

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

20th to 26th July, 2020

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

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Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution of India provides for fundamental right of an accused against forced self-incrimination.
2. India has incorporated the relevant provisions against torture in its criminal laws after ratifying the UN Convention against Torture.

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. Constitution provides fundamental right against the forced self-incrimination by the accused under **article 20(3)** which states that no person accused of any offence shall be **compelled** to be a witness against himself.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India **signed** the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1997 but has **not ratified** it so far.

21st Law Commission under Justice B.S. Chauhan(retd.) recommended on implementation of convention by legislation. It proposed amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. In addition, the Commission submitted a draft Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017 which defines acts that should constitute torture and prescribed punishments for such acts.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Malabar Exercise is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India.
2. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic forum between the United States, Japan, South Korea and India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Malabar exercise** is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners. It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, **in 2015, Japan became a permanent partner**. Singapore and Australia have in past participated as non-permanent partners.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** is an informal strategic forum between the **United States, Japan, Australia and India**.

Q.3) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Plea Bargaining**?

1. The accused pleads guilty to lesser or fewer crime charges in exchange for a more lenient punishment.
2. Bargaining under India's Code of Criminal Procedure is applicable on offences in which the maximum sentence is above 7 years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Plea Bargaining** is legal mechanism whereby the accused may **bargain with the prosecution** for a lesser punishment. Typically, the accused will **plead guilty** to a lesser crime or for a fewer charges than originally charged, in exchange for a more **lenient punishment** than the he/she would get if convicted at trial.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Plea bargaining was introduced in 2006 by amendments to the **CrPC under Sections 265A to 265L**. The Section 265A provides that it is **not applicable** to an offence which attracts punishment of death or of imprisonment for life or of imprisonment for a term **exceeding seven years**.

Further it does not apply where such offence affects the socio-economic condition of the country or has been committed against a woman, or a child below the age of fourteen years.

Q.4) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Farzad B Gas Field - Iran
- 2. Baghjan Oil Field - India
- 3. Ghawar Oil Field - Saudi Arabia

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 gas/oil fields are correctly matched.

Farzad B Gas Field is located in Persian Gulf under the control of **Iran**. India has plans to invest in the exploration of this oilfield.

Baghjan Oil field is in Tinsukia district of **Assam**. Recently a massive fire engulfed the damaged Baghjan oil well in Assam.

Ghawar Oil Field is located in Eastern Province, **Saudi Arabia**, owned and operated by state-owned Saudi Aramco. It is one of the largest conventional oil field in the world, and accounts for roughly a third of the cumulative oil production of Saudi Arabia.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2020**:

- 1. It measures the acute deprivations in health, education, and living standards that a person faces simultaneously.
- 2. It has been released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

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

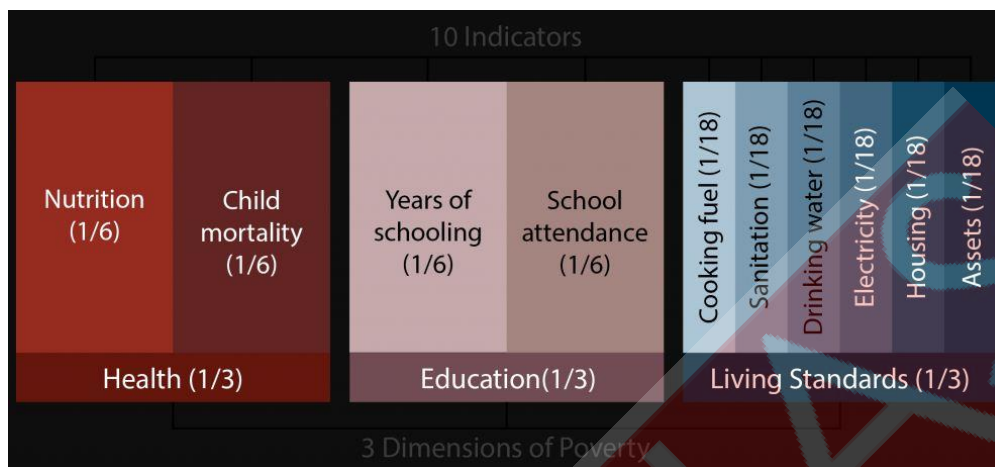
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** is an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty. It complements traditional

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monetary poverty measures by capturing the acute deprivations in **health, education, and living standards** that a person faces simultaneously.

In the global MPI, a person is identified as multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in **at least one third** of the weighted MPI indicators.



Statement 2 is correct. The **Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020: Charting pathways out of multidimensional poverty: Achieving the SDGs** has been released by the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (**OPHI**).

As per the report **India** saw the most people moving out of multidimensional poverty – some 270 million people between 2005/6 and 2015/16.

Table . Global MPI in India

Area	MPI	H	A	Vulnerable	Severe Poverty	Population Share
National	0.123	27.9%	43.9%	19.3%	8.8%	100.0%
Urban	0.039	9.2%	42.6%	14.0%	2.4%	32.3%
Rural	0.163	36.8%	44.1%	21.8%	11.8%	67.7%

Notes: Source: DHS year 2015-2016, own calculations.

MPI is calculated by multiplying the incidence of poverty (H) and the average intensity of poverty (A).

Q.6) Which of the following is/are **malware(s)** reported as threats to data security?

1. BlackRock
2. WellMess
3. TraceTogether

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. **BlackRock malware** has been reported to be stealing password and credit card details from 337 apps including some of the popular ones like Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, and more in android devices.

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Option 2 is correct. The **UK's National Cyber Security Centre** has reported that malware known as **WellMess and WellMail** have been used in attempts to steal information and intellectual property from multiple organisations involved in COVID-19 vaccine development by group known as **CozyBear or APT29**.

Option 3 is incorrect. **TraceTogether** is a contact tracing app released by the **Singapore Government** in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **KURMA mobile application**:

1. It has been developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN).
2. It provides database to identify turtle species and location of the nearest rescue center for turtles.

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.

KURMA mobile application was launched on the occasion of World Turtle Day, May 23, 2020.

It has been developed by the **Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN)** in collaboration with the **Turtle Survival Alliance-India** and **Wildlife Conservation Society-India**. It provides users a database to identify a species and also location of the nearest rescue center for turtles across the country.

Tortoise and freshwater turtles are heavily trafficked in India. The TRAFFIC reported in 2019 that at least 200 tortoises and freshwater turtles are subjected to poaching and smuggling every week.

Q.8) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the **Community transmission** of a disease?

- a) Community has achieved Herd Immunity
- b) Source of infection for a person is not traceable
- c) The infecting virus strain is not identifiable
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: A disease is said to be in **Community transmission** stage when there is no clear source of origin of the infection in a new person/community. It can no longer be identified who became infected after being exposed to someone, who interacted with infected people.

The **source and chain of infections** can no longer be established. Therefore contact tracing becomes difficult and has limited use in arresting the spread of disease.

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. This can happen in two ways: Many people contract the disease and in time build up an immune response to it (natural immunity) or many people are vaccinated against the disease to achieve immunity.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **fertilizers** in India:

1. Import of Urea for agriculture purposes can only be done through the authorized State Trading Enterprises (STEs).

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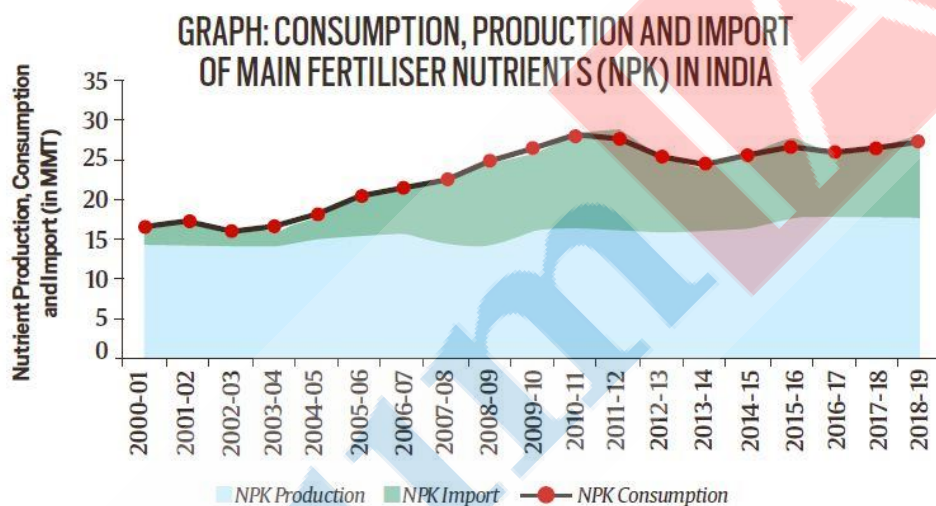
2. India does not import and is self-sufficient in NPK fertilizer needs for the domestic consumption.

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. At present, as per DGFT **Foreign Trade policy**, import of urea for agriculture purposes is a canalized item and can be imported only through **the State Trading Enterprises (STEs)** as notified by DGFT from time to time. Currently MMTC Limited (**MMTC**), State Trading Corporation Limited (**STC**) and Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (**RCF**) are permitted to import Urea for agricultural purposes. Statement 2 is incorrect. India has been a net importer of NPK fertilizers for past decade.



Q.10) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding **Passive Immunity**?

- 1. Antibodies transported across the placenta during pregnancy provide passive immunity to infants.
- 2. The protection by passive immunity is immediate but temporary in nature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Passive immunity is provided when a person is given antibodies to a disease rather than producing them through his or her own immune system. A newborn baby acquires passive immunity from its mother through the placenta.

Antibodies are transported across the placenta during the last 1–2 months of pregnancy. As a result, a full-term infant will have the same antibodies as its mother. These antibodies protect the infant from some diseases upto an year.

In passive immunity; **protection is immediate** but lasts only for a few weeks or months. Only active immunity is long-lasting.

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Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**:

1. It refers to maritime exercises consisting of basic navigation and communication drills between two or more navies.
2. Indian Navy recently conducted separate PASSEXs with navies from United States of America and Japan.

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. **PASSEX (Passage Exercise)** is a maritime exercise conducted between two or more navies which consist of **navigation and communication drills** as ships coordinate manoeuvres alongside each other.

It increases operational readiness and interoperability among the naval forces.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of USA** recently transited through Indian Ocean Region. During the passage, Indian Navy units undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with US Navy.

Indian Navy had also conducted similar PASSEXs with **Japan and French Navy** in recent past.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Manodarpan initiative**:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. It aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health & emotional well-being.

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 **Manodarpan** is an initiative by **Ministry of Human Resource Development**, Government of India as part of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Statement 2 is correct. It aims to monitor and promote the **mental health issues** and concerns of students and teachers and to facilitate providing of support to address the mental health and psychosocial aspects during conditions like COVID 19 and beyond.

Manodarpan initiative provides psychological counseling through website, toll free helpline, national directory of counselors and through interactive chat platform.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Mars exploration**:

1. United States of America is the only country to have landed a spacecraft on Mars.
2. Only United States, Russia, European Space Agency and India have successfully sent spacecraft(s) that have entered Mars' orbit.

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. The **United States and the Soviet Union** are the only two countries to land a spacecraft on Mars.

The **Mars 3 lander of Soviet Russia** in 1973 successfully landed on Mars but lost contact after few seconds of transmission.

NASA lander missions to Mars: Viking 1 and Viking 2 (both 1976), Pathfinder (1997), Spirit and Opportunity (both 2004), Phoenix (2008), Curiosity (2012) and InSight (2018).

Statement 2 is correct. The United States, Russia, the European Space Agency and India have successfully sent spacecraft to enter Mars' orbit.

Recently United Arab Emirates has sent an orbiter named Hope from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center.

China's Tianwen1 (Heavenly Questions) orbiter, lander, and rover Mars mission is planned to be launched in 2020 itself.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Godhan Nyay Yojana**:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
2. The government aims to produce organic fertilizers from the cow dung to be procured from livestock owners.

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. **Godhan Nyay Yojana** is a recently launched program of the **Chhattisgarh state** government.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the scheme, the state government will **procure cow dung** from livestock owners at Rs 2 per kilogram and will use the procurement as a raw material for production of **organic fertilizers**.

The '**Gauthan Samitis**' will procure cow dung from livestock owners and women self-help groups will prepare vermin compost using the cow dung procured. The compost so produced is to be sold at the rate of Rs 8 per kg.

Scheme was launched on the Hareli Festival, a popular festival of Chhattisgarh. It is celebrated in the month of Shravan by the farmers; they worship cows and other farming equipments on this occasion.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine**:

1. It consists of weakened version of adenovirus.
2. It has been developed by the Oxford University.

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.

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

Genetic material has been added to the ChAdOx1 construct, which is used to make proteins from the COVID-19 virus (**SARS-CoV-2**) called **Spike glycoprotein**.

Oxford University has entered into a partnership with global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for large-scale manufacture and potential distribution of the vaccine, which has entered into collaboration with **Serum Institute of India**.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **ESA/NASA's Solar Orbiter**:

1. The orbiter has recorded potential solar nanoflares in closest pictures ever taken of the Sun.
 2. It holds the record for closest approach to the Sun by a human-made object.
- 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. **Solar Orbiter** is collaboration between the **European Space Agency** and **NASA** to study the Sun. Launched in Feb 2020, the spacecraft completed its first close pass of the Sun in mid-June.

The first images from ESA/NASA's Solar Orbiter are now available, including the **closest pictures ever taken of the Sun**. The pictures show thousands of **tiny solar flares** that scientists dubbed "**campfires**".

They could be mini-explosions known as **nanoflares**: tiny but ubiquitous sparks theorized to help heat the Sun's outer atmosphere, or corona, to its temperature 300 times hotter than the solar surface. More data from orbiter is expected to clarify on these 'campfires.'

Statement 2 is incorrect. Solar Orbiter has snapped the closest pictures of the Sun to date.

Other spacecraft have been closer, but none have carried Sun-facing imagers.

NASA's Parker Solar Probe holds the record for closest approach to the Sun by a human-made object. The spacecraft passed the current record of 26.55 million miles from the Sun's surface on Oct. 29, 2018.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Ground Water Authority**:

1. It has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Its mandate includes to regulate and control the development and management of ground water resources in the country.

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.

Central Ground Water Authority has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. The authority exercises powers as per the provisions of the said act.

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The authority was established to **regulate and control**, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose. It is engaged in various activities related to regulation of ground water development to ensure its long-term sustainability:

- Regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/ projects in 802 Over-exploited and 169 Critical Assessment Units.
- CGWA has notified **critical and overexploited areas** in several states and UTs.
- Construction of new ground water structures is prohibited in the notified areas.
- CWGA can resort to penal provisions contained in the Act.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tejas express**:

1. All train coaches for the Tejas Express services are highly modernized and imported from Japan.
 2. Tejas Express is the first corporate passenger train in India operated by IRCTC.
- 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 **Tejas Express** provides rail passengers with state of the art facilities onboard. The train coaches for the Tejas express have been built at **Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala**.

All passengers on IRCTC train are provided with **Rail Travel Insurance** of up to Rs. 25 Lakhs, free of cost by IRCTC. Services in the train are provided with standards similar to that of airlines.

Statement 2 is correct. **IRCTC operates India's first corporate passenger** train as Lucknow-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Mumbai Tejas Express.

The Indian Railway Catering And Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) is a subsidiary PSU under Ministry of Railways.

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. The case-fatality rate is the proportion of persons with a particular condition who die from that condition.
2. The mortality rate is a measure of the frequency of occurrence of death in a defined population during a specified interval.
3. Comorbidity refers to the co-occurrence of more than one disorder in the same individual.

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 **case-fatality rate** is the proportion of persons with a particular condition (cases) who die from that condition. It is a measure of the severity of the condition.

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Statement 2 is correct. A **mortality rate** is a measure of the frequency of occurrence of death in a defined population during a specified interval. It is typically expressed in units of deaths per 1,000 individuals per year.

Statement 3 is correct. **Comorbidity** means more than one disease/condition is present in a person at the same time. It describes the effect of all other conditions an individual patient might have other than the primary condition, and it can be physiological or psychological.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is designated as National Central Bureau of India for cooperation with Interpol.

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 Crime Records Bureau** is not a statutory organization; it was **established in 1986** as an attached office to the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

The NCRB, at present, functions through: Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), Central Finger Print Bureau, Statistical Branch, Training Branch, and Data Centre and Technical Branch.

The **objectives** for the NCRB include:

- To function as a clearing house of information on crime and criminals so as to assist all the stakeholders in understanding of criminality in the society.
- To collect and analyze statistics on crime, accidental deaths & suicides at national level.
- To provide training facilities to police personnel of States/UTs.
- To function as the national storehouse of fingerprint (FP) records of convicted persons.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Each **Interpol member country** hosts an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB). This connects their national law enforcement with other countries and with the General Secretariat.

The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** is designated as the **National Central Bureau of India**. The Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation is the ex-officio Head of the NCB-India.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the **N-95 respirators**:

1. It reduces exposure only to non-oil aerosols.
2. It filters out at least 95% of airborne particles.

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

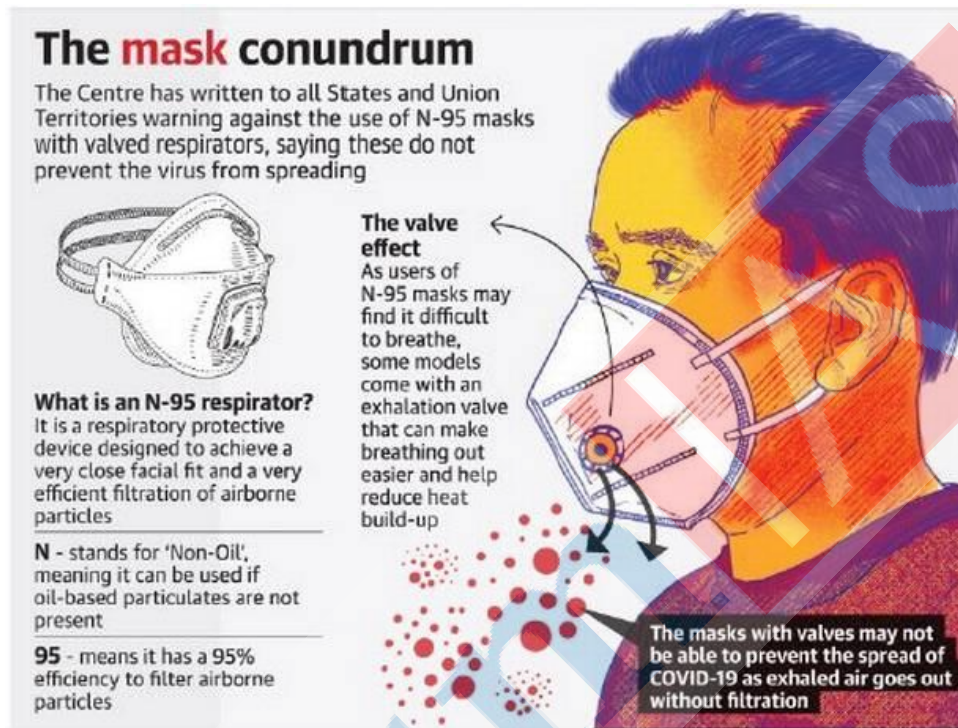
Correct answer: C

Explanation: An **N95 respirator** is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles.

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Statement 1 is correct. **N-95 respirator** reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle **aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols)**. 'N' is a Respirator Rating Letter Class, it stands for "Non-Oil" meaning that it can be used if no oil-based particulates are present. Other masks ratings are R (resistant to oil for 8 hours) and P (oil proof).

Statement 2 is correct. N-95 code means that the respirator has **95 percent efficiency** in filtering out airborne particles including large and small particles.



Q.22) Which of the following **location(s)** is/are correctly matched?

1. Pasamlung - Uttarakhand
2. Kongka Pass - Bhutan
3. Sakteng - Nepal

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) None of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: None of the above locations are correctly matched.

The **disputed areas claimed by China in Bhutan** are: North West part constitutes the Doklam, Sinchulung, Dramana and Shakhatoe in Samste, Haa and Paro districts. Central parts constitute the **Pasamlung and the Jakarlung valley** in the Wangdue Phodrang district.

The **Kongka Pass** is a high mountain pass in Ladakh UT, of the Chang-Chemno Range on the Line of Actual Control between India and China.

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) is in eastern Bhutan's Trashigang district bordering India and China. Recently China objected to a grant by Global Environment Facility to SWS claiming that the location was disputed.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **Psoriasis**:

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1. It is an autoimmune disease.
 2. Psoriasis is not contagious and does not spread from contact with a diseased person.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Psoriasis** causes patches of thick red skin and silvery scales. Patches are typically found on the elbows, knees, scalp, lower back, face, palms, and soles of feet, but can affect other places (fingernails, toenails, and mouth). The most common type of psoriasis is called **plaque psoriasis**.

Statement 1 is correct. **Psoriasis is an autoimmune disease**, meaning that part of the body's own immune system becomes overactive and attacks normal tissues in the body. It causes the skin to regenerate at faster than normal rates. In plaque psoriasis, this rapid turnover of cells results in scales and red patches.

Statement 2 is correct. **Psoriasis is not contagious**, meaning that one cannot get psoriasis from contact (e.g., touching skin patches) with someone who has it.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **RAISE initiative**:

1. It is a joint collaboration between India and European Union.
2. The program focuses on improving indoor air quality, thermal comfort and energy efficiency.

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. **"Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency" (RAISE)** has been launched recently. It is a joint initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (**EESL**) and United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**).

Statement 2 is correct. RAISE initiative has been envisaged for **healthy and energy efficient buildings**, in partnership with USAID's Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) program. It focuses on improving indoor air quality (IAQ), thermal comfort, and energy efficiency (EE) in indoor systems.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**:

1. NFRA has been established under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. It monitors and enforces compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards by companies.
3. The NFRA is mandated to protect the public interest and the interests of investors, creditors associated with the companies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** was constituted in 2018 by the Government of India under Sub Section (1) of **section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013**.

Statement 2 is correct. The duties of the NFRA are to:

- Recommend accounting and auditing policies and standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the Central Government.
- Monitor and enforce compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards;
- Oversee the quality of service of the professions associated with **ensuring compliance** with such standards and suggest measures for improvement in the quality of service;

Statement 3 is correct. The Authority is mandated by NFRA Rules, 2018 to protect the **public interest and the interests of investors, creditors** and others associated with the companies by establishing high quality standards of accounting and auditing and exercising effective oversight of accounting functions.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund)**:

1. It is an international financing institution working as a non-profit foundation under the laws of Switzerland.
2. The Global Fund is administered by the World Health Organization (WHO).

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 **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the "Global Fund")** is a multi-stakeholder international financing institution duly formed as a non-profit foundation under the laws of Switzerland.

The purpose of the Global Fund is to attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.

The Global Fund was founded in 2002 in Geneva as a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by these diseases.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In 2009, the **Global Fund became an administratively autonomous** international financing institution, separating from the World Health Organization (WHO) which provided a range of administrative and financial services to the Global Fund since 2002.

Q.27) Which of the following is/are consumer right(s) granted by the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**?

1. Right to be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property.
2. Right to seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.
3. Right to be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above consumer rights are **explicitly** provided for by the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.

The "consumer rights" under the act includes:

- The right to be **protected** against the marketing of goods, products or services which are hazardous to life and property;
- The right to be **informed** about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods, products or services, as the case may be, so as to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices;
- The right to be **assured**, wherever possible, access to a variety of goods, products or services at competitive prices;
- The right to be **heard** and to be assured that consumer's interests will receive due consideration at appropriate fora;
- The right to seek **redressal** against unfair trade practice or restrictive trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers; and
- The right to consumer **awareness**;

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the **Mega Food Park Scheme**:

1. The scheme provides for capital grant of 50 percent of the eligible project cost in general areas and 75 percent in difficult and hilly areas.
2. Mega Food Park project is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act.

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

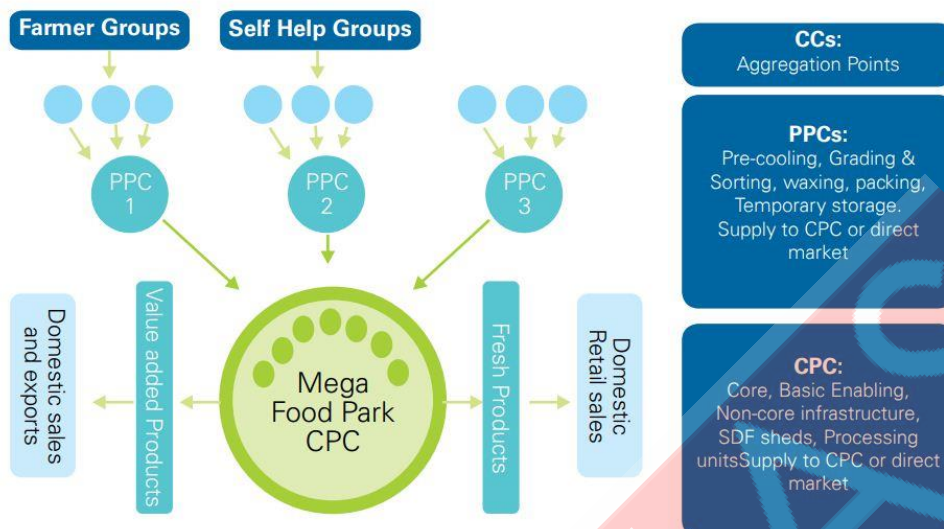
Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Mega Food Park Scheme** aims to facilitate the establishment of a strong food processing industry backed by an efficient supply chain, which includes Collection Centres (CCs), Primary Processing Centers (PPCs), Central Processing Center (CPC) and Cold Chain infrastructure.

It is based on **cluster approach** and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri/horticultural zone.

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Hub and Spoke Model



Statement 1 is correct. The scheme provides for **capital grant** at the rate of 50 percent of the eligible project cost in **general areas** and at the rate of 75 percent of eligible project cost in **difficult and hilly areas** i.e. North East Region including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and ITDP notified areas of the States subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 crore per project.

Statement 2 is correct. The Mega Food Park project is implemented by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act.

State Government, State Government entities and Cooperatives are not required to form a separate SPV for implementation of Mega Food Park project.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding **Adenoviruses**:

1. It can cause cold-like symptoms, fever, and sore throat in humans.
2. It is highly contagious and spreads through the air by coughing.
3. The adenovirus infects only children below the age of 15.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Adenoviruses** are common viruses that cause a range of illness. They can cause **cold-like symptoms**, fever, sore throat, bronchitis, pneumonia, diarrhea, and pink eye (conjunctivitis).

Statement 2 is correct. **Adenovirus is highly contagious**; it usually spreads from an infected person to others through close personal contact, such as touching, the air by coughing and sneezing.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **One can get an adenovirus infection at any age.** People with weakened immune systems or existing respiratory or cardiac disease are more likely than others to get very sick from an adenovirus infection.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding **Governor of States in India**:

1. He/she holds office during the pleasure of the President and the Constitution does not provide a fixed term for them.

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2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to their office are charged upon Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constitution provides that the **Governor of a State** shall be appointed by the **President** by warrant under his hand and seal.

Under **article 156**, Constitution provides for the term of office of Governor as:

- The Governor shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**.
- The Governor may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office.
- Subject to the foregoing provisions of this article, a **Governor shall hold office for a term of five years** from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that a Governor shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **constitution under article 202(3)** provides that the emoluments and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to his/her office are **charged upon Consolidated Fund of respective State**.

Q.31) Which of the following right(s) is/are covered under the **article 21** of the Constitution of India?

- 1. Right to Speedy Trial
- 2. Right against public hanging
- 3. Right to doctor's assistance
- 4. Right against solitary confinement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above rights form part of the **article 21 of right to life and personal liberty**.

The expanded scope of Article 21 has been explained **Unni Krishnan v. State of A.P.1993**. In the case the Supreme Court provided the list of some of the rights covered under Article 21:

- The right to go abroad
- The right to privacy
- The right to education
- The right against solitary confinement
- The right against hand cuffing
- The right against delayed execution
- The right to shelter
- Right to livelihood
- Right to health and medical aid
- The right against custodial death
- The right against public hanging

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- Doctors assistance

The right to **speedy trial** was given a status of fundamental right under article 21 in **Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar, 1980** case.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **Contempt of Court**:

1. The power of Supreme Court to punish for its contempt is a statutory power and not a constitutional one.
 2. Contempt of Court in India is not a criminal offence.
- 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 **Supreme Court and High Courts** derive their power to punish for contempt of court from the Constitution, **article 129 and 215** respectively.

The **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** outlines the procedure in relation to investigation and punishment for contempt.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Contempt of Courts Act divides contempt into **civil and criminal contempt**:

- Civil contempt refers to the willful disobedience of an order of any court.
- **Criminal contempt** includes any act or publication which 'scandalizes' the court, or prejudices any judicial proceeding, or interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.

Q.33) Which of the following institution has recently organized the **India Ideas Summit 2020**?

- a) U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **U.S.-India Business Council's India Ideas Summit 2020** was held virtually recently. It provides a platform for views from leaders in business, government and society from across the United States and India.

The 2020 Summit Speakers include U.S. Secretary of State; India's Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar among others. The theme for this year's Summit is **'Building a Better Future'**.

The **U.S.-India Business Council** was formed in 1975 as a business advocacy organization to promote the private sectors of both India and United States to enhance investment flows.

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the **Lonar Lake**:

1. It is a saline lake developed on impact of a meteorite.
 2. The lake has recently turned pink due to 'Haloarchaea' microbes.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Lonar Lake**, Buldhana District in Maharashtra is suspected to have developed due to impact of a large **meteorite on Deccan Basaltic** rocks of Cretaceous age. The depression bears a saline water lake in its central portion.

The lake recently turned pink mysteriously. It has now been reported that the reason for this change was the large presence of **salt-loving 'Haloarchaea' microbes**. Haloarchaea are a class of the Euryarchaeota, found in water saturated or nearly saturated with salt and produces pink pigment.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**:

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
2. It recommends minimum support prices of various crops to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

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 Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Council is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and **education in agriculture** including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends MSP for crops to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Q.36) Which of the following correctly defines the '**Criticality**' in reference to nuclear reactors?

- a) The fission event releasing sufficient number of neutrons to sustain reaction
- b) The production rate of neutrons being greater than the loss rate of neutrons
- c) A sequence of events that result in the melting of part of the fuel in the reactor core
- d) The process of increasing the percentage of Uranium-235 in natural uranium

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Criticality** refers to the normal operating condition of a reactor, in which nuclear fuel sustains a fission chain reaction. A reactor achieves criticality when **each fission event releases a sufficient number of neutrons to sustain an ongoing series of reactions**.

In fission, when a Uranium atom is hit by a neutron, it splits into two smaller atoms and it also emits a few neutrons. A neutron might escape the reactor, it might get absorbed by metal in the reactor machinery or it might be absorbed by another uranium atom, causing another fission.

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To keep reactor power steady, one of these neutrons **must cause another fission**. If that happens, the reactor is in a configuration such that one neutron from each atom fissioned causes another fission – the reactor is said to be **critical**.

‘Subcritical’ refers to a system where the loss rate of neutrons is greater than the production rate and ‘Supercritical’ refers to a system where the production rate of neutrons is greater than the loss rate.

Q.37) Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Ream Naval Base - Cambodia
2. Port of Malé - Mauritius
3. Kuantan port - Malaysia

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 correct. **Ream Naval Base** is a facility operated by the Royal Cambodian Navy on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand in the province of **Sihanoukville, Cambodia**.

Option 2 is incorrect. **Malé** is the principal port, major city and capital of the **Maldives**, an archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean.

Option 3 is correct. **Kuantan Port**, an all-weather port, is a multi-cargo deep seaport facing the South China Sea in **Malaysia**.



Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional provisions on **High Courts** in India:

1. High Courts have the power of superintendence over courts and tribunals except army tribunals throughout the territories in their jurisdiction.

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2. Parliament may by law extend the jurisdiction of a High Court to a Union territory or establish a common High Court for two or more States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 227** of the constitution provides for power of superintendence of the High Courts over all **courts and tribunals** throughout the territories in relation to which it exercises jurisdiction.

The High Court may: call for returns from such courts; make and issue general rules and prescribe forms for regulating the practice and proceedings of such courts; and prescribe forms in which books, entries and accounts shall be kept by the officers of any such courts.

Article 227(4) explicitly states that it does not confer High Courts with powers of superintendence over any court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the **Armed Forces**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 230** of the Constitution provides that the Parliament may by law extend the jurisdiction of a High Court to, or exclude the jurisdiction of a High Court from, any Union territory.

Further **article 231** provides that the Parliament may by law establish a common High Court for two or more States or for two or more States and a Union territory.

Q.39) Which of the following has developed the **Bharat drone**?

- a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- c) Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)
- d) Idea Forge Technology Pvt. Ltd.

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Bharat drone** is a light surveillance quadcopter unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the Indian Army.

The Bharat series of drones are developed by a Chandigarh-based laboratory of the DRDO. It is said to be among the world's most agile and lightest surveillance drone indigenously developed by the DRDO

- It is equipped with artificial intelligence that helps it to detect friends and enemies.
- It can survive in extreme weather conditions.

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding the **Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRG)**:

- 1. It is a Supreme Court mandated committee for addressing the violation of the content regulation guidelines by governments.
- 2. The Committee can take suo-moto cognizance of any violation of the Supreme Court Guidelines on Content Regulation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA)** was established following the **direction by the Supreme Court** in 2016 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, to effectuate the Supreme Court Guidelines on Content Regulation of Government Advertising.

- **Government advertising** refers to the use of public funds by ruling parties to project their achievements or make announcements about upcoming initiatives.

- Under the Supreme Court guidelines: “the content of government advertisements should be relevant to the governments’ constitutional and legal obligations as well as the citizens’ rights and entitlements”.

Statement 2 is correct. The committee addresses complaints from the general public on violation of the guidelines prescribed by the Court.

The committee can also take **suo-moto cognizance** of any violation/ deviation of the Supreme Court guidelines and recommend corrective actions.

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding the recent amendments to **General Financial Rules 2017**:

1. Global tender enquiries in procurement of Goods and Services by government of value of less than Rs 200 crores have been disallowed.
2. No bidder from countries sharing a land border with India is henceforth eligible to bid in government procurement of goods and services.

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. As declared under **Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan**, the General Financial Rules (GFR) have been amended to **disallow** global tender enquiries in procurement of Goods and Services of value of less than **Rs 200 crores**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the amended the General Financial Rules 2017; **any bidder** from such countries sharing a **land border** with India will be **eligible** to bid in any procurement whether of goods, services or works only *if* the bidder is **registered** with the Competent Authority.

The **Competent Authority** for registration will be the Registration Committee constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**). Further, political and security clearance from the Ministries of External and Home Affairs respectively will be mandatory.

Exemptions: Medical supplies for containment of COVID-19 global pandemic till 31st December 2020.

Countries to which Government of India extends lines of credit or provides development assistance are also exempted.

State governments have been asked to do the same, for which the Union government has invoked article 275(1) of the Constitution that says “the executive power of every State shall be so exercised as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive power of the Union, and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of such directions to a State as may appear to the Government of India to be necessary for that purpose”.

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tianwen-1** space mission:

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1. It is China's lunar mission to explore dark side of the moon.
2. The mission probe consists of an orbiter, lander and a rover.

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. In January, 2019, **China's robotic spacecraft Chang'e 4** made a soft landing in the South Pole-Aitken Basin area of the moon, otherwise known as the "far side" or "dark side."

Tianwen-1 is a mars probe launched by China recently by the Long March-5 rocket, China's largest and most powerful launch vehicle.

Statement 2 is correct. The Tianwen-1 probe consists of **three parts, an orbiter, lander and a rover**. The orbiter will remain in the Martian orbit for experiments and to relay signals to earth while the lander and rover are to make an autonomous descent and landing on the Martian surface.

NASA sent multiple orbiters to Mars before attempting a landing. China's previous attempt of journey to Mars called Yinghuo-1, in a Russian spacecraft in 2011 failed shortly after launch.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Madhubani** paintings:

1. It is practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.
2. The colors for Madhubani are derived from plants and other natural sources.

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 art of **Madhubani paintings** is a traditional fashion of paintings developed in the **Mithila region in Bihar, India (and also stretching into Nepal)**. Madhubani paintings also known as Mithila paintings have been practiced traditionally by the **women** of the region through the centuries.

The traditional Madhubani art is achieved by the use of fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using **natural dyes and pigments**.

The colors are prepared manually by the artists. The black color by mixing blight with cow dung; yellow by turmeric and Banyan leaf milk; blue is extracted from indigo; the red of the Kusum flower; the green leaf of the applewood tree; the white from rice powder; and orange of the Palash flower.

The **themes and designs** of the art mainly consists of worshipping of deities, such as the episode of Radha and Krishna, Rama, Shiva, Ganesha, Laxmi, Saraswati, the monkey, the sun, the moon, the plant of Tulasi, the Deep, wedding scenes and other social events.

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the **Army Act, 1950:**

1. It provides for non-eligibility of the female for recruitment in regular Army.
2. It provides for restriction on fundamental rights of armed personnel to be associated with any labor union.

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. **Article 12 of the Army Act** states that "no female shall be eligible for enrolment or employment in the regular Army, except in such corps, department, branch or other body forming part of, or attached to any portion of, the regular Army as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf."

Similar provisions exist in Air Force Act, 1950 and Indian Navy Act, 1957.

Government of India from time to time has allowed the entry of women in certain cadres initially for 5 years and later enhanced it to 14 years and **now permanent commission** has been allowed in certain streams.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 21 of the Army Act** provides the Central Government may make rules restricting the right of any person subject to this Act-

- to be a member of, or to be associated in any way with, any trade union or labour union, or any class of trade or **labour unions** or any society, institution or association, or any class of societies, institutions or associations.
- to attend or address any meeting or to take part in any demonstration organised by anyone for any **political** or other purposes.
- to communicate with the **press** or to publish or cause to be published any book, letter or other document.

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding historical relations between **India and Korea:**

1. Suriratna, a Princess from Ayodhya went to Korea and married King Kim-Suro.
2. Korean Buddhist Monk Hyecho visited India in eighth century.
3. Rabindranath Tagore composed a poem 'Lamp of the East' about Korea.

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 of the above are correct regarding India-Korea historical linkages.

According to 'SamgukYusa' or '**The Heritage History of the Three Kingdoms**' written in the 13th century, a **Princess from Ayodhya (Suriratna)** came to Korea, married **King Kim-Suro**, and became Queen Hur Hwang-ok in the year 48 AD.

Korean Buddhist Monk Hyecho (or Hong Jiao) visited India from 723 to 729 AD and wrote travelogue 'Pilgrimage to the five kingdoms of India' which gives a vivid account of Indian culture, politics & society.

Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore composed a short poem '**Lamp of the East**' in 1929 about Korea's glorious past and its promising bright future. He wrote:

"In the golden age of Asia

Korea was one of its lamp bearers,

And that lamp is waiting to be lit once again

For the illumination of the East."

Source of the question and data: Ministry of External Affairs brief on India – Republic of Korea Bilateral Relations.

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Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**:

1. India is one of the founding members of the NAM.
2. India recently hosted the virtual Summit of NAM Contact Group, 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The Bandung Conference, 1955** has been considered as the most immediate antecedent of the founding of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which finally came into being six years later.

This **First Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries** was convened by the leaders of India, Indonesia, Egypt, Syria and Yugoslavia in **Belgrade, 1961**. This gathering was attended by the Heads of State and Government of 25 countries and observers from another three nations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **online NAM Contact Group Summit 2020** on the theme of "United against COVID-19" was hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of **Republic of Azerbaijan**.

The objective of the Summit was to promote international solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and to mobilize efforts of States and international organizations to address the pandemic.

Q.47) Which of the following statement is correct regarding the **Siddi tribe**?

- a) It is an African origin tribe in Karnataka
- b) It is a tribe in Nagaland demanding autonomy and Greater Nagalim
- c) It is a refugee tribe in Tripura that fled from Mizoram due to ethnic violence
- d) It is an ethno-linguistic group in the Assam

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Siddis are an ethnic group** inhabiting some states in India, including Karnataka. Its members are believed to be descendants of Bantu peoples from **Southeast Africa** that were brought to the Indian subcontinent as slaves by Portuguese merchants.

Census 2011 recorded majority of the Siddis in Karnataka following Hinduism. There are a significant number of Siddis following Islam and Christianity.

The **African descendants** brought in India are mainly divided into three distinct groups namely the Sheedi in Pakistan's Sindh province, the Siddis in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Hyderabad and the Ceylon Kaffirs in Sri Lanka.

The Bru are tribal groups in north eastern states of Tripura, Assam and Mizoram. Many of them fled from Mizoram to Tripura in 1997 in the wake of inter-community violence.

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Food Programme (WFP)**:

1. It is a United Nations program aiming to eradicate global hunger and malnutrition.
2. India is currently a member of the WFP Executive Board.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **World Food Programme (HQ: Rome, Italy)** is a fully-fledged **UN programme since 1965** that aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is the world's largest humanitarian agency. The programme assists almost 100 million people in around 83 countries each year.

Statement 2 is correct. The World Food Programme (WFP) is governed by the **WFP Executive Board**, which consists of **36 Member States** and provides intergovernmental support, direction and supervision of WFP's activities.

The 18 members are elected by the **Economic and Social Council** and 18 by the **FAO Council**. Each State Member serves a three-year term and is eligible for re-election. **India is currently a member** with term expiring in 2021.

WFP works closely with its two Rome-based sister organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the role of **Speaker** in Parliament:

1. The Speaker does not exercise vote on any matter being voted upon even if there's a tie during the voting.
2. S/he can be removed from the office on a resolution of the House passed by a majority of members present and voting.

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. **Article 100** of the constitution provides that the Chairman or Speaker, or person acting as such, **shall not vote in the first instance**, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the **article 94** of the Constitution a member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House of the People may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a **majority of all the then members of the House**:

Provided that no resolution for the removal shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

Similar provisions exist for state legislatures.

Q.50) Which of the following has launched the **COVID-19 Law Lab** initiative?

- a) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- b) Oxford University
- c) Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)
- d) India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has recently launched a new **COVID-19 Law Lab** initiative.

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The COVID-19 Law Lab is a **database of laws** that countries have implemented in **response to the pandemic**. It includes state of emergency declarations, quarantine measures, disease surveillance, legal measures relating to mask-wearing, social distancing, and access to medication and vaccines.

The initiative gathers and shares **legal documents from over 190** countries across the world to help states establish and implement strong legal frameworks to manage the pandemic.

It aims to ensure that laws protect the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and that they adhere to international human rights standards.

The new Lab is a joint project of United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), the World Health Organization (**WHO**), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (**UNAIDS**) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

Q.51) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020**?

1. It covers both marketplace and inventory models of e-commerce.
2. It provides for a mandatory display of the country of origin of goods and services on e-commerce platform.
3. No inventory e-commerce entity shall falsely represent itself as a consumer and post reviews about goods and service offered.

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: Central government has recently notified the **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020** under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.

Salient features of the rules:

- It covers all models of e-commerce, including **marketplace and inventory** models of e-commerce.
- No e-commerce entity shall manipulate the price of the goods or services offered on its platform in such a manner as to gain unreasonable profit.
- Any seller offering goods or services through a marketplace e-commerce entity shall provide all relevant details about the goods and services offered for sale by the seller including **country of origin** to the e-commerce entity to be displayed on its platform or website.
- No inventory e-commerce entity shall falsely represent itself as a consumer and **post reviews** about goods and services or **misrepresent the quality** or the features of any goods or services.
- Every marketplace e-commerce entity shall provide information relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, and grievance redressal mechanism on its platform.

Q.52) Which of the following is/are **Parliamentary privilege(s)** provided under the Constitution?

1. Prohibition on the courts to inquire into proceedings of Parliament
2. Immunity to a member from proceedings in court in respect of anything said by him/her in Parliamentary Committees
3. Freedom of speech in Parliament

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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 provided for by the Constitution.

Some of the important privileges of each House of Parliament and of its members and Committee are:

- **Freedom of speech** in Parliament [Article 105(1)];
- **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 Committees thereof [Article 105(2)];
- **Prohibition** on the courts to inquire into proceedings of Parliament (Article 122);

Q.53) Which of the following institution publishes the **Financial Stability Reports**?

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- d) Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Financial Stability Reports** are published by **Reserve Bank of India**, after approved by FSDC SubCommittee by taking inputs from financial sector regulators i.e. RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI including Ministry of Finance.

These are **periodic exercise** for reviewing the nature, magnitude and implications of risks that may have a bearing on the macroeconomic environment, financial institutions, markets and infrastructure.

The FSR July 2020 highlights:

The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) edged down to 14.8 per cent in March 2020 from 15.0 per cent in September 2019.

Their gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declined to 8.5 per cent from 9.3 per cent.

Macro stress tests for credit risk indicate that the GNPA ratio of all SCBs may increase from 8.5 per cent in March 2020 to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 under the baseline scenario; the ratio may escalate to 14.7 per cent under a very severely stressed scenario.

Q.54) Consider the following statements regarding the **India-Russia** Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme:

1. It aims for an accelerated development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine.
2. It has been launched by the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with Indian and Russian industry associations.

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 vaccine development is **not** the principle objective of the program. The programme will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology (S&T) led **SMEs and Start-ups for joint R&D for technology development** and for cross-country technology adaptation.

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The programme will run through two annual cycles with up to five projects to be funded under each cycle. **Projects are being sought** on leading S&T focus areas, including but not limited to, IT & ICT, Medicine, Renewable Energy, Aerospace, Environment, Biotechnologies, Robotics and Drones.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Department of Science and Technology** has launched the India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) and Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (**FASIE**) of the Russian Federation.

Over a period of two years, the **Department of Science and Technology** will fund up to INR 15 Crores to ten Indian SMEs/Start-ups and **FASIE** will provide similar funding to the Russian projects.

Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding **T cells**:

1. These are a type of white blood cells that mature in the thymus gland.
2. T cells are programmed to be specific for a particular foreign particle/antigen.

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.

T cells are a type of white blood cell and are of key importance to the immune system. These cells are made in the bone marrow and develop/mature in the **Thymus** and are programmed to be specific for **one particular** foreign particle (antigen).

Once they leave the thymus, they circulate throughout the body until they recognize their antigen on the surface of antigen presenting cells (APCs).

There are two types of T-cells in your body: **Helper T-cells and Killer T-cells**. Killer T-cells do the work of destroying the infected cells. The Helper T-cells coordinate the attack.

T cells are also known as T lymphocytes. The 'T' stands for 'thymus', the organ in which these cells mature. As opposed to B cells which mature in the bone marrow.

Q.56) Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**?

1. Iran
2. Kazakhstan
3. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

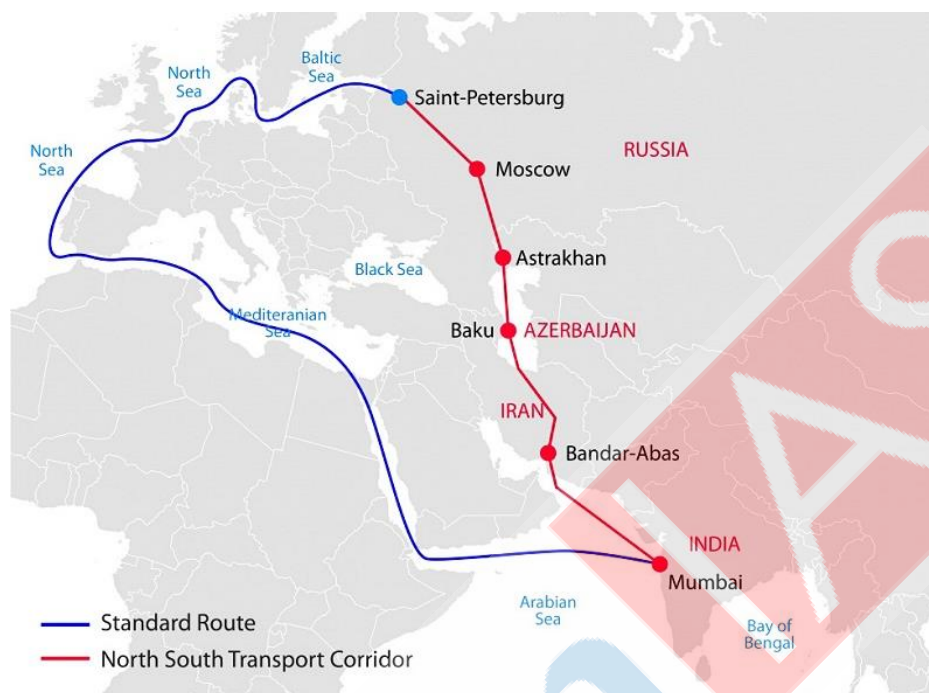
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Russia, Iran and India** are the founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Other important member states include Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. **China is not a member.**

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International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transportation that connects **India Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea** via IRAN, then is connected to St. Petersburg and North European via Russian Federation.



Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **Presidential system of government**:

1. The chief executive is popularly elected.
2. The terms of the chief executive and of the legislature are not subject to mutual confidence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

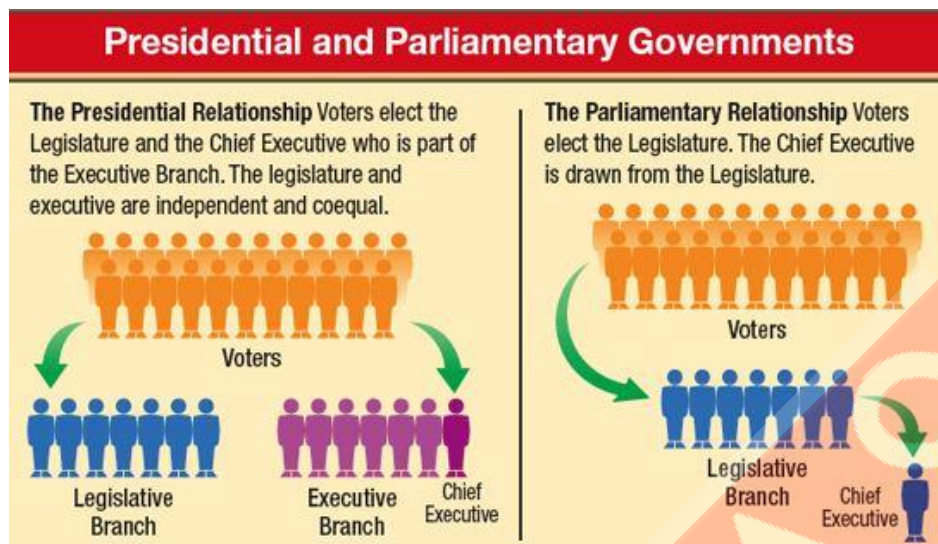
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

In a **Presidential system of government**, the President, who is the chief executive as well as the symbolic head of government, is chosen by a separate **popular election** from that of the legislature. The President then appoints his or her cabinet of ministers/secretaries.

Ministers/Secretaries usually are not simultaneously members of the legislature, although their appointment may require the advice and consent of the legislative branch.

In parliamentary systems, the executive's term of office is directly linked with that of the legislature, while in presidential systems the terms are not linked neither are they subject to **mutual confidence**.



Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the Viral **Spike protein**:

1. It plays a crucial role in penetrating host cells and initiating infection by binding to receptors on the host cell.
2. Spike proteins on a virus can induce antibody immune response in the body.

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

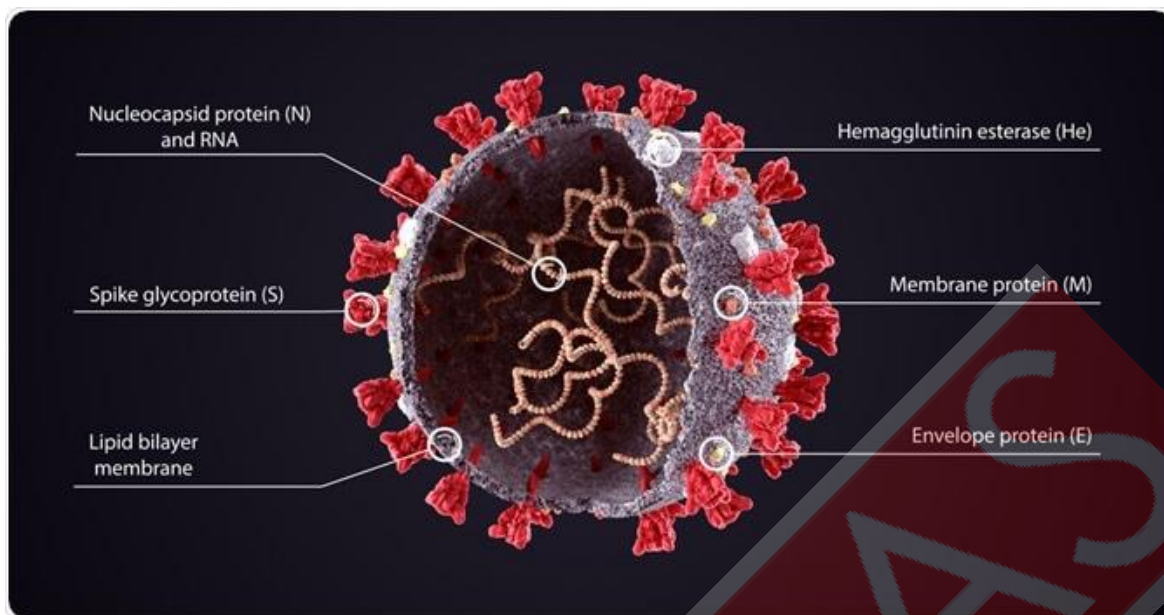
Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The Spike(S) protein is a highly glycosylated transmembrane fusion protein that is made up of amino acids. The presence of S proteins on the coronaviruses is what gives rise to the **spike-shaped protrusions** found on their surface.

S protein plays a crucial role in **penetrating host cells** and initiating infection. The cell entry programs for these viruses are orchestrated by the viral spike (S) proteins that **bind cellular receptors** and also mediate virus-cell membrane fusions.

In addition to its role in penetrating cells, the S protein is the main antigenic component that is responsible for inducing host immune responses, **neutralizing antibodies** and/or protective immunity against virus infection.

Spike protein has therefore been selected as an important target for many coronavirus vaccine and anti-viral developments.



Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tenth Schedule of the Constitution**:

1. The proceedings under the schedule are deemed to be proceedings in Parliament/State assembly.
2. The Chairman or Speaker is the authority to make rules on the procedure for any inquiry to be made for the purpose of deciding on disqualification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As per section 6(2) under the Tenth schedule all proceedings under in relation to any question as to disqualification of a member of a House under this Schedule shall be deemed to be proceedings in Parliament **within the meaning of article 122** or, as the case may be, proceedings in the Legislature of a State within the **meaning of article 212**.

Article 122 and 212 prohibits the courts to inquire into proceedings of Parliament/State Assembly.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Chairman or the Speaker** of a House may make rules for giving effect to the provisions of the Schedule which may **provide for the procedure** for any inquiry which may be made for the purpose of deciding as to whether a member of a House has become subject to disqualification under this Schedule.

Q.60) Which of the following has recently launched the '**Operation Legend**'?

- a) United States of America
- b) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Operation Legend** is a federal law enforcement operation in the United States of America initiated by its Federal Government. The operation is named after four-

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year-old LeGend Taliferro, who was shot and killed in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 29, 2020.

The program involves **deploying federal law enforcement** agents to assist local police in combating a surge of violent crimes.

The Operation Legend program involves federal agents from the FBI, U.S. Marshals Service and other agencies, partnering with local law enforcement.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID KAVACH ELISA**:

1. It is an antibody based diagnostic kit for COVID-19.
2. It has been indigenously developed in India by the National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

National Institute of Virology, Pune successfully developed an indigenous **IgG ELISA** test **COVID KAVACH ELISA** for antibody detection for COVID-19. The kit was approved by ICMR and technology has been commercialized by Zydus Cadila for mass scale production. Since the antibody-based testing is capable of detecting past infections, the COVID KAVACH ELISA is being used in the **seroprevalence surveys** being conducted by ICMR to observe the spread of pandemic in India.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding the **Natural Gas production in India**:

1. Offshore production of Natural Gas is more than that of Onshore production.
2. Private sector leads Public Sector Enterprises in Natural Gas production.

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

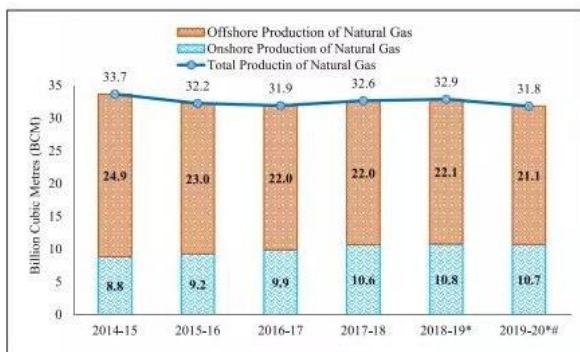
Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **offshore production of Natural gas** is considerably higher than onshore production in India. Presence of Private and JVs has increased in onshore natural gas production over time while offshore natural gas production has been rising with the share of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) rising steadily.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Natural Gas production in India is **dominated by PSUs**.

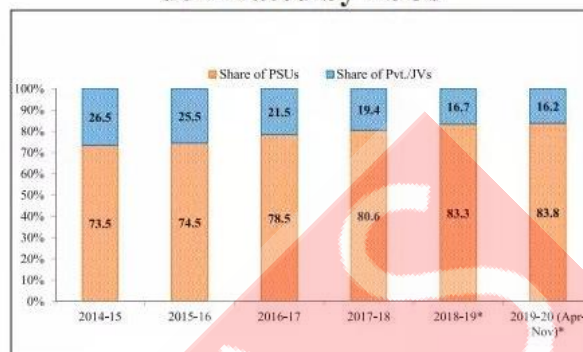
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Figure : Total domestic Production of Natural Gas- Onshore and Offshore wise and PSUs and Private/ Joint Ventures-wise

(a): Production of Natural Gas



(b): Production of Natural Gas dominated by PSUs



Source: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Economic Survey calculations.

Note: *- Provisional.

#- The natural gas production for 2019-20 is estimated on the basis of figures available for 2019-20 (April-November).

Q.63) Which of the following river(s) flows through **Assam**?

1. Barak River
2. Teesta River
3. Manas River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

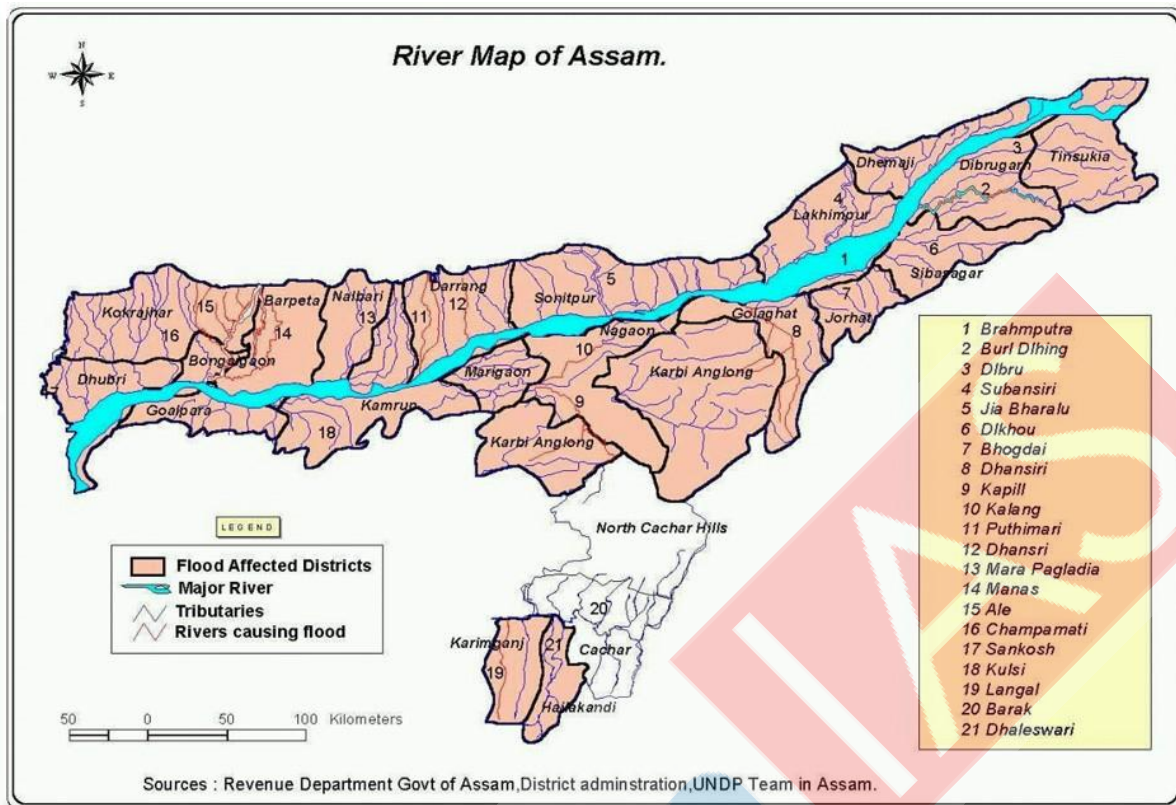
Correct answer: C

Explanation: The State of Assam comprised of two valleys namely the **Brahmaputra and Barak Valley**. The flood prone area of the state as assessed by the Rastriya Barh Ayog is about 39.58 % of the total land area of Assam. This is about 9.40% of total flood prone area of the whole country.

The **Barak sub-basin** drains areas in India, Bangladesh and Burma. The sub-basin lies in the States of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. The Katakhal, Jiri, Chiri, Modhura, Longai, Sonai, Rukni and Singla are the main tributaries of the valley.

The **Brahmaputra Valley** has an average width of about 80 Km. The river slope is very steep till it enters India. Due to this sudden flattening of river slope, the river becomes braided in nature in the Assam valley. During its course in Assam valley from Kobo to Dhubri the river is joined by about 20 (twenty) important tributaries on its North bank and 13 (thirteen) on its South bank. The Manas River is a transboundary river between southern Bhutan and India, a tributary that meets Brahmaputra in Assam.

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Teesta River rises in the eastern Himalayas and flows through the Sikkim and West Bengal state before entering Bangladesh.

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

1. It refers to a chronic, sterile, low-grade inflammation.
 2. It is a long-term result of the continuous stimulation of the innate immune system.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

During ageing a chronic, sterile, low-grade inflammation called **Inflammaging** develops and contributes to the pathogenesis of age-related diseases.

A possible cause of inflammaging is the long-term result of the chronic physiological **stimulation of the innate immune system**, which can become damaging during **ageing**, a period of life largely unpredicted by evolution.

It is the by-product of the degeneracy of a few receptors that can sense a variety of non-self, self and quasi-self-damage signals and activate the innate immune system.

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**:

1. It provides for creation of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
2. Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism of Mediation has been provided in the Act.
3. It provides for product liability of the manufacturer or seller of the product to compensate for any harm caused.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are correct regarding the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** that came into force recently.

Act includes establishment of the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.

Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism of Mediation has been provided in the new Act. There will be no appeal against settlement through mediation.

Act also introduces the concept of **product liability** and brings within its scope, the product manufacturer, product service provider and product seller, for any claim for compensation.

Q.66) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the **DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane)**?

- 1. India is the only country still manufacturing the DDT.
- 2. It accumulates in fatty tissues and can travel long distances in the upper atmosphere.
- 3. World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends DDT for indoor residual spray to curb malaria.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. India is the **only country** still manufacturing the pesticide **dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT)**. China ceased production of the chemical in 2007. Public sector firm Hindustan Insecticide Limited (HIL) is the only producer of DDT in India.

Statement 2 is correct. **DDT is:**

- known to be very persistent in the environment,
- will accumulate in fatty tissues, and
- can travel long distances in the upper atmosphere.

Statement 3 is correct. In 2006, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared its support for the indoor use of DDT where **malaria** remains a major health problem as indoor residual spray, citing that benefits of the pesticide outweigh the health and environmental risks.

The Stockholm Convention on POPs bans DDT for all uses except for malaria control.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Alliance for Poverty Eradication**':

- 1. It has been launched by the World Economic Forum.
- 2. India is a founding member of the alliance.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. '**Alliance for Poverty Eradication**' was launched recently at the 74th Session of the **United Nations General Assembly** by UNGA President. UNGA President stated that the Alliance can pull together all the factors and interests in poverty eradication and serve as a one-stop networking, information sharing and bridge-building centre. It should provide a mechanism for interrogating the poverty challenge from all possible angles.

Statement 2 is correct. **India** has become a **founding member** of an Alliance for Poverty Eradication at the United Nations.

Q.68) What is '**Bathynomus Raksasa**' that has been in news recently?

- a) A newly discovered Isopod species
- b) Climate-tolerant coral reefs
- c) Largest birdwing butterfly in India
- d) A meteor in Earth's vicinity

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Bathynomus raksasa** is a giant **isopod** in the genus *Bathynomus*. It was recently discovered by a team of researchers from Singapore in Bantan, off the southern coast of **West Java in Indonesia**.

It is being described as '**cockroach of the sea**' for its appearance and 14-legged body. *Bathynomus raksasa* is the sixth 'supergiant' species from the Indo-West Pacific. The only member of the isopod species larger than *B. raksasa* is the *B. giganteus*, which is commonly found in the western Atlantic Ocean.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding **Antibodies**:

1. Antibodies identify and neutralize foreign substances such as bacteria and viruses.
2. Monoclonal antibodies are immune system proteins that are created in the lab.

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.

Antibody is a part of the host cell's defense. It is a Y shaped protein, a component of the immune system that circulates in the blood, recognizes foreign substances like bacteria and viruses, and neutralizes them.

These are Y-shaped proteins latch onto antigens of viruses/bacteria that may to cause harm or infection to the body.

Along with water, salt, and enzymes, plasma also contains antibodies.

Monoclonal antibodies are immune system proteins that are created in the lab. They are antibodies that are made by identical immune cells that are all clones of a unique parent cell. These antibodies recognize unique epitopes or binding sites, on a single antigen.

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Q.70) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID Protection System (COPS) for Workplace**:

1. It consist a solar based intelligent mask dispensing unit with thermal scanning ability.
2. It has been developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**)-**CMERI**, Durgapur recently unveiled the **COVID Protection System (COPS) for Workplace**. It includes contactless Solar Based Intelligent Mask Automated Dispensing Unit cum Thermal Scanner (IntelliMAST), Touchless Faucet (TouF) and 360° Car Flusher.

The **Solar Based IntelliMAST** is an Intelligent surveillance kiosk which identifies the body temperature and whether an individual is wearing Face Mask or not through customized Software solutions.

The **Touchless Faucet (TouF)** dispenses Liquid Soap and Water from the same Faucet with a time-gap of 30 seconds.

The **360° Car Flusher** is a Sodium Hypochlorite Water Screen which uses specialized Nozzle Design to ensure that the Sanitizer Diffused Water is evenly spread over and under the Car