

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

15th to 21st June, 2020

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

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Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution of India provides for abolition of untouchability.
2. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 makes enforcement of religious and social disabilities a punishable offence.
3. A person convicted for preaching untouchability cannot be nominated to the Council of States.

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: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 17 of the constitution** states that untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of Untouchability is an offence punishable in accordance with law. Statement 2 is correct. **The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955** provides punishment for enforcing **religious disabilities**, punishment for enforcing **social disabilities**, punishment for refusing to admit person to hospitals, etc., punishment for refusing to sell goods or render services, punishment for other offences arising out of untouchability etc.

Statement 3 is correct. Under **Section 8(1) of the Representation of People Act 1951**, a person convicted under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 which provides for punishment for the preaching and practice of "untouchability", and for the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom; is **disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State.**

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods & Services Tax Council**:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The GST Council is chaired by the Minister of Finance, Government of India.
3. The decisions of the Goods and Services Tax Council are taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.
4. The vote of the Central Government has a weightage of one fourth of the total votes cast.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Goods & Services Tax Council** is a constitutional body under article 279A of the constitution for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.

Statement 2 is correct. The GST Council is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister** and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

Statement 3 is correct. Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council is taken at a meeting, by a majority of not less than **three-fourths of the weighted votes** of the members present and voting.

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Statement 4 is incorrect. The vote of the **Central Government have a weightage of one third** of the total votes cast, and the votes of all the State Governments taken together have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **COVID-19 disease**:

1. Asymptomatic patients of COVID-19 can spread infection to others.
2. Transmission may occur through fomites in the immediate environment around the infected person.

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. The **SARS-COV-2** virus is spread mainly from **person-to-person**. Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or **talks**. These **droplets** can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Statement 2 is correct. Transmission may also occur through **fomites in the immediate environment** around the infected person. Therefore, transmission of the COVID-19 virus can occur by direct contact with infected people and indirect contact with surfaces in the immediate environment or with objects used on the infected person.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Malabar gliding frog**:

1. It is associated with freshwater habitats in Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as vulnerable species in IUCN Red List.

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. **Malabar gliding frog** (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*), a rare amphibian can glide in the air up to 10 to 12 meters is associated with **freshwater habitats and is found in Western Ghats of India**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The *Rhacophorus malabaricus* is listed as **Least concern** in IUCN red list with a decreasing population trend.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **ELISA test**:

1. It is an antibody detection test.
2. ELISA test is conducted on nasal or throat swab sample of the patient.

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

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Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)** is a test that detects and measures **antibodies** in the body related to certain infectious conditions. Antibodies are proteins that your body produces in response to harmful substances called antigens.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An ELISA detects antibodies produced in patient **blood**. An ELISA test is of two types depending on the antibodies tested for — **immunoglobulin G (IgG)** and **immunoglobulin M (IgM)**. IgG detects antibodies developed in later stage of infection, and IgM detects antibodies produced in early stages of infection.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**:

1. India is an observer state to the IOC.
2. India hosts the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) coordinated by IOC.

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 Indian Ocean Commission** is an intergovernmental organization of five member states: Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, France (in respect of Réunion) and Comoros. **India is the observer state to the commission since March 2020.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Madagascar hosts the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC)**. The Regional Agreement for the establishment of a mechanism for exchange and sharing of maritime information in the Western Indian Ocean region that establishes RMIFC was signed by the Union of Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, France and Kenya in 2018. It is coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), aims to promote and develop a regional mechanism for the exchange of maritime information.

Q.7) Which among the following river(s) flow from **Nepal into India**?

1. Gandak
2. Kosi
3. Ghagra

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

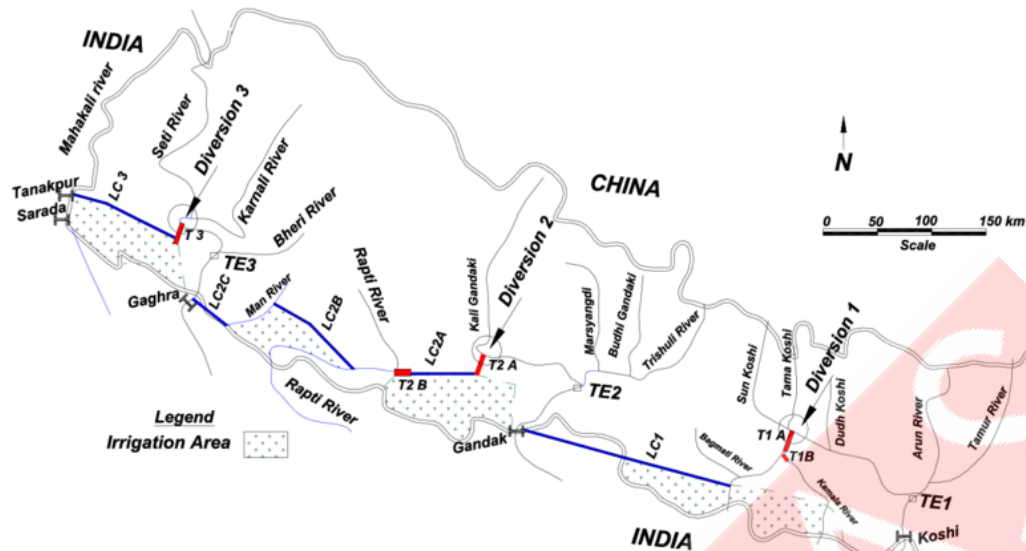
Explanation: All rivers mentioned above flow from Nepal into India.

The Gandak River (also called Narayani and Kali Gandak) is one of the major rivers of Nepal and a left bank tributary of the Ganges in India.

Kosi River also enters India from Nepal and joins Ganga at left bank.

Ghaghra River called Karnali in Nepal joins Sharda and late Ganga at left bank.

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Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Finance Commission**:

1. No qualification for the chairperson of the Finance Commission is provided by the Constitution of India.
2. Constitution mandates the Commission to make recommendations regarding the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid to States out of the Consolidated Fund 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Article 280(2) states that the **parliament may by law determine** the qualifications which shall be requisite for appointment as members of the Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected.

Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951 provides that the Chairman of the Commission shall be selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs, and the four other members shall be selected from among persons who--

- (a) are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or
- (b) have special knowledge of the finances and accounts of Government; or
- (c) have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or
- (d) have special knowledge of economics.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 280(3)** provides that it shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to-

- (a) the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them under this Chapter and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds.
- (b) the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**:

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1. It is one of the accreditation boards under the Quality Council of India.
2. It conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) in 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. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** with its Head Quarter in Bengaluru. The Chairperson of the UGC is the President of the Governing Council of the NAAC.

Statement 2 is correct. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) conducts assessment and accreditation of **Higher Educational Institutions (HEI)** such as colleges, universities or other recognized institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding disease diagnostic tests:

1. RT-PCR test detects genetic material of the pathogen.
2. Antibody test detects the immune response of the human body against the infection.
3. Antigen test detects the surface proteins of the virus from swab sample.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Real time **Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)** is a nuclear-derived method for detecting the presence of specific genetic material in any pathogen, including a virus.

Antibody tests detect the presence of proteins produced by the body in response to a infection, these are produced by the immune system to fight against viruses and other harmful pathogens that enter the body.

Antigen tests use a nasal or throat swab to detect viral proteins expressed on the outer surface of the virus. Antigens are recognized by the body to induce an immune response to fight off infection.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding **antibodies**:

1. They are part of the immune system response against a foreign antigen.
2. Immunoglobulin M (IgM) is the first antibody to appear in a humoral immune response.
3. Immunoglobulin M (IgG) antibodies remain in blood even after infection has passed.

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Antibodies or immunoglobulin (Ig) are proteins produced by the immune system in response to an infection and are specific to that infection.

The first antibodies to be produced in a humoral immune response to an infection are IgM, it is also the largest antibody.

IgG antibodies take time to appear and remain in blood stream even after the infection has passed, largely responsible for **long-term immunity**.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Shyok River**:

1. It is an Endorheic River that drains into the Pangong Tso.
2. The Col Chewang Rinchen Bridge connecting Durbuk to Daulat Beg Oldie is built over the Shyok River.
3. The Galwan River is a tributary of Shyok River.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Shyok River** does not drain into the Pangong Tso, it originates in the Karakoram range and is a **tributary of the Indus river**.

Statement 2 is correct. '**Col Chewang Rinchen Setu**' is a bridge built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) over River Shyok, connecting Durbuk and Daulat Beg Oldie in Eastern Ladakh.

Statement 3 is correct. The **Chang Chen Mo River, Galwan River, Nubra River** and **Saltoro River** are the tributaries of Shyok River.

Q.13) Which of the following government program(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. TULIP - Internship with National Cooperative Development Corporation and cooperatives
2. Sahakar Mitra - Internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies
3. SWADES - Skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 and 2 are incorrectly matched.

Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Program (SIP) will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives as a paid intern.

The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) is a program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.

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Government of India launched the initiative **SWADES** (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF)**:

1. SWF is an investment fund primarily owned by the national government.
2. Santiago principles promote good governance, accountability and transparency in SWF 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **sovereign wealth fund (SWF)** is a state-owned investment fund which comprises of pools of money derived from a country's reserves, assets or other commodities – that is then invested in shares, bonds, property or other areas of potential growth.

Statement 2 is correct. **Santiago Principles** promoted by International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF) are designed to promote good governance, accountability, transparency and prudent investment practices whilst encouraging a more open dialogue and deeper understanding of SWF activities.

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) often referred as India's Sovereign wealth fund has 49% contribution from the government of India.

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. The five permanent members of UN Security Council are the only ones recognized as nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
2. New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.

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. The **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** recognizes five states as nuclear-weapon states: United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China (also the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council).

Statement 2 is correct. Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (**New START**), **2010** is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is set to expire in 2021.

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World nuclear forces, January 2020

Country	Deployed warheads*	Other warheads**	Total 2020	Total 2019
USA	1 750	4 050	5 800	6 185
Russia	1 570	4 805	6 375	6 500
UK***	120	95	215	200
France	280	10	290	300
China		320	320	290
India		150	150	130–140
Pakistan		160	160	150–160
Israel		90	90	80–90
North Korea ..		(30–40)	(30–40)	(20–30)
Total	3 720	9 680	13 400	13 865

Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2020

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM Van Dhan Yojana**:

1. It is a livelihood generation program for tribal gatherers.
2. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is the nodal agency at national level for the scheme.
3. The scheme aims to set-up tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in predominantly forested tribal districts.

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: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program for forming clusters of tribal SHGs and strengthening them into Tribal Producer Companies.

TRIFED is nodal agency at national level for the scheme aiming at socio-economic development of the tribal population of the country.

It is an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal gatherers and transforming them into entrepreneurs. It aims to set-up tribal community owned **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)** in predominantly forested tribal districts.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)**:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Chairperson, PNGRB is a member to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) was constituted under the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006** to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Chairman of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** is the Finance Minister and its members include the heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA) Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser. The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.

Q.18) The **Talamaddale** is an ancient form of art practiced in which state of India?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Assam
- d) Odisha

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Talamaddale** is an ancient form of art practiced in the coastal regions of Karnataka and northern Kerala. It is now popular in Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Shimoga districts of **Karnataka** and Kasaragod district of **Kerala**.

A typical Tala-Maddale show consists of artists sitting in a circular fashion along with a **Bhagavata** (the singer, with “Tala” or pair of small hand cymbals) and a “**Maddale**” (a type of drum) player. Artists assume the characters depicted in the story, typically, from Ramayana, Mahabharata, and other puranas.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit**:

1. It is an RT-PCR diagnostic kit for detection of SARS-COV-2 virus.
2. It has been indigenously developed at National Institute of Virology, Pune.

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. **Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit** is not based on RT-PCR, it rather is an **antigen detection kit** that detects the viral proteins expressed on the outer surface of the virus.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit** is a rapid chromatographic immunoassay for detection of specific antigens to SARS-CoV-2. It has been developed by **SD Biosensor; a South Korea based company**.

In view of its high specificity while relatively low sensitivity, ICMR recommended [14-06-2020] the use of Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection assay as a point of care diagnostic assay for testing in specific containment zones, symptomatic ILI patients, asymptomatic patients of high-risk group.

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Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding Rashtrakuta King **Amoghvarsha I**:

1. His writings include the Kannada literary work Kavirajamarga.
2. He established the new Rashtrakuta capital at Manyakheta.

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.

Amoghavarsha was a scholar in Kannada and Sanskrit literature. His writing **Kavirajamarga** is a landmark literary work in the Kannada language.

Amoghavarsha I was said to have **endorsed Jainism** and so a lot of Jain scholars flourished in his court, including the Jain mathematician Mahavirachariya.

He moved the Rashtrakuta regal capital from **Mayurkhandi in the Bidar district to Manyakheta** in the Gulbarga district in the modern Karnataka state.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**:

1. Nominated members of Parliament are not eligible to receive funds under the scheme.
2. In case of a vacancy caused prematurely due to resignation, death, etc., balance funds of the MP gets lapsed.

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: Under the **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**, each MP has the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Nominated Members** of the Parliament may select any one or more Districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Generally, a vacancy caused prematurely due to resignation, death, etc. of an elected/nominated MP is filled up by election/nomination for the remaining term of the MP vacating the seat. Under the scheme guidelines the new MP will be treated as a successor of the MP vacating the seat prematurely and balance funds are **transferred to MPLADS Account of the successor MP.**

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding **Cooperative Societies in India**:

1. To form cooperative societies is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution.
2. Having experience in cooperative movement is one of the qualifications for nomination to the state Legislative Councils.
3. Cooperative Societies is a state subject under seventh schedule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Act, 2011** made formation of cooperative societies a fundamental right under article 19(1)(c). Statement 2 is correct. People having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of **Literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service** are nominated to the legislative council (one-sixth) by the Governor. Statement 3 is correct. 'Cooperative Societies' is a **State Subject** under List II of Seventh Schedule to Constitution.

Q.23) Which among the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Galwan Valley - Ladakh
2. Nelong Valley - Himachal Pradesh
3. Nathu La - Uttarakhand

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Galwan River valley** is Union territory of **Ladakh** near the Line of Actual Control with China.

Nelong Valley, part of the Gangotri National Park is in **Uttarakshi, Uttarakhand**.

Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East **Sikkim** district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding provisions of **reservation under the Indian Constitution**:

1. Constitution puts a limit of fifty percent on the caste-based reservation.
2. Constitution empowers the government to provide for reservation in promotion in favor of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
3. It provides that the claims of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constitution does not prescribe any such limit, in **Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, 1992**; the Supreme Court capped caste-based reservation to 50 percent.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 16(4A)** empowers the State to make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion, with consequential seniority, to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favor of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

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Statement 3 is correct. **Article 335** provides that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It enables the procurement of goods as well as services by Government offices.
3. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been made mandatory by the government.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Statement 2 is correct. The National Public Procurement Portal—Government e Marketplace is a dedicated e-market for different **goods & services** procured by Government Organizations / Departments / PSUs.

Statement 3 is correct. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorized and made mandatory by Ministry of Finance through **General Financial Rules, 2017**.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**:

1. It is a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. It provides support to marketing, storage and export of minor forest produce through cooperatives.

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. The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** was established by NCDC Act, 1962 as a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Statement 2 is correct. Its functions include planning, promoting and financing programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, food stuffs, certain other notified commodities; supply of consumer goods and collection, processing, marketing, storage and export of **minor forest produce through cooperatives**.

Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. Dexamethasone is an anti-inflammatory drug.
2. Corticosteroids are produced by the adrenal glands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, is similar to a natural hormone produced by adrenal glands. It relieves inflammation (swelling, heat, redness, and pain) and is used to treat certain forms of arthritis; skin, blood, kidney, eye, thyroid, and intestinal disorders (e.g., colitis); severe allergies; and asthma.

Corticosteroids (adrenal cortical steroids) are natural hormones made by **the adrenal cortex** which are important in maintaining good health. They are mainly of two types, the glucocorticoids and the mineralocorticoids. Synthetic pharmaceutical drugs with corticosteroid-like effects are used in a variety of conditions.

Initial clinical trial results from the United Kingdom (UK) that show dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, can be lifesaving for patients who are critically ill with COVID-19.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the **Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 therapy (RECOVERY):**

1. It is a global clinical trial for COVID-19 vaccine.
2. The trial is being financed and evaluated by the World Health Organization.

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: Both statements are incorrect.

Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 therapy (RECOVERY) is a national clinical trial in **United Kingdom** that aims to identify treatments that may be beneficial for people hospitalised with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. It is not a vaccine trial, it is looking at the effects of **Lopinavir-Ritonavir, Dexamethasone, Hydroxychloroquine, Azithromycin, Tocilizumab and Convalescent plasma** (collected from donors who have recovered from COVID-19 and contains antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus).

This trial is supported by a grant to the **University of Oxford** from UK Research and Innovation/National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Security Council:**

1. Each year the UN General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term.
2. The UNSC can authorize armed intervention to maintain or restore international peace and security.

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

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Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term.** The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows: five for African and Asian States; one for Eastern European States; two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and two for Western European and other States.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 42 of the United Nations Charter** gives the Security Council the authority to take action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Q.30) Which of the following is/are credit rating agency(s)?

1. Standard and Poor
2. Moody's
3. Fitch's
4. CRISIL

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A rating agency is a company that assesses the financial strength of companies and governments. A credit rating can be assigned to any entity that seeks to borrow money—an individual, corporation, state or provincial authority, or sovereign government.

Globally, **Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's and Fitch group** are recognized as the **Big Three** credit rating agencies.

CRISIL is an Indian analytical company providing ratings and is a subsidiary of American company S&P Global.

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **state of Sikkim**:

1. It was an associate state of India with representation in Parliament from 1947 to 1975.
2. Sikkim joined as state of India after a referendum abolishing monarchy in the Kingdom of Sikkim.

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. **Sikkim was a protectorate state** till the **35th Constitution Amendment Act** made it an associate state and further **36th Constitution amendment act** made it a full-fledged state of Indian Union.

Statement 2 is correct. In 1975, the Prime Minister of Sikkim appealed to the Indian Parliament for Sikkim to become a state of India. A **referendum** on abolishing the monarchy was held in the Kingdom of Sikkim on 14 April 1975. It was approved by 97% of voters and resulted in the country becoming an Indian state.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **India and United Nations**:

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1. India has been elected to the non-permanent membership of UN Security Council for the first time, for the term of 2021-22.
2. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, an Indian diplomat was the first female to be elected president of the United Nations General Assembly.
3. International Solar Alliance (ISA) is registered with the UN as a treaty-based inter-governmental organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India has been elected to the non-permanent membership of UNSC for the **eighth time** for the term of 2021-22.

India have been permanent member of UNSC in: 1950 – 1951, 1967 – 1968, 1972 – 1973, 1977 – 1978, 1984 – 1985, 1991 – 1992 and 2011 – 2012.

Statement 2 is correct. Mrs. **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit** led the Indian delegation to the United Nations and served as India's ambassador to Moscow, Washington and Mexico. In 1953 Pandit became the first woman to be elected president of the UN General Assembly.

Statement 3 is correct. **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is registered with the UN as a treaty-based inter-governmental organization with effect from 9th Feb 2018. ISA was launched at the climate summit in 2015 by leaders of France and India.

Q.33) Which of the following is/are correctly matched:

1. Hypoxia - absence of enough oxygen supply to body
2. Hypothermia - drop in body temperature much below normal
3. Ischemia - reduced blood flow to a part of body

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 are correctly matched.

Hypoxia refers to a condition in which the body or a part of the body is deprived of enough oxygen supply at the tissue level.

Hypothermia is a medical emergency that occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce heat, causing a dangerously low body temperature. Normal body temperature is around 98.6 F (37 C) and hypothermia is said to have occurred when it falls below 35 C.

Ischemia is a condition in which the blood flow (and therefore oxygen) is restricted or reduced in a part of the body. Cardiac ischemia refers to decreased blood flow and oxygen to the heart muscle.

Q.34) Consider the following statements:

1. Bioremediation is the use of microorganisms to degrade the contaminants into less toxic forms.
2. Bioaugmentation refers to addition of bacterial cultures to a contaminated medium.
3. Biosparging refers to the injection of air under pressure to enhance biological degradation.

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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: Statement 1 is correct. **Bioremediation** is the use of living microorganisms to degrade the environmental contaminants into less toxic forms. It uses naturally occurring bacteria and fungi or plants to degrade or detoxify substances hazardous to human health and/or the environment.

Statement 2 is correct. **Bioaugmentation** is the addition of bacterial cultures to a contaminated medium; frequently used in bioreactors and ex situ systems.

Statement 3 is correct. **Biosparging** is the injection of air under pressure can enhance biological degradation; usually performed in situ.

Other methods of Bioremediation include Bioventing, Composting, Bioreactors, Phytoremediation etc.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Disaster Management Plan 2019**:

1. It has been prepared by the National Executive Committee and approved by the National Disaster Management Authority.
2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW) is the nodal ministry for management and mitigation of Biological Emergencies.

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. As per the **Disaster Management Act 2005**, the National Executive Committee shall prepare the National plan for disaster management; to be approved by the National Disaster Management Authority. The NDMP 2016 was revised after necessary changes was approved and published as NDMP 2019.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the **NDMP 2019**, **Biological Hazards** include Exposure to germs and toxic substances, epidemics: viral, bacterial, parasitic, fungal, or prion infections Insect infestations Animal stampedes. **Min. of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW)** is the nodal ministry for management/mitigation of the **Biological emergencies**.

Q.36) The **Shanta Kumar Committee** made recommendations on which of the following?

- a) Restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- b) Doubling Farmer's Income
- c) Rationalization of Fertilizer Subsidy
- d) Railways Modernization

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **High Level Committee for Restructuring of FCI** was chaired by Shanta Kumar. The report highlighted the issues relating to procurement, storage and distribution of food grains.

Some recommendations:

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FCI should hand over all procurement operations of wheat, paddy and rice to states that have gained sufficient experience reasonable infrastructure for procurement.

Negotiable warehouse receipt system (NWRs) should be taken up on priority and scaled up quickly.

Rationalization of PDS and NFSA coverage.

FCI should outsource its stocking operations to various agencies such as Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporation, and Private Sector.

Total end to end computerization of the entire food management system, starting from procurement from farmers, to stocking, movement and finally distribution through TPDS.

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)**:

1. Only a stock exchange listed company can go for QIP.
2. QIP in India is regulated by the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

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.

In order to make Indian markets more competitive and efficient, **SEBI** allows an additional mode for listed companies to raise funds from domestic market in the form of “Qualified Institutions Placement” (QIP).

Qualified institutional placement (QIP) is the means whereby a listed company can issue equity shares, fully and partly convertible debentures, or any securities other than warrants which are convertible to equity shares to a Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB). The guidelines and regulations for QIP and QIB are issued by **SEBI**.

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Housing Bank (NHB)**:

1. It is a wholly owned entity of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It is the authority to regulate the Housing Finance Companies in 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Housing Bank** was set up in 1988 under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987. NHB is regulated by RBI but is a **wholly owned entity of the Government of India**. Second Narasimham committee report had recommended that RBI cannot own the entities regulated by it. RBI has sold its stake from NHB to government of India in 2019.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The power of regulation of housing finance companies has been transferred to **Reserve Bank of India** in 2019, which treats them as a category of NBFCs.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Investment Report 2020**:

1. It is an annual publication of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
2. India is globally the largest Foreign Direct Investment recipient country in 2019.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

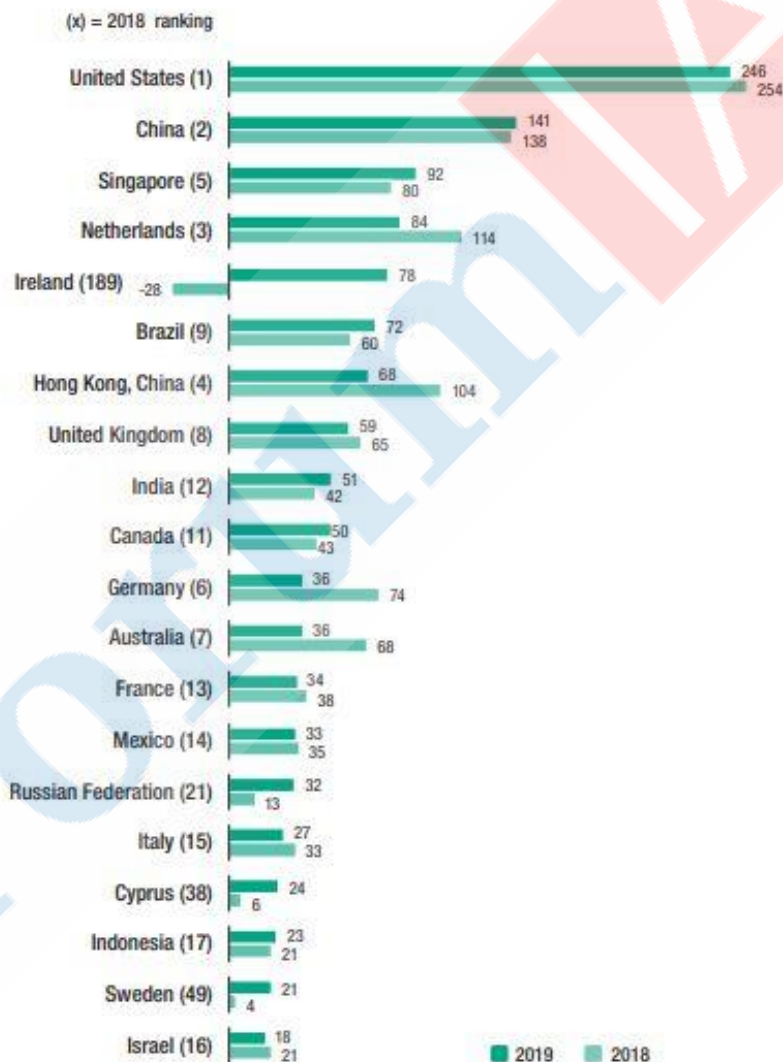
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **World Investment Report of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, published annually since 1991 focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India was the world's 9th largest** recipient of foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2019 with \$51 billion of foreign investment.

Figure 3. FDI inflows, top 20 host economies, 2018 and 2019
(Billions of dollars)



Source: UNCTAD, FDI/MNE database (www.unctad.org/fdistatistics).

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX):

1. It is the first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform in India.

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2. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX).

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.

Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), the first nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform has been launched. IGX will be a delivery-based trading platform for delivery of natural Gas.

It has been incorporated as **a wholly owned subsidiary of the IEX - India's energy market platform**. IGX will enable market participants to trade in standardized gas contracts. The platform is fully automated with web-based interface to provide seamless trading experience to the customers.

Q.41) Which of the following have been declared as India's priorities for its term at **United Nations Security Council**?

- 1. Reform of the Security Council to reflect contemporary realities
- 2. Effective response to international terrorism
- 3. Promoting technology as a driver of solutions for humanitarian challenges

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 have been declared as India's priorities for its term as non-permanent member of the UNSC.

The **Priorities Paper**, issued as a brochure by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, set out the key priorities for India, as under:

- i. New Opportunities for progress
- ii. An Effective response to international terrorism
- iii. Reforming the multilateral system
- iv. A comprehensive approach to international peace and security
- v. Promoting technology with a human touch as a driver of solutions

India's overall objective during this tenure in the UN Security Council will be the achievement of **N.O.R.M.S: New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System**.

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Criminal Court**:

- 1. It was established by the Rome Statute.
- 2. India is not a state party to the International Criminal Court.
- 3. It prosecutes individuals for genocide and crimes against humanity.

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct regarding the International Criminal Court. It is a permanent judicial body created by the 1998 Rome Statute which entered into force in 2002.

It prosecutes individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, crime of aggression and war crimes.

India is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, nor is China. USA signed the statute but has not ratified.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding election to **Council of States**:

1. Provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution relating to disqualifications on the ground of defection are applicable to legislators voting in the election.
2. NOTA option is not available in the voting for membership of Council of States.

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. **Anti-defection law is not applicable** to voting in election of members to Rajyasabha. The Supreme Court in its judgment in the matter of *Kuldip Nayar Vs Union of India and Ors, 2006* observed that that an MLA at the most attracts action from the political party to which s/he belongs for voting against party candidate.

Statement 2 is correct. **NOTA is not available** to electors of Rajyasabha elections, as per Supreme Court NOTA is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the **foreign investment**:

1. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is generally preferred over the Foreign Portfolio investment (FPI).
2. China has been one of the top five sources of FDI in India for past five years.

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. **Foreign direct investment** tends to involve establishing more of a substantial, long-term interest in the economy of a foreign country such as buying or establishing a manufacturing business, building warehouses, or buying buildings. This makes it much more difficult to liquidate or pull out of the investment.

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) on other hand refers to investing in the financial assets of a foreign country, such as stocks or bonds available on an exchange. It is often viewed less favorably than FDI because portfolio investments can be sold off quickly and are seen as short-term attempts to make money, rather than a long-term investment in the economy.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. As per Economic Survey 2019-2020; nearly 80 per cent of FDI have come mainly from Singapore, Mauritius, Netherlands, USA and Japan in 2019-20. Also per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (table below) report **Mauritius, Singapore, Netherlands, Japan and USA** have been top source of FDI in India for past few years.

D. SHARE OF TOP INVESTING COUNTRIES FDI EQUITY INFLOWS (Financial years):

Amount in Rupees Crores (in US\$ Million)

Rank s	Country	2017-18 (April – March)	2018-19 (April – March)	2019-20 (April – March)	Cumulative Inflows (April, 00 – March, 20)	%age to total Inflows (in terms of US \$)
1.	MAURITIUS	102,492 (15,941)	57,139 (8,084)	57,785 (8,241)	795,941 (142,710)	30%
2.	SINGAPORE	78,542 (12,180)	112,362 (16,228)	103,615 (14,671)	609,562 (97,670)	21%
3.	NETHERLANDS	18,048 (2,800)	27,036 (3,870)	46,071 (6,500)	208,322 (33,852)	7%
4.	JAPAN	10,516 (1,633)	20,556 (2,965)	22,774 (3,226)	196,105 (33,499)	7%
5.	U.S.A.	13,505 (2,095)	22,335 (3,139)	29,850 (4,223)	176,222 (29,779)	6%
6.	U.K.	5,473 (847)	9,352 (1,351)	10,041 (1,422)	150,411 (28,211)	6%
7.	GERMANY	7,245 (1,124)	6,187 (886)	3,467 (488)	68,944 (12,196)	3%
8.	CYPRUS	2,680 (417)	2,134 (296)	6,449 (879)	57,993 (10,748)	2%
9.	FRANCE	3,297 (511)	2,890 (406)	13,686 (1,896)	50,511 (8,539)	2%
10.	CAYMAN ISLANDS	7,932 (1,237)	7,147 (1,008)	26,397 (3,702)	49,848 (7,536)	2%
TOTAL FDI INFLOWS FROM ALL COUNTRIES *		288,889 (44,857)	309,867 (44,366)	353,558 (49,977)	2,732,444 (470,119)	-

*Includes inflows under NRI Schemes of RBI.

Note: (i) Cumulative country-wise FDI equity inflows (from April, 2000 to March, 2020) are at – Annex-'A'.

(ii) %age worked out in US\$ terms & FDI inflows received through FIPB/SIA+ RBI's Automatic Route + acquisition of existing shares only.

(iii) Figures are provisional.

Q.45) Which of the following correctly defines the term **Autarky**?

- Self-sufficient economic system
- Market structure with a small number of firms
- Abstention by governments from interfering in the workings of the free market
- Market structure with a single seller for a unique product in the market

Correct answer: A

Explanation: An **autarky** refers to the state of **self-reliance or economic independence**. It is an economic system or nation characterized by self-sufficiency for its needs and limited trade with outside world.

Oligopoly is a market structure with a small number of firms.

Laissez-faire is an economic system with abstention by governments from interfering in the workings of the free market.

A monopoly is a market structure characterized by a single seller, selling a unique product in the market.

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding the **Infectious Disease Diagnostic Lab (I-Lab)**:

- It is a mobile testing facility for COVID-19 disease.
- It can perform RT-PCR as well as antibody-based tests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

I-Lab (Infectious disease diagnostic lab) is supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, under the COVID Command strategy. It is a **mobile testing facility** to be deployed in remote areas of the country. It has capability to perform 25 COVID-19 RT-PCR tests/Day, 300 ELISA tests/day, additional tests for TB, HIV etc. *The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is an antibody test.*

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**:

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance that considers an attack on one member as an attack on all members.
 2. Japan is the only Asian country that is member of NATO.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

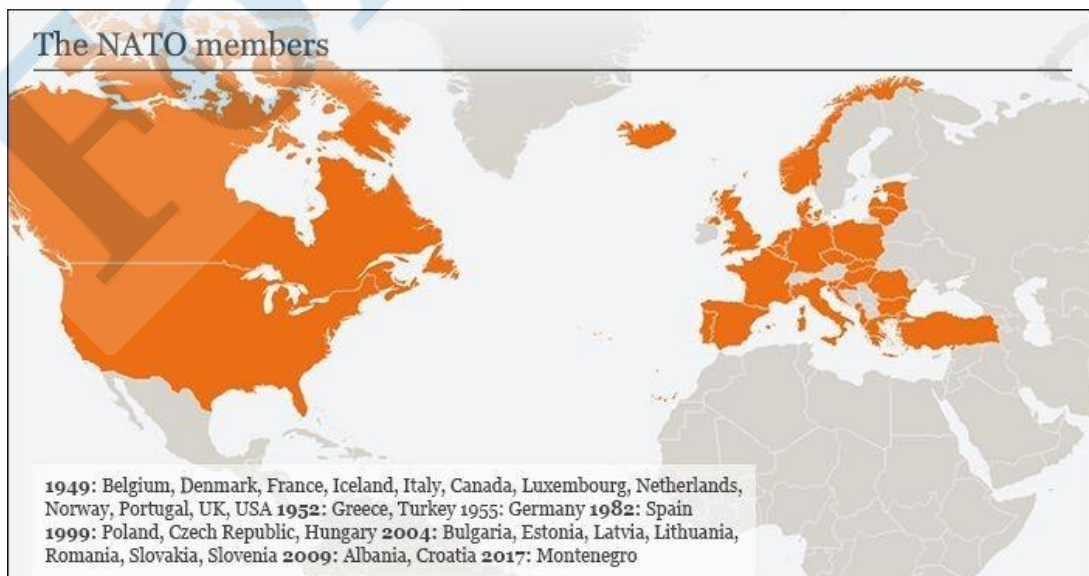
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance** between 30 North American and European countries. It implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed in 1949. Article Five of the treaty states that if an armed attack occurs against one of the member states, it shall be considered an attack against all members.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Japan is not a member of NATO.** Turkey is a part-Asian country member of the organization. Other countries like France, USA etc. also have small territories in other continents.

North Macedonia became NATO's 30th member in March 2020 (*not shown in image below*).



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Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**:

1. It is recognized as a Biosphere Reserve under Man and Biosphere Program of UNESCO.
2. Moyar River flows through this Biosphere Reserve.
3. It is one of the major habitats of Bengal Tigers in India.

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: Statement 1 is correct. **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** is part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, based on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Moyar River** is one of the tributaries of the Bhavani which is a tributary of Kaveri River and it flows through the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Statement 3 is correct. The reserve encompasses tiger reserve of **Bandipur, Nagarhole, Mudumalai** which are natural habitats of Tigers in India., The faunal elements of the reserve include Panthera tigris (Tiger), Elephas maximus (Elephant), Boss gaurus (Gaur), Macaca silenus (Lion tail macaque) etc.

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the **Megaliths**:

1. Megalith refers to a large, usually rough stone used in prehistoric cultures as a monument or building block.
2. The ancient Megalith sites in India are limited to North West region only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **megalith** is a large pre-historic stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones. These are usually **rough/undressed** stone that has been used in the construction of various types of Neolithic, Chalcolithic or Bronze Age.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Megalith sites are spread all over India. The oldest megaliths in India are found in the westernmost part of the country, in the present-day Afghanistan in the upper Indus Valley. **Burzahom** is a major megalith site in Kashmir.

In Southern part of country **Hire Benakal (Karnataka), Kudakkal (Thrissur), Chovvanur burial cave (Thrissur), Byse (Karnataka), Kodumanal (Tamilnadu)** are some of the major Megalithic sites.

Q.50) Which of the following correctly defines the **Placebo effect**?

- a) The immunity developed by community due to immunity of few people
- b) A therapeutic outcome derived from an inert treatment
- c) Developing immunity to a disease after moving out of the epidemic zone
- d) Failure of clinical trials of a drug due to comorbidities present in subject

Correct answer: B

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Explanation: The idea that one's brain can convince their body that a **fake treatment is the real one** is called placebo effect. It is the therapeutic outcome derived from an inert treatment, i.e. placebo drug.

A placebo is used in clinical trials to test the effectiveness of treatments. People in one group get the drug being tested, while the others receive a fake drug, or placebo, that they think is the real thing. This way, the researchers can measure if the drug works by comparing how both groups react. If they both have the same reaction (improvement or not) the drug is deemed not to work.

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gig Economy**:

1. It is based on temporary or freelance jobs market.
2. Gig economy does not guarantee a consistent income to gig workers.
3. The increase in access to internet has powered the spread of Gig Economy.

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 regarding **Gig Economy**.

A gig economy is characterized by market where **temporary, flexible jobs** are commonplace and companies tend toward hiring independent contractors and freelancers instead of full-time employees.

The gig economy is based on flexible, temporary, or freelance jobs rather than conventional full-time paid employment therefore it **does not guarantee consistent incomes** to Gig workers.

Contract or part-time employment though has been a feature of economies in past as well but the **digital revolution and easy access to internet** has provided boost to Gig works whereby people at distant places can work together on single project. The result is cheaper, more efficient services, such as Uber, Airbnb etc. powered by internet.

Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding the **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019**:

1. The Code covers workers employed in establishments with at least 10 workers or more.
2. It subsumes and replaces labor laws including the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979.
3. The Code bars civil courts from hearing matters under the Code.

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: The **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019** was introduced in Lok Sabha in July 2019 and then referred to standing committee. **The standing committee submitted its report in February 2020. The Bill is yet to be passed.** Statement 1 is correct. The Code applies to establishments employing at least 10 workers, and to all mines and docks. It does not apply to apprentices. Establishments covered by the

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Code are required to register with registering officers, appointed by the central or state governments.

Statement 2 is correct. It subsumes and replaces 13 labour laws including the Factories Act, 1948; Mines Act, 1952; Dock Workers Act, 1986; Contract Labour Act, 1970; and **Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979**.

Statement 3 is correct. The Code bars civil courts from hearing matters under the Code.

Q.53) The **38th parallel** passes through which of the following regions?

- a) North Korea - South Korea boundary.
- b) United States of America - Canada boundary
- c) Great Lakes of USA
- d) Russia - China boundary

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The 38th north parallel formed the border between **North and South Korea** prior to the Korean War. After the Armistice agreement 1953, **demarcation line between the two countries crosses the 38th parallel**.

All other options fall north of 38 north parallel.



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Q.54) Which of the following is/are provided for by the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**?

1. Right to confidentiality in respect of one's mental health and treatment.
2. Persons with mental illness living below the poverty line even without BPL cards are entitled to free mental health treatment.
3. A person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness and will not be punished under the Indian Penal Code.

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 are the provisions of the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**.

Section 18(7) of the act provides "persons with mental illness living **below the poverty line whether or not in possession of a below poverty line card**, or who are destitute or homeless shall be entitled to mental health treatment and services free of any charge and at no financial cost at all mental health establishments run or funded by the appropriate Government and at other mental health establishments designated by it."

Act provides **right of confidentiality** to the patients, section 23(1) states "a person with mental illness shall have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health, mental healthcare, treatment and physical healthcare."

The act **decriminalized the attempt to suicide**; Section 115(1) states "notwithstanding anything contained in section 309 of the Indian Penal Code any person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished under the said Code."

*During COVID-19 Pandemic, it is natural to experience a wide variety of mental health concerns. To get help related to mental health, call toll-free number **080-4611-0007** (NIMHANS helpline for Psychosocial support).*

Q.55) The **Anti-defection law** relating to disqualifications on the ground of defection is not applicable to which of the following cases?

1. Voting in the elections of the President of India.
2. Merging of political parties when at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favor of the merger.
3. A member of the house voluntarily giving up the membership of the political party after his/her election to the post of Speaker.

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: Statement 1 is correct. Members of the Electoral College can vote according to their wish and are not bound by any party whips. The voting is by secret ballot. Therefore, Party whip does not apply in this election and **Anti-Defection Law is not applicable in Presidential elections**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Anti-defection law allows a party to merge with another party provided that **at least two-thirds of its legislators** are in favour of the merger. Neither the

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members who decide to merge, nor the ones who stay with the original party face disqualification in such case.

Statement 3 is correct. As per the law; a person who has been elected to the office of the **Speaker/Deputy Speaker** of the House of the People or the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States or the Chairman/Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State or the Speaker/Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of a State, shall not be disqualified under this Schedule-

(a) if he, by reason of his election to such office, voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election and does not, so long as he continues to hold such office thereafter, rejoin that political party or become a member of another political party; or

(b) if he, having given up by reason of his election to such office his membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election, rejoins such political party after he ceases to hold such office.

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding the report on '**Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region**':

1. It has been prepared and published by the Wildlife Institute of India.
2. It states that India's average temperature has risen by around 0.7°C during 1901–2018.

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. Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region has been published by the Union **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

Statement 2 is correct. India's average temperature has risen by **around 0.7°C during 1901–2018**. This rise in temperature is largely on account of GHG-induced warming, partially offset by forcing due to anthropogenic aerosols and land use and land cover changes.

Report states that average surface air temperatures over India could rise by up to 4.4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century as compared to the period between 1976 and 2005.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)**:

1. India and China both are member to this preferential trade agreement.
2. The agreement recognizes the special needs of least developed countries by allowing special concessions for them.

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. **The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)**, previously the Bangkok Agreement, is a preferential tariff arrangement. Its current Members are Bangladesh, **China, India**, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR and Sri Lanka.

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Mongolia has concluded its bilateral negotiations on tariff concessions with the current Participating States and will become seventh member to agreement.

Statement 2 is correct. APTA recognizes the **special needs of LDCs** and calls for concrete preferential measures in their favour (Article 3). Participating States may grant special concessions to LDC members (Article 7).

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**:

1. India is not a member of IAEA.
2. Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a precondition for joining IAEA.

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. India is a member to the agency since 1957.

The Agency's genesis was U.S. President Eisenhower's "**Atoms for Peace**" address to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

*The Nobel Committee selected the IAEA and its Director General Mohamed ElBaradei as the recipients of the **2005 Nobel Peace Prize** due to "their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way".*

Statement 2 is incorrect. India is not signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and neither is it mandatory for the membership of IAEA.

Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding the **Crocodile species in India**:

1. Gharial is the only crocodile species found in India.
2. Crocodiles are listed in Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

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. India is home to three crocodylian species: the **mugger or marsh crocodile** (*Crocodylus palustris*), the **estuarine or saltwater crocodile** (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the **gharial** (*Gavialis gangeticus*).

Statement 2 is correct. Crocodiles including the Estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus* and *Crocodylus palustris*) and Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) are listed in **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972**.

Q.60) Which of the following endocrine gland(s) is/are correctly matched to the hormones they release?

1. Hypothalamus - Cortisol
2. Pancreas - Insulin
3. Adrenal glands - Oxytocin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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- 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 incorrectly matched. **Hypothalamus:** major hormones are anti-diuretic hormone (ADH), **oxytocin** and various hormones that stimulate the pituitary gland. They influence the nervous and hormonal systems.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Pancreas:** major hormones released are **insulin**, glucagon, somatostatin; that influence blood sugar control in body.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Adrenal glands:** major hormones released are adrenaline, noradrenaline, **cortisol**, aldosterone; they influence the stress response and blood pressure/salt control.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **Coral Reefs in India:**

1. Lakshadweep coral reefs are atolls.
2. Coral reefs formations are found in the areas of Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Mannar.
3. Corals are protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

The major reef formations in India are restricted to the **Gulf of Mannar, Palk bay, Gulf of Kutch, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep islands.**

The **Lakshadweep reefs are atolls**; the others are mostly fringing reefs.

Major threats for the corals: Natural: Environmental-Temperature, Sediment Deposition, Salinity, pH etc.

Anthropogenic: Mining, Bottom Fishing, Tourism, pollution, etc.

Reef Building Coral, Black Coral, Organ Pipe Coral etc. are listed under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bose-Einstein condensates (BEC):**

1. It is regarded as the fifth state of matter.
2. Bose-Einstein condensates were first predicted theoretically by Satyendra Nath Bose.
3. The BEC constituent particles exist in their highest energy states.

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: Statement 1 is correct. The **Bose-Einstein condensates (BEC)** are regarded as the fifth state of matter apart from the Gases, liquids, solids and plasmas.

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Statement 2 is correct. Bose-Einstein condensates were first predicted theoretically by **Satyendra Nath Bose (1894-1974)**, an Indian physicist. He sent his ideas to Albert Einstein who further worked on the phenomenon.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The constituent particles of BEC are at **low energy state** and at almost absolute zero (zero kelvin) temperature.

Bosons are named after the Indian physicist Satyendra Nath Bose.

Q.63) Consider the following statements regarding **Commercial Mining of Coal in India**:

1. The coal sector is open for foreign investment with 100% FDI allowed under automatic route.
2. There is no end-use restriction on the sale and utilization of coal from the coal mine.

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.

Government has recently allowed the **commercial mining in the coal sector**, thereby ending the monopoly of Coal India Limited.

100% FDI through automatic route allowed in the coal sector, foreign firms therefore can also bid for the mine.

There is no end-use restriction on the sale and/or utilization of coal from the coal mine.

The commercial coal mining auctions are different from earlier regime of restricted sectors, use and price. Now there are **no such restrictions** at all. The proposed auctions have terms and conditions which are very liberal allowing even new companies to participate in the bidding process.

Q.64) Consider the following statements:

1. A recession in economy refers to reduction in Gross Domestic Product.
2. A depression in economy refers to a situation of prolonged economic recession.
2. India has never had a negative GDP growth since independence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

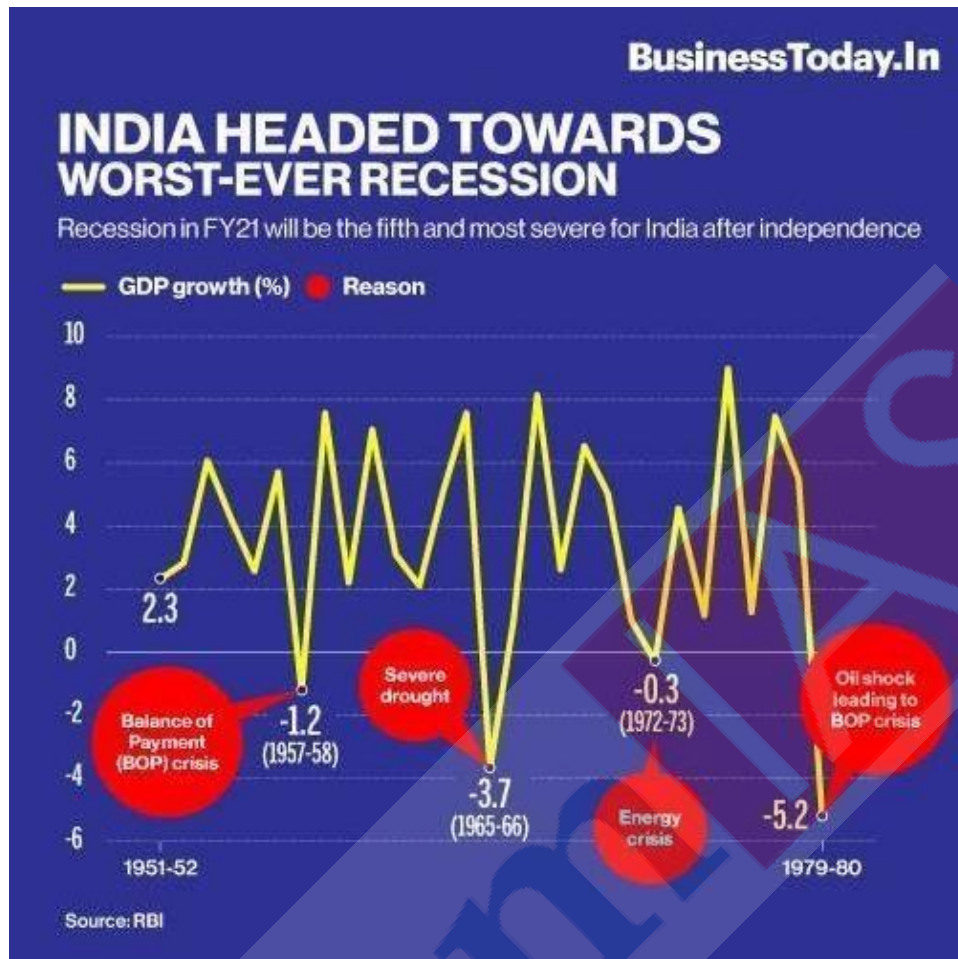
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Recession** refers to contraction of economic output, a reduction in GDP for two or more consecutive quarters (negative GDP growth) is generally termed as recession.

Statement 2 is correct. A **depression** is a sustained, long-term downturn in economic activity. It refers to a multi-year recession like that of the Great Depression (1930s) that lasted almost a decade.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **India had negative GDP growth** in 1957, 1965, 1972 and 1979.



Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding **the Indian pangolin**:

1. Major threats to Indian Pangolin are hunting and poaching for consumptive use and international trade of its scales.
2. It is listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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. **Major threats to pangolins in India:** hunting and poaching for local consumptive use (e.g. as a protein source and traditional medicine) and international trade for its meat and scales in East and South East Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Indian Pangolin is listed as **Endangered in the IUCN Red list and Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

Q.66) Which among the following has released the **World Competitiveness Ranking 2020**?

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- c) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

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d) Institute for Management Development (IMD)

Correct answer: D

Explanation: World Competitiveness Rankings 2020 has been released by the **Institute for Management Development (IMD)**. The rankings are based on four factors: economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.

Singapore, Denmark and Switzerland are top performers. **India is ranked at 43rd place.** Among BRICS countries India is ranked second after China (20th) followed by Russia (50th), Brazil (56th) and South Africa (59th).

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**:

1. India is one of the founding members of the GPAI.
2. GPAI secretariat is to be hosted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

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.

Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), a coalition launched on 15-06-2020, aims at ensuring that Artificial Intelligence is used responsibly, respecting human rights and democratic values.

India is a founding member. The GPAI will bring together experts from industry, government, civil society and academia to conduct research and pilot projects on AI. Its objective, set out by founding members Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, **India**, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States, is to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI policy.

Q.68) Which of the following countries border the **Red sea**?

1. Egypt
2. Sudan
3. Saudi Arab
4. Eritrea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Red Sea proper is bordered by **Saudi Arabia and Yemen** on eastern shore; **Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti** on western shore.



Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the **Scheme for Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing of aids/appliances (ADIP)**:

1. It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. An Indian citizen of any age who holds a forty percent Disability Certificate is eligible for benefits 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: Statement 1 is incorrect. **ADIP Scheme** is one of the major initiatives of the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**. This scheme is implemented to assist the needy disabled person in **procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances** to promote physical, social, psychological rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

Statement 2 is correct. An Indian citizen of any age, who holds a **40% Disability Certificate** and monthly income from all sources not exceeding Rs. 20,000/- per month is eligible beneficiary under the scheme given that s/he has not received assistance during the last 3 years for the same purpose from any source.

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Q.70) Which among the following is/are part of **Agroforestry**?

1. A combination of crops and trees such as alley cropping.
2. A combination of forestry and grazing of domesticated animals on pastures or on-farm.

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: As per **Food & Agriculture Organization** of UN; agroforestry is a collective name for land-use systems and technologies where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.) are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals. Major types of agroforestry are:

-**Agrisilvicultural** systems are a combination of crops and trees, such as alley cropping or home-gardens.

-**Silvopastoral** systems combine forestry and grazing of domesticated animals on pastures, rangelands or on-farm.