

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

18th - 24th MAY, 2020

THIS IS A WEEKLY DOCUMENT CONTAINING ALL MCQS ASKED IN 10 PM
CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ BY FORUMIAS.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Code on Wages, 2019**:

1. The floor wages are to be fixed by Central government.
2. The Central government is to fix only one floor wage at National level.
2. The minimum wages decided must be higher than the floor wage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. According to the Code, the **central government will fix a floor wage**, taking into account living standards of workers.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Central government may set different floor wages for different geographical areas.** Before fixing the floor wage, the central government may obtain the advice of the Central Advisory Board and may consult with state governments.

Statement 3 is correct. The **minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage.** In case the existing minimum wages fixed by the central or state governments are higher than the floor wage, they cannot reduce the minimum wages.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Health, hospitals and dispensaries are part of State list under seventh schedule.
2. Health expenditure forms almost three percent of GDP in budget 2020-21.

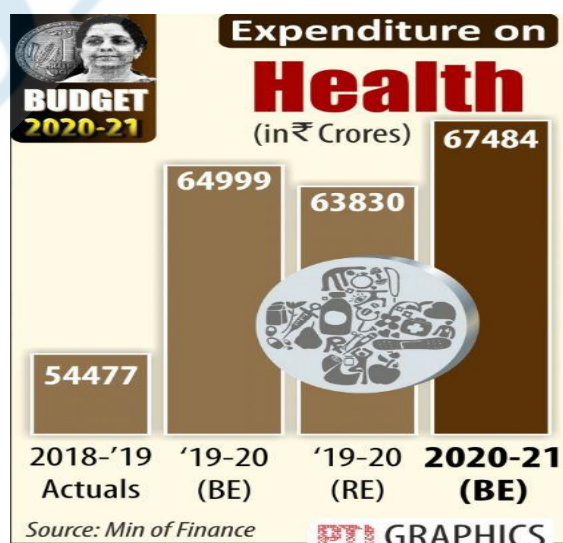
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Public health and sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries are part of State list** in seventh schedule.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Government has target of expenditure on health as 2.5 percent of GDP by 2025. It has been around 1.5 percent in last few years.



Q.3) Which of the following is/are currently listed as essential commodity in the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**?

1. Petroleum
2. Drugs
3. Raw jute and jute textiles

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are part of Schedule listing essential commodities.

Section 2A of the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** states “for the purposes of this Act, “essential commodity” means a commodity specified in the Schedule.”

The schedule contains **drugs, fertilizer, whether inorganic, organic or mixed; foodstuffs**, including edible oilseeds and oils; **petroleum and petroleum products; raw jute and jute textiles; seeds** etc.

Q.4) Which of the following countries share border with **Afghanistan**?

1. India
2. Turkmenistan
3. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Afghanistan** is a mountainous landlocked country in Central Asia bordered by **Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** to the north, **Iran** in west, **Pakistan** in east and south and it has a small stretch of border in north east with both **China and India** (Pakistan occupied Kashmir).



10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Cyclone Amphan**:

1. It is a temperate cyclone moving along Western disturbances.
2. Cyclone name Amphan was proposed by Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Amphan is a tropical cyclone developed over Bay of Bengal** while a western disturbance is an extratropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Cyclone name Amphan was suggested by Thailand**. The existing list of cyclone names, which was prepared by meteorological departments of eight countries in 2004, has been exhausted with Amphan and new list with 13 names proposed by 13 countries has been released.

New List of Names for Tropical Cyclone over North Indian Ocean													The Weather Channel
Place	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6	List 7	List 8	List 9	List 10	List 11	List 12	List 13
Bangladesh	Nisarga	Biparjoy	Arnab	Upakul	Barshon	Rajani	Nishith	Urmi	Meghala	Samiron	Pratikul	Sarobar	Mahanisha
India	Gati	Tej	Murasu	Aag	Vyom	Jhar	Probaho	Neer	Prabhanjan	Ghurni	Ambud	Jaladhi	Vega
Iran	Nivar	Hamoon	Akvan	Sepand	Booran	Anahita	Azar	Paoyan	Arsham	Hengame	Savas	Tahamtan	Taafan
Maldives	Burevi	Midhilli	Kaani	Odi	Kenau	Endheri	Riyau	Guruva	Kurangl	Kuredhi	Horangu	Thundl	Faana
Myanmar	Tauktae	Michaung	Ngamann	Kyarhit	Sapakyee	Wetwun	Mwaihout	Kywe	Pinku	Yinkaung	Linyone	Kyeekan	Bautphot
Oman	Yaas	Remal	Sall	Naseem	Muzn	Sadeem	Dima	Manjour	Rukam	Watad	Al-Jarz	Rabab	Raad
Pakistan	Gulab	Asna	Sahab	Afshan	Manahil	Shujana	Parwaz	Zannata	Sarsar	Badban	Sarrab	Gulnar	Waseq
Qatar	Shaheen	Dana	Lulu	Mouj	Suhail	Sadaf	Reem	Rayhan	Anbar	Oud	Bahar	Seef	Fanar
Saudi Arabia	Jawad	Fengal	Ghazeer	Asif	Sidrah	Hareed	Faid	Kaseer	Nakheel	Haboob	Bareq	Alreem	Wabil
Sri Lanka	Asani	Shakhti	Gigum	Gagana	Verambha	Garjana	Neeba	Ninnada	Vidull	Ogha	Salltha	Rivi	Rudu
Thailand	Sitrang	Montha	Thianyot	Bulan	Phutala	Alyara	Saming	Kraison	Matcha	Mahingsa	Phraewa	Asuri	Thara
United Arab Emirates	Mandous	Senyar	Afoor	Nahhaam	Quffal	Daaman	Deem	Gargoos	Khubb	Degl	Athmad	Boom	Saffar
Yemen	Mocha	Diltwah	Diksam	Sira	Bakhr	Ghwyzi	Hawf	Balhaf	Brom	Shuqra	Fartak	Darsah	Samhah

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding announcements under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**:

1. DIKSHA platform to provide content for school education.
2. Manodarpan initiative for psychological support and counselling of students, teachers and families.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

DIKSHA as ‘one nation, one digital platform’ for school education. It will provide e-content and QR coded energized textbooks for all grades. DIKSHA has content in 14 languages - Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Chhattisgarhi.

Manodarpan initiative is announced for psychological support and counselling of students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional well-being.



Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)**:

1. It is based on direct seeding rather than transplanting plants from nursery to fields.
2. It has less water and labour requirements than conventional transplanting-based rice farming.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Transplanting after repeated puddling is the conventional method of rice growing which is water intensive and cumbersome and laborious. Different problems like lowering water table, scarcity of labour during peak periods, deteriorating soil health demands some alternative establishment method to sustain productivity of rice as well as natural resources.

The **DSR technique is less time consuming and labour intensive** than the conventional practice. The DSR technique called ‘**tar-wattar DSR**’ has been developed and successfully tested on a good scale at farmers’ fields. It helps in saving irrigation water, there’s lesser weed problem, besides there is reduced incidence of nutrient deficiency, especially iron, owing to lesser leaching of nutrients and deeper root development.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding **Kaleshwaram Project**:

1. It is a multistage multipurpose lift irrigation project.
2. The project is built on the Kaveri River.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project** is a multi-purpose irrigation project designed to irrigate 45 lakh acres for two crops in a year, meet the drinking water requirement of 70 percent of the state (Telangana) and cater to the needs of the industry as well.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is built on Godavari River with farthest upstream influence at the confluence of the Pranhita and Godavari.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding **Sovereign Gold Bond** scheme:

1. The bonds are issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the government.
2. Minimum eligible investment in the bond is one gram and maximum limit is 4 kg for individuals.
3. The tenor of the Bond is 8 years with no exit option before maturity.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold.** They are substitutes for holding physical gold.

Statement 1 is correct. The Bond is issued by **Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.**

Statement 2 is correct. The Bonds are issued in **denominations of one gram of gold** and in multiples thereof. Minimum investment in the Bond is one gram with a maximum limit of subscription of **4 kg for individuals, 4 kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 kg for trusts.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. Though the **tenor of the bond is 8 years**, early encashment/redemption of the bond is allowed **after fifth year** from the date of issue on coupon payment dates. The bond will be tradable on Exchanges, if held in demat form. It can also be transferred to any other eligible investor.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Meteorological Department's** weather alerts:

1. An 'Orange' warning stands for 'alert' and authorities are expected to 'be prepared'.
2. A 'Red' alert stands for 'warning' and asks authorities to 'take action'.

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

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

India Meteorological Department was established in 1875. It is the National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology, seismology and allied subjects.

Alerts by the IMD are colour-coded: **'Green' stands for 'No warning', 'Yellow' alert signifies "Watch", and authorities are advised to "Be updated" on the situation, 'Orange' warning stands for "Alert", and authorities are expected to "Be prepared" and a 'Red' alert stands for "Warning" and asks authorities to "Take action".**

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Central government has raised the borrowing limit of States unconditionally to five percent of GSDP in response to COVID-19.
2. A State requires the consent of the Government of India for raising new loan if it has outstanding any part of a loan guaranteed by Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Central government has raised the borrowing limits for state governments to **five percent from three percent in view of financial crisis due to COVID-19**. This however is **not unconditional**:

An increase of 0.5 percentage points is unconditional.

A further increase of 1 percentage point will be released in four tranches of 0.25 percentage points each, linked to state performance in four areas: **One nation, one ration card scheme; ease of doing business; reforms of power sector distribution companies; reforms of urban local bodies.**

The final 0.5 percentage points in increased borrowing limit will be unlocked if targets are met in three of the four outlined areas.

Statement 2 is correct. As per **article 293 (3) of the constitution** "a State may not without the consent of the Government of India raise any loan if there is still outstanding any part of a loan which has been made to the State by the Government of India or by its predecessor Government, or in respect of which a guarantee has been given by the Government of India or by its predecessor Government."

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding governance of **World Health Organisation**:

1. Executive board members are designated by Member States that have been elected to serve by the World Health Assembly.
2. India is set to retire from chairmanship of Executive board in 2020.

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

Correct answer: A

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The Executive Board of World Health Organisation** is composed of 34 persons who are technically qualified in the field of health, each designated by a Member State that has been elected to serve by the World Health Assembly. Member States are elected for three-year terms. The main functions of the Board are to implement the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly and advise and generally to facilitate its work.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India is expected to take chairmanship of Executive Board in 2020 in ongoing World Health Assembly.

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Central Electricity Authority of India is a statutory body.
2. Generation of electricity except by nuclear and hydro projects of notified size was delicensed by Electricity Act, 2003.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Central Electricity Authority is a statutory body established under Section 70 of the Electricity Act, 2003.** The Authority consists of not more than fourteen Members (including its Chairperson) of whom not more than eight are full-time Members appointed by the Central Government. The Central Government may appoint any person, eligible to be appointed as Member of the Authority and as the Chairperson of the Authority.

Statement 2 is correct. The Electricity Act 2003 is the parent legislation governing the electricity sector in India (other than nuclear energy, which is governed by the Atomic Energy Act 1962). Under the act **generation of electricity (including captive generation) is a delicensed activity (other than for hydro projects exceeding the notified capital cost, for which an approval of the CEA is required).**

Q.14) What is “**Pinanga andamanensis**” that has been in news recently?

- a) a rare snake species
- b) an animal disease infecting cattle
- c) a palm species endemic to the South Andaman Island
- d) rice variety cultivated by Negrito tribes

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Pinanga andamanensis** is a species of **endemic palms in the Andaman Islands.** It resembles the areca palm to which it is closely related. But its entire population of some 600 specimens naturally occurs only in a tiny, evergreen forest pocket in South Andaman’s **Mount Harriet National Park.**

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding naming of **Cyclones in Indian Ocean:**

1. Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre, Delhi is responsible to name the tropical cyclones that form over Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
2. Eight countries have proposed names of future cyclones over Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea after Amphan cyclone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **RSMC New Delhi (IMD) Tropical Cyclone Center** is responsible to name the tropical cyclones that have formed over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea when they have reached the relevant intensity.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The naming of the tropical cyclones over north Indian Ocean commenced from September 2004, with names provided by eight Members. Since then, five countries have joined the Panel. **The list of 169 cyclone names released by IMD in April 2020, were provided by these countries with 13 suggestions from each of the 13 countries.**

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Place	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6	List 7	List 8	List 9	List 10	List 11	List 12	List 13
Bangladesh	Nisarga	Biparjoy	Arnab	Upakul	Barshan	Rajani	Nishith	Urmi	Meghala	Samiron	Pratikul	Sarobar	Mahanisha
India	Gati	Tej	Murasu	Aag	Vyom	Jhar	Probaho	Neer	Prabhanjan	Ghurmi	Ambud	Jaladhi	Vega
Iran	Nivar	Hamoon	Akvan	Sepand	Booran	Anahita	Azar	Pooyan	Arsham	Hengame	Savas	Tahamtan	Toofan
Maldives	Burevi	Midhili	Kaani	Odi	Kenau	Endheri	Riyau	Guruva	Kurangi	Kuredhi	Horangu	Thundi	Faana
Myanmar	Tauktae	Michaung	Ngamann	Kyarthit	Sapakyee	Wetwun	Mwaihout	Kywe	Pinku	Yinkaung	Linyone	Kyeekan	Boutphat
Oman	Yaas	Remal	Sail	Naseem	Muzn	Sadeem	Dima	Manjour	Rukam	Watad	Al-Jarz	Rabab	Raad
Pakistan	Gulab	Asna	Sahab	Afshan	Manahil	Shujana	Parwaz	Zannata	Sarsar	Badban	Sarrab	Gulnar	Waseq
Qatar	Shaheen	Dana	Lulu	Mouj	Suhail	Sadaf	Reem	Rayhan	Anbar	Oud	Bahar	Seef	Fanar
Saudi Arabia	Jawad	Fengal	Ghazeer	Asif	Sidrah	Hareed	Faid	Kaseer	Nakheel	Haboob	Bareq	Alreem	Wabil
Sri Lanka	Asani	Shakhti	Gigum	Gagana	Verambha	Garjana	Neeba	Ninnada	Vidull	Ogha	Salltha	Rivi	Rudu
Thailand	Sitrang	Montha	Thianyet	Bulan	Phutala	Aiyara	Saming	Kraisorn	Matcha	Mahingsa	Phraewa	Asuri	Thara
United Arab Emirates	Mandous	Senyar	Aloor	Nahhaam	Quffal	Daaman	Deem	Gargoar	Khubb	Degil	Athmad	Boom	Saffar
Yemen	Mocha	Ditwah	Diksam	Sira	Bakhur	Ghwyzi	Hawf	Balhaf	Brom	Shugra	Fortak	Darsah	Samhah

Q.16) The Novikov and Long Telegram are related to:

- a) First ever use of telegram
b) Telegram declaring United States of America's Independence
c) Telegram declaring end of World War II
d) Telegrams related to Soviet Russia's and USA's strategies post World War II

Correct answer: D

Explanation: In 1946, **George Kennan**, an official at the US Embassy in Moscow, was asked to provide a summary of what the Soviets were up to and their intentions in Eastern Europe. Kennan's response became known as The Long Telegram.

The **Soviet response to The Long Telegram was The Novikov Telegram**, in which the Soviet ambassador to the USA, Nikolai Novikov, warned that the USA had emerged from World War II economically strong and bent on world domination.

Q.17) Which of the following are the agricultural measures announced under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan?

- support for formalization of micro-food enterprises
- monetary stimulus for vaccination of cattle, buffalos, sheep, goats and pigs

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

3. fund for farm-gate infrastructure
4. privatization of Food Corporation of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Privatization of FCI has not been proposed.

Some of the agricultural measures announced under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan are:

Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for agricultural cooperative societies, farmer producer organizations and start-ups for boosting farm-gate infrastructure.

Rs 10,000 crore for formalization of micro-food enterprises, cluster-based farming approach to be followed.

PM Matsya Sampadana Yojana: Rs 20,000 crore allocated.

Rs 13,000 crore support to achieve 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalos, sheep, goats and pigs while Rs 15,000 crore has been granted for animal husbandry infrastructure.

Rs 4,000 crore allotted for promotion of herbal cultivation. Beekeeping initiatives have been assigned ₹500 crore.

The Essential Commodities Act, 1955, is to be amended to de-regulate cereals, edible oils, oilseeds, pulses, onion and potato.

Marketing reforms will be undertaken to provide adequate choice for farmers to sell produce at prices of their choice.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding Quad group countries:

1. There is no member in the group from Europe, South America, Australia and Africa continent.
 2. No member of the group is a permanent member of United Nations Security 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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Quad group or The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) includes: **The United States, Japan, Australia and India.**

Statement 1 is incorrect. Australia is part of the group.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Five permanent members of UNSC are: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the *United States of America*.

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. Haemoglobin is an oxygen carrying protein found in the red blood cells.
2. Pulse oximetry is a test used to measure the oxygen level in the blood.

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

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Haemoglobin (Hb)** is the iron-containing oxygen-transport metalloprotein in the red blood cells that **carries oxygen from lungs to the rest of the body and gives blood its red colour.**

Statement 2 is correct. **Pulse oximetry** is a noninvasive method for monitoring a person's oxygen saturation. It is a painless measure of how well oxygen is being sent to parts of your body furthest from your heart, such as the arms and legs.

It has been observed that a pulse oximeter can help identify a potentially deadly condition in Covid-19 patients called 'Covid pneumonia' sooner and more effectively.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding **LCA Tejas**:

1. It is a Multi-Role Hypersonic Fighter Aircraft.

2. It is double engine combat aircraft.

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** together with its variants is the smallest and lightest **Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft of its class.** It is not a hypersonic aircraft.

A supersonic aircraft is an aircraft able to fly faster than the speed of sound (Mach 1), while hypersonic speed of above Mach 5 is much greater than speed of sound.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **LCA Tejas is a delta wing single engine aircraft**; it has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding **Indo-U.S. Vaccine Action Program (VAP)**:

1. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology is the nodal agencies for the program in India.

2. COVID-19 vaccine development is the first collaboration under the program.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Indo-U.S. Vaccine Action Program (VAP)** is a bilateral program, which supports a broad spectrum of activities relating to immunization and vaccine related research. All work is carried out within areas designated as priorities by the VAP Joint Working Group (JWG), which is comprised of scientists and officials from both countries.

Statement 1 is correct. The "**nodal agencies**" for this cooperation are **India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, Ministry of Science and Technology, and the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**, National Institutes of Health, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The programme is under implementation since July, 1987 under the **Gandhi-Reagan Science & Technology Agreement**. The program has been working on

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

dengue, enteric diseases, influenza (including avian influenza), malaria, and tuberculosis (TB) diseases.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding **Amphan Cyclone**:

1. It is a clockwise rotating tropical cyclone.
 2. It developed over Arabian Sea before moving towards India's coastline.
- 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

Correct answer: D

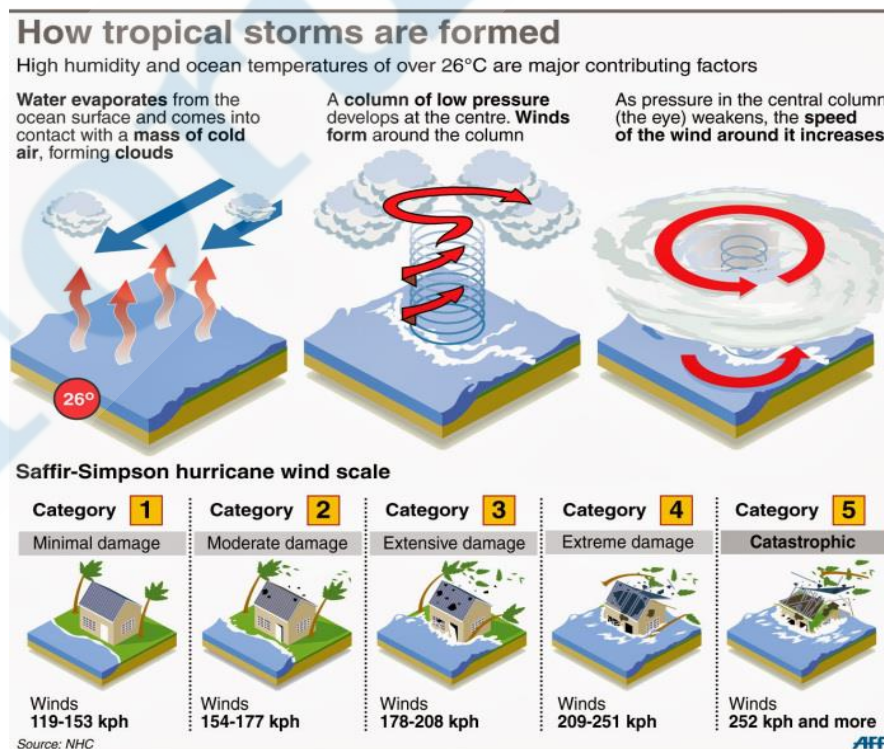
Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The winds of the cyclone are driven by low-pressure core and the rotation of Earth which deflects the path of the wind (**Coriolis force**). Therefore, tropical cyclones rotate in a **counterclockwise direction in the Northern Hemisphere** and in a **clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere**. Amphan cyclone developed in northern hemisphere rotates counterclockwise. Statement 2 is incorrect. Amphan cyclone developed over **Bay of Bengal**, not Arabian Sea.

Q.23) The **Saffir-Simpson scale** is a measurement of:

- a) Geographical spread of a pandemic
- b) Strategic autonomy of a country
- c) Intensity of sustained winds of Hurricanes
- d) Migration of people

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale** is a **1 to 5 rating** based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale can estimate the potential property damage due to sustained winds of a hurricane.



10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding **Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act, 2017**:

1. A State government may declare the state as a single unified market area with single license applicable for the trade of agricultural produce and livestock.
2. Private market yards may be set up by private individuals to facilitate operations of traders and commission agents.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Some of the features of the **Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act, 2017** are:

- A state government may declare the whole state as a **single unified market** area where a single license will be applicable for the trade of agricultural produce and livestock.
- A **Market Committee** will manage market yards in a specified area. The Market Committee shall levy a market fee from a buyer on sale of notified agricultural produce and livestock.
- A **private market yard** may be set up by private individuals to facilitate operations of traders, and commission agents. These can also include farmer-consumer market yards.

Q.25) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding **Solar Minimum**?

1. Sunspot count is relatively low during the Solar minimum.
2. It is a periodic phenomenon.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Sunspots are areas that appear dark on the surface of the Sun. They appear dark because they are cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface. They are strongly magnetized, and they crackle with solar flares—magnetic explosions that illuminate Earth with flashes of X-rays and extreme ultraviolet radiation.

Almost every 11 years sunspots fade away, which is called Solar Minimum. Sunspot counts were relatively high in 2014, and now they are sliding toward a low point in 2019-2020.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding announcements made under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**:

1. FDI limit in the Defence manufacturing under automatic route to be raised to hundred percent.
2. Commercial Mining and revenue sharing model to be introduced in Coal Sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020






- c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2


Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It has been announced that FDI limit in the **Defence manufacturing** under automatic route will be raised from **49% to 74%**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Government will introduce competition, transparency and private sector participation in the Coal Sector through a **revenue sharing mechanism** instead of regime of fixed Rupee/tonne. Any party can bid for a coal block and sell in the open market.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a set of structural reforms across sectors as a part of the efforts to boost a sagging economy

 COAL Commercial mining on a revenue sharing basis to be introduced. Companies in the private sector will be allowed to carry out exploration	 MINERALS Composite exploration-cum-mining-cum-production regime for minerals to be announced. 500 mining blocks will be auctioned	 DEFENCE A list of weapons/platforms for ban on import will be notified. FDI limit in manufacturing under automatic route to be raised to 74%	 CIVIL AVIATION Restrictions on utilisation of the airspace will be eased so that flying becomes efficient. Now, only 60% of the airspace is freely available	 POWER Power departments/utilities and distribution companies in U.T.s to be privatised. It will be in line with the tariff policy which is to be announced
 SPACE Privatisation to be introduced. Planetary exploration, outer space travel to be opened to the private sector		 ATOMIC ENERGY Research reactor in PPP mode to be set up for the production of medical isotopes		



Q.27) Which of the following has launched the 'Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program'?

- a) Asian Development Bank
b) World Bank
c) NITI Aayog
d) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **World Bank** has approved one billion US dollar '**Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme**' to support India. An immediate allocation of 750 million USD for fiscal year 2020 and a 250 million USD second tranche that will be made available for fiscal year 2021. The program will support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first phase of the operation will be implemented country wide through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. In the second phase, the programme will further the social protection package, whereby additional cash and in-kind benefits based on local needs will be provided.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.28) Which of the following can be measured using **Doppler Radar**?

1. Speed of the target
2. Direction of the target

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Doppler Effect** refers to an increase or decrease in the frequency of sound, light, or other waves as the source and observer move towards or away from each other.

On a Doppler system, microwaves are sent out and received continuously, for a non-mobile target; the returning waves have same frequency as the transmitted wave. This returning frequency is higher if the target is moving towards the antenna and is lower if the target is moving away from the antenna.

The difference between the transmitted and the returned frequency can be used to measure the speed of the target to or from the antenna. The Doppler radar used in weather forecasting measures the direction and speed, or **velocity**, of objects such as drops of precipitation.

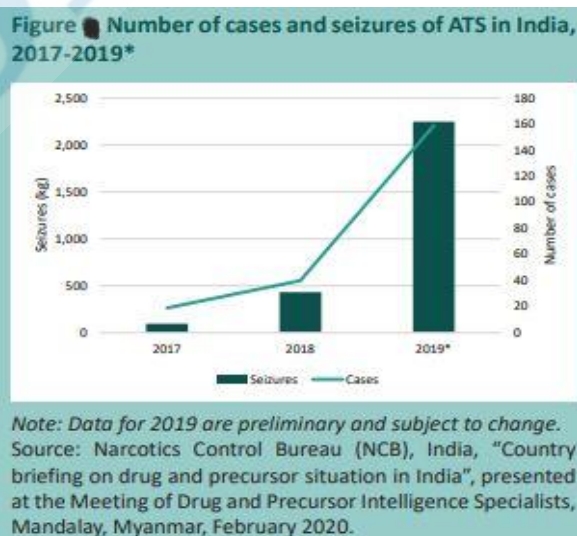
Q.29) Which of the following has released the report '**Synthetic Drugs in East and Southeast Asia**'?

- a) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), USA
- b) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- c) International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)
- d) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

Correct answer: B

Explanation: '**Synthetic Drugs in East and Southeast Asia**' report from the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** warns that the synthetic drug market in East and Southeast Asia continues to expand and diversify, and the price of methamphetamine has dropped to the lowest level in a decade as the supply has surged.

India reported a substantial increase in seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), up from 431 kg in 2018 to more than 2.2 tonnes in 2019.



10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding **External Commercial Borrowings**:

1. It includes the commercial borrowings from Multilateral Financial Institutions.
2. It forms part of Capital account under Balance of Payments.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** includes commercial bank loans, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, securitized instruments, credit from official export credit agencies and commercial borrowings from Multilateral Financial Institutions.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Capital account under Balance of payments** include foreign direct investment, foreign institutional investment/ ADR/GDR, external commercial borrowing (ECBs)/foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs), trade credit, NRI deposits and other banking liabilities/assets.

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**:

1. Medical Council of India is responsible for implementation of the scheme.
2. The testing and treatment of COVID-19 is insured for eligible people under 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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY aims at providing a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. The households included are based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011).

Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana." The NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Statement 2 is correct. In view of current pandemic, National Health Authority notified the testing and treatment of eligible beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Q.32) Which of the following is/are measures announced under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan regarding the defence sector**?

1. Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Boards
2. List of weapons/platforms for ban on import to be notified
3. Increase in FDI limit in the Defence manufacturing under automatic route

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Several prospective reforms were announced for defence sector under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan:

'Make in India' for Self-Reliance in Defence Production will be promoted by notifying a list of **weapons/platforms for ban on import** with year wise timelines, Indigenisation of imported spares, and separate budget provisioning for domestic capital procurement.

Improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency in Ordnance Supplies by **Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board**.

FDI limit in the Defence manufacturing under automatic route will be raised from 49% to 74%.

There will be time-bound defence procurement process and faster decision making will be ushered in by setting up of a Project Management Unit (PMU) to support contract management; Realistic setting of General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQRs) of weapons/platforms and overhauling Trial and Testing procedures.

Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding the **Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897**:

1. Disobeying an order made under the act is a punishable offence.
2. The act provides protection against legal proceedings for anything done under the act in good faith.
3. The State government is empowered to take measures for the inspection of persons travelling by railways.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

The clause 3 of the act states that any person disobeying any regulation or order made under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an **offence punishable under section 188** of the Indian Penal Code.

The clause 4 of the act states that no suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done or in **good faith intended** to be done under this Act.

The act empowers the State government (clause 2) to take measures and prescribe regulations for the inspection of persons travelling by railway or otherwise suspected of being infected with any such disease.

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding **Public Sector Enterprise Policy** proposed under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**:

1. In strategic sectors, at least one enterprise will remain in the public sector.
2. Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises to be dissolved.
3. Private sector to be allowed to invest in strategic sectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. List of strategic sectors requiring presence of PSEs in public interest will be notified and in **strategic sectors**, at least **one enterprise will remain** in the public sector.

Statement 2 is incorrect. No such announcement has been made. The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises administers central public sector enterprises (PSEs) and assists them in their effort to improve capacity utilisation and increase profitability, generate resources and re-orient strategies to become more competitive.

Statement 3 is correct. To minimise wasteful administrative costs, number of enterprises in strategic sectors will ordinarily be only one to four; others will be **privatised/ merged/ brought under holding companies**.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company**:

1. It is a public private partnership company for providing Credit Guarantee to vulnerable borrowers.
2. It will provide credit guarantee of Rs 3 lakh crore to MSMEs under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, established by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, as **a wholly owned company of the Government of India**, to act as a common trustee company for multiple credit guarantee funds.

Statement 2 is correct. **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** to provide a credit guarantee of Rs 3 lakh crore to MSME sector in view of financial crisis due to COVID-19 was announced recently. Under the scheme 100% **guarantee coverage will be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)** to eligible MSMEs and interested borrowers of the MUDRA scheme, in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.

Q.36) Which of the following place(s) in India is/are bordering Nepal?

1. Kalapani
2. Susta
3. Naku La

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Kalapani in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand borders Nepal.

Susta is in West Champaran district of Bihar bordering Nepal.

Naku La pass in Sikkim is at India-China border.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana**:

1. It is an income support scheme for rice, maize and sugarcane farmers of Chhattisgarh.
2. The support will be based on registered area and area under cultivation.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Chhattisgarh government has launched Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana to provide **direct benefit income support for farmers**.

It is based on registered area and area under cultivation, rice and maize farmers would get Rs 10,000 an acre while sugarcane farmers would get Rs 13,000 in four installments.

Q.38) The **Shekatkar Committee** was set up with regards to:

- a) Police administration reforms
- b) Boundary settlement with Nepal
- c) Combat capability and Defence expenditure
- d) Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) reforms

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The Shekatkar Committee was set up by the Government of India in 2016 to recommend measures on enhancing **Combat Capability and Rebalancing Defence Expenditure**. Recently government implemented three recommendations of Committee of Experts (CoE) under the Chairmanship of **Lt General D B Shekatkar (Retd)** relating to border Infrastructure.

- outsource road construction work beyond optimal capacity of **Border Roads Organisation** (BRO) and mandatory adoption of Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode for execution of all works costing more than Rs 100 crore.
- introduction of modern construction plants, equipment and machinery has been implemented by delegating enhanced procurement powers from Rs 7.5 crore to Rs 100 crore to BRO.
- **land acquisition** and all statutory clearances like forest and environmental clearance are also made part of approval of **Detailed Project Report (DPR)**.

Q.39) Which of the following have been **indigenously developed** in India?

1. Mi-17 helicopter
2. INS Vikramaditya
3. Astra missile

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Mi-17 is a Soviet/Russian** transport helicopter, also used by Indian Air Force.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

INS Vikramaditya is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier, it was **originally built as Baku** and commissioned in 1987, the carrier served with the Soviet Navy and later with the Russian Navy. The carrier was purchased by India and got **inducted into the Indian Navy in 2014**.

Astra is an all-weather beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding **One Health** approach:

1. It is an international movement promoting herd immunity as solution for COVID-19.
2. It recognizes that health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. '**One Health**' is an approach to designing and implementing **programmes, policies, legislation and research** in which multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes.

Statement 2 is correct. It recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our **shared environment**. Therefore, successful public health interventions require the cooperation of human, animal, and environmental health partners.

One Health issues include **zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety** and food security, vector-borne diseases, environmental contamination, and other health threats shared by people, animals, and the environment.

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding **Quantum Entanglement**:

1. It occurs when a group of particles are linked with each other but their quantum state can still be described independently.
2. It has applications in technologies of quantum computing and quantum cryptography.

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Quantum entanglement is a quantum mechanical phenomenon in which the quantum states of two or more objects **have to be described with reference to each other**, even though the individual objects may be spatially separated. They are linked in a way such that the **quantum state of each particle of the pair or group cannot be described independently** of the state of the others.

Statement 2 is correct. Quantum entanglement has applications in the emerging technologies of **quantum computing and quantum cryptography** and has been used to realize quantum teleportation experimentally.

Scientists from S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology have developed a novel

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

protocol to find out whether a pair of electrons is in an entangled state so that they can be safely used as resources for facilitating quantum information processing tasks.

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It aims to provide at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do skilled work.
3. Gram Sabha is empowered to do the social audit of the projects within the Gram Panchayat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The MGNREGA is part of the **Core of the Core Schemes and is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme** on a cost-sharing basis between the Centre and the States as determined by the Act.

The Act incentivises States to provide employment, as 100 per cent of the unskilled labour cost and 75% of the material cost of the programme is borne by the Central Government.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do *unskilled manual work*.

Statement 3 is correct. As per the act, the **Gram Sabha** shall conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the Scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat.

Gram Sabha also determines the order of priority of works in the meetings of the Gram Sabha keeping in view potential of the local area, its needs, and local resources and monitors the execution of projects.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding **International Day for Biological Diversity**:

1. "Our solutions are in nature" is the theme for the International Day of Biological Diversity 2020.
2. It marks the day the Convention on Biological Diversity came into effect.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. International day of Biological diversity is a **United Nations-sanctioned** international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues held annually on May 22. The theme for 2020 is "**Our solutions are in nature**".

Statement 2 is incorrect. It was held on December 29 to celebrate the day the Convention on Biological Diversity went into effect till 2000, after that the date was shifted to commemorate the **adoption of the Convention on May 22**.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding **Agappe Chitra Magna**:

1. It is an antibody-based testing kit for COVID-19.
2. It has been indigenously developed in India by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It is a diagnostic kit for COVID-19, but it is **not based on antibody-based testing**. It uses an innovative technology for isolating RNA using magnetic nanoparticles to capture the RNA from the patient sample. The magnetic nanoparticle beads bind to the viral RNA and, when exposed to a magnetic field, give a highly purified and concentrated RNA.

The kit can be used for RNA extraction for RT-LAMP, RT-qPCR, RT-PCR and other isothermal and PCR based protocols for the detection of SARS-COV-2.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The kit was developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with Agappe Diagnostics Ltd, an in vitro diagnostics manufacturing company based in Cochin.

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding a **Bad Bank**:

1. A commercial bank with non-performing assets ratio more than 12 percent it termed as Bad Bank by RBI.
2. A Bad Bank can incorporate the distressed and illiquid assets of other banks.

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. A bad bank is a bank set up to **buy the bad loans and other illiquid holdings** of another financial institution.

Statement 2 is correct. The financial entity holding significant nonperforming assets will sell these illiquid and distressed holdings to the bad bank. By transferring such assets to the bad bank, the original institution may clear its balance sheet.

Q.46) Consider the following statements:

1. Environment Protection Act, 1986 empowers the central government to restrict any industries, operations or processes in an area to protect the environment.
2. Eco-sensitive Areas are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

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

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As per the act the **Central Government** has the power to take all such measures as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing controlling and abating environmental pollution. It may notify restriction of areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.

Statement 2 is correct. Areas around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries requiring more protection due to their sensitiveness are notified by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** as Eco-sensitive zones or Eco-sensitive areas.

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the **Supreme Court of India**:

1. It is a court of record and has the powers to punish for contempt of itself.
2. It has exclusive powers to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights under the Constitution.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 129 of the Constitution** provides that “the Supreme Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself”.

A court of record is one whose proceedings are recorded and available as evidence of fact.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The powers to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights is **not exclusive to the Supreme Court, the High Courts can also issue writs**, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibitions, quo warranto and certiorari, or any of them, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by Part III as provided by **Article 226(1)** of the constitution.

Q.48) **Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities** in India has been released by:

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) Bureau of Indian Standards
- d) IIT-Roorkee

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA)** recently released the Star Rating of Garbage Free cities.

The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the Ministry in 2018 to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.

The protocol includes components such as cleanliness of drains and water bodies, plastic waste management, managing construction & demolition waste, etc., while the key thrust of protocol is on Solid Waste Management.

Q.49) Which of the following is/are part of the **Proportionality Test** applied by judiciary to test the validity of an act of the government?

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

1. Action must serve a legitimate State aim
 2. The extent of interference must be proportionate to the need for such interference
- 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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The proportionality test was broadly agreed upon in the **Puttaswamy judgment**, which says that the action must be sanctioned by law; the proposed action must be necessary in a democratic society for a legitimate aim; the extent of such interference must be proportionate to the need for such interference and there must be procedural guarantees against abuse of such interference.

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding **National Test Abhyas** application:

1. It has been developed by National Testing Agency.
2. It will be used for conducting online examination of Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2020.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Human Resource Development Ministry has launched an Artificial Intelligence powered mobile app named – the '**National Test Abhyas**'. It has been developed by **National Testing Agency**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It will enable the candidates to take **mock tests** for upcoming exams such as JEE Main, NEET under the NTA's purview.

GATE is conducted jointly by IISc and 7 IITs and not by NTA.

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding the **Open Skies Treaty**:

1. It enables participant countries to conduct unarmed aerial surveillance over each other's territories.
2. India is a signatory member to the treaty.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Signed in 1992, the **Open Skies Treaty** permits each state-party to conduct **unarmed reconnaissance flights** over the others' entire territories to collect data on defence related activities.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India is not a member to the treaty.** Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia,

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Kyrgyzstan has signed, but not ratified the treaty.

The United States has announced its intention to withdraw from the Open Skies treaty.

Q.52) Which of the following can be used to **raise the demand** in an economy?

1. Lowering the Repo rate
2. Quantitative easing
3. Helicopter Money

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are tools of increasing money supply in an economy, which in turn can promote investment and consumer spending and thereby demand.

Repo rate is the interest rate at which the central bank lends short term money to banks with repurchase agreements.

Quantitative easing (QE) is a form of monetary policy in which a central bank purchases long-term securities from the open market in order to increase the money supply.

Helicopter money is the term used for a large sum of new money that is printed and distributed. For more on this visit: <https://blog.forumias.com/what-is-helicopter-money-and-why-its-use-is-advocated-against-corona-pandemic/>

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the **Desert Locusts**:

1. It is an omnivorous species of Grasshopper.
2. They can attack humans and carry zoonotic disease.
3. An adult Desert Locust can consume almost its own weight of food every day.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Locusts are herbivorous insects** that can be serious pests of agriculture due to their ability to form dense and highly mobile swarms. They are species of short-horned grasshoppers.

Desert Locusts feed on leaves, shoots, flowers, fruit, seeds, stems and bark. Nearly all crops and plants including maize, sorghum, barley, rice, sugarcane, cotton, fruit trees, vegetables, pasture grasses and weeds.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, **Locusts do not attack people or animals**. There is no evidence to suggest that they carry diseases that could harm humans.

Statement 3 is correct. An adult Desert Locust can consume roughly its own weight, about 2 grams, in food every day.

Q.54) Consider the following statements regarding **Open Market Operations (OMO)** of RBI:

1. It refers to the Repo rate changes targeted to keep inflation within the tolerance limits.
2. RBI can adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market using OMO.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Open Market Operations of RBI are the market operations conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of **Government Securities** to or from the market.

Statement 2 is correct. The objective of OMOs is to **adjust the rupee liquidity** conditions in the market on a durable basis. When the RBI feels that there is excess liquidity in the market, it resorts to sale of securities thereby sucking out the rupee liquidity. Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI may buy securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.

Q.55) Which of the following is governed by the **One Country Two System** model?

- a) Taiwan
- b) Hong Kong
- c) Catalonia
- d) Gilgit-Baltistan

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the **People's Republic of China is a national law of China** that serves as the de facto constitution of the Hong Kong.

Basic Law works with the "**one country, two systems**" principle such that the governance and economic system practiced in mainland China are not extended to Hong Kong.

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding **Kali River originating in Himalayas**:

1. It is a left bank tributary of Yamuna River.
2. A part of the river formed the boundary between British India and Nepal kingdom as per the Treaty of Sagauli.

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Kali River is also known as **Sharda River** in lower reaches, Kutiyaundi or Mahakali River in Himalayan region, it joins Ghagra River, which is a tributary of Ganga.

Statement 2 is correct. By the **Sagauli treaty**, Nepal renounced all claim to the disputed Tarai region, and ceded its conquests west of the Kali River.

Q.57) Which of the following is correct regarding the **Accommodative Monetary Policy** stance?

- a) Central Bank intends to increase the money supply
- b) Central Bank intends to increase the Repo rate
- c) Central Bank will alter rates in any direction to control the money supply in the system

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

d) None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: An **accommodative stance by Central bank** means it aims to expand the overall money supply to boost the economy when the economic growth is slowing down. This is also known as “easy monetary policy” and central bank will cut rates to inject money into the financial system whenever needed.

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the **Khudol initiative**:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
2. It aims to ensure food, health and hygiene of the LGBTQI+ community.

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Khudol is a crowdfunded initiative of **Ya_All**, an Imphal-based NGO that had created India’s first transgender football team.

Statement 2 is correct. The initiative aims to ensure food, health and hygiene of the **LGBTQI+** community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents. The United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth has listed Manipur’s Khudol (gift) among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q.59) Which of the following is/are direct risks of having **Metabolic Syndrome**?

1. Heart disease
2. Diabetes
3. Malaria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Malaria is not a direct risk of having Metabolic Syndrome.

Metabolic syndrome also known as **Syndrome X** is a **cluster of conditions** that occur together, increasing the risk of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. It is a group of risk factors - high blood pressure, high blood sugar, unhealthy cholesterol levels, and abdominal fat.

Q.60) Consider the following statements regarding **Group Exposure Limits** in banking system of India:

1. It is the limit on bank’s exposure to a group of connected companies.
2. Each bank can autonomously fix exposure limits for itself.

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

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The group exposure limit determines the **maximum amount a bank can lend to one business house or connected business entities**. It prevents the troubles at one company having a spillover effect on the bank's other assets, which could lead to a systemic risk.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is fixed by RBI. Under the **Large Exposures Framework**, the exposure of a bank to a group of connected counterparties should not be higher than 25 per cent of the lender's eligible capital base at all times.

Recently, as a one-time measure in view of financial crisis due to COVID-19, RBI decided to increase a bank's exposure to a group of connected companies from 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the eligible capital base of the bank. The increased limit will be applicable up to June 30, 2021.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding **Storm Surge**:

1. It refers to an elevation of seawater level during a storm or cyclone.
2. In cyclones formed over Bay of Bengal surge is largest in the right-forward part of the storm.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Storm surge is the abnormal rise in seawater level** during a storm, measured as the height of the water above the normal predicted astronomical tide. The surge is caused primarily by a storm's winds pushing water onshore. Statement 2 is correct. The rotation of the Earth causes winds to move toward the right in the Northern Hemisphere and toward the left in the Southern Hemisphere (**Coriolis effect**). If a cyclone develops in the Northern Hemisphere like that in Bay of Bengal, the surge will be largest in the right-forward part of the storm while in the Southern Hemisphere, the surge will be largest in the left-forward part of the cyclone.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding **expansionary fiscal policy**:

1. It is aimed at increasing demand in the economy.
2. Increased government spending by increasing tax rates is a tool of such policy.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The objective of expansionary policy is to **spur the aggregate demand in the economy**. It is based on the ideas of Keynesian economics, the idea that the main cause of recessions is a deficiency in aggregate demand.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The motive is that by putting more money into the hands of consumers, the government can stimulate economic activity during times of economic contraction. Therefore, the **government spends more and reduces the tax burden on taxpayers**. Reduced tax burden provides incentive to spend/consume more and it further increases the demand.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.63) Which of the following country has authorized change of its official currency to 'Toman'?

- a) Venezuela
- b) Iran
- c) Cuba
- d) North Korea

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Iranian Parliament recently authorized the replacement of the **Rial** with another basic unit of currency called the **Toman**. The Rial unit of currency has lost much of its value against the dollar due to sanctions and COVID-19, it will be replaced by the Toman, and each Toman will be worth 10,000 Rials under the new system.

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding **Goldman Environmental Prize**:

- 1. It is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- 2. No Indian has ever won the Goldman Environmental Prize.

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Goldman Environmental Prize is a prize awarded annually by the **Goldman Environmental Foundation** to grassroots environmental activists, **one from each of the world's six geographic regions**: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America. Statement 2 is incorrect. Prafulla Samantara was awarded in 2017 for his social cause activism and villager mobilization against coal mining. Before him Ramesh Agrawal, Rashida Bee and Champa Devi Shukla, M.C. Mehta and Medha Patkar have won this award also known as **Green Nobel**.

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding project **Arth-Ganga**:

- 1. It is an economic reform project to streamline the Labour Policy in India.
- 2. It aims to involve local community with a focus on economic activities.

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Project Arth Ganga** is aimed towards developing economic projects on banks of River Ganga.

Statement 2 is correct. The Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) aimed to develop river Ganges as a safe mode of navigation and is being implemented with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. **'Project Arth Ganga'** envisages to re-engineer the JMVP by involving the local community with a focus on economic activities in and around the Ganga river.

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Q.66) The **Global Forest Resources Assessments** has been released by:

- a) World Wildlife Fund
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020)** has been released by the United Nations **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**. FRA 2020 examines the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.

It observes that while forest area has declined all across the world in the past three decades, the rate of forest loss has declined due to the growth of sustainable management. The world lost 178 million hectares (mha) of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya, according to the report.

Among the world's regions, Africa had the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020, at 3.9 mha, followed by South America, at 2.6 mha.

The world's total forest area was 4.06 billion hectares (bha), which was 31 per cent of the total land area. This area was equivalent to 0.52 ha per person, the report noted.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding **India Accounting Standards (IndAS)**:

- 1. These are aimed to make reporting by Indian companies more globally accessible.
- 2. These are issued by Ministry of Commerce.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. IndAS stands for **Indian Accounting Standard** and are harmonized with standards for IFRS (**International Financial Reporting Standards**) to ensure that Indian companies more globally accessible.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, in 2015 and in subsequent amendments, has notified the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards (IND AS) Rules, which stipulated the adoption and applicability of IND AS in a phased manner.

Q.68) Consider the following statements regarding **Thanjavur Netti Works**:

- 1. It is made from pith obtained from a hydrophyte plant.
- 2. It has been recognized as a Geographical Indication (GI).

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Thanjavur Netti works is made from pith obtained from a plant - *Aeschynomene aspera* (netti), it is a hydrophyte plant found abundantly in lakes and marshy lands surrounding

10 PM Weekly Compilation for the Month of May, 2020

Thanjavur and Mannargudi region in Tamil Nadu. The pith work models are delicate to handle and are usually preserved inside glass boxes.

It has been recognized as a Geographical Indication, its artisans are uniquely skilled in this craft and this art has been traditionally transferred from their forefathers.

Hydrophyte plant: a plant that grows partly or wholly in water.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding **Konark Sun Temple**:

1. It was built by Krishnadevaraya of Tuluva dynasty.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It was built in the 13th century during the reign of **King Narasimhadeva I** (AD 1238-1264) of the **Eastern Ganga Dynasty** and is located near the sacred city of Puri, Odisha.

Statement 2 is correct. It was given the status of a **World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO**.

Sun Temple comprises several distinct and well-organized spatial units. The vimana (principal sanctuary) was surmounted by a high tower with a shikhara (crowning cap), which was razed in the 19th century. To the east, the jahamogana (audience hall) dominates the ruins with its pyramidal mass. Farther to the east, the natmandir (dance hall), today unroofed, rises on a high platform.

Q.70) Which of the following are correctly matched?

1. Dhaka glacier - Sikkim
2. Pindari glacier - Uttarakhand
3. Satopanth glacier - Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. The **Sutri Dhaka glacier is located in the Chandra valley** of Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

Option 2 is correct. The **Pindari Glacier is in the upper reaches of the Kumaon Himalayas**, Uttarakhand. It gives rise to the Pindar River which meets the Alakananda at Karnaprayag.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Satopanth glacier** lies on the northwest side of Nilkantha, a major peak of the **Garhwal Himalayas** in Uttarakhand. Bhagirathi Kharak glacier and Satopanth glacier feed the Alaknanda River.