

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

12th to 18th October, 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. The Information Technology Act 2000 explicitly prohibits online Betting and Gambling in India.
2. The Public Gambling Act 1867 which provides for punishment of public gambling does not apply to games of skill.

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 **Information Technology Act 2000** regulates cyber activities in India and provides for offences in cyber domain does not provide for explicit prohibition on Gambling or Betting.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Public Gambling Act 1867**, as it stands makes a distinction between games of chance and games of skill. The act does not apply to any game of mere skill wherever played.

Fantasy cricket is a game of skill as ruled by the Punjab & Haryana High Court (2017) and the Bombay High Court (2019) further upheld by the Supreme Court.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **voting rights in India**:

1. Constitution provides for basis of adult suffrage for elections to both Houses of the Parliament and to the Legislative Assembly of every State.
2. The electors under preventive detention have right to vote unlike those confined in a prison under sentence of imprisonment.

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. **Article 326** of the Constitution provides for the elections to the House of the People (not both houses) and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 62(5)** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that “no person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison, whether under a sentence of imprisonment or transportation or otherwise, or is in the lawful custody of the police:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to a person subjected to preventive detention under any law for the time being in force.”

Therefore, **the Representation of the People Act, 1951** confers voting rights on the electors subjected to preventive detention. As per Rule 18 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the electors under preventive detention are entitled to cast their votes by post.

Q.3) Recently government has **banned certain mobile applications** in India by invoking which of the following statutory law?

- a) Information Technology Act
- b) National Security Act
- c) Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act

d) Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Certain mobile applications have been banned recently by invoking government's power under the **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act**.

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

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Repurchase (buyback) of Government securities**:

1. It is a process whereby the Government of India and States buy back their existing securities, by redeeming them prematurely, from the holders.
2. It can be used for infusion of liquidity in the economy.

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.

Repurchase (buyback) of G-Secs is a process whereby the Government of India and State Governments buy back their existing securities, by redeeming them prematurely, from the holders.

The objectives of buyback can be reduction of cost (by buying back high coupon securities), reduction in the number of outstanding securities and improving liquidity in the G-Secs market (by buying back illiquid securities) and infusion of liquidity in the system.

Q.5) Consider the following statement regarding the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)**:

1. It has been formed by a mutual-assistance treaty for strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
2. India is the only BRICS member country that is also part of the Quad.

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 **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad** is an informal strategic forum between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by semi-regular summits and information exchanges among the member countries.

Quad, being an **informal** forum, has no formal mutual-assistance treaty, secretariat, or even a website.

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Statement 2 is correct. BRICS members are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa; **India** is the only country in Quad that is a member of BRICS.

Q.6) 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.7) 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.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

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- 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) Which of the following statement correctly defines the term '**Immunogenicity**'?

- a) Ability of a foreign substance to induce cellular and humoral immune response
- b) Ability of the immune system to produce antibodies
- c) Ability of a virus to bind antigen to receptors in human cells
- d) Ability of a foreign substance to suppress the immune system of the body

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Immunogenicity** is the ability of a foreign substance, such as an antigen, to provoke an immune response in the body of a human or other animal. It is the ability to induce a humoral and/or cell-mediated immune responses.

Antigenicity is the ability to be specifically recognized by the antibodies generated as a result of the immune response to the given substance.

Q.10) What is the mandate of the **KV Kamath Committee** formed by the Reserve Bank of India?

- a) Financial parameters for restructuring of loans impacted by the COVID-19
- b) Forex Reserve Management
- c) Potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic on MSME credit
- d) Monetary Policy Framework Targets

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The RBI had formed a committee under the chairmanship of former ICICI Bank CEO KV Kamath to make recommendations on the **financial parameters** to be considered in the restructuring of loans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee has selected 26 sectors which will require restructuring based on its analyses of financial parameters hit due to the economic crash caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The financial parameters selected include total outside liability to adjusted tangible net worth, debt to EBIDTA, current ratio, debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) and average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR).

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **ACE2 receptor**:

1. It is a protein on the surface of several cell types in the body.
2. The SARS-CoV-2 virus binds to ACE2 using Spike proteins.

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

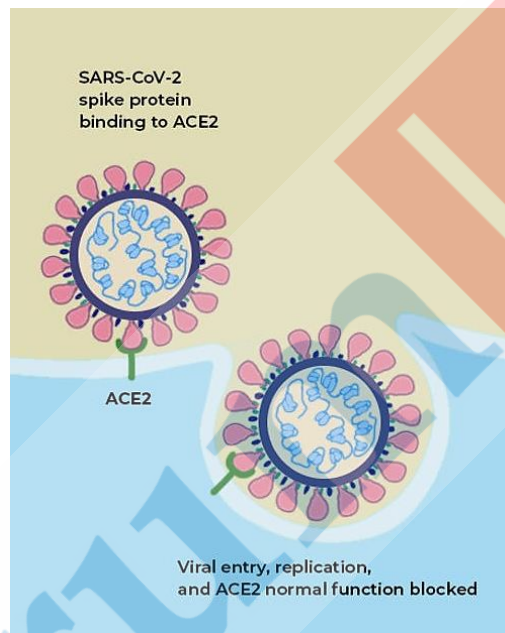
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) is a protein on the surface of many cell types. It is an enzyme that generates small proteins – by cutting up the larger protein angiotensinogen.

ACE2 is present in many cell types and tissues including the lungs, heart, blood vessels, kidneys, liver and gastrointestinal tract. It is present in epithelial cells, which line certain tissues and create protective barriers.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus binds to ACE2, using the **spike-like protein** on its surface, prior to entry and infection of cells. Hence, ACE2 acts as a cellular receptor for the virus that causes COVID-19.



Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Antigen tests** for disease diagnosis:

1. The test is done on the blood sample of a suspected patient.
2. It detects if a person was infected by the disease in past.

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 sample for the rapid **Antigen test** is taken through a Nasal or throat swab. The Antibody test on the other hand requires a blood sample.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An antigen test reveals if a person is currently infected with a pathogen such as the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Once the infection has gone, the antigen disappears. It is a diagnosis for an active infection.

Antigen tests detect proteins or glycans, such as the spike proteins found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

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Q.13) What is 'Loya Jirga', that was in news recently?

- a) A Tibetan ancient immunity booster herbal combination
- b) A traditional consultative body of Afghanistan
- c) A cultural exchange pact between Central Asian countries and India
- d) An ancient Buddhist canonical text in Mongolian tradition

Correct answer: B

Explanation: A **Loya Jirga**, or "grand council" in Pashto, is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in **Afghanistan**.

Loya Jirga is a centuries-old institution that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues. Historically, it has been used to approve a new constitution, declare war, choose a new king, or to make sweeping social or political reforms.

It is considered the "highest expression" of the Afghan people, but its decisions are not legally binding and any verdict it hands out must be approved by the Afghan parliament and the President.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **Monetary Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**:

- 1. The Monetary Policy framework in India is based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation targeting.
- 2. RBI Governor does not generally have a vote and votes only in the event of an equality of votes in Monetary Policy Committee.

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. In May 2016, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934** was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years. Accordingly, the Central Government has notified 4 per cent **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** as the target for the period from August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021 with the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 per cent.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the amended RBI Act: The Monetary Policy Committee consists of the following Members:

- the Governor of the Bank—Chairperson, ex officio;
- Deputy Governor of the Bank, in charge of Monetary Policy—Member, ex officio;
- One officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board—Member, ex officio; and
- Three persons to be appointed by the Central Government—Members.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is required to meet at least four times in a year.

-The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.

-Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the **Governor has a second or casting vote.**

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Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**:

1. Every person is to be provided with a digital health ID having all his/her health records.
2. The UIDAI will design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM.

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: **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)** aims to liberate citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, seeking appointment with them, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for prescription sheets.

Statement 1 is correct. Every person in the country will get a **digital health ID** which is basically a digital format of all his/her health records which will be linked to the registry of doctors and health facilities across the country.

The platform has been planned to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of health service delivery. The health ID will be in the form of a mobile application of website.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National Health Authority (NHA)** will design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM. The scheme would first be tested in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

Q.16) India is part of which of the following group(s) or alliance(s)?

1. Quad
2. MIKTA
3. Five Eyes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Quad** or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is an informal strategic forum between the United States, Japan, Australia and India.

Option 2 is incorrect. **MIKTA** is an informal partnership between Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Australia.

Option 3 is incorrect. **The Five Eyes (FVEY)** is an intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Q.17) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. J Satyanarayana Committee | - National Digital Health Blueprint |
| 2. Ranbir Singh Committee | - Criminal Law Reform |
| 3. Ishaat Hussain Committee | - Social stock exchanges |

Select the correct answer using the code give below:

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **National Digital Health Blueprint** was prepared by a Health Ministry panel headed by **J. Satyanarayana** with an objective to create a framework for the national health stack proposed in 2018 by the NITI Aayog.

Option 2 is correctly matched. Union Home Ministry constituted a high-level committee to introduce **reforms in criminal laws** under the chairmanship of **Ranbir Singh**, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University (NLU).

Option 3 is correctly matched. A panel was set up by SEBI in September 2019 under the Chairmanship of **Ishaat Hussain** to recommend on the norms for setting up **Social Stock Exchange** in India as declared by Finance Minister in 2019-20 Budget Speech.

Q.18) The **contaminated water and poor sanitation** are linked to transmission of which of the following disease(s)?

1. Cholera
2. Hepatitis A
3. Typhoid

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: D

Explanation: **Contaminated water and poor sanitation** are linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid, and polio.

Diarrhoea is the most widely known disease linked to contaminated food and water but there are other hazards. In 2017, over 220 million people required preventative treatment for schistosomiasis – an acute and chronic disease caused by parasitic worms contracted through exposure to infested water.

In 2017, 71% of the global population (5.3 billion people) used a safely managed drinking water service – that is, one located on premises, available when needed, and free from contamination.

In 2010, the UN General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation.

Data Source: World Health Organisation Website.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **AstroSat**:

1. It is first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
2. AstroSat is orbiting Earth in a Geo-Synchronous Orbit.

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. **AstroSat** is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in **X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands** simultaneously.

The payloads cover the energy bands of Ultraviolet (Near and Far), limited optical and X-ray regime.

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One of the unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the **simultaneous multiwavelength observations** of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.

AstroSat has detected extreme UV light from a galaxy called AUDFs01, 9.3 billion lightyears away from Earth in a discovery by a global team led by scientists of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).

Statement 2 is incorrect. AstroSat is a multi-wavelength astronomy mission on an **IRS-class satellite** in a 650-km, **near-earth equatorial orbit**. It was launched by the Indian launch vehicle PSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in 2015.

Geosynchronous orbit is a high Earth orbit that allows satellites to match Earth's rotation. Located at 22,236 miles (35,786 kilometers) above Earth's equator, this position is a valuable spot for monitoring weather, communications and surveillance.

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

1. Etikoppaka toys - Andhra Pradesh
2. Kandhamal Haladi - Odisha
3. Channapatna toys - Bihar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Etikoppaka** toys (Etikoppaka Bommalu) are traditional toys are made by artisans in Etikoppaka village located on banks of river Varaha in Visakhapatnam district of the **Andhra Pradesh**. This craft form is protected as a geographical indication (GI).

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Kandhamal Haladi**, a variety of turmeric indigenous to South **Odisha** and mostly cultivated in Kandhamal district. It is protected as a geographical indication (GI).

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Channapatna** toys are a particular form of wooden toys (and dolls) that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of **Karnataka**. This traditional craft is protected as a geographical indication (GI).

Q.21) Who among the following has been awarded the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2020**?

- a) Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson
- b) Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo
- c) William D. Nordhaus
- d) Richard H. Thaler

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences** in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020 (generally regarded as the **Nobel award** for Economics) has been awarded jointly to **Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson** "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats."

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize 2019: Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty"

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize 2018: William D. Nordhaus "for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis" and Paul M. Romer "for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis"

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The Sveriges Riksbank Prize 2017: Richard H. Thaler “for his contributions to behavioural economics”

Q.22) Which of the following is/are related to the **Israel-Palestine** dispute resolution?

1. Oslo Accords
2. Arab Peace Initiative

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: Option 1 is correct. **Oslo Accords** are series of agreements between Israel and the PLO, starting 1993 Declaration of Principles on Palestinian Self-Rule. The Oslo Accords marked the first time Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) formally recognised one another.

Option 2 is correct. The **Arab Peace Initiative**, endorsed by the Arab League’s 22 members during the March 2002 Beirut summit, outlined comprehensive steps to ending the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Arab leaders collectively offered Israel recognition of its right to exist and a normalisation of diplomatic ties in exchange for its complete withdrawal from Arab lands captured since 1967.



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Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **Right to Information Act**:

1. The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) shall hold office for four years.
2. The salary and allowances of the CIC is to be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner.

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.

The provisions for term and salary of CIC/ICs were changed by a RTI Amendment Act in 2019.

Now, the act states that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be **determined by the central government**, further the central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.

Q.24) Which of the following country(s) is/are members of the **Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)**?

1. Iran
2. Russia
3. Pakistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Collective Security Treaty** was signed by Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan on May 15, 1992. **Current CSTO members** are Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

It is a Russia-led military alliance of seven former Soviet states that was created in 2002. The CSTO's purpose is to ensure the collective defence of any member that faces external aggression. It is described by political scientists as the Eurasian counterpart of NATO.

Q.25) Which of the following institution has released the **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020**?

- a) Oxfam International
- b) Amnesty International
- c) United Nations Development Program
- d) World Bank

Correct answer: A

Explanation: 2020 CRI Index: Fighting Inequality in the Time of Covid-19 has been recently released by the **Oxfam**. The CRI Index database is updated annually by **Development Finance International (DFI) and Oxfam**.

Only one in six countries assessed for the CRI Index 2020 were spending enough on health, only a third of the global workforce had adequate social protection, and in more than 100 countries at least one in three workers had no labour protection such as sick pay.

HOW THE SAARC NATIONS FARE				
Country	Public services ranking*	Tax ranking	Labour ranking	Overall ranking
India	141	19	151	129
Pakistan	148	71	116	128
Bangladesh	142	32	109	113
Nepal	120	16	130	112
Bhutan	124	130	141	146
Afghanistan	153	6	113	102
Sri Lanka	106	91	86	94

*Health + education + social protection

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' welfare.
2. Its mandate includes genetic upgradation of indigenous breeds of cows.

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. Government has constituted **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog** by a **resolution** in February, 2019 under **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Aayog is a high-powered permanent apex advisory body with mandate to help the Central Government to develop appropriate programmes for conservation, sustainable development and **genetic upgradation of Indigenous breeds of cows**.

The Aayog is to review existing laws, policies as well as suggest measures for optimum economic utilization of cow wealth for enhanced production and productivity, leading to higher farm income and better quality of life for the dairy farmers.

It also aims at transmission and application of improved technology and management practices at the farmers' doorstep through coordination with dairy cooperatives, farmer producer companies and dairy industry as well as research institutions.

Recently, Gausatva Kavach, a chip made of cow dung manufactured by Rajkot-based Shrijee Gaushala, was unveiled by Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) chairman and claimed that it reduces radiation from mobile handsets and it will be a safeguard against diseases.

Q.27) The **INAI** is an India specific applied AI research centre initiative of which of the following institution/company?

- a) Intel Corporation
- b) IBM
- c) Microsoft Corporation
- d) World Economic Forum

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Intel India** is collaborating with the Government of Telangana, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) to launch INAI, an applied artificial intelligence research centre in Hyderabad.

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INAI initiative applies AI to population-scale problems in the Indian context, with a focus on identifying and solving challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments through strong ecosystem collaboration.

The U.S. accounts for 16% of the global AI talent, followed by China (9%) and India (8%). [The Hindu]

Q.28) What is the purpose of the **MOSAIC Expedition**?

- a) Experimental study of Outer Space plantation
- b) Study of Arctic Climate
- c) Global Climate Change study expedition
- d) Survey the global governmental response to COVID-19

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The goal of the **MOSAIC expedition** is to take the closest look ever at the **Arctic** as the epicenter of global warming and to gain fundamental insights that are key to better understand global climate change. Hundreds of researchers from 20 countries are involved in this exceptional endeavour.

The MOSAiC is spearheaded by Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), Germany.

The ship Polarstern recently docked at its home port of Bremerhaven nearly 13 months after it left Norway.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**:

- 1. It identifies jurisdictions with weak measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing as High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action.
- 2. It publishes a list of countries that are considered low tax jurisdiction or tax shelters.

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 **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

The FATF identifies jurisdictions with weak measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT) in two FATF public documents that are issued three times a year: "**High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action**" also known as 'black list' and "**Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring**" also known as 'grey list'.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The FATF **does not address** at all issues related to low tax jurisdiction or tax competition. The FATF mandate focuses only on the fight against laundering of proceeds of crimes and the financing of terrorism.

Q.30) Which of the following institution has released the '**Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019**' report?

- a) United Nations Development Program
- b) Amnesty International
- c) UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- d) International Organization for Migration

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has published “The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019” report to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on October 13, 2020.

In the period 2000 to 2019, there were 7,348 major recorded disaster events claiming 1.23 million lives, affecting 4.2 billion people (many on more than one occasion) resulting in approximately US\$2.97 trillion in global economic losses.

There has also been a rise in geo-physical events including earthquakes and tsunamis which have killed more people than any of the other natural hazards under review in this report.

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **Governor of a State**:

1. S/he holds office during the pleasure of the President.
2. Constitution mandates a Governor for each state with no two states having same person as Governor.
3. Constitution does not provide any qualifications for appointment as Governor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Constitution under article 155 and 156 provides that the Governor of a State shall be **appointed by the President** by warrant under his hand and seal.

Term of office of Governor: 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 and 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. Article 153 states that **there shall be a Governor for each State**:

Provided that **nothing** in this article shall prevent the appointment of the **same person** as Governor for two or more States.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Article 157 states that no person shall be eligible for appointment as Governor unless he is a **citizen** of India and has completed the age of **thirty-five** years.

Further limitations are provided under article 158: The Governor **shall not be a member** of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature and he shall not hold any other **office of profit**.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **High Courts** in India:

1. Every High Court is a court of record and has the power to punish for contempt of itself.
2. The salary and pensions payable to Judges of any High Court are charged upon consolidated fund of respective State.

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. **Article 215** states that every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

A court of record means a court whose proceedings are recorded and available as evidence of fact.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **pensions** payable to or in respect of Judges of any High Court are charged upon **Consolidated fund of India**. [Article 112]

The expenditure in respect of the **salaries** and allowances of Judges of any High Court is charged upon **Consolidated Fund of each State**. [Article 202]

Q.33) Which of the following program(s) provide impetus to **mobile phone manufacturing** in India?

1. Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)
2. Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)

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: Option 1 is correct. **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)** for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing offers a production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.

Option 2 is correct. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had notified '**Phased Manufacturing Programme** for cellular mobile handsets and sub-assemblies/ parts thereof' with the objective of substantially increasing the domestic value addition for establishment of a robust **Cellular mobile handsets manufacturing eco-system** in India. It promotes domestic production of mobile phones by providing tax relief and other incentives on components and accessories used for the devices.

Q.34) Consider the following statements:

1. 'Opposition' refers to an event when Sun, Earth and an outer planet are lined up, with the Earth in the middle.
2. Mars has made its closest approach of twenty first century to Earth in October 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

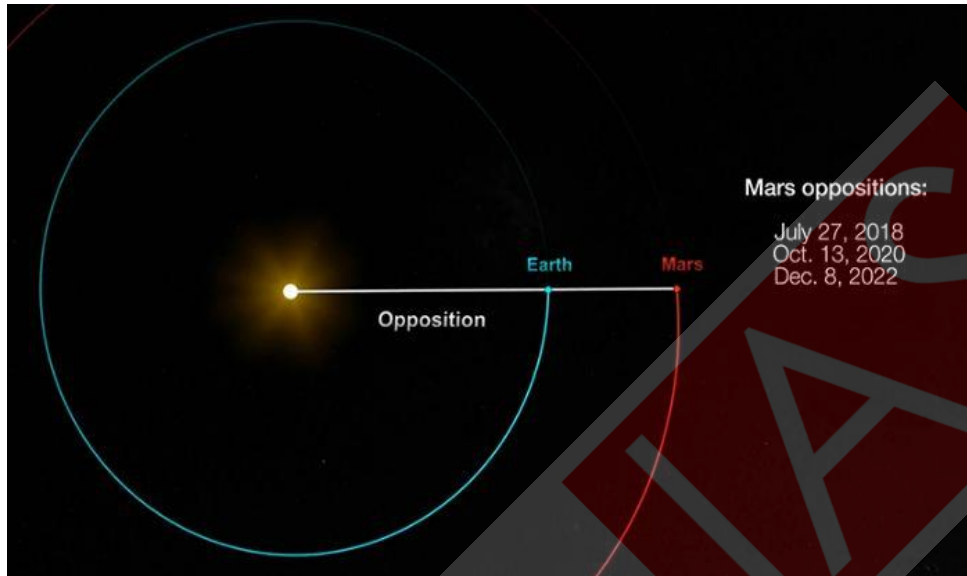
Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. '**Opposition**' is the event when the Sun, Earth and an outer planet are lined up, with the Earth in the middle. Mars opposition event is when Mars is directly on the opposite side of Earth from the Sun. During this opposition, Mars and Earth are closest to each other in their orbits.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Mars Close Approach** was Oct. 6, 2020; that is the point in Mars' orbit when it comes closest to Earth, this time at about 38.6 million miles (62.07 million kilometers) from our planet, the opposition will happen on October 13.

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Close Approach is when Mars and Earth come nearest to each other in their orbits around the sun. Close is a relative term. The minimum distance from Earth to Mars is about 33.9 million miles (54.6 million kilometers). However, that doesn't happen very often.

In **2003, Mars made its closest approach** to Earth in nearly 60,000 years! It won't be that close again until the year 2287.



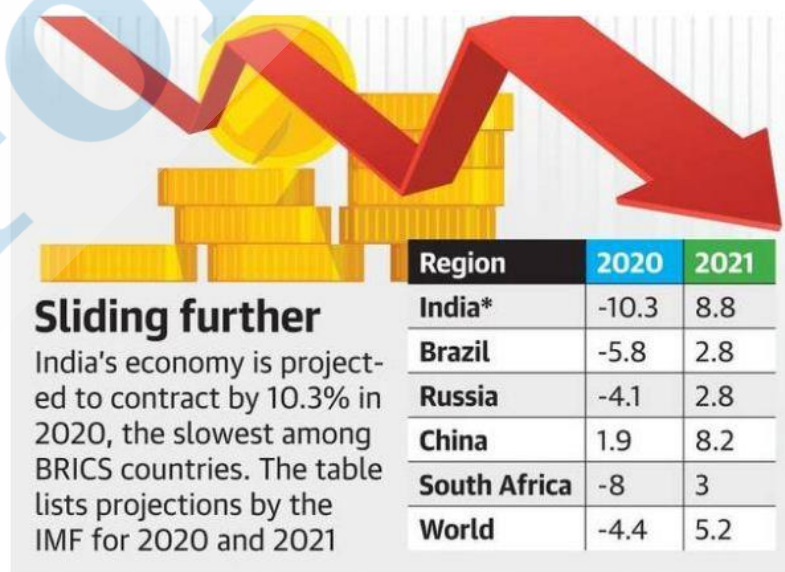
Q.35) Which of the following institution has recently published the 'World Economic Outlook: A Long and Difficult Ascent'?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The report 'World Economic Outlook, October 2020: A Long and Difficult Ascent' has been published by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

As per the report, the Indian economy is expected to contract by 10.3 percent in 2020 and Global output is projected to contract by 4.4 for this year.



*India's figures are for fiscal years. All figures in %

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Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding **Biofortification**:

1. It aims to increase nutrient levels in crops during plant growth rather than through manual means during processing of the crops.
2. Bt-Cotton is a biofortified variety of cotton.

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. **Fortification** is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food.

Biofortification is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding, or modern biotechnology. Biofortification differs from conventional fortification in that biofortification aims to increase nutrient levels in crops during plant growth rather than through manual means during processing of the crops.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Bt cotton** is a **genetically modified** pest resistant plant cotton variety, which produces an insecticide to combat bollworm.

Examples of biofortification projects include:

- iron-biofortification of rice, beans, sweet potato, cassava and legumes;
- zinc-biofortification of wheat, rice, beans, sweet potato and maize;
- provitamin A carotenoid-biofortification of sweet potato, maize and cassava; and
- amino acid and protein-biofortification of sorghum and cassava.

Q.37) Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the **Five Eyes (FVEY)** group?

1. United States of India
2. Japan
3. United Kingdom

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: The **Five Eyes (FVEY)** is an intelligence alliance comprising **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States**. These countries are parties to the multilateral UKUSA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.

India and Japan along with the FVEY countries are opposing the end-to-end encryption of messages by social media giants such as Facebook, which they say hinder law enforcement by blocking all access to them.

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project:

1. It is to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with financial support from the World Bank.
2. It includes a Contingency Emergency Response Component to be more responsive to any natural, man-made and health disasters.

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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. Cabinet has recently approved the implementation of the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project with a total project cost of Rs 5718 crore with the financial support of **World Bank** amounting to US \$ 500 million.

STARS project would be implemented as a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MOE).

Statement 2 is correct. STARS project has separate National and State level implementation components.

It further includes a **Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)** under the National Component which would enable it to be more responsive to any natural, man-made and health disasters. It will help the government respond to situations leading to loss of learning such as school closures/infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and use technology for facilitating remote learning etc.

Refer to [Factly](#) for more details.

Q.39) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term **Aquaponics**?

- a) Cultivation of marine organisms in tanks or ponds filled with seawater
- b) Growing of plants in a soil-less environment
- c) Farming marine species in compete organic environment
- d) Cultivation of plants and aquatic animals complementing each other

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Aquaponics is cooperation between **plants and fish** and the term originates from the two words **aquaculture** (the growing of fish in a closed environment) and **hydroponics** (the growing of plants usually in a soil-less environment).

It is the cultivation of plants and aquatic animals in a recirculating environment. In this system, fishes eat the food and excrete waste, which is converted by beneficial bacteria to nutrients that the plants can use. In consuming these nutrients plants help to purify the water.

Q.40) Which of the following organization conducts the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**?

- a) National Statistical Office
- b) Labour Bureau
- c) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- d) Confederation of Indian Industry

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is conducted by **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. ASI is principal source of industrial statistics in India.

The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of industrial statistics in India. It provides statistical information to assess and evaluate, objectively and realistically, the changes in the growth, composition and structure of organized manufacturing sector

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comprising activities related to manufacturing processes, repair services, gas and water supply and cold storage.

From ASI 2010-11 onwards, the survey is being conducted annually under the statutory provisions of the **Collection of Statistics (COS) Act, 2008**.

Q.41) Where is **Asan Conservation Reserve** located?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Punjab
- d) West Bengal

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Asan Conservation Reserve** has become **Uttarakhand's** first **Ramsar** site, making it a 'Wetland of International Importance'.

It is located on the banks of Yamuna River near Dehradun district. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 38, the highest in South Asia. Asan is home to many rare and endangered species like Rudy Shelduck, Common coot, Gadwall, Kingfisher, Indian cormorant, Baer's pochard, Northern pintail, Bar-headed goose etc.

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Food Programme (WFP)**:

- 1. Most of the WFP's work is focused in the conflict-affected countries.
- 2. It has become the first United Nations Agency to have won a Nobel Prize.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **World Food Programme (WFP)** is the leading humanitarian organization delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.

WFP's efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations. **Two-thirds of its work is in conflict-affected countries** where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries without conflict.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In 75 years, the United Nations, its specialized agencies, related agencies, funds, programmes and staff were awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize **twelve times**. One agency, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) received the famous prize in both 1954 and 1981.

In 2001, the United Nations, as an organization, and Kofi Annan, as Secretary-General, won the Nobel Peace Prize. Other winners include UNICEF, ILO, OPCW etc.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **State Development Loans (SDL)**:

- 1. These are Government Securities (G-Sec) issued by State governments in India.
- 2. These are eligible for meeting the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirements of banks.

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. A **Government Security (G-Sec)** is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.

Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).

In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the **State Governments** issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.

Statement 2 is correct. SDLs are **eligible** securities for Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) purposes, and are bought by banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, provident funds and other institutional investors.

Q.44) Which of the following is/are **inherited blood disorders**?

1. Thalassemia
2. Sickle Cell Disease

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: Option 1 is correct. **Thalassemia** is an **inherited** (passed from parents to children through genes) **blood disorder** caused when the body doesn't make enough of a protein called hemoglobin, an important part of red blood cells.

When there isn't enough hemoglobin, the body's red blood cells don't function properly and they last shorter periods of time, so there are fewer healthy red blood cells traveling in the bloodstream.

Option 2 is correct. **Sickle Cell Disease** is a group of **inherited red blood cell disorders**. Healthy red blood cells are round, and they move through small blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body. In someone who has SCD, the red blood cells become hard and sticky and look like a C-shaped farm tool called a "sickle".

The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells. Also, when they travel through small blood vessels, they get stuck and clog the blood flow. This can cause pain and other serious problems such infection, acute chest syndrome and stroke.

Second phase of "Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna" for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients was launched recently. It is a Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program that aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor.

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the **New Shepherd rocket system**:

1. It is a reusable suborbital rocket system developed by NASA.
2. It is designed to take research payloads as well as astronauts into the space.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Named after Mercury astronaut **Alan Shepard**, the first American to go to space, **New Shepard** is a reusable suborbital rocket system developed by the private company '**Blue Origin**'.

Project Mercury was the first human spaceflight program of the United States.

Statement 2 is correct. The rocket system consists of two parts, the **cabin** or capsule and the **rocket** or the booster. It has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line – the internationally recognized boundary of space.

After separating from the booster, the capsule free falls in space, while the booster performs an autonomously controlled **vertical landing** back to Earth. The capsule, on the other hand, lands back with the help of parachutes.

It has recently completed its seventh successful test launch.

Q.46) Which of the following organisation has released the '**State of Climate Services 2020**' report?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) United States Environmental Protection Agency
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) World Meteorological Organization

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has recently released the report titled **State of Climate Services 2020 Report: Move from Early Warnings to Early Action**.

As per the report, globally over the past 50 years, some 11,000 disasters, attributed to weather, climate and water-related hazards, claimed over 2 million lives and cost the world economy \$3.6 trillion.

It also mentions that after Cyclone Pawan made landfall in early December 2019, flooding in the Horn of Africa created highly favorable breeding conditions for the desert locust. The region is facing the worst desert locust crisis in over 25 years, and the most serious in 70 years for Kenya. Desert locust swarms are also moving across India, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This report highlights progress made in **early warning systems (EWS)** capacity – and identifies where and how governments can invest in effective EWS to strengthen countries' resilience to multiple weather, water and climate-related hazards.

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the **SCALE** platform launched by Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC):

- 1. It will help candidates to get assessed and certified on their knowledge and skills on a specific qualification.
- 2. The platform will serve as a job portal with access to a certified talent pool of candidates to hire from.

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 Leather Sector Skill Council (**LSSC**) recently announced the launch of Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (**SCALE**) India web platform and android app.

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SCALE will help candidates in the skilling ecosystem to get assessed and **certified** on their knowledge, skills and behaviour on a specific qualification pack.

It also enables access to **micro-learning modules** for bridging the skill gaps that are identified and can be re-assessed and certified at the end of the learning on the specific qualification pack.

From an employer standpoint, the platform will serve as a **job portal** with access to a certified talent pool of candidates to hire from, leading to increase in productivity and profitability. Employers can share their skill gap requirements and check for suitable training modules available to bridge the skill gap of their workforce and raise training requests for short term/customised training that would be serviced by the LSSC.

LSSC was set up as a non-profit organisation in 2012 as one of the key sector skill councils approved by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2019**:

1. It is an annual global study led by the World Health Organisation.
2. The air pollution caused more deaths in India than high blood pressure in year 2019.

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 **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study** is the most comprehensive worldwide observational epidemiological study to date. It is led by the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, Seattle (USA)**.

The study is done in close collaboration with the World Health Organization.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the report the **top five risk factors for death in India in 2019** were air pollution (contributing to an estimated 1.67 million deaths), high blood pressure (1.47 million), tobacco use (1.23 million), poor diet (1.18 million), and high blood sugar (1.12 million).

The leading non-communicable cause of death in India in 2019 was ischemic heart disease with 1.52 million deaths, followed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (8,98,000), stroke (6,99,000), diabetes (2,73,000) and cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases (2,70,000).

The leading risk factor for total health loss in India in 2019 was child and maternal malnutrition while the second leading risk factor was air pollution.

Q.49) What is the objective of the recently launched '**KAPILA**' Kalam Program?

- a) Intellectual Property literacy and awareness
- b) Indigenous Animal Husbandry development
- c) Incentive for private sector participation in Space Exploration
- d) Defence sector public-private partnership

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Union Education Minister recently launched the '**KAPILA**' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign on the 89th birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention

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and they will be aware of their rights. He further said that we need to take a giant leap in the field of patents.

Q.50) Which of the following statements correctly defines the **M-Sand**?

- a) Natural Sand extracted from river beds
- b) Sand extracted from the Mars planet's surface
- c) Sand mixed with two-third part of fine clay
- d) Sand produced by crushing rocks, quarry stones

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **M-Sand** (Manufactured) is sand produced by crushing rocks, quarry stones or larger aggregates pieces into sand-sized particles. It is used for construction purposes in cement or concrete.

M-sand differs from natural river sand in its physical and mineralogical properties.

To bar the unregulated sale of sub-standard M-sand, Tamil Nadu government is to implement a policy with a legal framework for its production and sale.

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding the **Solidarity Trial**:

- 1. It is an international clinical trial to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19.
- 2. Interim results from the trial indicate that Remdesivir has considerable effect to reduce the mortality rate of COVID-19 patients.

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. **Solidarity is an international clinical trial** to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19, launched by the **World Health Organization** and partners.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Interim results from the Solidarity Therapeutics Trial, coordinated by the World Health Organization, indicate that remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon regimens appeared to have **little or no effect** on 28-day mortality or the in-hospital course of COVID-19 among hospitalized patients.

Q.52) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Only a person who has been a Judge of any High Court in India can be appointed as a Judge of Supreme Court.
- 2. There are no grounds provided under the constitution for removal of a Supreme Court Judge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. In order to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a **citizen** of India and must have been, for at least five years, a **Judge of a High Court** or of two or more such Courts in succession, or an **Advocate of a**

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High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession for at least 10 years or he must be, in the opinion of the President, a **distinguished jurist**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Constitution provides that a **Judge of the Supreme Court** shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the **ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.

Further, Parliament may by law regulate the procedure for the presentation of an address and for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge.

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the reorganization of the erstwhile **Jammu and Kashmir State**:

1. The new Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been provided with Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.
2. The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir is the common High Court for the Union Territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

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 **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** reorganized the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature, and the Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature.

The Act provides for a **Legislative Assembly** for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The total number of seats in the Assembly will be 107. Of these, 24 seats will remain vacant on account of certain areas of Jammu and Kashmir being under the occupation of Pakistan.

The **Legislative Council** of the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been **abolished**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Act provided that the **High Court** of Jammu and Kashmir will be the common High Court for the Union Territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir. Further, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have an Advocate General to provide legal advice to the government of the Union Territory.

Q.54) The **Channapatna toys** belong to which State?

- a) Bihar
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Telangana
- d) Karnataka

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Channapatna toys** are wooden toys and dolls manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of **Karnataka** state. This traditional craft is protected as a geographical indication (GI). They are **hand-crafted and hand-painted, coloured with vegetable dyes**.



Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Hunger Index 2020**:

1. It has been published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
2. Overall, India ranks better than all other SAARC nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

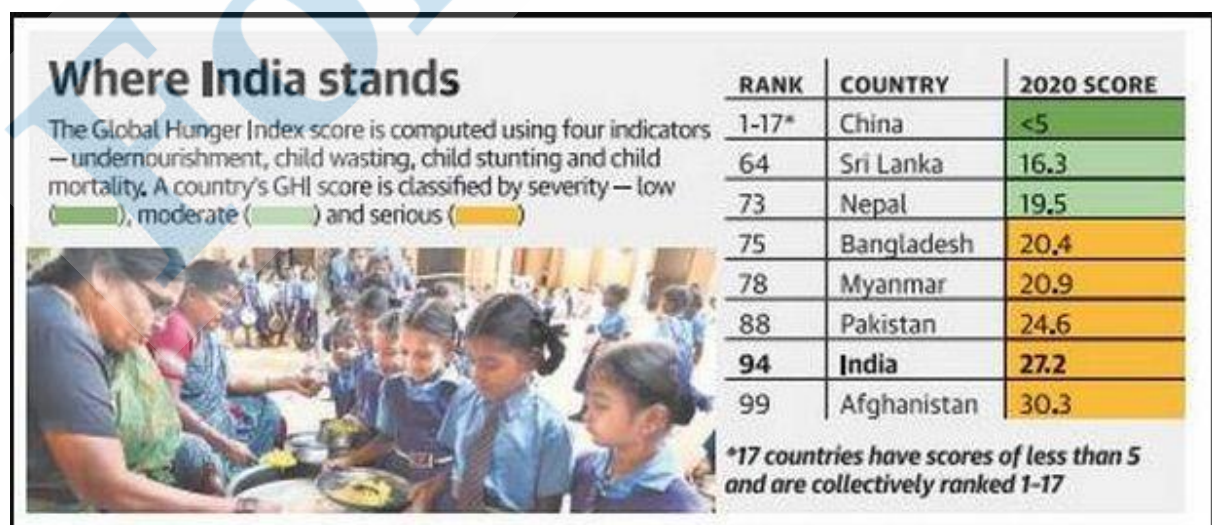
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Global Hunger Index** was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2020 edition published by **Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide** marks the 15th edition of the GHI.

GHI scores are based on a formula that captures three dimensions of hunger—insufficient caloric intake (undernourishment), child undernutrition, and child mortality—using four component indicators:

Statement 2 is incorrect. India has the highest prevalence of wasted children under five years in the world, which reflects acute under nutrition, according to the Global Hunger Index 2020. Overall, **India ranks 94** out of 107 countries in the Index, lower than neighbors such as Bangladesh (75) and Pakistan (88).



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Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding **Trans fats**:

1. It is a byproduct of hydrogenation that is used to turn healthy oils into solids.
2. Trans fats raise the (high-density lipoprotein) HDL cholesterol levels in bloodstream.

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. **Trans fats** are a byproduct of a process called hydrogenation that is used to turn healthy oils into solids and to prevent them from becoming rancid.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Trans fats raise the bad (LDL) cholesterol** levels and lower good (high-density lipoprotein) HDL cholesterol levels. Eating trans fats increases risk of developing heart disease and stroke. It's also associated with a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

World Food Day is observed on Oct. 16 and this year's theme is Grow, Nourish, Sustain.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gov Tech-Thon 2020**:

1. It aims to boost innovation and use of technology in agriculture and allied sectors.
2. It is being organised by the NITI Aayog and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

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. **Gov Tech-Thon 2020** aims to incubate new ideas, boost innovation and use technology in agriculture and allied sectors. The virtual hackathon is open to students, working professionals, startups, freelance technologists, faculty, and other IT service firms in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National Informatics Centre, IEEE and Oracle** are organising this hackathon. During the hackathon, participants will receive mentorship and advice from technical experts from NIC, IEEE and Oracle, as well as senior domain experts from the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Transport Departments, Government of India. Participating teams will have access to the latest tools from Oracle, Oracle Autonomous Database, built-in and easy-to-use cloud security, and compute – to help them develop prototypes that are practical and scalable.

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tropical cyclones**:

1. An eye forms in the center of the cyclone having very high air pressure.
2. Their intensity usually weakens when they make landfall.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Cyclones** are characterized by inward spiraling winds that rotate about a zone of low pressure. As the storm system rotates faster and faster, an eye forms in the center. It is very calm and clear in the eye, with **very low air pressure**. Higher pressure air from above flows down into the eye.

Statement 2 is correct. The warm, moist air over the ocean rises upward from near the surface. Tropical cyclones usually **weaken when they hit land**, because they are no longer being "fed" by the energy from the warm ocean waters. However, they often move far inland, dumping many inches of rain and causing lots of wind damage before they die out completely.

Q.59) Which of the following is/are **RAMSAR Wetland Sites** in India?

1. Bhitarkanika Mangroves
2. Pangong Tso
3. Asan Conservation Reserve

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: The **Ramsar Convention** is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

As of today, **Pangong Tso** is not a RAMSAR Wetland Site.

Bhitarkanika Mangroves were designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2002. It is also famous for its salt water crocodiles and Olive ridley sea turtle.

Recently **Asan Conservation Reserve** was declared as a site of international importance. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 38, the highest in South Asia and Uttarakhand gets its first Ramsar site.

Q.60) The **Dumbarton Oaks Conference** relates to which of the following issue?

- a) First ever international conference on Climate Change
- b) Proposals for a world organization that became the basis for the United Nations
- c) Israel—Palestine boundary negotiations
- d) Peaceful utilization of outer space entities

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Dumbarton Oaks Conference**, 1944 in Washington, D.C., where representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom formulated proposals for a **world organization** that became the basis for the United Nations.

The Dumbarton Oaks proposals did not furnish a complete blueprint for the United Nations. They failed to provide an agreed arrangement on the voting system of the proposed Security Council and the membership provisions for the constituent republics of the Soviet Union. These issues were resolved at the **Yalta Conference** in February 1945.

The proposals, as thus supplemented, formed the basis of negotiations at the **San Francisco Conference**, out of which came the Charter of the United Nations in 1945.

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Q.61) Which of the beach(s) of India have received the **Blue flag** certification?

1. Rushikonda
2. Golden Beach
3. Radhanagar

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: **Foundation for Environmental Education**, Denmark, Blue Flag is an iconic voluntary award for beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism operators which is awarded to those that meet and maintain the criterias of a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility.

Eight of India's beaches: Shivrajpur (Dwarka Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (AP), Golden Beach (Odisha) and Radhanagar (A&N Islands) have been awarded with the eco-label.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding **Brahma Kamal**:

1. It is endemic to Western Ghats of India.
2. It is the State Flower of Maharashtra.

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.

Brahma Kamal is native to the Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, India, Mongolian, northern Burma and southwest China. It is known to bloom after sunset and just once a year.

It is also **State Flower of Uttarakhand**. The flower is highly valued in Tibetan medicine and Ayurveda for its healing properties. It is extensively used by the local population to treat cuts and bruises.

State Flower of Maharashtra is Jarul.

Q.63) India is party to which of the following convention/agreement?

1. African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
2. Convention on Migratory Species

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: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. **India** is neither a party nor a range country of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.

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The **Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)** is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago.

Developed under the framework of the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** and administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), AEWA brings together countries and the wider international conservation community in an effort to establish coordinated conservation and management of migratory waterbirds throughout their entire migratory range.

Option 2 is correct. India is party to the **Convention on Migratory Species**. As an environmental treaty of the United Nations, CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the Convention.

World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated by people across the world on Saturday, 10 October with the theme "Birds Connect Our World".

Q.64) The **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Ladakh
- d) Jammu & Kashmir

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary**, with altitude range from 600m to 6,905m is located in the Pithoragarh district in **Uttarakhand**. The term 'Askot' is derived from 'Assi Kot' or Eighty Forts, many of which are located in Nepal.

The River Kali forms the international boundary and separates it from Nepal in the east and to the west it is bounded by West Almora Forest Division, to the north by Tibet and the south by Pithoragarh Forest Division.

Q.65) Which of the following is/are '**priorities for action**' under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030?

- 1. Understanding disaster risk
- 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

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: The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015.

It outlines **four priorities** for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks: (i) Understanding disaster risk; (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (iii) Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; (iv) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

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The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, held every 13 October, was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

Q.66) Consider the following statements regarding the **SVAMITVA Scheme**:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural 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. **SVAMITVA Scheme** is a Central Sector scheme. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the scheme.

In the States, the Revenue Department / Land Records Department will be the Nodal Department and shall carry out the scheme with support of State Panchayati Raj Department. Survey of India shall work as the technology partner for implementation.

Statement 2 is correct. The scheme aims to provide an integrated **property validation** solution for rural India. The demarcation of rural *abadi* areas would be done using Drone Surveying technology.

The scheme seeks to achieve the following **objectives**:

- To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
- Creation of accurate land records for rural planning.
- Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
- Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
- To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.
- To reduce property related disputes and legal cases

Q.67) **Krishna Peacock, Indian Jezebel, and Orange Oakleaf** have been in news recently, what are they?

- a) Butterfly species
- b) New plant species identified by Botanical Survey of India
- c) Folk art of Goa
- d) Snake species

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **National Butterfly Campaign Consortium**, a collective of 50 butterfly experts and enthusiasts, conducted a citizen poll to identify the national butterfly concluded with three species garnering the highest number of votes: Krishna Peacock (*Papilio krishna*), Indian Jezebel (*Delias eucharis*), and Orange Oakleaf (*Kallima inachus*).

Krishna Peacock, a flagship species for biodiversity and conservation, is generally found in large numbers in the Himalayas.

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Orange Oakleaf is commonly known as ‘dead leaf’ for its ability to camouflage as a dry autumn leaf is found in the moist forests of northern Western Ghats, central, northern and northeast India.

Indian Jezebel is a common butterfly known to deter its predators with its flashy wing colours, found in the non-arid regions of India.

Q.68) What does **Phillips Curve** indicate?

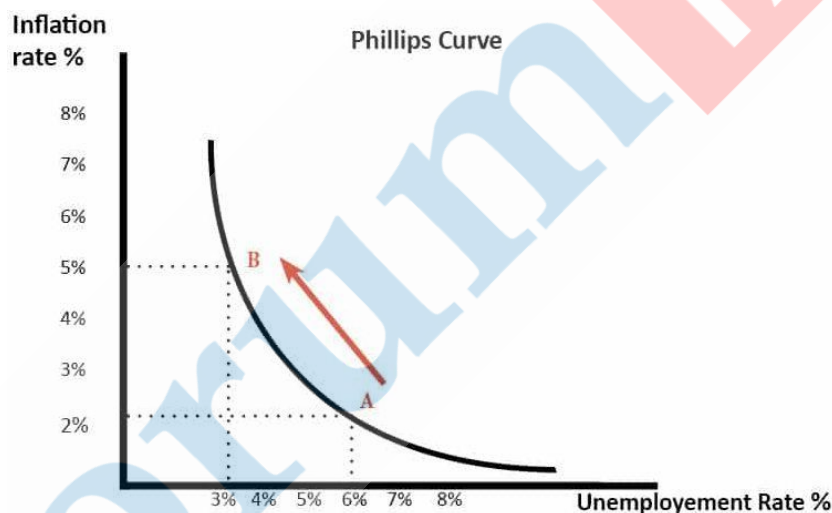
- a) Inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment
- b) Income inequality
- c) Relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue
- d) Impossible trilemma of exchange rate, capital flow and autonomous monetary policy

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Phillips curve** is an economic concept developed by A. W. Phillips stating that inflation and unemployment have a stable and inverse relationship. The theory claims that with economic growth comes inflation, which in turn should lead to more jobs and less unemployment.

A Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of income inequality.

The Laffer Curve is a theory developed by supply-side economist Arthur Laffer to show the relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue collected by governments.



Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**:

- 1. It is being implemented under National Health Mission by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 2. It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points 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: Statement 1 is correct. The **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)** is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain

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systems across the country. This is being implemented under **National Health Mission (NHM)** by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Statement 2 is correct. eVIN aims to provide **real-time** information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.

The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) system is being enhanced to address the needs for distribution and tracking of COVID-19 vaccine, whenever it becomes available.

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

1. It is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as 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 **fishing cat** is a medium-sized wild cat of South and Southeast Asia. It is resident species in Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand.

Statement 2 is correct. The Fishing Cat is listed as **Vulnerable** species with decreasing population trend in IUCN Red List. It is also listed in the Schedule I of Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The Chilika Development Authority (CDA) designated the fishing cat as ambassador. The fishing cat is the only wild cat species in India that is a wetland specialist, and it's found all around Chilika.