

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

September, 2020

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act**:

1. It provides for compensation to the States for the loss of revenue arising on account of a national calamity or due to implementation of the goods and services tax.
2. The Act assumes nominal growth rate of revenue subsumed for a State during the transition period as fourteen percent per annum.

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 **Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act** is to provide for compensation to the States for the loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the act the projected **nominal growth rate of revenue** subsumed for a State during the transition period shall be **fourteen percent per annum**.

The projected revenue for any year in a State is calculated by applying the projected growth rate over the base year revenue of that State.

For the purpose of calculating the compensation amount payable in any financial year during the transition period, the financial year ending 31st March, 2016, is taken as the base year.

Q.2) 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.3) Which of the following subject(s) was/were **added to the concurrent list** by the Constitution (Forty-second amendment) Act, 1976?

1. Education
2. Forests
3. Deployment of armed force of the Union in States

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 **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act** transferred five subjects from the state list to the concurrent list:

- Administration of Justice; constitution and organization of all courts, except the Supreme Court and the High Courts
- Weights and measures except establishment of standards
- Education**, including technical education, medical education and universities,
- Forests**
- Protection of wild animals and birds

It added to Union List: **Deployment** of any armed force of the Union or any other force subject to the control of the Union or any contingent or unit thereof in any State in aid of the civil power; powers, jurisdiction, privileges and liabilities of the members of such forces while on such deployment.

Q.4) Which of the following **mountain pass(s)** is/are in the Union Territory of Ladakh?

1. Rezang La
2. Nathu La
3. Khardung La

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. **Rezang La** is a mountain pass on the south-eastern approach to **Chushul Valley** in the union territory of Ladakh. A major battle was fought between Indian and Chinese forces in 1962 at Rezang La.

Option 2 is incorrect. **Nathu La** is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in **East Sikkim** district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Option 3 is correct. **Khardung La** is a mountain pass in the **Leh district** of the union territory of Ladakh. The pass on the Ladakh Range is north of Leh and is the gateway to the Shyok and Nubra valleys.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **India's GDP data**:

1. The National Statistical Office (NSO) is mandated to prepare national accounts as well as publish annual estimates of national product.
2. India's economy for the first time in last decade saw negative quarterly growth rate in (April-June) Q1 of 2020-21.

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 **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has two wings, one relating to Statistics and the other Programme Implementation.

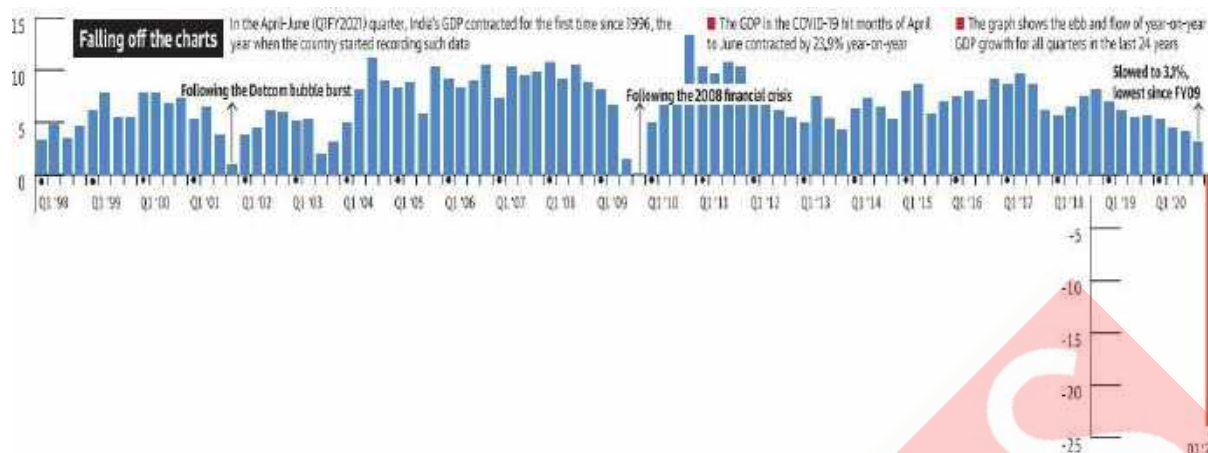
The Statistics Wing called the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** consists of the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the Computer center and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

NSO, among other its functions, **prepares national accounts** as well as publishes annual estimates of **national product**, government and private consumption expenditure, capital formation, savings, estimates of capital stock and consumption of fixed capital, as also the state level gross capital formation of supra-regional sectors and prepares comparable estimates of State Domestic Product (SDP) at current prices.

Statement 2 is correct. India's economy contracted by a **historic 23.9% in the June quarter**, marking the sharpest drop in the country's growth numbers in more than 40 years. Data released by the National Statistical Office recently shows that manufacturing, construction and trade sectors experienced massive contraction at 39.3%, 50.3%, 47%, respectively.

The last contraction of the economy occurred in 1979-80, when GDP shrank 5.2%.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020



Q.6) Which of the following country(s) is/are *not* participant to the **East Asia Summit**?

1. China
2. United States of America
3. Australia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **East Asia Summit** is a unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity.

Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the **Asia-Pacific region** to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level.

The membership of EAS consists of ten **ASEAN Member States** (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA. EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM- Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM KUSUM)**:

1. Renewable power plants will be setup by individual farmers, cooperatives, panchayats, farmer producer organisations (FPO) on their barren or cultivable lands.
2. Individual farmers will be supported to install standalone solar pumps.

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 **PM KUSUM scheme** aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The Scheme consists of three components:

Component A: 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW.

-Renewable power plants of capacity 500 KW to 2 MW will be setup by individual farmers/ cooperatives/panchayats /farmer producer organisations (FPO) on their barren or cultivable lands. The power generated will be purchased by the DISCOMs at Feed in tariffs determined by respective SERC.

Component B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps of individual pump.

-Individual farmers will be supported to install standalone solar Agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP.

Component C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.

-Individual farmers will be supported to solarise pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP.

For both Component-B and Component-C, central financial assistance (CFA) of 30% of the benchmark cost or the tender cost, whichever is lower, will be provided. The State Government will give a subsidy of 30%; and the remaining 40% will be provided by the farmer.

Q.8) Which of the following Temple(s) was/were built by the **Chola dynasty** kings?

1. Brihadisvara temple
2. Shore Temple
3. Virupaksha temple

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Brihadisvara temples** are situated at Thanjavur, the ancient capital of the Chola kings. King **Rajaraja Chola** constructed the Brihadisvara Temple in 10th century A.D., designed by the famous architect Sama Varma.

The Brihadisvara temple is crowned by a pyramidal 65-m vimana, a sanctum tower. Its walls are covered with rich sculptural decoration.

The second Brihadisvara temple complex built by Rajendra I was completed in 1035. Its 53-m vimana has recessed corners and a graceful upward curving movement, contrasting with the straight and severe tower at Thanjavur. It has six pairs of massive, monolithic dvarapalas statues guarding the entrances and bronzes of remarkable beauty inside.

The other two temples, Gangaikondacholisvaram and Airatesvara were also built in the age of Cholas

Option 2 is incorrect. The **Shore Temples at Mahabalipuram**, a coastal village 50 km south of Madras, was built in the 7th century, during the reign of Rajasimha, and they depict the final flowering of **Pallava** art. The temple with its beautiful polygonal dome enshrines Lord Vishnu and Shiva.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Mallikarjuna and the Virupaksha temples at Pattadakal**, were built by two queens of Vikramaditya II, to commemorate the victory of the **Chalukyas** over the Pallavas. Virupaksha temple, built by Queen Lokamahadevi, was originally called Lokeshwara.

This temple is built in the southern Dravida style and is the largest in the enclosure. It has a massive gateway and several inscriptions.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

A rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

Q.9) Which of the following was determined by the **Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula**?

- a) Distribution of Central Plan Assistance to States
- b) Poverty Line estimation
- c) Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management parameters
- d) External commercial borrowing limits

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula for allocation of **Central Plan Assistance** to states was adopted by the National Development Council (NDC) meeting held in 1990. On the demand of State Governments for a revision, a Committee under **Shri Pranab Mukherjee, then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission** was constituted to evolve a suitable formula. The suggestions made by the Committee were considered by NDC in December 1991, where following a consensus, the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula was adopted. It was made the basis for allocation post 8th FYP (1992-97). After setting apart funds required for (a) Externally Aided Projects and (b) Special Area Programme, 30% of the balance of Central Assistance for State Plans is provided to the Special Category States. The remaining amount is distributed among the non-Special Category States, as per **Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula**.

Q.10) Which of the following correctly defines **revenue neutral rate (RNR)** in context of GST in India?

- a) Rate of taxation at which revenue from imports matches that from exports
- b) New tax rate to match the revenue by previous taxation regime
- c) Rate of tax on sin goods to compensate for zero rated consumption goods
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Revenue neutral rate (RNR) is a structure of different rates established under the new GST regime in order to match the previous revenue generation. The RNR is aimed to **keep the revenue as constant as possible in the new regime** as was under previous taxation. The government had entrusted the then (2015) chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian to head a panel with the task of proposing a revenue neutral rate (RNR), or a rate at which there will be no revenue loss to states under the GST regime.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**:

- 1. It is a direct measure of the retail inflation prevalent in the economy.
- 2. A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change in the economic condition.

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 **purchasing managers' index (PMI)** is an economic indicator that **surveys purchasing managers** at businesses that make up a given sector. The most common PMI surveys are the manufacturing PMI and the services PMI.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The purchasing managers' index consists of several different surveys that are compiled into a single numerical result depending on one of several possible answers to each question.

The most common elements include: New orders, Factory output, Employment, Suppliers' delivery times, Stocks of purchases.

The most common answers include: Improvement, No change, Deterioration.

Statement 2 is correct. The headline PMI is a number from 0 to 100. A **PMI above 50 represents an expansion** when compared with the previous month. A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change. The further away from 50 the greater the level of change.

Q.12) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee - Personal Data Protection Framework
2. BN Srikrishna committee - Non-Personal Data Governance Framework
3. J Satyanarayana Committee - National Digital Health Blueprint

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee** was formed in 2019 to recommend on the **Non-Personal Data Governance Framework**.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The Justice **BN Srikrishna Committee** was constituted by the Union government in July 2017, to deliberate on a **data protection framework**. The committee submitted its report in 2018 also proposed a draft Personal Data Protection Bill.

Option 3 is correctly matched. In July 2018, the NITI Aayog released a proposal document, **National Health Stack (NHS)**. A committee was formed to create an implementation framework for NHS as **National Digital Health Blueprint**, chaired by former UIDAI Chairman **J. Satyanarayana**. The committee submitted its report in 2019.

Q.13) 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:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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.14) The **Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB)** hears appeals under which of the following law(s)?

1. Trade Marks Act
2. Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act
3. Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Act

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: Section 83 of the **Trade Marks Act, 1999** provides for the establishment of an Appellate Board to be known as the **Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB)**. The Intellectual Property Appellate Board has been constituted by a Gazette notification of the Central Government in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2003.

It hears appeals against the decisions of the Registrar under the **Trade Marks Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.

In pursuance of the Finance Act, 2017, all the cases pending before the Copy Right Board under **Copy Right Act, 1957** were transferred to Intellectual Property Appellate Board.

The **Intellectual Property Appellate Board** also exercises the jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred with Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal to hear the appeals under the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Act**.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **Special Frontier Force (SFF)** of India:

1. It was raised after the India-Pakistan War of 1971.
2. It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Special Frontier Force (SFF)** referred to as **Vikas Battalion** was raised in the aftermath of the **1962 Sino-India war**.

It mostly recruits **Tibetans and Gorkhas** and initially went by the name of **Establishment 22**. It was named so because it was raised by Major General Sujan Singh Uban, an Artillery officer who had commanded 22 Mountain Regiment.

Statement 2 is correct. **Special Frontier Force** falls under the purview of the **Cabinet Secretariat** headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.

Wikipedia says it is under the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). Technically R&AW is also under Cabinet Secretariat.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Coal Gasification**:

1. The gasification of coal can produce synthesis gas, a mixture primarily consisting carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
 2. Emission control is easier and simpler in coal gasification than in combustion.
- 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.

Coal is a complex and highly variable substance that can be converted into a variety of products. The gasification of coal is one method that can produce power, liquid fuels, chemicals, and hydrogen.

Coal gasification is the process of producing synthesis gas (syngas)—a mixture consisting primarily of carbon monoxide, hydrogen, carbon dioxide, natural gas, and water vapour—from coal and water, air and/or oxygen.

After the impurities are removed from the synthesis gas, the carbon monoxide in the gas mixture is reacted with steam through the water-gas shift reaction to produce additional hydrogen and carbon dioxide. Hydrogen is removed by a separation system, and the highly concentrated carbon dioxide stream can subsequently be captured and stored.

The **gasification has inherent advantages over combustion** for emissions control. Emission control is simpler in gasification than in combustion because the produced syngas in gasification is at higher temperature and pressure than the exhaust gases produced in combustion. These higher temperatures and pressures allow for **easier removal of sulfur and nitrous oxides (SO_x, and NO_x)**, and volatile trace contaminants such as mercury, arsenic, selenium, cadmium, etc.

Gasification		versus		Combustion
CO	←	C	→	CO ₂
H ₂	←	H	→	H ₂ O
N ₂	←	N	→	NO _x
H ₂ S	←	S	→	SO _x
	←	O	→	O ₂

The table summarizes the main transformations of solid fuel constituents to gaseous species in both gasification and combustion. This shows clearly the marked differences between gasification (resulting in syngas) and combustion (resulting in exhaust gas).

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Group of Monuments at Hampi**:

1. Hampi, the capital of erstwhile Vijayanagar Empire, lies south of the river Tungabhadra.
2. The Krishna temple at Hampi was built during the reign of Krishnadeva Raya of the Tuluva Dynasty.
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Hampi, the 14th century capital** of the **Vijayanagar Empire**, lies in the Deccan heartland, in the state of Karnataka, protected by the river **Tungabhadra** in the north and rocky granite ridges on the other three sides.

Statement 2 is correct. The monuments of Vijayanagar city, also known as Vidyasagar in honour of the sage Vidyaranya was built between 1336-1570 AD, from the times of **Harihara-I to Sadasiva Raya**. A large number of royal buildings were raised by **Krishnadeva Raya** (A.D. 1509-30), the greatest ruler of the Tuluva dynasty.

Krishna temple, built by the Krishnadevaraya in 1513 AD to celebrate the conquest of the eastern kingdom of Udayagiri or Utkala, contains lofty gopurams (grand entry portals) that lead to shrines and structures for the worship of the idol **Balakrishna**.

Statement 3 is correct. Group of Monuments at Hampi is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Q.18) Which of the following country(s) has/have recently proposed a **Supply Chain Resilience in Indo-Pacific** initiative?

1. United States of America
2. Japan
3. Australia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Australia-India-Japan** Economic Ministers trilateral meeting proposed an initiative for **Supply chain resilience in the Indo-Pacific**.

The **joint statement** reads "In light of the COVID-19 crisis and the recent global-scale changes in the economic and technological landscape, the Ministers underscored the necessity and potential to enhance the resiliency of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region. Recognizing the pressing need for regional cooperation on **supply chain resilience in the Indo-Pacific**, the Ministers shared their intention to work toward the launch of a new initiative to achieve the objective through cooperation. They instructed their officials to promptly **work out the details of the new initiative for its launch later this year**. The Ministers noted the important role of business and academia in realizing the objective."

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)**:

1. The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has launched the GTAM on its platform.
2. The pan India GTAM benefits buyers of Renewable Energy through competitive prices and sellers by providing access to nation-wide market.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Indian Energy Exchange** recently launched the GTAM on its power trading platform after receiving approval from the **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)**.

The market will offer trade in four types of green term-ahead contracts -Green Intra-day contracts, Day-ahead Contingency contracts, Daily Contracts and Weekly contracts. There will be separate contracts for Solar and Non-Solar energy to facilitate Solar and Non-Solar Renewable Purchase Obligations fulfillment.

Statement 2 is correct. The introduction of GTAM platform would **lessen the burden on RE-rich States** and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own renewable purchase obligations. This would promote RE merchant capacity addition and help in achieving RE capacity addition targets of the country.

The **GTAM platform** will lead to increase in number of participants in renewable energy sector. It will benefit buyers of RE through **competitive prices** and transparent and flexible procurement. It will also benefit RE sellers by providing access to pan- India market.

Q.20) Which of the following is/are the **payloads in the AstroSat Mission?**

1. Terrain Mapping Camera
2. Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT)
3. Soft X-ray Telescope (SXT)

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

Option 1 is incorrect. **Terrain Mapping Camera (TMC)** was used onboard the Chandrayaan 1 mission and TMC 2 was onboard the Orbiter payloads of Chandrayaan 2.

Option 2 and 3 are correct. Five payloads of ASTROSAT are chosen to facilitate a deeper insight into the various astrophysical processes occurring in the various types of astronomical objects constituting our universe.

-**The Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT)**, capable of observing the sky in the Visible, Near Ultraviolet and Far Ultraviolet regions of the electromagnetic spectrum

-**Large Area X-ray Proportional Counter (LAXPC)**, is designed for study the variations in the emission of X-rays from sources like X-ray binaries, Active Galactic Nuclei and other cosmic sources.

-**Soft X-ray Telescope (SXT)** is designed for studying how the X-ray spectrum of 0.3-8 keV range coming from distant celestial bodies varies with time.

-**Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager (CZTI)**, functioning in the X-ray region, extends the capability of the satellite to sense X-rays of high energy in 10-100 keV range.

-**Scanning Sky Monitor (SSM)**, is intended to scan the sky for long term monitoring of bright X-ray sources in binary stars, and for the detection and location of sources that become bright in X-rays for a short duration of time.

A galaxy called *AUDFs01* located in the *Extreme Deep field*, was discovered through *AstroSat* recently by a team of Astronomers from the *Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)*.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform** of India:

1. It used by Government of India Ministries/ Departments to publish datasets, documents, tools and applications collected by them for public use.
2. It has been developed by the NITI Aayog.

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. **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India** is a platform for supporting Open Data initiative of Government of India. The portal is intended to be used by **Government of India Ministries/ Departments** their organizations to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by them for public use.

It intends to increase **transparency in the functioning** of Government and also open avenues for many more innovative uses of Government Data to give different perspective.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India has been set-up by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** in compliance with the **National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP)** of India.

The **objective of the policy** is to provide proactive access to Government owned shareable data along with its usage information in open/machine readable format, through a wide area of network across the country, in a periodically updated manner, within the framework of various related policies, rules, and acts of the Government.

Q.22) Which of the following institution has published the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020**?

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- c) European Union Intellectual Property Office
- d) Institute for Management Development (IMD)

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Global Innovation Index 2020 (GII)**, in its 13th edition this year, is co-published by **Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization** (WIPO, a specialized agency of the United Nations).

The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.

Switzerland, Sweden, and the U.S. lead the innovation rankings, followed by the U.K. and the Netherlands. This year marks the first time a second Asian economy—the Republic of Korea—cracks the top 10, next to Singapore.

Moving up four positions from last year, **India ranks 48th (of 131)** and makes it into **the top 50 for the first time** in 2020.

-India performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2020.

-This year India ranks 57th in innovation inputs, higher than last year and compared to 2018.

-As for innovation outputs, India ranks 45th. This position is higher than last year and compared to 2018.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

- India ranks 3rd among the 29 lower middle-income group economies.
- India ranks 1st among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Security Act, 1980**:

1. States or Centre governments can detain a person to prevent him/her from acting in a manner prejudicial to security of India.
2. It applies only to Indian citizens and foreigners cannot be detained under the act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **National Security Act 1980** empowers the Center and State governments to detain a person if the authorities are satisfied that he/she is a **threat** to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, or the security of India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Central Government or the State Government** may make an order with respect to **any foreigner** directing that such person be detained with a view to regulating his continued presence in India or to making arrangements for his expulsion from India, it is necessary so to do.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **questions asked in the Parliament** by the legislators:

1. Starred Questions are ones to which answers are desired to be given orally on the floor of the House during the Question Hour.
2. An Un-starred Question is one which is not called for oral answer in the House and on which no supplementary questions can consequently be asked.

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. A **Starred Question** is one to which a member desires an oral answer in the House and which is distinguished by an asterisk mark. When a question is answered orally, supplementary questions can be asked thereon.

Statement 2 is correct. An **Un-starred Question** is one which is not called for oral answer in the House and on which no supplementary questions can consequently be asked. To such a question, a written answer is deemed to have been laid on the Table after the Question Hour by the Minister to whom it is addressed.

A **Short Notice Question** is one which relates to a matter of urgent public importance and can be asked with shorter notice than the period of notice prescribed for an ordinary question. Like a starred question, it is answered orally followed by supplementary questions.

The **Question to a Private Member** is addressed to the Member himself/herself and it is asked when the subject matter of it pertains to any Bill, Resolution or any matter relating to the Business of the House for which that Member is responsible.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the **Mission Karmayogi**:

1. The mission emphasizes on 'on-site learning' to complement the 'off-site' learning of the civil servants.
2. It is to be delivered by setting up an Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT Karmayogi) Platform.
3. A Public Human Resources Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to be set up.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above statements are correct.

Union cabinet recently approved the **Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)** with the following institutional framework:

- Prime Minister's Public Human Resources Council,
- Capacity Building Commission.
- Special Purpose Vehicle for owning and operating the digital assets and the technological platform for online training,
- Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

The Programme will be delivered by setting up an **Integrated Government Online Training-iGOT Karmayogi Platform**. Some of the guiding principles of the Programme:

- Supporting Transition from 'Rules based' to 'Roles based' HR Management.
- To emphasize on 'on-site learning' to complement the 'off-site' learning,
- To calibrate all Civil Service positions to a Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies (FRACs) approach.

It is also proposed to set up a **Capacity Building Commission**, with a view to ensure a uniform approach in managing and regulating the capacity building ecosystem on collaborative and co-sharing basis.

A **Public Human Resources Council** comprising of select Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent public HR practitioners, thinkers, global thought leaders and Public Service functionaries under the **Chairmanship of Prime Minister** will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction to the task of Civil Services Reform and capacity building.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)**:

1. It is an umbrella programme of Department of Science and Technology (DST) for nurturing ideas and innovations.
2. Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) Programme under NIDHI provides subsistence grant to entrepreneurs for pursuing a promising technology business idea.

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 **National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)** is an umbrella programme developed by the Innovation &

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Entrepreneurship division, **Department of Science & Technology** for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.

NIDHI has following program components:

- Technology Business Incubator (TBI) - Converting Innovations to start-ups
- Accelerator - Fast tracking a start-up through focused intervention;
- Seed Support System (NIDHI-SSS) - Providing early stage investment;
- Centers of Excellence (NIDHI-CoE) - A World class facility to help startups go global;
- Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring technology entrepreneurs (NIDHI-PRAYAS) - Support from Idea to Prototype
- Entrepreneur-In-Residence (EIR)

Statement 2 is correct. **Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) Programme under NIDHI** supports aspiring entrepreneur of considerable potential for pursuing a promising technology business idea over a period up to 18 months with a subsistence grant up to Rs 30000 per month with a maximum cap for total support of Rs 3.6 lakh to each EIR over a maximum of 18 months.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding **Forest Cover of India:**

1. The area under Very Dense Forest (VDF) is more than that under the Open Forest.
2. Uttarakhand has the highest area under forest cover among the states through which Ganga River flows.

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. Area under **Open Forest** is much higher than under **Very Dense Forest (VDF)** in India.

TABLE Forest and Tree cover of India in 2019

Class	Area (sq km)	Percentage of Geographical Area
Forest Cover		
Very Dense Forest	99,278	3.02
Moderately Dense Forest	3,08,472	9.38
Open Forest	3,04,499	9.26
Total Forest Cover*	7,12,249	21.67
Tree Cover	95,027	2.89
Total Forest and Tree Cover	8,07,276	24.56
Scrub	46,297	1.41
Non-Forest*	25,28,923	76.92
Total Geographic Area	32,87,469	100.00

* Includes 4,975 sq km under Mangrove Cover

Non-forest includes Tree Cover (Percentage rounded off)

-**Very Dense Forest:** All lands with tree canopy density of 70% and above.

-**Moderately Dense Forest:** All lands with tree canopy density of 40% and more but less than 70%.

-**Open Forest:** All lands with tree canopy density of 10% and more but less than 40%.

-**Scrub:** Degraded forest lands with canopy density less than 10%.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Ganga River** passes through the states of **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal**, among which Uttarakhand has highest area under forest cover.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

TABLE Forest Cover in the States/UTs in India

S. No.	State/UT	Geo. Area (GA)	2019 Assessment				% of GA	Change in forest cover w.r.t ISFR 2017	Change % w.r.t ISFR 2017	Scrub
			VDF	MDF	OF	Total Forest Cover				
1.	Bihar	94,163	333	3,280	3,693	7,306	7.76	7	0.10	250
2.	Jharkhand	79,716	2,603	9,687	11,321	23,611	29.62	58	0.25	688
3.	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	2,617	4,080	8,109	14,806	6.15	127	0.87	587
4.	Uttarakhand	53,483	5,047	12,805	6,451	24,303	45.44	8	0.03	383
5.	West Bengal	88,752	3,019	4,160	9,723	16,902	19.04	55	0.33	146

Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. In terms of **forest cover as percentage** of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).

Data Source: India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It stores, coordinates and disseminates information on inter-state and international criminals 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was set up in the year 1986 by a Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution with the objective to function as a clearing house of information on crime and criminals.

Statement 2 is correct. The objectives of the NCRB include:

-To function as a **clearing house of information** on crime and criminals including those operating at National and International levels so as to assist the investigators, and others in linking crimes to their perpetrators.

-To **store, coordinate and disseminate** information on inter-state and international criminals from and to respective States, national investigating agencies, courts and prosecutors in India without having to refer to the Police Station records.

-To collect and process **crime statistics** at the National level.

-To coordinate, guide and assist the functioning of the State Crime Records Bureaux.

-To evaluate, develop and **modernise Crime Records Bureaux**.

A comparative study recently released by NCRB of data on Accidental Deaths and Suicides shows that suicides in the agriculture sector have declined by 10% — from 11,379 in 2016 to 10,281 in 2019.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**:

1. It is a Constitutional body having the Chairperson appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

2. The Constitution mandates Union Government to consult the Commission on major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was initially constituted by the Central Govt by The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.

It has been accorded **Constitutional Status** and constituted through the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 Act, whereby Article 338B has been inserted, forming a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as NCBC.

The **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members** of the Commission are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. [Article 338B (3)]

Duties of the Commission [Article 338B (5)]:

- to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes;
- to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes;
- to participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes;
- to present to the President reports upon the working of the safeguards.

The **Union and every State Government shall consult** the Commission on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes. [Article 338B (9)]

Q.30) Which of the following language(s) is/are *not* listed in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution?

- 1. Kashmiri
- 2. Nepali
- 3. Rajasthani

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Eighth Schedule to the Constitution** consists of the following 22 languages:

(1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.

Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was added in 1967. Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Health Stack (NHS)**:

1. NITI Aayog proposed the National Health Stack as a digital health infrastructure at national level.
2. It proposed a Coverage and Claims platform as building blocks to support large health protection schemes.

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 Health Stack (NHS) as proposed by NITI Aayog** in its strategy paper in 2018 is digital infrastructure built with the aim of making the health insurance system more transparent and robust, while factoring in the uniqueness of India's health sector, and the political realities of federalism

Statement 2 is correct. The key components of the National Health Stack are:

-**National Health Electronic Registries:** to create a single source of truth for and manage master health data of the nation;

-A **Coverage and Claims platform:** building blocks to support large health protection schemes, enable horizontal and vertical expansion of Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission by states and robust fraud detection;

-A Federated **Personal Health Records (PHR) Framework:** to solve twin challenges of access to their own health data by patients and availability of health data for medical research, critical for advancing our understanding of human health;

-A **National Health Analytics Platform:** to bring a holistic view combining information on multiple health initiatives and feed into smart policy making, for instance, through improved predictive analytics;

-Other horizontal Components: including, and not restricted to, unique Digital Health ID, Health Data Dictionaries and Supply Chain Management for Drugs, payment gateways etc. shared across all health programs.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**:

1. It defines child as a male who has not completed twenty-one years of age and a female who has not completed eighteen years of age.
2. It treats underage marriages as invalid and prohibits any recognition to such marriages.

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 **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** defines "child" means a person who, if a male, has not completed twenty-one years of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age; "child marriage" means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It **treats underage marriages as valid, but voidable**. An underage marriage is valid as long as the minors involved in the marriage want it to remain valid.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The petition for such action may be filed at any time but before the child filing the petition completes two years of attaining majority.

The PCMA also treats those underage marriages as void or having no legal validity, where they involve trafficking, enticement, fraud and deceit.

Q.33) Which of the following **dynasty(s)** is/are correctly matched to the region they ruled?

1. Ahom - Assam
2. Kakatiya - Andhra Pradesh
3. Chera - Kerala

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 **Ahom dynasty** (1228–1826) ruled the Ahom kingdom in present-day Assam, India for nearly 600 years. The dynasty was established by Sukaphaa, a Shan prince of Mong Mao who came to Assam after crossing the Patkai Mountains.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Kakatiya dynasty** (12th century AD) was a South Indian dynasty whose capital was Orugallu, now known as **Warangal**. It was eventually conquered by the Delhi Sultanate.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Chera dynasty** was one of the principal lineages in the early history of the present-day states of **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** in southern India. Together with the Cholas and the Pandyas, the early Cheras were major powers of south India in the early centuries of the Common Era.

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Priyojana (PMBJP)**:

1. Scheme provides generic medicines at affordable prices to the masses through Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
 2. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is the implementing authority of the scheme.
- 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. '**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana**' aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through dedicated outlets called 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra'.

These provide generic medicines at much lesser price. The potency of these medicines is same as compared to expensive branded medicines available in the open market.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **BPPI (Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India)**, under the administrative control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers is the implementation agency for the PMBJP.

Generic drugs are marketed under a non-proprietary or approved name rather than a proprietary or brand name. Generic drugs are equally effective and inexpensive compared to their branded counterparts.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding **BIMSTEC**:

1. All members of the group share their border with the Indian Ocean.
2. BIMSTEC has a Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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 **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

Statement 1 is incorrect. It constitutes **seven Member States**: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.

Bhutan and Nepal are land-locked countries.

Statement 2 is correct. After a span of 17 years of the founding of BIMSTEC, **Permanent Secretariat** was established in **Dhaka**, Bangladesh in 2014 to serve the BIMSTEC Member States.



Q.36) What is **Novichok** that was in news recently?

- a) A potential COVID-19 vaccine
- b) A toxic nerve agent
- c) A newly discovered galaxy
- d) A bacterium infecting cattle population in Africa

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The name **Novichok** means "newcomer" in Russian, and applies to a group of **advanced nerve agents** developed by the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

They were known as fourth-generation chemical weapons and were developed under a Soviet programme codenamed Foliant.

Novichok agents have similar effects to other nerve agents - they act by **blocking messages from the nerves to the muscles**, causing a collapse of many bodily functions.

While some Novichok agents are liquids, others are thought to exist in solid form. This means they could be dispersed as an ultra-fine powder.

Nerve agents enter the body **primarily through the respiratory tract**, although they may be absorbed through the eyes or skin. In the liquid state, nerve agents are hazardous via skin or eye contact and through ingestion. Generally, all nerve agents are highly toxic and fast acting.

Britain says Russia used Novichok to poison former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the British city of Salisbury two years ago.

Germany says Novichok was used to poison Alexei Navalny, a critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**:

1. The Convention prohibits the development, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties.
2. India has signed and ratified the CWC.

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 **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by **prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons** by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

All States Parties have agreed to chemically disarm by destroying any stockpiles of chemical weapons they may hold.

States Parties have also agreed to create a verification regime for certain toxic chemicals and their precursors in order to ensure that such chemicals are only used for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

A **unique feature of the Convention** is its incorporation of the '**challenge inspection**', whereby any State Party in doubt about another State Party's compliance can request a surprise inspection. Under the Convention's 'challenge inspection' procedure, States Parties have committed themselves to the principle of 'anytime, anywhere' inspections with no right of refusal.

Statement 2 is correct. **India has signed and ratified the CWC (1996).**

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

1. The Gravitational waves, that are theorised to be disturbances in the curvature of spacetime, have never been detected in human history.
2. A black hole is a region of space where matter has collapsed in on itself and the gravitational pull is so strong that nothing except light can escape.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. A **gravitational wave** is an invisible (yet incredibly fast) ripple in space. Gravitational waves travel at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second). These waves squeeze and stretch anything in their path as they pass by. A gravitational wave is an invisible (yet incredibly fast) ripple in space.

In **2015, scientists detected gravitational waves for the very first time**. They used a very sensitive instrument called LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory). These first gravitational waves happened when two black holes crashed into one another. The collision happened 1.3 billion years ago.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A **black hole** is a **region of space where matter has collapsed** in on itself and the gravitational pull is so strong that nothing, **not even light, can escape**. Black holes emerge from the explosive demise of certain large stars, but some are truly gargantuan and are billions of times the mass of our Sun.

Black holes are detected from the way they influence their surroundings, they produce observable gravitational waves as they spiral in to each other.

Scientists from LIGO and Virgo have detected the largest collision between two black holes to date, which appears to have created an "intermediate-mass" black hole.

LIGO-VIRGO collaboration operates three super-sensitive gravitational wave-detection systems in America and Europe.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the **Group of Twenty or G20**:

1. The G-20's primary mandate is to prevent future international financial crises and shape the global economic agenda.
2. India has proposed development of voluntary 'G-20 Principles on Coordinated Cross-Border Movement of People'.

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 **Group of Twenty, or G20**, is the premier forum for international cooperation on the most important aspects of the international economic and financial agenda.

The **objectives of the G20 are:**

- Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
- To promote financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises; and
- To create a new international financial architecture.

Statement 2 is correct. The **G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting** was convened by the current G20 Chair, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 3rd September, 2020.

India has proposed for the development of voluntary '**G-20 Principles on Coordinated Cross-Border Movement of People**' with three elements: a) Standardisation of testing procedures and universal acceptability of test results; b) Standardisation of 'Quarantine procedures'; c) Standardisation of 'movement and transit' protocols.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The **G20 comprises** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, UK and USA.

Q.40) Which of the following is/are located in **Manipur**?

1. Kangla Fort
2. Moirang
3. Pakke Tiger 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: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Kangla Fort** is situated along the banks of the Imphal River in the city of **Imphal, Manipur** and is also called the Palace of Kangla. The word Kangla belongs to an ancient language Meitei, which means 'dry land'.

In ancient times, this fort was the royal palace of King Pakhangba and is a structure of political and religious significance.

In 2004 the Assam Rifles moved out of Imphal's Kangla Fort, from where Manipuri kings ruled for 2,000 years. The para military force had occupied the fort for 113 years.

Option 2 is correct. **Moirang**, which is one of the largest towns in **Manipur**, has a rich history. It had served as the headquarters of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj. Moirang also has a museum of the Indian National Army

Option 3 is incorrect. **Pakke Tiger Reserve**, also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve, is a Project Tiger reserve in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Q.41) Recently certain **mobile applications** have been in India banned 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.42) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sputnik V vaccine**:

1. It is a two-shot vaccine using adenovirus vector.
2. A gene coding S-protein of the SARS-CoV-2 has been inserted in the vector.

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

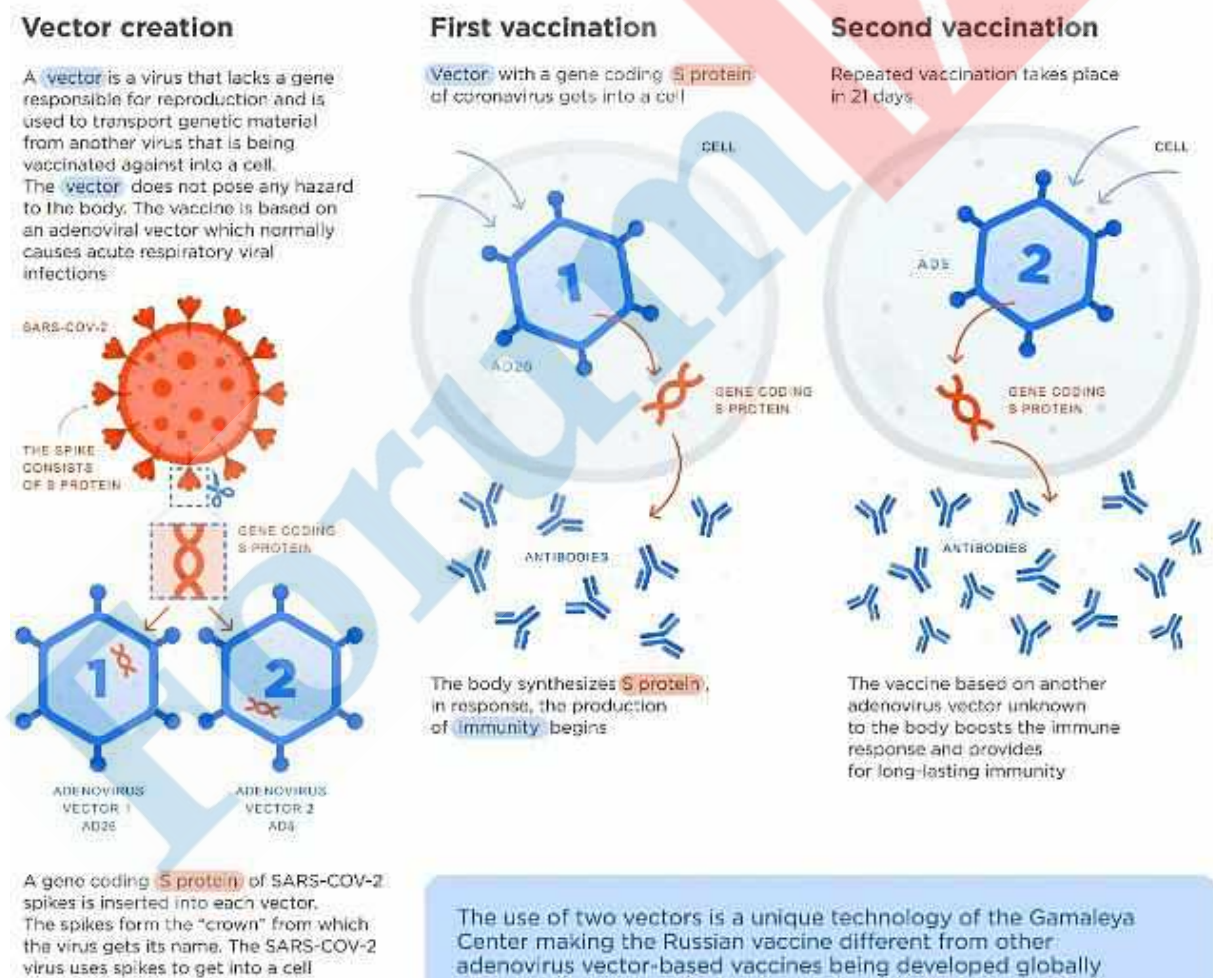
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Sputnik V, **Russian adenovirus vector-based vaccine** was registered by the Russian Ministry of Health on August 11 and became the first registered COVID-19 vaccine on the market.

It is a **two-shot vaccine** being developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute using **adenovirus vectors (rAd26 and rAd5)** for the first and second vaccination.

Statement 2 is correct. "Vectors" are vehicles, which can induce a genetic material from another virus into a cell. The gene from adenovirus, which causes the infection, is removed while a gene with the genetic code of a **Spike protein from SARS-CoV-2** is inserted.

Two-vector vaccine against coronavirus



Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kaziranga National Park**:

1. The park has elephant-grass meadows, swampy lagoons and dense forests.
2. The park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by the BirdLife International.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Kaziranga National Park's 430 square kilometer area in Assam is sprinkled with **elephant-grass meadows, swampy lagoons, and dense forests** are home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros. Along with the iconic Greater one-horned rhinoceros, the park is the breeding ground of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer.

The park is recognized as an **Important Bird Area by BirdLife International** for the conservation of avifaunal species. Birds like lesser white-fronted goose, ferruginous duck, Baer's pochard duck and lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, black-necked stork, and Asian Openbill stork specially migrate from the Central Asia during the winter season.

Q.44) Which of the following correctly defines the term '**force majeure**'?

- a) An act of compulsion being forced upon public by the government
- b) A law passed by the majority of the representatives
- c) A measure of force acting upon a celestial body by another
- d) A clause in contracts to remove liability due to unforeseeable circumstances

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Force majeure is a common clause in contracts to remove liability for natural and unavoidable catastrophes. It comes into play when unforeseeable circumstances that prevent either party from fulfilling a contract.

The provisions of '**Act of God**' also have similar effect. Generally, an "Act of God" is understood to include only natural unforeseen circumstances, whereas force majeure includes both naturally occurring events and events that occur due to human intervention. However, both concepts elicit the same consequences in law.

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gangetic Dolphin**:

- 1. It is the national aquatic animal of India.
- 2. They locate their prey by emitting ultrasonic sounds.

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.

Gangetic Dolphin was declared the **national aquatic animal (2009)**.

Ganges river dolphins once lived in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. But the species is extinct from most of its early distribution ranges.

The Ganges river dolphin can only live in **freshwater** and is essentially **blind**. They **hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds**, which bounces off of fish and other prey, enabling them to "see" an image in their mind.

Ganges River Dolphin is listed as **Endangered** in IUCN Red List.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Recently the Prime Minister announced Project Dolphin on the lines of Project Tiger aimed at conserving the riverine and oceanic dolphins.

Q.46) Which of the following institution has recently published the report “**From insights to action**” on Gender equality in the wake of COVID-19”?

- a) UN Women
- b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- c) International Labour Organization
- d) Global Fund for Wome

Correct answer: A

Explanation: ‘**From insights to action: Gender equality in the wake of COVID-19**’ has been published by the **UN Women**.

This publication summarizes data, research, and policy work by UN Women’s Policy and Programme Division on the pandemic’s impact on women and girls, including the impact on extreme poverty, employment, health, unpaid care, and violence against women and girls.

The **poverty rate for women** was earlier projected to decrease by 2.7 per cent between 2019 and 2021, but with the coming of the pandemic, it has increased to 9.1 per cent.

By 2021, for every 100 men aged 25 to 34 living in extreme poverty (living on USD 1.90 a day or less), there will be 118 women, a gap that is expected to increase to 121 women per 100 men by 2030.

The report gave **suggestions to prevent** women from falling behind permanently because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included addressing inadequate access to affordable childcare, addressing occupational segregation and gender pay gaps.

Q.47) 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.48) 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?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

- 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.

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.49) Consider the following statements regarding the **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** norms of RBI:

1. The small finance banks are required to extend 75 percent of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to priority sector.
2. The Housing and Renewable Energy sectors are included in the Priority Sector under PSL norms.

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 **small finance banks** are required to extend **75 per cent of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)** to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by the Reserve Bank.

The target for **Domestic scheduled commercial banks** (excluding Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks) and Foreign banks with 20 branches and above is 40 per cent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher

Statement 2 is correct. The **categories under priority sector are:** Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Export Credit, Education, **Housing**, Social Infrastructure, **Renewable Energy** and Others.

Q.50) The '**two plus two dialogue**' has been in news recently, which of the following Minister(s) take part in the dialogue?

1. Minister of Defense
2. Minister of External Affairs
3. Minister of Commerce & Industry

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A 'two plus two dialogue' is a term, adopted in foreign parleys, used for installation of a dialogue mechanism between two countries' **defence and external affairs** ministries.

Government of India's Ministers of Defense and External Affairs have in past held the 'two plus two dialogue' with **Japan and United States**. Secretary level 2+2 dialog have been held with Australia.

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding the **Wolbachia bacteria**:

1. It is an artificially developed genus of intracellular bacteria.
2. It is used to prevent transmission of mosquito-borne viral diseases such as dengue.

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. **Wolbachia** are extremely common and **natural bacteria** that occur naturally in **60 per cent of insect species**, including some mosquitoes, fruit flies, moths, dragonflies

Statement 2 is correct. It is often reported to be **used in prevention of mosquito-borne viral diseases**. However, it is not usually found in the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito (responsible for transmitting viruses such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya).

Prevention methods involve introducing Wolbachia into populations of *Aedes aegypti*. When the Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes breed with their wild counterparts, the percentage of mosquitoes carrying the bacterium grows.

Wolbachia has been seen to **decrease the lifespan of *Aedes aegypti***, carriers of mosquito-borne diseases, and decreases their efficacy of pathogen transmission.

The **World Mosquito Program** uses safe and natural bacteria called Wolbachia to prevent the transmission of mosquito-borne viral diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Q.52) Which of the following statement correctly defines **Haemodynamic Monitoring**?

- a) Analyses of the antibody production in the immune system
- b) Study of blood flows through the cardiovascular system
- c) Observation of pressure-temperature correlation of Earth's atmosphere
- d) Monitoring of oxygen requirements of an eco-sensitive zone

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Haemodynamic monitoring** is the study of how **blood flows** through the cardiovascular system (i.e. the heart and blood vessels). The purpose of the cardiovascular system is to deliver blood carrying oxygen and other vital nutrients to the cells and tissues the body.

The results of haemodynamic monitoring allow the healthcare team to check whether a person has:

- enough blood, to decide whether more or less is needed
- a suitable blood pressure
- structural problems with their heart that stops it from working properly
- good heart rate, to decide the heart needs more support.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the **Open Market Operations (OMOs)**:

1. These are the market operations conducted by the RBI by way of sale/ purchase of Government Securities to/ from the market.
 2. RBI resorts to sale of securities if there is excess liquidity in the market.
- 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.

Open Market Operations (OMOs) are the market operations conducted by the RBI by way of **sale/ purchase of G-Secs** to/ from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.

When the RBI feels that there is excess liquidity in the market, it resorts to sale of securities thereby sucking out the rupee liquidity. Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI may buy securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.

Q.54) Which of the following institution/organization has published the report **‘The State of Young Child in India’**?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Mobile Creches
- c) Save the Children Fund
- d) United Nations Children's Fund

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Vice President recently released **‘The State of Young Child in India’** report prepared by **Mobile Creches** a policy advocacy organisation which works with the underprivileged children across India. It a comprehensive account of the challenges related to early child development in India.

The **Young Child Outcomes Index** in the report measures health, nutrition and cognitive growth with the help of indicators such as infant mortality rate, stunting and net attendance at the primary school level. As per the report Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children.

The report has also developed the **Young Child Environment Index** to understand the policy and environment enablers that influence a child's well-being. According to the environment index, Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh secured the top five positions.

Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the **Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS)**:

1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
 2. It provides a knowledge sharing platform for the States in renewable energy sector.
- 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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS)** is an initiative of the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.

Statement 2 is correct. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the nodal agency at the central level for promotion of grid-connected and off-grid renewable energy in the country. Ministry's programmes are implemented in close coordination with **State Nodal Agencies (SNAs)** for renewable energy (RE).

Over the period the SNAs have developed considerable knowledge and experience in planning and implementation of RE programmes. For SNAs to **interact and learn from each other's experiences** and also share their best practices and knowledge regarding technologies and schemes/programmes, MNRE took an initiative in this regard in consultation with SNAs, and Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS) was formed and registered as a society in 2014.

Q.56) The '**International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities**' have been published recently by which of the following institution?

- a) Amnesty International
- b) Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- c) World Justice Project
- d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Published recently by the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities were adopted jointly by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility.

They have been **endorsed by** the ICJ and the International Disability Alliance.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **Accelerating CCS Technologies (ACT)** initiative:

- 1. It is an international initiative to facilitate research development in CO₂ capture, transport, utilization and storage.
- 2. India is member of the ACT initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Accelerating CCUS Technologies (ACT)** is an initiative to facilitate the emergence of **CO₂ Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** via transnational funding of projects aimed at accelerating and maturing CCUS technology through targeted innovation and research activities.

ACT is an ERA NET Cofund, which is a tool established by the **European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme** for research and innovation.

Statement 2 is correct. The ACT members are funding agencies from: The Alberta province in Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, **India**, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the Nordic Region, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and the USA.

Department of Science & Technology (DST) recently invited proposals from Indian researchers in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS) under ACT initiative.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**:

1. It forms part of the International Bill of Human Rights.
2. India has acceded to the ICCPR.

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 **International Bill of Human Rights** consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**) and its two Optional Protocols.

The **ICCPR obligates countries** that have ratified the treaty to protect and preserve basic human rights, such as: the right to life and human dignity; equality before the law; freedom of speech, assembly, and association; religious freedom and privacy; freedom from torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention; gender equality; the right to a fair trial; right family life and family unity; and minority rights.

Statement 2 is correct. **India acceded to the ICCPR on 10 Apr 1979.**

CORE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES & THEIR OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS RATIFIED BY INDIA	DATE OF ACCESSION / RATIFICATION
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), 1965	India ratified the Convention on 3 December 1968 with certain reservations
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966	India acceded to the Convention on 10 April 1979
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966	India acceded to the Convention on 10 April 1979
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979	India signed the Convention on 30 July 1980 and ratified it on 9 July 1993 with certain reservations
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989	India acceded to the Convention on 11 December 1992
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2006	India ratified the Convention on 1 October 2007
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000	India ratified the Optional Protocol on 30 November 2005
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000	India ratified the Optional Protocol on 16 August 2005

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
2. It is the authority for fixing of standards and specifications of certain food products for the purpose of exports.

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. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) a statutory body under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** established by **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985**.

Statement 2 is correct. The **functions of APEDA** include:

- Development of industries relating to the scheduled products for export
- Fixing of **standards and specifications** for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports;
- Improving of packaging of the Scheduled products;
- Improving of **marketing** of the Scheduled products outside India;
- Promotion of export-oriented production and development of the Scheduled products;
- Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products.

“Scheduled products” means any of the agricultural or processed food products included in the Schedule of the Act, which includes Fruits, Vegetables and their Products, Meat and Meat Products, Poultry and Poultry Products, Dairy Products etc.

Q.60) Which of the following country(s) is/are bordered by both, **Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea**?

1. Turkey
2. Cyprus
3. Greece

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Turkey** borders both Black Sea as well as Mediterranean Sea.



Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states** in India:

1. The 2019 BRAP ranking is first ever edition based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan.
 2. Andhra Pradesh is the top performer state under 2019 rankings.
- 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 2019 rankings are the **4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)** ranking of states.

Ranking of States based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan started in the year 2015. Till date, State Rankings have been released for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017-18.

The **Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19** includes 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.

The larger **objective** of attracting investments and increasing Ease of Doing Business in each State was sought to be achieved by introducing an element of healthy competition through a system of ranking states based on their performance in the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan.

Statement 2 is correct. The top ten states under State Reform Action Plan 2019 are:

Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Gujarat.

Q.62) Which of the following is/are potential **advantage(s)** of the **Foreign Direct Investment**?

1. Exchange Rate Stability
2. Increase in Exports
3. Human Resource Development

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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'. The difference between FDI and FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investments): In FPI the investor purchases equity of foreign companies. FPI means only equity infusion, and does not imply the establishment of a lasting interest.

Potential advantages of FDI:

Recipient businesses get access to latest **financing tools, technologies** and operational practices from across the world.

Human Capital refers to the knowledge and competence of the workforce. Once developed, human capital is mobile. It can train human resources in other companies, thereby creating a ripple effect.

Not all goods produced through FDI are meant for domestic consumption. Many of these **products have global markets** and thereby increase export potential of a country.

The constant flow of FDI into a country translates into a continuous flow of **foreign exchange**. This helps the country's Central Bank maintain a **comfortable reserve of foreign exchange**. This in turn ensures stable exchange rates.



Q.63) Who among the following is the '**Master of the Roster**' for the Supreme Court of India?

- a) Chief Justice of India
- b) Secretary General of the Supreme Court
- c) President of India
- d) Collegium consisting Chief Justice and two senior-most Judges

Correct answer: A

Explanation: 'Master of the Roster' refers to the privilege of the **Chief Justice of the Court** to constitute Benches to hear cases.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Supreme Court has also held that 'Chief Justice in his individual capacity is the Master of Roster and it cannot read as Collegium of first three or five Judges. Thus, it is his prerogative to constitute the Benches and allocate the subjects which would be dealt with by the respective Benches'.

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding the **Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)**:

1. It aims at protecting the climate through actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants.
2. India is a state partner of the CCAC.

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 **Climate and Clean Air Coalition** is a voluntary partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, businesses, scientific institutions and civil society organizations committed to improving air quality and protecting the climate through actions to **reduce short-lived climate pollutants**.

Statement 2 is correct. In 2012, the governments of Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden and the United States, along with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, came together to initiate efforts to treat short-lived climate pollutants as an urgent and collective challenge.

The coalition has 70 state partners. **India** announced it was joining the Climate & Clean Air Coalition during on 2019 World Environment Day.

India works with Coalition partners to implement **National Clean Air Programme**, leveraging the Coalition's action-oriented partnership platform to help define priority actions that reduce air pollution and achieve development and climate co-benefits.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies in 2019. The first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is being observed on September 7, 2020.

Q.65) The '**Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle 1857-1947**' has been published by which of the following institution?

- a) Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)
- b) Oxford University Press
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- d) Mahatma Gandhi Foundation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle 1857-1947** is a project of **Indian Council of Historical Research and Ministry of Culture**, Govt of India. It contains brief biographical notes based to the extent possible on authentic archival and other contemporary documents.

A **martyr is a person** who died or who was killed in action or in detention or was awarded capital punishment while participating in a national movement for emancipation of India. It includes an ex-INA or ex-military person who died fighting the British.

The publication released in 2019, has been brought out in five volumes (zone wise).

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.66) Consider the following statements regarding the **POSHAN Abhiyaan**:

1. It aims at improving nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
 2. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- 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 **Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission**, is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

For implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan the four-point strategy/pillars of the mission are:

- Inter-sectoral convergence for better service delivery
- Use of technology (ICT) for real time growth monitoring and tracking of women and children
- Intensified health and nutrition services for the first 1000 days
- Jan Andolan

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan. The programme through the targets strives to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies. It will create synergy, ensure better monitoring, issue alerts for timely action, and encourage States/UTs to perform, guide and supervise the line Ministries and States/UTs to achieve the targeted goals.

The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated during the month of September 2020.

Q.67) What does the **Keshavananda Bharti v State of Kerala (1973)** case relate to?

- a) The doctrine of basic structure
- b) Dismissal of State governments under Article 356
- c) Judicial review of items in Ninth of the Constitution
- d) Re-promulgation of ordinance

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Keshavananda Bharti v State of Kerala 1973** case was primarily about the extent of Parliament's power to amend the Constitution.

In its majority ruling of the **13 judge bench**, the court held that fundamental rights cannot be taken away by amending them. While the court said that Parliament had the powers to amend the Constitution, it drew the line by observing that certain parts are the **basic structure of the Constitution** as they are so inherent and intrinsic to the Constitution that even Parliament cannot amend it.

In S.R. Bommai case (1994), a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court issued the historic order, which in a way put an end to the arbitrary dismissal of State governments under Article 356 by spelling out restrictions.

In Coelho case (2007), court upheld the authority of the judiciary to review any law, which destroy or damage the basic structure including the one in 9th Schedule of the Constitution.

In D. C. Wadhwa v. State of Bihar (1986), court held that it is unconstitutional to re-promulgate ordinances, unless in exceptional circumstances.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.68) Which of the following force(s) is/are under the **administrative control** of the Ministry of Home Affairs?

1. Assam Rifles (AR)
2. Border Security Force (BSF)
3. Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

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: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) assists state governments by providing them support of the Central Armed Police Forces.

The Ministry maintains seven CAPFs: (i) the Central Reserve Police Force, which assists in internal security and counterinsurgency, (ii) the Central Industrial Security Force, which protects vital installations (like airports) and public sector undertakings, (iii) the National Security Guards, which is a special counterterrorism force, and (iv) four border guarding forces, which are the Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal, and Assam Rifles.

The **administrative control** of the **Assam Rifles** is with the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, the operational control of Assam Rifles rests with the Ministry of Defence.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the **African trypanosomiasis**:

1. It is transmitted by the tsetse fly which is found only in Africa.
2. It is not a fatal disease and has a zero mortality rate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. There are two types of **African trypanosomiasis** (also called sleeping sickness); each is named for the region of Africa in which they were found historically.

East African trypanosomiasis is caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*. West African trypanosomiasis is caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense*. Both types of African trypanosomiasis are transmitted by the tsetse fly which is found **only in rural Africa**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. East and West African trypanosomiasis are **eventually fatal if not treated**.

Progressive confusion, personality changes, and other neurologic problems occur after infection has invaded the central nervous system (second stage). If left untreated, the illness becomes worse and death will occur within months.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that Togo has become the first country in Africa to eliminate human African Trypanosomiasis.

Q.70) In which State/UT does the **Spanggur Lake** lie?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

- c) Sikkim
- d) Ladakh

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Spanggur Tso**, also called **Maindung Co** is a saltwater lake south of Pangong Tso on India China border (East of LAC) between **Ladakh UT and Tibet Autonomous Region**, China.



Q.71) Consider the following statements regarding the **Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle** of DRDO:

1. The vehicle uses the air-breathing scramjet engine technology.
2. India is the first Asian country that has developed technologies to field fast-maneuvring hypersonic missiles.

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

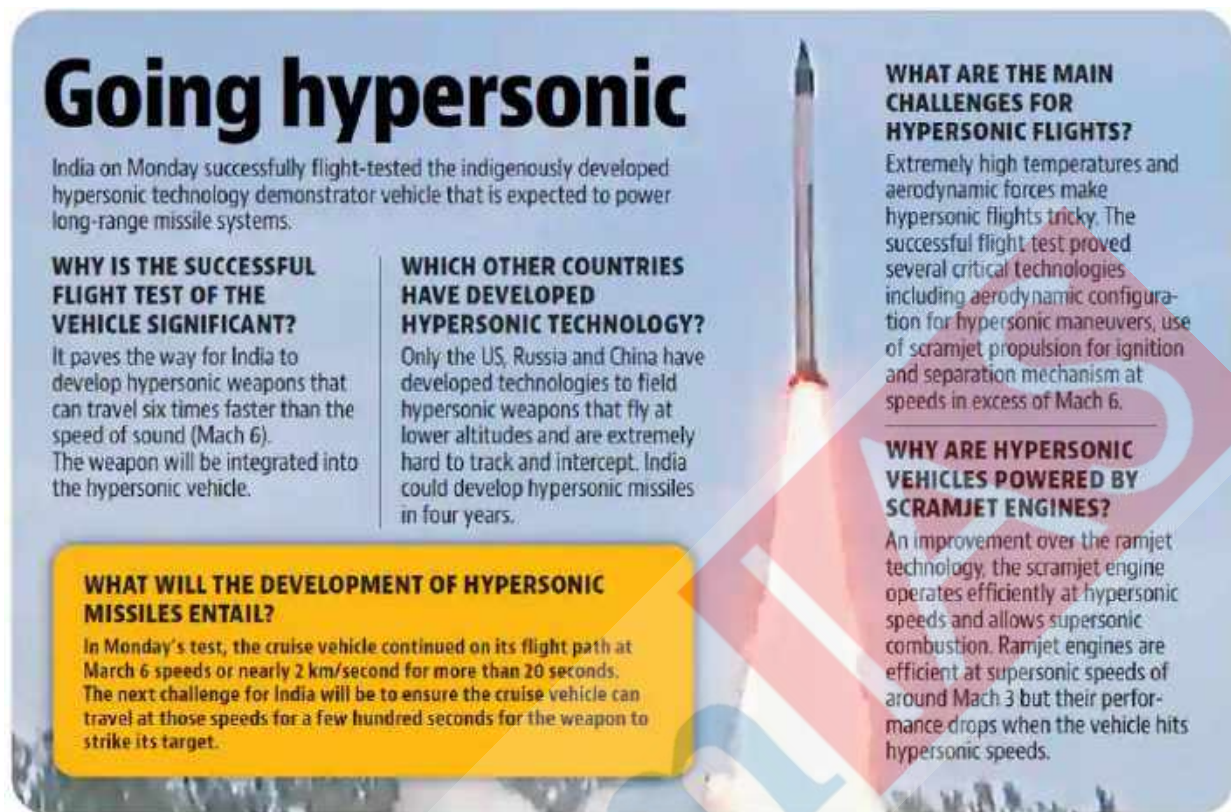
Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated the hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of **Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV)** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha recently.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Only the **United States, Russia and China** have developed technologies to field fast-maneuvring hypersonic missiles that fly at lower altitudes and are extremely hard to track and intercept.

It is estimated to take around four years for India to develop hypersonic cruise missiles powered by air-breathing scramjet engines.

The dual-use hypersonic technology has non-military applications too – it can be used for launching satellites and developing commercial planes

Hypersonic: more than five times faster than the speed of sound (>Mach 5).



Q.72) Consider the following statements regarding the **Scramjet engines**:

1. It operates by combustion of fuel in a stream of air compressed by the forward speed of the aircraft itself.
 2. The airflow through the engine remains supersonic, or greater than the speed of sound.
- 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.

A **ramjet operates** by combustion of fuel in a stream of **air compressed by the forward speed of the aircraft** itself, as opposed to a normal jet engine, in which the compressor section (the fan blades) compresses the air. The air flow through a **ramjet engine is subsonic**, or less than the speed of sound. Ramjet-propelled vehicles operate from about Mach 3 to Mach 6.

A **scramjet (supersonic-combustion ramjet)** is a ramjet engine in which the airflow through the engine remains supersonic, or greater than the speed of sound. Scramjet powered vehicles are envisioned to operate at speeds up to at least Mach 15.

Q.73) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Nur-Sultan - Kazakhstan
2. Tashkent - Uzbekistan
3. Dushanbe - Kyrgyzstan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

- 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. **Nur-Sultan**, known between 1998 and 2019 as Astana, is the capital city of **Kazakhstan**. In March 2019, it was renamed Nur-Sultan in honour of the departing Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Tashkent** is the capital city of **Uzbekistan**. It's known for its many museums and its mix of modern and Soviet-era architecture.

Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 formally ended with the Tashkent Agreement on 10 January 1966; the second Prime Minister of India Lal Bahadur Shastri died the following day, still in Tashkent.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Dushanbe**, on the Varzob River, is the capital of **Tajikistan**. On the east bank of the river is Rudaki Park, named for the classical poet.



Q.74) 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.75) Consider the following statements regarding the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**:

- 1. It is a statutory body under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

2. National Biopharma Mission is being implemented by the BIRAC.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** is a **not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise**, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs

Statement 2 is correct. The **National Biopharma Mission** is an Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt of India for accelerating discovery research to early development for Biopharmaceuticals approved by the Cabinet for a total cost US\$ 250 million and 50% co-funded by the World Bank.

It is being implemented at **Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**. This program is dedicated to deliver affordable products to the nation with an aim to improve the health standards of India's population. Vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics and biotherapeutics are few of its most important domains, besides, strengthening the clinical trial capacity and building technology transfer capabilities in the country.

Q.76) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Sample Survey on "Household Social Consumption: Education in India"**:

- 1. At all-India level, the female literacy rate is higher compared to male literacy.
 - 2. Among states, Kerala has highest literacy rate 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: B

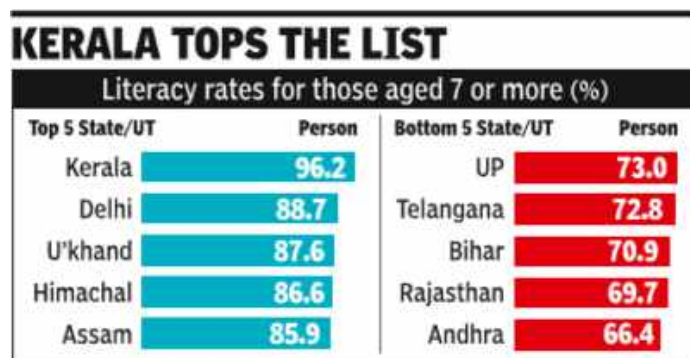
Explanation: **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**, in its 75th round, conducted survey on **Household Social Consumption: Education** during 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7%. In rural areas, the literacy rate is 73.5% compared to 87.7% in urban areas of the country.

At all-India level, the **male literacy** rate is higher at 84.7% compared to 70.3% among women.

Statement 2 is correct. **Kerala**, Delhi has the best literacy rate, followed by Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Assam.

Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are the worst performers.



Q.77) What is the mandate of the **KV Kamath Committee** formed by the Reserve Bank of India?

- a) Financial parameters for restructuring of loans
- 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 EBITDA, current ratio, debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) and average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR).



Q.78) Which of the following is/are **diagnostic test(s)** for the COVID-19 disease?

- 1. Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection
- 2. SalivaDirect
- 3. RT-PCR test

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are diagnostic tests for COVID-19.

Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit is a rapid chromatographic immunoassay for qualitative detection of specific antigens to SARS-CoV-2 has been developed by SD Biosensor, a South Korea based company.

SalivaDirect is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test intended for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in saliva collected without preservatives in a sterile container from individuals suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider.

The **COVID-19 RT-PCR** test is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in upper and lower respiratory specimens (such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate) collected from individuals suspected of COVID 19.

Q.79) Which of the following subject(s) fall under **State List** in Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India?

1. Education
2. Posts and telegraphs
3. Relief of the disabled and unemployable

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. **Education**, including technical education, medical education and universities is part of Entry 25 of the Concurrent List.

Option 2 is incorrect. **Posts and telegraphs**; telephones, wireless, broadcasting and other like forms of communication is Entry 31 of the Union List.

Option 3 is correct. **Relief of the disabled and unemployable** is Entry 9 of the State List.

Q.80) Which of the following location(s) is/are in **Ladakh Union Territory**?

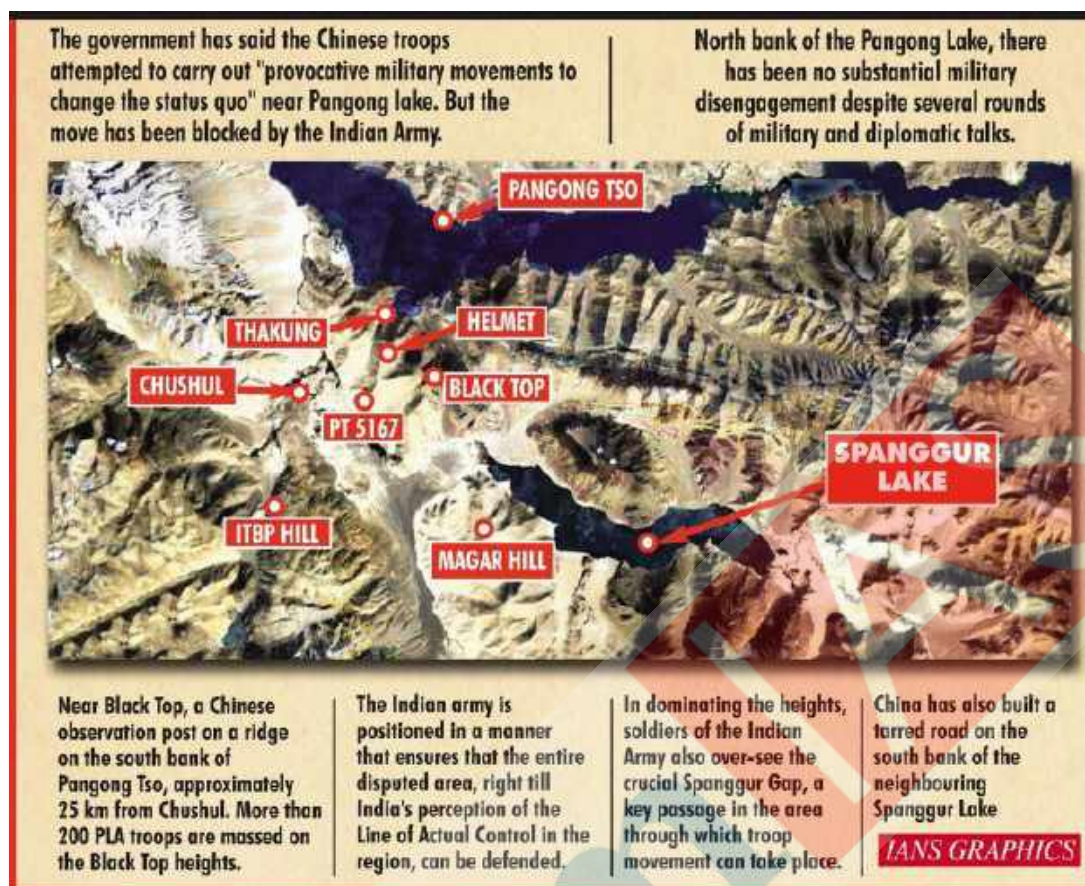
1. Chusul
2. Spangur Lake
3. Depsang Plains

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 locations are around the **Line of Actual Control** that separates the Indian and Chinese controlled regions in Ladakh UT.



Q.81) Consider the following statements regarding the **Presidential versus Parliamentary systems** of government:

1. Unlike the Presidential system, the chief executive's term of office is directly linked with that of the legislature in parliamentary systems.
2. The chief executive is chosen by members of legislature amongst themselves in presidential system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

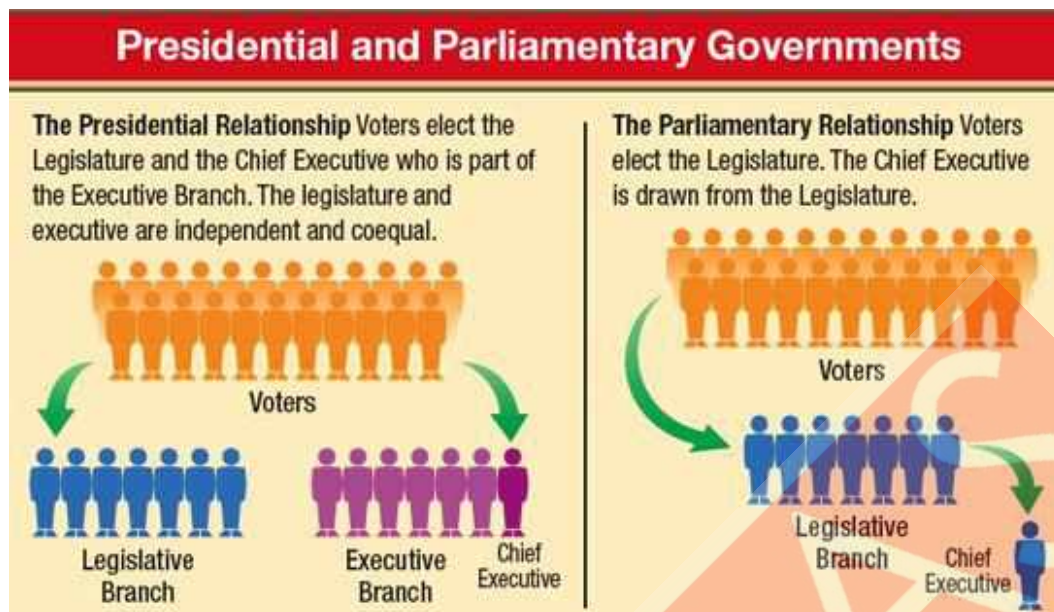
Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In **parliamentary systems**, the chief executive's term of office is directly linked with that of the legislature, while in presidential systems the terms are not linked.

-The executive is selected by the assembly and the executive remains in office subject to legislative confidence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In a **presidential system**, the President, who is the chief executive as well as the symbolic head of government, is chosen by a separate election and not from the Legislature.

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



Q.82) Consider the following statements regarding the **Non-Aligned Movement**:

1. The fulfillment of Bandung Principles is the essential criterion for Non-Aligned Movement membership.
 2. India and Pakistan both are members of the NAM.
- 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. **Bandung Asian-African Conference** is the most immediate antecedent to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement. This Conference was held in Bandung on April 18-24, 1955 and gathered 29 Heads of States.

The principles that would govern relations among large and small nations, known as the "**Ten Principles of Bandung**", were proclaimed at that Conference. Such principles were adopted later as the main goals and objectives of the policy of non-alignment.

The fulfillment of those principles became the essential criterion for Non-Aligned Movement membership; it is what was known as the "quintessence of the Movement"

Statement 2 is correct. India and Pakistan both are NAM members.

Pakistan has participated in the deliberation of NAM as a guest until its assumption of full membership during **1979 Havana Summit**.

Q.83) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM CARES Fund**:

1. The fund in addition to the voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations also gets a budgetary support from Union Government.
2. It can accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: With the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected, a public charitable trust under the name of '**Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund**' (PM CARES Fund)' has been set up.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The fund consists **entirely of voluntary contributions** from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.

Statement 2 is correct. PM CARES Fund has also got **exemption under the FCRA** and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

This is consistent with respect to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). PMNRF has also received foreign contributions as a public trust since 2011.

Q.84) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Health in India**' report recently published by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO):

1. More than 90 percent of children in India are vaccinated against tuberculosis.
2. Across the country, three-fourth of children under five years are fully immunised,

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 'Health in India' report recently published by the **National Statistical Organisation (NSO)** is based on the **75th round of the National Sample Survey** (July 2017-June 2018) on household social consumption related to health.

Statement 1 is correct. Almost 94 percent of the children in India are vaccinated by **BCG** vaccine injected in a single dose shortly after birth, which protects against a childhood attack of tuberculosis.

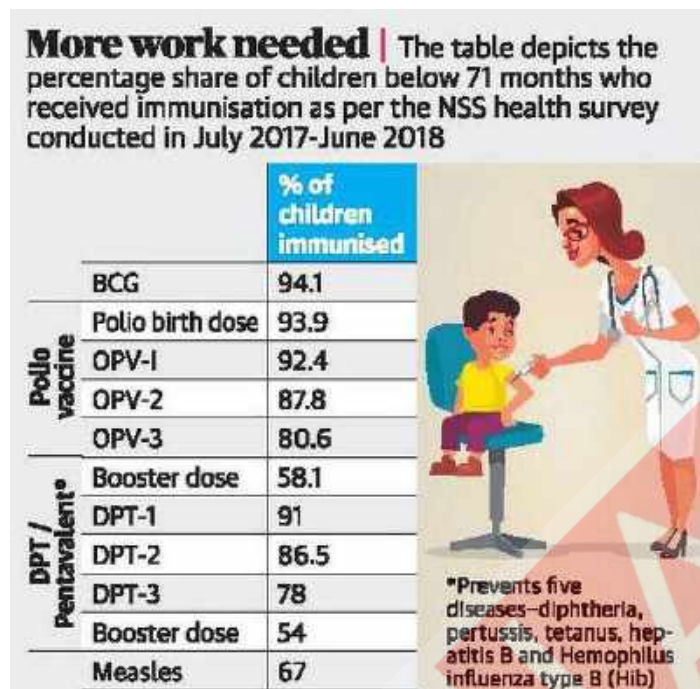
Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the report, only **59.2% of children under five years** are fully immunised across the country. This contradicts the Centre's Health Management Information System portal data, which claimed that full immunisation coverage for 2017-18 stood at 86.7%.

Full immunisation means:

The **BCG** vaccine; the measles vaccine; the **oral polio vaccine (OPV)** whose first dose is given at birth, followed by two more doses at intervals of four weeks; and the **DPT/pentavalent vaccine**, which is meant to protect a child from diphtheria, pertussis or whooping cough, tetanus, Hepatitis B, and meningitis and pneumonia caused by hemophilus influenza type B.

Booster doses for OPV and DPT are also given between 16 and 24 months.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020



Q.85) Consider the following statements:

1. The theme for International Literacy Day 2020 is “Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond”.
2. Inclusive and equitable quality education is a part of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The 8th of September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966.

Statement 1 is correct. **International Literacy Day 2020** focuses on “Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond,” especially on the role of educators and changing pedagogies. The theme highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective, and therefore, mainly focuses on youth and adults.

Statement 2 is correct. The issue of literacy is a key component of the **UN’s Sustainable Development Goals** and the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **SDG 4** focusses on ‘ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’. It has as one of its targets ensuring all young people achieve literacy and numeracy and that adults, who lack these skills are given the opportunity to acquire them.

Q.86) The ‘Real Mango’ software has been in news recently, what does it relate to?

- a) Identifying different mango varieties through pictures
- b) Illegal software for railway ticket booking
- c) Geo-locator software for various crop varieties
- d) Contact tracing software developed by IIT Delhi

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: 'Rare Mango/Real Mango' is illegal software for railway ticket booking that has been busted by the Railway Protection Force.

The software logs in to the **IRCTC** website through multiple IRCTC Ids. The illegal software is sold through a five-tiered structure with the system admin receiving payment in bitcoins. It has been found that it bypasses captcha, synchronises bank OTP with the help of a mobile app and feeds it to the requisite form to book tickets automatically. It also auto-fills the passenger and payment details in the forms, he said.

Q.87) Consider the following statements regarding the **Corticosteroids**:

1. It is a class of drug that lowers inflammation in the body.
2. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends systemic corticosteroids for the treatment of patients with severe and critical COVID-19.

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. **Corticosteroids** are a **class of drug** that lowers **inflammation** in the body. They also reduce immune system activity. Because corticosteroids ease swelling, itching, redness, and allergic reactions, doctors often prescribe them to help treat diseases like: asthma, arthritis.

Three commonly used corticosteroids are dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, and methylprednisolone.

Statement 2 is correct. Corticosteroids are listed in the WHO model list of essential medicines, readily available globally at a low cost. World Health Organization encourages countries to maintain sufficient stocks of corticosteroids to treat COVID-19 and the other diseases.

World Health Organization recently recommended **systemic corticosteroids** for the treatment of patients with **severe and critical COVID-19**. It suggests not to use corticosteroids in the treatment of patients with non-severe COVID-19 as the treatment brought no benefits, and could even prove harmful.

Q.88) Which of the following institution is hosting the First World Solar Technology Summit?

- a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- b) International Renewable Energy Agency
- c) International Energy Agency
- d) International Solar Alliance

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **International Solar Alliance** hosted the **First World Solar Technology Summit** on a virtual platform, with a focus on new Technologies and Innovations in the field of Solar, on 8 September 2020.

Its objective is to bring the spotlight on state-of-the-art technologies as well as next-generation technologies which will provide impetus to the growth and propagation of Solar Energy globally. The Summit will provide a global platform for stakeholders to engage on innovations in technology that will catapult the world towards a high solar growth trajectory.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.89) Which of the following correctly defines the **Nash equilibrium**?

- a) A strategy being better for a participant, no matter how that participant's opponents may play
- b) For any given event 80% of outcomes result from 20% of all causes
- c) A majority of scientific publications in a field of study come from a small number of authors
- d) No participant can gain by a unilateral change of strategy

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Nash Equilibrium is (in economics and game theory) a stable state of a system involving the interaction of different participants, in which no participant can gain by a unilateral change of strategy if the strategies of the others remain unchanged.

Price's square root law: 50% of the work is done by the square root of the total number of people participate in the work.

Pareto principle: for many events, roughly 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes.

Strategic dominance occurs when one strategy is better than another strategy for one player, no matter how that player's opponents may play.

Q.90) Consider the following statements regarding the **Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**:

- 1. It is a sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- 2. It promotes individual and group enterprises majorly in manufacturing, trading and service sectors.

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. **Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)** is implemented by **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, Ministry of Rural Development, as a sub-scheme since 2016.

Activities under SVEP are designed to promote rural enterprises, one of the key areas is to develop pool of **community resource persons – enterprise promotion (CRP-EP)** who are local and support entrepreneurs setting-up rural enterprises.

Another key area is to promote the **block resource center (BRC)** in SVEP blocks, to monitor and manage the community resource persons, appraise SVEP loan application and acts as the repository of enterprise related information in the concern block.

Statement 2 is correct. SVEP promotes both **individual and group enterprises**, set-up and promote enterprises majorly on **manufacturing, trading and service sectors**. The program invested largely on building the capacities of the entrepreneurs to run the businesses profitably based on the local demand and eco-system.

Q.91) Consider the following statements regarding the **Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI)**:

- 1. Its mandate is to reflect India specific requirements in global standards forums to ensure addressing of these requirements in global standards.
- 2. It is a constituent Standards Development Organisation of Global Standards Collaboration (GSC).

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India** (TSDSI) is an industry led not for profit organisation recognised by DoT as **National Telecom Standards Development Organisation (SDO)**.

TSDSI's **mandate** is to reflect India specific requirements in various global standards forums so as to ensure addressing of these requirements in global standards, including in upcoming 5G technologies.

It also provides a **platform** to its members, drawn from industry (operators, manufactures, designers, and system integrators), academia, R&D, user groups, Govt. and policy/regulatory bodies to develop and contribute their innovations/IP nationally as well as at global platforms like 3GPP, ITU etc.

Statement 2 is correct. TSDSI is a constituent Standards Development Organisation (SDO) of **Global Standards Collaboration (GSC)** - a voluntary forum of twelve of the world's leading information and communication technologies standards organisations.

Q.92) Consider the following statements regarding the **Recombinant vector vaccines**:

- 1. These are live replicating viruses that are engineered to carry extra genes derived from a pathogen.
- 2. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) is a recombinant vector vaccine.

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. **Recombinant vector vaccines** are live replicating viruses that are engineered to **carry extra genes** derived from a pathogen—and these extra genes produce proteins against which we want to generate immunity.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Polio vaccines** are vaccines used to prevent poliomyelitis (polio). Two types are used: an **inactivated poliovirus** given by injection (**IPV**) and a **weakened poliovirus** given by mouth (**OPV**).

COVID-19 vaccines under development using adenovirus as vector are recombinant vector vaccines.

Q.93) Which of the following correctly defines the **Macartney–MacDonald Line**?

- a) A proposed boundary in the area of Aksai Chin
- b) Border between India and China in Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Line dividing the Ireland and Northern Ireland
- d) Border between North Korea and South Korea

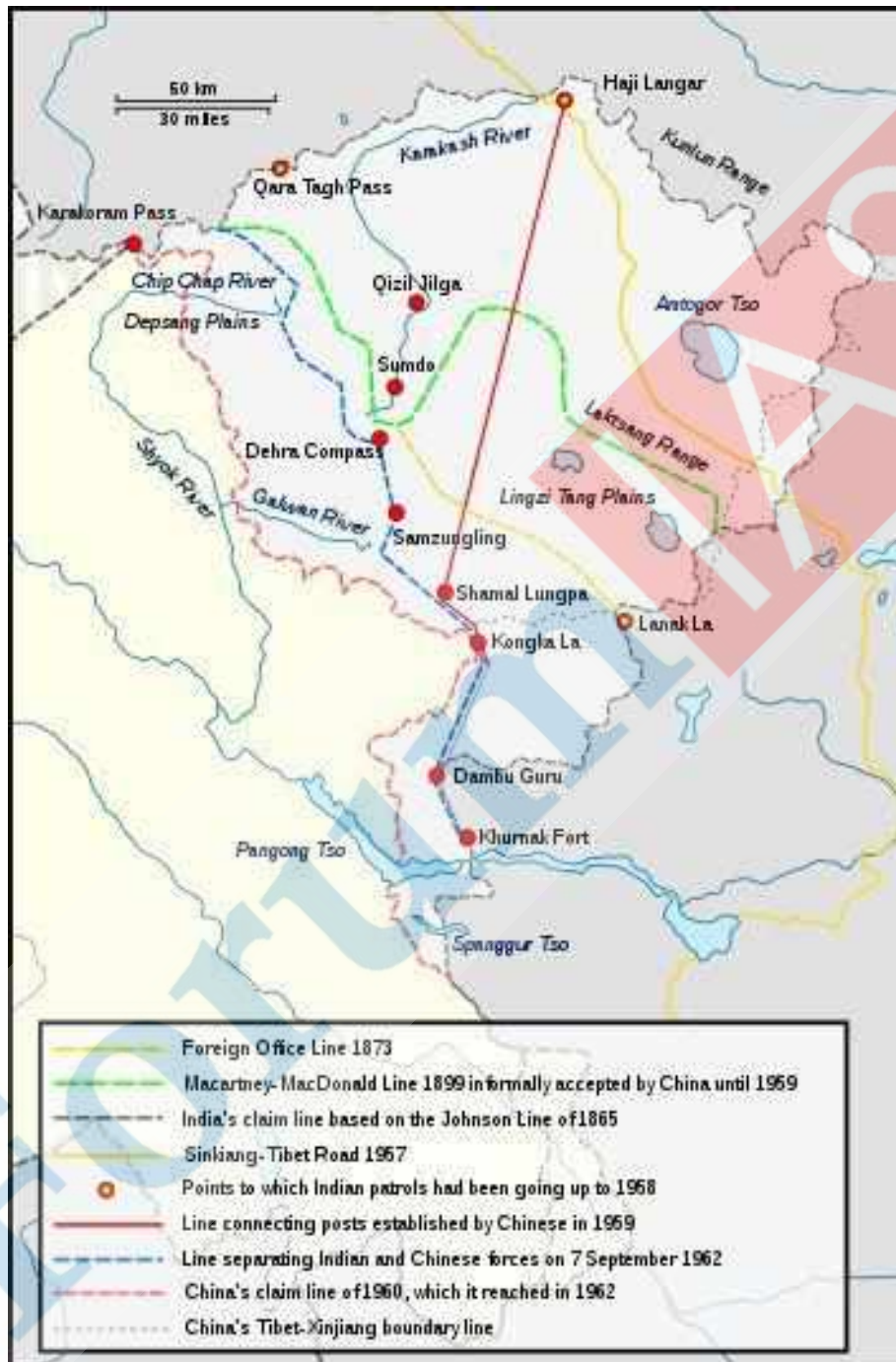
Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Macartney–MacDonald Line** is a proposed boundary in the area of Aksai Chin. It was proposed by British Indian Government to China in 1899 via its envoy to China, Sir Claude MacDonald.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

This survey was officially sent by the British to China in 1899, was not followed up, and the border remained 'undefined'.

The **Johnson-Ardagh Line** surveyed in 1865, ran along the Kunlun Mountain, included Aksai Chin in Kashmir and was not communicated to China.



Q.94) Which of the following mountain pass(s) are located in **Ladakh UT**?

1. Kilik Pass
2. Kongka Pass
3. Mintaka Pass

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are in Ladakh UT.

The **Mintaka Pass** is a mountain pass in the Karakorum Mountains, between Gilgit-Baltistan (Pak administered) and Xinjiang in China.

The **Kilik Pass**, west of Mintaka Pass is a high mountain pass in the Karakorum Mountains between Gilgit-Baltistan and Xinjiang in China. The two passes were, in ancient times, the two main access points into the Upper Hunza Valley from the north.

The **Kongka Pass** or Kongka La is a high mountain pass of the Chang-Chemno Range on the Line of Actual Control between India and China. China considers the Kongka Pass as its boundary with India, whereas India regards Lanak Pass further east as the boundary.

Q.95) Consider the following statements regarding the **Treaty of Amritsar, 1846**:

1. It was a formalisation of the proposals of the Treaty of Lahore, signed to conclude the First Anglo-Sikh War.
2. The British granted Maharaja Gulab Singh dominion over Jammu and Kashmir through a sale deed.

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 **Treaty of Amritsar, 1846** was signed between the British East India Company and the Dogra ruler Maharaja Gulab Singh. It was a formalisation of the proposals of the Treaty of Lahore, signed to conclude the First Anglo-Sikh War of 1845-46 between the East India Company and the Sikh Empire.

The forces of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** ran over the Kashmir Valley in 1819. The Valley remained with the Sikhs until a little after Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death in 1839. After the defeat in the **Anglo-Sikh War**, the Sikh Empire had to cede Kashmir to the English East India Company through the **Treaty of Lahore**, which was signed on March 9, 1846.

Due to Gulab Singh's neutrality during the Anglo-Sikh War, the **British granted him dominion over Jammu and Kashmir** through a sale deed, which was formalized through the Treaty of Amritsar.

This treaty was signed a week after the Treaty of Lahore, on March 16, 1846. Maharaja Gulab Singh got the state from the East India Company for a sum of Rs 75 lakh.

Q.96) Consider the following statements regarding the **Blockchain technology**:

1. A blockchain is a centralized ledger of all transactions across a peer-to-peer network.
2. No participant can change or tamper with a transaction after it's been recorded to the shared ledger.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

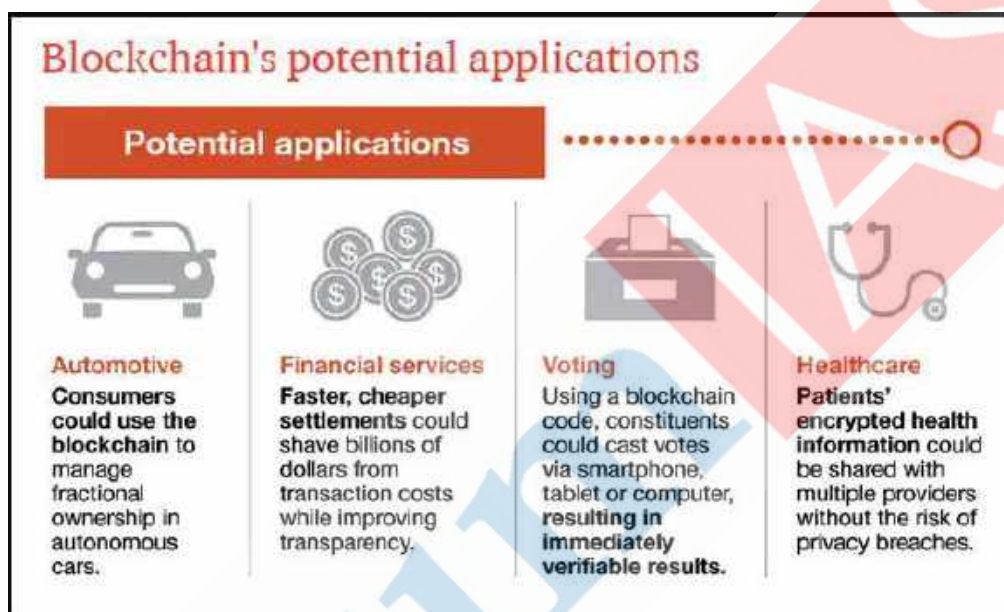
Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Blockchain is a **decentralized distributed ledger technology**. All network participants have access to the distributed ledger and its immutable record of transactions.

With this shared ledger, transactions are recorded only once, eliminating the duplication of effort that's typical of traditional business networks.

Blockchain is **decentralized**, i.e. it does not store any of its information in a central location, instead, the data is copied and spread across a network of computers.

Statement 2 is correct. **No participant can change** or tamper with a transaction after it's been recorded to the shared ledger. If a transaction record includes an error, a new transaction must be added to reverse the error, and both transactions are then visible.



Q.97) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bt Cotton**:

1. It is an insect-resistant transgenic crop that can combat the bollworm.
2. It is the only genetically modified (GM) crop approved in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Bt cotton** is an insect-resistant transgenic crop designed to combat the bollworm. Bt cotton was created by genetically altering the cotton genome to express a microbial protein from the bacterium **Bacillus thuringiensis**.

Statement 2 is correct. Genetically modified (GM) crops are those crops whose DNA has been modified by introducing alien genes in the seeds to get desired effects.

Bt cotton is the only Genetically modified (GM) crop approved in India by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment.

Q.98) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2020**' from UNICEF:

1. Nigeria and India alone account for almost a third of all under-five deaths in 2019.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

2. The under-five mortality rate saw more than fifty per cent reduction from 1990 to 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The recent '**Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2020**' from UNICEF and partners in the UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), shows the full scope of child mortality rates across the world – from newborns to adolescents, including for the first time this year, estimates for youth aged 15–24 years – as well as the progress made toward meeting the SDG targets by 2030.

The under-five mortality rate was reduced from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 38 deaths in 2019—a 59 per cent reduction (see Table 1). One in every 11 children died before reaching their fifth birthday in 1990. By 2019, that number was reduced to 1 in 27.

Nearly half (49 per cent) of all under-five deaths in 2019 occurred in just five countries: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia. **Nigeria and India** alone account for almost a third.

The under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India declined to 34 in 2019 from 126 in 1990.

Q.99) Who among the following was the Sikh Guru when **Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib)** was built?

- a) Guru Angad Dev
- b) Guru Gobind Singh
- c) Guru Teg Bahadur
- d) Guru Arjan Dev

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Golden Temple**, also known as Harmandir Sahib in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, India is the preeminent spiritual site of Sikhism. The Gurdwara is built around a man-made pool (sarovar).

Construction of the **Amrit Sarovar** (pool of nectar) was initiated by **Guru Amar Das**, the third Guru, in 1570 and was completed by **Guru Ram Das**, the fourth Guru. His successor, **Guru Arjan Dev** began work on the building after inviting Mian Mir, the Sufi saint, to lay its foundation stone in 1588. Three years later, the Harmandir Sahib, or Darbar Sahib got completed.

Q.100) Consider the following statements regarding the **EASE 2.0 Index**:

- 1. It provides Public Sector Banks a comparative evaluation showing where banks stand on the Reforms Agenda.
 - 2. It has been released by the NITI Aayog.
- 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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) Reforms Index** independently measures progress on the Public Sector Banks (PSB) Reforms Agenda.

Statement 2 is incorrect. EASE 2.0 Index Results has been released recently by the **Indian Banking Association (IBA)**. Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce were felicitated for being the top three (in that order) in the 'Top Performing Banks' category according to the EASE 2.0 Index Results.

As part of the EASE Reforms, **Doorstep Banking Services** envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their door step through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App, was inaugurated recently by the Finance Minister.

Q.101) Consider the following statements:

1. The Narcotics Control Bureau is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. India is signatory to the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

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 **Narcotics Control Bureau** was set up as apex drug law enforcement agency with view to coordinate actions of various central/state agencies in the matters related with drug law in the country. It comes under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, Govt of India.

Statement 2 is correct. There are three **United Nations Conventions on drug related matters**:

-Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961

-Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971

-UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988

India is a signatory to all these Conventions and enacted the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in 1985** which met her obligations under these Conventions.

Q.102) Which of the following statement correctly defines a '**Status of forces agreement**' (SOFA)?

- a) Agreement to maintain status quo at border region between two nations
- b) A regional agreement to maintain nuclear-weapon-free zone
- c) Agreement of mutual defense in case of external aggression
- d) Agreement between a host country and a foreign nation for stationing military forces

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A **status of forces agreement (SOFA)** is an agreement between a **host country** and a foreign nation **stationing military forces** in that country. It establishes the rights and privileges of foreign personnel present in a host country in support of the larger security arrangement.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

United States military has the largest foreign presence and therefore accounts for most SOFAs, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, and many other nations also station military forces abroad and negotiate SOFAs with their host countries.

The US has decided to withdraw more than a third of its troops from Iraq.

Q.103) Which of the following **service(s)** is/are to be provided by the **e-Gopala App**?

1. Availability of quality breeding services
2. Buying and selling of disease-free germplasm
3. Send alerts on due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis, calving.

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: **e-Gopala App** is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for use of farmers.

The **e-Gopala App** will provide **solutions** for farmers:

- Managing livestock including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms (semen, embryos, etc.);
- Availability of quality breeding services (Artificial Insemination, veterinary first aid, vaccination, treatment etc.)
- Guiding farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate ayurvedic medicine, veterinary medicine.
- Mechanism to send alerts (on due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis, calving etc.) and inform farmers about various government schemes and campaigns in the area.

Q.104) Consider the following statements regarding the **Five Star Villages Scheme**:

1. It aims to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
2. The scheme will cover Savings Bank accounts and PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Accounts.

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 **Department of Posts** has launched a scheme called **Five Star Villages**, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.

Statement 2 is correct. The **schemes covered under the Five Star scheme** include: i) Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates, ii) Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts, iii) Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts, iv) Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy and v) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri **Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** Account.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

If a village attains universal coverage for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status; if a village completes three schemes, then that village get three-star status and so on.

The scheme will be **implemented** by a team of five **Gramin Dak Sevaks** who will be assigned a village for marketing of all products, savings and insurance schemes of the Department of Posts.

Q.105) Consider the following statements regarding the **SAROD-Ports**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
2. It will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector.

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. **SAROD-Ports (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports)** is established under **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.

Statement 2 is correct. SAROD-Ports objectives:

- Affordable and timely resolution of disputes in fair manner
- Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism with the panel of technical experts as arbitrators.

SAROD-Ports consists members from **Indian Ports Association (IPA)** and **Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA)**.

SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours. It will also cover disputes between granting authority and Licensee/Concessionaire /Contractor and also disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors arising out of and during the course of execution of various contracts.

Q.106) What does the '**Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness, 2019**' relate to?

- a) Capacities in disaster risk management and emergency preparedness
- b) Response to terror outfits in country's neighborhood
- c) Capacity building in agriculture sector to Climate Change
- d) Emergency preparedness for risk emanating from volatile global economic supply chain

Correct answer: A

Explanation: '**Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness**' to strengthen and operationalise cross border capacities for disaster reduction and response was unanimously adopted at the 72nd Session of the **WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia in Delhi in 2019**.

It builds on the disaster preparedness and response benchmarks set by South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) which was set up following the Indian Ocean tsunami, 2004.

The **key initiatives** under Delhi Declaration are identifying risks by mapping and assessing vulnerabilities, evidence-based planning, implementing measures for disaster risk reduction; and preparing and operationalizing readiness.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Recently at the conclusion of the 73rd session of WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR) held under the Chairmanship of Minister of Health, Thailand, the Health Ministers of the member states agreed to the SEAR Member States' Declaration on the collective response to COVID-19 in South-East Asia Region.

Q.107) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act**:

1. It allows for prohibition of a broadcast if it is likely to promote disharmony on grounds of religion, race, language, caste or community.
2. No person can operate a cable television network unless they are registered as a cable operator under this Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Section 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995** gives the power to **prohibit** a broadcast in the public interest if the programme is "likely to promote, on grounds of religion, race, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of **enmity, hatred or ill-will** between different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes or communities or which is likely to disturb the public tranquility".

Statement 2 is correct. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 requires and provides a mechanism for **registration of all cable operators**. The Act empowers the central government to appoint a registering authority to review applications and grant registrations.

Article 3 states that no person shall operate a cable television network unless he is registered as a cable operator under this Act.

Q.108) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cygnus spacecraft**:

1. It has been developed by the SpaceX.
2. The SS Kalpana Chawla is a Cygnus spacecraft named after the first woman of Indian descent to fly in 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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Cygnus spacecraft** is an expendable American cargo spacecraft developed by Orbital Sciences Corporation and now manufactured and launched by **Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems** as part of NASA's Commercial Resupply Services (CRS) program.

Statement 2 is correct. Each spacecraft by Northrop Grumman is named after an important figure in the aerospace industry. Northrop Grumman has named the **NG-14 Cygnus spacecraft** after the first woman of Indian descent to fly in space, **Kalpana Chawla**. For the NG-14 mission, the SS Kalpana Chawla spacecraft will deliver approximately 3,629 kg of cargo to the space station.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

In November 1996, K. Chawla was assigned as a mission specialist on STS-87 aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, becoming the first woman of Indian descent to fly in space.

Kalpana Chawla's second spaceflight experience was in 2001 for the crew of STS-107. The flight was dedicated to science and research, with approximately 80 experiments completed.

The STS-107 mission ended abruptly on February 1, 2003 when Space Shuttle Columbia and her crew perished during entry, 16 minutes prior to the scheduled landing.

Q.109) India has signed **military logistics support agreements** with which of the following countries?

1. Singapore
2. Japan
3. France

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: Mostly, **logistics agreements** are administrative arrangements which help to facilitate the replenishment of fuel, rations, spares (where required), and berthing and maintenance for the other nations' warships, military aircraft and troops during routine port calls, joint exercises and training carried out in each other's countries as well as during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).

India has signed several military logistics support agreements with partner countries:

-Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with the **United States** (US) in August 2016.

-Implementing Arrangement Concerning Mutual Coordination, Logistics and Services Support with **Singapore** in June 2018.

-Agreement for the Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support between the Armed Forces with **France** in March 2018.

-Agreement to Extend Logistical Support to each other's navies with the Republic of **Korea** (ROK) in September 2019.

-Agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Indian Armed Forces and the Self-Defense Forces of **Japan** recently.

Q.110) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**:

1. It is completely a Central Sector Scheme.
2. The scheme is to follow 'Cluster or area-based approach' with requisite forward and backward linkages.

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: "**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana** - A scheme to bring about **Blue Revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India"

-Scheme intends to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernization and strengthening

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare.

-It would also address issues like low productivity in inland Aquaculture, disease, sustainability of marine fisheries, sanitary and phyto-sanitary matters that impact the competitiveness of India's exports along with global bench marking.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The PMMSY will be implemented as an umbrella scheme with two separate Components namely **Central Sector Scheme (CS)** and **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.

The **funding pattern for CSS**: 60% Central share and 40% State share, 90% Central share in North Eastern & Himalayan States.

Statement 2 is correct. For optimal outcomes, '**Cluster or area-based approach**' would be followed with requisite forward and backward linkages and end to end solutions. Suitable linkages and convergence will be fostered with other centre and state government schemes wherever feasible.

Q.111) Consider the following statements regarding the **Streets for People Challenge**:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
2. It aims to create walking-friendly streets through quick measures.

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 **Streets for People Challenge** is an initiative of the **Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The challenge aims to inspire cities to create **walking-friendly streets** through quick measures, in response to **COVID-19**.

As the lockdowns lift, cities face many challenges in providing safe, affordable, and equitable modes of transport that enable social distancing. Limited public transport options, narrow, crowded sidewalks particularly in market places and deterioration of mental health, are key issues that must be addressed on priority.

All cities participating in the challenge shall be encouraged to use the '**test-learn-scale**' approach to initiate both, flagship and neighbourhood walking interventions.

The interventions can include inter alia creating pedestrian-friendly streets in high footfall areas, re-imagining under-flyover spaces, re-vitalizing dead neighbourhood spaces, and creating walking links through parks and institutional areas.

Fit India Mission, under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, along with the India program of the Institute for Transport Development and Policy (ITDP) have partnered with the Smart Cities Mission to support the challenge.

Q.112) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kunlun Mountains - China
2. Tarim River - Russia
3. Lop Nur - Mongolia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Kunlun Mountains** in **China** constitute one of the longest mountain chains in Asia. The chain forms the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau south of the Tarim Basin.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The **Tarim River** is an endorheic river in Xinjiang, **China**. It is the principal river of the Tarim Basin, a desert region of Central Asia between the Tian Shan and Kunlun Mountains.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Lop Nur**, former saline lake in northwestern **China** that is now a salt-encrusted lake bed. It lies within the Tarim Basin of the eastern **Takla Makan Desert**.

Q.113) Arrange the following events chronologically:

1. India-China war
2. China's recognition to Indian sovereignty over Sikkim
3. Tashkent Declaration

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Indo-China War** occurred in **1962**. Before that, there had been a series of violent border skirmishes between the two countries after the 1959 Tibetan uprising, when India granted asylum to the Dalai Lama.

The war ended when China declared a ceasefire on 20 November 1962, and simultaneously announced its withdrawal to its claimed Line of Actual Control.

The **Tashkent Declaration** was a peace agreement between India and Pakistan signed on 10 January **1966** that resolved the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

In **2003**, Indian sovereignty over Sikkim was recognized by China.



Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.114) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems**:

1. The ranking exercise has been conducted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. Gujarat is the Best Performer state in the States Startup Ranking Results 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

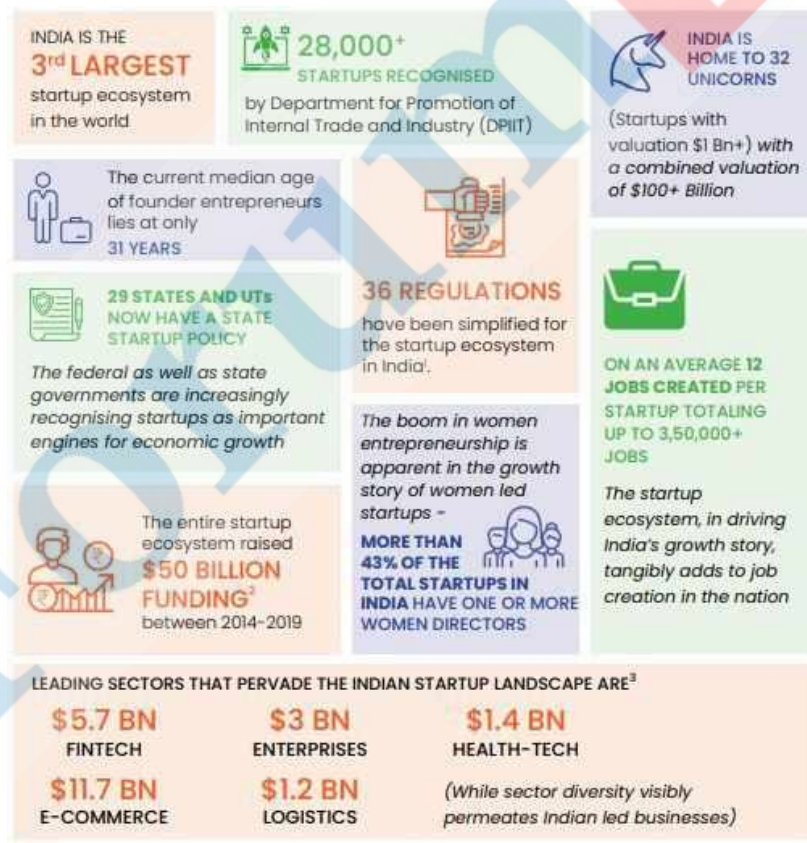
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Recently the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** conducted the second edition of the **States' Startup Ranking Exercise**, with the key objective to foster competitiveness and propel States and Union Territories to work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem.

A **National Report** which highlights the vision, trajectory, methodology and the future roadmap of the States Ranking Exercise has been released. A State Specific Report for each of the 25 participating entities has also been released, containing a comprehensive analysis of respective ecosystem, which highlights strengths and priority areas for future.

Statement 2 is correct. **Gujarat** is the 'Best Performer' state, while Karnataka and Kerala are the 'Top Performers'.



Q.115) Consider the following statements regarding the **ClimateSMART Cities Assessment Framework**:

1. Its objective is to provide a roadmap for Indian cities to combat climate change while planning their investments within the city.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

2. NITI Aayog is implementing the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework. 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 **ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework** is a first-of-its-kind assessment framework on climate relevant parameters. Launched in 2019 by **MoHUA**, the objective is to provide a clear roadmap for Indian cities towards combating climate change while planning their actions within the city including investments.

The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely; (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Management and (v) Waste Management.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has established the **Climate Centre for Cities**. The Centre is implementing the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0 and aims to support cities in driving climate actions.

Q.116) Which of the following institute/organization has published the **Economic Freedom of the World: 2020** report?

- a) Fraser Institute
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Manhattan Institute for Policy Research
- d) Centre for Policy Research

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Economic Freedom of the World: 2020** report has been recently released by the **Fraser Institute** in Canada.

The **index of global economic freedom** ranks countries based on five areas—size of government, legal structure and property rights, access to sound money, freedom to trade internationally, regulation of credit, labour and business.

Hong Kong is ranked number one and the rankings of some major countries are Japan (20th), Germany (21st), Italy (51st), France (58th), Mexico (68th), Russia (89th), India (105th), Brazil (105th), and China (124th).

Q.117) Consider the following statements regarding the **Jigyasa** programme:

- 1. It is a student-scientist connect programme focusing on research laboratory-based learning.
 - 2. It is being implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

JIGYASA is a student-scientist connect programme of **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** in collaboration with **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathans**

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

(KVS). Its objective is to extend the classroom learning and focusing on a well-planned research laboratory-based learning.

Student Residential Programmes, scientists as teachers and teachers as scientists, lab specific activities/Onsite Experiments, visits of scientists to Schools/Outreach Programmes, science and maths Clubs, projects of National Children's Science Congress and tinkering laboratories are some of the activities included under the programme.

Q.118) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**:

1. It aims for development and conservation of indigenous breeds through genetic upgradation of nondescript bovine population.
 2. It envisages establishment of integrated cattle development centres 'Gokul Grams' to develop indigenous breeds.
 3. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is implemented through the Livestock Development Boards.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)** aims for development and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding in the breeding tract and genetic upgradation of nondescript bovine population.

The scheme comprises of two components namely National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB) and National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP).

Statement 2 is correct. Rashtriya Gokul Mission components:

- Integrated cattle development centres '**Gokul Grams**' to develop indigenous breeds including upto 40% nondescript breeds.
- Establishment of Field Performance Recording (FPR) in the breeding tract.
- Implementation of Pedigree Selection Programme for the Indigenous Breeds with large population.
- Establishment of Breeder's Societies: **Gopalan Sangh**.
- Distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.
- Incentive to farmers maintaining elite animals of indigenous breeds.
- Award to Farmers (**Gopal Ratna**) and Breeders Societies (**Kamadhenu**)

Statement 3 is correct. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is implemented through the State Implementing Agency (SIA viz. Livestock Development Boards).

Q.119) Which of the following institution has recently released the '**Ecological Threat Register**' report?

- a) Institute for Economics and Peace
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The 2020 **Ecological Threat Register (ETR)** is the inaugural edition which covers 157 independent states and territories. It has been released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**.

The ETR measures ecological threats that countries are currently facing and provides projections to 2050. The Ecological Threat Register analyses risk from population growth, water stress, food insecurity, droughts, floods, cyclones, rising temperatures and sea levels.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Report highlights:

- Over the next 30 years, 141 countries are exposed to at least one ecological threat by 2050.
- Country with the largest number of people at risk of mass displacements in **Pakistan, followed by Ethiopia and Iran**. In these countries, even small ecological threats and natural disasters could result in mass population displacement, affecting regional and global security.
- Today, 2.6 billion people experience high or extreme water stress - by 2040, this will increase to 5.4 billion people.
- So far, **India** received the largest amount of climate-related aid in 2018, amounting to the US \$6.5 billion dollars.

Q.120) Rogan painting is a traditional art form of which state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Gujarat
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Odisha

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Rogan painting** is a centuries old art of cloth printing practiced in the **Kutch District of Gujarat**. A word of Persian origin, Rogan means oil.

Rogan paint cloth printing process: Castor oil is heated and cast into cold water and the thick residue is then mixed with natural colours. Then, using a stylus or blocks, this resultant paint is meticulously transferred on to a cloth to make floral, animal (peacock) and geometric patterns. The weather and density of the mix play an important role.

Q.121) Which of the following is/are immunogenicity evaluation tests?

- 1. ELISA test
 - 2. Plaque reduction neutralization test
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both are immunogenicity evaluation tests.

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.

ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) is a plate-based assay technique designed for detecting and quantifying soluble substances such as peptides, proteins, antibodies, and hormones.

The **plaque-reduction neutralization test (PRNT)** is a serological test which measures virus-specific neutralizing antibody titers.

Q.122) The Yanomami tribe belongs to which region?

- a) Malay Peninsula
- b) Deccan Plateau
- c) South America
- d) Central Africa

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Yanomami** are a relatively isolated tribe in **South America**. They live in the rainforests and mountains of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela. They are speakers of a Xirianá language, who live in the remote forest of the Orinoco River basin in southern Venezuela and the northernmost reaches of the Amazon River basin in northern Brazil.

They have been threatened for several decades by illegal gold miners who invade their land and bring diseases. They recently sent a request to India to stop buying Yanomami 'Blood Gold'.

Q.123) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. RECOVERY trial - Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
2. Solidarity trial - World Health Organization
3. COVAX - Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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. **Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY Trial)** is supported by a grant to the University of Oxford from **United Kingdom** Research and Innovation/National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

RECOVERY Trial is currently testing some of these suggested treatments:

- Low-dose Dexamethasone (now only recruiting children)
- Azithromycin (a commonly used antibiotic)
- Tocilizumab (an anti-inflammatory treatment given by injection)
- Convalescent plasma (collected from donors who have recovered from COVID-19 and contains antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus).

Option 2 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.

The treatment options are: Remdesivir and Lopinavir/Ritonavir with Interferon beta-1a. On 4 July 2020, WHO accepted the recommendation from the Solidarity Trial's International Steering Committee to discontinue the trial's hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir arm.

Option 3 is correct. **COVAX** is co-led by **Gavi**, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

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

Q.124) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**:

1. It has been established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
2. It will be empowered to impose penalties on endorsers of misleading advertisements.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Central Government has established the **Central Consumer Protection Authority** as a body corporate in exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Statement 2 is correct. CCPA will carry out the following **functions**:

- inquiring into violations of consumer rights, investigating and launching prosecution at the appropriate forum;
- passing orders to recall goods or withdraw services that are hazardous, reimbursement of the price paid, and discontinuation of the unfair trade practices, as defined in the Bill;
- issuing directions to the concerned trader/ manufacturer/ endorser/ advertiser/ publisher to either discontinue a false or misleading advertisement, or modify it;
- order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, impose **penalties** on manufacturers/**endorsers**/publishers of misleading advertisements.

Q.125) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Asol Chini' campaign:

1. It has been launched by the Government of West Bengal.
2. It aims to fight fake information and rumour spreading on social media.

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 **Government of Bangladesh** has launched a campaign named 'Asol Chini' or 'real-sugar'.

Statement 2 is correct. Asol Chini campaign aims to fight **fake information and rumour spreading on social media**. The campaign aims to create digital literacy to stop fake information and rumours.

Q.126) Which of the following country(s) is/are *not* member(s) of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**?

1. China
2. France
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: D

Explanation: None of the above countries are members of IORA.

The **Indian Ocean Rim Association** is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997.

Member States: Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

All sovereign States of the Indian Ocean Rim are eligible for membership of the Association. To become members, States must adhere to the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the Association.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

IORA's apex body is the **Council of Foreign Ministers (COM)** which meets annually. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) assumed the role of Chair since November 2019 - November 2021.

Q.127) Which of the following organization has released the **Living Planet Report 2020**?

- a) World Wide Fund for Nature
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- c) Conservation International
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Living Planet Report**, WWF's flagship publication released every two years, is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet. Through multiple indicators including the **Living Planet Index (LPI)**, provided by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), it shows an average 68% fall in almost 21,000 wildlife populations between 1970 and 2016.

The 2020 report finds that the highest biodiversity loss due to land use change globally has been found in Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 per cent, then in North America at 52.5 per cent, Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 per cent, Africa at 45.9 per cent and then Asia at 43 per cent.

India has lost nearly one-third of its natural wetlands to urbanization, agricultural expansion and pollution over the last four decades and WWF India's report on Water Stewardship for Industries revealed that 14 out of 20 river basins in India are already water stressed and will be moving to extreme water scarcity by 2050.

Q.128) Consider the following statements regarding the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC Initiative**:

- 1. It has been launched by the Atal Innovation Mission.
- 2. The programme will support applied research-based innovations by providing funding support for speedy development of the product.

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.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, recently launched the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges**, to spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.

The programme will be driven by **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**, **four ministries—Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**—and associated industries to facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.

The ARISE-ANIC programme will support deserving applied **research-based innovations** by providing funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh for speedy development of the proposed technology solution and/or product.

Q.129) Which of the following relates to **India-China border demarcation**?

- 1. Macartney-MacDonald Line
- 2. Ardagh-Johnson Line

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

3. McMahon Line

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 **Macartney–MacDonald Line** was a proposed boundary in the disputed area of Aksai Chin. It was proposed by British Indian Government to China in 1899 via its envoy to China, Sir Claude MacDonald.

This survey was officially sent by the British to China in 1899, was not followed up, and the border remained 'undefined'.

The **Ardagh–Johnson Line** was another proposed boundary between China and India in Jammu & Kashmir region. It was formally proposed to the British Indian government by Major General John Ardagh, chief of military intelligence in London, in 1897, based on the surveys conducted by William Johnson in 1865.

McMahon Line is the frontier between Tibet and British India in north east, negotiated between Tibet and Great Britain at the end of the Shimla Conference (October 1913–July 1914) and named for the chief British negotiator, Sir Henry McMahon.

Upon independence in 1947, the government of India fixed its official boundary in the west, which included the Aksai Chin, in a manner that resembled the Ardagh–Johnson Line.



Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.130) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Standards Collaboration (GSC)**:

1. It is a voluntary organization for enhancing global cooperation regarding telecommunications standards development.
2. No organization from India is a member of GSC.

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. GSC is an unincorporated voluntary organization dedicated to enhancing global cooperation and collaboration regarding **communications standards and the related standards development environment**.

GSC is not a standards development organization and therefore will not develop standards. GSC events provide a strategic opportunity for dialogue among senior officials from national, regional and international standards bodies in support of the work of ITU (International Telecommunication Union).

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI)** is a constituent Standards Development Organisation (SDO) of Global Standards Collaboration (GSC).

Q.131) Consider the following statements regarding the **Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha**:

1. Constitution mandates the Deputy Speaker to be chosen from among the members of the opposition parties in the Lok Sabha.
2. The salaries and allowances of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha are expenditure charged upon Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Article 93** states that the House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

There is no provision for the Deputy Speaker to be mandatorily be from the opposition party members.

Statement 2 is correct. The **salaries and allowances** of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the **Deputy Speaker** of the House of the People are the **expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India**.

Q.132) Consider the following statements regarding the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**:

1. Manufacturing sector has highest weightage in IIP calculation.
2. Base year for current IIP calculations is 2011-12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** are released on 12th of every month (or previous working day if 12th is a holiday) with a six weeks lag and compiled with data received from source agencies, who in turn receive the data from the producing factories/ establishments.

Statement 1 is correct. The weightage of **Manufacturing, Mining and Electricity** production in overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is **77.63 per cent, 14.37 per cent and 7.99** per cent respectively.

Statement 2 is correct. There have been nine revision of base year of all-India IIP since the beginning of its dissemination with first being 1937. Currently base year for IIP calculations is **2011-12**.

Q.133) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Serathang - Arunachal Pradesh
- 2. Nathu La pass - Sikkim
- 3. Lipulekh Pass - Uttarakhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Sherathang** is a town in **Sikkim** near the Nathula Pass in India. The location is the site for **excise, customs and checking** for trade between India and China. Rinqingang is the corresponding location in China.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Lipulekh** is a Himalayan pass on the border between **Uttarakhand** state and the Tibet region of China, near their trijunction with Nepal.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Nathu La** is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East **Sikkim** district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Ministry of External Affairs organizes Kailash Mansarovar Yatra during June to September through two different routes - Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La Pass (Sikkim).

Q.134) Consider the following statements regarding the **Singapore Convention on Mediation**:

- 1. India has signed and ratified the convention.
- 2. The convention is yet to enter into force.

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: The Singapore Convention on Mediation also called **UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation** which was opened for

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

signature in August 2019, it is an international agreement regarding the recognition of mediated settlements.

Statement 1 is incorrect. As of September 2020, the Convention has 53 signatories, including the United States, China and India.

In 2019, **India was among the first group of signatories** to the 'Singapore Mediation Convention'. It is yet to be ratified.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation **came into force recently** and will provide a more effective way for enforcing mediated settlements of corporate disputes involving businesses.

Q.135) Which of the following is/are *not* covered by the definition of 'foreign source' under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**?

1. Government of any foreign country
2. International Monetary Fund
3. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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: The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010** regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security.

Some of the **Foreign Sources**, as defined in **Section 2(1) (j) of FCRA, 2010** include:

- the **Government of any foreign country** or territory and any agency of such Government;
- any international agency, **not being** the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies, the World Bank, **International Monetary Fund** or such other agency as the Central Government may notify;

*Central Govt. has notified several international bodies to be **not** covered by the definition of 'foreign source'. The list among others includes **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, Geneva.*

- a trade union in any foreign country or territory;
- a foreign trust or a foreign foundation;
- a society, club or other association or individuals formed or registered outside India;
- a citizen of a foreign country.

Q.136) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020**:

1. It has been published by Indian Cancer Society.
2. Tobacco related cancers are estimated to constitute more than one-fourth of all cancers 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. In India, the **National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP)** under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with its network of cancer

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

registries was started in December 1981 with the coordinating center at Bengaluru. Presently it is operated by the **ICMR-National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR)**, Bengaluru.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the report **Tobacco related cancers** are estimated to constitute **27%** of all cancers in India.

Report of National Cancer Registry Programme 2012-2016

Projection of Cancer Cases in India

Table 14.2 Cancer Burden by Broad Anatomical Sites of Cancer - 2020 and 2025

Broad Anatomical Sites of Cancer	2020		2025	
	No. of Cases	(%)	No. of Cases	(%)
All Sites	1392179	100.0	1569793	100.0
Tobacco Related Cancers	377830	27.1	427273	27.2
Gastro Intestinal Tract	273982	19.7	310142	19.8
Cervix Uteri	75209	5.4	85241	5.4
Breast	205424	14.8	232832	14.8
Corpus Uteri and Ovary	70400	5.1	79765	5.1
Lymphoid & Haematopoietic Malignancies	124931	9.0	138592	8.8
Prostate	41532	3.0	47068	3.0
Central Nervous System	32729	2.4	36258	2.3

Q.137) Consider the following statements regarding **Parliament of India**:

1. Constitution provides for maximum gap of six months between last sitting in one session and the first sitting in the next session of a house.
2. The President may from time to time prorogue and dissolve either House of the Parliament.
3. Attorney-General of India has the right to speak/take part in the proceedings of any joint sitting of the Houses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but **six months shall not intervene** between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session. **[Article 85(1)]**

Statement 2 is incorrect. The President may from time to time— (a) **prorogue** the Houses or either House; (b) **dissolve** the House of the People. **[Article 85(2)]**

The Council of States is **not be subject to dissolution**, but as nearly as possible one-third of the members thereof retire on the expiration of every second year. **[Article 83(1)]**

Statement 3 is correct. Every Minister and the **Attorney-General of India** shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, either House, any joint sitting of the Houses, and any committee of Parliament of which he may be named a member, but shall not by virtue of this article be entitled to vote. **[Article 88]**

Q.138) Which of the following is/are the school(s) of **Tibetan Buddhism**?

1. Gelug
2. Nyingma

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

3. Sowa-Rigpa

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: **Tibetan Buddhism** has four major schools, namely **Nyingma**, (8th century), **Kagyü**, (11th century), **Sakya**, (1073), and **Gelug**, (1409).

Sowa-Rigpa is one of the oldest, living and well documented **medical traditions** popular in the world. The term 'Sowa Rigpa' is derived from Bhoti language which means 'Knowledge of Healing'. It is an ancient medical system which was enriched in the entire Trans-Himalayan region.

Q.139) What is the mandate of the recently constituted **Rajiv Mehrishi committee**?

- a) Economic impact of interest waivers under COVID-19 related loan moratorium
- b) Assess the adequate size of capital reserves that the RBI should hold
- c) Financial parameters for restructuring of loans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- d) Constitution of the Public Debt Management Agency

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The government has recently set up an expert committee headed by **former comptroller and auditor general (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi** to assess the impact of “**waiving of interest and waiving of interest on interest on the Covid-19-related moratorium**” on the economy and financial stability.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had in March this year allowed banks to offer a three-month moratorium on principal and interest payments beginning March 1 to provide relief to borrowers hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. This was later extended by another three months to August 31.

Q.140) The proposed **Kra Isthmus canal** would connect which of the following water bodies?

- a) Gulf of Mexico with the Pacific Ocean
- b) Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara
- c) Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean
- d) Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The Thai Canal or **Kra Isthmus Canal** is a project that would connect the **Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea** across the Kra Isthmus in southern Thailand.

The canal would provide an alternative to transit through the Straits of Malacca and shorten transit for shipments of oil to Japan and China.



Q.141) Which of the following country(s) shares land border with **Afghanistan**?

1. China
2. Uzbekistan
3. India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Afghanistan**, a mountainous landlocked republic in Central Asia is bordered by **Tajikistan**, **Turkmenistan**, and **Uzbekistan** to the north, **Iran** in west, **Pakistan** in east and south and it has a small stretch of border in north east with both **China** and **India** (PoK).



Q.142) Which of the following is/are related to the **Israel's** relations with Arab world?

1. Arab Peace Initiative
2. Abraham Accords

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. **Arab Peace Initiative** was proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002, and endorsed by the Arab League in the same year.

The initiative called for normalizing relations between the **Arab world and Israel**, in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from the territories it captured in the 1967 war, including the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, a “just settlement” of the Palestinian refugee issue and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Option 2 is correct. The **Abraham Accord** was agreed to by Israel and the United Arab Emirates in August, 2020. It aims to normalize the relations between the two countries.

Q.143) Which of the following **International Labour Organization (ILO)** conventions have been ratified by **India**?

1. Worst forms of Child Labour Convention
2. Equal Remuneration Convention

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

3. Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention

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: India is a founder member of the International Labour Organization, which came into existence in 1919. At present the ILO has 186 Members.

The eight **Core Conventions of the ILO** (also called fundamental/human rights conventions) are:

- Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
- Equal Remuneration** Convention (No.100)
- Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)
- Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
- Worst forms of **Child Labour** Convention (No.182)
(The above Six have been ratified by India)
- Freedom of **Association** and Protection of Right to **Organised Convention** (No.87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98)
(These two have not been ratified by India)

Q.144) Subramania Bharati was associated with which of the following literary/journalistic works?

- 1. Swadesamitran
- 2. Kuyil Pattu
- 3. Gnanaratham

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: Chinnaswami Subramania Bharati (1882-1921) was an Indian writer of the nationalist period and is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil style.

Bharati's best-known works include **Kannan pattu** (1917), **Panchali sapatham** (1912; Panchali's Vow), and **Kuyil pattu** (1912). Many of his English works were collected in Agni and Other Poems and Translations and Essays and Other Prose Fragments (1937).

As a working journalist, his writings in **Swadesamitran** and India made an important contribution to Tamil political vocabulary. He wrote stories, commentaries, and was also the pioneer of column writing in Tamil.

The exposure to political affairs led to his involvement in the extremist wing of the Indian National **Congress** party, and, as a result, he was forced to flee to Pondicherry (now Puducherry), a French colony, where he lived in exile from 1910 to 1919.

Q.145) Which of the following constitute the term 'Hybrid Warfare'?

- 1. Disinformation and fake news
- 2. Economic manipulation
- 3. Use of proxies and insurgencies

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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: Hybrid warfare is an emerging notion in conflict studies. It refers to the use of unconventional methods as part of a multi-domain war-fighting approach. These methods aim to disrupt and disable an opponent's actions without engaging in open hostilities.

It generally involves a combination of activities, including disinformation, fake news, economic manipulation, use of proxies and insurgencies, non-state actors with advanced military capabilities, diplomatic pressure and military actions.

Hybrid warfare is employing multiple, diverse tactics simultaneously against an opponent.

Q.146) Consider the following statements regarding the **Phosphine gas**:

- 1. It is a colorless flammable gas.
- 2. It is an artificially produced gas and does not occur naturally.

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. **Phosphine** is a colorless, flammable, and explosive gas at ambient temperature.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a **natural** gaseous carrier of phosphorus in its biogeochemical cycles, has been found ubiquitously present in the environment. Small amounts occur naturally from the breakdown of organic matter.

Recent discovery of phosphine on Venus has sparked debate on presence of life outside Earth.

On rocky planets such as Venus and Earth, phosphine can only be made by life—whether human or microbe.

Phosphine is manufactured as an agricultural fumigant, is used in the semiconductor industry, and is a byproduct of meth labs.

But phosphine is also made naturally by some species of anaerobic bacteria—organisms that live in the oxygen-starved environments of landfills, marshlands, and even animal guts.

Q.147) Arrange the following events in chronological order:

- 1. Breakout of World War II
- 2. Tripuri session of the Indian National Congress
- 3. Establishment of the Forward Bloc

Select the correct answer using the code give below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Tripuri session** of the Congress was held from 8 to 12 **March 1939**. Subhash Chandra Bose was re-elected the President of INC at the Tripuri Session in 1939 by defeating Gandhiji's candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

Forward Bloc was formed by Subhash Chandra Bose on 3 **May 1939**, after he resigned from Congress President Ship on 29 April 1939.

World War II broke out on 1 **September 1939** when Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France went to Poland's aid and declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939.

Q.148) The **Methane Hydrates** can be found in which of the following location(s)?

1. Beneath permafrost
2. Shallow sediments along continental margins

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

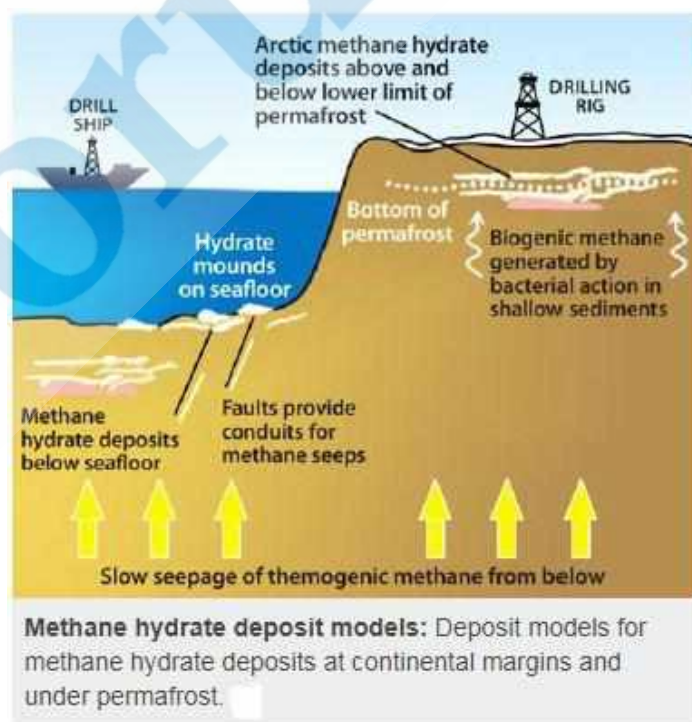
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Methane hydrates** consist of molecules of natural gas (the chief constituent of natural gas; methane) enclosed within a solid lattice of water molecules. When brought to the earth's surface, one cubic meter of gas hydrate releases 164 cubic meters of natural gas.

Gas hydrate deposits are found wherever methane occurs in the presence of water under elevated pressures and at relatively low temperatures, such as **beneath permafrost or in shallow sediments along deepwater continental margins**.

In a recent study conducted by researchers at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, have found that the methane hydrate deposits are located in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin are of biogenic origin.



10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.149) Consider the following statements regarding the **Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act**:

1. It authorized the British government to detain people for up to 2 years without trial.
2. Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly against the passage of the Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act (Rowlatt Act) of 1919**, was a repressive legislation enacted in British India, following the report of a committee under Justice Rowlatt. The report had recommended the continuation of special wartime powers for use against revolutionary conspiracy and terrorist activity.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Rowlatt Act** entitled the British to arrest anyone found suspicious of plotting against the British Raj. Under this act, those supposed to be involved in revolt against the British could be sentenced to a term of up to **2 years in jail, without any trial**. It also placed severe restrictions on the freedom of the press.

The Act aroused opposition among Indian nationalists and this was channelled by Mohandas Gandhi into a nationwide satyagraha, known as the Rowlatt agitation, which ended with the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt** threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly on 8 April 1929 against the passage of the **Public Safety Bill and the Trade Disputes Bill** which would reduce the civil liberties of citizens.

Q.150) Which of the following language(s) have the status of 'Classical Language' in India?

1. Sanskrit
2. Kannada
3. Hindi

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: Six languages have been conferred the status of 'Classical Language' in India till now: **Tamil** (2004), **Sanskrit** (2005), **Kannada** (2008), **Telugu** (2008), **Malayalam** (2013), and **Odia** (2014).

Criteria for conferring the status of Classical Language:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
- The literary tradition to be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Till date, Hindi has not been granted the Classical Language status.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Hindi Diwas is celebrated on 14th September. It was on this day in 1949 that the constituent assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari as the official language of the country.

Q.151) Consider the following statements regarding the **Contempt of Court**:

1. Scandalizing the Court is a criminal offence in India.
2. Supreme Court and High Courts derive their contempt powers from the Constitution.

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 **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** divides contempt into civil and criminal contempt.

-**Civil contempt** refers to the willful disobedience of an order of any court.

-**Criminal contempt** includes any act or publication which: (i) 'scandalises' the court, or (ii) prejudices any judicial proceeding, or (iii) interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.

'**Scandalising the Court**' broadly refers to statements or publications which have the effect of undermining public confidence in the judiciary.

Statement 2 is correct. The **superior courts (Supreme Court and High Courts)** derive their contempt powers from the Constitution.

Article 129 and 215 provide that Supreme Court and every High Court (respectively) 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.

Q.152) Consider the following statements regarding the **Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees**:

1. It has members from Lok Sabha only.
2. The committees consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a report to the Houses.

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 **Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee** consists of 31 members; **21 members from Lok Sabha**, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and **10 from Rajya Sabha** nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

A **Minister** is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any of the Standing Committees.

Statement 2 is correct. **Functions** of the Committee:

- to consider the **Demands for Grants** and make Reports on the same to the Houses;
- to examine such Bills as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be, and make Reports thereon;
- to consider Annual Reports of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make Reports thereon; and
- to consider national basic long-term policy documents presented to the Houses.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.153) Which of the following statement correctly defines a **Zero FIR**?

- a) Reporting crime without naming the criminal
- b) Reporting crime without naming the victim
- c) Registering FIR in a crime irrespective of the jurisdiction
- d) Suo-moto registration of FIR by police

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **First Information Report (FIR)** is prepared by the police based on a complaint or available information in the case of cognizable offences. The information or the complaint is provided by an informant as per Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Zero FIR is a FIR lodged in any police station irrespective of the location of incidence or jurisdiction of the police station. It is later transferred to the appropriate jurisdictional police station.

Based on the **Justice Verma Committee** report, the Home Ministry, in 2013, issued an advisory to all states and union territories asking the police to register Zero FIR if an informant comes with the details of a cognizable crime irrespective of the jurisdiction in order to initiate investigation at the earliest.

Cognizable offences are those which do not require an order from magistrate, and which requires the police to take immediate action on receipt of complaint or information.

Q.154) Where is the **Spalte Glacier** located?

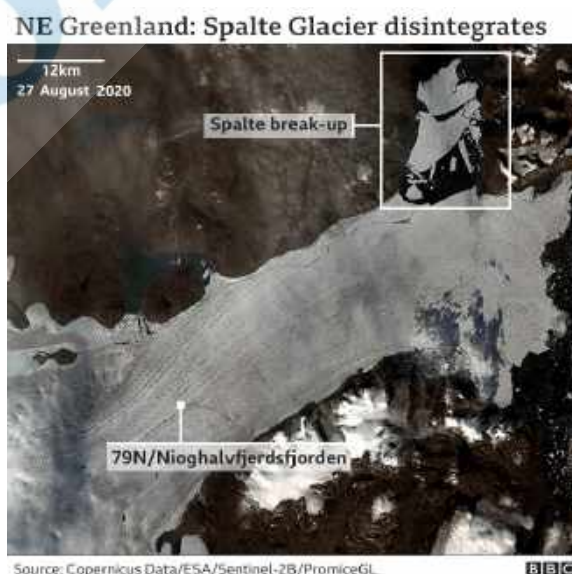
- a) Antarctica
- b) Siberia
- c) Alaska
- d) Greenland

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Nioghalvfjærdsfjorden or 79N** is roughly 80km long by 20km wide and is the floating front end of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream - where it flows off the land into the ocean to become buoyant.

At its leading edge, the glacier splits in two, with a minor offshoot turning directly north. It's this offshoot, or tributary, called **Spalte Glacier**, that has now disintegrated.

The ice feature was already heavily fractured in 2019; this summer's warmth has been its final undoing. Spalte Glacier has become a flotilla of icebergs.



Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.155) Consider the following statements regarding the **Brain Templates**:

1. It is a standard representation from various brain images to understand brain functionality.
 2. NIMHANS has developed Indian Brain Templates.
- 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. **Brain template** is a standard/gross representation from various brain images to understand brain functionality in diseased conditions.

When brain scans (MRI) are taken, they need to be compared to a standard brain template — a model or standard for making comparisons from a group of individual brain scans. This helps researchers identify parts of the brain.

Statement 2 is correct. The **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS)** has recently developed an Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas.

The neuroscientists studied over 500 brain scans of Indian patients to develop five sets of Indian brain templates and a brain atlas for five age groups covering late childhood to late adulthood (six to 60 years).

Q.156) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19**:

1. The scheme covers accidental death on account of COVID-19 related duty.
2. The scheme covers individuals only in the age group 18-60.

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. **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19** is an accident insurance scheme covers; loss of life due to COVID19, and accidental death on account of COVID-19 related duty.

Statement 2 is incorrect. This **Central Sector Scheme** provides an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakhs. Individual enrolment is not required and there's **no age limit** for this scheme.

It was announced on 30th March this year for a period of 90 days and it was extended for a further period of 90 days up to 25th September. The scheme has now been extended for another 180 days.

Q.157) Consider the following statements:

1. Currency revaluation refers to the increase in value of one currency relative to another based on supply and demand in the forex market.
2. A Currency appreciation is a calculated upward adjustment to a country's official exchange rate by central bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The definitions of appreciation and revaluation have interchanged.

Currency appreciation refers to the increase in value of one currency relative to another in the forex markets. In a floating rate exchange system, the value of a currency constantly changes based on supply and demand in the forex market.

A **revaluation** is a calculated upward adjustment to a country's official exchange rate relative to a chosen baseline, such as wage rates, the price of gold, or a foreign currency. In a fixed exchange rate regime, only a decision by a country's government, such as its central bank, can alter the official value of the currency.

Q.158) Which of the following **National Identity Element(s) of India** have adaptation(s) from **Ashoka's reign**?

1. State Emblem of India
2. National Flag
3. National Calendar

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. The **state emblem** is an adaptation from the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka**. In the state emblem, adopted by the Government of India on 26 January 1950, only three lions are visible.

In the original, there are four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening wheels over a bell-shaped lotus. Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the Capital is crowned by the Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra).

Option 2 is correct. The **National Flag** is a horizontal tricolor of India saffron at the top, white in the middle and India green at the bottom in equal proportion.

In the centre of the white band is a **navy-blue wheel** which represents the chakra. Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka**. Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **national calendar** based on the **Saka Era**, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from 22 March 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for the following official purposes. It commenced in 78 AD.

Q.159) Which of the following is/are the potential impact(s) of **sale of Government securities** by the Reserve Bank of India?

1. Increase in liquidity in the market.
2. Increase in interest rates.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. When the RBI feels that there is **excess liquidity** in the market, it resorts to **sale of securities** thereby sucking out the rupee liquidity. Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI may buy securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.

Option 2 is correct. When the RBI pursues a **tight monetary policy**, it takes money out of the system by selling government securities. This **raises interest rates** because the demand for credit is high that lenders price their loans higher to take advantage of the demand.

The purchase of securities by RBI on other hand has potential to lower the lending rates in economy as it increases the money supply.

Q.160) India's **Forex Reserve** comprises of which of the following assets?

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold
3. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)

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: India's forex reserves comprise **foreign currency assets (FCAs)**, **gold reserves**, **special drawing rights (SDRs)** and India's reserve position with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose to reach a lifetime high of \$542.013 billion in the week ended September 4.

2. Foreign Exchange Reserves

Item	As on September 4, 2020		Variation over					
			Week		End-March 2020		Year	
	₹Cr.	US\$ Mn.	₹Cr.	US\$ Mn.	₹Cr.	US\$ Mn.	₹Cr.	US\$ Mn.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Total Reserves	3964198	542013	-9535	582	362043	64206	886510	112405
1.1 Foreign Currency Assets	3644856	498362	-10826	269	311041	56149	799337	101157
1.2 Gold	274417	37521	1392	321	43890	6943	78477	10170
1.3 SDRs	10841	1482	-27	2	41	50	571	49
1.4 Reserve Position in the IMF	34083	4647	-75	-9	7070	1064	8125	1029

* Difference, if any, is due to rounding off

Guidotti Rule suggests that the countries should hold external assets sufficient to ensure that they could live without access to new foreign borrowings for up to twelve months.

Q.161) Which of the following is/are basis for '**reasonable restrictions**' on fundamental right to **freedom of speech and expression** under the Constitution?

1. Contempt of court
2. Defamation
3. Decency or morality

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Article 19(2) provides for power of state to put **reasonable restrictions** on 'freedom of speech and expression' in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, **decency or morality**, or in relation to **contempt of court**, **defamation** or incitement to an offence.

Q.162) Which of the following country(s) share border with the **Persian Gulf**?

1. Bahrain
2. Syria
3. United Arab Emirates

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: **Persian Gulf** is bordered on the north, northeast, and east by **Iran**; on the southeast and south by part of **Oman** and by the **United Arab Emirates**; on the southwest and west by **Qatar**, **Bahrain**, and **Saudi Arabia**; and on the northwest by **Kuwait** and **Iraq**.



Q.163) Arrange the following **States** chronologically in order of their formation since 1947:

1. Gujarat
2. Nagaland
3. Punjab

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1-2-3
- b) 2-3-1

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

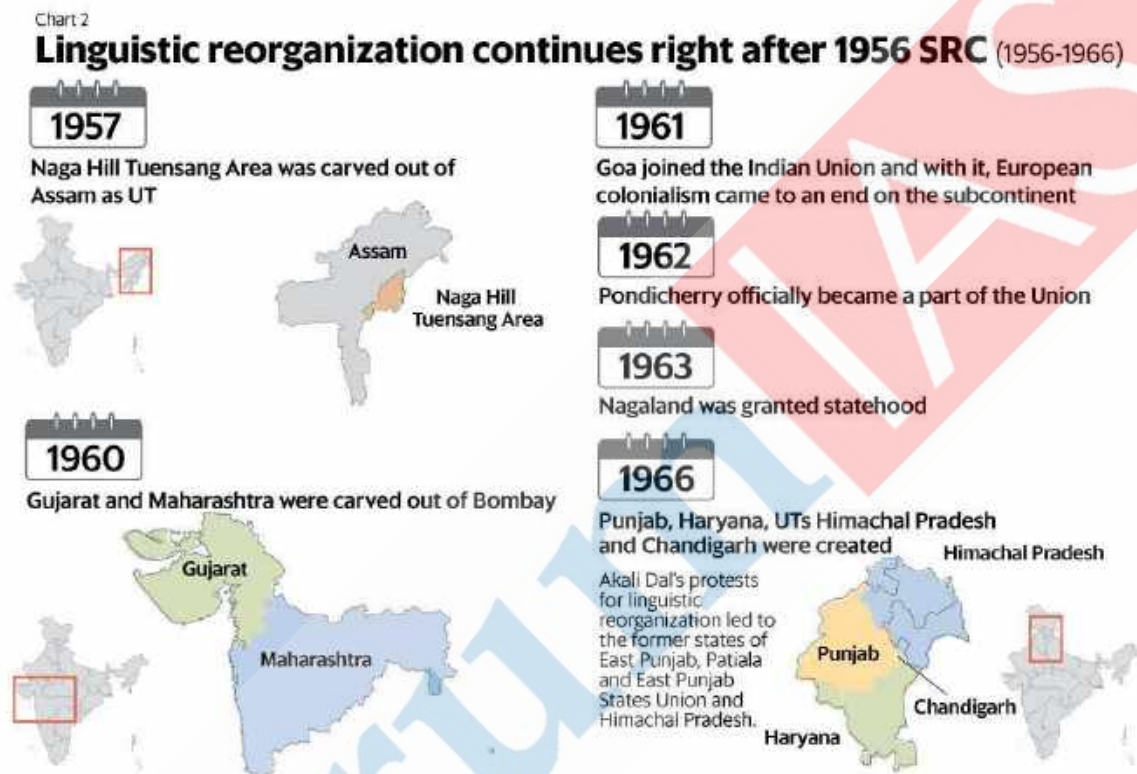
- c) 1-3-2
d) 3-2-1

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Gujarat was part of Bombay Presidency in British India but on 1 May 1960 Gujarat was separated and formed as an independent state.

Nagaland state was formed on 1 December 1963 when it was separated from Assam.

Punjab state was created after the merger of Patiala princely state with eight other similar states. In 1966, Haryana was separated as an independent state from this merger. Chandigarh is the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.



Q.164) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network**:

1. It is a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies working for development of persons with disabilities.
2. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India is a member of the Network.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network** is a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector and foundations working to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The (GLAD) Network was launched in London in December 2015, by a group of like-minded partners who recognize that to realize the promise of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to leave no one behind, and to further the principles reflected in the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. No organization/Ministry from **India** is a member of the Network. The permanent co-chair of the GLAD Network is the **International Disability Alliance (IDA)**. The rotating co-chairs are the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

Q.165) Which of the following international conventions/protocols is/are related to the **Ozone layer depletion**?

1. Montreal Protocol
2. Kyoto Protocol
3. Stockholm Convention

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The principal aim of the **Montreal Protocol** is to protect the **ozone layer** by taking measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it, with the ultimate objective of their elimination on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge and technological information.

Option 2 is incorrect. **Kyoto Protocol** operationalized the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce **greenhouse gases (GHG)** emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants** aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants.

The scientific confirmation of the depletion of the ozone layer led to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which was adopted and signed by 28 countries, on 22 March 1985. In September 1987, this led to the drafting of The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

On 16th September 2009, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol became the first treaties in the history of the United Nations to achieve universal ratification.

The Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer reached agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties on 15 October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda to phase-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Q.166) Consider the following statements regarding the **Solar Cycle 25**:

1. It has concluded in 2019 and the Solar Cycle 26 has begun.
2. The beginning of the solar cycle is the solar maximum, when the Sun has the most sunspots.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **solar cycle** is the cycle that the Sun's magnetic field goes through approximately every 11 years. This means that the Sun's north and south poles switch places. Then it takes about another 11 years for the Sun's north and south poles to flip back again.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Recently, scientists from **NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA** announced their predictions about the new solar cycle, called **Solar Cycle 25**, which they believe has begun.

The **Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel**, an international group of experts co-sponsored by NASA and NOAA, announced that solar minimum occurred in December 2019, marking the start of a new solar cycle. Because our Sun is so variable, it can take months after the fact to declare this event. Scientists use sunspots to track solar cycle progress.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **beginning of a solar cycle is a solar minimum**, or when the Sun has the least sunspots. Over time, solar activity and the number of sunspots increase. The middle of the solar cycle is the solar maximum, or when the Sun has the most sunspots. As the cycle ends, it fades back to the solar minimum and then a new cycle begins.



Evolution of the Sun in extreme ultraviolet light from 2010 through 2020, as seen from the telescope aboard Europe's PROBA2 spacecraft. Credit: Dan Seaton/European Space Agency (Collage by NOAA/JPL-Caltech)

Q.167) The '**Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef**' program has been launched under which of the following group/organisation?

- a) Group of Twenty (G-20)
- b) United Nations Environment Program
- c) World Wide Fund for Nature
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20** countries took place recently through video conferencing under the Presidency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The **Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef** program under the G20 aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally, taking into account possible implications on the achievement of other SDGs and adhering to the principle of doing no harm.

The **Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform** is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at creating a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, innovation and capacity building in all facets of coral reef conservation, restoration, and adaptation, and strengthen ongoing efforts and commitments made to enhance coral reefs conservation and their further degradation.

Q.168) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**:

1. It is a UN specialized agency established to manage the administration the Chicago Convention.

2. India is not a member of the ICAO.

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 **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** is a UN specialized agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the **Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)**.

ICAO works with the Convention's 193 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation **Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)** and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India** is a member of ICAO, and currently part of Council States 2019-2022.

The ICAO, under its *Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme* and the *Universal Security Audit Programme*, regularly conducts safety and security audits of all countries which are signatory to the Chicago Convention.

The audits conducted by the ICAO in 2012 and 2015 indicated a need to amend the Aircraft Act to give proper recognition to the regulators under the Act.

The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020 seeks to provide statutory status to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

Q.169) Consider the following statements regarding the proposed **Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA)**:

1. ITRA is proposed to be an Institution of National Importance (INI).

2. It aims to develop patterns of teaching in medical education in Ayurveda and pharmacy.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill 2020** has been passed by Rajya Sabha recently. The Bill was earlier passed in Lok Sabha on 19th March, 2020.

This paves the way to establish a state-of-the-art Ayurvedic institution called the **Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA)** at Jamnagar, Gujarat, and to confer the status of **Institution of National Importance (INI)** to it.

ITRA will be the **first institution** with INI status in the AYUSH Sector, and this will enable the institution to be independent and innovative in the matter deciding course content and pedagogy.

Statement 2 is correct. The **objective** of the Institute will be to: (i) develop **patterns of teaching** in medical education in Ayurveda and pharmacy, (ii) bring together educational facilities for training of personnel in all branches of Ayurveda, (iii) attain self-sufficiency in postgraduate education to meet the need for specialists and medical teachers in Ayurveda, and (iv) make an in-depth study and research in the field of Ayurveda.

Q.170) Which of the following constitute the 'Public debt' of India?

1. Liabilities of Central Government contracted against the Consolidated Fund of India
2. Public Account Liabilities of the Central Government

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: A

Explanation: Public Debt denotes liabilities payable by the Central Government, which are contracted against the **Consolidated Fund of India**, as provided under Article 292 of the Constitution of India.

It excludes liabilities contracted against Public Account.

Public Debt has been further classified under two heads, i.e., **Internal Debt and External Debt**. Internal debt is categorized into marketable and non-marketable securities.

Marketable government securities include G-secs and T-Bills issued through auction. **Non-marketable** securities include intermediate treasury bills issued to state governments, special securities issued to national Small Savings Fund among others.

Most of the **external debt** is sourced from multilateral agencies such as International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), etc. and official bilateral agencies.

Public Account Liabilities include liabilities on account of National Small Saving Fund (NSSF), State Provident Funds, Reserve Funds and Deposits, and Other Accounts.

Q.171) Which of the following organisation has published the **Human Capital Index 2020**?

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations Development Program
- c) International Labour Organisation
- d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Human Capital Index** is a report prepared by the World Bank; it is an international metric that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Measuring the human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by her 18th birthday, the HCI highlights how current health and education outcomes shape the productivity of the next generation of workers. The HCI was launched in 2018 as part of the **Human Capital Project (HCP)**.

The **2020 Human Capital Index** update includes health and education data for 174 countries - covering 98 per cent of the world's population - up to March 2020, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries.

India has been ranked at the 116th position.

Q.172) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kosi River**:

1. It flows through China and Bhutan before entering India.
2. It meets Ganga River on the left bank.

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. **Kosi River** drains the northern slopes of the Himalayas in the Tibet Autonomous Region and the southern slopes in **Nepal** before entering India.

It is also known as **Saptakoshi** for its seven upper tributaries. These include the Tamur Koshi, Arun River and Sun Koshi. The Sun Koshi's tributaries from east to west are Dudh Koshi, Bhote Koshi, Tamba Koshi and Indravati Koshi.

Statement 2 is correct. The Saptakoshi crosses into northern Bihar where it branches into distributaries before joining the **Ganges** near Kursela in Katihar district.



10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.173) Which of the following correctly defines the term '**Serial interval**' in epidemiology?

- a) Time taken for a patient to show symptoms after being infected
- b) Duration between symptom onset of a primary case and symptom onset of its secondary cases
- c) Time taken for a vaccine to induce antibody development in human body
- d) Number of people getting infected by spread of disease from one person

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **serial interval** of an infectious disease represents the duration between symptom onset of a primary case and symptom onset of its secondary cases, i.e. the time duration between a primary case-patient (infectior) having symptom onset and a secondary case-patient (infectee) having symptom onset.

The serial interval helps to gauge the **effectiveness of infection control** interventions while also indicating rising population immunity and forecast future incidence. The more quickly persons who contracted a disease are identified and isolated; the shorter the serial interval becomes and cuts down opportunities for transmission of the virus.

Q.174) Consider the following statements regarding the **Brucellosis disease**:

- 1. It is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium.
- 2. It mostly spreads by eating or drinking unpasteurized or raw dairy products.

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.

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease caused by various *Brucella* species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs. Humans generally acquire the disease through direct contact with infected animals, by eating or drinking contaminated animal products, or by inhaling airborne agents.

Most cases are caused by ingesting **unpasteurized** milk or cheese from infected goats or sheep. Person-to-person transmission is rare. The disease causes flu-like symptoms, including fever, weakness, malaise and weight loss.

Authorities of Lanzhou city, China recently confirmed that several thousand people have tested positive for bacterial disease brucellosis due to a leak caused by a biopharmaceutical company in 2019.

Q.175) Which of the following potential **COVID-19 vaccines** have been indigenously developed in India?

- 1. COVAXIN
- 2. ZyCov-D
- 3. ChAdOx1

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **ChAdOx1** has been developed by the **Oxford University** in collaboration with **AstraZeneca**. It utilizes a replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus to deliver a SARS-CoV-2 protein to induce a protective immune response.

COVAXIN is a COVID-19 vaccine by Bharat Biotech, developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Virology (NIV).

ZyCov-D is also a candidate for COVID-19 vaccination indigenously developed in India. It is the plasmid DNA-vaccine being developed by Zydus Cadilla.

In Phase-2 trials now, both are being tested for their ability to produce a satisfactory immune response.

Q.176) Consider the following statements regarding the **Charter of the United Nations**:

1. General Assembly (UNGA) elects the non-permanent members of the Security Council.
2. The UNGA cannot make recommendations on peace and security matters which are at that time being addressed by the Security Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The UNGA is comprised of all 193 Members of the United Nations. The Assembly meets from September to December each year (main part), and thereafter, from January to September (resumed part).

Statement 1 is correct. According to the Charter of the United Nations, decisions of the **General Assembly** on important questions shall be made by a **two-thirds majority** of the members present and voting. These questions include:

-recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the **non-permanent members of the Security Council**, the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council, the election of members of the Trusteeship Council, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the **UN Charter**, while the **Security Council** is exercising in respect of any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests.

Despite the UN Charter's provision limiting the General Assembly's powers with regard to peace and security matters; there may be cases when the Assembly can act.

In accordance with the General Assembly's "Uniting for Peace" resolution of November 1950, in the case there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression and if the Security Council fails to act, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member, then the General Assembly may act.

This resolution was invoked only once in UN peacekeeping history, when in 1956 the General Assembly established the First UN Emergency Force (UNEF I) in the Middle East.

Q.177) Which of the following is/are the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** of India under the **Paris Agreement**?

1. To reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels.
2. To increase the share of non-fossil-based energy resources to 40 percent of installed electric power capacity by 2030.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

3. To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

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 India's **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** under Paris Agreement.

India's national climate action plans, known in UN parlance as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), under the Paris Agreement set three major goals—

-To reduce the **emissions intensity** of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 levels.

-To increase the share of **non-fossil-based energy resources** to 40% of installed electric power capacity by 2030, with help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF).

-To create an **additional (cumulative) carbon sink** of 2.5–3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Q.178) Consider the following statements regarding the **electricity sector of India**:

- 1. Central sector installed capacity accounts for more than half of India's total installed capacity.
- 2. Coal based thermal power plants account for more than half of India's total installed capacity.

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. **Central Sector** having an installed capacity of 94,027 MW accounts for about **25.2% of total installed capacity**.

1.Total Installed Capacity (As on 31.08.2020) - Source : Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

Sector	MW	% of Total
Central Sector	94,027	25.2%
State Sector	103,617	27.8%
Private Sector	174,298	47.0%
Total	3,71,977	

Statement 2 is correct. **Coal based** thermal power plants having 1,99,595 MW installed capacity account for **53.6% of total installed capacity**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Fuel	MW	% of Total
Total Thermal	2,31,421	62.1%
Coal	1,99,595	53.6%
Lignite	6,360	1.7%
Gas	24,957	6.7%
Diesel	510	0.1%
Hydro (Renewable)	45,699	12.3%
Nuclear	6,780	1.8%
RES* (MNRE)	88,793	23.8%
Total	371,977	

* Installed capacity in respect of RES (MNRE) as on 31.08.2020.

RES (Renewable Energy Sources) include Small Hydro Project, Biomass Gasifier, Biomass Power, Urban & Industrial Waste Power, Solar and Wind Energy.

Q.179) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**:

1. The Animal Welfare Board of India has been established under the act.
2. To kill any animal even if required by the religion of any community is a punishable offence under the act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Animal Welfare Board of India** is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country, established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Section 11** of the act lists a series of offences, which vary from abandoning an animal to kicking it, mutilating it or killing it, and prescribes the punishment for all these offences.

Section 28 however states that —nothing contained in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community.

Q.180) Consider the following statements regarding the **Union Council of Ministers**:

1. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Parliament.
2. Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
3. The Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Constitution mandates that there shall be a **Council of Ministers** with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. [Article 74(1)]

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Council of Ministers shall be **collectively responsible** to the **House of the People**. [Article 75(3)]

Statement 2 is correct. The **Prime Minister** shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. [Article 75(1)]

Statement 3 is correct. The Ministers shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**. [Article 75(2)]

Q.181) Consider the following statement regarding the **Djibouti Code of Conduct**:

1. It is aimed at repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

2. India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct as Observer.

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 **Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC)**, established in January 2009, is aimed at repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

Statement 2 is correct. **India** has recently joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (**DCOC/JA**) as **Observer**.

DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East coast of Africa and Island countries in the IOR. India joins Japan, Norway, the UK and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA.

Q.182) Consider the following statements regarding the **India-Japan relations**:

1. India has signed Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) with Japan for greater defense cooperation.

2. Malabar exercise is a bilateral exercise between India-Japan naval forces.

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 **Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)** between **Japan's Self-Defense Forces and India's armed forces** was signed recently.

The agreement will cover the reciprocal provision of supplies and services during joint exercises and training missions, UN peacekeeping operations, humanitarian relief operations, operations to cope with disasters in the territory of both parties or a third country, and evacuation of nationals of India and Japan from overseas in exigencies.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Exercise Malabar** is a **trilateral** naval exercise involving the **United States, Japan and India**.

'Dharma Guardian' is the annual military training exercise between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces.

Q.183) Consider the following statements regarding the **Blue Flag certification**:

1. It is an eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
 2. The certification is accorded by UN Environment Program under Ramsar Convention.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The iconic **Blue Flag** is one of the world's most recognized voluntary eco-labels awarded to **beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators**.

In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained.

It has **33 stringent criteria** in **four major heads**—environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Blue Flag programme** is operated under the auspices of the **Foundation for Environmental Education** and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label: Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Daman and Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Did you know?

The Blue Flag was originally a symbol of an environmental awareness initiative in which French schoolchildren were invited to write a message and put it in a plastic bottle along with their names and the name of their nearest beach. These bottles were then collected by the French military and flown out to sea where they were dropped!

The idea was that the messages would drift back to shore where they would land at different points along the coast to where they originated, thereby highlighting the problem of dumping litter into the world's oceans and the impact that this has not just locally, but for communities miles away too. Unfortunately for the school children, very few of the bottles were ever seen again...but in a roundabout way this initiative led to the formulation of the Blue Flag: so thanks kids!

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.184) Consider the following statements **government procurement**:

1. Government e Marketplace (GeM) facilitates online procurement of Goods & Services required by various Government Departments in India.
2. Entities of countries not allowing participation of Indian companies in their Government procurement are not allowed to participate in Government procurement in India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Government e Marketplace (GeM)**, facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs. GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.

It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value for their money.

Statement 2 is correct. Government has recently amended the **Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017** enabling nodal Ministries and Departments to notify higher minimum local content requirement for local suppliers.

Further, as per the Order, **entities of countries** which do not allow Indian companies to participate in their Government procurement for any item, shall **not be allowed** to participate in Government procurement in India for all items related to that nodal Ministry or Department, except for the list of items published by the Ministry or Department permitting their participation.

Q.185) Consider the following statements regarding the **pulmonary edema**:

1. It is caused by excess fluid in the lungs making it difficult to breathe.
2. High-altitude pulmonary edema is caused by increased pressures in heart.

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. **Pulmonary edema** is a condition caused by excess fluid in the lungs. This fluid collects in the numerous air sacs in the lungs, making it difficult to breathe. Pulmonary edema that develops suddenly (acute pulmonary edema) is a medical emergency requiring immediate care.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Pulmonary edema** that isn't caused by increased pressures in your heart is called **non-cardiogenic** pulmonary edema.

High-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) is a life-threatening form of **non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema** (fluid accumulation in the lungs) that occurs in otherwise healthy people at high altitudes.

There have been reports of risks of High-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) to the soldiers deployed at Pangong Tso and other heights recently.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.186) Consider the following statements regarding the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**:

1. It aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024.
2. An ICT Grand Challenge has been launched under the mission to develop a Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** aims at providing **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** to every rural household by 2024. The programme focuses on service delivery at the household level, i.e. water supply regularly in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality.

Statement 2 is correct. **National Jal Jeevan Mission** in partnership with **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY)** has launched an (Information and communications technology) **ICT Grand Challenge** to create innovative, modular, and cost-effective solution to develop a 'Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System' to be deployed at the village level.

The ICT grand challenge will be inviting proposal from Indian Tech start-ups, MSMEs, Indian Companies, Indian LLPs.

It will provide support at ideation Stage, prototype development stage, deployment stage. The pilot will be conducted at 100 villages. The successful developers will be given an opportunity to join the MEITY supported incubator/ CoEs for further nurturing of their solution.

Q.187) Consider the following statements regarding **Air Transport Bubbles**:

1. These are temporary arrangements between two countries for restarting international flight services which are suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic.
2. India has not entered any Air Bubble agreement in view of rising spread of the COVID-19.

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. **"Transport Bubbles" or "Air Travel Arrangements"** are temporary arrangements between two countries aimed at restarting commercial passenger services when regular international flights are suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They are **reciprocal** in nature, meaning airlines from both countries enjoy similar benefits.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India has entered into Air Bubble agreements with 10 countries** viz. USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Afghanistan and Bahrain, till 13.09.2020.

Q.188) Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreign Investments in the Defence Sector**:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

1. Hundred percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route is permitted for companies seeking new industrial licenses.
2. Foreign Investments in the Defence Sector is subject to scrutiny on grounds of National Security

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 Government of India has recently reviewed the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in Defence sector**.

Statement 1 is incorrect. 100 percent FDI is allowed: **Automatic** up to 74% and **Government** route beyond 74% wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.

FDI up to 74% under automatic route shall be permitted for companies seeking **new industrial licenses**.

The **existing licensees** require mandatory submission of a declaration with the Ministry of Defence in case change in equity/shareholding pattern or transfer of stake by existing investor to new foreign investor for FDI up to 49%, within 30 days of such change. Proposals for raising FDI beyond 49% from such companies will require Government approval.

Statement 2 is correct. Foreign Investments in the Defence Sector shall be subject to **scrutiny on grounds of National Security** and Government reserves the **right to review** any foreign investment in the Defence Sector that affects or may affect national security.

Q.189) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik Summit**:

1. It is being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.
2. The summit is to involve Indian Diaspora working across the world to enhance the knowledge-base of Indian Research and Academic Institutions.

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. **Global Summit of NRI Researchers** called **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (Vaibhav) Summit** is a collaborative initiative by **S&T and Academic Organisations of India** to enable deliberations on thought process, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.

The virtual summit will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 2nd October'2020.

[The Hindu says it is being organized by Department of Science & Technology and Defence Research & Development Organisation]

Statement 2 is correct. It is aimed at developing mechanisms for involving Indian Diaspora working in top universities and R&D organisations across the world, to further enhance the **knowledge-base of Indian Research and Academic Institutions**.

Summit aims to give an impetus to the objectives of **Atal Innovation Mission** by leveraging the collaborative experience and deep expertise of International and Indian subject experts.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Vaibhav summit seeks active support and ideation from **Indian Diaspora** for developing skills of Indian aspirants in alignment with the New Educational Policy.

Q.190) Which of the following strategic agreements has **India** signed with the **United States of America**?

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
2. Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement
3. Industrial Security Agreement

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 India-U.S. foundational agreement for mutual logistics support, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**) was signed in **2016**.

US-India concluded the third foundational agreement, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**), which is meant for secure encrypted communications, in **2018**.

The Industrial Security Agreement (**ISA**) signed in **2019** is part of the General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**).

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which is for information safety, was signed in **2002**.

The last one remaining is the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (**BECA**).

Q.191) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kibithoo - Assam
2. Sumdorong Chu - Ladakh
3. Pasighat - Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Kibithu** or Kibithoo is a town in **Arunachal Pradesh** in Anjaw district. It is one of the easternmost permanently populated towns of India.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Sumdorong Chu** is a tributary of the Nyamjang Chu River that flows along the India-China border between the Tibet and the Tawang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Pasighat** is in the East Siang district in the Indian state of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Q.192) **Tagin tribe** is inhabitant of which of the following State/UT?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- c) Arunachal Pradesh

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

d) Odisha

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Tagin or Ghasi Miri tribe** is one of the major tribes of **Arunachal Pradesh**, which is a member of the larger designation of Tani Tribes, the descendants of Abu Tani.

Mostly Tagins are in Upper Subansiri district but are also found to be dispersed among the adjoining districts especially in West Siang and Papum Pare.

The most important festival of the Tagins is the **Si-Donyi Festival**, involves the veneration of the earth (si) and the sun (donyi).

Q.193) Consider the following statements:

1. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) refers to formation of a blood clot in a vein.
2. Blood clots in veins can break loose and travel through the 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

DVT (deep vein thrombosis) is a blood clot in a vein, usually the leg. Leg pain or swelling may occur, but there may also be no symptoms.

DVT can be very serious because blood clots in veins can break loose, travel through the **bloodstream** and get stuck in lungs. This is called a **pulmonary embolism**. A pulmonary embolism can be life threatening and needs treatment straight away.

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, has recently developed a device for the prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT). Scientists have come up with a device that can facilitate flow of blood from the veins in the legs thus preventing DVT.

Q.194) What is the major objective of the recent **Intra-Afghan talks in Doha**?

- a) Agreement on Afghanistan's future political system
- b) Resolution of Afghanistan's border dispute with Pakistan
- c) Afghanistan's relation with the United Nations system
- d) Limit the eastward expansion of ISIS

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Taliban and the Afghan government began historic **peace talks in Doha, Qatar** recently after almost two decades of war. It is aimed at shaping a **power-sharing government** that would end decades of war that have consumed Afghanistan and left millions dead and displaced.

India attended the start of the intra-Afghan talks in Doha and conveyed that the peace process must be **Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled**, that respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, promote human rights and democracy, ensure interest of minorities, women and the vulnerable, effectively address violence across the country.

AFGHANISTAN

The Intra-Afghan talks

WHAT'S ON AGENDA

- The West-backed Afghan leadership and the Taliban armed group are holding their first direct negotiations in Doha, Qatar aimed at achieving lasting peace.
- They will focus on: a permanent ceasefire, the political future of Afghanistan and social equality.

WHY NOW?



- The talks initially scheduled for March were delayed due to differences over a prisoner exchange.
- Under the US-Taliban deal signed in February, the Afghan government was to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners, while 1,000 government troops were to be freed by the armed group.
- The prisoner swap concluded last week.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?



- This is a historic opportunity for the two sides to end the 20 years of war that has killed more than 160,000 people

WHAT IS AT STAKE?



- The political future of Afghanistan after US withdrawal



- Law enforcement and security



- Gains made for gender justice and social equality since the Taliban government was toppled in 2001

Q.195) The **United in Science 2020** report has been compiled by which of the following organisation?

- World Meteorological Organization
- Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge
- European Union Science Hub
- National Science Foundation, USA

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **United in Science 2020** Report has been compiled by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** under the **direction** of the **United Nations Secretary-General** to bring together the latest climate science related updates from a group of key global partner organizations: WMO, Global Carbon Project (GCP), UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Met Office.



Q.196) Consider the following statements regarding the **Immunoglobulins (Ig)**:

1. These are proteins made by the immune system to fight foreign antigens.
 2. Immunoglobulin G (IgG) is the most abundant type of antibody in human body.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The immune system develops a defense against antigens, which are substances that can stimulate the immune system. This defense is known as the immune response and usually involves the production of:

-**Protein molecules (immunoglobulins** or antibodies, the major component of humoral immunity) by B-lymphocytes (B-cells)

-Specific cells, including T-lymphocytes (also known as cell-mediated immunity).

Statement 2 is correct. There are **five immunoglobulin classes** (isotypes) of antibody molecules: IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE, and IgD.

-**Immunoglobulin A** (IgA), which is found in high concentrations in the mucous membranes, particularly those lining the respiratory passages and gastrointestinal tract, as well as in saliva and tears.

-**Immunoglobulin G** (IgG), the most abundant type of antibody, is found in all body fluids and protects against bacterial and viral infections.

-**Immunoglobulin M** (IgM), which is found mainly in the blood and lymph fluid, is the first antibody to be made by the body to fight a new infection.

-**Immunoglobulin E** (IgE), which is associated mainly with allergic reactions. It is found in the lungs, skin, and mucous membranes.

-**Immunoglobulin D** (IgD) exists in small amounts in the blood.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.197) Consider the following statements regarding planet **Venus**:

1. It is the hottest planet in our solar system.
2. The United States of America is the only nation to land spacecraft on the surface of Venus.

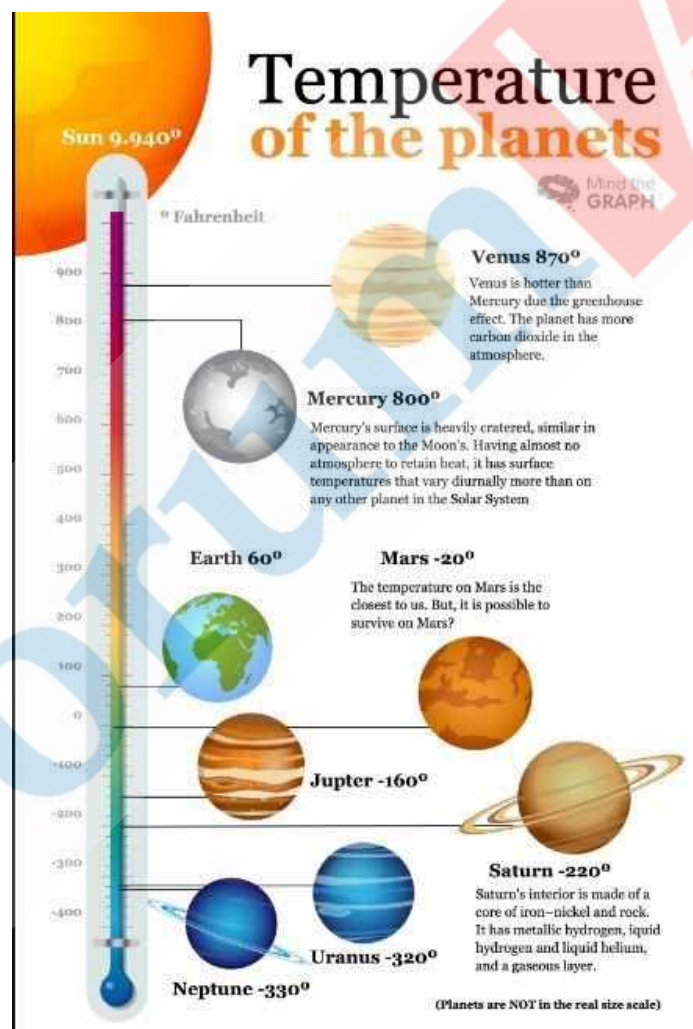
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Venus** has a thick, toxic atmosphere filled with carbon dioxide and it's perpetually shrouded in thick, yellowish clouds of mostly sulfuric acid that trap heat, causing a runaway greenhouse effect.

It's the **hottest planet** in our solar system, even though Mercury is closer to the Sun. Venus has crushing air pressure at its surface – more than 90 times that of Earth.



Statement 2 is incorrect. The former **Soviet Union is the only nation** to land on the surface of Venus to date, though the spacecraft did not survive long in the harsh environment.

The Soviet Union's **Venera 13** in 1982 survived the intense heat and crushing pressure of Venus' surface for around two hours and transmitted color images from the surface of Venus.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.178) The **Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir** is proposed across which of the following river?

- a) Cauvery River
- b) Godavari River
- c) Krishna River
- d) Vaigai River

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir** is a proposed gravity dam across **Cauvery River** in Karnataka. It aims to store 67 tmc water, a part of which will be pumped to Bengaluru and Kanakapura.

The project is estimated to submerge parts of **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary** and adjoining reserve forests.

Tamil Nadu has been opposing the project claiming that it violates the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Tribunal.

Q.199) Consider the following statements regarding the **Doing Business Report**:

- 1. It is a World Bank Group flagship publication measuring the regulations that enhance and constrain business activity.
- 2. It covers enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency, areas of business regulation in countries.

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. **Doing Business** is a **World Bank Group** flagship publication, it is a series of **annual** studies measuring the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. Doing Business presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 190 economies—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—and over time.

Statement 2 is correct. Doing Business covers **12 areas of business regulation**. Ten of these areas—starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, **enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency**.

Doing Business also measures regulation on employing workers and contracting with the government, which are not included in the ease of doing business score and ranking.

The World Bank has paused the publication of its 'Doing Business' report because of statistical irregularities.

Q.200) Which of the following is/are dominant policy **objectives** of keeping **forex reserves**?

- 1. Maintaining confidence in monetary and exchange rate policies.
- 2. Reduce external vulnerability by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Major policy **objectives** in regard to forex reserves:

- maintaining **confidence** in monetary and exchange rate policies,
- enhancing **capacity** to intervene in forex markets,
- limiting external **vulnerability** by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis including national disasters or emergencies;
- providing confidence to the markets especially credit rating agencies that external obligations can always be met, thus reducing the overall costs at which forex resources are available to all the market participants, and
- incidentally adding to the comfort of the market participants, by demonstrating the backing of domestic currency by external assets.

Q.201) Which of the following is/are located in the **South China Sea**?

1. Pratas Island
2. Shenkaku Island
3. Paracel Island

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: Islands in the **South China Sea** includes Spratly Islands, Pratas Islands, Paracel Islands and Macclesfield Bank; islands on the China coast, on the Vietnam coast, on the Borneo coast, and the peripheral islands of Taiwan, the Philippines, etc.



The **Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands** is a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands among Japan, People's Republic of China (PRC) and Republic of China (ROC or Taiwan).

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.202) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Day of Peace**:

1. It is a United Nations sanctioned International Day observed on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, 2nd October.
 2. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Shaping Peace Together".
- 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 Day of Peace** is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually on **21 September**.

The International Day of Peace was established in **1981 by the United Nations General Assembly**. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is "**Shaping Peace Together**."

Q.203) Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**:

1. Any transfer received from a foreign source whether in rupees or foreign currency is construed as 'foreign contribution' under the Act.
 2. A United Nations specialized agency is not treated as a foreign source under the Act.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Any donation, delivery or transfer received from a 'foreign source' **whether in rupees or in foreign currency** is construed as 'foreign contribution' under FCRA, 2010. Such transactions even in rupees term are considered as foreign contribution.

Statement 2 is correct. **United Nations or any of its specialized agencies**, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund or such other agency as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf are not treated as 'foreign source' under the act.

Q.204) Consider the following statements regarding the **Business Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha**:

1. The Speaker is the ex-officio Chairperson of the committee.
 2. The members are elected by the members of the house among themselves.
- 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 **Business Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha** consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the ex-officio Chairperson.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The **function of the Committee** is to recommend the time that should be allotted for the discussion of such government legislative and other business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct to be referred to the Committee. Statement 2 is incorrect. Almost all sections of the House are represented on the Committee.

The members are **nominated by the Speaker**. In practice, a new Committee after being nominated by the Speaker is constituted and assumes office in the first week of June every year. Casual vacancies are filled by nomination of new members for the unexpired term of the Committee. The Committee generally meets at the beginning of each Session and thereafter as and when necessary.

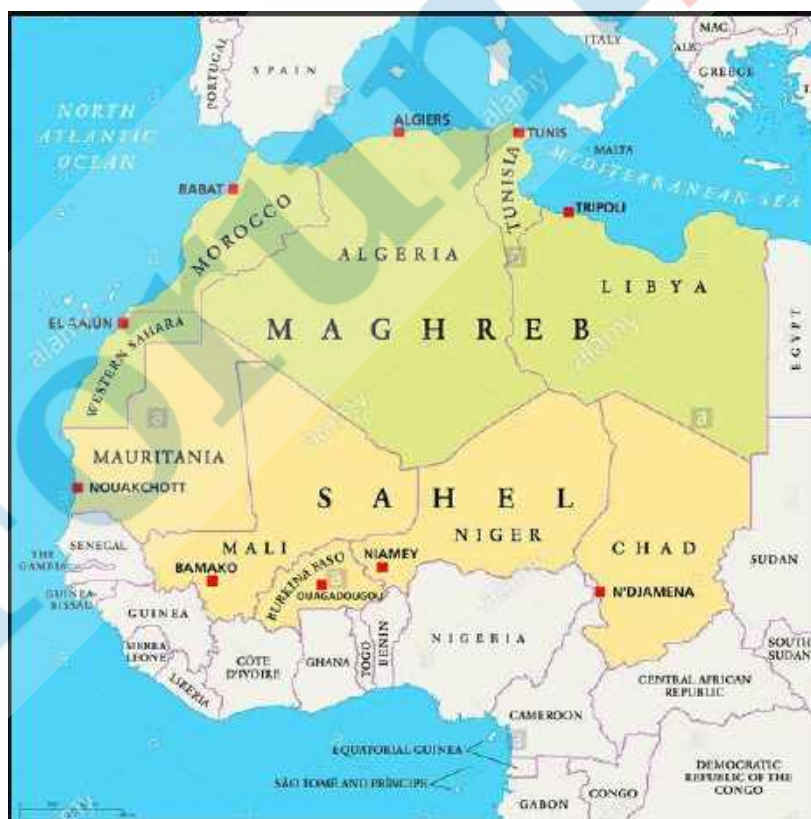
Q.205) Where are **Maghreb** and **Sahel** regions located?

- a) South America
- b) Africa
- c) West Asia
- d) Central America

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Maghreb** is a subregion of North Africa that is effectively a western part of the Arab world. The region includes Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia, which are all member states of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The **Sahel** is the ecoclimatic and biogeographic realm of transition in Africa between the Sahara to the north and the Sudanian savanna to the south.



Q.206) Consider the following statements regarding the **CRISPR technology**:

1. It is used to alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.
2. The Tata CRISPR test is the world's first diagnostic test to deploy a Cas9 protein to successfully detect the SARS-COV-2.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)** technology is a tool for editing genomes. It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

CRISPRs are specialized stretches of DNA. The protein **Cas9 (CRISPR-associated-9)** is an enzyme that acts like a pair of **molecular scissors**, capable of cutting strands of DNA.

Its many potential applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases and improving crops.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Tata CRISPR test**, powered by CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) FELUDA, received regulatory approvals recently from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for commercial launch.

The Tata CRISPR test is the **world's first diagnostic test** to deploy a specially adapted Cas9 protein to successfully detect the virus causing Covid-19.

The Tata CRISPR test achieves accuracy levels of traditional RT-PCR tests, with quicker turnaround time, less expensive equipment, and better ease of use.

CRISPR technology was adapted from the natural defense mechanisms of bacteria and archaea (the domain of single-celled microorganisms). These organisms use CRISPR-derived RNA and various Cas proteins, including Cas9, to foil attacks by viruses and other foreign bodies. They do so primarily by chopping up and destroying the DNA of a foreign invader. When these components are transferred into other, more complex, organisms, it allows for the manipulation of genes, or "editing."

Q.207) Consider the following statements regarding the **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020**:

1. It provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production of any farm produce.
2. The minimum period of an agreement will be one crop season, or one production cycle of livestock.

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. **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020** passed by the Parliament recently provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.

Statement 2 is correct. The **minimum period** of an agreement will be **one crop season**, or one production cycle of livestock. The maximum period is five years, unless the production cycle is more than five years.

The **price of farming produce** should be mentioned in the agreement. For prices subjected to variation, a guaranteed price for the produce and a clear reference for any additional

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

amount above the guaranteed price must be specified in the agreement. Further, the process of price determination must be mentioned in the agreement.

A farming agreement must provide for a **conciliation board** as well as a conciliation process for settlement of disputes.

Q.208) Consider the following statements regarding the **Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020**:

1. It allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside premises of market yards formed under the state APMC Acts.
2. It prohibits state governments from levying market fee on farmers for trade of farmers' produce conducted in specific areas.

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 **Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020** allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts.

Such trade can be conducted in an '**outside trade area**', i.e., any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers' produce including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

It also permits the **electronic trading** of scheduled farmers' produce (agricultural produce regulated under any state APMC Act) in the specified trade area.

Statement 2 is correct. The bill **prohibits state governments** from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an '**outside trade area**'.

Q.209) Which of the following is/are determinants of **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**?

1. Demand and supply
2. Inter-crop price parity
3. Cost of production

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 determinants of MSP. It is based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

The idea behind MSP is to give **guaranteed prices** and **assured market** to the farmers and save them from the **price fluctuations**. It insulates farmers from the unwarranted fluctuation in prices caused by the variation in supply (largely influenced by the monsoon), lack of market integration, information asymmetry and other elements of market imperfection plaguing the agricultural markets.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

In formulating the recommendations in respect of the level of minimum support prices and other non-price measures, the **Commission takes into account** Cost of production, Changes in input prices, Input-output price parity, Trends in market prices, Demand and supply, Inter-crop price parity etc.

Q.210) The **Ezulwini Consensus** relates to which of the following issue?

- a) Reforms in the United Nations
- b) Israel-Palestine peace process
- c) A nuclear weapons free zone agreement
- d) Limiting the spread of Sahar Desert by mitigation measures

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Ezulwini Consensus** is a position on international relations and **reform of the United Nations**, agreed by the **African Union**. The consensus is named after Ezulwini, a valley in central Swaziland where the agreement was made.

The consensus was then adopted at an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, in March 2005, in Addis Ababa.

The Ezulwini Consensus was followed by the **Sirte Declaration** of July 2005, which required at least two permanent seats and two non-permanent Security Council seats for African states.

Q.211) Consider the following statements regarding the **Disease transmission**:

- 1. Droplet transmission occurs when a person is in close contact (within 1 m) with someone who has respiratory symptoms.
- 2. Airborne transmission refers to situations where droplet nuclei containing microorganisms can remain suspended in air for long periods of time.

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. **Droplet transmission** occurs when a person is in in close contact (within 1 m) with someone who has respiratory symptoms (e.g., coughing or sneezing) and is therefore at risk of having his/her mucosae (mouth and nose) or conjunctiva (eyes) exposed to potentially infective respiratory droplets.

Statement 2 is correct. **Airborne transmission** refers to situations where droplet nuclei (residue from evaporated droplets) or dust particles containing microorganisms can remain suspended in air for long periods of time.

Droplet nuclei, which are generally considered to be particles <5µm in diameter, can remain in the air for long periods of time and be transmitted to others over distances greater than 1 m.

Q.212) Consider the following statements:

- 1. All member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) are participating in the Caucasus-2020 military exercise.
- 2. Russia is the only transcontinental country between Asia and Europe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **India has pulled out of Russia's Kavkaz 2020** (Caucasus-2020) military exercises (September 15-26), where it was scheduled to participate alongside other Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states. The issue of logistics during COVID-19 pandemic has been conveyed as the official reason for India's pull-out.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Parts of **five countries - Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkey** - fall within both Europe and Asia, but in every instance the larger section is in Asia.

Q.213) Which of the following country(s) recently signed the **Abraham Accords**?

- 1. Jordan
- 2. Israel
- 3. Bahrain

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: Through the recently signed **Abraham Accords**, **Israel** and two Arab Gulf states, the **United Arab Emirates and Bahrain**, have formally and publicly established diplomatic relations.

The U.A.E. and Bahrain are the third and fourth Arab countries to open diplomatic relations with Israel; **Egypt** and **Jordan** were the first two.

The UAE and Bahrain do not have any territorial dispute with Israel, nor have they ever been at war with it.

Q.214) Consider the following statements regarding the **Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**:

- 1. It provides training programs for election officials of member nations.
- 2. The Election Commission of India is a member of the association.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea** first proposed the creation of a global election management body institution to the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) in 2010.

Statement 1 is correct. The A-WEB Secretariat provides **training programs for election officials** of member nations and undertakes country programs at the request of member organization, providing support during the election cycle to boost election management capacity.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Statement 2 is correct. **Election Commission of India** is a member and has been very closely associated with the process of formation of A-WEB since 2011-12. ECI hosted the 4th General Assembly of A-WEB on 03 Sep 2019 at Bengaluru and took over as **Chair of A-WEB for 2019-2021 term**.

Q.215) Consider the following statements regarding the **Official Secrets Act (OSA)**:

1. The person communicating the secret information as well as the person receiving the secret information can be punished under the Act.
2. Notwithstanding anything in the OSA, a public authority may disclose information under Right to Information Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Official Secrets Act** provides punishment for spying, espionage, disclosure of secret information.

Secret information can be any official code, password, sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information. Under **Section 5**, both the person communicating the information and the person receiving the information can be punished.

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 8 of the Right to Information Act** provides for cases of exemption from disclosure of information. It further states under **clause 8(2)** that notwithstanding anything in the Official Secrets Act, 1923 nor any of the exemptions permissible in under RTI Act **Section 8(1)**, a public authority may allow access to information, if public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interests.

Further **Section 22 of the RTI Act** provides for its primacy vis-a-vis provisions of other laws, including OSA. This gives the RTI Act an overriding effect, notwithstanding anything inconsistent with the provisions of OSA.

Q.216) Consider the following statements regarding the **New START Treaty**:

1. It is a verifiable U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control treaty.
2. It limits the deployed and non-deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

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 **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)** was signed April 8, 2010, in Prague by the United States and Russia. New START replaced the 1991 START I treaty, which expired December 2009, and superseded the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), which terminated when New START entered into force.

New START is the first **verifiable** U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control treaty to take effect since START I in 1994.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **New START** limits went into effect in 2018. It capped accountable deployed strategic nuclear warheads and bombs at 1,550, down approximately 30 percent

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

from the 2,200 limit set by SORT and down 74 percent from the START-accountable limit of 6,000.

Deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (**ICBMs**), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (**SLBMs**), and heavy bombers assigned to nuclear missions are limited to 700.

Deployed and **non-deployed** ICBM *launchers*, SLBM *launchers*, and bombers are limited to 800.

New START **does not limit** the number of **non-deployed ICBMs and SLBMs**, but it does monitor them.

The treaty's duration is ten years from entry into force (Feb. 2021) unless it is superseded by a subsequent agreement and can be extended for an additional five years, until 2026.

Q.217) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. INS Vikrant - Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I)
2. Rafale - Twin-engine multirole fighter aircraft
3. Astra - Beyond visual range air-to-air 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: D

Explanation: India's first **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I) INS Vikrant** is under construction at Kochi Shipyard and is soon expected to undergo sea trials. Since 2017, after INS Viraat was decommissioned, India has been operating a single carrier — INS Vikramaditya.

The **Dassault Rafale** is a twin-jet combat aircraft capable of carrying out a wide range of short and long-range missions, including ground and sea attacks, designed and built by Dassault Aviation.

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

Q.218) Consider the following statements regarding the membership of the **UN Security Council**:

1. Every member of the United Nations has at least once been member of the Security Council.
2. Ten non-permanent members of UNSC are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

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. **More than 50 United Nations Member States** have never been Members of the Security Council.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council **may participate**, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that country's interests are affected.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Both **Members and non-members of the United Nations**, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, may be invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.

Statement 2 is correct. The Council is composed of 15 Members: Five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for **two-year terms by the General Assembly**.

India's two-year term will begin on January 1, 2021.

Q.219) Which of the following statement correctly defines the term 'gig worker'?

- a) Workers outside the traditional employer-employee relationship
- b) Labour working without appropriate remuneration
- c) An employee with written contract of employment for a fixed period
- d) Workers not covered by the social security schemes of the government

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Code on Social Security, 2020** has defined "gig worker" as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship.

Traditional workers have a long-term employer-employee relationship in which the worker is paid by the hour or year, earning a wage or salary.

Gig work may include freelancing, temp agency work, self-employment, and subcontracted work.

NOTE: On September 19, the government withdrew three Bills related to labour laws and replaced them with new versions with some changes as– Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2020, Code on Social Security Bill, 2020 and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code Bill, 2020.

Questions have been asked previously on the Blog based on these codes, aspirants are advised to keep track of the major changes introduced [The Hindu, IE-Explained, ForumIAS 9 PM Current Affairs Brief].

Q.220) Which of the following country(s) shares border with the **Black Sea**?

- 1. Belarus
- 2. Bulgaria
- 3. Georgia

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: **Six countries** border with the Black Sea, including **Ukraine** to the north, **Russia** and **Georgia** to the east, **Turkey** to the south, and **Bulgaria** and **Romania** to the west.



Q.221) Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**:

1. As per UN Charter the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security rests with UNSC.
2. 'Coffee Club' group of countries advocate consensus based decision on any expansion of the Security Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **United Nations Charter** established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Statement 2 is correct. **Uniting for Consensus (UFC)** also called the **Coffee Club** developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council.

It aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by **G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan)** and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.

In 2005, **Italy, Argentina, Canada, Colombia and Pakistan**, representing a larger group of countries called Uniting for Consensus led by Italy, proposed to the General Assembly

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

another project that maintains five permanent members and raises the number of non-permanent members to 20.

Q.222) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**:

1. It is a statutory autonomous organisation of the Government of India.
2. Its objectives include organising pre-service and in-service training of teachers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** is an **autonomous organisation** set up in 1961 by the Government of India to assist and advise the Central and State Governments on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in school education.

It is not a statutory body but a **society registered** under the Societies Registration Act.

Statement 2 is correct. The **major objectives of NCERT** and its constituent units are to:

- undertake, promote and coordinate research in areas related to school education;
- prepare and **publish model textbooks**, supplementary material, journals and develops educational kits, multimedia digital materials, etc.
- organise **pre-service** and **in-service** training of teachers;
- develop and disseminate innovative educational techniques and practices;
- act as a nodal agency for achieving the goals of Universalisation of Elementary Education.

Q.223) Which of the following institution publishes the **World Energy Outlook (WEO)** report?

- a) International Renewable Energy Agency
- b) International Energy Agency
- c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- d) Centre for Sustainable Energy

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **World Energy Outlook (WEO)**, International Energy Agency's flagship publication, provides critical analysis and insights on trends in energy demand and supply, and what they mean for energy security, environmental protection and economic development.

The first WEO was published in 1977 and it has been an annual publication since 1998.

International Energy Agency (IEA), in collaboration with **NITI Aayog**, presented a '**Special Report on Sustainable Recovery**' recently.

Part of IEA's flagship World Energy Outlook series, the report proposes a number of actions that could be taken over the next three years to revitalize economies and boost employment while making energy systems cleaner and more resilient.

Q.224) The **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** are announced by the Union Government for which of the following crop(s)?

1. Groundnut
2. Mustard
3. Safflower

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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 **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is mandated to recommend minimum support prices (MSPs) to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country.

CACP submits its recommendations to the government in the form of Price Policy Reports every year, separately for five groups of commodities namely **Kharif crops, Rabi crops, Sugarcane, Raw Jute and Copra**.

As of now, **CACP recommends MSPs** of 23 commodities, which comprise 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), and 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by CACP.

Q.225) Consider the following statements regarding a country's **Terms of Trade (ToT)**:

- 1. It is the ratio between the index of export prices and the index of import prices.
- 2. A country's ToT is less than hundred percent if more capital is leaving the country than is entering into it.

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.

Terms of trade are defined as the ratio between the index of **export prices** and the index of **import prices**. It measures how many units of exports are required to purchase a single unit of imports.

If the export prices increase more than the import prices, a country has a positive Terms of Trade, as for the same amount of exports, it can purchase more imports.

The ratio is **calculated** by dividing the price of the exports by the price of the imports and multiplying the result by 100.

When more **capital is leaving** the country than is entering into the country then the country's TOT is less than 100%. When the TOT is greater than 100%, the country is accumulating more capital from exports than it is spending on imports.

Q.226) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vienna Convention on Road Traffic**:

- 1. It governs International Driving Permits.
- 2. India has signed and ratified the convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The 1968 **Vienna Convention on Road Traffic** is an international treaty designed to facilitate international road traffic and to increase road safety by establishing standard traffic rules among the contracting parties.

The convention was agreed upon at the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Conference on Road Traffic, 1968 and concluded in Vienna on 8 November 1968. It came into force on 21 May 1977.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Vienna Convention on Road Traffic** is the **newest of three conventions** that governs **International Driving Permits**. The other two are the 1926 Paris International Convention relative to Motor Traffic and the 1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India has not** signed or ratified the **Vienna** Convention on Road Traffic 1968. India has **signed and ratified** the 1949 **Geneva** Convention on Road Traffic.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has advised the States and Union Territory administrations to stamp International Convention of Road Traffic of 19th September 1949 on the first page of International Driving Permit, IDP issued by them.

Q.227) Consider the following statements regarding **Viruses**:

1. Each virus consists of genetic material, either DNA or RNA, encapsulated in capsid.
2. Viruses cannot reproduce without the help of a host cell.

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: Viruses are small particles of genetic material that are surrounded by a protein coat.

Statement 1 is correct. Each one consists of genetic material—either **DNA or RNA**—encapsulated in a protein pocket called a **capsid**. Some are additionally enveloped in a soft, lipid wrapping.

Statement 2 is correct. Due to their simple structure, **viruses cannot move or even reproduce** without the help of a host cell. But when it finds a host, a virus can multiply and spread rapidly.

To identify the correct host, viruses have evolved **receptors** on their surfaces that match up with those of their ideal target cell, letting the virus get its genetic material inside and hijack its host's cellular machinery to help it reproduce by multiplying the virus' genetic material and proteins.

Viruses and bacteria are two types of potentially disease-causing (pathogenic) particles. Viruses are much smaller than bacteria and can't reproduce without the assistance of a host. Bacteria are capable of reproducing on their own.

Q.228) Consider the following statements regarding the **Myelin sheath**:

1. It is an insulating layer that forms around bones in the body.
2. It allows electrical impulses to transmit quickly and efficiently.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

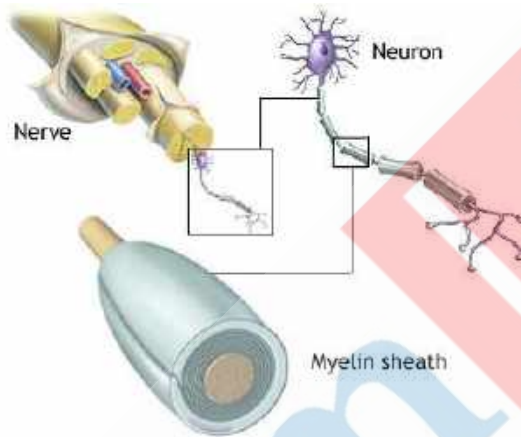
10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Myelin** is an insulating layer, or sheath that forms around **nerves**, including those in the brain and spinal cord. It is made up of protein and fatty substances.

Statement 2 is correct. This myelin sheath allows **electrical impulses** to transmit quickly and efficiently along the nerve cells. If myelin is damaged, these impulses slow down. This can cause diseases such as multiple sclerosis.



Coronaviruses have been postulated to cause demyelinating disease through the direct effect on oligodendrocytes (cells in the nervous system), and through immune mechanisms in which similarities between the virus and myelin lead to T-cells attacking the body's own myelin. [The Hindu]

Q.229) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Anosmia - Reduced sense of touch or sensation
- 2. Ageusia - Loss of taste functions of the tongue
- 3. Insomnia - Inability to fall asleep

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Hypoesthesia** is a decrease in your normal sensations such as touch or temperature.

Anosmia is an absent or decreased sense of smell.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Ageusia** is the loss of taste functions of the tongue.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Insomnia** is the inability to fall asleep or stay asleep at night

Q.230) Consider the following statements regarding the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**:

- 1. China has an observer country status at SAARC.
- 2. South Asian University (SAU) is an international university established by the SAARC members.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 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: C

Explanation: The **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. SAARC comprises of eight Member States: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**. The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu on 17 January 1987.

Statement 1 is correct. The **observer** countries to the SAARC are Australia, **China**, the European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea and the United States..

Statement 2 is correct. The Agreement for the Establishment of **South Asian University** was signed by the Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs of SAARC countries during the Fourteenth SAARC Summit (New Delhi, 2007). SAU started its operations from the academic year 2010.

Q.231) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pusa Compost/Decomposer Technology**:

- 1. It is a microbial-based strategy which degrades the farm waste and converts into nutrient-enriched compost.
- 2. It has potential to reduce the need of crop residue burning in farms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Pusa Compost/Decomposer Technology is a microbial-based strategy (liquid formulation & capsules) which degrades the waste (pit or windrows) and converts into nutrient-enriched compost. This is an eco-friendly and environmentally useful technology.

It involves making a liquid formulation using fermented farm inputs, and then spraying it over the fields to ensure speedy bio-decomposition of crop stubble. At an estimated cost of Rs 20 per acre, the technology can effectively deal with 4-5 tonnes of raw straw.

Research over the last four years in the farm fields in Punjab and Haryana have shown positive results on the benefit of using this approach for reducing the need for **crop stubble burning** and at the same time reducing fertilizer consumption and increasing farm productivity.

Q.232) Which of the following is/are listed as **essential commodities** under the Schedule of Essential Commodities Act?

- 1. Fertilizers
- 2. Petroleum and petroleum products
- 3. Drugs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Essential Commodities** listed under the Schedule of the Essential Commodities Act are:

Drugs (meaning assigned to it in clause (b) of section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940);

-fertilizer, whether inorganic, organic or mixed;

-foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils;

-hank yarn made wholly from cotton;

-petroleum and petroleum products;

-raw jute H jute textiles;

-seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables; seeds of cattle fodder; jute seeds and cotton seed.

On March 13, the Union consumer affairs ministry had declared face masks and hand sanitisers as essential commodities till June 30 to boost supply and prevent hoarding of these items in its fight to check the spread of coronavirus.

Q.233) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Kritagya**' Hackathon:

1. It is being organized by the NITI Aayog.
 2. It aims to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization.
- 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. "**KRITAGYA**" has been planned by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).

Students, faculties and innovators/entrepreneurs from any university / technical institution across the country can apply and participate in the event in the form of a group.

Statement 2 is correct. The hackathon is aimed at promoting potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women friendly equipments.

Q.234) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)**:

1. It supports the education development of Agricultural Universities including State Agricultural Universities.
2. The project is fully funded by the World Bank.

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 objective of the **National Agricultural Higher Education Project** is to support participating agricultural universities and Indian Council

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in providing more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students. There are three components to the project:

Component 1: Support to Agricultural Universities.

Component 2: Investments in ICAR for leadership in Agricultural Higher Education.

Component 3: Project Implementation Unit: The objective of this component is to administer, supervise, monitor and evaluate overall project implementation. Whole activities of the project would be managed by a central Project Implementation Unit (PIU) which is established at the Education Division of ICAR.

Statement 2 is incorrect. NAHEP has been formulated by ICAR for five years starting from 2017-18. The project is proposed on **50:50 cost sharing basis between the World Bank and the Government of India**, implemented at the Education Division, ICAR.

Q.235) Consider the following statements regarding the **Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020**:

1. The Bill will apply to New Mangalore and Mormugao ports among other the major ports of India.
2. It provides for the creation of a Board of Major Port Authority for each major port replacing the existing Port Trusts.

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: **Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020** seeks to provide for regulation, operation and planning of major ports in India and provide greater autonomy to these ports. It seeks to replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

Statement 1 is correct. The Bill will apply to the **major ports** of Chennai, Cochin, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Kandla, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Paradip, V.O. Chidambaranar, and Vishakhapatnam.

Statement 2 is correct. The Bill provides for the creation of a **Board of Major Port Authority** for each major port. These Boards will replace the existing Port Trusts of 1963 Act.

The Board will comprise of a Chairperson and a deputy Chairperson, both appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a selection committee; one member each from (i) the respective state governments, (ii) the Railways Ministry, (iii) the Defence Ministry, and (iv) the Customs Department. The Board will also include two to four independent members, and two members representing the interests of the employees of the Major Port Authority.

Q.236) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted the flight test of **ABHYAS**, what is it?

- a) High-speed Expendable Aerial Target
- b) Anti-Tank Guided Missile
- c) Multi barrel rocket launcher
- d) Beyond visual range air-to-air missile

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently successful flight test of **ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target** from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Abhyas is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO. The air vehicle is launched using twin underslung booster. It is powered by a small gas turbine engine and has MEMS (Microelectromechanical Systems) based Inertial Navigation System for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer for guidance and control.

Q.237) Consider the following statements regarding **carbon neutrality**:

1. It refers to having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.
2. India has declared being carbon neutral by 2060 as its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement.

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. **Carbon neutrality** means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. Removing carbon oxide from the atmosphere and then storing it is known as carbon sequestration. In order to achieve net zero emissions, all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions will have to be counterbalanced by carbon sequestration.

Carbon Neutral is also used to describe the state of an entity (such as a company, service, product or event), where the carbon emissions caused by them have been balanced out by funding an equivalent amount of carbon savings elsewhere in the world.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Carbon neutrality** by 2060 is **not** one of India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) under the Paris Agreement. India has pledged following NDCs:

- To reduce the **emissions intensity** of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 levels;
- To increase the share of **non-fossil-based energy resources** to 40% of installed electric power capacity by 2030, with help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- To create an additional (cumulative) **carbon sink** of 2.5–3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

China has recently declared that it aims to have CO₂ emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Q.238) Consider the following statements regarding the **Spanish flu**:

1. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin.
2. India was not affected by the Spanish flu pandemic.

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 **1918 influenza (Spanish flu)** pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The conditions of **World War I** (overcrowding and global troop movement) helped the 1918 flu spread. The vulnerability of healthy young adults and the lack of vaccines and treatments created a major public health crisis, causing at least 50 million deaths worldwide

Statement 2 is incorrect. 1918 flu pandemic in India as a part of the worldwide Spanish flu pandemic severely affected Indian population. Also referred to as the **Bombay Influenza or the Bombay Fever** in India, the pandemic is believed to have killed up to 14 -17 million people in the country.

The decade between 1911 and 1921 was the only census period in which India's population fell.

Q.239) Which of the following is/are punishable offence(s) under the **Information Technology Act**?

1. Identity theft by use of the electronic signature or password
2. Cyber terrorism threatening the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India
3. Sending offensive messages through communication service

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. **Fraudulently or dishonestly** making use of the electronic signature, password or any other unique identification feature of any other person is a punishable offence under **Section 66C** of the IT Act.

Option 2 is correct. **Cyber terrorism** threatening the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people is a punishable offence under **Section 66F** of IT Act.

Option 3 is incorrect. Section 66A of the erstwhile IT Act provide for punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc.

Section 66A has been **struck down** by Supreme Court's Order dated 24th March, 2015 in the **Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, 2015**.

Q.240) Which of the following report(s) and publisher(s) is/are correctly matched?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Freedom in the World | - | Amnesty International |
| 2. Human Development Report | - | United Nations Development Programme |
| 3. World Happiness Report | - | Sustainable Development Solutions Network |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

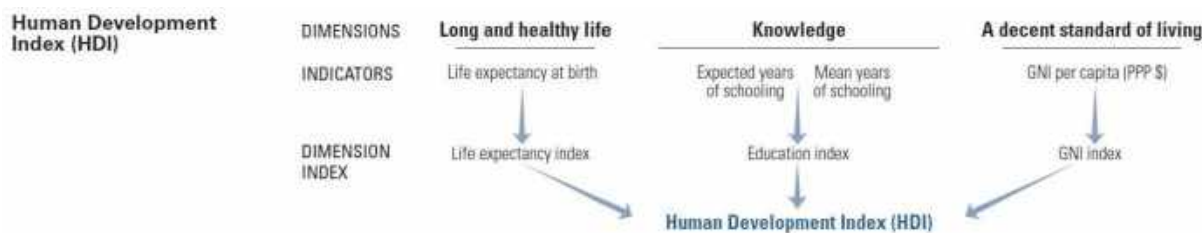
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Freedom in the World**, **Freedom House's** flagship publication, is the standard-setting comparative assessment of global political rights and civil liberties. Freedom House is a U.S.-based rights watchdog.

The **Human Development Report (HDR)** is an annual report published by the Human Development Report Office of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020



The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living.

The **World Happiness Report** is a publication of the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, powered by data from the Gallup World Poll. India is ranked 144 out of the 153 countries evaluated in 2020 report.

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Q.241) Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020**:

1. It provides that any person seeking prior permission or registration under FCRA must provide the Aadhaar number of all its office bearers.
2. An organisation which receives foreign contribution can use maximum 50 percent of the contribution for meeting administrative expenses.

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 **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020** has been passed by the parliament recently to amend the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Act** states that a person may accept foreign contribution if they have: obtained a certificate of registration from central government, or not registered, but obtained prior permission from the government to accept foreign contribution.

The **Bill** adds that any person seeking prior permission, registration or renewal of registration must provide the **Aadhaar number** of all its office bearers, directors or key functionaries, as an identification document.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the Act, a person who receives foreign contribution must use it only for the purpose for which the contribution is received. Further, they must not use more than 50% of the contribution for meeting administrative expenses. This **Amendment Bill reduces this limit to 20%**.

Q.242) Which of the following is/are located in **China**?

1. Gobi Desert
2. Kunlun Mountain
3. Tonle Sap

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Gobi Desert** is a vast, arid region in northern **China** and southern **Mongolia**.

Option 2 is correct. The **Kunlun Mountains** constitute the chain that forms the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau south of the Tarim Basin in **China**.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Tonle Sap** is a seasonally inundated freshwater lake in **Cambodia**, the Tonle Sap River connects the lake to the Mekong River.

Q.243) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM SVANidhi scheme**:

1. This is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan.
2. Credit can be availed from the Scheduled Commercial Banks as well as Regional Rural 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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a **Central Sector Scheme** of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

Statement 2 is correct. The credit is being provided by Scheduled Commercial Banks, **Regional Rural Banks**, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Micro-Finance Institutions and SHG Banks.

Salient features of the Scheme:

- Initial working capital of up to ₹10,000/-
- Interest subsidy on timely/ early repayment at 7%
- Monthly cash-back incentive on digital transactions
- Higher loan eligibility on timely repayment of the first loan.

Q.244) Consider the following statements regarding the **Artemis Program**:

1. It is a lunar exploration program of NASA.
2. It aims to land the first woman and the next man on the surface of the Moon in 2024.

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. Under **NASA's Artemis program**, NASA's new rocket, the **Space Launch System (SLS)**, will send astronauts aboard the **Orion spacecraft** nearly a quarter million miles from Earth to lunar orbit. Astronauts will dock Orion at the **Gateway** and transfer to a human landing system for expeditions to the surface of the

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Moon. They will return to the orbital outpost to board Orion again before returning safely to Earth.

Statement 2 is correct. Phase 1 of the program plans to land the **first woman and the next man** on the surface of the Moon in 2024.

Q.245) Consider the following statements regarding the **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. It is mandated to recommend the minimum support prices (MSPs) to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is not any statutory body set up through an Act of Parliament. It is an **attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India. It came into existence in January 1965.

Statement 2 is correct. It is mandated to recommend **minimum support prices (MSPs)** for government procurement to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country.

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by CACP.

Q.246) Which of the following is/are the function(s) of the **Food Corporation of India?**

1. Price support operations for safeguarding the farmer's livelihood.
2. Distribution of food grains through public distribution system.

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: The **Food Corporation of India** was setup under the **Food Corporation's Act 1964**, in order to fulfill following objectives of the Food Policy:

- Effective **price support operations** for safeguarding the interests of the farmers (by procurement of food grains at **MSP**)
- Distribution of food grains throughout the country for **public distribution system (PDS)**.
- Maintaining satisfactory level of operational and **buffer stocks** of food grains to ensure National Food Security

Q.247) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Medical Commission (NMC)**:

1. It has replaced the Medical Council of India (MCI) as the country's apex regulator of medical education and profession.
2. Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare is the ex-officio chairperson of the NMC.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **National Medical Commission (NMC)**, in place of the Medical Council of India (MCI), as the country's apex **regulator of medical education** and profession has come into existence

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the **National Medical Commission Act, 2019**, the Central Government shall appoint the Chairperson, part-time Members based on the recommendation of a Search Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Under the Act, states will establish their respective State Medical Councils within three years. These Councils will have a role similar to the NMC, at the state level.

Q.248) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**:

- 1. It offers risk coverage for accidental death and full disability to people in the age group 18 to 70 years.
- 2. It doesn't cover COVID-19 related deaths.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** is available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a bank account.

The risk coverage under the scheme is Rs.2 lakh for **accidental death and full disability** and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Government recently clarified** that Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) **doesn't cover COVID-19** related deaths.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) covers COVID deaths with certain conditions.

The PMJJBY is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a bank account. Risk coverage under this scheme is for Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.

Q.249) Which of the following is/are feature(s) of the '**Saubhagya**' scheme?

- 1. Free electricity connections to all households in rural areas and poor families in urban areas.
- 2. Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible habitations.
- 3. Beneficiary households under the scheme are identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - “Saubhagya” was launched with an aim to achieve universal household electrification.

Statement 1 is correct. Under Saubhagya **free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families)** in **rural** areas and **poor** families in **urban** areas will be provided. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

Statement 2 is correct. Schemes targets for providing **Solar Photovoltaic (SPV)** based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages / habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost effective.

Statement 3 is correct. The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme would be identified using **SECC 2011 data**. However, un-electrified households not covered under SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.

Q.250) Which of the following factor(s) is/are considered by the **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** for calculating **cost of production**?

1. Cost of inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, labour
2. Implied cost of family labour

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** calculates cost of production at three levels: (i) **A2**, which includes cost of inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, labour; (ii) **A2+FL**, which includes the implied cost of family labour (FL); and (iii) **C2**, which includes the implied rent on land and interest on capital assets over and above A2+FL.

CACP reckons only A2+FL cost for return. However, C2 costs are used by CACP primarily as benchmark reference costs (**opportunity costs**) to see if the MSPs recommended by them at least cover these costs in some of the major producing States.

Q.251) Consider the following statements regarding the **Social Security Code 2020**:

1. The Central Government will establish a Social Security Fund for welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.
2. A National Social Security Board for unorganised workers to be constituted under chairmanship of Union Minister for Labour and Employment.

Which of the testaments 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 **Social Security Code 2020** states that the central government will set up a Social Security Fund for social security and welfare of the **unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Further, state governments will also set up and administer separate social security funds for unorganised workers. The 2020 Bill also makes provisions for registration of all three categories of workers - unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Statement 2 is correct. The code states that the Central Government shall, by notification, constitute a **National Social Security Board** for unorganised workers under chairmanship of the Union Minister for Labour and Employment.

The **National Social Security Board** shall perform the following **functions**:

- recommend to the Central Government for formulating suitable schemes for different sections of unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers;
- advise the Central Government on such matters arising out of the administration of this Code as may be referred to it;
- monitor such social welfare schemes for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers as are administered by the Central Government;
- review the record keeping functions performed at the State level;
- review the expenditure from the fund and account.

Q.252) Consider the following statements regarding the **Parliamentary Committees**:

1. The ad hoc Committees are appointed every year or periodically and their work goes on a continuous basis.
2. The Public Accounts Committee scrutinises appropriation and finance accounts of Government and reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

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. Broadly, **Parliamentary Committees** are of two kinds - **Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees**. The Standing Committees are elected or appointed every year or periodically and their work goes on, more or less, on a continuous basis. The ad hoc Committees are appointed as need arises and they cease to exist as soon as they complete the task assigned to them.

Statement 2 is correct. The three Financial Committees - **Committees on Estimates, Public Accounts and Public Undertakings** - constitute a distinct group as they keep a vigil over Government expenditure and performance.

While members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with Committees on Public Accounts and Public Undertakings, the members of the Committee on Estimates are drawn entirely from the Lok Sabha.

The **Public Accounts Committee** scrutinises appropriation and finance accounts of Government and reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. It ensures that public money is spent in accordance with Parliament's decision and calls attention to cases of waste, extravagance, loss or nugatory expenditure.

Q.253) Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**:

1. India is not a contracting party to convention establishing the PCA.
2. PCA can also settle UN convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) arbitrations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The PCA was established by the **Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague in 1899** during the first Hague Peace Conference.

The 1899 Convention was revised at the second Hague Peace Conference in 1907.

India is a contracting party to the 1899 convention.

Statement 2 is correct. The **1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** provides a regulatory framework for the use of the world's seas and oceans, to ensure the conservation and equitable usage of resources and the marine environment and to ensure the protection and preservation of the living resources of the sea.

When signing, ratifying, or acceding to UNCLOS, a State may make a declaration choosing one or more of the following means for settling such disputes:

- the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany;
- the International Court of Justice in Hague, Netherlands;
- ad hoc arbitration (in accordance with Annex VII of UNCLOS); or
- a **"special arbitral tribunal"** constituted for certain categories of disputes (established under Annex VIII of UNCLOS).

Pursuant to **Article 287(3) of UNCLOS, arbitration under Annex VII** is the default means of dispute settlement if a State has not expressed any preference with respect to the means of dispute resolution. **PCA has administered all but one of the UNCLOS Annex VII arbitrations** to date, including the **Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration (Bangladesh v. India) 2014**.

Q.254) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Service Scheme**:

1. It aims to orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in education institutions.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Education.

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. **National Service Scheme (NSS)** is an extension of activities to the higher education system to orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in education institutions

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme is under the aegis of **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**. National Service Scheme starts from 11th standard onwards.

The awards for the best National Service Scheme (NSS) units at higher secondary and vocational higher secondary schools, programme officers, and volunteers for the 2019-20 academic year have been declared recently.

Q.255) Consider the following statements regarding the **hydrogen fuel cells**:

1. It uses the chemical energy of hydrogen to produce electricity.
2. In a hydrogen fuel cell, water is a byproduct.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **fuel cell** is like a battery in that it generates electricity from an **electrochemical reaction**. It uses the chemical energy of hydrogen or another fuel to cleanly and efficiently produce electricity.

Statement 2 is correct. In hydrogen fuel cell; **electricity, water, and heat** are the only products.

Fuel cell working:

A fuel cell consists of two electrodes—a negative electrode (or anode) and a positive electrode (or cathode)—sandwiched around an electrolyte.

A fuel, such as hydrogen, is fed to the anode, and air is fed to the cathode. In a hydrogen fuel cell, a catalyst at the anode separates hydrogen molecules into protons and electrons, which take different paths to the cathode.

The electrons go through an external circuit, creating a flow of electricity. The protons migrate through the electrolyte to the cathode, where they unite with oxygen and the electrons to produce water and heat.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the Standards for Safety Evaluation of vehicles being propelled by Hydrogen Fuel Cells.

Q.256) Consider the following statements regarding the **OSIRIS-REx** mission:

1. It is planned to travel to Europa, a satellite of Jupiter.
2. The mission aims to bring rocks and dust 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Origins Spectral Interpretation Resource Identification Security - Regolith Explorer** (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft travelled to and is currently orbiting a near-Earth asteroid, called **Bennu** (formerly 1999 RQ36).

Statement 2 is correct. The **OSIRIS-REx** aims to bring at least a 2.1-ounce sample back to Earth for study. The mission will help scientists investigate how planets formed and how life began, as well as improve our understanding of asteroids that could impact Earth.

The mission launched Sept. 8, 2016, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. On Oct. 20, the mission will perform the first attempt of its **Touch-And-Go (TAG) sample collection event**.

The spacecraft is scheduled to depart Bennu in 2021 and it will deliver the collected sample to **Earth in 2023**.

Q.257) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Shinku La - Arunachal Pradesh
2. Zoji La - Ladakh
3. Fotu La - Uttarakhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Shinku La is a mountain pass on the border between **Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh**. A 13.5-km Shinku La Tunnel is proposed to connect the Union Territory of Ladakh with tribal Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

Zoji La is a high mountain pass in union territory of **Ladakh**. Located in the Drass, it connects the Kashmir Valley to its west with the Drass and Suru valleys to its northeast and the Indus valley further east

Fotu La is a mountain pass on the **Srinagar-Leh highway** in the Zaskar Range of the Himalayas in Ladakh. It is one of two high mountain passes between Leh and Kargil, the other being Namika La.

Q.258) Which of the following correctly defines the term 'Adjournment sine die' in Indian parliamentary system?

- a) Termination of the sitting of the House to meet again at the time appointed for the next sitting
- b) Termination of a sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for the next sitting
- c) The termination of a session by an order made by the President
- d) Adjournment on a motion adopted by the House

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Adjournment of Debate: Adjournment on a motion adopted by the House, of the debate on a Motion/Resolution/Bill on which the House is then engaged until a future day or sine die as specified in the motion.

Adjournment of the sitting of the House: Termination of the sitting of the House which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting.

Adjournment sine die: Termination of a sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for the next sitting.

Prorogation: The termination of a session by an order made by the President under article 85(2)(a) of the Constitution.

Q.259) Consider the following statements regarding the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**:

1. It is statutorily mandated to determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target.
2. A Member of Parliament or any State Legislature cannot be appointed as a member of MPC by Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As per the **Reserve Bank of India Act**; the Central Government shall, in consultation with the Bank, determine the **inflation target** in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years. Further, the Monetary Policy Committee shall determine the **Policy Rate** required to achieve the inflation target.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Statement 2 is correct. The **Monetary Policy Committee** consists of:

- 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.

No person shall be appointed as a Member, in case such person:

- has completed the age of **seventy years** on the date of appointment as Member;
- is a **Member** of any Board or Committee of the Bank or is an employee of the Bank;
- is a **public servant** as defined under the Indian Penal Code;
- is a **Member of Parliament** or any State Legislature;
- has been at any time, adjudged as an **insolvent**;
- has been **convicted** of an offence which is punishable with an imprisonment for a term of one hundred and eighty days or more;
- is physically or mentally **incapable** of discharging the duties of a Member of the Monetary Policy Committee; or
- has a **material conflict** of interest with the Bank and is unable to resolve such conflict.

'the Bank' above means the Reserve Bank of India.

Q.260) Consider the following statements regarding **Pritilata Waddedar**:

1. She was involved in the Chittagong armoury raid.
2. She was a member of the first Council of Ministers of independent India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Chittagong armoury raid** took place on 18 April 1930 and was an attempt at raiding the armoury of police and auxiliary forces, led by freedom fighter Surya Sen.

Pritilata Waddedar joined the freedom movement and worked with revolutionaries like **Surya Sen and Nirmal Sen**. She was involved in several revolutionary acts like the famous **Chittagong armoury raid** and attack on the **Pahartali European club** at Chittagong in 1932.

Statement 2 is incorrect. During the attack on the Pahartali European club at Chittagong in 1932, she received **bullet injury**. However, she **consumed cyanide** before the British police could capture her.

Q.261) Which of the following institution has published the **2020 Smart City Index**?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Institute for Management Development
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- d) United Cities and Local Governments

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Institute for Management Development**, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), has released the **2020 Smart City Index**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Citizens from 109 cities were surveyed in April and May 2020 and asked questions on the technological provisions of their city across five key areas: health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities and governance.

Singapore has topped the index followed by **Helsinki (Finland)** and **Zurich (Switzerland)**.

India: **Hyderabad**; 85th rank (down from 67 in 2019)

New Delhi; 86th rank (down from 68 in 2019)

Mumbai; 93rd rank (down from 78 in 2019)

Bengaluru; 95th rank (down from 79 in 2019).

Q.262) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Etosha pan - Egypt
2. Kalahari Desert - Botswana
3. Namib Desert - Namibia

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: The **Etosha pan** is a large endorheic salt pan, forming part of the Kalahari Basin in the north of **Namibia**.

The **Kalahari Desert** is a large semi-arid sandy savannah in Southern Africa covering much of **Botswana**, parts of Namibia and regions of South Africa.

The **Namib is a coastal desert** in southern Africa covering parts of **Namibia**, South Africa and Angola.



10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Q.263) Consider the following statements regarding the **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020**:

1. It empowers the central government to regulate the supply of certain food items under extraordinary circumstances like natural calamity of grave nature.
2. It requires that imposition of any stock limit on agricultural produce must be based on price rise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** empowers the central government to designate certain commodities as essential commodities. The central government may regulate or prohibit the production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce of such essential commodities.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020** provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances. These include: (i) war, (ii) famine, (iii) extraordinary price rise and (iv) natural calamity of grave nature.

Statement 2 is correct. The bill requires that imposition of any **stock limit** on agricultural produce must be based on **price rise**. A stock limit may be imposed only if there is: (i) a 100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce; and (ii) a 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.

The increase will be calculated over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or the average retail price of the last five years, whichever is lower.

Q.264) Consider the following statements regarding **parliamentary committees**:

1. The members of the Committee on Estimates are drawn from both houses of Parliament.
2. The Department Related Standing Committees consider the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Among the **Standing Committees**, the three Financial Committees - Committees on Estimates, Public Accounts and Public Undertakings - constitute a distinct group as they keep an unremitting vigil over Government expenditure and performance.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Estimates Committee** reports on 'what economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency or administrative reform consistent with policy underlying the estimates' may be affected. It also examines whether the money is well laid out within limits of the policy implied in the estimates and suggests the form in which estimates shall be presented to Parliament.

While members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with Committees on Public Accounts and Public Undertakings, the members of the **Committee on Estimates are drawn entirely from the Lok Sabha**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Statement 2 is correct. There are **24 Department Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)**. The functions of these Committees are:

- To consider the **Demands for Grants** of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India and make reports to the Houses;
- To examine such **Bills as are referred to the Committee** by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha, as the case may be, and make reports thereon;
- To consider **Annual Reports of ministries/departments** and make reports thereon; and
- To consider policy documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha, as the case may be, and make reports thereon.

Q.265) Which of the following is/are potential **advantage(s) of the fuel cells** over the conventional combustion-based technology?

1. They can operate at higher efficiencies than combustion engines.
2. They produce much smaller quantities of greenhouse gases.
3. Fuel cells have fewer moving parts.

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: Fuel cells have strong benefits over conventional combustion-based technologies currently used in many power plants and cars.

-They produce much **smaller quantities of greenhouse gases** and none of the air pollutants that create smog and cause health problems.

- Fuel cells can operate at **higher efficiencies** than combustion engines, and can convert the chemical energy in the fuel to electrical energy with efficiencies of up to 60%.

-If pure **hydrogen** is used as a fuel, fuel cells emit only heat and water as a byproduct. Hydrogen-powered fuel cells are also far more energy efficient than traditional combustion technologies.

-Fuel cells are quiet during operation as they have **fewer moving parts**.

Q.266) Which of the following defines the **Fourth Industrial Revolution** most appropriately?

- a) Expansion of private industry in Space Technology
- b) Fusion of technologies integrating the physical, digital, and biological spheres
- c) Political governance system being controlled by Industrial Sector
- d) Sustainable industrial development to limit the impact on climate

Correct answer: B

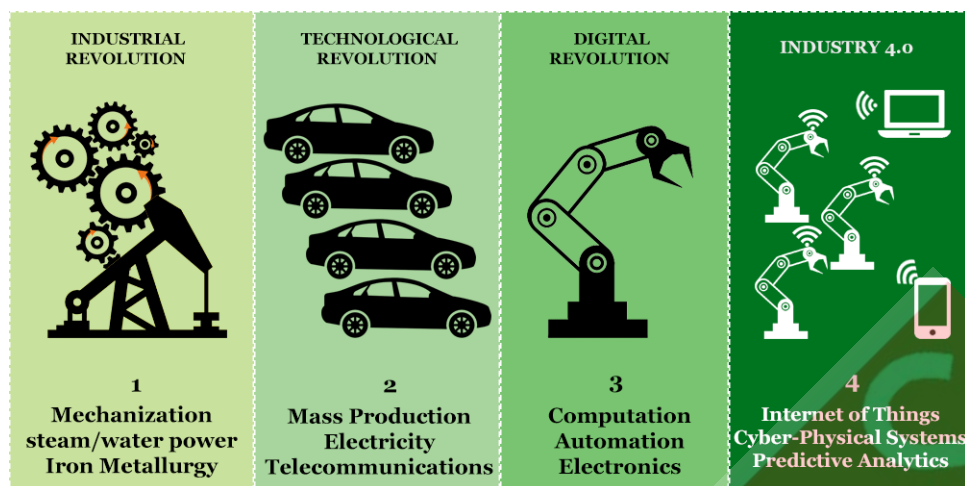
Explanation: The **First Industrial Revolution** used water and steam power to mechanize production.

The **Second Industrial Revolution** used electric power to create mass production.

The **Third Industrial Revolution** used electronics and information technology to automate production.

Now a **Fourth Industrial Revolution** is building on the Third, the digital revolution that has been occurring since the middle of the last century. It is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020



Q.267) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cyanobacteria**:

1. These are photosynthetic bacteria that can manufacture their own food.
2. They can grow into large blooms known as blue-green algae.

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.

Cyanobacteria are aquatic and photosynthetic, that is, they live in the water, and can manufacture their own food. Because they are bacteria, they are quite small and usually unicellular, though they often grow in colonies large enough to see.

Cyanobacteria can occur **naturally in standing water** and sometimes grow into large blooms known as **blue-green algae**.

They are also important providers of nitrogen fertilizer in the cultivation of rice and beans.

Some species of cyanobacteria produce toxins that affect animals and humans.

Botswana is home to about a third of Africa's declining elephant population. Recently many elephant carcasses were spotted in the country's Okavango Delta between May and June.

Officials say a total of 330 elephants are now known to have died from ingesting cyanobacteria.

Q.268) Consider the following statements regarding the **Greater One-horned Rhinoceros**:

1. India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros.
2. It is listed as critically endangered 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. On the occasion of **World Rhino Day**, Union Minister for Environment has launched a **National Conservation Strategy for Indian One-Horned Rhino**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

India is home to the **largest number** of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world with population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and UP.

Earlier, the Indian rhino could be found all along the Indus-Ganges-Brahmaputra valley. It occupied an area stretching from the borders of Myanmar in the east, across northern India and southern Nepal, as far as the Indus Valley in Pakistan in the west.

It is now found in a few pockets of the Brahmaputra valley in Assam and in the Terai grassland region of India and Nepal in the foothill of the Himalayas, the two main hubs being India's **Kaziranga National Park** and Nepal's **Chitwan National Park**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Greater One-horned Rhino (Rhinoceros unicornis)** is listed as **Vulnerable** in the IUCN Red List.

One horned rhino was close to extinction with a population of less than 200 in the beginning of the 20th century. It is the only large mammal species in Asia to be down-listed from **endangered to vulnerable** in the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN Red list in 2008.

Q.269) Consider the following statements regarding the **Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020**:

1. It makes commitment or abetment of any act of violence against healthcare personnel during an epidemic a punishable offence.
2. It empowers central government to regulate the detention of any person intending to travel from any bus or train.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020** has been passed by the parliament amending the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. The Bill amends the Act to include **protections for healthcare personnel** combatting epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.

Statement 1 is correct. The Bill specifies that no person can: **commit or abet** the commission of an act of **violence** against healthcare service personnel, or abet or cause **damage or loss to any property** during an epidemic. Contravention of this provision is **punishable** with imprisonment between three months and five years, and a fine between Rs 50,000 and two lakh rupees.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Act** specifies that the central government may **regulate the inspection** of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port, and the **detention of any person** intending to travel from the port, during an outbreak.

The **amendment bill** expands the above powers of the central government to any **bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft** leaving or arriving at any land port, port, or aerodrome.

Q.270) Consider the following statements regarding the **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020**:

1. It empowers the central government to allow certain classes of public companies to list classes of securities in foreign jurisdictions.
2. Excess spending under CSR obligation by a company in a financial year can offset its CSR obligations in subsequent financial years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020** has been passed by the parliament recently.

Statement 1 is correct. The Bill empowers the central government to allow **certain classes of public companies to list classes of securities** (as may be prescribed) in foreign jurisdictions.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the Companies Act, 2013, companies with net worth, turnover or profits above a specified amount are required to constitute **Corporate social responsibility (CSR) Committees** and spend 2% of their average net profits in the last three financial years, towards its CSR policy.

The Bill exempts companies with a CSR liability of up to Rs 50 lakh a year from setting up CSR Committees. Further, companies which spend any **amount in excess of their CSR obligation** in a financial year can set off the excess amount towards their CSR obligations in subsequent financial years.

Q.271) Consider the following statements regarding the **North Eastern Council (NEC)**:

1. It is a statutory body established by an act of parliament.
2. Union Home Minister as the ex-officio chairman of the NEC.

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 **North Eastern Council** is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region which consists of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The North Eastern Council was constituted in 1971 by an **NEC Act 1971**.

The **Union Home Minister** is ex-officio Chairman and the MoS(IC) DoNER is the ex-officio Vice-Chairman of the NEC.

Destination Northeast, an annual festival organised by the DONER ministry was inaugurated recently by the Union Home Minister.

Q.272) Consider the following statements regarding the **System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry (SAATHI)** initiative:

1. It has been launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Hospitality Industry.
2. It aims for effective implementation of Guidelines issued for safe operations of Hospitality Industry.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Ministry of Tourism with Quality Council of India** has developed an initiative called **SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry)** to assist the hospitality industry to continue to operate safely and thereby instill confidence among the Staff, employees and the guests about the safety of the hotel/unit.

Statement 2 is correct. SAATHI aims for effective implementation of **Guidelines/SOPs** issued with reference to **COVID 19 and beyond** for safe operations of Hotels, Restaurants and other units.

Q.273) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Tourism Organization**:

1. It is a United Nations specialized agency responsible for the promotion of sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
2. It has designated 2020 as the Year of Tourism and Rural Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** is the United Nations specialized agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

Statement 2 is correct. This year United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has designated **2020 as the Year of Tourism and Rural Development**.

As an intergovernmental organization, UNWTO has 159 Member States (including India), 6 Associate Members, 2 Observers and over 500 Affiliate Members.

Q.274) Consider the following statements regarding **Sandalwood Spike Disease**:

1. It is characterized by reduction in leaf size.
2. The disease has been reported for first time in India in 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. **Sandal spike disease** has several symptoms; there is a **reduction in leaf size**, loss of apical dominance of the branches giving a “witches-broom” condition and phyllody of the flowers, stiffening and reduction of internode length.

In advanced stage, the entire shoot gives the appearance of a spike inflorescence. **Spiked trees die** within 1–2 years after the appearance of visible symptoms.

Presently, there is no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease, caused by phytoplasma bacterial parasites of plant tissues, which are transmitted by insect vectors.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **SPIKE disease of Sandal (Santalum album L.)** is of considerable importance to the **sandal-wood industry of southern India**. It has been one of the major causes for the decline in sandalwood production in the country for over a century. The disease was first reported in Kodagu in **1899**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

It has been reported that India's sandalwood trees are facing a serious threat with the return of the Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD).

Q.275) India and Japan, both are involved in which of the following **military exercise(s)**?

1. Malabar Exercise
2. JIMEX
3. Yudh Abhyas

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. **Exercise Malabar** is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, **Japan** and India as permanent partners.

Option 2 is correct. The **India-Japan maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX)** is conducted biennially. Its last edition was conducted off the coast of Visakhapatnam in October 2018. The 2020 edition is set to start in northern Arabia Sea.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Yudh Abhyas** is a regularly-scheduled bilateral exercise hosted by the **Indian and U.S. Armies**.

Q.276) Consider the following statements regarding **Cess**:

1. Cess taxes have an earmarked purpose but do not give the contributor an entitlement of a benefit in exchange.
2. Constitution mandates Cess tax revenue to be part of the divisible pool and is distributed between the Union and the State Governments.

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. **Cess** taxes have an **earmarked purpose** but do not give the contributor an entitlement to a **quid pro quo** benefit.

The CAG's has recently reported that the Centre retained ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess in the Consolidated Fund instead of crediting it to the GST compensation fund in the very first two years of the implementation of GST.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Article 270(1)** identifies the taxes that form a part of the divisible pool, meaning the taxes, proceeds of which are to be distributed between the Union and the State Governments.

However, Article 270 states that any **cess levied for 'specific purposes'** under any law passed by the Parliament is an **exception** i.e. the proceeds from cesses are not part of the divisible pool.

Q.277) Consider the following statements regarding **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**:

1. It is being published by National Statistics Office with base year 2014-15.
2. The Monetary Policy Committee determines the Policy Rate required to achieve the CPI inflation target.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **National Statistics Office** coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards. NSO brings out important economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Product (IIP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and other official statistics to support Government decision making and framing of appropriate socio-economic policies/programmes.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Statistical Office** (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation publishes Consumer Price Index (CPI) on **Base year 2012=100** for Rural, Urban and Combined.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the **Reserve Bank of India Act**, the Central Government shall, in consultation with the Bank, determine the inflation target in terms of the **Consumer Price Index**, once in every five years.

Further, the **Monetary Policy Committee** shall determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target

Q.278) Consider the following statements regarding **Legislative Assemblies**:

1. Constitution provides for maximum strength of Legislative Assembly not to exceed five hundred.
2. Constitution does not provide for duration of the State Assemblies.

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. **Article 170(1)** states that Legislative Assembly of each State shall consist of not more than **five hundred**, and not less than **sixty**, members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the State.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Article 172(1)** states that every Legislative Assembly of every State, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for **five years** from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as dissolution of the Assembly:

Provided that the said period may, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate.

Q.279) Consider the following statements:

1. Real GDP measures an economy's total goods and services in a given year, taking into account changes in price levels.
2. Real GDP can never be more than the nominal GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Real GDP** measures an economy's total goods and services in a given year, taking into account changes in price levels. It allows GDP comparison year by year because it takes into account inflation.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Nominal GDP** is also referred to as the current prices GDP. Real GDP takes into consideration adjustments for changes in inflation. This means that if inflation is positive, real GDP will be lower than nominal, and **vice versa**.

GDP deflator is a measure of the level of prices of all new, domestically produced, final goods and services in an economy. It is calculated by computing the ratio of nominal GDP to the real measure of GDP.

Q.280) Which of the following institution has published the **Global Climate Risk Index 2020**?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Global Climate Risk Index 2020** published by **Germanwatch** analyses to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heatwaves etc.).

The **Germanwatch Climate Risk Index 2020** is the 15th edition of this annual analysis. The report mentions that India suffered from one of the longest ever recorded heatwaves in 2018, with hundreds of deaths, when temperatures climbed to up to 48°C. Prolonged drought and resultant widespread crop failures, compounded by a water shortage, brought about violent riots and increased migration.

Q.281) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Parliament has exclusive power of making a law imposing a tax not mentioned in the Seventh Schedule.
- 2. Parliament can make laws on a State List subject if the Council of States passes a resolution to that effect by simple majority citing national interest.

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. **Article 248** of the Constitution provides for the **residuary powers of legislation**:

Parliament has exclusive power to make any law with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent List or State List.

Further, such power shall include the power of making any **law imposing a tax** not mentioned in either of those Lists.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Article 249** provides for power of Parliament to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List in the national interest:

If the **Council of States** has declared by resolution supported by **not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting** that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest that Parliament should make laws with respect to any matter enumerated in the **State List** specified in the resolution; Parliament is empowered to make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India with respect to that matter while the resolution remains in force.

The resolution passed by Rajyasabha remains in force for such period not exceeding one year. Further, the law made by Parliament, to the extent of the incompetency, ceases to have effect on the expiration of a period of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force.

Q.282) Consider the following statements regarding the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**:

1. No offsets will be applicable in cases progressed through Inter Government Agreement (IGA).
2. Leasing is introduced as a new category for acquisition in addition to the existing 'Buy' and 'Make' acquisition categories.

Which of the statements give above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The new **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)** has been cleared by the Defence ministry recently.

Statement 1 is correct. There may be occasions when procurements would have to be done from friendly foreign countries which may be necessitated due to geo-strategic advantages or imperatives of strategic partnerships or major military, technological, economic, diplomatic or political benefits.

The DAP 2020 has **done away with the offset clause on government to government** buys and states that No offsets will be applicable in cases progressed through IGA like Foreign Military Sales (FMS).

Statement 2 is correct. **Leasing** is introduced as another category for acquisition in addition to the existing 'Buy' and 'Make' acquisition categories as it provides for an innovative technique for financing of equipment.

Leasing would be permitted in two sub categories i.e. Lease (Indian), where Lessor is an Indian entity and is the owner of the asset, and Lease (Global) which refers to lease of equipment from foreign or Indian Lessors. Lease (Indian) would be the preferred category.



Q.283) Consider the following statements regarding the **Himalayan Chandra Telescope**:

1. It is located at Hanle, Ladakh.
2. It is remotely operated using a dedicated satellite communication link.

Which of the statements give 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 **Himalayan Chandra Telescope** is housed within the Indian Astronomical Observatory at in **Hanle near Leh** in Ladakh.

Statement 2 is correct. The telescope remotely operated using a dedicated satellite communication link from the Centre for Research & Education in Science & Technology (CREST), **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**.

IIA is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The telescope has completed two decades in operation.

Q.284) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vigyan Jyoti** scheme:

1. It aims to create a level-playing field for girls in school to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in higher education.
2. The students selected would be given opportunities to attend science camps at IITs and NITs.

Which of the statements give 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.

Vigyan Jyoti scheme is intended to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)** in their higher education. It also offers exposure for girl students from the rural background to help to plan their journey from school to a job of their choice in the field of science.

Selected students (100 girl students in 550 districts from 2020-2025, chosen based on their percentile) would be given opportunities to attend science camps at IITs, NITs and other

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

leading institutions of science and technology education where women are not adequately represented.

Q.285) Consider the following statements regarding the **Magellanic Clouds**:

1. It is comprised of two binary star systems.
2. The Magellanic Clouds orbit the Milky Way galaxy.

Which of the statements give 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 **Magellanic Clouds** are comprised of two irregular **galaxies**, the **Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)** and the **Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC)**.

Statement 2 is correct. Magellanic Clouds **orbit the Milky Way** once every 1,500 million years and each other once every 900 million years.

They are only visible from the southern hemisphere and became known in Europe after the expeditions led by the Portuguese explorer **Ferdinand Magellan**.

Q.286) Which of following subject(s) find mention in the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution?

1. Agricultural market
2. Agricultural education and research
3. Taxes on agricultural income

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. **Agricultural market** is not listed in the Seventh Schedule.

The committees headed by **Ashok Dalwai**, **Ramesh Chand** and **Swaminathan Commission** recommended that 'agricultural markets' should be entered in the Concurrent List.

Option 2 is correct. Agriculture, including **agricultural education and research**, protection against pests and prevention of plant diseases are mentioned as Entry 14 in the State List.

Option 3 is correct. The **'taxes on agricultural income'** is Entry 46 in the State List.

Q.287) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Palk Strait - Sri Lanka
2. Bab-el-Mandeb Strait - Yemen
3. Malacca Strait - Indonesia

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Palk Strait** is a strait between the Tamil Nadu and the Jaffna District of the Northern Province of **Sri Lanka**.

The **Bab-el-Mandeb strait** is located between **Yemen** on the Arabian Peninsula, and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

The **Malacca Strait** is a narrow stretch of water between the Malay Peninsula and the **Indonesia** (Sumatra). It is the main shipping channel between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Q.288) Consider the following statements regarding the **Herd Immunity**:

1. It provides indirect protection to those who are not immune to the disease.
2. It can only be achieved when people are vaccinated against the disease.

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. **Herd immunity** happens when so many people in a community become immune to an infectious disease. As many viral and bacterial infections spread from person to person. This chain is broken when most people don't get or transmit the infection.

This provides **indirect protection (herd protection)** to those who are not immune to the disease.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Herd Immunity can be developed when many people in the population:

- contract the disease** and in time build up an immune response to it (natural immunity).
- are **vaccinated** against the disease to achieve immunity.

Q.289) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT)**:

1. It has been on the agenda of the UN Conference on Disarmament.
2. It is proposed to cover only the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) recognized nuclear weapon 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **proposed Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT)** is intended to prohibit the production of fissile material. It has been on the proposed agenda of the **Conference on Disarmament** for many years, but the CD has not been able to establish a committee to begin formal negotiations.

UN Conference on Disarmament (CD), a body of 65 member nations established as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament. The CD operates by consensus and is often stagnant, impeding progress on an FMCT.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Statement 2 is incorrect. Those nations that joined the nuclear **Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)** as non-weapon states are already prohibited from producing or acquiring fissile material for weapons.

An FMCT would provide new restrictions for the five recognized nuclear weapon states (NWS—United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China), and for the four nations that are **not NPT** members (Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea).

In order for negotiations to begin on an FMCT, Pakistan will have to remove its opposition vote, and a consensus to move forward with negotiations must be reached. Pakistan, in order to offset its disadvantageous position relative to India's superior nuclear stockpile, wants treaty to include current fissile material stockpiles, instead of just capping future production.

Q.290) What is the **13th Amendment** to the Sri Lankan Constitution?

- a) Devolution of power to the provincial councils
- b) Maritime boundary demarcation with India
- c) Repatriation of Indian Fisherman
- d) Strengthening Parliament while curbing powers of the Executive President

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution** passed in 1987 is an outcome of the **Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987**, signed by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayawardene, in an attempt to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

It led to the creation of **Provincial Councils**, assured a power sharing arrangement to enable all nine provinces in the country, including Sinhala majority areas, to self-govern.

Education, health, agriculture, housing, land and police are devolved to the provincial administrations, but because of restrictions on financial powers and overriding powers given to the President, the provincial administrations have not made much progress. Particularly, the provisions relating to police and land have never been implemented.

Q.291) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAX facility**:

- 1. It is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.
- 2. It is focused on developing high-quality rapid tests for COVID-19 and training healthcare professionals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator**, which was launched in April by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the European Commission and France in response to pandemic.

The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 **tests, treatments, vaccines and health systems**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **COVAX** is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 **vaccines**, and to guarantee **fair and equitable** access for every country in the world.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The Facility continually monitors the COVID-19 vaccine landscape to identify the most suitable vaccine candidates, based on scientific merit and scalability, and works with manufacturers to incentivize them to expand their production capacity in advance of vaccines receiving regulatory approval.

Q.292) Which of the following is/are provided under Constitution as ground(s) for **reasonable restrictions** on freedom of speech and expression?

1. Public order
 2. Friendly relations with foreign States
 3. Protection of the interests of any Scheduled Tribe
- 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: Article 19(2) provides for State's power to make law imposes **reasonable restrictions** on the exercise of the right to freedom of speech and expression in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, **friendly relations with foreign States, public order**, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

The '**protection of the interests of any Scheduled Tribe**' is provided under the Constitution as basis of reasonable restriction on freedom to **move freely** throughout the territory of India and to **reside and settle** in any part of the territory of India.

Q.293) Arrange the following **India-China agreements** chronologically:

1. Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control
2. Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field
3. Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the India-China Boundary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Agreement on the Maintenance of **Peace and Tranquility** along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed in **September 1993**.

Agreement on **Confidence Building Measures** in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed between the two sides in **November 1996**.

Agreement between the India and China on the **Political Parameters and Guiding Principles** for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question was signed in **April 2005**.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

WHAT CHINA SAID

- The definition of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is what had been proposed in 1959
- At the time, Chinese premier Zhou Enlai in a letter to then PM Jawaharlal Nehru proposed that two sides withdraw 20km from the "McMahon line in the east, and from the line up to which each side exercises actual control

INDIA'S RESPONSE

China has been told that India has never accepted the unilaterally defined 1959 LAC

- Following bilateral agreements explicitly state India and China have committed to clarifying and confirming the alignment of LAC:
 - 1993 Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the LAC
 - 1996 Agreement on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the military field
 - 2005 Protocol on Implementation of CBMs
 - 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and
- Blame rests with Chinese side for lack of progress in clarifying and confirming the boundary for almost two decades



Q.294) Consider the following statements regarding the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**:

1. The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee on policy rate is binding on the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The members appointed by the Central Government hold office for a period of four years and are not eligible for re-appointment.

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: In 2016, the government provided statutory backing to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) by notifying amendments to the **RBI Act, 1934**.

Statement 1 is correct. As per the act the Monetary Policy Committee determines the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target. Further the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee is **binding on the Reserve Bank of India**.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Monetary Policy Committee consists of:**

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

The Members of the Monetary Policy Committee appointed by the Central Government hold office for a period of **four years and are not eligible for re-appointment**.

Q.295) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Crime Record Bureau's 'Crime in India 2019'** report:

1. The crimes against Scheduled Castes have reduced by more than ten percent since 2018.
2. Uttar Pradesh has reported the highest number of crimes against women 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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: National Crime Record Bureau has recently released its annual “Crime in India” 2019 report. Crime rate registered showed an increase from 21.2 (per lakh population) in 2018 to 22.8 in 2019.

Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the report, crimes against **Scheduled Castes** went up 7.3 per cent since 2018.

The crimes against women also went up 7.3 per cent in the same period. The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 62.4 in 2019 in comparison with 58.8 in 2018.

Statement 2 is correct. **Uttar Pradesh** reported the highest number of crimes against women (59,853), accounting for 14.7 per cent of such cases across the country. It was followed by Rajasthan (41,550 cases; 10.2 per cent) and Maharashtra (37,144 cases; 9.2 per cent).

Assam reported the highest rate of crime against women at 177.8 (per lakh population), followed by Rajasthan (110.4) and Haryana (108.5).

Q.296) Which of the following pillars constitutes the **Namami Gange Programme**?

1. Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
2. Afforestation
3. Industrial Effluent Monitoring

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: ‘Namami Gange Programme’, is an Integrated Conservation Mission, a ‘Flagship Programme’ of the Union Government to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

Main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme:

Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure, River-Front Development, River-Surface Cleaning, Bio-Diversity, Afforestation, Public Awareness, Industrial Effluent Monitoring and Ganga Gram. The implementation of the program is divided into entry-level activities (for immediate visible impact), medium term activities (to be implemented within 5 years of time frame), and, long-term activities (to be implemented within 10 years).

Prime Minister recently inaugurated several development projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission.

Q.297) Consider the following statements regarding the **Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC)**:

1. It has Problem Statements from Armed Forces and Ordnance Factory Boards for resolution by innovators.
2. It has been launched by the Atal Innovation Mission.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC)** are launched with **Problem Statements (PS) from Armed Forces and Ordnance Factory Boards or Defence PSUs** for resolution to prospective startups, innovators, MSMEs alike to provide their innovative ideas on technologies which find their application in the defence sector.

In order to develop a 'right product and the product right', **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** has adopted the Product Management Approach to steer the prototype development to a market ready product.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It has been launched by the **iDEX initiative of the Department of Defence Production**. The iDEX initiatives are executed by Defence Innovation Organisation, a Section 8 company of DPSUs BEL and HAL.

The fourth round of Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) has been launched by iDEX.

Q.298) Consider the following statements regarding the **Code on Wages, 2019**:

1. The central government will fix a floor wage, taking into account living standards of workers.
2. It prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the work of similar nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Code on Wages, 2019** replaces the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Statement 1 is correct. According to the Code, the **central government will fix a floor wage**, taking into account living standards of workers. Further, it may set different floor wages for different geographical areas.

The **minimum wages** decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage.

Statement 2 is correct. The Code on Wages, 2019 **prohibits gender discrimination** in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature. **Work of similar nature** is defined as work for which the skill, effort, experience, and responsibility required are the same.

Q.299) Which of the following institution has published the **Time Use in India-2019** report?

- a) National Statistical Office (NSO)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Labour Bureau
- d) National Informatics Centre (NIC)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **National Statistical Office (NSO)** conducted the first Time Use Survey in India during January – December 2019 and has recently published the **Time Use in India-2019** report.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

The primary objective of **Time Use Survey (TUS)** is to measure participation of men and women in paid and unpaid activities. TUS is an important source of information on the time spent in unpaid caregiving activities, volunteer work, and unpaid domestic service producing activities of the household members. It also provides information on time spent on learning, socializing, leisure activities, self-care activities, etc., by the household members.

Percentage share of total time in different activities in a day per person of age 6 years and above						
Description of the activity	rural			urban		
	male	female	person	male	female	person
Employment and related activities	16.9	4.2	10.6	21.3	4.3	13.1
Production of goods for own final use	2.7	2.2	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Unpaid domestic services for household members	1.9	17.2	9.4	1.5	16.1	8.6
Unpaid caregiving services for household members	0.8	2.6	1.7	0.7	2.5	1.6
Unpaid volunteer, trainee and other unpaid work	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Learning	7.1	5.7	6.4	7.0	6.1	6.6
Socializing and communication, community participation and religious practice	9.6	8.8	9.2	8.7	8.8	8.8
Culture, leisure, mass-media and sports practices	9.7	9.0	9.4	10.9	11.7	11.3
Self-care and maintenance	51.2	50.3	50.8	49.4	50.0	49.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Q.300) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**:

1. Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
2. It excludes domestic workers from the protection of the Act.
3. It provides penalty for malicious complaints.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013** provides protection to an 'aggrieved woman'; a woman who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment. It covers every woman at the work place (whether employed or not).

10 PM Compilation for the Month of September, 2020

Statement 1 is correct. The act provides that every employer is required to constitute an **Internal Complaints Committee** at all offices and branches with staff strength of 10 or more employees. The Complaints Committees have the powers of **civil courts** for gathering evidence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The act provides protection to **domestic workers** (means a woman who is employed to do the household work in any household for remuneration whether in cash or kind).

Statement 3 is correct. The act provides that if the **Internal Committee or the Local Committee** arrives at a conclusion that the allegation against the respondent is **malicious** or the aggrieved woman or any other person making the complaint has made the complaint **knowing it to be false**, it may recommend for penalty against the complainant.

ForumIAS