Forum AS

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

19th to 25th October, 2020

- **Q.1)** Which of the following correctly defines the 'Buldhana Pattern' of water conservation that was in news recently?
- a) Precision water conservation of dew
- b) Synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation
- c) Sprinkle irrigation of farms using drone technology
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The 'Buldhana Pattern' of water conservation has won national recognition and the NITI Aayog is in the process of formulating National Policy on water conversation based on it.

It refers to **synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation** that was achieved for the first time in Buldhana district, by using soil from the water bodies, nallas and rivers. This consequently led to the increase in capacity of water storage across the water-bodies in Buldana district and it came to be known as 'Buldhana Pattern'.

Q.2) Which of the following treatment options (s) was/were used in Solidarity Trial for COVID-19?

- 1. Remdesivir
- 2. Lopinavir
- 3. Isoniazid

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

Treatment options used under the trial so far are: Remdesivir, Lopinavir/ritonavir, Interferon beta-1a and Hydroxychloroquine.

The **Solidarity Trial published interim results** on 15 October 2020. It found that all 4 treatments evaluated (remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon) had **little or no effect** on overall mortality, initiation of ventilation and duration of hospital stay in hospitalized patients.

The Solidarity Trial is considering evaluating other treatments, to continue the search for effective COVID-19 therapeutics.

So far, only **corticosteroids** have been proven effective against severe and critical COVID-19.

Q.3) Which of the following organization has published the Global Tuberculosis Report 2020?

- a) TB Alliance
- b) Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- c) Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- d) World Health Organization (WHO)

Correct answer: D

Explanation: WHO has published a global TB report every year since 1997. The main aim of the report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic,

and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global, regional and country levels.

Most people who developed TB in 2019 were in the WHO regions of South-East Asia (44%), Africa (25%) and the Western Pacific (18%). **Eight countries** accounted for two thirds of the global total: India (26%), Indonesia (8.5%), China (8.4%), the Philippines (6.0%), Pakistan (5.7%), Nigeria (4.4%), Bangladesh (3.6%) and South Africa (3.6%).

Worldwide in 2019, close to half a million people developed **rifampicin-resistant TB** (RR-TB), of which 78% had **multidrug-resistant TB** (MDR-TB). The three countries with the largest share of the global burden were India (27%), China (14%) and the Russian Federation (8%). Globally in 2019, 3.3% of new TB cases and 17.7% of previously treated cases had MDR/RR-TB.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of India:

- 1. It is conducted annually by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 2. It is a multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout 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. National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is not an annual survey. The First National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1) was conducted in 1992-93. The **Second** National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2) was conducted in 1998-99 The Third National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) was carried out in 2005-2006.

The 2015-16 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), the fourth in the NFHS series, provides information on population, health, and nutrition for India and each state and union territory. All four NFHS surveys have been conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

MoHFW designated the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, as the nodal agency for all of the surveys.

Statement 2 is correct. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multiround survey conducted in a representative sample of **households** throughout India.

Decisions about the overall sample size required for NFHS-4 were guided by several considerations, paramount among which was the need to produce indicators at the district, state/union territory (UT), and national levels, as well as separate estimates for urban and rural areas in the 157 districts that have 30-70 percent of the population living in urban areas as per the **2011 census**, with a reasonable level of precision.

Q.5) Which of the following is/are qualifications for appointment as Governor provided under the Constitution?

- 1. Minimum age of thirty-five years
- 2. Should not be a member of a recognized political party
- 3. Should not hold any other office of profit

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. 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. [Article 57] Option 2 is incorrect. There is no such limitation provided for under the Constitution. Option 3 is correct. The Governor shall not hold any other office of profit. [Article 158(2)]

Q.6) The 'End SARS' protests have been in news recently in which of the following country?

- a) Hongkong
- b) Nigeria
- c) Lebanon
- d) Belarus

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Nigerians have been protesting against the 'Special Anti-Robbery Squad' (SARS), a police unit plagued with allegations of extrajudicial killings, theft and abuse. Its officers are accused of extortion, torture and murder.

The government has promised to disband SARS but this has not satisfied the protesters, who have now broadened their demands, calling for an end to decades of corruption and mismanagement in Africa's biggest oil producer, which has left many young Nigerians with bleak economic prospects.

Q.7) One can approach the National Green Tribunal for seeking relief and compensation under which of the following legislations?

- 1. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- 2. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- 3. Biological Diversity Act, 2002

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: Any person seeking relief and compensation for environmental damage involving subjects in the legislations mentioned in Schedule I of the National Green **Tribunal Act, 2010** may approach the Tribunal. The statutes in Schedule I are:

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

- Q.8) Which of the following committee(s) relate to criminal law reforms in India?
- 1. Malimath Committee
- 2. Ranbir Singh Committee
- 3. K. Kasturirangan Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



- c) 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Malimath Committee (2000)** constituted by the Home Ministry on reforms in the Criminal Justice System of India submitted its report in 2003

Option 2 is correct. **Ranbir Singh** Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws was constituted by the Union Home Ministry in May 2020. This committee is looking into the IPC, the CrPC (the Code of Criminal Procedure), the Indian Evidence Act and the Narcotics Act.

Option 3 is incorrect. Dr **K. Kasturirangan Committee** was set up to recommend the New National Education Policy of India. The report was submitted in 2019 and the NEP 2020 was notified recently.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court of India:

- 1. Constitution empowers the President to refer a question of law of public importance to the Supreme Court for consideration.
- 2. The Supreme Court may transfer any case proceedings pending before any High Court to any other High Court.

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 **Supreme Court** may, if it deems it expedient so to do for the ends of justice, **transfer any case**, appeal or other proceedings pending before any High Court to any other High Court. [Article 139A (2)]

Statement 2 is correct. If at any time it appears to the **President** that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President. [Article 143(1)]

Q.10) What is the Kármán line?

- a) An imaginary boundary 100 kilometers above mean sea level
- b) Boundary delineating the national territorial waters in the Caspian Sea
- c) Line demarcating the border of Asia and Europe continents
- d) Line within which the gravitational pull of Sun pulls the planets around it

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A common definition of space is known as the **Kármán Line**, an imaginary boundary **100 kilometers (62 miles) above mean sea level**. This 100-kilometer "Kármán Line" was recommended to the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, the internationally recognized body for recording aeronautic achievements.

In theory, once this 100 km line is crossed, the atmosphere becomes too thin to provide enough lift for conventional aircraft to maintain flight. At this altitude, a conventional plane would need to reach orbital velocity or risk falling back to Earth.

Many organizations use the Karman Line as a way of determining when space flight has been achieved.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Exercise Malabar**:

- 1. It is a naval exercise held on Malabar Coast of India every year.
- 2. The Australian and South Korean navies will participate in the 2020 edition of the exercise.

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. It is not held on Malabar coast every year.

The **Malabar series of Naval exercises** started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise. Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015. This annual exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018, off the coast the Japan in 2019 and is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Malabar 2020** will see the participation of the **Australian Navy** alongside the Indian, US and Japan naval forces. This year, the exercise has been planned on a 'non-contact - at sea' format.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the Ayushman Sahakar scheme:

- 1. The scheme will extend Ayushman Bharat insurance cover to all cooperative members in India.
- 2. It will be funded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

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. **Ayushman Sahakar** scheme aims to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of **healthcare infrastructure** in the country. Ayushman Sahakar specifically covers establishment, modernization, expansion, repairs, renovation of hospital and healthcare and education infrastructure encompassing: Statement 2 is correct. It will be implemented/funded by the **NCDC**. Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund. NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Moushik' microprocessor:

- 1. Its applications include smart cards like credit and debit cards.
- 2. Its design and fabrication have been done indigenously in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.



Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers have booted up a microprocessor 'Moushik'.

The design of the microprocessor, motherboard printed circuit board design, assembly and post-silicon boot-up were done at IIT Madras. The foundry-specific back-end design and fabrication were undertaken at Semi-Conductor Laboratory of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Chandigarh and manufacturing of this motherboard was done at Bengaluru.

The **field application of Moushik** includes smart cards, such as credit and debit cards; ID cards; travel cards for Metros and driving licences; electronic voting machines etc.

The SHAKTI Processor Program, was started as an academic initiative back in 2014 by the RISE group at IIT-Madras.

Q.14) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Manama Bahrain
- 2. Abuja Nigeria
- 3. Minsk Belarus

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: Manama is the capital and largest city of **Bahrain**. Israel and Bahrain have formally established diplomatic relations after signing the US brokered deal.

Abuja is the capital city of **Nigeria**. The Nigerian Army has deployed soldiers to several parts of Abuja to curtail the violent outcome of the EndSARS protests.

Minsk is the capital city of **Belarus**. Belarus, a former Soviet republic closely allied with Russia, has been rocked by strikes and weekly street protests since authorities announced Lukashenko, who has ruled in authoritarian fashion since 1994, had secured re-election

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **Heeng (asafoetida)** production in India:

- 1. India is the largest producer of Heeng in the world.
- 2. It is one of the genetically modified (GM) crops produced 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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

Heeng (asafoetida) is one of the widely used spices in Indian cuisine since time immemorial. But there is no production of heeng in India and currently about 1,200 tons of raw heeng worth Rs 600 crore is being imported annually from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan.

CSIR Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) has introduced six accessions of heeng from Iran through the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), and standardized its production protocols under Indian conditions.

Bt cotton is the only GM crop that is allowed in India.

Heeng is a perennial plant and it produces oleo-gum resin from the roots after five years of plantation. It can be grown in unutilized sloppy land of cold desert regions.

Q.16) Which of the following is/are source(s) of Vitamin A?

- 1. Milk
- 2. Eggs
- 3. Fish oil

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: Vitamin A is involved in immune function, vision, reproduction, and cellular communication. Two forms of vitamin A are available in the human diet: preformed vitamin A (retinol and its esterified form, retinyl ester) and provitamin A carotenoids.

Concentrations of preformed vitamin A are in liver and **fish oils, milk and eggs**, which also include some provitamin A. Most dietary provitamin A comes from leafy green vegetables, orange and yellow vegetables, tomato products, fruits, and some vegetable oils.

Three out of four rural Indians cannot afford a nutritious diet, according to a paper recently published in journal Food Policy.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA):

- 1. IFSCA is a statutory regulatory body.
- 2. It is empowered to exercise the powers of Reserve Bank of India in respect of the international financial services centres 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. **International Financial Sevices Centres Authority (IFSCA)** is a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs established by an Act of Parliament to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services and financial institutions located / performed in the International Financial Services Centres in India.

Statement 2 is correct. The Authority will function as a **unified regulator** and is empowered to exercise the powers of RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA in respect of financial services, financial products and financial institutions performed/located in the international financial services centres in the country.

IFSCA has introduced a framework for "Regulatory Sandbox". Under this, entities operating in the capital market, banking, insurance and financial services space shall be granted certain facilities and flexibilities to experiment with innovative FinTech solutions in a live environment with a limited set of real customers for a limited time frame.

Q.18) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term 'Regulatory Sandbox'?

- a) Live testing of new products or services in a controlled regulatory environment
- b) Regulatory framework for sand mining in India

- c) Regulatory body exclusive for internet-based entities
- d) Regulatory mechanism for globally operating entities

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A **regulatory sandbox (RS)** usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

It allows the regulator, the innovators, the financial service providers (as potential deployers of the technology) and the customers (as final users) to conduct field tests to collect evidence on the benefits and risks of new financial innovations, while carefully monitoring and containing their risks.

Q.19) Which of the following is/are potential benefits of using Neem Coated Urea in farms?

- 1. It increases the solubility of Urea in water.
- 2. It leads to reduction in pest and disease attack.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Urea is highly soluble** in water as result nitrification and de-nitrification reduces its efficiency. If urea is coated with neem the loss can be minimized as coating of urea makes it a slow release fertilizer, making available to plants for a longer duration.

A reduced solubility of urea also keeps contamination of ground water under control and the coating reduces ammonia volatilization and controls atmospheric pollution.

Statement 2 is correct. A study conducted by the **Department of Agriculture**; **Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW)** had found the effects of Neem Coating of Urea as:

- --Improvement in soil health.
- --Reduction in costs with respect to plant protection chemicals.
- --Reduction in pest and disease attack.
- --An increase in yield of paddy, sugarcane, maize, soyabean and Tur/Red Gram.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV):

- 1. All people infected with HIV also have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- 2. India has completely eliminated the prevalence of HIV in pregnant women across 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **HIV** after entering the human body gradually destroys the immune system, i.e. the ability to fight infections/diseases.

AIDS is the later stage of HIV infection. It is a condition in which a group of symptoms appear as the immune system becomes very weak. It can take around 8-10 years from the time of HIV infection to the stage of AIDS.

Being diagnosed with HIV does not mean a person will also be diagnosed with AIDS.

Healthcare professionals diagnose AIDS only when people with HIV infection begin to get severe opportunistic infections (OIs), or their CD4cell counts fall below a certain level.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **2019 HIV estimates by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)** states that there has been a 66.1% reduction in new HIV infections among children and a 65.3% reduction in AIDS-related deaths in India over a nine-year period. The number of pregnant women living with HIV has reduced from 31,000 in 2010 to 20,000 in 2019.

Under the leadership of NACO, a 'Fast-Tracking of EMTCT (elimination of mother-to-child transmission) strategy-cum-action plan' was outlined by June 2019, in the run-up towards December 2020: the deadline to achieve EMTCT.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC):

- 1. It has been developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- 2. It will enable government stakeholders, start-ups, and local organizations in India to access cloud-based technologies.

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. **NITI Aayog** recently announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) with **Amazon Web Services** (AWS).

Statement 2 is correct. This CIC is part of the **AWS CIC Global Program**, which provides an opportunity for government agencies, non-profits, and educational institutions, to come together on pressing challenges, apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technology expertise of AWS.

The **NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center** will enable government stakeholders, start-ups, and local organizations in India to innovate and create new approaches to solving problems.

This CIC joins a global network of AWS public sector cloud innovation centers across Australia, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, South Korea, and United States.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the Tourism sector of India:

- 1. Uttar Pradesh had maximum share of domestic tourists in 2019.
- 2. Among the foreign tourists' arrival in India, Medical visitors were more than the Business and professional visitors in 2019.

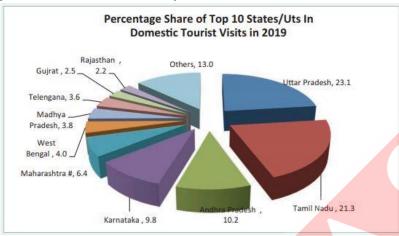
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

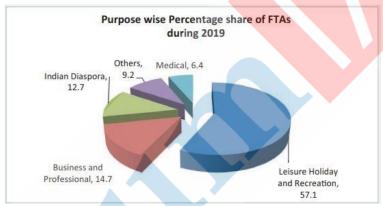
Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Ministry of Tourism brings out an Annual Publication called "**India Tourism Statistics**" every year giving details of international and domestic tourism, including details about the classified hotels etc. In addition, "Tourism Statistics at a Glance" is also brought out, giving updated and latest key statistical data.

Statement 1 is correct. **Uttar Pradesh** has drawn the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019, leaving Tamil Nadu behind. Last year UP was at number two.



Statement 2 is incorrect. In the **purpose-wise Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs)** in India in 2019, Leisure Holiday and recreation topped followed by Business and Professionals visitors.



Q.23) Which of the following is/are components of the Jal Jeevan Mission?

- 1. Development of in-village piped water supply infrastructure
- 2. Technological interventions for removal of water contaminants
- 3. Greywater management

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: Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

The components supported under JJM include:

- --Development of in-village piped water supply infrastructure to provide tap water connection to every rural household
- --Wherever necessary, bulk water transfer, treatment plants and distribution network to cater to every rural household
- --Technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue
- --Greywater management

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the Bharatmala Pariyojana:

- 1. It focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
- 2. It aims to promote port-led development in the country by harnessing India's coastline. 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. **Bharatmala Pariyojana** is an umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.

A multi-modal logistic park is being developed in Assam under the Bharatmala Pariyojna. Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Sagarmala programme** aims to promote port-led development in the country through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.

Q.25) Which of the following is/are potential benefits of incoming Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in a country?

- 1. Human resource development
- 2. Transfer of technology
- 3. Increase in exports

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: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the investment of funds by an organisation from one country into another, with the intent of establishing 'lasting interest'.

FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investments) means only equity infusion, and does not imply the establishment of a lasting interest.

FDI allows the **transfer of technology**—particularly in the form of new varieties of capital inputs—that cannot be achieved through financial investments or trade in goods and services.

Human Capital refers to the knowledge and competence of the workforce. New technological investments lead to new skills gained and enhanced through training and experience boost the education and human capital quotient of the country. Once developed, human capital is mobile and has multiplier effect on the economy.

Many of these products developed by **FDI led industries have global markets** and can further assist FDI investors in boosting their exports from other countries..

Total FDI inflow grew by 55%, i.e. from US\$ 231.37 billion in 2008-14 to US\$ 358.29 billion in 2014-20.

#FDI equity inflow also increased by 57% from US\$ 160.46 billion during 2008-14 to US\$ 252.42 billion (2014-20).

Q.26) What is the objective of recently launched CuRED online platform?

- a) Tracking the World Health Organisation solidarity trial results
- b) Information on COVID-19 clinical trials that CSIR is engaged in
- c) Platform to monitor the potential COVID-19 vaccine distribution
- d) NITI Aayog's initiative to incentivize domestic pharmaceutical industry

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **CuRED or CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs** online platform has been launched recently; it gives comprehensive information about the numerous **COVID-19 clinical trials that CSIR is engaged in** partnership with Industry, other government departments and ministries.

It provides information about the drugs, diagnostics and devices including the current stage of the trials, partnering institutions and their role in the trials and other details.

CSIR is exploring multiple combination clinical trials of anti-virals with host-directed therapies for the potential treatment of COVID-19.

Five clinical trials involving Withaniasomnifera, Tinosporacordifolia + Piper longum (in combination), Glycyrrhizaglabra, Tinosporacordifolia & Adhatodavasica (individually and in combination) and AYUSH-64 formulation are undergoing safety and efficacy trials. A key clinical trial of CSIR is the Sepsivac (Mw) against COVID -19 in partnership with Cadila.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging):

- 1. It uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distances.
- 2. LIDAR can be used to generate three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.

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, which stands for **Light Detection and Ranging**, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to **measure ranges (variable distances)** 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.

When an airborne laser is pointed at a targeted area on the ground, the beam of light is reflected by the surface it encounters. A sensor records this reflected light to measure a range.

Q.28) The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project** is proposed on which of the following River?

- a) Godavari
- b) Cauvery
- c) Krishna
- d) Narmada

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project** is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the **Godavari** River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, Telangana.

Its farthest upstream influence is at the confluence of the Pranhita and Godavari rivers. The Pranahita River is itself a confluence of various smaller tributaries including the Wardha, Painganga, and Wainganga rivers.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has held that environmental clearance (EC) to Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) was granted ex post facto, after completion of substantial work, by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) "in violation of law".

Q.29) Which of the following states are bordered by the State of Mizoram?

- 1. Assam
- 2. Tripura
- 3. Manipur

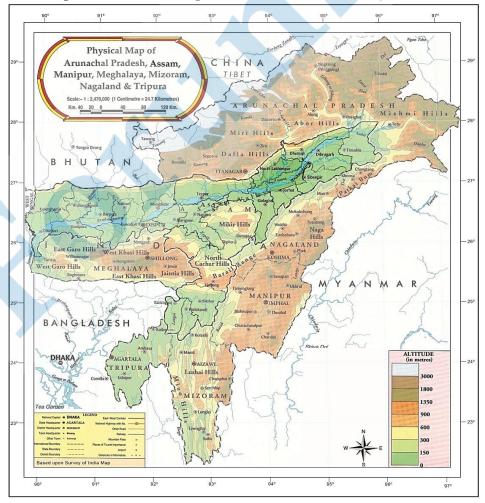
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Mizoram is a mountainous region which became the 23rd state of the Indian Union in February 1987. It was one of the districts of Assam till 1972 when it became a Union Territory.

Mizoram has international borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh, and shares domestic borders with Manipur, Assam and Tripura.





Assam has had a boundary dispute with Mizoram for decades and several rounds of talks have been held since 1994-95 to solve the issue.

Q.30) Which of the following organization has published the Future of Jobs Report 2020?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Future of Jobs report by World Economic Forum** maps the jobs and skills of the future, tracking the pace of change.

The report's **key findings** include:

- --The pace of technology adoption is expected to remain unabated and may accelerate in some areas.
- --Automation, in tandem with the COVID-19 recession, is creating a 'double-disruption' scenario for workers. In addition to the current disruption from the pandemic-induced lockdowns and economic contraction, technological adoption by companies will transform tasks, jobs and skills by 2025.
- --Although the number of jobs destroyed will be surpassed by the number of 'jobs of tomorrow' created, in contrast to previous years, job creation is slowing while job destruction accelerates.
- --In the absence of proactive efforts, inequality is likely to be exacerbated by the dual impact of technology and the pandemic recession.

Q.31) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Oktoberfest Germany
- 2. Rio Carnival Brazil
- 3. Hanami festival Japan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Oktoberfest** is an annual festival in Munich, **Germany**, held over a two-week period and ending on the first Sunday in October. The 2020 edition has been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Carnival in Rio** de Janeiro, **Brazil** is a festival held every year before Lent and considered among the biggest carnival in the world. The first Carnival festival in Rio occurred in 1723.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Japan** is known around the world for its **cherry blossom festivals** known as **hanami** in Japanese. In modern-day Japan, hanami mostly consists of having an outdoor party beneath the sakura (cherry) during daytime or at night.

Q.32) Which of the following is/are located in Bolivia?

- 1. Lake Titicaca
- 2. Andes Mountains
- 3. Aconcagua peak

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. **Lake Titicaca** is located on the border between northern **Bolivia** and southern **Peru**.

Option 2 is correct. The **Andes Mountains** extend over seven countries: Argentina (Mount Aconcagua), **Bolivia** (Huayna Potosi), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, known as **Andean States**.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Mount Aconcagua** is in western Mendoza province, west-central **Argentina**, on the Chilean border.



Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

- 1. It is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- 2. RuPay card payment scheme was launched by the NPCI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

The ten core promoter banks are State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Citibank N. A. and HSBC. In 2016 the shareholding was broad-based to 56 member banks to include more banks representing all sectors.

Statement 2 is correct. **RuPay**, a new card payment scheme was launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It offers a domestic, open-loop, multilateral system which will allow all Indian banks and financial institutions in India to participate in electronic payments.

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the Cost Inflation Index (CII):

- 1. It calculates the increase in the price of goods due to inflation year-by-year.
- 2. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is responsible for notifying the CII every year. 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 inflation increases, the prices of goods increase too. Due to this, the purchasing power of money falls. **Cost Inflation Index (CII)** is a tool used in the calculation of an estimated yearly increase in an asset's price as a result of inflation. Statement 2 is correct. The **Central Government** fixes this index and publishes it in its official gazette for measuring inflation. This index, notified each year by the **CBDT** is mandated under Section 48 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

CII has a base year concept, currently the base year is 2001 having CII of 100. CII for 2020-21 has been notified at 301.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme:

- 1. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the Implementing Agency for the Scheme.
- 2. It provides Viability Gap Funding to selected airline operators for passenger as well as cargo operations.

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. **RCS-UDAN**, "**Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik**" is a Government of India's flagship program which aims to provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes. This Regional Connectivity Scheme offers unique opportunity to a common man to fly at an affordable price.

The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has been designated as the Implementing Agency under this Scheme.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under this Scheme, support is provided to **Selected Airline Operator(s)** in the form of Viability Gap Funding and other concessions / support offered by the Central Government, State Governments and airport operators but the **VGF support** is not provided for cargo operations.

UDAN has played a major role in adding new airports and routes to the aviation landscape of the country. 50 unserved and underserved airports (including 5 heliports) with 285 routes have been added under UDAN across the length and breadth of India. AAI has an ambitious plan to develop at least 100 airports/waterdromes/heliports by 2024 under the Scheme.

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding the **Provisional Government of 'Azad Hind'**:

- 1. It was established in Japan by Indian military officer Mohan Singh.
- 2. Subhas Chandra Bose was the Head of State, Prime Minister and Minister of War of the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: On 21 October 1943, Bose announced the formation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind (Free India) in Singapore, with himself as the Head of State, Prime Minister and Minister of War.

The Provisional Government not only enabled Bose to negotiate with the Japanese on an equal footing but also facilitated the mobilization of Indians in East Asia to join and support the INA. The government of Azad Hind had its own currency, court and civil code.

Q.37) Arrange the following events chronologically in the year 1947:

- 1. Jammu and Kashmir princely state's accession to India
- 2. Tribal Militia invasion of Kashmir backed by Pakistan
- 3. Indian Army airlifted to Kashmir

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Tribal Militia invasion of Kashmir backed by Pakistan** army on **22 Oct 1947** unleashed a brutal series of plunder, rape, arson, looting and killing.

The invasion marks the beginning of First Indo-Pak war and set in motion a chain of events that are still affecting the country.

On **26 Oct 1947** the State of Jammu and Kashmir formally **acceded** to India and on **27 Oct 1947** Indian troops were airlifted to Kashmir.

A National Symposium & Exhibition on "MEMORIES OF 22 OCTOBER 1947" is being organised by the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation & Museology (NMI), at SKICC, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Q.38) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Strait of Hormuz Connects Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman
- 2. Golan Heights Israel and Syria dispute
- 3. Nagorno Karabakh Azerbaijan and Armenia dispute

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 correctly matched. The Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.

Option 2 is correctly matched. Since the 1967 Six-Day War, the western two-thirds of the Golan Heights has been occupied and administered by Israel, whereas the eastern third remains under control of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Option 3 is correctly matched. Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the COVIRAP diagnostic test:

- 1. This diagnostic test is based on the genomic analysis.
- 2. It has been indigenously developed by the IIT Kharagpur researchers.

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 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has successfully validated 'COVIRAP' the diagnostic machine evolved by the IIT Kharagpur researchers, for its efficacy in COVID-19 detection.

It has an automated pre-programmable temperature control unit, a special detection unit on genomic analysis, and a customised smartphone app for results. Three master mixes work as markers of different genes to confirm the presence of SARS-CoV-2.

Other than COVID-19 testing, many other tests, falling under the category of 'isothermal nucleic acid-based tests' (INAT), can be performed in the same machine. In other words, Influenza, Malaria, Dengue, Japanese encephalitis, Tuberculosis and many other infectious, as well as vector-borne diseases, can be tested using the same machine.

Q.40) Who among the following has written the treatise of Chandah-Sutra?

- a) Aryabhata
- b) Brahmagupta
- c) Ramanujan
- d) Pingala

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Acharya Pingala was the ancient Indian author of Chandah-Sutra.

It is said to have first known description of a binary numeral system in connection with the systematic enumeration of meters with fixed patterns of short and long syllables.

Halayudha's commentary includes a presentation of Pascal's triangle (called meruprastāra). Pingala's work also includes material related to the Fibonacci numbers, called matrameru.

Q.41) Which of the following is/are **diagnostic kits** for **COVID-19**?

- 1. COVIRAP
- 2. FELUDA
- 3. ZyCoV-D

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. **COVIRAP diagnostic kit** using a low-cost portable unit developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Option 2 is correct. **FELUDA** (FNCAS9 Editor-Limited Uniform Detection Assay) is a **coronavirus detection test** developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and to be commercialized by Tata Sons.

Option 3 is incorrect. Currently, three **vaccine** candidates are at different phases of trial in India. Two homegrown vaccine candidates — **Covaxin** by Bharat Biotech and **ZyCoV-D** by Zydus Cadila have already started the phase II clinical trial. Another vaccine candidate, **Covishield**, developed by the University of Oxford has recently commenced the phase III clinical trial in India.

Q.42) What is Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)?

- a) United Nations organ for achieving Sustainable Development Goals
- b) Independent U.S. foreign assistance agency
- c) A multinational effort for deep Space exploration
- d) A private industry collaboration to achieve Paris Agreement target

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)** is an independent **U.S. foreign assistance agency** that has the goal of reducing poverty in developing countries through supporting economic growth.

It was created by the U.S. Congress in January 2004 with strong bipartisan support. MCC grants are designed to complement other U.S. and international development programs, as well as create an enabling environment for private sector investment.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Positron emission tomography** (PET):

- 1. It is done to evaluate tissue and organ functioning in the body.
- 2. It is completely radiation free and does not use any radioactive materials.

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. A **Positron Emission Tomography (PET)** scan is an imaging test that helps reveal how the tissues and organs in the body are functioning.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Positron emission tomography (PET) uses small amounts of **radioactive materials** called radiotracers or radiopharmaceuticals, a special camera and a computer to evaluate organ and tissue functions. By identifying changes at the cellular level, PET may detect the early onset of disease before other imaging tests can.

Scientists in the Netherlands have discovered a potential new organ in the human throat, they have identified a set of salivary glands deep in the upper part of the throat and have named them "tubarial salivary glands".

The new organ was discovered while scientists were studying prostate cancer cells using PSMA PET-CT technology — a combination of CT scans and positron emission tomography (PET) — which is good in detecting salivary gland tissues.

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW):

- 1. It is compiled by the Labour Bureau.
- 2. The base year for the CPI-IW has been updated to the year 2016.

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 Labour Bureau, an attached office of the M/o Labour & Employment, has been compiling Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers every month on the basis of the retail prices of selected. The index is compiled for 78 centres and All-India and is released on the last working day of succeeding month.

The Labour and Employment Ministry has recently revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016.

The number of items directly retained in the index basket has increased to 463 items as against 392 items in the 2001 series. The weight to food and beverage was reduced from 46.2% to 39%, while spending on housing increased from 15.2% to 17%.

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian miniature painting**:

- 1. The first miniatures were painted in India only after the introduction of Paper in the
- 2. Mughals were the first to introduce miniature paintings 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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

The tradition of Indian miniature painting can be traced from the 9th-10th century in the Buddhist Pala period palm leaf manuscript of eastern India and in the western India in the Jaina palm leaf manuscript.

With the introduction of paper in 12th century in India, illustrations on paper manuscript of larger format than the narrow palm leaf began to come into vogue.

With Mughal Empire, (1526-1757 AD) the studios were established at the Imperial court and Indian painting began a new phase in its evolution. It was from there that illustrated manuscripts, album miniatures, portraits, celebratory or genre scenes and various other paintings made their way allover India.

The Life in Miniature project was launched recently as collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts and Culture.

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding the **INS Kavaratti**:

- 1. It is a nuclear powered Scorpene-class submarine of India.
- 2. It is an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette indigenously built in India. Which of the statements 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. **"INS Kavaratti" is a Project 28 (Kamorta class)** Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette.

It is not nuclear powered rather the Kamorta class corvettes are powered by four Pielstick 12 PA6 STC **marine diesel engines**. The engines, license-built by Indian company Kirloskar, enable the Kamorta-class vessels to be highly maneuverable with a top speed of 25 knots.

Statement 2 is correct. It has been **indigenously designed** by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design (DND), and **built** by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Kavaratti has a state-of-the-art weapons and sensor suite capable of detecting and prosecuting submarines.

Kavaratti takes her name from erstwhile INS Kavaratti which was an Arnala class missile corvette. The older Kavaratti distinguished herself by operating in war of Bangladesh's liberation in 1971.

Q.47) What is the utility of the e-Dharti Geo Portal?

- a) Weather based mapping of different climatic zones of the country
- b) Navic satellite system's online application
- c) Crop-wise geographic mapping of the country
- d) Geographic Information System based mapping of government properties

Correct answer: D

Explanation: e-Dharti Geo Portal is GIS based mapping of each and every Government property under Land & Development Office (L&DO), whether it is allotted or still lying vacant. Through this portal the Lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of his/her property along with map showing its location.

The L&DO has devised a property certificate incorporating details and the outline map of the property which is available online on the portal.

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **Generalized System of Preferences** (GSP):

- 1. It is a non-reciprocal facility granted to developing countries by certain developed countries.
- 2. India does not offer the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

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 principle of **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** was agreed at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and is a facility granted to developing countries ("beneficiary countries") by certain developed countries ("donor countries"). It is not negotiated with them: the preferential treatment is non-reciprocal.

Statement 2 is correct. The **UNCTAD website** mentions that the following 13 countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan,

Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the **State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020)** report:

- 1. It has been published by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- 2. India saw an increase in ozone exposure over 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The State of Global Air is collaboration between the Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease project

Statement 2 is correct. As per the report, **Global levels of ozone** exposure have been slowly but steadily increasing over the past decade. On average, global exposure to ozone increased from about 47.3 ppb in 2010 to 49.5 ppb in 2019.

Countries in **South Asia** saw the steepest increase, while some countries in the High-Income, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and East Asia Regions experienced modest declines.

India, for example, experienced an **increase of about 17%** — from 56.5 ppb (95% UI: 56.3 to 56.6) in 2010 to 66.2 ppb (95% UI: 66.0 to 66.3) in 2019.

India had third highest ozone exposures globally in 2019 after Qatar and Nepal.

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding the Osiris-Rex spacecraft:

- 1. It has travelled to a near-Earth asteroid Bennu.
- 2. The mission aims to bring asteroid sample back to earth for study.

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.

This well-preserved, ancient asteroid, known as **Bennu**, is currently more than 200 million miles (321 million kilometers) from Earth.

The Origins Spectral Interpretation Resource Identification Security - Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-Rex) spacecraft travelled to a near-Earth asteroid, called Bennu and aims bring at least a 2.1-ounce sample back to Earth. It recently performed a **Touch-And-Go (TAG)** sequence to collect the required sample from the asteroid.

If it turns out that the spacecraft did not collect enough sample at Nightingale site, it will attempt another TAG maneuver on Jan. 12, 2021. If that occurs, it will touch down at the backup site called "Osprey," which is another relatively boulder-free area inside a crater near Bennu's equator.

The spacecraft is not scheduled to depart Bennu for Earth until April 2021. A landing on Earth for any rock cache in this timeline would be late 2023.

Q.51) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) covers establishments in which 20 or more persons are employed.
- 2. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 is applicable to non-seasonal, manufacturing establishments.
- 3. National Pension scheme is not applicable to corporate sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) is a mandatory savings scheme under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

- --It covers every establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed (and certain other establishments which may be notified by the Central Government even if they employ less than 20 persons each), subject to certain conditions and exemptions as provided for in the Act.
- --The pay ceiling is Rs.15000/- per month. Persons drawing pay above Rs. 15,000/- are exempted or can be enrolled with some permission or on voluntary basis.

Statement 2 is correct. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 is applicable to nonseasonal, manufacturing establishments (other than a mine subject to the operation of the Mines Act, 1952, or a railway running shed) employing 10 or more workers. For health and medical institutions, the threshold limit is 20 workers.

- --ESI Scheme for India is an integrated social security scheme for the workers in the organized sector and their dependents, in contingencies, such as Sickness, Maternity and Death or Disablement due to an employment injury or occupational hazard.
- --The wage ceiling is Rs.21000/- per month. Subscribers are termed as Insured Persons (IP) and a new IP number can also arise due to change in employment.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)'s National Pension scheme (NPS) is an easily accessible, low cost, tax-efficient, flexible and portable retirement account.

- -- From 1st January 2004, the Central and the State Governments have adopted this scheme for new employees except for armed forces.
- --.NPS was extended to Corporate Sector from 2009 onwards and it provides platform for Corporates to make co-contribution in NPS accounts of their subscribers or facilitate them to make their own contributions for their NPS accounts.

Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prevention of Corruption Act**:

- 1. Giving bribe to public servant is an offence under the Act.
- 2. Prior sanction of appropriate government or authority is required before any investigation into an offence committed by a public servant.

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

Explanation: Both statements are correct.



Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 amended the 1988 PCA.

The amendment act introduced the **offence of giving a bribe** as a direct offence. However, a person who is compelled to give a bribe will not be charged with the offence if he reports the matter to law enforcement authorities within seven days.

The PCA 1988 required prior sanction of the appropriate government for prosecution of serving public officials. The 2018 Amendment Act extends this protection of requirement of **prior approval** to any enquiry, inquiry or investigation prior to prosecution.

Accordingly, no police officer shall initiate any enquiry, inquiry or investigation against a current/former public servant for an alleged offence (where the alleged offence relates to recommendations made or decisions taken in the course of his official duties), without the prior approval of the employer government.

Such approval would not be necessary in cases which involves the arrest of a person on the spot on the charge of taking a bribe.

Q.53) Which of the following subject(s) is/are listed in the **Concurrent List** under the Constitution?

- 1. Transfer of property other than agricultural land
- 2. Trade and commerce in foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils
- 3. Electricity

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 listed in the Concurrent List under Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. In the Concurrent list;

Entry 6 is Transfer of property other than agricultural land; registration of deeds and documents;

Entry 33(b) is Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils; and

Entry 38 is Electricity.

Q.54) Which of the following is/are Anti-Tank missiles of India?

- 1. ASTRA
- 2. Nag Missile
- 3. SANT Missile

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. **Astra** is an all-weather beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Option 2 is correct. The **anti-tank guided missile or ATGM Nag** has been developed by the DRDO to engage heavily armored enemy tanks in day and night.

The final user trial of India's third-generation anti-tank guided missile Nag was carried out recently at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan.

The missile has fire-and-forget and top attack capabilities with passive homing guidance to defeat all main battle tanks equipped with composite and reactive armour.

Option 3 is correct. The indigenous missile 'stand-off anti-tank missile' (SANT) being developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is expected to be mated to the Indian Air Force's Russian-origin Mi-35 attack helicopters.

Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the monoclonal antibodies:

- 1. Monoclonal antibodies recognize unique binding sites on a single antigen.
- 2. These can be used in treatment of Cancer.

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.

An **antibody** is a protein that sticks to a specific protein called an antigen. Antibodies circulate throughout the body until they find and attach to the antigen. Once attached, they can force other parts of the immune system to destroy the cells containing the antigen.

Researchers can **design antibodies that specifically target a certain antigen**, such as one found on cancer cells. They can then make many copies of that antibody in the lab. These are known as monoclonal antibodies.

Monoclonal antibodies are used to treat many diseases, including some types of cancer. To make a monoclonal antibody, researchers first have to identify the right antigen to attack.

Serum Institute of India (SII), along with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), a non-profit scientific research organisation recently announced an agreement with pharmaceutical major Merck to develop SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (mAbs).

Q.56) The **Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs)** are released by which of the following organisation?

- a) World Bank Group
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- d) UN Human Rights Coommission

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs)** of World Bank Group highlight poverty, shared prosperity and inequality trends for over 100 developing countries. The briefs are released twice a year for the spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund.

The **India PEB October 2020** notes: Between FY2011/12 and 2017, India's poverty rate is estimated to have declined from 22.5 percent to values ranging from 8.1 to 11.3 percent at the international poverty line (2011 PPP \$1.90 per person per day). However, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, poverty rates in 2020 are estimated to revert to levels observed in 2016.

'Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty: An Update' that builds on previous collaboration between the World Bank Group and UNICEF to estimate the global extent of child poverty. It estimates that one in six children or 356 million globally were living in extreme poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic began, and this is set to worsen significantly.

Q.57) Which of the following country(s) is/are currently named as 'High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action' by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

- 1. Iran
- 2. North Korea
- 3. Pakistan

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: The FATF listed **High-risk jurisdictions** have significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation. This list is often externally referred to as the "black list".

Currently only **two** countries are under the black list: **Iran** and Democratic People's Republic of **Korea**.

Pakistan is listed as Jurisdictions under increased monitoring, that are actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. This list is often externally referred to as the 'grey list'.

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding Green Climate Fund (GCF):

- 1. It was set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- 2. The Fund aims for equal balance between mitigation and adaptation investments.

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 **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** was set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010.

Statement 2 is correct. GCF's investments are aimed at achieving maximum impact in the developing world, supporting paradigm shifts in both mitigation and adaptation. The Fund aims for a **50:50** balance between **mitigation and adaptation** investments over time.

It also aims for a floor of 50 percent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African States.

Q.59) The **World Happiness Report 2020** has been published by which of the following organisation?

- a) United Nations Development Program
- b) World Heatlh Organisation
- c) Human Rights Watch
- d) Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **World Happiness Report** is a publication of the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, powered by data from the Gallup World Poll. The 2020 edition is the eighth World Happiness Report.

India is ranked 144 out of 153 countries. The first five ranks go to Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway, respectively. Even India's neighbours are ahead — Bangladesh (107), Sri Lanka (130), Nepal (92) and Pakistan (66). The unhappiest people are in Afghanistan (153), South Sudan (152), Zimbabwe (151), Rwanda (150) and the Central African Republic (149).

Q.60) As of today [24-10-2020], which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. India is a non-permanent member of the UNSC.
- 2. India has assumed the role of chair of the International Labour Organisation's governing body.
- 3. India is the chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. India's two-year term as the **non-permanent member** of the UNSC would begin from January 1, 2021.

Option 2 is correct. India assumed the role of chair of the International Labour Organisation's governing body after 35 years, for the period of October 2020 till June 2021. Option 3 is correct. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, India is currently the Chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board and would chair the 148th session of the Executive Board in January 2021.

Q.61) Which of the following indicator(s) is/are measured under the **Global Hunger Index** (GHI)?

- 1. Undernutrition
- 2. Child wasting
- 3. Child mortality

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 **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels. GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators:

Undernutrition: the share of the population that is undernourished (that is, whose caloric intake is insufficient);

Child wasting: the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (that is, who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition);

Child stunting: the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (that is, who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition); and

Child mortality: the mortality rate of children under the age of five (in part, a reflection of the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).

Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.

In the 2020 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 94th out of the 107 countries. With a score of 27.2, India has a level of hunger that is serious.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding the International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- 1. Membership eligibility of ISA is limited to countries that are partially or entirely located within the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- 2. India is currently the President of ISA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **International Solar Alliance** was launched jointly by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France during COP21 in Paris.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The membership criteria were earlier limited to countries within the tropics but it has now been expanded to all Member States of the United Nations.

Statement 2 is correct. **India** and France were re-elected as president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at its third assembly recently.

Q.63) Which of the following electoral constituency has the highest ceiling on poll expenditure?

- a) Parliamentary Constituency in NCT of Delhi
- b) Assembly constituency in Maharashtra
- c) Parliamentary Constituency in Goa
- d) Assembly constituency in Arunachal Pradesh

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Law Ministry has recently notified the **Conduct of Elections** (Amendment) Rules, 2020 that has increased the ceiling on poll expenditure for Assembly and Lok Sabha elections by 10%.

The ceiling on poll expenditure varies across States, with candidates in **Assembly** elections in **bigger States** like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra now allowed to spend up to **30.8 lakhs** as against 28 lakhs earlier.

For **Lok Sabha** poll in these bigger States, the revised ceiling on poll expenditure is now **77** lakh.

Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and a few Union Territories, based on the size of their constituencies and population, have a lower ceiling; for a Lok Sabha candidate it is now 59.4 lakhs and those contesting an Assembly can spend up to 22 lakhs.

Delhi, like big states have the ceiling of 77 lakhs and 30.8 lakhs on Parliamentary and Assembly constituency respectively.

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding FELUDA test for COVID-19:

- 1. It detects antibodies generated in the body in response to SARS-COV-2 infection.
- 2. It uses CRISPR-Cas9 technology for diagnosis.

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: It has been reported that the **Feluda test**, a coronavirus detection test developed by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and to be commercialised by Tata Sons, will be commercially available in laboratories this month.

Statement 1 is incorrect. It is **not an antibody-based test**. It rather detects genes specific to SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Statement 2 is correct. FELUDA is an acronym for **FNCAS9 Editor-Limited Uniform Detection Assay**. It uses CRISPR-Cas technology for the detection of genes specific to SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Test procedure: The nasopharyngeal swab is collected---RNA is extracted---A single step RTPCR is done---The FELUDA mix is prepared by incubating the dead FnCas9 protein, guide RNA and the amplified viral DNA---The dip stick is immersed in the FELUDA mix---Gold nanoparticle on the strip bind to the FELUDA complex---A protein called Streptavidin on the test line captures this gold nanoparticle bound-FELUDA complex---Unbound gold particles are captured on the control line--Colour develops on the test line and/or control line. One line indicates negative and two lines mean positive.

Q.65) Who among the following takes oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution"?

- a) Governor of States
- b) Comptroller and Auditor-General of India
- c) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- d) Minister for the Union

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Minister of the Union take oath subscribing "allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established". [THIRD SCHEDULE]

The **President [Article 60] and Governor of States [Article 159]** take oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law".

Q.66) The Nazca (Nasca) lines are found in which country?

- a) Brazil
- b) Peru
- c) Congo
- d) Ecuador

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Palpa are located in the arid **Peruvian coastal plain**. This UNESCO World Heritage site is home to designs on the ground created some 2,000 years ago.

The lines are known as geoglyphs – drawings on the ground made by removing rocks and earth to create a "negative" image. The rocks which cover the desert have oxidized and weathered to a deep rust color, and when the top 12-15 inches of rock is removed, light-colored, high contrasting sand is exposed.

Because there's so little rain, wind and erosion, the exposed designs have stayed largely intact for 500 to 2000 years.

Recently, figure of a relaxing cat has been discovered in the Nazca desert. Scientists believe the cat, as with other Nazca animal figures, was created by making depressions in the desert floor, leaving coloured earth exposed. The cat then went unnoticed until plans were recently drawn up for a new path leading to an observation platform.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the **Soil-transmitted helminths (STH)**:

- 1. These infections are caused by species of parasitic worms.
- 2. STHs are considered Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

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.

Soil-transmitted helminth infections are caused by different species of parasitic worms. They are transmitted by eggs present in human faeces, which contaminate the soil in areas where sanitation is poor. Infected children are nutritionally and physically impaired.

Soil-transmitted helminth infection is found mainly in areas with warm and moist climates where sanitation and hygiene are poor, including in temperate zones during warmer months. These STHs are considered **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)** because they inflict tremendous disability and suffering yet can be controlled or eliminated.

Since its launch in 2015, the National Deworming Day (NDD), a flagship program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is implemented as a biannual single day programme implemented through the platforms of schools and anganwadis. Albendazole tablet, approved by World Health Organization (WHO), is used for treatment of intestinal worms in children and adolescents as part of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) programmes globally.

Q.68) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Dr. Abdul Kalam Island Odisha

2. Gahirmatha Beach Andhra Pradesh

Andaman & Nicobar Islands 3. Swaraj Dweep

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: Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island, is an island off the coast of Odisha. The Integrated Test Range missile testing facility is located on the

Gahirmatha Beach is in the Indian state of Odisha. It separates the Bhitarkanika Mangroves from the Bay of Bengal and is an important nesting beach for olive ridley sea turtles.

In 2018, three islands of Andaman and Nicobar were renamed; the Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, the Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the Anemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) Index:

- 1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog.
- 2. Haryana has topped in the AMB index among all states

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



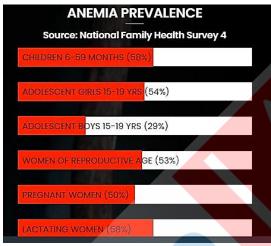
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Anemia Mukt Bharat** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Haryana** State has topped the Anemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) Index among 29 states in the country.

Anemia is a condition in which body lack enough healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen to your body's tissues.



Anemia is a key health concern for young girls and boys across the country. But it is something that has a simple, workable solution – Blue, Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets once a week and deworming tablets every six months.

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

- 1. Project 28 Kamorta Class Anti-Submarine Corvettes
- 2. Project 75 Kalvari Class of submarines

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: During the developmental stage of a ship or a submarine, specific projects are generally assigned a numerical character as a unique identifier to the project.

In a series production of the warship construction project, all ships/submarines of the series have common design characteristics and capabilities.

The term 'class' in the **Kolkata Class** refers to a series of warships constructed under **Project 15A** which includes Indian naval ships INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai. Similarly, all six submarines constructed under Project 75 are referred to as Kalvari Class of submarines.

Project 15 Destroyers - Delhi Class (Delhi, Mysore, and Mumbai)

Project 16 Frigates - Godavari Class (Godavari, Ganga and Gomti)

Project 16A Frigates – Brahmaputra Class (Brahmaputra, Betwa and Beas)

Project 17 Stealth Frigates – Shivalik Class (Shivalik, Sahyadri and Satpura)

Project 28 Anti-Submarine Corvettes – Kamorta Class (Kamorta, Kadmatt, Kiltan and Kavaratti)

The **Project 75I-class submarine** is a follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarine for the Indian Navy.

