

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

13th to 19th July, 2020

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of July (Third week), 2020

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **NATGRID**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is exempt from Right to Information Act, 2005.

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 Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)**, an attached office of **Ministry of Home Affairs**, has been created as an IT platform to assist the intelligence and law enforcement agencies in ensuring national and internal security, with the ultimate aim to counter terror.

It aims to allow investigation and law enforcement agencies to access real-time information from data stored with agencies such as the Income Tax Department, banks, insurance companies, Indian Railways, credit card transactions, and more.

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 24 of the Right to Information Act, 2005** exempts intelligence and security organizations from the purview of the Act. Section 24(2) allows Central Government to notify intelligence or security organization exempt from the RTI Act. NATGRID has been notified to be exempted from the RTI Act, 2005.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are potential benefit of **Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)** methodology?

1. Lower labor cost.
2. Seeds are never exposed to birds, rats, and snails.
3. The plants mature earlier than transplanted rice variety.

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: C

Explanation: Transplanting after repeated puddling is the conventional method of rice growing, while 'Direct seeding' means applying seed directly to the site where plants are wanted.

Statement 1 is correct. **Direct seeding requires less labor.** Farmers do not have to prepare a nursery, care for it, and pull the seedlings.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In direct seeding, the **seeds are exposed to birds, rats, and snails.** There is also greater crop-weed competition because rice plants and weeds are of similar age.

Statement 3 is correct. Direct-seeded plants **mature 7 to 10 days earlier** than transplanted rice. They are not subjected to stress like being pulled from the soil of the nursery and do not need to reproduce fine rootlets.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Itolizumab** drug:

1. It is a humanized monoclonal antibody.
2. It can be used for the treatment of cytokine storm.

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: Statement 1 is correct. **Itolizumab** is a **humanized IgG1 monoclonal antibody** developed by Biocon Limited that selectively targets CD6 cells.

Monoclonal antibodies are antibodies produced by immune cells that are cloned from one parent immune cell. These antibodies are designed to bind to a specific type of proteins.

Humanized antibodies are antibodies from non-human species whose protein sequences have been modified to increase their similarity to antibody variants produced naturally in humans.

Statement 2 is correct. **Cytokine storm** is an overreaction of the immune system, generating a large number of cytokines that can cause severe damage to the lungs and other organs, and, in the worst scenario, multi-organ failure and even death.

Itolizumab, by binding to CD6, down regulates T cell activation, causes reduction in synthesis of pro-inflammatory cytokines and possibly plays an important role by reducing T cell infiltration at sites of inflammation.

Itolizumab has recently been approved by DGCI for emergency use in India for the treatment of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) in moderate to severe ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) patients due to COVID-19.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. 'One Sun One World One Grid' is a global initiative of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
2. Only nations situated between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn are eligible for membership of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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. '**One Sun One World One Grid**' (**OSOWOG**) is an initiative of Govt of India through which India plans to push towards a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources that are seamlessly shared for mutual benefits and global sustainability.

The initiative is planned across three phases: Middle East-South Asia-South East Asia (MESASEA) interconnection, Solar and other Renewable Energy resources rich regions' interconnection and Global interconnection to achieve the One Sun One World One Grid vision.

The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is "The Sun Never Sets" and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.

Statement 2 is incorrect. When the International Solar Alliance was announced in 2015, 121 nations situated between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and receiving 300 days of sunlight were deemed eligible for membership, it was later opened for all UN member countries.

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Q.5) Which of the following subject(s) is/are listed in the **Twelfth Schedule of India's Constitution**?

1. Public health
2. Planning for economic and social development
3. Minor forest produce

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Article 243W providing for Powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities states that *the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Municipalities with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon **Municipalities**, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to—*

- (i) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;
- (ii) the performance of functions and the implementation of schemes as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in **the Twelfth Schedule**.

The Twelfth Schedule lists 18 subjects including urban planning including town planning, Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings, **planning for economic and social development**, Roads and bridges Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes, **Public health**, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management, and others. *Minor forest produce is listed in the Eleventh Schedule which lists subjects to be devolved to Panchayats.*

Q.6) Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Lop Nur - China
2. Hagia Sophia - Turkey
3. Duqm - Yemen

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: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Lop Nur** is a former salt lake, now largely dried up, located between the Taklamakan and Kumtag deserts in the **Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China**. It is major test site for China's military weapons.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Hagia Sophia, Turkey** was built as a Christian cathedral about 1,500 years ago and turned into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of 1453.

This UNESCO World Heritage Site became a museum in 1934 under Turkish Republic founding father Ataturk. Recently Turkish court annulled the site's museum status; it has been decided by Turkish government to turn it into mosque.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Duqm** is a port town on the Arabian Sea in central-eastern **Oman** having heavy Chinese investment.

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Q.7) The **Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)** is a proposed agreement between India which of the following country/region?

- a) United Kingdom
- b) European Union
- c) United States of America
- d) African Union

Correct answer: B

Explanation: India and the European Union have been negotiating a bilateral Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) since 2007.

The negotiations cover Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation etc.

The agreement is long pending due to issues over labor, environment, data security, visa regulations and government procurement.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Parliamentary privileges**:

1. Constitution does not provide any explicit privileges to members of Parliament and leaves them to be defined by Parliament.
2. The privilege of non-liability to any proceedings in any court, in respect of anything said in the Parliament, extends to parliamentary committees.

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: The Constitution of India **explicitly specifies** some of the privileges for Houses of Parliament and of the **members and committees** thereof:

-Article 105: freedom of speech in Parliament; immunity to a member from any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or **any committee** thereof;

immunity to a person from proceedings in any court in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

-Article 122: Courts are prohibited from inquiring into the validity of any proceedings in Parliament on the ground of an alleged irregularity of procedure.

No officer or Member of Parliament empowered to regulate procedure or the conduct of business or to maintain order in Parliament can be subject to a court's jurisdiction in respect of exercise by him of those powers.

-Article 361A: No person can be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings in any court for publication in a newspaper of a substantially true report of any proceedings of either House of Parliament unless the publication is proved to have been made with malice.

Further, as per the Constitution any other powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and MP's may be defined by Parliament.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Comparison Program (ICP)**:

1. It is an initiative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

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2. It produces purchasing power parities (PPPs) based gross domestic product (GDP) for participating economies.
3. As per the International Comparison Program, USA, China and India are the largest economies of the World.

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: International Comparison Program 2017 has been released recently. Statement 1 is incorrect. The ICP is managed by the **World Bank** under the auspices of the **United Nations Statistical Commission**, and relies on a partnership of international, regional, sub-regional, and national agencies.

Statement 2 is correct. The main **objectives of the ICP** are to:

- (i) produce purchasing power parities (PPPs) and comparable price level indexes (PLIs) for participating economies;
- (ii) convert volume and per capita measures of gross domestic product (GDP) and its expenditure components into a common currency using PPPs.

Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are calculated based on the price of a common basket of goods and services in each participating economy and are a measure of what an economy's local currency can buy in another economy.

Statement 3 is correct. ICP 2017 notes that the two largest economies in the world in 2017 **were China and the United States**, each of whom recorded a PPP-based GDP of just under \$20 trillion. Together they accounted for a third of the global economy.

South Asia is home to nearly a quarter of the world's population and accounted for 8 percent of global GDP. **India with a GDP of \$8 trillion (PPP)** was the third largest economy in the world.

The next ICP comparison will be conducted for reference year 2021.

Q.10) Which of the following is/are listed as **Fundamental Duties** under the Constitution of India?

1. To provide early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years.
2. To protect and improve the natural environment.
3. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.

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: B

Explanation: Fundamental duties under article 51A: It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

- (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;

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(e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

(f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

(g) to **protect and improve the natural environment** including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;

(h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;

(i) to **safeguard public property and to abjure violence**;

(j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement;

(k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

After the **Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002**; article 45 reads "the State shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years." Further, right to education (Art. 21A) and under Fundamental duties, sub-section (k) was added.

Q.11) What is/are the main objective(s) the recently launched **CHAMPIONS** technology platform?

1. Re-skilling of the migrant labors.

2. To help the MSMEs in this difficult situation in terms of finance, raw materials, labour etc.

3. To provide database of skilled individuals to employers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 and 3 do not relate to the CHAMPIONS platform.

Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength (CHAMPIONS) portal was launched recently basically for making the smaller units big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.

Objectives of CHAMPIONS:

-**Grievance Redressal:** To resolve the problems of MSMEs including those of finance, raw materials, labor, regulatory permissions etc.;

-To help them capture new **opportunities:** including manufacturing of medical equipment and accessories like PPEs, masks, etc. and supply them in National and International markets;

-To identify and encourage the **sparks:** i.e. the potential MSMEs who are able to withstand the current situation and can become national and international champions.

Q.12) Which of the following initiative(s) provides incentive for **promotion of MSMEs** in India?

1. Priority Sector Lending

2. Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)

3. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above programs provide benefits to MSME operations in India.

Priority Sector Lending is a mandate to the banks for providing a specified portion of the bank lending to few specific sectors. Priority Sector includes the following categories: Agriculture, **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, Export Credit, Education, Housing, Social Infrastructure, Renewable Energy and others.

Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS): The objective of TReDS is to create Electronic Bill Factoring Exchanges which could electronically accept and settle bills so that MSMEs could encash their receivables without delay.

MSMEs often face constraints in obtaining adequate finance, one big factor which affects the ability of MSMEs to convert trade receivables into liquid funds are slow paying invoices. To address these issues, RBI in 2014 introduced the concept of TReDS, a mechanism of trade receivables financing for MSMEs on a secure digital platform.

The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme** is a specific response to the unprecedented situation COVID-19. It provides 100% guarantee coverage by NCGTC to MLIs on GECL of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Infrastructure Pipeline:**

1. It is a country-wide natural gas pipeline project of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
 2. The project is to be completely funded by the Central Government.
- 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 **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** is an investment plan for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors is a first-of-its-kind exercise to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens. The endeavor of the NIP would be to make this happen in an efficient manner.

NIP aims to improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic and foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025. It is estimated to have an investment of **Rs 102 lakh crore**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NIP consists of 39 per cent projects each by **the Centre and states** and the balance by 22 per cent by **private sector**.

The Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) submitted its Final Report on NIP for FY 2019-25 in April 2020. The NIP project database would be hosted on India Investment Grid (IIG).

Q.14) The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** has been released by which of the following institutions?

- a) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- b) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

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d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** has been released recently by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**) emphasizing the threat that wildlife trafficking poses to nature and the biodiversity of the planet. It is the second report since 2016 report by UNODC.

- The report notes that **pangolins**, which were identified as a potential source of coronaviruses, are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world, with seizures of pangolin scales having increased tenfold between 2014 and 2018.

-The report outlines key global wildlife crime trends and analyses markets for illicit rosewood, ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, live reptiles, big cats and European eel.

-Trade in wildlife and wildlife products have also expanded into the **digital** sphere. Sales of certain products, like live reptiles and tiger bone products, have shifted to online platforms.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **rainfall distribution** over India:

1. The rainfall decreases moving westwards in North India.

2. In Peninsular India, except Tamil Nadu, rainfall decreases moving eastwards.

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.

Rainfall decreases from the east to the west in Northern India because as the **moisture bearing winds** of the Bay of Bengal branch of the south west monsoon move further inland, the moisture content gradually decreases.

In Peninsular India, the **windward side of the Western Ghats** receives most of the rainfall, while the leeward side gets little rainfall. Further the, South-west monsoon branch moves **parallel to the Eastern Ghats**, which cause less rainfall in the Eastern Ghats. Tamil Nadu is an exception as it receives rainfall from retreating monsoons during winter season.

Spatial Variations in the Rainfall:

-Areas of Heavy Rainfall (Over 200cm): The highest rainfall occurs in west coast, on the Western Ghats as well as the Sub-Himalayan areas in North East and Meghalaya Hills, Assam, West Bengal, and Southern slopes of eastern Himalayas.

-Areas of Moderately Heavy Rainfall (100-200 cm): Moderate rainfall occurs in Southern parts of Gujarat, East Tamil Nadu, North-eastern Peninsular, Western Ghats, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and the middle Ganga valley.

-Areas of Less Rainfall (50-100 cm): Upper Ganga valley, eastern Rajasthan, Punjab, Southern Plateau of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu experience less rain.

-Areas of Scanty Rainfall (Less than 50 cm): Northern part of Kashmir, Western Rajasthan, Punjab and Deccan Plateau get scanty rainfall.

Two significant features of India's rainfall are in the north India, rainfall decreases westwards and in Peninsular India, except Tamil Nadu, it decreases eastward.

Q.16) Which of the following correctly defines **Apoptosis**?

- a) Cells death due to injury
- b) Cell division producing two new cells from one cell
- c) Loss of a cell's power of division and growth
- d) Programmed cell death in the body

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: Apoptosis is a form of **programmed cell death** that occurs in multicellular organisms. It removes cells during development and eliminates the potentially harmful, cancerous and infected cells.

Necrosis is a form of cell injury which results in the premature death of cells in living tissue.

Senescence or biological aging is the gradual deterioration of functional characteristics; loss of a cell's power of division and growth.

Mitosis is a type of cell division that results in two daughter cells each having the same number and kind of chromosomes as the parent nucleus, typical of ordinary tissue growth.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding **Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE)**:

1. It includes final consumption expenditure of households as well as non-profit institutions serving households.
2. PFCE component of India's GDP is more than the Government final consumption expenditure (GFCE).

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. **Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE)** includes final consumption expenditure of households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) like temples, gurdwaras.

The final consumption expenditure of households relates to outlays on new durable as well as non-durable goods (except land) and on services.

Statement 2 is correct. Growth in the Indian economy, for long, has been **dominated by consumption (PFCE)**, followed by investments (GFCF), government expenditure (GFCE) and net exports (NEX). Further PFCE forms largest component of GDP.

Table below: MoSPI

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STATEMENT : Second Advance Estimates of National Income and Expenditures of GDP, 2019-20

(At 2011- 12 Prices)

(₹ crore)

S.No	Item	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Percentage change over previous year	
		(2 nd RE)	(1 st RE)	(2 nd AE)	2018-19	2019-20
Domestic Product						
1	GVA at Basic Prices	12,074,413	12,803,128	13,434,606	6.0	4.9
2	Net Taxes on Products	1,100,747	1,178,298	1,249,229	7.0	6.0
3	GDP (1+2)	13,175,160	13,981,426	14,683,835	6.1	5.0
4	NDP	11,686,409	12,372,051	12,995,082	5.9	5.0
Rates to GDP						
14	PFCE	56.0	56.6	56.7		
15	GFCE	10.2	10.6	11.1		
16	GFCF	30.8	31.9	30.2		
17	CIS	1.6	1.9	1.8		
18	Valuables	1.5	1.2	1.3		
19	Exports of Goods and Services	19.7	20.9	19.5		
20	Imports of Goods and Services	23.4	23.9	21.5		
21	Discrepancies	3.5	0.9	0.9		
22	GDP	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **Poonam Avlokan**:

1. It is an annual Lion Census carried out in Gir forest, Gujarat.
2. The 2020 exercise has noted a decline in Lion population since the previous census.

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.

Lion Census is carried out every five years; with last one carried out in 2015. The 2015 Census had counted 523 lions, up from 411 in 2010. Lion Census was due on June 5-6 this year, but was postponed after the lockdown was announced.

Poonam Avlokan is generally a monthly in-house exercise in protected area, carried out every full moon. In order to develop an understanding of the current population status and distribution of Asiatic Lions in the Asiatic Lion Landscape, the Gujarat Forest Department conducted an exercise familiarly called Poonam Avlokan on 05-06 June, 2020 using the **Direct Beat Verification** also known as the Block Count method.

The observation results point out that the **population of Asiatic Lions has shown a steady increase** with a population of 674 individuals with an increase rate of 28.87% (one of the highest growth rates so far) from the previous growth of 27% during 2015 (523 lions).

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 (SOFI 2020)'**:

1. It has been published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
2. As per the report, Asia is home to the largest of the undernourished population of the world.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. ‘**State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 (SOFI 2020)**’ joint report is issued annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. It presents the latest estimates on food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition at the global and regional levels.

Statement 2 is correct. **Asia** remains home to the greatest number of undernourished (381 million). Africa is second (250 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (48 million).

-The **global prevalence of undernourishment** – or overall percentage of hungry people – has changed little at 8.9 percent, but the absolute numbers have been rising since 2014. This means that over the last five years, hunger has grown in step with the global population.

-In percentage terms, the prevalence of undernourishment in the total population in **India** declined from 21.7 per cent in 2004-06 to 14 per cent in 2017-19.

-The two subregions showing reductions in undernourishment—eastern and southern Asia—are dominated by the two largest economies of the continent—**China and India**.

Q.20) Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Changi - Singapore
2. Chabahar - Iran
3. Kyaukpyu - Myanmar
4. Guam - United States of America

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are correctly matched.

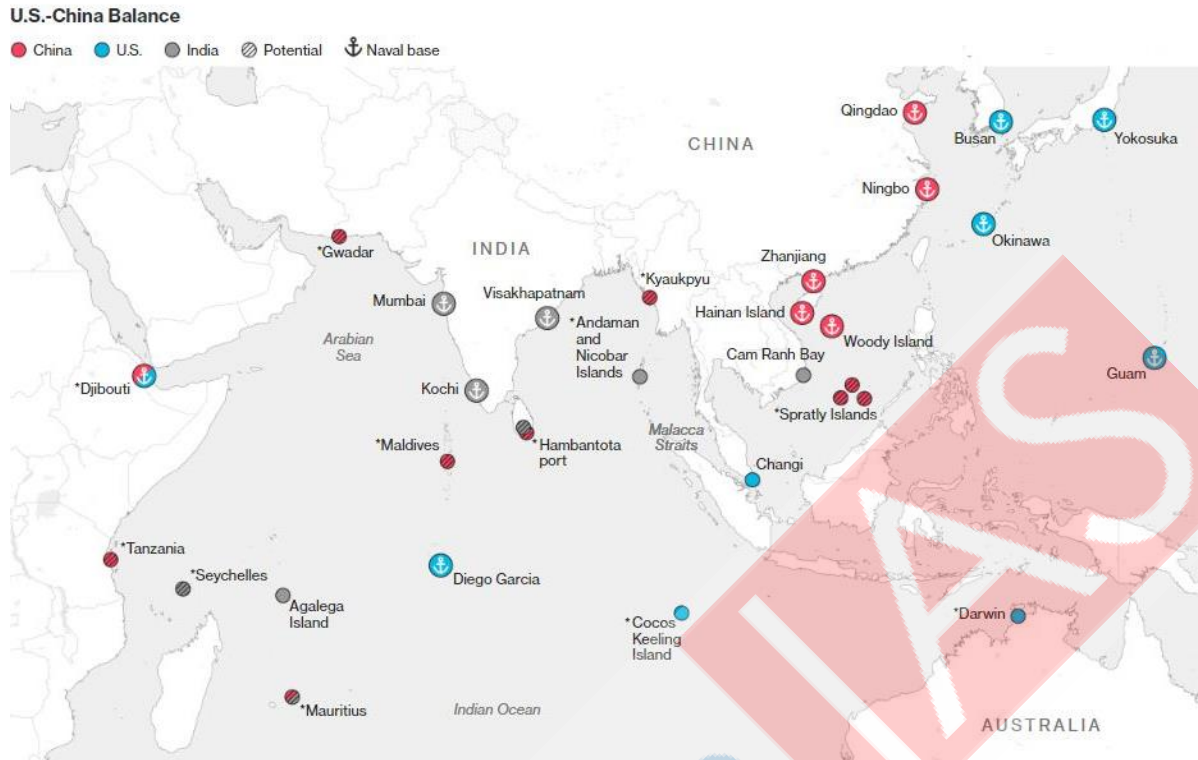
Kyaukpyu is a major town in Rakhine State, in western **Myanmar**. It has major Chinese investment.

Changi is in the East Region of **Singapore**; it is a naval base of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). India and Singapore signed a bilateral agreement that will allow Indian Navy ships limited logistical support, including refueling, at CNB.

Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern **Iran**, on the Gulf of Oman. India has major investments in development of Chabahar port facility.

Guam is a **U.S. island territory** in Micronesia, in the Western Pacific having US naval base.

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Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. The Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) allows import-export of goods between India and Afghanistan through Wagah Border.
2. Chabahar port in Iran has potential to increase India-Afghanistan bilateral trade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

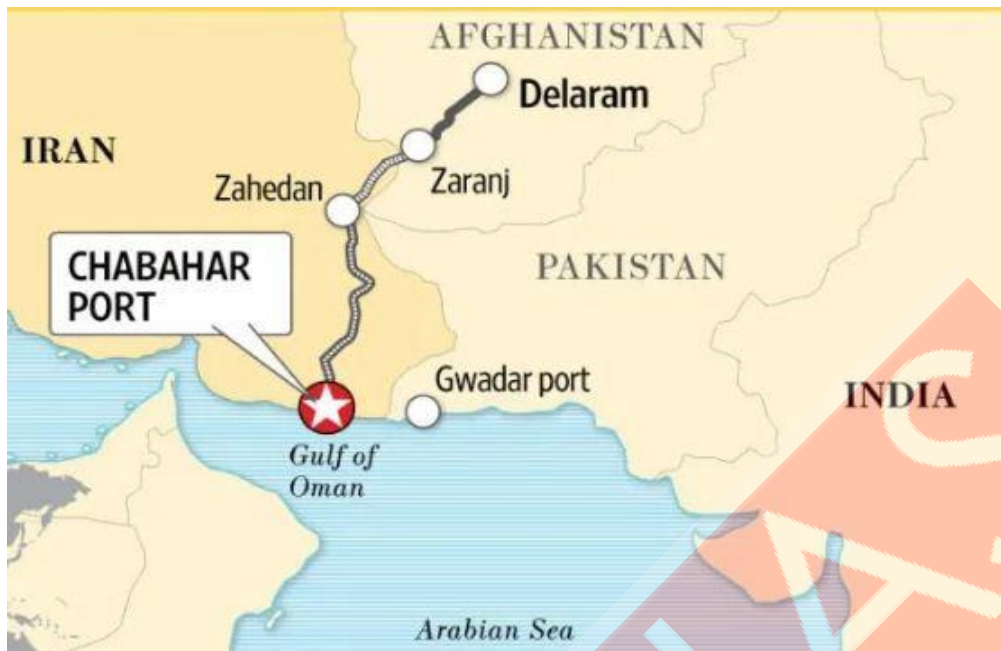
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Afghanistan–Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA)** is a bilateral trade agreement signed in 2010 by Pakistan and Afghanistan. The APTTA agreement allows Afghan trucks to transport exports to India via Pakistan up to the Wagah crossing point, but **does not allow** Afghanistan to import Indian goods across Pakistani territory.

Statement 2 is correct. The successful operation of the Chabahar port in Iran would capitalize on **Zaranj-Delaram** highway to offer a new transit route of Afghan products to India.

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Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019**:

1. It is based on the recommendations of the Justice B.N. Srikrishna committee.
2. It governs the companies incorporated in India as well as foreign companies dealing with personal data of individuals 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 states that the Bill is based on the recommendations of "**Committee of Experts on Data Protection**" chaired by Justice B.N. Srikrishna to examine the issues relating to data protection and the suggestions received from various stakeholders.

Statement 2 is correct. It lays down obligations on entities collecting personal data (data fiduciary) to collect only that data which is required for a specific purpose and with the express consent of the individual (data principal).

-It governs the processing of personal data by **government, companies incorporated in India, and foreign companies** dealing with personal data of individuals in India. Personal data is data which pertains to characteristics, traits or attributes of identity, which can be used to identify an individual.

-It aims establish an Authority to be called the "**Data Protection Authority of India**" to protect the interests of data principals, prevent any misuse of personal data, ensure compliance with the provisions.

The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha in December, 2019 and was referred to Standing Committee.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **India-European Union relations**:

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1. India-European Union Summit 2020 is the first ever Summit level meeting between India and European Union.

2. India is European Union's largest trade partner.

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 first **India-European Union Summit** took place on **28 June 2000 in Lisbon**. India-EU Summit 2020 is the **15th edition** of the engagement.

Statement 2 is incorrect. EU is one of the largest trade partners of India, accounting for €80 billion worth of trade in goods in 2019, around 11 percent of India's total trade value.

-**India is the EU's 10th largest trading partner**, accounting for 1.9% of EU total trade in goods in 2019.

-EU foreign direct investment stocks in India amounted to €68 billion in 2018.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **PRAGYATA Guidelines** for Digital Education:

1. These have been released by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

2. These guidelines are binding in nature for all States/UTs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Human Resource and Development Ministry** has announced **PRAGYATA Guidelines** for Digital Education for online classes operationalized by schools amid the COVID pandemic.

Statement 2 is incorrect. These guidelines are **advisory in nature** and have been prepared by NCERT. States/UTs are required to come out with their own detailed guidelines by adapting/modifying these guidelines in accordance with their requirements and assessment of the local situation.

-The guidelines recommend a cap on the screen time for students depending on class.

-The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of digital learning that is, Plan- Review-Arrange- Guide- Yak (talk) - Assign- Track- Appreciate.

-The Guidelines also emphasize the need to unify all efforts related to digital, online education, benefitting school going children across the country. The initiative includes DIKSHA, SWAYAM Prabha, Radio Vahini and Shiksha Vaani.

Q.25) Who among the following has published the **Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020** report?

- a) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- b) World Bank Group
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- d) World Economic Forum

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The 'Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Technology and the future of jobs' has been released by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**.

-The number of young people currently **not in employment, education or training (NEET)** is rising, and young women are more than twice as likely as their male counterparts to be affected.

-Globally, one-fifth of young people currently have NEET status, which means they are neither gaining experience in the labour market, nor receiving an income from work, nor enhancing their education and skills.

-Young people (those aged 15-24) who are employed also face a greater risk than older workers of losing their jobs because of automation.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding **disease testing parameters**:

1. Sensitivity of the test refers to ability to detect true positives.
2. Specificity of the test refers to ability to detect true negatives.
3. Positivity rate refers to percentage of positive results out of all tests conducted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

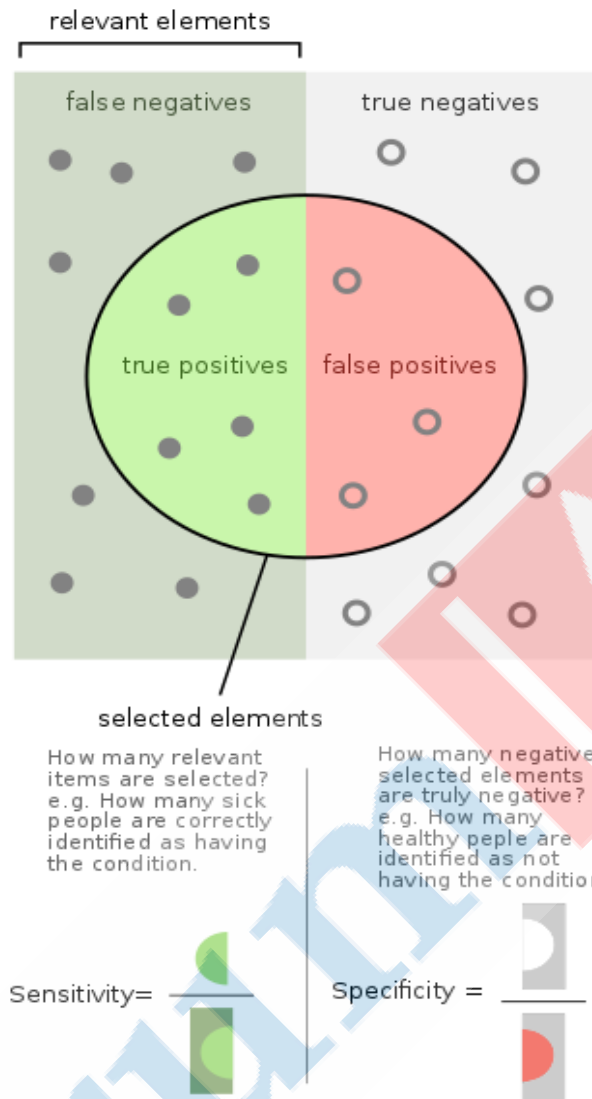
- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 3 only
- D) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Sensitivity of a test** means measures the proportion of actual positives that are correctly identified as such, percentage of infected people who are correctly identified as having the condition in a diagnostic test.

Statement 2 is correct. **Specificity** measures the proportion of actual negatives that are correctly identified as such.

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Statement 3 is correct. **Positivity rate** refers to percentage of patients who have positive tests out of all tests conducted.

World Health Organization (WHO) advised governments that before reopening, rates of positivity in testing for COVID-19 should remain at 5% or lower for at least 14 days.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding **Cytokines**:

1. These are released as part of immune response of the body.
2. An uncontrolled and excessive release of Cytokines can result in fatal condition of hyper-inflammation.

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. **Cytokines** are small glycoproteins that synchronize immune system responses. These are released by many different cells in the body, including

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those of the **immune system** where they coordinate the body's response against infection and trigger inflammation.

Statement 2 is correct. **Cytokine storms** occurs when excessive or uncontrolled levels of cytokines are released which then activate more immune cells, resulting in **hyperinflammation**. A cytokine storm can occur as a result of an infection, autoimmune condition, or other disease. Sometimes, a cytokine storm may be severe or life threatening and lead to multiple organ failure also called **hypercytokinemia**.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding **Comet NEOWISE**:

1. It was discovered by Hubble Space Telescope of NASA.
2. It is a periodic comet and appears in Earth's vicinity about every 75 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **C/2020 F3** is a retrograde comet with a near-parabolic orbit discovered by astronomers using the NEOWISE space telescope (hence called **comet NEOWISE**).

NEOWISE telescope is a NASA infrared-wavelength astronomical space telescope launched in December 2009, and placed in hibernation mode in February 2011. It was re-activated in 2013 to identify and characterize the population of near-Earth objects (NEO).

Statement 2 is incorrect. **NEOWISE comet** was discovered on March 27, 2020, and is a **non-periodic** comet.

Trivia: There is a "periodic" comet that emerges in Earth's vicinity about every 75 years. The last time it was seen was in 1986, and is projected to return in 2061. English astronomer Edmond Halley examined reports of a comet approaching Earth in 1531, 1607 and 1682. He concluded that these three comets were the same comet returning periodically, and predicted the comet would come again in 1758. He died in 1742 and could not see the return of what later was named Halley's Comet!

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**:

1. It is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
2. Fuel and Power inflation is not included in the WPI calculation.

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 **Office of the Economic Adviser**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry releases the monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The index basket of the WPI covers commodities falling under the three major groups namely **Primary Articles, Fuel and Power and Manufactured products**.

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Primary Articles have a weightage of 22.6 per cent, Fuel and Power have a weightage of 13.2 per cent and Manufactured Products have a weightage of 64.2 percent.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding the **Caterpillar Fungus (Keeda-Jadi)**:

1. It is a medicinal fungus species found in Himalayan region.
2. It is listed a 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Caterpillar Fungus** (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*), known as Keeda-Jadi in Uttarakhand and Yartsa Gunbu in Tibet is endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and is found in **Tibet, India and Nepal**. It has been traditionally used to treat many diseases including those related to the kidneys and lungs. Demand for the fungus has risen sharply since the 1990s.

Statement 2 is correct. In the last two decades, the fungus has become the main source of livelihoods for thousands of people where it occurs. Its populations have declined by at least 30% over the past 15 years as a result of overharvesting.

The IUCN has recently announced that the Caterpillar Fungus has entered **the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable** with decreasing population.

Q.31) Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the **Chiang Mai Initiative**?

1. Malaysia
2. China
3. Japan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are part of the **Chiang Mai initiative**.

The Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) is the **regional currency swap** arrangement launched by the **ASEAN+3** (Japan, China + Hongkong, South Korea) countries in May 2000 at an annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank to address the short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.

CMI is composed of: (a) the ASEAN Swap Arrangement (ASA) among ASEAN countries, and (b) a network of bilateral swap arrangements (BSAs) among the ASEAN+3 countries.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **European Union**:

1. The Copenhagen criteria sets out the conditions and principles to which any country wishing to become an EU member must conform.
2. Schengen Area consists of all European Union countries and Switzerland.

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. Certain criteria must be met for admission into European Union. These criteria (known as the **Copenhagen criteria**) were established by the **Copenhagen European Council in 1993** and strengthened by the Madrid European Council in 1995. They are:

-stability of institutions guaranteeing **democracy, the rule of law, human rights** and respect for and protection of minorities;

-a functioning **market economy** and the ability to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the EU;

-ability to take on the **obligations of membership**, including the capacity to effectively implement the rules, standards and policies that make up the body of EU law, and adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Schengen Area is an area comprising **26 European countries** that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders.

Schengen Area encompasses **most EU States, except for Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania**. Of non-EU States, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein have joined the Schengen Area.

Q.33) The **Equalization levy** can be levied in which of the following case(s)?

1. The payments received by a foreign non-resident company for services provided to an Indian firm with respect to digital advertising.
2. The foreign e-commerce operators providing e-commerce supply or services to a person resident in India.

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: Statement 1 is correct. The **Budget 2016-17** provided for: **equalization levy** at the rate of six percent of the amount of consideration for any **specified service** received by a person, being a **non-resident** from:

-a person resident in India and carrying on business or profession; or

-a non-resident having a permanent establishment in India.

Except where the non-resident providing the specified service has a permanent establishment in India or aggregate amount of consideration for specified service received or receivables in previous year does not exceed one lakh rupees.

A "specified service" here means online advertisement, any provision for digital advertising space or any other facility or service for the purpose of online advertisement.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Budget 2020-21** provided for: the **equalization levy** at the rate of two percent of the amount of consideration received by an **e-commerce operator (a non-resident)** from e-commerce supply or services made by it:

-to a person resident in India; or

-to a non-resident in the specified circumstances or

-to a person who buys such goods or services or both using internet protocol address located in India.

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Except where the e-commerce operator making or providing or facilitating e-commerce supply or services has a permanent establishment in India or consideration received is less than two crore rupees during the previous year.

Q.34) Which of the following is/are **potential vaccine(s)** for COVID-19 being developed in India?

1. ZyCoV-D
2. COVAXIN
3. CanSino Vaccine

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: Option 1 is correct. **ZyCoV-D vaccine** developed by the **Zydus (Cadila) Healthcare**, India has successfully completed preclinical development and has received permission from DCGI to initiate human clinical trials.

Option 2 is correct. **COVAXIN** is also a vaccine candidate undergoing trials in India; it has been developed by the **Bharat Biotech Ltd** in collaboration with the ICMR.

Option 3 is incorrect. **CanSino's Covid vaccine** is jointly developed by **Chinese vaccine** company CanSino Biologics and the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology in the Academy of Military Medical Sciences.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the **Woolly Whitefly**:

1. It is an invasive species.
2. It is a polyphagous species impacting India's farms.

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 **Woolly Whitefly (Aleurothrixus floccosus)** is a species of whitefly in the family Aleyrodidae, it is **invasive and polyphagous** (one that feeds on various kinds of food).

It is among the **exotic pests** troubling farmers in India, particularly fruit growers. The woolly whitefly was first described from Jamaica in 1896 and noticed in Florida, U.S. in 1909. It is a native of warmer climates, **Caribbean, Florida, South America**.

It has recently been reported that two types of ladybird beetles and green lacewing fly feed on this whitefly.

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Geoparks Network (GGN)**:

1. It is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the Global Geoparks.
2. There are no UNESCO recognized Global Geoparks in India.

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: UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed for protection, education and sustainable development.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Geoparks Network (GGN)** is a non-profit International Association officially established in 2014 subject to French legislation. The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Its membership is obligatory for UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Statement 2 is correct. Recently UNESCO designated **15 new Geoparks** in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The Global Geoparks Network contains 161 parks in 44 countries, **none of which is in India.**

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKKs):**

1. National Skill Development Corporation is the implementation agency for the PMKK project.
2. The initiative includes concessional loan funding for training infrastructure under PMKKs.

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. **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras** is a project of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to establish Model Training Centers in every district of the country. **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is the implementation agency for the project.

The model training centers envisage to:

-Create benchmark institutions that demonstrate aspirational value for competency-based skill development training.

-Focus on elements of quality, sustainability and Connection with stakeholders in skills delivery process.

-Transform from a Mandate-driven footloose model to a sustainable institutional model.

Statement 2 is correct. **NSDC provides a concessional secured loan funding per center**, up to 75% of the project investment, to cover expenditure only related to:

-Training infrastructure including purchase of plant, machinery & equipment

-Training aid and other associated items

-Civil work including setting up prefabricated structures and retrofit existing structures.

Loan assistance under the PMKK project is sanctioned to any form of separate legal entity including but not limited to Company/Society/Trust.

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 Demo-Days initiative:**

1. It aims to identify promising start-ups with potential COVID-19 innovations.
2. The initiative is coordinated by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-NITI Aayog.

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: Both statements are correct.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-NITI Aayog recently coordinated and concluded a series of **virtual COVID-19 Demo Days**; an initiative to identify promising start-ups with potential COVID-19 innovations and to further help them deploy and scale-up their solutions nationwide.

The initiative was launched in partnership with other government bodies including Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT); Department of Science and Technology (DST), Startup India, AGNi, and other Ministries.

Over 1,000 COVID-19 related start-ups were put through two rounds of evaluation, from which more than **70 start-ups were shortlisted** for the Virtual COVID-19 Demo Days. A total of nine DemoDays for Medical Devices, PPE, Sanitization, Technology solutions etc. were held.

These start-ups will receive support in the form of funding, access to manufacturing abilities, supply chain and logistics and finding the right vendors and mentors.

Q.39) Which of the following **invention(s) of Indian institutes** is/are matched correctly?

- 1. PranaVayu - Low-cost portable ventilator
- 2. SHUDH - Ayurveda based Hand Sanitizer
- 3. Corosure - Low cost RT-PCR kit

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: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **IIT-Roorkee** has developed a **low-cost portable ventilator** in association with AIIMS-Rishikesh. **'Prana-Vayu'** the closed-loop ventilator can deliver the required amount of air to the patient, with an automated process controlling the pressure and flow rates.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **IIT Kanpur** has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDH. **Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper (SHUDH)** has six UV lights of 15 Watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Corosure**, a low-cost **RT-PCR based Covid-19 diagnostic kit** has been developed at the Kusuma School of Biological Sciences in the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**.

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding the **India Energy Modeling Forum (IEMF)**:

- 1. The IEMF is to be coordinated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- 2. It aims to provide a platform to examine relevant energy and environmental issues in India.

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: B

Explanation: In the joint working group meeting of the **Sustainable Growth Pillar of India-US Strategic Energy Partnership** co-chaired by NITI Aayog and USAID, an **India Energy Modeling Forum** have been launched.

Statement 1 is incorrect. **NITI Aayog** will initially coordinate the activities of the forum and finalize its governing structure. The forum would include knowledge partners, data agencies and concerned government ministries.

Statement 2 is correct. The **India Energy Modeling Forum** aims to:

- Provide a platform to examine important **energy and environmental** related issues;
- Inform decision-making process to the Indian government;
- Improve cooperation between modeling teams, government, and knowledge partners, funders.

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tenth Schedule of the Constitution**:

1. The disqualification by defection provisions are not applicable to Legislative Councils members.
2. The schedule allows legislators to voluntarily give up membership of his/her political party without being disqualified.

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. In the **Tenth Schedule** providing for disqualification on ground of defection, unless the context otherwise requires, a **“House”** means **either House** of Parliament or the Legislative Assembly or, as the case may be, **either House** of the Legislature of a State; i.e. Legislative Assembly or Council.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Tenth Schedule explicitly states that a member of a House belonging to any political party shall be **disqualified** for being a member of the House—if he has **voluntarily** given up his membership of such political party; or if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by the political party to which he belongs.

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding the findings of **Sample Registration System, India**:

1. Overall Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate has declined in last decade in India.
2. The Maternal Mortality Rate has been stagnant at 130 since 2014-16 survey.

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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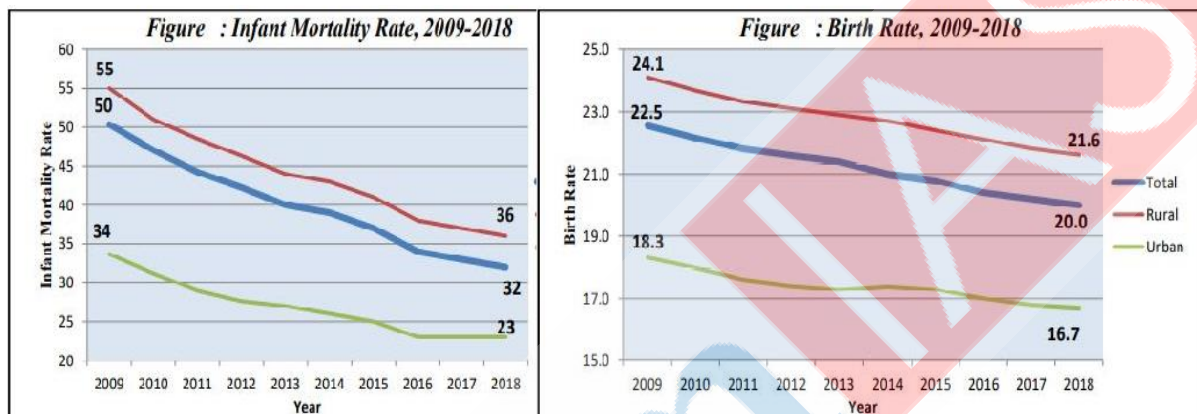
Explanation: The **Sample Registration System (SRS)** is a large-scale demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of Infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility & mortality indicators at the national and subnational levels conducted by **Office of the Registrar General, India**.

Recently **SRS Bulletins with reference year 2018** have been released.

Statement 1 is correct. **Birth Rate** is a crude measure of fertility of a population and is a crucial determinant of population growth. It gives the number of live births per thousand population in a given region and year.

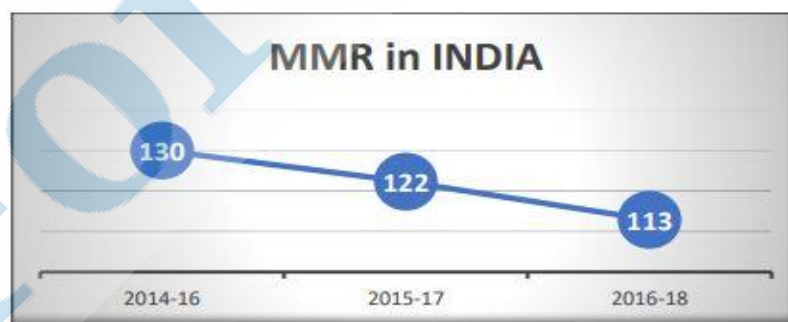
Infant Mortality Rate is defined as the infant deaths (less than one year) per thousand live births in a given time period and for a given region.

Both have seen continuous decline in India in last decade.



Statement 2 is incorrect. As per World Health Organization, “**Maternal death** is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes”.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period. It has also declined significantly in India.



Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:**

1. The Act gives effect to United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in India.
2. It mandates for providing disabled friendly access to all public buildings.
3. The Act makes people suffering from disability entitled to the same benefits and relaxations as to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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- 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. **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** is an Act to give effect to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and for matters connected therewith. **India ratified** the said Convention in October, 2007.

Statement 2 is correct. Some of the **provisions covered by the Bill** are: providing free education to a person with benchmark disability till 18 years of age; **barrier free access** to all parts of a hospital/health care center run or aided by government; ensuring that all existing public buildings are made **accessible**; all public documents are in accessible format, and accessibility of bus stops, railway stations and airports for disabled persons.

Statement 3 is incorrect. There is no such provision in the Act.

The Supreme Court has recently observed that people suffering from disabilities are also socially backward and are thus entitled to the same benefits as given to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**:

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. It is responsible for determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
3. National Assessment and Accreditation Council is an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

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. The **University Grants Commission** of India is a statutory body set up in accordance with the **UGC Act 1956**, under Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Statement 2 is correct. The **UGC`s mandate includes:**

-Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.

-Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.

-Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.

-Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university education.

Statement 3 is correct. **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC). NAAC's mandate includes the task of performance evaluation, assessment and accreditation of universities and colleges in the country.

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Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**:

1. The manufacturing sector constitutes highest weightage in the IIP calculation.
2. The electricity generated from renewable energy sources is not included in the Electricity sector calculations for 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: **Index of industrial production (IIP)** data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) is a monthly indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.

Statement 1 is correct. **Manufacturing Sector** has highest weightage in IIP calculation.

Sector	Base year 2011-12	
	Weights (%)	Item groups
Mining	14.373	1
Manufacturing	77.633	405
Electricity	7.994	1
Total	100	407

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under 'Electricity' sector, electricity generation from renewable energy sources has been **included** in 2011-12 base year series of IIP.

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kaziranga National Park**:

1. It is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site.
2. The Brahmaputra River flows north of the park.
3. It is home to world's largest population of greater-one horned rhinos.

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.

Kaziranga National Park is in the Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam, India. The sanctuary is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (1985).

It is inhabited by the **world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses**, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.

The Park lies on the **south bank of the river Brahmaputra** and its southern boundary follows for the most part the river Mora Diphlu that runs parallel to National Highway NH 37 (the main arterial highway in Assam).

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Biopharma Mission**:

1. It is an Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India.

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2. The Mission is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

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 **National Biopharma Mission** is an Industry-Academia collaborative mission of **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** for accelerating early development for biopharmaceuticals.

The National Biopharma Mission was approved by the Cabinet for implementation in May 2017 with a total cost US\$ 250 million which is co-funded World Bank. **The Mission is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology.

The mission is focusing on:

- Development of product leads that are at advanced stages of the product development lifecycle and relevant to the public health need in **vaccine, biosimilar and medical devices & diagnostics**.
- Establishing and strengthening shared **infrastructure** facilities for product development and validation.
- Developing **human capital** by providing specific trainings to address the critical skills gap across the product development value chain.
- Creating and enhancing **technology transfer and intellectual property** management capacities and capabilities.

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)**:

- 1. It creates binding, legal and financial obligations on member parties.
- 2. India is one of the members of the platform.

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. **International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)** is not an institutionalized body, **nor does it create any binding, legal or financial obligations** on any member under domestic or international law.

The **IPSF a multilateral forum** for facilitating exchanges that aims to:

- Exchange and disseminate information to promote best practices in environmentally sustainable finance;
- Compare the different initiatives and identify barriers and opportunities to help scale up environmentally sustainable finance internationally;
- While respecting national and regional contexts, enhance international coordination where appropriate on environmentally sustainable finance issues. In addition, where appropriate, some willing members could strive to align initiatives and approaches.

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Statement 2 is correct. The **International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)** was launched on 18 October 2019. Its current members are Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, **India**, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, New Zealand and the European Union, representing almost half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India:**

1. The survey was conducted by AIIMS, Delhi and sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. Alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians.

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. **National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India' 2019** was conducted by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**), **New Delhi** and sponsored by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the survey, **Alcohol** is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians. Nationally, about **14.6% of the population** (between 10 and 75 year of age) uses alcohol. There are about 16 crore persons who consume alcohol in the country. Use of alcohol is considerably **higher among men** as compared to women. For every one woman who consumes alcohol, there are 17 alcohol using men.

After Alcohol, **Cannabis and Opioids** are the next commonly used substances in India.

Q.50) India's first indigenously developed vaccine against pneumonia (**Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate**) has been developed by which of the following institution?

- a) Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd
- b) Bharat-Biotech International Ltd
- c) Biocon Limited
- d) Cadila Healthcare

Correct answer: A

Explanation: India's first fully indigenously developed conjugate vaccine for pneumonia by the **Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd**, Pune has got approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

This vaccine is to be used for active immunization against pneumonia caused by "Streptococcus pneumonia", a Gram-positive bacterium, in infants.

Pneumonia is an infection in lungs; it can be caused by **Bacteria, viruses, and fungi**. The infection causes inflammation in the air sacs (alveoli) in lungs. The alveoli fill with fluid or pus, making it difficult to breathe.

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):**

1. It is one of the principal organs of the United Nations established by UN charter.
2. ECOSOC members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.

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.

The **UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945** as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development, providing guidance and coordination. The entities include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of global issues, specialized agencies, programs and funds at work around the world.

ECOSOC has 54 member Governments which **are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly**. India is currently a member.

Q.52) The **APT29 or 'Cozy Bear'** have been in news recently, what does it relate to?

- a) A cyber espionage group targeting COVID-19 vaccine development
- b) A newly discovered Bear species in Amazon forest
- c) A COVID-19 recombinant DNA vaccine developed by Russia
- d) A meteor shower predicted at the end of year 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Advanced Persistent Threat 29 (APT-29), also known as 'Cozy Bear' or 'The Dukes' is a **cyber-espionage** group that have been accused by the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, of stealing information about ongoing **COVID-19 vaccine research** from various laboratories.

The governments have assessed that the group belonging to Russia, uses a variety of tools and techniques to predominantly target governmental, diplomatic, think-tank, healthcare and energy targets for intelligence gain.

As per **UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)** the hacker group is part of Russian intelligence services. APT29 is using custom malware known as 'WellMess' and 'WellMail' to target a number of organizations globally.

The group has history of cyber-attacks in Germany, Uzbekistan, South Korea and the US.

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding **ZyCoV-D**:

1. It is a vaccine under human trial phase developed by ICMR in collaboration with Serum Institute of India.
2. It is a live vaccine using a weakened form of the SARS-COV-2.

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. **ZyduS Healthcare** Company recently announced that it has got approval for Adaptive Phase I/ II human clinical trials of its **plasmid DNA vaccine, ZyCoV-D** against CoVID-19.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **ZyCoV-D is a plasmid DNA vaccine** and not a live vaccine. It involves the direct introduction into appropriate tissues of a plasmid containing the DNA sequence encoding the antigen(s) against which an immune response is sought.

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Q.54) Consider the following statements regarding recently launched **ASPIRE portal** for automotive sector:

1. It has been developed by the International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT).
2. It aims to streamline the automobile sector imports in India to fulfill domestic demand.

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. **Department of Heavy Industry (DHI)** is promoting innovation, R&D and product development in India for various sectors. There are **five portals** being developed for specific sectors by different organizations: BHEL for power sector equipment, HMT for machine tools, CMFTI for manufacturing technology, ICAT and ARAI for automotive sector.

The **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** has developed technology platform for automotive industry called **ASPIRE** - Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Objective of this portal: **self-reliant Indian automotive industry** by assisting in innovation and adoption of global technological advancements by bringing together the stakeholders.

Q.55) Which of the following is/are joint initiative(s) of **India and United States of America**?

1. Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)
2. Retrofit of Air Conditioning to Improve Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE)
3. Clean Technology Fund (CTF)

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: Option 1 is correct. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** have jointly initiated a new activity, "Retrofit of Air Conditioning to Improve Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency" (**RAISE**) for healthy and energy efficient buildings. The initiative will be scaled in public sector buildings.

Option 2 is correct. **Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)** is the flagship program on clean energy between the U.S. and India to jointly work on a range of issues related to **energy security, clean energy and climate change**.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Clean Technology Fund (CTF)** is one of two multi-donor Trust Funds within the **Climate Investment Funds (CIFs)**, other being Strategic Climate Fund (SCF). It promotes scaled-up financing for demonstration, deployment and transfer of low-carbon technologies. The World Bank is the Trustee and Administrating Unit of the CTF Trust Fund.

Q.56) The **Southborough Committee, 1919** recommended on which of the following matters?

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- a) Existing conditions of labor in industrial undertakings and plantations in India
- b) The relation of paramount power and the Princely States
- c) Eligibility for voting in elections
- d) To investigate the working of Diarchy in India

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Government had set up three committees in 1918-19; **Franchise Committee** headed by **Lord Southborough**, Committee on **Home Administration** headed by **Robert Crewe-Milnes** and the **Function Committee** headed by **Richard Feetham**.

The **Franchise Committee** recommended that qualification of voters should be based on property and residence within a constituency. Further it did not suggest granting of franchise to women.

Indian states committee under Sir Harcourt Butler was to investigate and clarify the relationship between the paramount power and the Princes of Princely States.

Whitley Commission on Labour, 1929 was to inquire into the existing conditions of labour in industrial undertakings and plantations in India.

Muddiman Committee or the Reforms Enquiry Committee, 1924 was to aid in investigating the diarchy issue and to meet the demand of Indian leaders in context of Purna Swaraj declaration.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**:

1. It is an action plan to limit the Uranium Enrichment by North Korea.
2. The agreement provides for compliance verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency (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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** is an agreement between **Iran** and the **P5+1** (China France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), 2015 with regards to nuclear development by Iran.

The nuclear deal was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution.

Statement 2 is correct. **Iran's compliance** with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA was to be verified by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** according to agreement.

May 2018, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the JCPOA and reinstate U.S. nuclear sanctions on the Iranian regime.

July 2019, Iran announced that it had breached the limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium, which the IAEA confirmed.

January 2020, after killing of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani, Iran declared that it would no longer abide by the limitations of the deal but would continue to coordinate with the IAEA.

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding **elections in India**:

1. The authority of the preparation of the electoral rolls for elections to Parliament and State Legislatures is vested in Election Commission of India.

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- Chief Election Commissioner can only be removed on grounds on which a Judge of the Supreme Court is removed from his/her office.
- Constitution provides for adult suffrage for elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 324(1)** provides that the **superintendence, direction and control** of the preparation of the **electoral rolls** for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President shall be vested in Election Commission.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 324(5)** provides that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in **like manner and on the like grounds** as a Judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Statement 3 is correct. **Article 326** provides that the elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of **adult suffrage**.

Every person who is a citizen of India and who is **not less than eighteen years of age** and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of **non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice**, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

Q.59) Which of the following correctly defines the mandate of **OSCE Minsk Group**?

- Negotiation on Macedonia's name dispute with Greece
- The handover of Hong Kong sovereignty to China by Britain
- Committee to look into reforms in UN Security Council
- Resolution to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia

Correct answer: D

Explanation: At its meeting in Helsinki in 1992, the then- Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, now OSCE) requested the Chairman-in-Office to convene a conference on the **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict** involving **Armenia and Azerbaijan**.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In **1994**, the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)** Budapest Summit established the **Minsk Group**, which continues to work for the creation of conditions in which such a conference can take place.

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The Prespes agreement is an agreement reached in 2018 between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia, to change latter's name to North Macedonia.

Q.60) Consider the following statements regarding the **NISHTHA** program:

1. It is an Integrated Teacher Training Program under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
2. The program is exclusive for the Central Government employed teachers.

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. **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA))** is a program of the Department of School Education and Literacy (MHRD) to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Program under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is being organized by constituting **National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs)** at the National and the State level who will be training 42 lakhs teachers subsequently.

The training program will be conducted for teachers, school principals, SMCs and **state/district/block/cluster** level functionaries.

All faculty members of **DIETs, SCERTs** etc. will be covered for training on learner- centered pedagogy, learning outcomes, improving social personal qualities of children, school-based assessment, new initiatives and pedagogies of different subjects, etc.

Q.61) Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the '**Five Eye**' group?

1. South Korea
2. Japan
3. Australia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Five Eyes (FVEY)** is an intelligence alliance comprising **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States.**

These countries are parties to the multilateral **United Kingdom – United States of America Agreement (UKUSA)**, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence. It was officially enacted on 5 March 1946 by the United Kingdom and the United States. In the following years, it was extended to encompass Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

It has been in news recently for looking into alternatives for Huawei 5G technologies.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)**:

1. It meets annually under the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
2. Member states submit voluntary national reviews to the HLPF on Sustainable Development.

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 establishment of the **United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)** on Sustainable Development was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want".

The HLPF meets annually under the auspices of the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** of the UN.

The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and reviews of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

Statement 2 is correct. The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven.

These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. These reviews by the HLPF are to be **voluntary, state-led**, undertaken by both developed and developing countries.

*NITI Aayog recently presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) titled '**Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local**' at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020.*

Q.63) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)**' program:

1. It is a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission.
2. It is being managed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support)** program was to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission. Database of labor migrants registered under **SWADES has been integrated** with the ASEEM portal.

The '**Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)**' portal is aimed to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

ASEEM will be used as a match-making engine to map skilled workers with the jobs available. The portal and App will have provision for registration and data upload for workers across job roles, sectors and geographies.

Statement 2 is correct. ASEEM portal is developed and managed by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in collaboration with Bengaluru-based company Betterplace.

The skilled workforce can register their profiles on the app and can search for employment opportunities in their neighborhood. Through ASEEM, employers, agencies and job aggregators looking for skilled workforce in specific sectors will also have the required details.

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding the **Somatotropin**:

1. It is secreted by the pituitary gland in humans.
2. It stimulates growth, cell reproduction, and cell regeneration.

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.

Human Growth hormone (hGH) or somatotropin, is a peptide hormone that is synthesized and secreted by the somatotrophs of the anterior pituitary gland.

The main function of somatotropin is to stimulate linear **growth** in children; it also fosters a healthy body composition by increasing muscle and reducing fat mass, maintains normal blood glucose levels, and promotes a favorable lipid profile.

In serum, hGH exists as a complex combination of different molecular forms (isoforms). It is prohibited both in- and out-of-competition under **World Anti- Doping Agency's List of Prohibited Substances and Methods**.

It is used as **doping agent** for its effects on reduction of body fat (lipolysis), increase in muscle mass, strength (anabolic effect), as well as its tissue-repairing effects (recovery) on the Musculo-skeletal system.

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)**:

1. It is being implemented by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with industry.
2. The mission is to focus on technology development, infrastructure and human resource development.

Which of the statements give 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)** is to be implemented by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.

Quantum Technology is based on the principles of quantum theory, which explains the nature of energy and matter on the atomic and subatomic level.

The government in its budget 2020 announced the National Mission with a total budget outlay of Rs 8000 crore for a period of five years.

Statement 2 is correct. The **areas of focus** for the Mission will be in fundamental science, translation, technology development, human and infrastructural resource generation, innovation and start-ups to address issues concerning national priorities.

The applications which will receive boost: aero-space engineering, numerical weather prediction, securing the communications & financial transactions, cyber security, health, agriculture, education and other sectors with focus on creation of high skilled jobs, human resources development, start-ups & entrepreneurship leading to technology lead economic growth.

Q.66) Which of the following **weapon system(s)** and country(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Spike Missile - France
2. Heron UAV - Israel
3. Predator Drones - United States of America

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: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Spike** is an Israeli fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile and anti-personnel missile. It was developed and designed by the **Israeli company** Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Heron** (Machatz-1) is a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the UAV division of **Israel Aerospace Industries**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Predator** UAVs are long-endurance, medium-altitude aircrafts for performing surveillance and reconnaissance missions, built by General Atomics and used primarily by the **United States Air Force (USAF)**.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the **'Going Online As Leaders (GOAL)'** Project:

1. It is an initiative of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
2. It aims to empower tribal youth through mentorship and digital literacy skills.

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

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Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)** is the flagship program of **Facebook and Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

Statement 2 is correct. Its purpose is to empower tribal youth through **mentorship, leadership training, and digital literacy skills**, and create role models within the tribal community, who can further serve as an inspiration and help the tribal youth explore, learn, and grow.

It will digitally skill and empower youth from tribal communities to become leaders of tomorrow by leveraging the power of digital technology. GOAL Project is aimed at identifying and mobilizing **renowned people from industry** (policy makers and influencers), teachers, artists, entrepreneurs, social workers etc. known for their achievements in their domain areas, to personally mentor tribal youths across India.

Q.68) Consider the following statements regarding **Tangams**:

1. It is a community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The community speaks Tangam oral language belonging to Austroasiatic language family.

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 **Tangams** are a little-known community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh; they live in the hamlet of Kugging in Upper Siang district.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Tangam, an oral language** belongs to the Tani group, under the greater **Tibeto-Burman language family**. It has been reported that it has only 253 speakers concentrated in one small hamlet of Arunachal Pradesh.

UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger lists Tangam as 'critically endangered' language.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the **Saiga Antelope**:

1. It is a native antelope species of Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **saiga antelope (Saiga tatarica)**, that in past inhabited the vast steppes of **Central Asia** and Russia today is limited to one region in Russia and some parts of Kazakhstan.

It is extinct in China and southwestern Mongolia. It was **hunted extensively** in Romania and Moldova until it became extinct in those regions at the end of the 18th century. The Mongolian subspecies (S. t. mongolica) is found only in western Mongolia.

Statement 2 is correct. The IUCN Red List assesses the Saiga as **critically endangered** with decreasing population trend and CITES includes this species in its Appendix II. The species is also listed under the CMS Appendix II.

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Q.70) Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Nagorno Karabakh - Afghanistan
2. Natanz - Iran
3. Zahedan - Pakistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Natanz** is a city and capital of Natanz County, Isfahan Province, **Iran**. Natanz nuclear facility is generally recognized as Iran's central facility for uranium enrichment.

Zahedan is a city and capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, **Iran**.

It was recently reported Iranian Railways may proceed without India's assistance in construction the 628 km **Chabahar-Zahedan line**, which will be extended to Zaranj across the border in Afghanistan.



The landlocked mountainous region of **Nagorno-Karabakh** is an unresolved dispute between **Azerbaijan**, in which it lies, and its ethnic Armenian majority, backed by neighbouring **Armenia**.