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1) Consider the following pairs:

1. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve: Karnataka
2. Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary: Tamil Nadu
3. Papikonda National Park: Assam

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a)

- A positive example of coexistence in **Karnataka's Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve**, where the **Soliga tribe** lives harmoniously with tigers, resulting in a significant increase in the tiger population.
- The Union Environment Ministry's approval for oil and gas exploration by Cairn India in Assam's Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary has raised concerns about the endangered hoolock gibbon's habitat.
- Papikonda National Park is located in Andhra Pradesh. It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and home to some endangered species of flora and fauna.

2) Consider the following statements regarding Green Bonds:

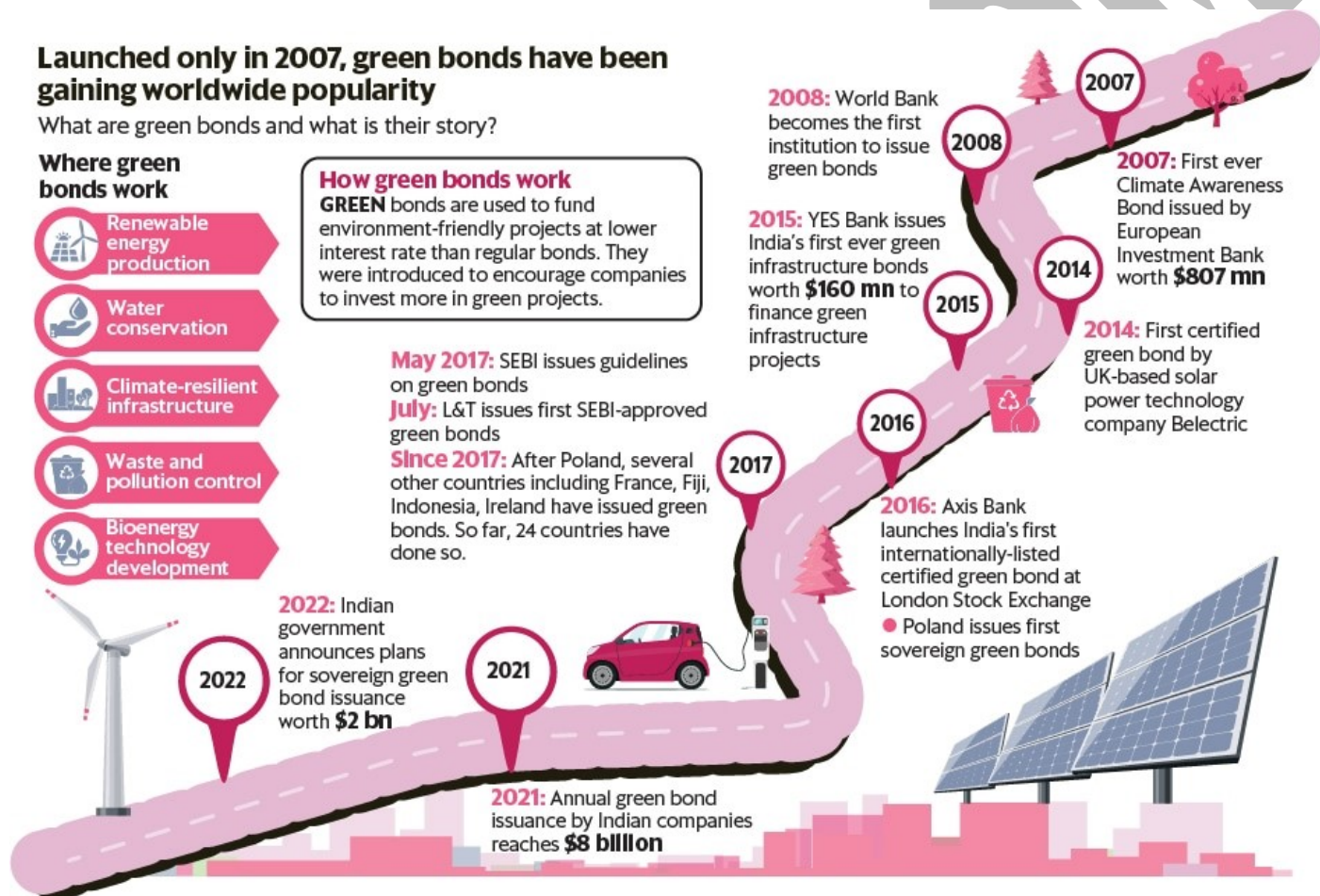
1. Green bonds are used to fund environment friendly projects at lower interest rate than regular bonds.
2. World Bank becomes the first institution to issue green bonds.
3. In India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will auction sovereign green bonds with a tenure of one year.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

- Statement 3 is incorrect: The **second sovereign green bond auction of FY25** received a muted response, with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** selling only **₹1,697 crore** worth of **10-year green bonds** at a cut-off rate of **6.90%**, against a notified amount of **₹6,000 crore**.
- The funds from these bonds are **intended for public sector projects to reduce the carbon footprint**.



3) Consider the following statements regarding Sea Weeds:

1. It is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae.
2. Sea weeds does not grow in flowing waters like rivers and streams.
3. Seaweed cultivation is not part of aquaculture in India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

- Only Statement 1 is correct: **Seaweeds** are various types of **marine plants and macroalgae** found in water bodies like rivers and lakes. **Seaweed cultivation** is part of aquaculture, with the fishing and aquaculture sector contributing **1.5% to India's GDP**.
- **Seaweed is chock-full of vitamins, minerals, and fiber.**

4) **Arrange the following places from West to East:**

1. Kargil
2. Leh
3. Jammu
4. Pangong Lake

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)



5) **Consider the following statements regarding Atmospheric rivers:**

1. Atmospheric rivers are short and wider bands of water vapour in the atmosphere that transport moisture from one region to another.
2. Atmospheric rivers are not concentrated to one region, but occur globally.
3. An example is the “Pineapple Express,” an atmospheric river that brings moisture to the U.S. West Coast.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Heavy rains and floods have recently affected several parts of India, killing scores and displacing thousands. These floods are exacerbated by “**flying rivers,**” or **atmospheric rivers**.
- **Atmospheric rivers** are **long, narrow bands of water vapour** in the atmosphere that transport moisture from the tropics to other regions. These “**rivers in the sky**” can be thousands of kilometres long and hundreds of kilometres wide, carrying large amounts of water vapour. When they make landfall, **they can release this moisture as heavy rain or snow**, often leading to significant flooding and other weather-related impacts.
- **Atmospheric rivers occur globally**, affecting the west coasts of the world’s major landmasses. A well-known example is the “**Pineapple Express,**” a strong atmospheric river that is capable of bringing moisture from the tropics near Hawaii over to the U.S. West Coast.

6) Consider the following statements regarding Vampire star:

1. Vampire stars can be detected through Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope.
2. Vampire stars defy standard stellar evolution models and appear younger than they are.
3. Heavy elements like barium, yttrium, and lanthanum are absent in these stars’ environment.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

- Statement 3 is incorrect: The **Vampire stars known as blue straggler stars (BSS), defy standard stellar evolution models and appear younger than they are.**
- The star, **named WOCs 9005, rejuvenates by siphoning material from a companion star.**
- This detection was made possible using data from **the UltraViolet Imaging Telescope on AstroSat, India’s first space observatory.**

- Spectroscopic analysis revealed the **star's atmosphere is rich in heavy elements like barium, yttrium, and lanthanum**, indicating it has been **polluted by material from its binary companion, which has since become a white dwarf**.
- This discovery provides significant insight into the **complex mass transfer process in binary star systems**.

7) Consider the following statements regarding the Standardised Precipitation Index:

1. It is calculated based on the long-term precipitation record for a particular location and long-term period.
2. It measures both the wet and dry conditions of an area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Standardised Precipitation Index' (SPI) is used for **estimating wet or dry conditions** based on precipitation variables.
- The SPI calculation is based on the **long-term precipitation** record for a particular location and long-term period (longer than 30 years is desirable).
- This index is **negative for drought** and **positive for wet conditions**. As the dry or wet conditions become more severe, the index becomes more negative or positive respectively.
- **Time scale:** It includes timescales of 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60 and 72 months.
- **Hence both statements are correct.**

8) Consider the following statements regarding Genetic screening.

1. Genetic screening is a tool used to identify individuals at higher risk for developing certain disorders or carrying specific genes for these disorders.
2. It offers insights into personal traits like food allergies, vitamin and mineral needs of a person.
3. Genetic screening can help in increasing the performance of athletes.

How many of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: d)

- Athletes worldwide are **increasingly turning to genetic screening to enhance their performance**.

- This emerging science offers valuable insights into personal traits like food allergies, vitamin and mineral needs, and other physiological factors.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India has been using genetic tests since 2017 to improve players' physical capabilities, including speed, endurance, recovery time, and muscle-building.
- Genetic screening is a tool used to identify individuals at higher risk for developing certain disorders or carrying specific genes for these disorders.
- It involves testing genetic material—chromosomes, genes, or proteins—to detect changes that might increase disease risk.
- By identifying altered genes, genetic screening helps determine risk and offers preventive measures and early treatment options.

9) Consider the following Statements regarding Carbon Credit:

1. Carbon credit implies a tradeable permit to produce a specified amount of carbon emissions.
2. The central government or any authorized agency may issue carbon credit certificates to entities registered under and compliant with the scheme.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Carbon Credit focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions into the environment.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** A Carbon Credit is a tradable certificate or tradable permit that allows the holder of the credit the right to emit 1 ton of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases of the same amount. It is an offset for producers of such greenhouse gases.
- The main goal of Carbon Credit is to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute highly to global warming.
- Carbon credit implies a tradeable permit to produce a specified amount of carbon emissions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The central government or any authorized agency may issue carbon credit certificates to entities registered under and compliant with the scheme.

10) Consider the following statements regarding Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR):

1. It was set up pre-independence as an autonomous body under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

2. CSIR is now the largest government funded multi-disciplinary industrial research and development (R&D) organisation in India.
3. The R&D activities of CSIR include aerospace engineering, structural engineering, ocean sciences, life sciences, metallurgy, chemicals, mining, food, petroleum, leather and environmental science.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

- a) One statement only
- b) Two statements only
- c) All the statements
- d) None of the Statements

Answer: c)

Explanation: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR):

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It was set up in 1942 as an autonomous body (under the Societies Registration Act, 1860).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** CSIR is now the largest government funded multi-disciplinary industrial research and development (R&D) organisation in India.
- It comes under the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The R&D activities of CSIR include aerospace engineering, structural engineering, ocean sciences, life sciences, metallurgy, chemicals, mining, food, petroleum, leather and environmental science.
- CSIR is headquartered in New Delhi.
- CSIR@80: Vision and Strategy 2022 - New CSIR for New India: Under this, the CSIR's vision is to pursue -
 - Science which strives for global impact,
 - The technology that enables innovation-driven industry,
 - The technology that fosters multidisciplinary leadership, catalysing inclusive economic development for the people of India.

11) **Consider the following Statements regarding PESA Act:**

1. It was enacted in 1996 "to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas".
2. The PESA Act was enacted to ensure self-governance through Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) for people living in the Scheduled Areas.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The PESA Act was enacted in 1996 “to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas”.
- Under the PESA Act, Scheduled Areas are those referred to in Article 244(1), which says that the provisions of the Fifth Schedule shall apply to the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. The Fifth Schedule provides for a range of special provisions for these areas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The PESA Act was enacted to ensure self-governance through Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) for people living in the Scheduled Areas.
- It recognises the right of tribal communities, who are residents of the Scheduled Areas, to govern themselves through their own systems of self-government, and also acknowledges their traditional rights over natural resources.

12) Consider the following Statements regarding ‘Dual Command’ System of Policing:

1. Under the dual command system, the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police (SP) share powers and responsibilities in a district.
2. Under this structure, the DM is entrusted with issuing licenses while the SP has powers and responsibilities to investigate crime and make arrests even without warrants.
3. Under the police Commissionerate system, the powers of both policing and magistracy are concentrated with the commissioner, who is directly accountable to the state government and the state police chief.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the dual command system, the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police (SP) share powers and responsibilities in a district.
- **Statement 2 is NOT correct:** Under this structure, the DM is entrusted with issuing arrest warrants, licenses while the SP has powers and responsibilities to investigate crime and make arrests.
 - The system is designed to ensure a lower concentration of power and making the police more accountable to the DM at the district level.
- **Statement 3 is correct: Police Commissionerate System:** Under the police Commissionerate system, the powers of both policing and magistracy are concentrated with the commissioner, who is directly accountable to the state government and the state police chief.
 - The commissioner of police under the Commissionerate system exercises the powers and duties of a District Magistrate. These powers are also available to any officer under the commissioner who is not below the rank of an Assistant Commissioner of Police.

13) Consider the following Statements regarding Directorate of Enforcement (ED):

1. The responsibility for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India is empowered to The Directorate of Enforcement (ED).
2. It is the law enforcement agency under Ministry of Home Affairs mainly to enforce the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The responsibility for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India is empowered to The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) which is the law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency.
- **Statement 2 is NOT correct:** It is part of the Department of Revenue, **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.
- The main object of the Act was to enforce two laws namely: the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA).

14) Consider the following Statements

1. The Central Government, through Food Corporation of India (FCI), has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains to the State Governments.
2. The Central Government is under obligation to procure food grains for meeting the requirements of the buffer stock to ensure food security of the country.
3. The operational responsibility including allocation within State, identification of eligible families, issue of Ration Cards and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc., rest with the Central Government executed through state administrators.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Central Government, through Food Corporation of India (FCI), has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains to the State Governments.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Central Government is also under obligation to procure food grains for meeting the requirements of the buffer stock to ensure food security of the country.
- **Statement 3 is NOT correct:** The operational responsibility including allocation within State, identification of eligible families, issue of Ration Cards and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc., rest with the State Governments.
- The difference between the economic cost of food grains and Issue Prices is incurred by the Central Government as consumer subsidy.
- Under the PDS, presently the commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene are being allocated to the States/UTs for distribution. Some States/UTs also distribute additional items of mass consumption through the PDS outlets such as pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices, etc.

15) Consider the following Statements regarding 5G technology:

1. The 5G networks will operate in the millimeter wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which have the advantage of sending large amounts of data at very high speeds.
2. 5G mainly work in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum — all of which have their own uses .
3. It is easier to transit from 4G to 5G as it will not require a fundamental change to the core

architecture of the communication system.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 5G networks will operate in the millimeter wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which have the advantage of sending large amounts of data at very high speeds because the frequency is so high, it experiences little interference from surrounding signals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bands in 5G: 5G mainly work in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum — all of which have their own uses as well as limitations.
- **Statement 3 is NOT correct:** 5G will require a fundamental change to the core architecture of the communication system. The major flaw of data transfer using 5G is that it can't carry data over longer distances. Hence, even 5G technology needs to be augmented to enable infrastructure.