

**Que-1 What is a derecho, a storm that turned the sky green in the US?**

1- It is “a widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm” that is associated with a “band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms”.

2- The name comes from the Spanish word ‘la derecha’ which means ‘straight’.

3- For a storm to be classified as a derecho it must have wind gusts of at least 193 km per hour; wind damage swath extending more than 400 km.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

**Que-2 Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has been picked as India’s new Sherpa for the G-20. Who is Sherpa?**

1- A sherpa is the Secretary of the G7 and G-20 Secretariat.

2- They prepares an international summit, such as the annual G7 and G20 summits.

3- The name is derived from the Sherpa people, a Nepalese ethnic group, who serve as guides and porters in the Himalayas.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

**Que-3 What is Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)?**

1- CAATSA is a law that came into effect in the US in 2017, meant to punish countries having deep engagements with Russia, North Korea, and Iran using economic sanctions.

2- Section 231 of the law notifies 39 Russian entities, transactions with whom could invite sanctions.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

**Que-4 India’s defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crore, the highest ever. Consider the following statements about this**

1- The private sector accounted for 90% of the exports.

2- The U.S. was a major buyer.

3- Only components which needed defence authorisation were accounted, listed under the SCOMET 6 category.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

**Que-5 Consider the following statements about Polavaram Project**

- 1- It is an under construction multi-purpose irrigation project.
- 2- The project has been accorded National project status by the Union Government of India.
- 3- Located on the Mahanadi River in the Eluru District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

**Que-6 With reference to Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, consider the following statements**

- 1- It is an autonomous district council in the state of Meghalaya in India.
- 2- It is one of the three autonomous district councils within Meghalaya, and one of twenty-five autonomous regions of India.
- 3- The members of the Council hold regular session once in a month.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

**Que-7 What is the G20?**

- 1- The G20 was formed in 1969 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1960s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.
- 2- Its aim was to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- 3- Together, the G20 countries include 60 per cent of the world's population, 80 per cent of global GDP, and 75 per cent of global trade.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

**Que-8 What are cloudbursts?**

- 1- A cloudburst refers to an extreme amount of rain that happens in a short period.
- 2- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) defines it as unexpected precipitation exceeding 100mm (or 10 cm) per hour over a geographical region of approximately 20 to 30 square km.
- 3- It sometimes accompanied by hail and thunder.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

## ANSWER

1- (a)

- For a storm to be classified as a derecho it must have wind gusts of at least 93 km per hour; wind damage swath extending more than 400 km.
- A derecho, according to the US's National Weather Service is "a widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm" that is associated with a "band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms". The name comes from the Spanish word 'la derecha' which means 'straight'. Straight-line storms are those in which thunderstorm winds have no rotation unlike a tornado. These storms travel hundreds of miles and cover a vast area.
- Being a warm-weather phenomenon, a derecho generally – not always – occurs during summertime beginning May, with most hitting in June and July. However, they are a rare occurrence as compared to other storm systems like tornadoes or hurricanes.

2- (d)

- The name is derived from the Sherpa people, a Nepalese ethnic group, who serve as guides and porters in the Himalayas, a reference to the fact that the sherpa clears the way for a head of state at a major summit.
- A sherpa is the personal representative of a head of state or head of government.
- The G-20 brings together the world's developed and developing economies, accounting for 85 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population, making it an influential forum for international economic cooperation. As the G-20 presidency, India will set the agenda for the year, identify the themes and focus areas, conduct discussions and work out outcome documents. The G-20 Leaders' Summit will be held in India for the first time in 2023.
- The G-20 process is basically divided into the Sherpa track and the Finance track. Under the Sherpa track, about 100 official meetings are expected to be organised in the areas of employment, health, digital economy, trade, investment and industry, environment and climate, energy, anti-corruption, agriculture, tourism, culture, socio-economic

development, education, and women empowerment.

- Under the Finance track, about 40 meetings are expected to be organised including in the areas of international financial architecture, financial inclusion and sustainable finance, financing for infrastructure, climate finance and tax matters.

3- (c)

- It said countries having a “significant transaction” with Russian intelligence and military agents will be subject to at least five kinds of sanctions.
- Ordinary transactions will not invite sanctions, and the decision of who has sanctions imposed on them comes down to the interpretation of “significant transaction”. This is one of the various waivers or exemptions mentioned, such as the transaction not affecting US strategic interests, not endangering the alliances it is a part of, etc.
- Section 231 of the law notifies 39 Russian entities, including all the major defence companies like Rosoboronexport, Sukhoi Aviation, Russian Aircraft Corporation MiG, transactions with whom could invite sanctions.

- India has purchased the S-400 Triumph missile systems, which have advanced capabilities to judge the distance from a target and launch a surface-to-air missile attack.

4- (d)

- The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defence public sector units had gone up.
- The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa.
- While India’s defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.
- Only components which needed defence authorisation were accounted, listed under the SCOMET 6 category. So, several aviation components and dual-use items, which did not come under the list, were not counted.

5- (a)

- Located on the Godavari River in the Eluru District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh.

6- (a)

- The members of the Council hold regular session once every four months.
- Meghalaya is divided into three regions dominated by as many matrilineal communities – the Khasis, Garos and Jaintias. The Khasi hills straddle 25 Himas or States that formed the Federation of Khasi States.
- The members of the Council hold regular session once every four months. The Annual Budget of the ADC has to be passed by the majority votes by the Council in session. The other duties of the Council in session are to legislate and enact laws and regulations on such powers as conferred by the Sixth Schedule. Bills on laws and regulations passed by the Council in session are sent to the Governor of the State for his assent or approval.

7- (d)

- The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.
- Its prominent members are: Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK,

the US, and the EU. Spain is invited as a permanent guest.

- The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among members, and the country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the 'Troika' to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda. Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries right now.

8- (c)

- Basically, all instances of cloudbursts involve heavy rain in a short period, but all instances of heavy rain in a short period are not cloudbursts if they do not fit this criterion.
- Experts have said it is difficult to predict when exactly a cloudburst will occur, and there is little definitive data on the exact number of cloudbursts that occur in India. Due to their definition dealing with a very small area, it is difficult to accurately predict and identify cloudbursts immediately. However, they are more likely to occur in mountainous zones mainly because of terrain and elevation.
- This is because, in hilly areas, sometimes saturated clouds ready to condense into rain cannot produce rain, due to the upward movement of the very warm current of air. Instead of falling downwards, raindrops are

carried upwards by the air current. New drops are formed and existing raindrops increase in size. After a point, the raindrops become too heavy for the cloud to hold on to, and they drop down together in a quick flash.

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