopping Rs.1,290 crores in the 2018 Budget to promote bamboo sector, with huge support to the North-Eastern States, calling bamboo as ‘Green Gold’. • Sep-18: World Bamboo Day. • Theme for 2018: Bamboo as a tool for achieving economic and social sustainability.



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		<p>a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 and 3 only c. 2 and 4 only d. 1 and 3 only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is incorrect: China is the largest producer of bamboo in the world, followed by India. • Statement 2 is correct and 3 is incorrect: It can be planted to reclaim severely degraded sites and wastelands. It is good soil binder owing to its peculiar clump formation and fibrous root system and hence also plays an important role in soil and water conservation. • Statement 4 is correct: Though it grows tall like a tree, it belongs to the grass family. <p>More about Bamboo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bamboo is part of rural livelihood in many countries, especially in developing countries like India. • Due to its versatile nature and multiple uses, it is also called ‘poor man’s timber’. • It can withstand drought as well as flood. • India is second only to China in terms of bamboo diversity. The North-Eastern States are a storehouse of bamboo diversity, home to 58 bamboo varieties. • Bamboo is grown on 10 million hectares in India and covers almost 13 per cent of the total forest area. • The value of bamboo in India is estimated at \$4.4 billion. • The advantage of bamboo is manifold compared to monoculture tree plantations. • After planting, bamboo clumps start yielding after 4-7 years. It can become part of agro forestry practice in small land holdings. New bamboo plantations may curb the pressure from deforestation by serving as wood substitutes.
4	13	<p>Consider the following statements: 1. Panama is situated between Costa Rica and Columbia. 2. Costa Rica is a narrow country between the Pacific Ocean and Atlantic Ocean.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panama is a country in Central America, bordered by Costa Rica to the west, Colombia to the southeast, the Caribbean Sea to the north, and the Pacific Ocean to the south. Hence, statement 1 is correct. • Costa Rica is a country in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north, the Caribbean Sea to the northeast (Caribbean Sea is a sea of Atlantic Ocean), Panama

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		Which of the statements given above is/are correct? a. 1 Only b. 2 Only c. Both 1 & 2 d. Neither 1 nor 2		to the southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, and Ecuador to the south of Cocos Island. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
4	45	Consider the following statements about 'Mycotoxins'. 1. Mycotoxins are naturally occurring toxins produced by certain moulds (fungi). 2. The moulds grow on variety of different seafood such as fishes, crabs, crustaceans, shellfish, etc. 3. The adverse health effects of mycotoxins range from acute poisoning to long-term effects such as immune deficiency and cancer. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 and 3 only c. 1 and 3 only d. 3 only	C	About Mycotoxins: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mycotoxins are naturally occurring toxins produced by certain moulds (fungi) and can be found in food. (Statement 1 is correct)• The moulds grow on a variety of different crops and foodstuffs including cereals, nuts, spices, dried fruits, apples and coffee beans, often under warm and humid conditions. (Statement 2 is incorrect because rather than talking of crops and food stuff it is mentioning about sea food which is a kind of JUMLAA)• Mould growth can occur either before harvest or after harvest, during storage, on/in the food itself often under warm, damp and humid conditions. Most mycotoxins are chemically stable and survive food processing.• Mycotoxins can cause a variety of adverse health effects and pose a serious health threat to both humans and livestock. (Statement 3 is correct)• The adverse health effects of mycotoxins range from acute poisoning to long-term effects such as immune deficiency and cancer.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scientific expert committee jointly convened by WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – called JECFA – is the international body responsible for evaluating the health risk from natural toxins including mycotoxins.
4	<u>54</u>	Match the following:	B	<p>Umbrella ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) has following sub schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anganwadi Services Scheme • Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana • National Creche Scheme • POSHAN Abhiyaan • Scheme for Adolescent Girls • Child Protection Scheme • Anganwadi Services (ICDS) aims at holistic development of children under the age of 6 years and its beneficiaries are children of this age group (0-6 years) and Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers. • Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a Maternity Benefit Programme that is implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013. • National Creche Scheme aims at providing a safe place for mothers to leave their children while they are at work. It is also an intervention towards protection and development of children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years.

Scheme

A - Anganwadi Services Scheme

B - Scheme for Adolescent Girls

C - Child Protection Service Scheme

D - National Creche Scheme

Objective

1. Provide safe and secure environment for children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection

2. Holistic development of children under the age of six years and its beneficiaries are children of this age group and Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers

3. Facilitate, educate and empower Adolescent Girls so as to enable them to become self-reliant and aware citizens through improved nutrition and health status

4. Provide a safe place for mothers to leave their children while they are at work

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		<p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below.</p> <p>a. A1, B2, C3, D4 b. A2, B3, C1, D4 c. A3, B2, C4, D1 d. A2, B3, C4, D1</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) was launched in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan in March 2018. It aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children • The objective of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls is to facilitate, educate and empower Adolescent Girls so as to enable them to become self-reliant and aware citizens through improved nutrition and health status, promoting awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, mainstreaming out of school AGs into formal/non formal education and providing information/guidance about existing public services. • The objectives of Child Protection Services are to provide safe and secure environment for children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, reduce vulnerabilities through a wide range of social protection measures, prevent actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from families etc., bring focus on non-institutional care, develop a platform for partnership between Government & Civil Society and establish convergence of child related social protection services.
5	55	<p>Q. Consider the following statements about PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana.</p> <p>1. It is a Centrally Sector Scheme. 2. All unorganised sector workers whose monthly income is less than 15000/month can avail the benefits. 3. The scheme will be managed by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.</p>	A	<p>Recent context: Ministry of Labour and Employment launched pension plan ‘PM Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana’ for informal workers.</p> <p>Eligibility: The unorganised workers whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years are eligible for the scheme. So, workers above 40 years cannot avail the benefits. Thus, statement 2 is incorrect. They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income tax payer.</p>

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

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

About the scheme:

- **Pension:** They shall receive **minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after age of 60 years.**
- **PM-SYM will be a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India and CSCs. LIC will be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out. The amount collected under PM-SYM pension scheme shall be invested as per the investment pattern specified by Government of India.**
- In case of death during the receipt of pension, **his/her spouse shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension.**
- **In case of death before 60 years of age, his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal. Family pension is applicable only to spouse.**
- **Contribution by the Subscriber:** He/she is required to contribute the prescribed contribution amount from the age of joining PM-SYM till the age of 60 years.
- **Matching contribution by the Central Government:** **PMSYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis** where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government alone. **Hence, it is not a centrally sponsored scheme.**
- **The contributions from workers per month will change depending on the applicant's age like at the age of 18 years would have to contribute Rs 55, whereas workers at the age of 29 years would pay Rs 100. Those in the upper age limit of 40 years will have to pay Rs 200.**

Comparison between Atal Pension Yojana and PMSYM

- APY also targets the unorganized sector and is co-contributory in nature, and promises a minimum pension between ₹1,000-5,000 while the PMSYM pension is capped at just ₹3,000 per month.
- **PMSYM is only open to those with monthly income of up to ₹15,000, whereas APY contains no such income limit.**
- In APY, you can choose to contribute monthly, quarterly or half yearly, which is of great help to those in the unorganized sector with irregular income. **PMSYM only allows monthly contributions.**
- APY provides for return of corpus on the death of the subscriber and his spouse. In PMSYM, workers only get a pension and do not accumulate a corpus for their family. On the death of the worker and his/her spouse, the corpus is forfeited to PMSYM.
- **PMSYM will be directly managed by the government unlike APY, which is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).**

About PFRDA:

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), a **statutory body** and **Centrally autonomous body**, is the pension regulator of India which was established by Government of India on August 23, 2003 and **was authorized by Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services.**
- PFRDA **promotes old age income security** by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds and protects the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and related matters.
- Currently, PFRDA is **regulating and administering the National Pension System (NPS) along with administering the Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** which is a defined benefits pension scheme for the unorganized sector, guaranteed by the Government of India

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				https://www.financialexpress.com/budget/budget-2019-pradhan-mantri-shram-yogi-mandhan-pension-scheme-who-all-will-it-benefit/1462055/ http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=360566
5	67	<p>'NABH Nirman Initiative' is related to which of the following?</p> <p>a. Building low-cost houses in rural areas</p> <p>b. Renovating more than 50 years old bridges</p> <p>c. Capacity augmentation of the airports</p> <p>d. Building 100 new small dams</p>	C	<p>Recent Context: The Government has decided for capacity augmentation of the airports, as a part of NABH Nirman initiative.</p> <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Constraint has come to such a point that airports like Delhi and Mumbai are unable to provide further slots for new services. According to some government documents, at least 25 of the 50 busiest airports in India are already operating beyond their capacity, while almost all the others will reach optimal capacity in 2018-19 with the aviation industry growing at an unanticipated 18-20% every year. <p>About NABH Nirman Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was announced in the budget (2018). It seeks expansion of the airport capacity more than 5 times to handle a billion trips a year. The key aspects of NABH Nirman are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair and equitable land acquisition. Long-term master plan for airport and regional development and Balanced economics for all stakeholders. It aims to establish about 100 airports in 15 years at an estimated investment of Rs. 4 lakh crore and a large percentage of the investment is to come from the private sector. <p>It will help to connect smaller towns and cities and increase tourism and economic activity.</p>
5	69	<p>If you want to see Irrawaddy Dolphins in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit?</p> <p>a. Ganges River</p> <p>b. Chilika Lake</p>	B	<p>Recent Context: The Punjab government along with WWF India are conducting the first organised census on population of Indus Dolphin.</p> <p>About Indus Dolphin (Bhulan)</p>

c. Majuli
d. Lakshadweep Sea

- They are **endangered**, freshwater, and **functionally blind species** of dolphins which rely on **echolocation to navigate**, communicate and hunt prey including prawns, catfish and carp.
- Except for a tiny, isolated population of about **30 in India's Beas River**(185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike), Indus river dolphins live exclusively in the Indus river in Pakistan.
- In 2017, a survey was done by WWF-Pakistan which showed an increase in their population. Similar survey is being conducted in India now with the help of WWF-India.

Other Indian River Dolphins

Ganges River Dolphin (Susu)

- It is endangered, can only **live in freshwater** and is essentially **blind**.
- It has been declared as **national aquatic animal**.
- It once ranged throughout the **Ganges-Brahmaputra- Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu River systems** of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh, from the Himalayan foothills to the Bay of Bengal. Today its population is divided by dams into isolated groups and has a much reduced range.
- The lowest estimate for the total population is 1,200-1,800 individuals.

Irrawaddy Dolphin

- They are **Endangered** and live in both **salt- and freshwater** in South and Southeast Asia.
- Three **exclusively freshwater** populations are found in **Irrawaddy/Ayeyarwady River (Myanmar), Mekong River (Lao PDR, Cambodia); and Mahakam River (Indonesia)**.
- **Habitat range — from the Bay of Bengal to New Guinea and the Philippines.**

In addition, very small numbers survive in the partially freshwater **Songkhla Lake (Thailand)** and the **brackish Chilika Lake (India)**. Irrawaddy dolphin is the **only salt water dolphin found in India**.

6	78	<p>Consider the following statements about Strategic Petroleum Reserve.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves are located in coastal locations only.2. The global standard for strategic oil reserves, as set by International Energy Agency (IEA) should maintain a reserve equivalent to 90 days of oil imports for strategic-cum-buffer stock purposes.3. It is being managed by the PMO directly.4. Saudi Aramco has committed to contribute to Strategic Petroleum Reserve. <p>Which of the above given statement(s) is/are incorrect?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. 1 onlyb. 3 and 4 onlyc. 1 and 3 onlyd. 1,3 and 4 only	D	<p>About Strategic Petroleum Reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a storage of crude oil which would act as a cushion during any external supply disruptions or supply demand mismatch shock.• The global standard for strategic oil reserves, as set by International Energy Agency (IEA) and Integrated Energy Policy 2006 of India recommended that country should maintain a reserve equivalent to 90 days of oil imports for strategic-cum-buffer stock purposes. Thus, statement 2 is correct.• They are considered to be more environment friendly and incur less evaporation loss than ground level storage.• Construction of storage facilities are maintained by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (a special purpose vehicle of the Oil Industry Development Board under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas). Thus, statement 3 is incorrect.• Presently, strategic reserves are situated at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Mangalore (Karnataka), and Padur (Kerala).• Moreover, project of three additional reserves is in pipeline at Chandikhol (Orissa), Bikaner (Rajasthan) and Rajkot (Gujrat). Thus, strategic reserves are in both coastal and mainland locations.• Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc), the state-run oil company of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is the only one to commit to India's crude oil reserve programme till date. It has also become a stakeholder in one of the largest global refinery and petrochemicals complexes coming up at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, along with the world's
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				biggest oil producer, Saudi Arabian Oil Co., or Saudi Aramco, and a consortium of Indian state-run companies.
7	70	<p>Which of the following can be the possible impact/s of the rising CO₂ emissions?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes in food supply 2. Fishes losing their sense of smell 3. Increase in occurrence of cyclones <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 and 3 only c. 1 and 3 only d. 1, 2 and 3 	D	<p>Recent context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acc. To recent study, fishes are losing their sense of smell as rising carbon emission is turning water more acidic, in which fish live. Co₂ is absorbed by seawater forming carbonic acid. • Due to ocean acidification, fish will lose some of their smelling sense. <p>Impacts of CO₂ Emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Warming: The increase in the temperature is the major cause for all other changes in earth's climate. The rise in temperatures is causing warming of oceans, melting of ice mass and increase in evaporation. • Ocean Acidification: The oceans absorb almost a quarter of CO₂ emitted in the atmosphere. The excess CO₂ reacts with the seawater to form carbonic acid. The acidification causes suppression of carbonate ion concentration that is essential for animals in the sea such as corals and shellfish to build bones and shells. • Changes in Food Supply: Changing weather affects the agricultural industry and the human food supply. Carbon emissions contribute to increasing temperatures and decreasing precipitation, changing the growing conditions for food crops in many areas. <p>In addition to this the increase on CO₂ emissions leads to an increase in the Global Temperature leading to the Global Warming and this rise in the temperature leads to an unusual occurrence of cyclones as well.</p> <p>Cyclone Fani is a fine example of this as generally a cyclone of such a high intensity is not usually witnessed in the months of April and early May. Therefore statement 3 is also correct.</p>

9	41	<p>The 'Hague Convention', often seen in the news, relates to which of the following?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Civil aspects of international child abduction Elimination of child labour across the world Prevention of trafficking of women across borders Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-state actors 	A	<p>Why in news?</p> <p>The Justice Rajesh Bindal Committee set up by the Centre to prepare a report on the issue of inter-country parental child abduction has questioned one of the basic principles of the Hague Convention by arguing that the return of the child to his or her habitual residence may not necessarily be in the best interest of the child.</p> <p>About the Hague Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) that provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another. The Hague Convention protects children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared adoptions abroad. To do this, the Hague Convention puts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safeguards in place to make sure that all inter-country adoptions are in the best interests of the child and respects their human rights. a system in place of cooperation among countries to guarantee that these safeguards are respected, and to prevent the abduction of, sale of, or traffic in children. The Convention was concluded on 25th October, 1980 and entered into force between the signatories on 1 December 1983. The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16. As of March 2019, 100 states are party to the convention. In 2019, Guyana acceded to the convention. India is not a party to the convention. <p>Objectives:</p>
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- to secure the **prompt return of children wrongfully removed to or retained** in any Contracting State.
- to ensure that **rights of custody and of access under the law** of one Contracting State are effectively respected in the other Contracting States.

Justice Rajesh Bindal Committee:

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** had appointed the **Committee** to address legal issues related to **inter country removal & retention of children, and recommend on addressing the problems of parents and children involved in such issues.**
- The major recommendations of the committee are:
 - The Government may **establish an ‘Inter Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority’ envisaged to provide a one window solution in cases of inter country removal and retention of children.**
 - The Authority may be **chaired by a retired High Court Judge**, with Members from Legal and Social sector background along with representatives from key Ministries.
 - The Authority may examine the inter country cases of removal and retention of children vis-a-vis the **cultural context, merit of the case, and the best interest of the Child.**

Important Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/panel-questions-key-principle-of-hague-convention/article23786659.ece>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178862>

10	47	<p>Consider the following statements regarding Pardoning Powers of Governor in India.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He can pardon or suspend the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against the judgement of Hight Court or any subordinate courts of the state. 2. He cannot pardon a death sentence. 3. The Governor’s decision will be subject to judicial review. <p>Which of these statements given above is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All of the above b. 2 and 3 only c. 3 only d. 1 and 3 only 	B	<p>Statement 1 is incorrect: Governor can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute the punishment or sentence of any person convicted of any offences against a state law as per Article 161. (<i>High Court or any subordinate courts can sentence the convicts against both state law and central law</i>).</p> <p>Statement 2 is correct: Even if the state law prescribes for death sentence, the power to grant pardon lies with the President and not the governor. But the governor can suspend, remit or commute a death sentence.</p> <p>Statement 3 is correct: All the decisions regarding pardoning power are subjected to judicial review by the Constitutional Courts.</p> <p>IMPORTANT TERMS:</p> <p><u>Pardon:</u> It removes both the sentence and conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishment and disqualifications.</p> <p><u>Commutation:</u> It denotes the substitution of one form of sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to a simple imprisonment.</p> <p><u>Remission:</u> It implies reduction the period of sentence without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year.</p> <p><u>Respite:</u> It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a women offender.</p> <p><u>Reprieve:</u> It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation from the president.</p> <p><u>In News:</u> The discretionary powers of the Governor are once again at the centre of a fresh controversy to decide on the remission of seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamil Nadu Cabinet adopted a resolution recommending that the Governor release the seven convicts under Article 161 of the Constitution.
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- Subsequently, Raj Bhavan issued a press release explaining that the case involves “examination of legal, administrative and Constitutional issues” and “necessary consultation may be carried out, when required, in due course”.
- This communique seems to have been drafted to give the impression that the Governor is meticulously assessing the merits of the issue at hand, but it does not mention whether the Governor’s office is vested with any such powers to apply his mind and exercise his discretion under the Constitution.

The immediate question is whether there is an independent, discretionary power vested with the Governor with regard to Articles 161 of the Constitution.

Important Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/governors-discretion/article25021561.ece>



WISH YOU ALL THE BEST!!