

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

27th July to 2nd August, 2020

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

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Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Contempt of Court**:

1. The Supreme Court and High Court can take suo-moto cognizance of the criminal contempt of court.
2. High courts are empowered to punish for the contempt of subordinate courts.
3. Publishing any fair comment on the merits of any case which has been heard and finally decided, does not amount to contempt of court.

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 statements are correct and are provided for by the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**.

The **superior courts** can take action **on its own motion** or on a motion made by the Attorney/Advocate-General or any other person, with their consent in writing.

While the Constitution allows superior courts to punish for their contempt, the Contempt of Courts Act additionally allows the **High Court to punish for contempt of subordinate courts**.

Section 5 of the act provides that fair criticism of judicial act not contempt. Therefore, a person shall not be guilty of contempt of court for publishing any fair comment on the merits of any case which has been heard and finally decided.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **ASTHROS Mission**:

1. It is China's Mars mission with a lander and rover onboard.
2. It will search for signs of habitable conditions on Mars.

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.

NASA has begun to work on a new mission that will carry a cutting-edge 8.4-foot (2.5-meter) telescope high into the stratosphere on a balloon. It is tentatively planned to launch in **December 2023 from Antarctica**.

ASTHROS (short for Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths) will spend about three weeks drifting on air currents above the icy southern continent.

It will be managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The ASTHROS observes far-infrared light, or light with wavelengths much longer than what is visible to the human eye. ASTHROS will carry an instrument to measure the motion and speed of gas around newly-formed stars.

During flight, the mission will study **four main targets**: two star-forming regions in the Milky Way galaxy, the **Messier 83** galaxy and **TW Hydrae**, a young star surrounded by a wide disk of dust and gas where planets may be forming.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Special Window for Affordable and Mid Income Housing (SWAMIH)**:

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1. The initiative provides collateral free debt funding to affordable house buyers.
2. The Central Government is the sponsor to the SWAMIH fund.

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. **Special Window for Affordable and Mid Income Housing (SWAMIH)** fund provides priority debt financing for the completion of stalled housing projects that are in the Affordable and Middle-Income Housing sector.

This fund would provide **relief to developers** that require funding to complete a set of unfinished projects and consequently ensure delivery of homes to the home-buyers.

Statement 2 is correct. For the purposes of the fund, the government acts as the Sponsor.

The fund is set up as an Alternate Investment Fund debt fund registered with SEBI. The SBICAP Ventures Limited is the Investment Manager for first AIF under the Special Window.

During the recent review by Ministry of finance, it was reported that the fund has so far approved 81 projects with an investment of Rs 8767 crore.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** policy of India:

1. An entity of a country, which shares land border with India, can invest only under the Government route.
2. Hundred percent FDI is permitted in Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airlines.

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 Government of India reviewed the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** policy for curbing **opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions** of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020. Therefore,

-a non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited. However, an entity of a country, which shares **land border** with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest **only** under the Government route.

Further, a **citizen of Pakistan** or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, only under the Government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space, atomic energy and sectors/activities prohibited for foreign investment.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the present FDI Policy, **100% FDI** is permitted in **scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline** (Automatic upto 49% and Government route beyond 49%). However, for NRIs 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route in Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline.

Further, FDI is subject to the condition that Substantial Ownership & Effective Control (SOEC) shall be vested in Indian Nationals as per aircraft rules, 1937.

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Q.5) What is the mandate of the recently formed **DP Singh Committee**?

- a) Measures for Students to stay and study in India
- b) Reforms in criminal laws of India
- c) Western Ghats Eco-sensitive zone
- d) Evolution of the New Education Policy

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has stated that the Chairman, UGC, Mr. DP Singh will head a committee to prepare guidelines and measures to ensure that more and more **students stay here for study in India** and come out with mechanism for increasing intake in well performing universities.

Mechanisms will be explored for starting Multi-disciplinary and innovative programs, twinning and joint degree programs, Cross Country designing of centers, facilitating online lectures by eminent faculty abroad, linkage between academia and industry, facilitate Joint degree ventures and lateral entry to Indian Higher Education Institutions.

During the year 2019 around 7 lakh 50 thousand students travelled abroad to pursue their studies.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Dadabhai Naoroji**:

- 1. He was the first Indian to be elected to Parliament in Britain.
- 2. He was founding member of the London Indian Society and East India Association.
- 3. He was proponent of the 'drain theory', an economic critique of British imperialism in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Dadabhai Naoroji** was the first Indian to become a Member of Parliament of the British, as a member of the **Liberal Party in 1892**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Dadabhai Naoroji** founded the **London Indian Society** in the year 1865 and the **East India Association** in 1866, in collaboration with Indians and retired British officials in London. It superseded the London Indian Society and was a platform for discussing matters and ideas about India, and to provide representation for Indians to the Government.

Statement 3 is correct. **Dadabhai Naoroji** was an economist and proponent of the '**drain theory**', building up a detailed economic critique of British imperialism in India. In the year 1901, he published '**Poverty and un-British Rule in India**'. The book spoke of how the British plundered the resources of India that consistently led to the rise of destitution and misery in India.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **corporate income-tax (CIT)** in India:

- 1. The foreign companies working in India are not liable to pay CIT.
- 2. As a percentage of GDP the CIT revenue has been consistently higher than that of Goods & Services Tax revenue for last five years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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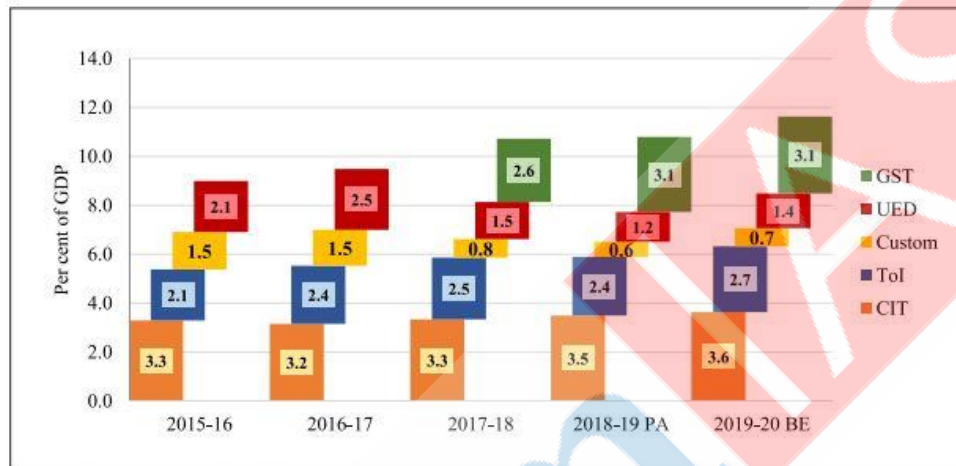
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **corporate income-tax (CIT)** is applicable to an Indian company and as well as foreign company working in India. A resident company is taxed on its worldwide income while a **non-resident company** is taxed on income that it received in India, or is deemed to accrue or arise, in India.

Statement 2 is correct. Data from Economic Survey 2019-20 shows that, CIT revenue as percent of GDP has been consistently higher than that of GST revenue.

Figure : Taxes as a percent of GDP



Source: Union Budget Documents & CGA

Note: 1. CIT: Corporation Tax, Tol: Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax (includes STT), UED: Union Excise Duties, GST: Goods and Services Tax, 2. GST includes CGST, IGST and Compensation Cess

Q.8) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)**?

- a) A platform listing public sector enterprises exclusively
- b) Exchange for raising funds for public initiatives of the government
- c) A government owned securities exchange to limit speculative trading
- d) Exchange for listing social enterprises and voluntary organizations

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The Finance Minister as part of the **Budget Speech for FY 2019-20** had announced steps towards creating an electronic fund raising platform- a **social stock exchange**-under the regulatory ambit of Securities and Exchange Board of India for listing **social enterprises and voluntary organizations** working for the realization of a social welfare objective so that they can raise capital as equity, debt or as units like a mutual fund.

Accordingly, SEBI constituted a working group on 'Social Stock Exchanges' (SSE) under the Chairmanship of **Ishaat Hussain** in September, 2019. The committee has recently submitted its report.

The SSE will have two primary roles: to effectively deploy the fundraising instruments and structures available under the regulatory guidelines towards social enterprises and to foster overall sector development by creating a capacity building unit.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations**:

- 1. The premises of the mission is inviolable and the agents of the receiving State may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission.

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2. The receiving State may require that the size of a mission be kept within limits considered by it to be reasonable.

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 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961** states that:

- The premises of the mission shall be **inviolable**. The agents of the receiving State may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission.
- The receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to **protect the premises** of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity.
- The premises of the mission, their furnishings and other property thereon and the means of transport of the mission shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 11 of the convention states that:

- In the absence of specific agreement as to the size of the mission, the receiving State may require that the size of a mission be kept within limits considered by it to be **reasonable and normal**.
- The receiving State may equally, within similar bounds and on a non-discriminatory basis, refuse to accept officials of a particular category.

Q.10) Which of the following is/are the mandate(s) of the **Governor** under the Constitution of India?

- 1. Summon the House(s) of the Legislature of the State before three months pass since its last sitting in the previous session.
- 2. Prorogue and dissolve the Legislative Council from time to time.

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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

As per the **article 174 of the Constitution:** (1) The Governor shall from time to time summon the House or each House of the Legislature of the State to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but **six months** shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

(2) The Governor may from time to time—(a) prorogue the House or either House; (b) dissolve the **Legislative Assembly**.

As is the case for Rajyasabha, Legislative councils are not subject to dissolution but one-third of their members retire every second year.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020:**

- 1. Russia accounts for one-fifth of the total forest area of the world.

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2. Sub-tropical domain has the largest proportion of the world's forests followed by the tropical and temperate domains.

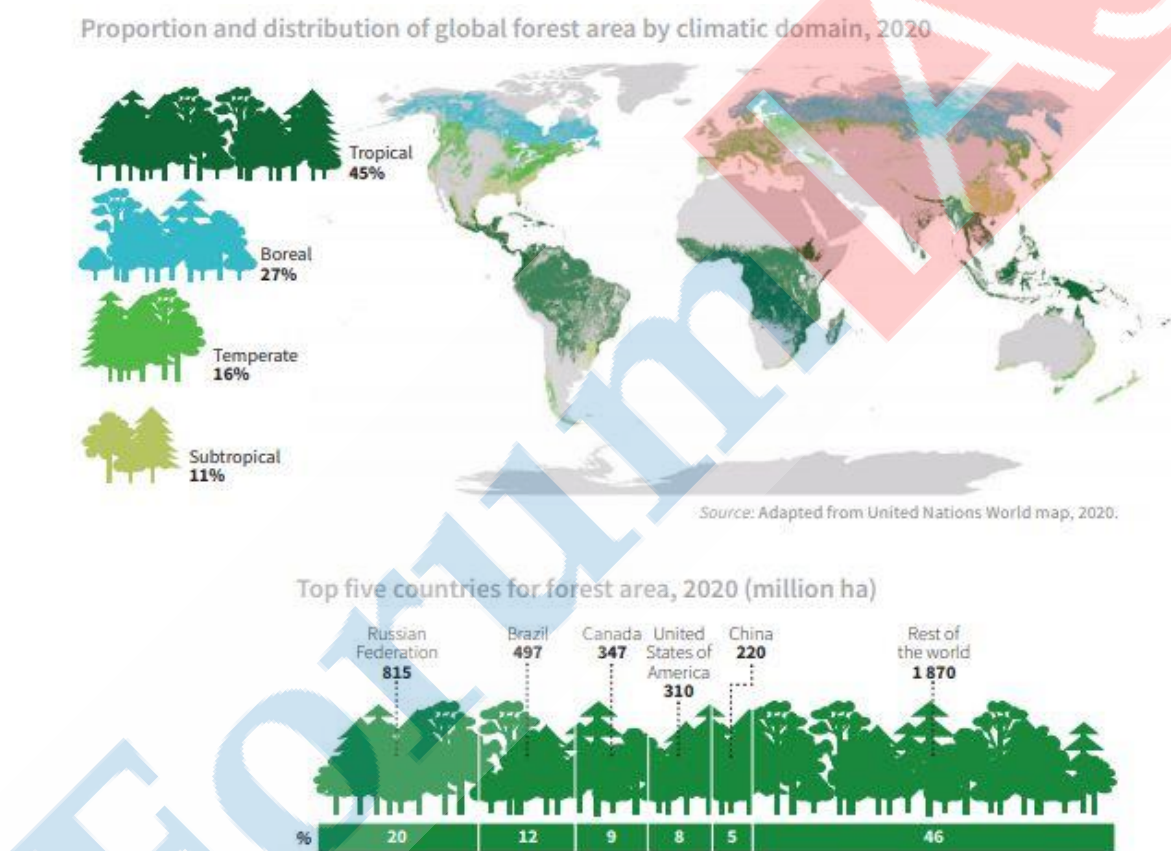
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. More than half (54 percent) of the world's forests is in only five countries –the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and China, with **Russia itself having 20% of the world's forest area.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **tropical domain** has the largest proportion of the **world's forests (45 percent)**, followed by the boreal, temperate and subtropical domains.



India has two percent of the world's forests and has ranked third among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Istanbul Convention**:

- 1. It is a human rights treaty on preventing and combating violence against women.
- 2. India is a signatory to the convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Istanbul Convention** is the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating **violence against women and domestic violence**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India is not a signatory to the convention. It is a treaty under the **Council of Europe**, an international organization with 47 members with aim to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

The Convention came into force on 1 August 2014 and has been signed by 45 countries and the European Union.

It is the obligation of the state to fully address it in all its forms and to take measures to prevent violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators.

Poland has recently decided to withdraw from the convention.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Mausam Mobile App**:

1. It has been launched by the Department of Science and Technology.
 2. The application has utility of providing weather forecasts and radar images to the user.
- 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 **MAUSAM mobile application** has been launched recently by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

The mobile app has been designed and developed jointly by ICRISAT's Digital Agriculture & Youth (DAY) team, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and India Meteorological Department.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the PIB release, users can access observed weather, forecasts, radar images and be proactively warned of impending weather events.

The MAUSAM mobile App has the following 5 services: **Current Weather, Nowcast** (three hourly warnings of localized weather phenomena), **City Forecast, Warnings and Radar products**.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report 2020**:

1. Elephant and Rosewood is among the highest seized wildlife.
2. The illicit trade of pangolin scales has declined considerably in last decade.

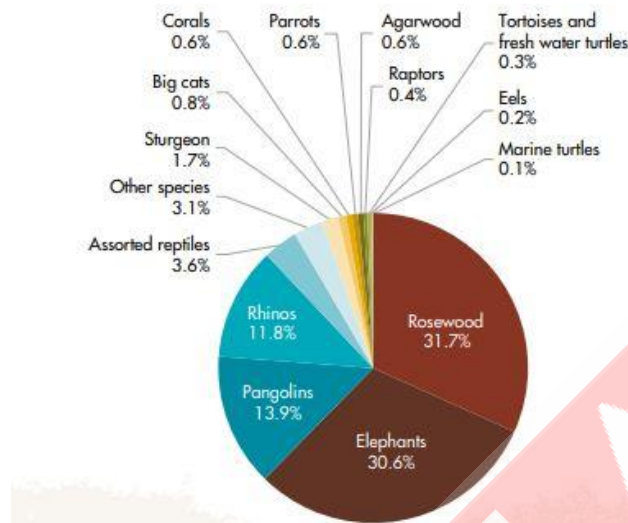
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Rosewood, Elephants, pangolins** are among the highest seized wildlife between 2014-18.

Fig. Share of type of wildlife among total seizures (aggregated on the basis of standard value*), 2014-2018



Source: UNODC World WISE Database

* The distribution of seizures was calculated using a common metric based on the value of seizures. Over one million declared import values were statistically assessed and each seizure assigned a monetary value based on this dataset. See the methodological annex of the report for more details.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the report while the poaching of both elephants and rhinoceroses has consistently declined since 2011, the amount of **pangolin scales seized has increased** 10-fold in just five years, and new markets, such as the trafficking of European glass eels, have emerged in the wake of strengthened controls.

Q.15) Which of the following institution has recently launched the **Dare to Dream** contest for innovators and startups?

- a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- b) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- c) Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)
- d) Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** have recently launched its innovation contest '**Dare to Dream 2.0**' on the 5th death anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

- The scheme is for promoting **individuals & startups** for innovation in defence and aerospace emerging technologies.
- The winners will be decided after due evaluation by an expert committee. Award money, up to Rs 10 lakh for startup and Rs five lakh to individual category, will be given to the winners.

Q.16) Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Darfur - Syria
- 2. Chengdu - China
- 3. Okavango Delta - Botswana

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: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Darfur** is a region in western **Sudan**. The conflict in Darfur has been in news recently, it began in 2003 when rebels launched an insurrection to protest what they contended was the Sudanese government's disregard for the western region and its **non-Arab population**.

Recently people started returning home in time for this year's planting season after a **government-sponsored deal** was reached two months ago. But this has led a new conflict over land rights between the people who took over the land with those who have returned.



Option 2 is correctly matched. **Chengdu** is the capital of southwestern **China's Sichuan province**. China recently asked USA to shut its **consulate** in Chengdu in response to similar action by USA in Houston.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Okavango Delta in Botswana** is an inland delta formed where the Okavango River reaches the central part of the endorheic basin of the Kalahari. Hundreds of **elephants have died** mysteriously in Botswana's famed Okavango Delta recently.

Q.17) Which of the following project(s) do not require prior environmental clearance under the *draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020*?

1. Solar Photo Voltaic Power projects
2. Coal and non-coal mineral prospecting
3. Digging of well for irrigation or drinking water purpose

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 do not require **prior-Environmental Clearance or Permission** under the *draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020*.

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Section 26 provides a list of projects that would not attract environmental clearance or permission, it includes among others:

- Removal of **sand deposits** on agricultural field after flood by farmers;
- Extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for the linear projects like roads, pipelines, etc.
- Dredging and **de-silting** of dams, reservoirs, weirs, barrages etc.
- Digging of well for **irrigation** or drinking water purpose;
- **Solar Photo Voltaic** (PV) Power projects, Solar Thermal Power Plants and development of Solar Parks, etc.;
- **Coal and non-coal** mineral prospecting.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **GST Compensation to States/UTs**:

1. It is provided for by a statutory cess levied on certain notified goods and services.
2. The compensation is to be provided till 2022 or for such period as may be prescribed by the GST Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 was enacted to levy Compensation cess on certain notified goods and services for providing compensation to the States for the **loss of revenue** arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax.

The act came into effect from the date from which the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act is brought into force (01/07/2017), for a period of **five years** or for such period as may be prescribed on the recommendations of the GST Council.

Q.19) Who among the following has released the **Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2020**?

- a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2020** has been released by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.

The Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update provides a climate outlook for the next five years, updated annually.

Highlights:

Annual global temperature is likely to be **at least 1°C warmer** than preindustrial levels in each of the coming 5 years and is very likely to be within the range 0.91 – 1.59°C.

Over 2020-2024, almost all regions, except parts of the **southern oceans**, are likely to be warmer than the recent past.

Over 2020-2024, high latitude regions and the **Sahel** are likely to be wetter than the recent past whereas northern and eastern parts of South America are likely to be dryer.

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Over 2020-2024, sea-level pressure anomalies suggest that the **northern North Atlantic region** could have stronger westerly winds leading to more storms in western Europe. In 2020, large land areas in the **Northern Hemisphere** are likely to be over 0.8°C warmer than the recent past.

In 2020, the **Arctic** is likely to have warmed by more than twice as much as the global mean.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the Maurya dynasty King **Ashoka**:

1. Ashoka sent his own children as missionaries to Sri Lanka.
2. The rock edicts of Ashoka proclaim the Dhammaghosha over Bherighosha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As per the Sri Lankan tradition, **Ashoka dispatched** of several missionaries to distant regions, including his son **Mahinda** to Sri Lanka. Further, his daughter **Sanghamitra** also established "Bikkhuni Sasana" in Sri Lanka.

Statement 2 is correct. Eight years after seizing power around 270 B.C., Ashoka led a military campaign to conquer Kalinga after which he adopted **Dhammaghosha (Sound of Dhamma) over Bherighosha (War siren)**. **Major Rock Edict IV** states that Dhammaghosha is ideal to the mankind and not the Bherighosha.

Q.21) The **St. Petersburg Declaration, 2010** relates to which of the following issue?

- a) Declaration Renouncing the Use, in Time of War, of Explosive Projectiles
- b) Double the number of wild tigers across the global range
- c) To strengthen the primary health care systems globally
- d) Ethical principles regarding human experimentation for the medical community

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Heads of the Governments of **Tiger Range countries at St. Petersburg, Russia in 2010** had agreed to a Global Tiger Recovery Program and resolved to **double tiger numbers** across their global range by 2022 by signing the St. Petersburg declaration on tiger conservation.

During the said meeting it was also decided to celebrate **July 29 as Global Tiger Day** across the world, which is since, being celebrated to spread and generate awareness on tiger conservation.

Declaration of Astana relates to strengthening primary health care systems as an essential step toward achieving universal health coverage.

Declaration of Helsinki is a set of ethical principles regarding human experimentation developed for the medical community by the World Medical Association (WMA).

Q.22) Which of the following correctly defines the **Kafala System**?

- a) a sponsorship system of work permit in West Asia
- b) a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Jordan
- c) a regional currency swap agreement among gulf countries
- d) a market union of Gulf Cooperation Council

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Kafala (Sponsorship) System** emerged in the 1950's to regulate the relationship between employers and migrant workers in many countries in **West Asia**. It remains the routine practice in the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and also in the Arab states of Jordan and Lebanon.

Under the Kafala system a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer **or sponsor (kafeel)** for their contract period.

The migrant worker cannot enter the country, transfer employment nor leave the country for any reason without first obtaining explicit written permission from the kafeel.

The worker must be sponsored by a kafeel in order to enter the destination country and remains tied to this kafeel throughout their stay.

Some countries claimed to abolish or reform the Kafala, but the system's most critical vulnerabilities still remain.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS)**:

1. It is an accreditation system for the management of tiger conservation areas.
2. There is no conservation assured tiger standards site in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)** is an accreditation system designed to measure and improve the management of tiger conservation areas.

It was developed through a partnership between governments and conservation organisations to assess levels of effective management, encourage best standards of management, and to support the **TX2 goal** to double the number of tigers in the wild.

It is driven by the CA|TS Partnership hosted by **World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)**, which comprises of tiger range governments, intergovernmental agencies, conservation organisations and other institutions, including Global Tiger Forum, IUCN, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and WWF among others.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Lansdowne Forest Division in Uttarakhand**, India, Chitwan National Park in Nepal and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve in Russia have been awarded CA|TS Approved status.

Minister of MoEFCC recently declared that Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) framework will now be extended to all fifty tiger reserves across the country.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **Project Green-Ag**:

1. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
2. It is an India specific project to mainstream biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management.

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: Both statements are correct.

Green-Ag is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project to catalyze transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of **critical biodiversity and forest landscapes**.

It seeks to mainstream biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.

The Green-Ag project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through its sixth funding cycle.

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW)** is the national executing agency and FAO is the designated GEF Implementing Agency.

The Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the GEF Operational Focal Point and coordinates all GEF projects in the country.

Recently it was launched in Mizoram; other states covered under the project are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH):

1. It is an initiative of the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB).
2. It was launched to scout, evaluate and support the innovations and start-ups that address COVID-19 challenges.

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.

Department of Science & Technology in response to combat COVID-19 global pandemic in April, 2020 approved setting up of a Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) to scout, evaluate and support the innovations and **start-ups that address COVID-19 challenges**.

It is an initiative **by National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

The Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), a technology business incubator at IIT Bombay supported by DST has been identified as the Implementing Agency of the CAWACH.

The Bangalore-based Acculi Labs selected to develop a COVID risk assessment profile, has developed a mobile app Lyfas COVID score.

Q.26) Which of the following country(s) share border with the Caspian Sea?

1. China
2. Iran
3. Turkey

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: The **Caspian Sea** is the world's largest (surface area) inland water body. It covers roughly 143,200 square miles (371,000 square kilometers) and borders five countries: **Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.**



Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the **draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**:

1. Ministry of Defence is to notify a list of weapons/platforms banned for import.
2. Leasing has been introduced as a category for acquisition in addition to the existing 'Buy' and 'Make' acquisition categories.

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 **draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** has been released by the government.

It states that with a view to promote domestic and indigenous industry and align the DAP with the reforms enunciated in the 'Atmanirbhar Abhiyan', the **MoD will notify a list of weapons/platforms** banned for import, updated from time to time.

INDIGENISATION TARGETS FOR VARIOUS ACQUISITION CATEGORIES	Acquisition category	Indigenous content (IC)
	Buy (Indian – Indian-Designed, Developed and Manufactured)	» Indigenous design essential; $\geq 50\%$ IC
	Buy (Indian)	» If indigenously designed, $\geq 50\%$ IC; if foreign designed $\geq 60\%$ IC
	Buy and Make (Indian)	» $\geq 50\%$ IC, calculated on the 'Make' portion
	Buy and Make	» $\geq 50\%$ IC
	Buy (Global – Manufacture in India)	» $\geq 50\%$ IC
	Buy (Global)	» Foreign vendor – Nil IC requirement Indian vendor $\geq 30\%$ IC

Leasing has been introduced as another category for acquisition in addition to the existing 'Buy' and 'Make' acquisition categories as it provides for an innovative technique for financing of equipment/platforms. Leasing provides means to possess and operate the asset without owning the asset and is useful to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments.

The *Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)* has now been titled as *Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020*.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kalbelia dance**:

1. It is a traditional folk snake charmer dance performed by Kalbelia tribe of Rajasthan.
2. It is listed in the UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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.

Kalbelia dance is a folk dance of **Rajasthan** state also known as '**Sapera Dance**' or '**Snake Charmer Dance**'. Kalbelia dance is particularly performed by a Rajasthani tribe called 'Kalbelia'.

Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan are listed in the **UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** since the year 2010. In Kalbelia dance, males play various traditional instruments and females perform the dance.

Q.29) Where is the **Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone (TTSZ)** located?

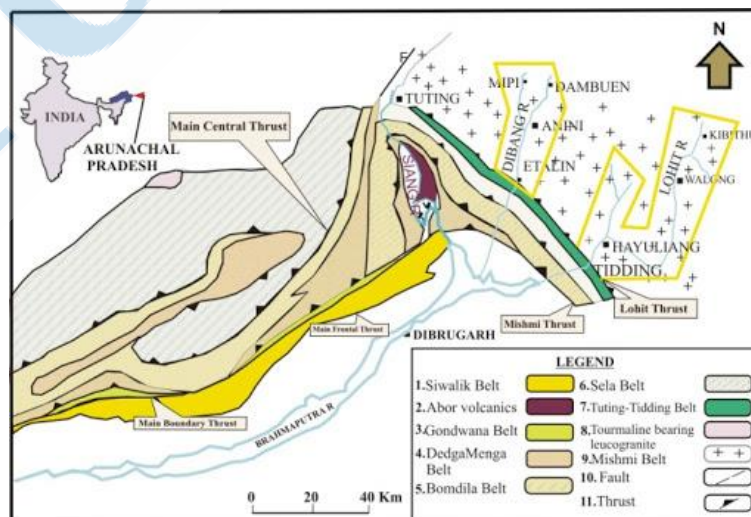
- a) Eastern Himalaya
- b) Deccan Plateau
- c) Tarim Basin
- d) Hindu Kush Himalayan Region

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone (TTSZ)** is a major part of the **Eastern Himalaya**, where the Himalaya takes a sharp southward bend and connects with the Indo-Burma Range.

A study by the **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)** an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), exploring the elastic properties of rocks and seismicity in this easternmost part of India revealed that the area is generating **moderate earthquakes** at two different depths.

Low magnitude earthquakes are concentrated at 1-15 km depth and slightly higher greater than 4.0 magnitude earthquakes are mostly generated from 25-35 km depth. The **intermediate-depth** is devoid of seismicity and coincides with the zone of fluid/partial melts.



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This part of the Arunachal Himalayas has gained significant **importance** in recent times due to the growing need of constructing roads and hydropower projects, making the need for understanding the pattern of seismicity in this region critical.

Q.30) Which of the following **conservation zone(s)** is/are correctly matched to respective state?

1. Valmiki Tiger Reserve - Uttar Pradesh
2. Van Vihar National Park - Gujarat
3. Satkosia Tiger Reserve - Odisha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. The **Valmiki National Park/Tiger Reserve** is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar, India on the bank of river Gandak.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The **Van Vihar National Park** is in the capital city of Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Satkosia Tiger Reserve** is located in the Angul district of Odisha, comprising the two adjoining Sanctuaries, the Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Baisipalli Sanctuary.

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **Dassault Rafale** fighter jets:

1. It is a single engine multirole fighter aircraft.
2. India is the only country other than France to operate the Rafale jets.

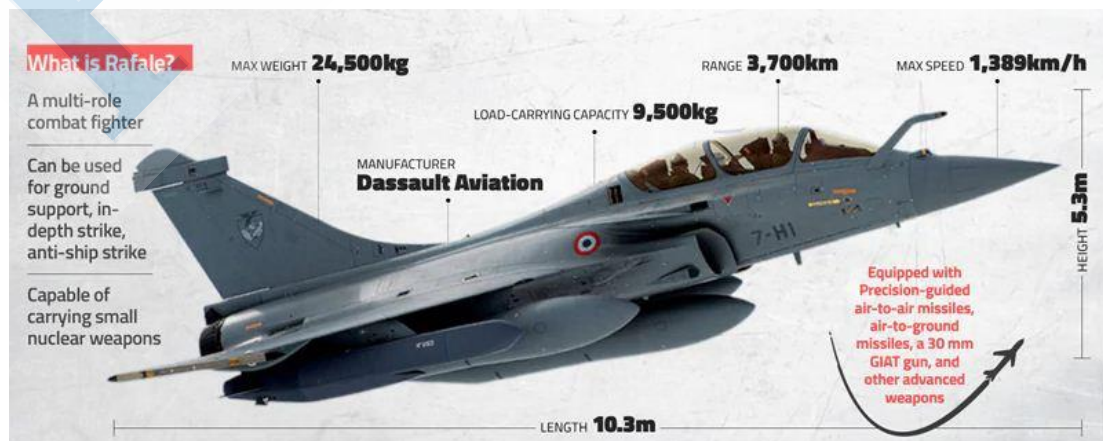
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 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 **Dassault Rafale** is a French **twin-engine**, canard delta wing, multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Egypt and Qatar** are other countries operating the Dassault Rafale aircraft.



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Q.32) Which of the following is provided for by the **New Education Policy 2020**?

1. Teaching upto at least fifth grade to be in either Hindi or English language.
2. A shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment.
3. A National Research Foundation for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. The policy has emphasized **mother tongue/local language/regional language** as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond.

Sanskrit to be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-language formula. The classical languages and literatures of India to be available as options to students. **No language will be imposed on any student.**

Statement 2 is correct. **NEP 2020** envisages a shift from **summative assessment** to **regular and formative assessment**, which is more competency-based, promotes learning and development, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity.

All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim.

A new **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body.

A new and comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education, NCFSE 2020-21, will be developed by the NCERT.

Statement 3 is correct. The **National Research Foundation** will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.

Q.33) The **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund** is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank Group
- b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- d) New Development Bank (NDB)

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund** is an initiative of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, launched in 2009 to provide incremental grant resources to developing member countries impacted by a major natural disaster.

ADB has recently approved USD 3 million grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to further support the government's emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Previously in April, ADB had approved USD 1.5 billion **COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES)** programme to support India in its immediate pandemic response efforts.

Q.34) Which of the following is/are **zoonotic disease(s)**?

1. Ebola
2. COVID-19
3. Lyme disease

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 zoonotic diseases.

Animals can sometimes carry harmful germs that can spread to people and cause illness – these are known as **zoonotic diseases or zoonoses**. Zoonotic diseases are caused by harmful germs like viruses, bacterial, parasites, and fungi.

Ebola virus disease is considered to be zoonotic, with occasional spillovers to humans, apes, and possibly other animals. Fruit bats belonging to the Pteropodidae family are thought to be the natural hosts of the Ebola virus.

As per World Health Organisation, all available evidence for COVID-19 suggests that **SARS-CoV-2 has a zoonotic source** with its ecological origin in Bat populations.

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and rarely, *Borrelia mayonii*. It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks.

Q.35) Which of the following relates to the **cyberspace and cybercrime**?

1. Christchurch Call to Action
2. Budapest Convention
3. Paris Call for Trust and Security

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: Option 1 is correct. The **Christchurch Call** is an action plan that commits governments, international organizations and Internet players to take a series of measures, in particular:

Developing tools to prevent the downloading of terrorist and violent extremist content; combating the causes of violent extremism; improving transparency in the detection and removal of content; and ensuring that the algorithms designed and used by businesses do not direct users towards violent extremist content, so as to reduce their viral nature.

Option 2 is correct. The **Budapest Convention** on cybercrime is the first international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, dealing particularly with infringements of copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security. It was drawn up by the Council of Europe.

Option 3 is correct. The **Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace** proposes a vision for regulation in cyberspace and the major associated principles: the practicability of international law, responsible behavior of States, State monopoly of legitimate use of violence, recognition of the specific responsibilities of private stakeholders, particularly as regards preventing security failures and refrain from using certain practices which may damage stability in cyberspace.

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Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**:

1. It has been established under the Information Technology Act.
2. Its mandate includes reducing the vulnerabilities of information infrastructure against cyber terrorism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Section 70A of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** was amended in 2008 to provide for the Central Government to, by notification published in the Official Gazette, designate any organisation of the Government as the national nodal agency in respect of **Critical Information Infrastructure Protection**.

National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) was set up in 2014 and designated as the National Nodal Agency in respect of Critical Information Infrastructure Protection.

Its mandate includes to:

- Protect and deliver advice that aims to reduce the vulnerabilities of critical information infrastructure, against cyber terrorism, cyber warfare and other threats.
- Identification of all critical information infrastructure elements for approval by the appropriate Government for notifying the same.

“Critical Information Infrastructure” is defined under the act as the computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which, shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety.

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**:

1. India does not receive funding from the bank.
2. India has the second largest voting share in the bank after China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

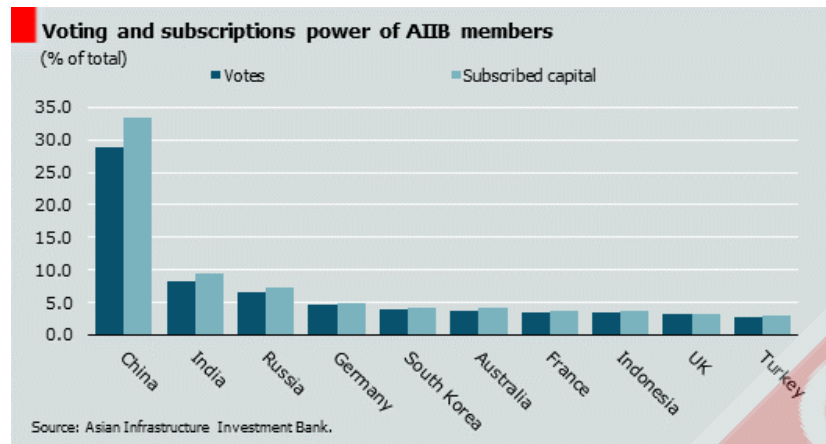
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** headquartered at Beijing, China is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.

India is the largest recipient of the funds from the AIIB. India has so far received \$4.35 billion from the bank.

Statement 2 is correct. **India (with 7.62% voting shares)** is second largest voting power after China (26.06%), in AIIB.



Q.38) Which of the following is/are the potential advantage(s) of the **Aerial Seeding** of crops?

1. It can be used when the soil is too wet for regular equipment.
2. It does not cause soil compaction, hence preventing soil runoff.

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 are potential advantages of the Aerial Seeding.

Aerial seeding is a technique of sowing seeds by spraying them through aerial mechanical means such as a drone, plane or helicopter. The seeds are covered with a mixture of clay, compost, char and other components – are sprayed on the ground.

Advantages: Aerial application allows seeding to be done when it is **physically impossible** to use ground equipment, such as when crops are present or the soil is **too wet** for regular equipment.

-Aerial application does not cause soil compaction, hence preventing soil runoff.

Soil compaction occurs when soil particles are pressed together, reducing pore space between them. Heavily compacted soils contain few large pores, less total pore volume and, consequently, a greater density.

The causes of soil compaction in agriculture are the use of heavy machineries, tillage practice, inappropriate choice of tillage systems, as well as livestock trampling.

Q.39) Which of the following correctly defines the term '**One Health**'?

- a) A complete health insurance for all non-communicable diseases (NCD)
- b) An approach recognizing interdependence of human and animal health
- c) A global initiative for vaccine development by public funding
- d) An Ayurvedic alternative to all allopathic medicines

Correct answer: B

Explanation: One Health is an approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to **the health of animals and our shared environment**.

"One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach — working at the local, regional, national, and global levels — with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment."

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It has recently gained more importance due to onslaught of new **zoonotic diseases**.

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

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding **Tigers** in India:

1. Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand has the greatest number of tigers in the country.
2. India is home to more than half of the global tiger population.

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.

Recently a detailed report '**Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India**' on Tiger Census has been released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve** leads the Tiger population in country with 231 Tigers within the tiger reserve and 266 tigers utilizing the tiger reserve.

India's tiger population now stands at 2967 which is **70 percent** of the global tiger population.

Q.41) **Lead** can be found in which of the following material(s)?

1. Sindoor (vermillion)
2. Paint
3. Ceramics

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: D

Explanation: Lead can be found in all of the above materials.

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, it can be **toxic** to humans and animals, causing health effects.

Lead and lead compounds have been used in a wide variety of products found in and around our homes, including **paint, ceramics**, pipes and plumbing materials, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, and cosmetics.

Sindoor (vermillion), a traditional cosmetic powder used by women in the Indian subcontinent, also has traces of lead.

The report 'Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential' launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and international non-profit organization Pure Earth claims that a third of the world's children — around 800 million — are affected by lead poisoning.

Q.42) Which of the following is/are **internet-based initiative(s)** of the Ministry of Human Resources and Development?

1. Diksha

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2. Swayam Prabha
3. Shodhganga

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. **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)** portal and application provides digital platform to teachers giving them an opportunity to learn and train themselves and connect with teacher community. This initiative has been taken forward to enhance coverage and improve the quality of e-content for teachers.

Option 2 is incorrect. The **'Shodhganga: a reservoir of Indian Theses'** provides a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access.

Option 3 is correct. The **SWAYAM PRABHA** is a group of **32 DTH channels** devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

SWAYAM is a Massive open online course (MOOC) platform.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) iCREST** initiative:

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
2. It aims for a rapid development and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines.

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.

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), has launched **AIM iCREST** – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on **creating high performing Startups**.

AIM has joined hands with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation** - organizations that can lend credible support and expertise in the entrepreneurship and innovation space. These partnerships will provide global expertise and showcase proven best practices to the AIM's incubator network.

AIM iCREST has been designed to enable the incubation ecosystem and act as a growth hack for AIM's Atal and Established incubators across the country.

Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators are set to be upscaled and provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy that will help them to significantly enhance their performance. This will be complemented by providing training to entrepreneurs, through technology driven processes and platforms.

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the **Mars 2020 Perseverance Mission**:

1. It is a Mars Rover mission launched by NASA.
2. It will gather rock and soil samples to be sent back to Earth in future.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance is a rover mission** launched recently from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station USA, targeted at a more-than 40km-wide, near-equatorial bowl called **Jezero Crater** on Mars.

It is equipped to directly **detect life** - either current or in fossilized form and will also be collecting important data about Mars' **geology and climate**.

NASA's Perseverance is the third mission launched to Mars inside 11 days in 2020, after launches by the **UAE (Hope)** and **China (Tianwen-1)**.

Statement 2 is correct. Perseverance is the first rover to bring a **sample-gathering system** to Mars that will package promising examples of rocks and sediments for **return to Earth by a future mission**. A Mars Sample Return campaign is being planned by NASA and the European Space Agency.

Q.45) Which of the following Committee(s) is/are related to the formulation of **Education Policy**?

- 1. T.S.R. Subramaniam Committee
- 2. Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee
- 3. Madhav Gadgil Committee

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 May 2016, '**Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy**' under the Chairmanship of Late **Shri T.S.R. Subramanian**, Former Cabinet Secretary, submitted its report.

Option 2 is correct. In June 2017 a '**Committee for the Draft National Education Policy**' was constituted under the Chairmanship of Padma Vibhushan, **Dr. K. Kasturirangan**, which submitted the Draft in May, 2019.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Madhav Gadgil Committee** refers to the **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel**, an environmental research commission appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India.

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding the **Seroprevalence Surveys**:

- 1. It identifies people in a population that have antibodies against an infectious disease.
- 2. A very low positivity percentage result of the survey indicates presence of Herd Immunity in the community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Seroprevalence surveys** use serology tests to identify people in a population or community that have **antibodies** against an infectious disease. Antibodies are specific proteins made in response to infections. Antibodies are detected in the blood of people who are tested after infection; they show an **immune response** to the infection.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Herd immunity** occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely.

The Seroprevalence survey measures the percentage of people who have already been infected by the disease. Therefore, **a low positivity result of the survey does not indicate Herd Immunity**, it can either be achieved through large scale **vaccination or naturally** when large portion of population gets infected and generates antibodies against the disease.

Q.47) Which of the following correctly defines the term **LIBOR**?

- a) Benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another
- b) Global consumer products inflation rate
- c) The interest rate charged by World Bank to borrowing countries
- d) Interest earned by central banks for investing in the United States Treasury bonds

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** is a benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in the international **interbank market** for short-term loans.

It serves as a globally accepted key benchmark interest rate that indicates borrowing costs between banks. The rate is calculated and published each day by the **Intercontinental Exchange (ICE)**.

It is based on five currencies including the U.S. dollar, the euro, the British pound, the Japanese yen, and the Swiss franc.

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **Governors of States** in India:

- 1. The Governor may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Chief Justice of the High Court, resign from his/her office.
- 2. It is a constitutional duty of Chief Minister to communicate to Governor of the decisions of Council of Ministers relating to proposals for legislation.

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. Governor, before entering upon his office, makes and subscribes to an **oath or affirmation in the presence of the Chief Justice of the High Court** exercising jurisdiction in relation to the State. [Article 159]

In order to resign from office, the Governor may, by writing under his hand **addressed to the President**, resign his/her office. [Article 156(2)]

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 167** of the Constitution provides for the **duties of Chief Minister** as respects the furnishing of information to Governor, etc.

It shall be the duty of the Chief Minister of each State:

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- to communicate to the Governor of the State all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the State and **proposals for legislation**;
- to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the State and proposals for legislation as the Governor may call for; and
- if the Governor so requires, to submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers any matter on which a decision has been taken by a Minister but which has not been considered by the Council.

Q.49) Which of the following is/are part of the **National Education Policy 2020**?

1. Multiple entry and exit options with appropriate certification to be available in higher education.
2. Board exams for grades ten and twelve to be discontinued.
3. Gender Inclusion Fund and Special Education Zones to be set up for disadvantaged regions and groups.

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: Statement 1 is correct. The policy envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and **multiple entry and exit points** with appropriate certification.

UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. For example, Certificate after 1-year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor's Degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with Research after 4 years.

Statement 2 is incorrect. NEP 2020 envisages a shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment.

Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will continue, but to be redesigned with holistic development as the aim.

A new **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body.

Statement 3 is correct. Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which include gender, socio-cultural, and geographical identities and disabilities. A **Gender Inclusion Fund and Special Education Zones** to be set up for disadvantaged regions and groups.

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding the **5G technology**:

1. The use of shorter frequency millimeter waves provide higher speed in 5G networks.
2. 5G technology offers an extremely high latency rate than the 4G LTE.

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 shorter the frequency, the larger is the bandwidth. The use of **shorter frequencies (millimeter waves between 30GHz and**

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300GHz) for 5G networks is the major reason why 5G can be faster. The high-band 5G spectrum provides the expected boost not only in speed but also in capacity, low latency, and quality.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Latency rate** refers to the delay between the sending and receiving of information. 5G technology offers an extremely low latency rate of about 1 millisecond. Latency for 4G is around 20-30 milliseconds.

Q.51) Where is the **Jezero Crater** located?

- a) China
- b) Brazil
- c) Chile
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Jezero Crater** is the landing site for the **Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover**.

NASA chose Jezero crater as the landing site for the Perseverance rover because scientists believe the area was **once flooded with water** and was home to an ancient river delta.

More than 3.5 billion years ago, river channels spilled over the crater wall and created a lake. Scientists see evidence that water carried **clay minerals** from the surrounding area into the Crater Lake. Conceivably, microbial life could have lived in Jezero during one or more of these wet times. If so, signs of their remains might be found in lakebed or shoreline sediments.

Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding the **Blue Heart Campaign**:

- 1. It is a global awareness raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.
 - 2. India is a founding member of the Blue Heart Campaign.
- 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 **Blue Heart Campaign** is a global awareness raising initiative to fight **human trafficking and its impact** on society.

It seeks to encourage involvement from governments, civil society, the corporate sector and individuals alike, to inspire action and help prevent this heinous crime.

It was launched by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** in 2019. All proceeds to the Blue Heart Campaign go to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Blue Heart Campaign is currently supported by governments, private sector, NGOs, goodwill ambassadors and concerned individuals around the world.

India currently is not a member to the campaign.

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the **global food loss and waste norms** under the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**:

- 1. The Food Loss Index (FLI) focuses on food losses that occur from production up to (and not including) the retail level.
- 2. The Food Waste Index (FWI) measures the wasted food in the retail and consumption levels.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 of Agenda 2030 seeks to “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”. **Target 12.3** of that goal aims to “by 2030, halve the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses”.

SDG target 12.3 has two components, Losses and Waste that should be measured by two separate indicators.

Sub-Indicator 12.3.1.a: The Food Loss Index (FLI) focuses on food losses that occur from production up to (and not including) the retail level. It measures the changes in percentage losses for a basket of 10 main commodities by country in comparison with a base period. The Food Loss Index has been developed by FAO.

Sub-Indicator 12.3.1.b: The Food Waste Index (FWI), a proposal for measuring Food Waste, which comprises the retail and consumption levels, is under development. UN Environment is taking the lead on this sub-indicator.

Q.54) Which of the following is depicted by the ‘Natesa’ form of Shiva?

- a) Lord of dance
- b) Lord of yoga
- c) A masculine and feminine form
- d) Lord of time

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Natesa or Natesha is Lord of Dance form of Shiva. Nataraja is another dancing form of Shiva. It is found in various sculptures and archeological sites across the Indian subcontinent.

Recently a 9th-10th century rare **Pratihara style idol** of Lord Shiva - Natesa', stolen in 1998 from **Ghateshwar Temple, Baroli, Rajasthan** has been repatriated to the Archeological Survey of India by the Indian High Commission in London.



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Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the **Waste Wise Cities** initiative:

1. It is an initiative of the UN-Habitat.
2. It aims to address the challenge of solid waste management in cities.

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.

UN-Habitat launched **Waste Wise Cities Campaign** in 2018 with a call for action in **sustainable solid waste management** in cities.

Under the initiative, UN-Habitat invites cities to join the Waste Wise Cities. To join, cities are requested to confirm their commitment to follow the **Key Principles**, which assist them on their way to becoming a Waste Wise City.

UN-Habitat partners with local governments to implement the **Waste Wise Cities Tool**, which is based on the monitoring methodology for waste **SDG indicator 11.6.1** (Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities), and provides an image of waste flows and amounts in the city.

Alliance to End Plastic Waste, a Singapore-based-NGO aims to invest up to USD 100m on environmental projects in India. It will use UN-Habitat Waste Wise Cities (WWC) Tool to map waste flows and assess potential plastic leakage from waste management system.

Q.56) Which of the following correctly defines the term '**Lyfe**' in the Universe in news recently?

- a) Life based on biology analogous to that found on Earth
- b) Life forms completely different from that found on Earth
- c) Life on Earth and the possible unknown forms of life in Universe
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: A new research supported by **NASA's astrobiology programme** has developed a novel and broader definition of life – called **Lyfe**- a definition that encapsulates life on Earth but also the possibility of "life not as we know it" elsewhere on the board.

The researchers developed the term lyfe and outlined 'four pillars' of the term's definition. These four pillars (**dissipation, autocatalysis, homeostasis, and learning**) can be used to identify any system that could be defined as living. Based on these criteria, the authors discuss Life (e.g. life as we know it on Earth) as a single instance of the broader phenomenon dubbed Lyfe.

Perseverance rover of NASA has the primary goal of finding signs of past life on Mars.

*Finding '**life as we know it**' would be a rarest of rare case and would mean a life based on biology analogous to that found on Earth. Other possibility would be to find '**life not as we know it**'!*

*Lyfe offers a novel perspective on what we consider to be a '**living state**' and could aid our understanding of what to look for in the search for life beyond Earth.*

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**:

1. He served twice as the president of Indian National Congress.
2. He was one of the leading participants in the Non-Cooperation Movement.
3. Muhammad Ali Jinnah defended Tilak in a sedition case.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** never became president of Indian National Congress.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Tilak breathed his last**, after a brief illness, in Bombay on August 1, 1920. Non-cooperation-Khilafat was launched by Khilafat committee on 31st August 1920. The programme was approved by Congress at a **special session in Calcutta** in September 1920.

Statement 3 is correct. In **1897**, Tilak was arrested and tried for sedition before the Bombay High Court. Dinshaw Davar, the lawyer who secured him bail, later became the judge and passed a sentence on him in 1908.

Tilak was arrested in **1908** and charged with sedition for second time. Initially, Jinnah appeared for Tilak and applied for bail, but this was rejected by Justice Davar.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah successfully defended Tilak in the latter's third sedition trial in **1916**.

Q.58) The report **Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution** has been released by which of the following institution?

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- c) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- d) Save the Children Fund

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The report, '**The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential**' has been launched by **UNICEF** in collaboration with Pure Earth, an international non-profit organization.

Around **1 in 3 children** – up to 800 million globally – has blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per decilitre (µg/dL), a level that the **World Health Organization** have stated it requires global and regional interventions.

Nearly half of these children live in South Asia.

It notes that **lead is a potent neurotoxin** which causes irreparable harm to children's brains. It is particularly destructive to babies and children under the age of five as it damages their brains before they have had the opportunity to fully develop, causing them lifelong neurological, cognitive and physical impairment.

The report notes that informal and substandard recycling of **lead-acid batteries** is a leading contributor to lead poisoning in children living in low and middle-income countries

Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding the **Core sector** of the economy:

- 1. Eight Core Industries comprise more than half of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- 2. Refinery Products has the highest weightage in the Index of Eight Core Industries.

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

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

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

Statement 2 is correct. Refinery Products has highest weightage in Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI).

Table : The Total weight for the Core Industries in IIP (2011-12) and Normalized weight

S.No.	Industries	Weights (% as in IIP 2011-12)	Weights(% in ICI)
1	Coal	4.1609	10.3335
2	Natural Gas (UT)	2.7690	6.8768
3	Crude Oil	3.6172	8.9833
4	Refinery Products	11.2896	28.0376
5	Fertilizers	1.0580	2.6276
6	Steel	7.2143	17.9166
7	Cement	2.1631	5.3720
8	Electricity	7.9940	19.8530
	Total	40.2660	100.0000

Q.60) Consider the following statements regarding the **Snow Leopard**:

1. It is endemic to Indian Himalayas.
2. It is listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Snow Leopard** occupies the high mountains of twelve countries extending from the **Hindu Kush** in eastern Afghanistan and the Syr Darya through the mountains of Pamir, Karakorum, Kunlun, and the **Himalaya** to southern **Siberia**, as well as the Russian Altai, Sayan and Tannu Ola Mountains.

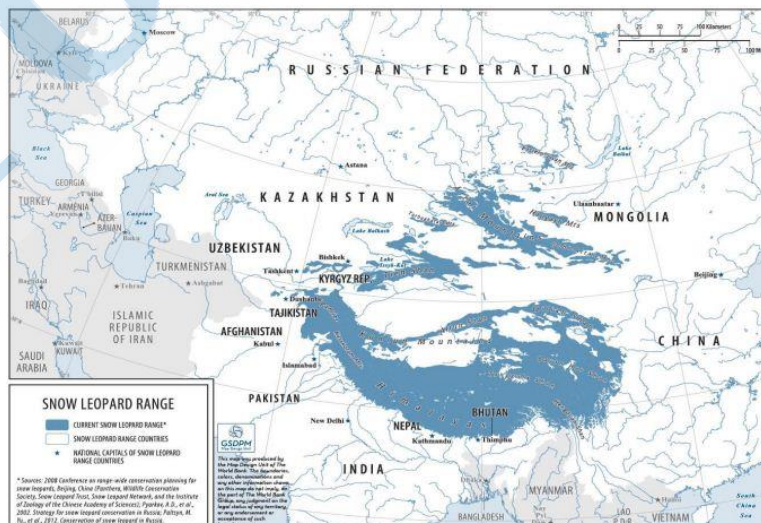


Figure 1: Snow Leopard Global Range

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Statement 2 is correct. **Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*)** is listed as Vulnerable on the **IUCN Red List** with decreasing population trend and **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**).

It has been reported that Uttarakhand is set to open the country's first snow leopard conservation center at the entry point of Gangotri National Park.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor**:

1. It is a large-scale scientific experiment intended to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source.
 2. India is one of the participating countries in the project.
- 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.

ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is a large-scale scientific experiment that intends to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source.

ITER is currently under construction in the south of France. Seven partners—**China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States**—have pooled their financial and scientific resources to build this fusion reactor.

ITER will not produce electricity, but it will resolve critical scientific and technical issues in order to take fusion to the point where industrial applications can be designed. By producing 500 MW of fusion power from 50 MW of power injected in the systems that heat the plasma—a "gain factor" of 10—ITER will open the way to the next step: a demonstration fusion power plant.

A fusion reactor would produce virtually no CO₂ or atmospheric pollutants, and its radioactive waste products would mostly be very short-lived compared to those produced by conventional nuclear fission reactors.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding **Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging)**:

1. It uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure distances.
 2. Lidar systems can measure natural as well as manmade environments with accuracy.
- 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.

Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure **ranges** to the Earth. These **light pulses**, combined with other data recorded by the airborne system, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.

A lidar instrument principally consists of a **laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver**.

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From an airplane or helicopter, LiDAR systems send light to the ground. This pulse hits the ground and returns to the sensor. Then, it measures how long it takes for the light to return back to the sensor. By recording the return time, this is how LiDAR measures distance.

Digiantra Research and Technology (DRT), a space tech startup has developed India's first In-orbit Space Debris Monitoring and tracking system based on the LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology.

Q.63) What is the mandate of the **Kris Gopalakrishnan committee**?

- a) Non-Personal Data Governance Framework
- b) Evolution of the New Education Policy (NEP)
- c) Western Ghats Eco-sensitive zone
- d) Reforms in criminal laws of India

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Shri. **Kris Gopala krishnan** has been constituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) in to deliberate on **Non-Personal Data Governance Framework**. The following are the terms of reference of the said committee:

- To study various issues relating to Non-Personal Data.
- To make specific suggestions for consideration of the Central Government on the regulation of Non-Personal Data.

The committee has recently drafted its report and sought public comments.

- The report attempts to give definition of Non-personal Data and the concept of community data and the appropriate rights and privileges over this data.
- The report recommends the establishment of a Non-Personal Data Regulatory Authority with an enabling role as well as enforcing role.

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**:

1. It is the statutory national standards body of India.
2. Prime Minister is the chairperson of the bureau.

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. **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the National Standard Body of India established under the **BIS Act 2016** for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, is the ex-officio president of the BIS.

Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) Mobile App named **"BIS-Care"** has been launched recently to allow consumers to check the authenticity of the ISI-marked and hallmarked products and also lodge complaints using the application.

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAX Facility**:

1. It is a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide.

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2. It is an initiative of the European Union and Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **COVAX Facility** is a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. Seventy-five countries have submitted expressions of interest to protect their populations and those of other nations through joining the COVAX.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The COVAX is co-led by **Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and World Health Organisation (WHO).**

*COVAX is the vaccines pillar of the **Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.***

The ACT-Accelerator brings together leaders of governments, global health organizations, businesses and philanthropies in a united response against COVID-19. The ACT-Accelerator is organized into four pillars of work: diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening.

Q.66) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Transit Pass System:**

- 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- 2. It aims to facilitate seamless movement of forest produce across India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Transit Pass System (NTPS)** has been launched recently by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

Statement 2 is correct. It is an online system for issuing **transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce.** It aims to make the process of getting permits faster and without physically going to forest department offices and the passes will be issued through mobile applications.

The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana for now and is to be rolled out nationally in few months.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT):**

- 1. It is an exam for granting scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in India.
- 2. Ind-SAT 2020 is the first ever exam under the initiative.

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 **Ministry of Human Resource & Development** recently conducted the first ever **Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020** under its 'Study in India' programme. **Ind-SAT** is an exam for grant of scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in select Indian universities under the Study in India programme.

The Ind-SAT scores will serve as a criterion to shortlist the meritorious students for the allocation of scholarships for under graduate as well as post graduate programmes under 'Study in India' programme.

The Study in India is a programme of MHRD under which foreign students come to study in 116 select higher education institutions in India for under graduate and post graduate programmes.

Q.68) The '**Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes**' is to rank States on which of the following parameter(s)?

1. Social Audit
2. Internal Audit
3. Direct Benefit Transfer

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: D

Explanation: Recently **Ministry of Rural Development** released a "**Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes**" to rank the performance of the States on the basis of following parameters:

- Preparation of annual plan, projecting the requirement of funds for the financial year, expeditious release of State's share, timely utilization of the funds and submission of the Utilization Certificates etc.;
- Optimum implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) & Direct Benefit Transfer;
- Internal Audit; and
- Social Audit.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding **Operation Breathing Space**:

1. It aims to develop, test and deploy rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19.
2. It is a collaborative initiative between India and Israel.

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.

'**Operation Breathing Space**' is collaboration between **Israeli** scientists, health experts and their **Indian** counterparts to develop, test and deploy rapid diagnostic tests for Covid-19.

The joint effort also plans to develop high-tech equipment to minimize exposure of medical staff to the virus, advanced respirators and special sanitizers developed in Israel.

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Q.70) The **Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)** is a joint initiative of India with which of the following country?

- a) United Kingdom
- b) Russian Federation
- c) United States of America
- d) Japan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)** is a joint initiative of the **United Kingdom and India** to invest in renewable energy, clean transportation, water and waste management in India.

The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund of India** partnered with the **Department for International Development (DFID)**, an arm of the UK government to launch the Green Growth Equity Fund ("GGEF"). Both have committed GBP 120 million each into the Fund. EverSource Capital, an equal joint venture between Everstone Group and Lightsource BP was selected as the fund manager for GGEF.