

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

1st to 5th July, 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 regarding **BIMSTEC**:

1. All members of the group have coastal boundary with Indian Ocean.
2. The group includes members from SAARC and ASEAN.
3. BIMSTEC's sectors of cooperation include counter-terrorism, environment and climate change.

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: The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Not all members (**Nepal, Bhutan**) share their border with the Indian Ocean.

Statement 2 is correct. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from **South Asia**, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from **Southeast Asia**, including Myanmar and Thailand.

Statement 3 is correct. BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization. Starting with six sectors—including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries—for sectoral cooperation in the late 1997, it expanded to embrace nine more sectors—including agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, **counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change**—in 2008.

Q.2) Arrange the following countries in **ascending order** of length of their land border with India:

1. Myanmar
2. Pakistan
3. China
4. Nepal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories.

India's border (in Km): Bangladesh (4,096.7), China (3,488), Pakistan (3,323), Nepal (1,751), Myanmar (1,643), Bhutan (699), Afghanistan (106).

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Q.3) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Shakshagam Valley - Ladakh
2. Susta - Bihar
3. Tawang Monastery - Sikkim

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: **Shaksgam Valley (Ladakh)** lies to the north-west of Siachen glacier; it is administered by China as part of its Xinjiang Autonomous Region.

Susta on eastern side of Gandak River is in West Champaran district of Bihar. It is claimed by Nepal.

The **Tawang Monastery, Arunchal Pradesh** is the second biggest and oldest in Asia and is known as the Tawang Gaden Namgyal Lhatse i.e., the celestial paradise of divine site chosen by the horse was founded by Merag Lodroe Gyamtso in the year 1680-81.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Non-cooperation Movement**:

1. It was approved by Indian National Congress at a special session held in Calcutta, 1920.
2. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was responsible for the controlled movement in Maharashtra region.
3. Mohammad Ali Jinnah opposed the non-cooperation and boycott proposals, and left INC in 1920.

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The Congress approved** a non-cooperation programme till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and swaraj was established at special session in **Calcutta, September 1920**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Tilak did not take part in the noncooperation movement. He **died on August 1, 1920**, before the movement started.

Statement 3 is correct. **Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Annie Besant, G.S. Kharpade and B.C. Pal** were among the leaders that left the Congress during NCM as they believed in a constitutional and lawful struggle.

Q.5) Which of the following correctly defines the phenomenon of **Gynandromorphism**?

- an organism containing more than two sets of chromosome
- organisms consuming another individual of the same species as food
- phenomenon of reproduction without fertilization by sperm
- an organism exhibiting characters of both male and female in body

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A **gynandromorph** is an organism that contains both male and female characteristics. Bilateral gynandromorph, an animal that's half him and half her, split at the midline. The phenomenon has been documented in birds, crustaceans—and butterflies.

Polyplloid organisms contain more than two sets of chromosomes.

Cannibalism is the act of consuming another individual of the same species as food.

Parthenogenesis is a natural form of asexual reproduction in which growth and development of embryos occur without fertilization by sperm.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**:

- India has ratified the CITES to ensure that international trade in specimens of animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) program was established by the Convention to measures the levels, trends and causes of elephant mortality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **CITES** is an international agreement between governments, aimed to ensure that international trade in specimens of **wild animals and plants** does not threaten their survival. **India ratified the convention in 1976**.

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN, in 1975 CITES entered in force.

Statement 2 is correct. The **CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)** Program is a site-based system designed to monitor trends in the illegal killing of elephants, build management capacity and provide information to help range States make appropriate management and enforcement decisions.

Q.7) Which of the following disease(s) is/are **transmitted by mosquitos**?

- Yellow fever
- West Nile Virus

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3. Zika Virus
4. Chikungunya

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: All of the above are transmitted by mosquitos.

Yellow fever is caused by a virus (Flavivirus) which is transmitted to humans by the bites of infected mosquitoes. It is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus. Human infection is most often the result of bites from infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds.

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Outbreaks of Zika virus disease have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific.

Chikungunya is an infection caused by the Chikungunya virus (CHIKV), transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. It causes fever and severe joint pain.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **S-400 missile system**:

1. It is an air defense system developed by the United States of America.
2. It is an aircraft launched missile system.

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 **S-400 Triumph is an air defense missile** system developed by Almaz Central Design Bureau of **Russia**. The system can engage all types of aerial targets, including aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), and ballistic and cruise missiles, within the range of 400km at an altitude of up to 30km. The system can simultaneously engage many targets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The missiles are launched by a 6×6 tractor truck **Transporter-Erector-Launcher** (TEL) vehicle. The TEL vehicle can carry up to four launch tubes holding a mix of missiles.

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) is a similar air defense system developed by USA.

In October 2018, India signed a \$5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defense missile systems.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Leucocytes**:

1. These are part of the immune system of body.
2. These cells do not have nuclei in them.
3. Hemoglobin is the oxygen-carrying protein that is found within all Leucocytes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **White blood cells (WBCs), also called leukocytes** are the cells of the immune system that are involved in protecting the body against both infectious disease and foreign invaders.

Statement 2 is incorrect. All **white blood cells have nuclei**, which distinguishes them from the other blood cells, the non-nucleated red blood cells (RBCs) and platelets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Hemoglobin** is the oxygen-carrying protein that is found within all **RBCs (erythrocytes)**. It picks up oxygen where it is abundant (the lungs) and drops off oxygen where it is needed around the body. Hemoglobin is also the pigment that gives RBCs their red color.

Q.10) Which of the following is/are potential application(s) of **Gold Nanoparticles**?

- 1. Electronics manufacturing
- 2. Biosensor
- 3. Targeted drug delivery

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 applications of **Gold nanoparticles (GNP)**.

Nanoparticles (NPs) have wide variety of potential applications in the fields of biomedical, optical and electronics research.

GNPs are also found to be useful in the **electronics industry**. Scientists have constructed a transistor known as **NOMFET (Nanoparticle Organic Memory Field-Effect Transistor)** by embedding GNPs in a porous manganese oxide as a room temperature catalyst to break down volatile organic compound in air and combining GNPs with organic molecules.

GNP-based **biosensors** are used for the detection and measurement of enzyme activity, **colorimetric sensor** with gold nanoparticles can identify if foods are suitable for consumption.

Their biocompatibility, high surface area, stability, and nontoxicity make them suitable for various applications in therapeutic use including detection and **diagnosis of diseases, bio-labeling, and targeted drug delivery**.

As nano-carriers, GNPs are capable of transferring various drugs made out of peptides, proteins, plasmid DNAs, small interfering RNAs, and chemotherapeutic agents to target diseased cells of the human body.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)**:

- 1. It provides for nationwide portability of benefits under the National Food Security Act.
- 2. The system works on the basis of Aadhar Card authentication of the Ration Card holder on ePoS device.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **“Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)”** objective is to introduce **nation-wide portability of ration card** holders under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), to lift their entitlement food grains from any fair price shop (FPS) in the country without the need to obtain a new ration card, by integrating the existing PDS systems/portals of States/UTs with the Central systems/portals, etc.

Statement 2 is correct. **“One Nation One Ration Card”** plan is implemented to enable the NFSA ration card holders to lift their entitled quota of subsidized food grains from any ePoS enabled FPS of their choice anywhere in the country, by using the existing/same ration card after **Aadhaar authentication on ePoS device**.

20 states have joined the ‘Integrated Management of Public Distribution System’ (IM-PDS) till date.

Q.12) Which of the following is/are part of the **Middle East Quartet**?

1. United States of America
2. China
3. Russia
4. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Middle East Quartet, set up in 2002**, consists of the **United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia**.

Its mandate is to help mediate Middle East peace negotiations and to support **Palestinian** economic development and institution-building in preparation for eventual statehood. It meets at the level of the Quartet Principals (United Nations Secretary General, United States Secretary of State, Foreign Minister of Russia, and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and the Quartet Special Envoys.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)**:

1. It is a World Bank program to improve quality and governance of school education in India.
2. Program will help improve learning assessment systems through ‘Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan’ at national level.

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **World Bank** Board of Executive Directors recently approved a \$500 million **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)** to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states (Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan). The initiative includes:

- Focusing more directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels.
- Addressing demands from stakeholders, especially parents, for greater accountability and inclusion.
- Equipping teachers to manage this transformation.
- Investing more in developing India's human capital needs.

Statement 2 is correct. At the national level, through the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**, and in partnership with the states of **Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan**, STARS will also help improve learning assessment systems; strengthen classroom instruction and remediation; facilitate school-to-work transition; and strengthen governance and decentralized management.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **Open Data Charter**:

1. It is a set of principles and best practices for the release of governmental open data.
2. India is a signatory to the Open Data Charter.

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. **Open data** is digital data that is made available with the technical and legal characteristics necessary for it to be freely used, reused, and redistributed by anyone, anytime, anywhere. The **International Open Data Charter** is a set of principles and best practices for the release of governmental open data. It was adopted in 2015, Mexico.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The charter has been adopted by Australia, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Republic of North Macedonia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay and New Zealand.

India has not adopted the charter, but has Open Government Data (OGD) Platform that facilitates Government Organizations to publish their datasets in open formats for free public use.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAXIN**:

1. It is a potential vaccine for COVID-19 indigenously developed in India.
2. The vaccine uses live attenuated SARS-COV-2 virus.

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Bharat Biotech** has successfully developed **COVAXIN**, a vaccine candidate for COVID-19, in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – National Institute of Virology (NIV)**. The SARS-CoV-2 strain was isolated in NIV, Pune and transferred to Bharat Biotech.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The COVAXIN is an **inactivated vaccine** and does not use live attenuated form of the SARS-Cov-2 virus.

The Drug Controller General of India – CDSCO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare granted permission to initiate Phase I & II Human clinical trials after the company submitted results generated from preclinical studies, demonstrating safety and immune response. Human clinical trials are scheduled to start across India in July 2020.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology Act 2000:**

1. The act provides legal recognition to electronic records and digital signature.
2. It provides penalty for unauthorized access or copying of data and introducing virus into any computer networks.
3. It empowers the Central government to issue directions for blocking for public access of any information through any computer resource.

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. Section 4 of the act provides **legal recognition to electronic records** and section 5 provides legal recognition to the **electronic signature**.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 43 of the act provides **penalty and compensation for damage to** computer, computer system, etc. It includes **unauthorized access**, copying, downloading, introducing viruses etc. and provides penal provision for the same.

Statement 3 is correct. Section 69A of the Act states that where the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary to do, in the interest of **sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence** relating to above, it may block access by the public or cause to be blocked for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource.

Q.17) Which of the following project(s) is/are built or proposed in collaboration between **India and Bhutan?**

1. Kholongchhu hydro-electric project
2. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project
3. Mangdechhu hydro-electric Project

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: The ongoing cooperation between India and Bhutan in the hydro-power sector is covered under the 2006 bilateral agreement for cooperation and its Protocol signed in 2009. Four hydro-electric projects (HEPs) totaling 2136 MW are already operational in Bhutan and are supplying electricity to India.

The 720 MW **Mangdechhu** was commissioned in August 2019. Two HEPs namely, 1200 MW **Punatsangchhu-I**, **1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II** in Inter-Governmental mode and **Kholongchhu HEP** (600 MWs) under the joint venture mode are under various stages of implementation.

India and Bhutan have recently signed a concession agreement on the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project (KHEL). The joint venture partners of the project are India's **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL)** and **Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC)**.

***Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project** is proposed on river Mahakali known as Sarda which forms international boundary between India and Nepal.*

Q.18) Which of the following is/are part of the '**Operation Twist**' of Reserve Bank of India?

1. Sale of government securities
2. Purchase of government securities
3. Lowering of Repo rate

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: Operation Twist involves **simultaneous sales and purchases of government securities** under open market operations of RBI with an aim to boost the economy by bringing down long-term interest rates.

Operation Twist normally leads to **lower longer-term yields** as the central bank purchases the long term securities, on the other hand, sale of short-term securities will push up the short-term rate.

The RBI will buy Rs 10,000 crore in longer-dated government bonds, while selling an equivalent amount in shorter-dated treasury bills. The auction will be conducted on July 2, 2020.

Q.19) Which of the following portal(s) is/are correctly matched to their utility?

1. SVANidhi - Micro-Credit Facility for street vendors
2. Aarogyapath - Real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies
3. SATYABHAMA - Science and Technology Program Scheme of Ministry of Mines

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 options are correctly matched.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme - PM **SVANidhi (Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi)** for providing affordable loans

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to street vendors. SVANidhi Portal will start accepting loan applications from **Street Vendors** from July 2nd, who can apply directly or with the help of CSCs/ ULBs/ SHGs.

A CSIR **National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal Aarogyapath**, which aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies, has been launched recently.

SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal has been launched for Science and Technology Program Scheme of Ministry of Mines. Portal allows online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the projects and utilization of funds / grants. The researchers can also submit progress reports and Final Technical Reports of the projects in the electronic format in the portal.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **Accessible India Campaign**:

1. It is a nationwide campaign of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. It aims at developing accessible physical environment, transportation system and Information & communication ecosystem suitable for persons with disabilities.

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.

Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) is a nation-wide Campaign launched by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** to provide universal accessibility to persons with disabilities.

Components of Accessible India Campaign:

- provide an accessible **physical environment** to everyone.
- providing persons with disabilities an equal right to travel and use public and private **transportation** infrastructure.
- measures to curb all societal barriers of infrastructure, and inaccessible formats that stand in the way of obtaining and **utilizing information** in daily life.

Q.21) Which of the following monk(s) contributed to the spread of **Buddhism** in China?

1. Bodhidharma
2. Kasyapa Matanga
3. Kumarajiva

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: During first, second and third centuries A.D. several Buddhist pilgrims and scholars traveled to China on the historic silk route.

Kashyapa Matanga and Dharmaratna made the White Horse monastery at Luoyang, China their abode. Monk-scholars such as **Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma and Dharmakshema** contributed to the spread of Buddhism in China. (Source: MEA brief of India-China)

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Bodhidharma(5th-6th century) is credited as the transmitter of Chan Buddhism to China.
Kumarajiva (3rd-4th century) is mostly remembered for the prolific translation of Buddhist texts written in Sanskrit to Chinese he carried out during his later life.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 RT-PCR test**:

1. The test sample is collected from upper or lower respiratory system.
2. Positive results are indicative of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in sample.

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 **COVID-19 RT-PCR test** is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in **upper and lower respiratory specimens** (such as nasal, nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate) collected from individuals suspected of COVID-19.

Statement 2 is correct. **COVID-19 disease is caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is an RNA virus.** They rely on infiltrating healthy cells to multiply and survive. Positive results are indicative of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

In order for a virus like the COVID-19 virus to be detected early in the body using real time RT-PCR, the RNA is converted to DNA in RT-PCR testing. This is a process called 'reverse transcription'. Scientists amplify a specific part of the transcribed viral DNA many times to have a large enough quantity of the target sections of viral DNA to accurately confirm that the virus is present.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)**:

1. All members of SAARC except Afghanistan are signatories to the agreement.
2. India and Pakistan are yet to ratify the agreement.

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.

South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) is an agreement reached on January 6, 2004, at the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad, Pakistan. The agreement **came into force in 2006**, succeeding the 1993 SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement.

India and Pakistan both have ratified the agreement. Afghanistan became 8th member of SAARC in 2007 and joined SAFTA in 2011.

The agreement allows parties to notify sensitive (negative) list and concessional tariffs for the least developed countries.

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Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding initiatives of **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)**:

1. e-SANCHIT enables computerized handling of indirect tax documents of the importers and exporters in the country.
2. ICEDASH provides daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.

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.

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** has launched **eSanchit (e-Storage and Computerized Handling of Indirect Tax documents)** for paperless processing, uploading of supporting documents and to facilitate the trading across Borders. It has already been made available to importers and exporters in the country and as a next step; CBIC is extending this facility to PGA (Participating Government Agencies).

ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) monitoring **dashboard of the Indian Customs**, putting out the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports. This dashboard has been developed by CBIC in collaboration with NIC. ICEDASH can be accessed through the CBIC website.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the **State of World Population report 2020**:

1. It has been released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
2. India accounts for almost one third of globally 'missing females' due to pre- and post-natal sex selection.

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

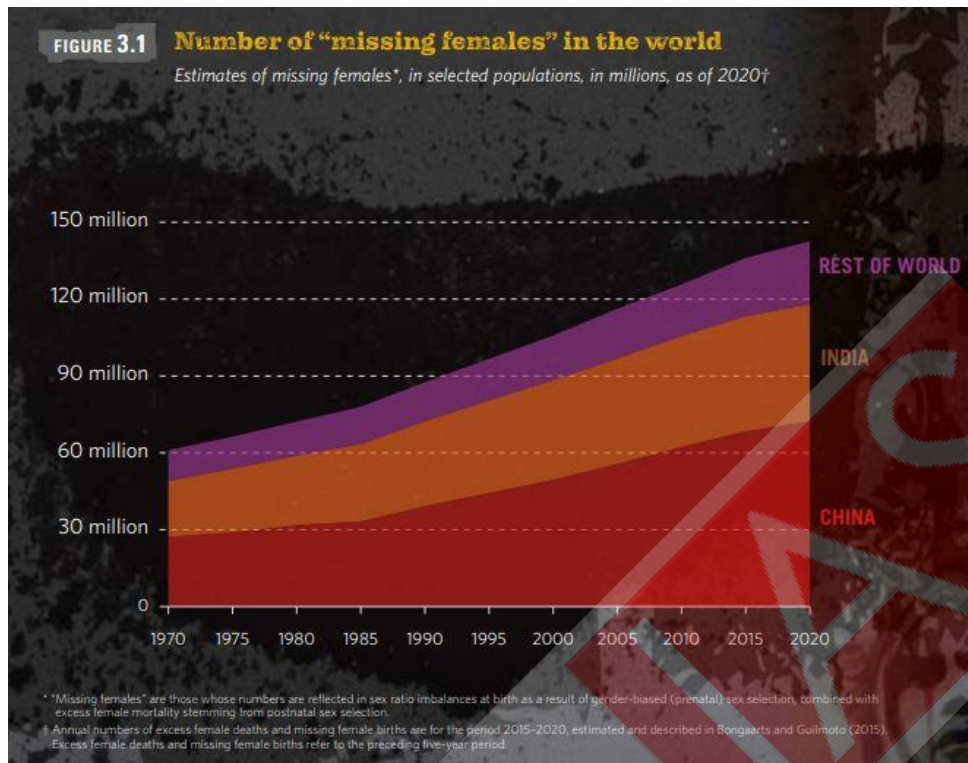
Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The '**State of World Population 2020: Against my will**' highlighting the state of female population status in the world has been released by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**.

As per the report one in three girls missing globally due to sex selection, both pre- and post-natal, is from India — 46 million out of the total 142 million.

"Missing females" are those whose numbers are reflected in sex ratio imbalances at birth as a result of gender-biased (prenatal) sex selection, combined with excess female mortality stemming from postnatal sex selection.

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Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **Influenza viruses**:

1. SARS-CoV-2 is an influenza virus.
2. Swine flu is caused by H1N1 subtype of Influenza A virus.

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. **SARS-CoV-2 is a type of coronavirus** and not an influenza virus. Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that are common in both humans and animals that usually cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illnesses.

There are **four types of influenza viruses: A, B, C and D**. Human influenza A and B viruses cause seasonal epidemics of disease (known as the flu season).

Statement 2 is correct. The influenza A and B viruses that routinely spread in people (human influenza viruses) are responsible for seasonal flu epidemics each year. Influenza type C infections generally cause mild illness and are not thought to cause human flu epidemics. Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people.

Swine flu is caused by the H1N1 Influenza A virus strain.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the **external debt of India**:

1. U.S. dollar-denominated debt is more than the Rupee denominated component of India’s external debt.
2. Commercial borrowing is the largest component of external debt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

As per **RBI release on “India’s External Debt as at the end of March 2020”**: US dollar denominated debt continued to be the largest component of India’s external debt, with a share of 53.7 per cent at end-March 2020, followed by the Indian rupee (31.9 per cent), yen (5.6 per cent), SDR (4.5 per cent) and the euro (3.5 per cent).

Commercial borrowings remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 39.4 per cent, followed by non-resident deposits (23.4 per cent) and short-term trade credit (18.2 per cent).

Table: External Debt - Outstanding (data in US\$ billion).

Component	Outstanding as at end of March		
	2018 R	2019 PR	2020 P
1	2	3	4
1. Multilateral	57.2	57.5	60.0
2. Bilateral	25.4	25.6	27.2
3. IMF	5.8	5.5	5.4
4. Trade Credit	9.5	7.9	7.2
5. Commercial Borrowings	201.8	206.6	220.3
6. Non-resident Deposits	126.2	130.4	130.6
7. Rupee Debt	1.2	1.2	1.0
8. Short-term Debt	102.2	108.4	106.9
Of which:			
Short-term trade credit	100.4	102.4	101.4
Total Debt	529.3	543.1	558.5

R: Revised. PR: Partially Revised. P: Provisional.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding **Core Sector Industries of India**:

1. Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is released by Office of the Economic Adviser.
2. Core industries form more than half of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

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 is correct. The monthly **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** is a production volume index. ICI measures collective and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

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It is compiled and released by **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA)**, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Eight Core Industries comprise **40.27** per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the **draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020** notification:

1. It has been issued under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. It provides for conditional post facto clearances for projects in violation of environmental norms.

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

Statement 1 is correct. The **Environment Impact Assessment** rules are notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** for imposing certain restrictions and prohibition on the undertaking some projects or expansion or modernization of such existing projects entailing capacity addition in any part of India.

Statement 2 is correct. Projects operating in violation of the Environment Act will now be able to apply for clearance.

The draft guidelines provide that the **Appraisal Committee** shall stipulate the implementation of Environment Management Plan, comprising remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan corresponding to the **1.5 times the ecological damage assessed and economic benefit derived** due to violation in case of the **suo moto** applications.

Two times the ecological damage assessed and economic benefit derived due to violation in cases reported by any Government Authority or found during the appraisal of Appraisal Committee or during the processing of application if any by the Regulatory Authority, as a condition of Environment Clearance.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**:

1. It has been launched as a limited time measure in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Scheme provides Wheat or Rice and pulse free of cost by the 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana was launched in March, 2020 for three months in view of the hardships faced by the lower strata of population due to economic closure during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has now been extended till November 2020.

During this period, more than 80 crore people will be provided **5 kg wheat/rice per month along with 1 kg whole chana** will also be provided to each family per month free of cost by the Government of India.

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Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967**:

1. It empowers the Central Government to declare an individual as terrorist.
2. It gives power to NIA to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism.

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 and both provisions were added by the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019**.

The **Central Government** may, by notification add an organization to the **First Schedule** or the name of an individual in the **Fourth Schedule**. The first schedule contains list of terrorist organizations while fourth schedule contains list of terrorists. Further, an application can be made to the Central Government to remove an organization from the First Schedule, or as the case may be, the name of an individual from the Fourth Schedule. Under the Act, an **investigating officer** is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. The Amendment act provided that if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**, the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.

Q.32) Which of the following is/are **vaccines** under development for **COVID-19 disease**?

1. ChAdOx1 nCoV-19
2. COVAXIN
3. Ad5-nCoV

Select the correct answer using the code give 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 vaccines under development for COVID-19 disease.

Oxford University vaccine: ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 is made from a virus (ChAdOx1), which is a weakened version of a common cold virus (adenovirus) that causes infections in chimpanzees, that has been genetically changed so that it is impossible for it to replicate in humans.

Bharat Biotech India: Covaxin is a vaccine candidate to developed by BBIL against the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Virology (NIV).

CanSino Biologics' COVID-19 vaccine, China: Ad5-nCoV vaccine candidate is a genetically engineered vaccine candidate with the replication-defective adenovirus type 5 as the vector to express SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

Q.33) Which of the following **rights(s) is/are available to prisoner(s)** in India?

1. Right to speedy trial
2. Protection against ex-post facto legislation

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3. Right against involuntary administration of brain mapping, narco analysis and polygraph test.

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. **Section 309 in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** provides for right of speedy trial. Further Supreme Court has held the right to speedy trial as part of right to life and liberty under **the article 21 of the constitution**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 20(1) in the Constitution** states that 'no person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of the law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence'.

Statement 3 is correct. In **Selvi and Ors v. State of Karnataka**, Supreme Court declared involuntary administration of brain mapping, narco analysis and polygraph test as violative of human rights and the Constitution. The **Article 20(3) of the Indian constitution** regarding the right against self-incrimination states that 'no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself'.

Q.34) Which of the following provision(s) are available under the Constitution regarding **Linguistic rights**?

- 1. Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India having a distinct language and script have right to protect it.
- 2. President may direct a language spoken by substantial proportion of the population of a State to be officially recognized throughout that State.
- 3. Special Officer for linguistic minorities shall be appointed by the speaker to put forth their views in Parliament.

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: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 29(1)** provides that any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a **distinct language, script or culture** of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 347 of the Constitution** states that on a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognized by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognized throughout that State or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Article 350B provides that there shall be a **Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President**.

It shall be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities in the Constitution and report to the President and the

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President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to the Governments of the States concerned.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding **the Information Technology Act, 2000**:

1. The act empowers the Central Government to establish an Indian Computer Emergency Response Team as the national agency for cyber security.
2. The act provides penal provisions for acts of Cyber Terrorism.

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. Section 70B of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** states that the Central Government shall, by notification appoint an **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team**, to serve as the national agency for cyber incident response.

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 66F of the IT Act** provides that whoever with intent to threaten the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people by

- denying or cause the denial of access to any person authorized to access computer resource; or
- attempting to penetrate or access a computer resource without authorization or exceeding authorized access; or
- introducing or causing to introduce any computer contaminant
- knowingly or intentionally penetrates or accesses a computer resource without authorization that can cause or likely to cause injury to the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence, or to the advantage of any foreign nation, group of individuals or otherwise, commits the offence of **cyber terrorism**.

Whoever commits or conspires to commit cyber terrorism shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to imprisonment for life.

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Environment Protection Act 1986.
2. Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the CZA.

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 **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** was amended through an amendment Act in the year 1991. Chapter IVA was added to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for establishment of the Central Zoo Authority in India. Accordingly, the **Central Zoo Authority was established as a statutory body under the Ministry of**

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Environment, Forests & Climate Change by the Government of India in the year 1992. The Authority consists of a Chairman, ten members and a Member Secretary. Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change** is the chairperson of the CZA.

Q.37) The '**Global Trade Alert**' is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) World Bank
- c) Centre for Economic Policy Research
- d) The Economist

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Global Trade Alert** is an initiative of **Centre for Economic Policy Research** that provides timely information on state interventions that are likely to affect foreign commerce. It includes state interventions affecting trade in goods and services, foreign investment and labour force migration.

The Global Trade Alert (GTA) was launched in June 2009 when it was feared that the global financial crisis would lead governments to adopt widespread restrictions on trade.

As per its recent study, nearly 90 governments blocked the export of medical supplies while 29 restricted food exports during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding the **Surety Bonds**:

- 1. It provides a financial guarantee that contract will be completed according to pre-defined and mutual terms.
- 2. It is a legally binding contract entered into by three parties.

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.

A surety bond is a **three-party agreement** that **legally binds** together a principal who needs the bond, an obligee who requires the bond, and a surety company that sells the bond.

A surety is common in contracts in which one party requires the counterparty to come forward with a guarantor in order to reduce risk, with the guarantor entering into a contract of surety. This is intended to lower risk to the lender. This surety can be in the form of a "surety bond."

Surety bonds provide financial guarantee that contracts will be completed according to pre-defined and mutual terms. When a principal breaks a bond's terms, the harmed party can make a claim on the bond to recover losses.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the **culture of Assam**?

- 1. The Deodhani dance is associated with the worship of the snake goddess Manasa.
- 2. Bohag Bihu festival marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- 3. Sattriya classical dance was introduced by Srimanta Sankardeva, in 15th century.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Deodhani dance** is associated with the worship of the snake goddess Manasa. A Deodhani girl, in an inspired state, goes on dancing to the accompaniment of Kham (drum) and Ciphung (flute) propitiating many a deity beginning with Shiva and ending with Lakshmi.

Bihu folk dance of Assam is performed mostly during the annual Bihu festival celebrated around April. **Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu** marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year. It is performed by both men and women. Bihu dance has been an integral part of the culture of various ethnic groups in Assam like the Deoris, Sonowal Kacharis, Moran, Borahis and others.

Satriya Nritya is the classic dance form of Assam which represents the Satriya culture, the core of Satriya Nritya has usually been mythological stories. Satriya has remained a living tradition since its creation by the founder of Vaishnavism in Assam, the great saint Srimanta Sankardeva, in 15th century.

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding **the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC):**

1. IRCTC is a Mini Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways.
2. IRCTC operates India's first corporate passenger train.

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. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) is a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways, Government of India.

IRCTC was incorporated as an extended arm of the Indian Railways to upgrade, professionalize and manage the catering and hospitality services at stations, on trains and other locations and to promote domestic and international tourism through development of budget hotels, special tour packages, information & commercial publicity and global reservation systems.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express** was the first corporate passenger train run by the IRCTC. Indian Railways has decided to launch third corporate passenger train Kashi Mahakal Express on Varanasi-Indore Route after the successful run of the Tejas Express trains operating on the Lucknow-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Mumbai routes.

For further private participation Ministry of Railways has invited Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for private participation for operation of passenger train services over 109 Origin Destination (OD) pairs of routes through introduction of 151 modern Trains (Rakes).

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT):**

1. Convention prevents extradition by parties to a country where there is danger of torture.
2. India has signed the convention but has not ratified it.

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: 'United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment' seeks to ensure that countries put in place various institutional mechanisms to prevent the use of torture by legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent torture, and ensure that torture is a criminal offence, among others.

Statement 1 is correct. The convention states that no State Party shall expel, return or **extradite** a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.

Statement 2 is correct. India signed the convention in 1997 but has not **ratified it**.

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding the **non-permanent membership of United Nations Security Council (UNSC):**

1. A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.
2. At least five non-permanent members of the Council are mandated to be from African and Asian States.
3. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a simple majority of members present and voting.

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 Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States of America) and 10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. **A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election in UNSC.**

Statement 2 is correct. At its eighteenth session, in 1963, the Assembly decided that the non-permanent members of the Council should be elected according to the following pattern: **Five from African and Asian States**; One from Eastern European States; Two from Latin American States; Two from Western European and other States.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a **two-thirds majority** of members present and voting of the General Assembly.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP):**

1. It is an IT enabled surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends in India.
2. The data is collected and analyzed on epidemic prone diseases on weekly basis.

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)** is a disease surveillance scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; it was launched with World Bank assistance in November 2004.

It maintains decentralized laboratory-based IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained Rapid Response Team (RRTs).

Statement 2 is correct. Under the project **weekly disease surveillance data** on epidemic prone disease are being collected from reporting units such as sub centres, primary health centres, community health centres, hospitals including government and private sector hospitals and medical colleges.

The data are being collected on 'S' syndromic; 'P' probable; & 'L' laboratory formats using standard case definitions. Presently, more than 90% districts report such weekly data through e-mail/ IDSP portal. The weekly data are analyzed by **State/District Surveillance Units** for disease trends. Whenever there is rising trend of illnesses, it is investigated by the Rapid Response Teams to diagnose and control the outbreak.

Q.44) The **Ranbir Singh Committee** has been constituted to make recommendations on which of the following subject?

- a) Criminal Law Reforms
- b) Social Stock Exchanges
- c) Coal Sector Reforms
- d) Environment Impact Assessment

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has constituted a national level committee for **reform in criminal laws** of India, to be headed by **Ranbir Singh**, Vice-Chancellor National Law University (NLU).

The Indian Penal Code 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, Indian Evidence Act 1872 etc. are the constituents of criminal law in India. The committee has recently invited experts in the field of criminal law to participate in the exercise through an online consultation mechanism.

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding exposure of **India's economy to China** in last five years:

1. Among its trade partners, India has largest trade deficit with China.
2. China is one of the top five contributors to the Foreign Direct Investment 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **India has its largest trade deficit with China.** India's trade deficit with China fell to \$48.66 billion in FY 2019-20 on account of the decline in imports.

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Bilateral Trade Surplus/Deficit (Sorted on Year: 2018-19)

(Values in US\$ Billion)

Country		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (April- November)
Trade Surplus Countries	U S A	20.63	18.55	19.90	21.27	16.86	10.91
	United Arab Emirates	6.89	10.87	9.67	6.41	0.34	0.25
Trade Deficit Countries	China PRP	-48.48	-52.70	-51.11	-63.05	-53.57	-35.32
	Saudi Arabia	-16.95	-13.94	-14.86	-16.66	-22.92	-14.32
	Iraq	-13.42	-9.83	-10.60	-16.15	-20.58	-13.98
	Germany	-5.25	-5.00	-4.40	-4.61	-6.26	-3.09
	Korea RP	-8.93	-9.52	-8.34	-11.90	-12.05	-7.80
	Indonesia	-10.96	-10.31	-9.94	-12.48	-10.57	-6.99
	Switzerland	-21.06	-18.32	-16.27	-17.84	-16.90	-11.97
	Hong Kong	8.03	6.04	5.84	4.01	-4.99	-3.88
Singapore	2.68	0.41	2.48	2.74	-4.71	-3.15	

Source: Computed from latest data available on Department of Commerce's website, 'https://commerce-app.gov.in/eidb/default.asp'.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per data from Reserve Bank of India; **Singapore, Mauritius, USA, Japan and Netherlands** are top sources of FDI in India.

Foreign Direct Investment Flows to India: Country-wise and Industry-wise					
		(US\$ million)			
Source/Industry	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 P
1	2	3	4	5	6
Total FDI	24,748	36,068	36,317	37,366	38,744
Country-wise Inflows					
Singapore	5,137	12,479	6,529	9,273	14,632
Mauritius	5,878	7,452	13,383	13,415	6,570
USA	1,981	4,124	2,138	1,973	2,823
Japan	2,019	1,818	4,237	1,313	2,745
Netherlands	2,154	2,330	3,234	2,677	2,519
United Kingdom	1,891	842	1,301	716	1,211
South Korea	138	241	466	293	982
Cayman Islands	72	440	49	1,140	863
UAE	327	961	645	408	853
Germany	942	927	845	1,095	817
Hong Kong	325	344	134	1,044	598
Canada	153	52	32	274	548
Ireland	11	8	12	108	427
France	347	392	487	403	375
British Virgin Islands	30	203	212	21	290
Switzerland	292	195	502	506	280
Luxembourg	204	784	99	243	251
Others	2,846	2,476	2,012	2,464	1,959

Q.46) Which of the following **Tiger Reserve(s)** is/are correctly matched to the corresponding state?

1. Rajaji Tiger Reserve - Tamil Nadu
2. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve - Uttar Pradesh
3. Kamlang Tiger Reserve - Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Project Tiger** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government of India which was launched on the 1st of April, 1973 for in-situ conservation of wild tigers in designated tiger reserves.

Rajaji Tiger Reserve/ National Park is in **Uttarakhand** having more than 50 species of mammals. Besides tiger, leopard, Himalayan Black bear, sloth bear, Civet, Marten, Jackal, Hyena etc. it is estimated that there are more than 350 Asian elephants in the park.

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve/ National Park located on the Indo-Nepal border in the district Lakhimpur-Kheri in Uttar Pradesh, together with Kishanpur and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuaries represent the natural forests and grasslands left in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh.

Kamlang Tiger Reserve/ Wildlife Sanctuary is a small sanctuary located in the southeastern part of Lohit District in Arunachal Pradesh. This reserve though small it has varieties of animal species like Tiger, Hollock gibbon, Elephant, Stump tailed macaque, Boar, Civets, Capped Langur, Deer, Hornbills and flying squirrels etc.

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**:

1. It is one of the principal organs of the United Nations.
2. It is the only means of dispute resolution under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

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. **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague in the Netherlands, established in 1899 by the first Hague Peace Conference. The PCA is not part of the UN system.

The six principal organs of the United Nations are the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Trusteeship Council, **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, and the UN Secretariat.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Pursuant to Article 287(1) of UNCLOS, when signing, ratifying, or acceding to UNCLOS, a State may make a declaration choosing one or more of the following means for settling disputes:

- the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany;
- the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands;
- ad hoc arbitration (in accordance with Annex VII of UNCLOS); or
- a "special arbitral tribunal" constituted for certain categories of disputes (established under Annex VIII of UNCLOS).

Arbitration under Annex VII is the default means of dispute settlement if a State has not expressed any preference with respect to the means of dispute resolution available. **PCA have administered most of the UNCLOS Annex VII arbitrations** to date including the Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration between Bangladesh and India.

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**:

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1. All members of the Cabinet Committee on Security are ex-officio members of the DAC.
2. Minister of Defence is the Chairperson of the DAC.

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. **Cabinet Committee on Security** members are Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and Minister of External Affairs. Of all CCS members only Minister of Defence is part of DAC.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Minister of Defence** is the chairman of the DAC; its members include MoS Defence, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Chief of Air Staff (CAS), Defence Secretary etc.

The DAC decides on Capital acquisitions in the for defence forces, it recently accorded approval for Capital Procurement for the Defence forces amounting over Rs. 3300 crores of indigenously designed and developed equipment.

Q.49) Which of the following **weapon system(s)** is/are correctly matched to their country of origin?

1. THAAD - United States of America
2. Spice 2000 - India
3. Pinaka - France

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: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)** is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The "**SPICE**" ("**Smart, Precise Impact, Cost-Effective**") is an Israeli-developed, guidance kit for converting air-droppable unguided bombs into precision guided bombs. The "Spice" is a product of Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. Spice 2000 is an add-on kit for 900 kg warheads. Indian Air Force is one of the users of SPICE technology.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Pinaka** is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army.

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding the provisions of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**:

1. The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is a statutory body under the act.
2. The act does not recognize or regulate the Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)** is **statutory body** under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. As per Section 5 (1) of the act the Central Government shall constitute the Drugs Technical Advisory Board to advise the Central Government and the State Governments on technical matters arising out of the administration of this Act and to carry out the other functions assigned to it by this Act. Statement 2 is incorrect. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 also regulates the manufacture and sale of **Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs**.

As per the act Ayurvedic, Siddha or Unani drug includes all medicines intended for internal or external use for or in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease or disorder in human beings or animals, and manufactured] exclusively in accordance with the formulae described in, the authoritative books of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani system of medicine specified in the First Schedule of the act.

Q.51) Which of the following is/are potential impacts of long term use of **Single use plastics (SUP)**?

1. Economic loss in tourism, fishing and shipping industries
2. Food chain contamination
3. Spread of invasive marine organisms and bacteria

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

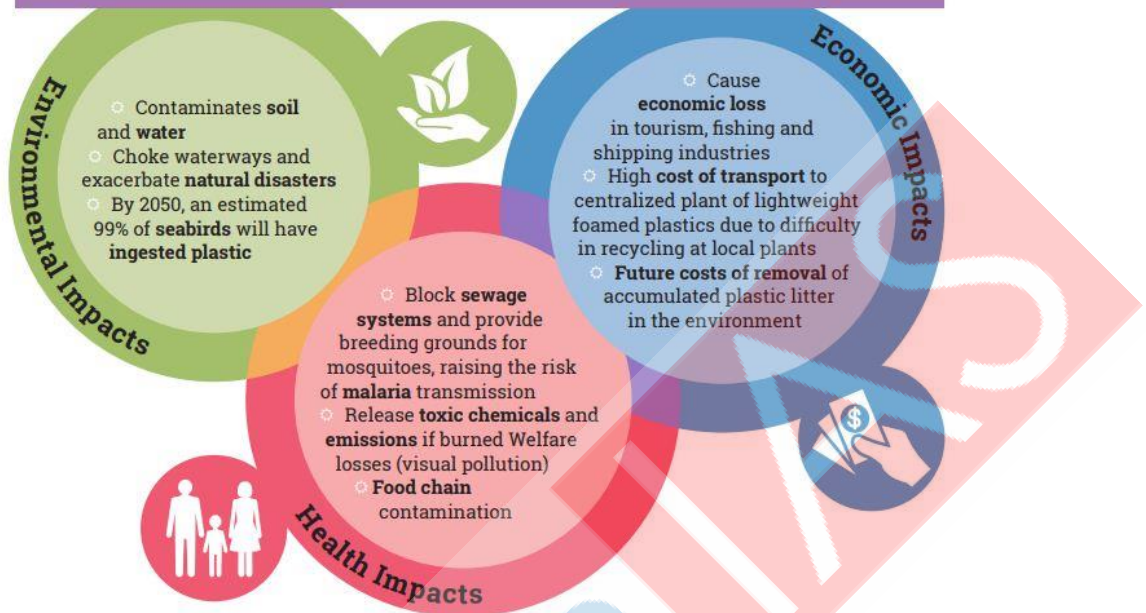
Correct answer: D

Explanation: Plastic pollution is the major and widespread problem affecting the environment. It also threatens ocean health, food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to the climate change.

- Plastic waste damages the **aesthetic value of tourist destinations**, leading to decreased tourism-related incomes and major economic costs related to the cleaning and maintenance of the sites.
- Invisible plastic has been identified in tap water, beer, salt and are present in all samples collected in the world's oceans, including the Arctic. Several **chemicals** used in the production of plastic materials are known to be **carcinogenic** and to interfere with the body's endocrine system, causing developmental, reproductive, neurological, and immune disorders in both humans and wildlife.
- Marine wildlife such as **seabirds, whales, fishes and turtles**, mistake plastic waste for prey, and most die of starvation as their stomachs are filled with plastic debris. They also suffer from lacerations, infections, reduced ability to swim, and internal injuries. **Floating plastics also contribute to the spread of invasive marine organisms and bacteria, which disrupt ecosystems.**

Impacts of mismanaged single-use plastics

Cost of inaction: If we don't improve our consumption patterns and waste management practices, by 2050 there will be around 12 million metric tonnes of plastic litter in landfills and in the environment.



Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding the **active pharmaceutical ingredients (API)**:

1. API is the term used exclusively for the diagnostic ingredient of a pharmaceutical product.
2. India's pharmaceutical industry is self-reliant with regards to raw materials and does not import APIs.

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. As per World Health Organisation an '**active pharmaceutical ingredient**' (API) is a substance used in a finished pharmaceutical product (FPP), intended to furnish pharmacological activity or to otherwise have direct effect in the **diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease**, or to have direct effect in restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions in human beings."

Statement 2 is incorrect. Indian pharmaceutical industry is **critically dependent** on imports for its raw materials.

As per the data submitted by ministry to the Lok Sabha; India imports various Bulk Drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing medicines. **Two-thirds of the total imports** of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates are from China. The imports from China are mainly due to economic considerations. The details of India's imports of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates in 2018-19 are as under:

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Year	Total imports (US \$ mn)	Imports from China (US\$ mn)	Percent of Imports from China
2018-19	3560.35	2405.42	67.56%

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**:

1. It is released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
2. It estimates the annual employment and unemployment indicators in usual status and Current Weekly Status in both rural and urban areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation release the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). Statement 2 is correct. The **objective of PLFS** is primarily twofold:

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS).
- to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

Q.54) Which of the following region(s) is/are correctly matched to their location:

1. West Bank - West Asia
2. Scarborough Shoal - South China Sea
3. Hagia Sophia - Eastern Europe

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 correctly matched.

The **West Bank** is a landlocked territory disputed between Israel and Palestine near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north. Most of it was occupied by **Israel** during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Istanbul's iconic **Hagia Sophia** museum is 1,500-year-old structure, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is on European side of **Turkey**.

Scarborough Shoal is a rock in South China Sea, disputed between China, Taiwan and Phillipines. There are no structures built on Scarborough Shoal, but the feature is effectively controlled by China, which has maintains coast guard presence at the feature since 2012.

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Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vaccination**:

1. Vaccination produces active immunity in human body.
2. To produce an immune response, live attenuated vaccines must replicate in the vaccinated person.
3. Inactivated vaccines do not cause disease from infection, even in an immune-deficient person.

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. **Active immunity** is stimulation of the immune system to produce antigen-specific **humoral (antibody) and cellular immunity**. One way to acquire active immunity is to survive infection with the disease-causing form of the organism. **Another way to produce active immunity is by vaccination**. Vaccines interact with the immune system and often produce an immune response similar to that produced by the natural infection.

Statement 2 is correct. **Live vaccines** are derived from “wild,” or disease-causing, viruses or bacteria. These wild viruses or bacteria are **attenuated, or weakened**, in a laboratory, usually by repeated culturing. To produce an immune response, **live attenuated vaccines must replicate** (grow) in the vaccinated person. A relatively small dose of virus or bacteria is administered, which replicates in the body and creates enough of the organism to stimulate an immune response.

Statement 3 is correct. **Inactivated vaccines** are produced by growing the bacterium or virus in culture media, then inactivating it with heat and/ or chemicals (usually formalin). They are **not alive and cannot replicate** therefore entire dose of antigen is administered in the injection. These vaccines cannot cause disease from infection, even in an immune-deficient person.

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding **DIKSHA platform**:

1. It enables teachers to learn and train themselves with assessment resources available on platform.
2. The platform is exclusive for Central Government bodies to integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives.

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. **Diksha portal** enables, accelerates and amplifies solutions in realm of teacher education. It enables **teachers to learn and train themselves** for which assessment resources are available. It helps teachers to create training content, profile, in-class resources, assessment aids, news and announcement and connect with teacher community.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **States, government bodies and even private organisations**, can integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives based on their goals, needs and capabilities.

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LEAD (Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi) — developed by the Delhi government that contains 10,000 instructional materials and course content for Classes I to XII will be available on DIKSHA platform.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It implements and enforces the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

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 Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** was constituted by a Government of India Resolution in 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

Statement 2 is correct. Main **functions** of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

- To **implement and enforce** the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- To collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc., for bulk drugs and formulations.
- To undertake and/ or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/ pharmaceuticals.

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding State government provisions in **the Constitution of India**:

1. Chief Minister is appointed by the Chief Justice or the senior-most Judge of the respective High Court.
2. Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of the State.
3. The number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State cannot be less than twelve.

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. Article 164(1) of the Constitution states that the '**Chief Minister** shall be appointed by the **Governor** and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.'

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Council of Ministers** is collectively responsible to the **Legislative Assembly** of the State.

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Statement 3 is correct. Article 164(1A) states ‘the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State **shall not exceed fifteen percent of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly** of that State; provided that the number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State **shall not be less than twelve.**’

Q.59) Which of the following committee(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Bibek Debroy Committee - Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board
2. Rakesh Mohan Committee - National Transport Development Policy
3. Ishaat Hussain Committee- Norms of Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)

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: D

Explanation: All are correctly matched.

The **Bibek Debroy Committee** was set for “*Mobilization of Resources for Major Railway Projects and Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board*” in 2014. It recommended more private participation, establishment of Independent Regulator- Railways Regulatory Authority of India, restructuring of Railway Zones etc.

Dr Rakesh Mohan chaired the *National Transport Development Policy* Committee, it recommended a single unified transport ministry with a clear mandate to deliver a multi-modal transport system, focus on development of North East India and reforms in Railways sector.

The **Ishaat Hussain Committee** was set up by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2019 to recommend on norms for *Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)*. The SSE was proposed in the budget speech in July 2019. The proposed exchange will be under the regulation of Securities and Board Exchange of India.

Q.60) The ‘**Hul Divas**’ commemorates which of the following event?

- a) Tribal Contribution to the revolt of 1857
- b) Santhal rebellion against the British Raj in 1855
- c) Uprising of indigo farmers against plantation owners
- d) Rampa Rebellion of 1922

Correct answer: B

Explanation: On every **June 30 (Hul Diwas)**, people in Bhognadih village in Sahebgunj district, **Jharkhand** pay tributes to tribal heroes who were killed by the British forces.

The Hul Diwas marks the contributions made by **Sido, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav**. The place is treated as the epicenter of the **Santhal Hul (rebellion)** against the British Raj in 1855, two years before Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **Africa Communication and Information Platform (ACIP)**:

1. It has been launched by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).
2. The platform will serve as a two-way information and communication platform between citizens and governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has launched Africa Communication and Information Platform (ACIP) for Health and Economic Action to serve as a **two-way information and communication** platform between citizens and government.

The platform will bring together the major mobile network operators on the continent as well as other partners to support each country's National COVID-19 Taskforce, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Finance, Economy, and Planning, and international development organizations, including Africa CDC and ECA with intelligent information and analysis of live data for decision-making.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding **Operation Greens Scheme**:

1. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
2. Scheme provides subsidy for transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption center.

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. **Operation Greens Scheme** is being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Statement 2 is correct. It has been **extended** from tomato, onion and potato (TOP) crops to other notified horticulture crops for providing subsidy for their transportation and storage from surplus production area to major consumption centers.

Eligible Crops: Fruits- Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit; Vegetables: - French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato.

Eligible entities: Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/Co-operative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing/ marketing of fruits and vegetables.

Ministry will provide subsidy @ 50 % of the cost of two components, subject to the cost norms: transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption center; and/or hiring of appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops (for maximum period of 3 months).

Q.63) Consider the following statements regarding **Sample Registration System (SRS)** in India:

1. It is carried out by the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
2. It provides annual estimates of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate, fertility and mortality indicators.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Sample Registration System (SRS)** in India is carried out by the **Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner**, India with an objective of providing reliable annual estimates of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate and various other fertility and mortality indicators at the State and National level.

The system has a unique feature of dual recording, which involves continuous enumeration and retrospective half-yearly surveys.

Registrar General of India has released the **Sample Registration System – Statistical Report 2018**. For more visit [Factly](#).

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding the ‘**Accelerate Vigyan**’ scheme:

1. It has been launched by NITI Aayog.
2. The program will initiate mechanisms of identifying research potential, mentoring, training and hands-on workshops, on national scale.

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. To provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs, and workshops across the country, the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** has launched a new scheme called ‘Accelerate Vigyan’ (AV).

Statement 2 is correct. The primary objective of this inter-ministerial scheme is to give more thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and preparing scientific manpower.

Recognizing that all research has its base as development of quality and well-trained researchers, AV will initiate and strengthen mechanisms of identifying research potential, mentoring, training and hands-on workshop on a national scale.

This scheme is primarily to focus on young potential researchers with an aim to give an opportunity to them to spend quality time in the pre-identified premier institution, labs / organizations; specially those students who do not have access and exposure to such facilities and environment.

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the **Project Platina**:

1. It has been launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to generate data on effects of convalescent plasma therapy in the treatment of COVID-19.

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 **PLATINA** has been launched by the **Maharashtra** state government.

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Statement 2 is correct. The PLATINA project will be trial cum treatment project and will give robust data regarding the role of **convalescent plasma** in the treatment of COVID 19 patients.

Convalescent plasma therapy makes use of the antibodies developed in the recovered patient against the infections. Under this plasma from recovered patients are taken and then injected into critically ill patients so that the antibodies are transferred and boost their immune response against the virus.

Q.66) Consider the following statements regarding the **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform:**

1. It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It facilitates Government Organizations to publish their datasets in open formats for free public use.

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.

The **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India** has been setup by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** in compliance with the Open Data Policy (NDSAP) of India.

It facilitates Government Organizations to publish their datasets in open formats for free public use. OGD is also available as Software as a Service (SaaS). OGD works as a connecting link for Government, citizen and community to create an Open Data ecosystem in the country.

Open Government Data Platform India has 4 (four) major modules: Data Management System (DMS), Content Management System (CMS), Visitor Relationship Management (VRM) and Communities module.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asian Productivity Organization (APO):**

1. It promotes sustainable socioeconomic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity.
2. National Productivity Council of India (NPC) is a constituent of the Asian Productivity 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: C

The **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** was established on 11 May 1961 as a regional inter-governmental organization comprising of 21 member countries from Asia and the Pacific.

The APO headquarter is located in Tokyo, Japan. Its mission is to contribute to the socio-economic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity. The APO is nonpolitical, nonprofit, and nondiscriminatory in character.

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National Productivity Council of India (NPC), established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO).

Q.68) Consider the following statements regarding the **Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020**:

1. These are to be issued by Securities & Exchange Board of India on behalf of the Government of India.
2. The Interest on the bonds is payable semi-annually and interest rate will be reset every six months.

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. **Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable)** are to be issued by **Reserve Bank India** on behalf of the Government of India. It will enable person resident in India/Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling.

Statement 2 is correct. The interest on the bonds is payable **semi-annually** on 1st Jan and 1st July every year. The coupon on 1st January 2021 shall be paid at 7.15%. The Interest rate for next half-year will be reset every six months, the first reset being on January 01, 2021. There is no option to pay interest on cumulative basis.

Q.69) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Agni V - Beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile
2. Astra - Intercontinental ballistic missile
3. Maareech - Advanced Torpedo Defense System

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: C

Explanation: The **Agni-V** is a three-stage solid fueled **Intercontinental ballistic missile** with approximate range of 5,500-5,800 kilometers developed by DRDO.

Astra is a **beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM)** developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization. It is the first air-to-air missile developed by India. Astra has been integrated with Indian Air Force's Sukhoi Su-30MKI.

Maareech Advanced Torpedo Defense System (ATDS) is a torpedo detection and countermeasure system used by the Indian Navy, it has been developed as a joint project of the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi and the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.

Q.70) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fishing Cat**:

1. Fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans in India.
2. It is listed as a vulnerable species in IUCN Red list.

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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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Wetlands are the major habitats of the fishing cat.**

In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys.

The fishing cat is an adept swimmer and enters water frequently to prey on fish as its name suggests. It is known to even dive to catch fish.

Statement 2 is correct. The fishing cat is listed as **Endangered on the IUCN Red List**, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendix II of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

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