

## *10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation*

1st to 8th November, 2020

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

## 10 PM Compilation for the Week – 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

### POLITY

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements:

1. Education was moved from State list to Concurrent List through the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
2. Kothari Commission was set up by the Government of India to examine all aspects of the educational sector 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. Through the **42nd Amendment to the Constitution, 1976** Five subjects were transferred from State to Concurrent List: **Education**, Forests, Weights & Measures, Protection of Wild Animals and Birds, and Administration of Justice. Statement 2 is correct. **National Education Commission** also known as **Kothari Commission (1964-1966)** was an ad hoc commission set up by the Government of India to examine all aspects of the educational sector in India, to evolve a general pattern of education and to advise guidelines and policies for the development of education in India.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**:

1. Every election candidate is to keep an account of all expenditure in connection with the election incurred or authorised by him.
2. If a person who is already a member of the Lok Sabha is chosen a member of the Rajyasabha, his seat in the Lok Sabha shall become vacant.

Which of the above statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Article 77(1) of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** states that **every candidate at an election shall**, either by himself or by his election agent, **keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure** in connection with the election incurred or authorized by him or by his election agent between the date on which he has been nominated] and the date of declaration of the result.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 69 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** states that if a person who is already a member of the House of the People and has taken his seat in such House is chosen a member of the Council of States, his seat in the House of the People shall, on the date on which he is so chosen, become vacant.

Further, if a person who is already a member of the Council of States and has taken his seat in such Council is chosen a member of the House of the People, his seat in the Council of States shall, on the date on which he is so chosen, become vacant.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**:

1. It has a statutory status through Representation of People Act 1951.
2. It mandates that Ministers shall not announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof during the period MCC is in force.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** is not a statutorily backed provision.

The **MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission** to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures.

The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.

Statement 2 is correct. A form of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960. It was a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc.

In **1979, the Election Commission added a section to regulate the ‘party in power’** and prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage at the time of elections.

From the time elections are announced by Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not –

- announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or
- (except civil servants) lay foundation stones etc. of projects or schemes of any kind; or
- make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc.; or
- make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertakings etc. which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favor of the party in power.

**Q.4)** Which of the following languages have been recognized by the government as **Classical Languages of India**?

- 1. Kannada
- 2. Malayalam
- 3. Bengali

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 **Criteria adopted by the Government** to determine the eligibility of a language for granting classical language status, are as under:

- 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 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.

**Six languages i.e. Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia have been given status of Classical languages of India.**

## **10 PM Compilation for the Week – 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

**Q.5) What are the functions of the Finance Commission?**

1. The distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be divided between them.
2. The principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. The measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Finance Commission** is constituted by the President under **article 280 of the Constitution**. Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.

**It is the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to—**

--the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;

--the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India;

--the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State;

--the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State;

--any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.

The Commission determines its procedure and have such powers in the performance of their functions as Parliament may by law confer on them.

**Q.6) Which of the following force(s) is/are under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs?**

1. Border Security Force (BSF)
2. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
3. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
4. Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Under the Constitution, **police and public order are state subjects**. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) assists state governments by providing them support of the Central Armed Police Forces.

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

*The dual control structure for Assam Rifles, which comes under both the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been recently under judicial scrutiny.*

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements:

1. Bamboo is classified as a tree under the Indian Forest Act.
2. Bamboo has potential for its use as a clean source of energy.

Which of the 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 **Indian Forest Act 1927** says “forest produce” is what is found in or brought from a forest. This **originally included** bamboo as trees.

The **Parliament amendment the act in 2017** to exclude bamboo from the definition of tree under the Indian Forest Act, claiming it would improve the earnings of tribals and dwellers living around forests.

Statement 2 is correct. **Bamboo pellets** are considered reliable biomass energy sources in certain parts of the world. In terms of mass and energy density, pellets from bamboo have characteristics superior to other biomass products, such as woodchips and briquettes.

Such higher density allows for easy and cost-effective transportation and greater efficiency in energy generation with suitable properties for residential and industrial use.

*# Minister of DONER at inauguration of Virtual Bamboo Exhibition stated that ‘Bamboo has great potential for its use as a clean source of energy and can also replace the single use plastic, thus promoting the environment and Climate cause in India’.*

**Q.8) Article 15 of the Constitution** enables the State for making special provisions for which of the following category of citizens?

1. Women and Children
2. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
3. Economically Weaker Sections

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: Article 15 of the Constitution** provides for prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Article 15(3): Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.

Article 15(4): Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

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Article 15(6) (a): Nothing in this article shall prevent state from making any special provision for the advancement of any economically weaker sections of citizens.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Domestic Violence Act, 2005**:

1. It is a gender neutral law with regards to that an aggrieved person can either be male or female.
2. The act covers 'economic abuse' in the category of domestic violence.

Which of the 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 **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is not a gender neutral law**. An "aggrieved person" is defined under the act as any woman who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the respondent and who alleges to have been subjected to any act of domestic violence by the respondent. Statement 2 is correct. Domestic Violence includes causing any harm or injury to the safety, life, health or well-being of the aggrieved woman by committing any physical, sexual, verbal or **economic abuse**.

"Economic Abuse" is depriving the aggrieved woman from all sorts of financial resources to which she is entitled to under any law or custom or legal order or which she requires out of necessity, such as for running the household, taking care of the children etc.

It also includes alienation of the movable or immovable assets in which she has interest too, prohibiting the aggrieved woman or putting restriction on her to continue the use of resources or facilities.

**Q.10)** Which of the following is/are direction(s) issued under **Model Code of Conduct** issued by Election Commission of India?

1. Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers during the election period for partisan coverage of political news shall be avoided.
2. The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution.

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:** Statement 1 is correct. **MCC contains specific directions for party in power**. The party in power whether at the Centre or in the States concerned shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign.

Issue of **advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers** and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously **avoided**.

Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission.

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Statement 2 is correct. The MCC directions state that:

--The **election manifesto** shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.

--The **Directive Principles of State Policy** enshrined in the Constitution enjoin upon the State to frame various welfare measures for the citizens and therefore there can be no objection to the promise of such welfare measures in election manifestos. However, political parties should avoid making those promises which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters in exercising their franchise.

--In the interest of **transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises**, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.

ForumIAS

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### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**Q.1)** Which of the following statements correctly defines **Superconductivity**?

- a) Some materials offering zero resistance at very low temperature
- b) Some materials offering infinite resistance at very low temperature
- c) Semiconductors offering conducting high conductivity due to photoelectric effect
- d) Insulators offering high conductivity at very high temperatures

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Superconductivity** is a phenomenon displayed by some materials when they are cooled below a certain temperature, known as the superconducting critical temperature. Below a certain “critical” temperature, materials undergo transition into the superconducting state, characterized by two basic properties: firstly, they offer no resistance to the passage of electrical current.

When resistance falls to zero, a current can circulate inside the material without any dissipation of energy. Secondly, provided they are sufficiently weak, external magnetic fields will not penetrate the superconductor, but remain at its surface. This field expulsion phenomenon is known as the Meissner effect, after the physicist who first observed it in 1933.

*# A group of researchers at University of Rochester, Intel corporation and University of Nevada in the U.S. have created a material that is superconducting at 15 degrees Celsius. But it needs ultrahigh pressure of about 2 million atmospheres to achieve this transition.*

**Q.2)** The **Clavius Crater** was in news recently, where is it located?

- a) Moon
- b) Mars
- c) Bennu asteroid
- d) Europa

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Clavius is one of the largest crater formations on the Moon** and the second largest crater on the visible near side.

**NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)** has confirmed, for the first time, water on the sunlit surface of the Moon. This discovery indicates that water may be distributed across the lunar surface, and not limited to cold, shadowed places.

SOFIA has detected water molecules (H<sub>2</sub>O) in Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth, located in the Moon’s southern hemisphere.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Serological Surveys**:

- 1. It is based on antibody test conducted on a sample of the population.
- 2. It is used to estimate the part of population that has already been infected with an infection.

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.

**Serological surveys** are conducted to assess the prevalence of a disease in a population. It is done by detecting the presence of specific antibodies that are produced against the virus.



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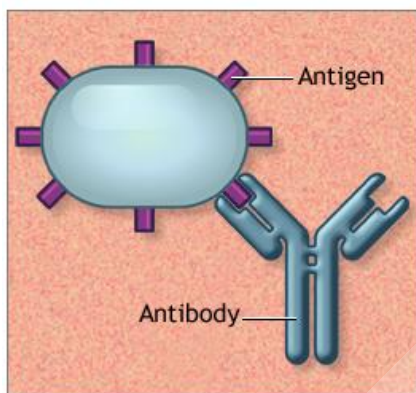
A serological survey generally includes the IgG Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test. It estimates the proportion of the population exposed to an infection. The human body produces **Immunoglobulin M (IgM) and Immunoglobulin G (IgG)** antibodies to fight against a pathogen.

**Q.4)** Which of the following statement is correct regarding the **Antigens**?

- a) It induces an immune response in the body
- b) It is the immune response of the body
- c) It prohibits the immune response of the body
- d) None of the above

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Antigens** are substances that cause an immune response in the body by identifying substances in or markers on cells. The human body produces **antibodies** to fight antigens, or harmful substances, and tries to eliminate them.



An antigen is a substance that induces the formation of antibodies because it is recognized by the immune system as a threat.

# An antigen may be a substance from the environment, such as chemicals, bacteria, viruses, or pollen.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding **food fortification**:

- 1. It is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient of the food.
  - 2. Rice fortification is not possible due to its brittle character.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Fortification** is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Rice** can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder to the rice that adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains in several layers with a vitamin and mineral mix to form a protective coating.

Rice can also be extruded and shaped into partially precooked grain-like structures resembling rice grains, which can then be blended with natural polished rice. Rice kernels can be fortified with several micronutrients, such as iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc.

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# To initiate the process of taking the country towards nutritional security, Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) has been running a “Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System”.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **PINAKA Rocket System**:

1. It is a beyond visual range air to air missile system.
2. It has been developed by the Dassault Aviation of France

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

**PINAKA is a multiple rocket launcher** produced in India and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** for the Indian Army. The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark-II.

Enhanced PINAKA rocket, developed by DRDO has been successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha recently.

Enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets which are currently under production.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding **Cancer**:

1. The cancer cells are less specialized in their functions than normal cells.
2. The Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 does not include any cancer treatment drugs.

Which of the 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. **Cancer** is the name given to a collection of related diseases. In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues.

**Cancer cells** differ from normal cells in many ways that allow them to grow out of control and become invasive. One important difference is that cancer cells are less specialized than normal cells. That is, whereas normal cells mature into very distinct cell types with specific functions, cancer cells do not. This is one reason that, unlike normal cells, cancer cells continue to divide without stopping.

In addition, cancer cells are able to ignore signals that normally tell cells to stop dividing or that begin a process known as programmed cell death, or apoptosis, which the body uses to get rid of unneeded cells.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** regulates the prices of all Drugs as per the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013.

It fixes the Ceiling Price of scheduled formulations as per the list of medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which are included in the First Schedule of Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), 2013.

**First Schedule of DPCO, 2013 also includes select drugs used for the treatment of cancer.** However, there has been a long standing felt need to further regulate the Non Scheduled segment also where high markups have led to arbitrary pricing practices.

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**Q.8)** What is the **potential** impact of the **D614G** mutation in coronavirus?

- a) Increased infectivity and high viral load
- b) No ill effect on health of infected person
- c) High infectivity on infants and zero infectivity on adults
- d) Zero infectivity and zero viral load in the individual

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** A **mutation** is a change in a DNA sequence. Mutations can result from DNA copying mistakes made during cell division, exposure to ionizing radiation, exposure to chemicals called mutagens, or infection by viruses.

In the **D614G mutation** in coronavirus, the virus replaced the aspartic acid (D) in the 614th position of the amino acid with glycine (G). Hence the mutation is called the D614G.

*# It has also been reported in India.*

A preprint posted in medRxiv, which has **not undergone peer-review**, explains the sequenced genomes of 5,085 SARS-CoV-2 strains in Houston. By doing so, it discovered that not only did the D614G show increased infectivity but it also displayed greater ability at attaching itself to the cell walls inside an individual's nose and throat, increasing the viral load.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the asteroid **16 Psyche**:

- 1. It orbits in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- 2. It is a metallic asteroid comprised mostly of metallic iron and nickel.

Which of the 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.

**16 Psyche** is a giant **metal asteroid**, about three times farther away from the sun than is the Earth. Its average diameter is about 140 miles (226 kilometers) — about one-sixteenth the diameter of Earth's Moon. Psyche orbits the Sun between the orbits of **Mars and Jupiter**.

Unlike most other asteroids that are rocky or icy bodies, scientists think the M-type (metallic) asteroid 16 Psyche is comprised mostly of metallic iron and nickel similar to Earth's core. Scientists wonder whether Psyche could be an exposed core of an early planet that lost its rocky outer layers due to a number of violent collisions billions of years ago.

**NASA's Psyche mission** is targeted to launch in August of 2022, the Psyche spacecraft would arrive at the asteroid in early 2026, following a Mars gravity assist in 2023.

**Q.10)** Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Kessler syndrome**?

- a) A trisomy of chromosome 21
- b) A mutation in the blood-clotting factors VIII
- c) Collision among objects in space causing cascading effect
- d) None of the above

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Kessler syndrome**, also called the Kessler effect, collisional cascading or ablation cascade, is a scenario in which the density of objects in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) is

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high enough that collisions between objects could cause a cascade where each collision generates space debris that increases the likelihood of further collisions.

# According to European Space Agency, the number of space debris objects in Earth's orbit is 6.7 lakh (larger than 1 cm) and over 17 crore (larger than 1 mm).

**Q.11)** The **Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)** is mostly associated with which profession?

- a) Astronauts
- b) Contact sports
- c) Radio operators
- d) Sanitation workers

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation: Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)** is a progressive brain condition that's thought to be caused by repeated blows to the head and repeated episodes of concussion.

It's particularly associated with **contact sports**, such as boxing or American football. CTE was previously known as "punch drunk" syndrome and dementia pugilistica. But these terms are no longer used because it's now known that the condition is not limited to ex-boxers.

The symptoms of CTE vary between individuals, but tend to be similar to those of other types of degenerative brain conditions, particularly Alzheimer's disease.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding **Visceral Leishmaniasis**:

1. It is caused by protozoan parasites.
2. It is never a fatal disease and may remain undetected in asymptomatic person throughout lifespan.

Which of the 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 **leishmaniasis** are a group of diseases caused by **protozoan parasites** from more than 20 Leishmania species. These parasites are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected female phlebotomine sandfly, a tiny – 2–3 mm long – insect vector.

The most common forms are cutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin sores, and visceral leishmaniasis, which affects several internal organs (usually spleen, liver, and bone marrow).

Some people have a silent infection, without any symptoms or signs. People who develop clinical evidence of infection usually have fever, weight loss, enlargement (swelling) of the spleen and liver, and abnormal blood tests.

Statement 2 is incorrect. If not treated, **severe (advanced) cases of visceral leishmaniasis typically are fatal.**

# To recognize the significant contributions towards defining the survival tactics of *Leishmania donovani*, Society of Biological Chemists (India) has chosen Dr Susanta Kar, Senior Scientist, CSIR-CDRI for this year's Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award.

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### GEOGRAPHY

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Khartoum - Sudan
2. Oaxaca - Mexico
2. Baku - Azerbaijan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Khartoum** is the capital of **Sudan**. It is located at the confluence of the White Nile, flowing north from Lake Victoria, and the Blue Nile, flowing west from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.

**Oaxaca** is in Mexico; it was in news recently as the **Khadi Oaxaca** collective was mentioned by the Prime Minister in *Mann Ki Baat*.

**Baku**, the capital and commercial hub of **Azerbaijan**, is a low-lying city with coastline along the Caspian Sea.

**Q.2)** The **Mansar Lake** is located in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Ladakh
- c) Manipur
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Mansar Lake** is situated 37 km from Jammu, Mansar is a lake fringed by forest-covered hills, over a mile in length by half-a-mile in width.

**Surinsar-Mansar Lakes** are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.

# *Comprehensive Mansar Lake Rejuvenation/Development Plan* was launched recently to increase the tourism potential of the historic lake.

**Q.3)** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the **Kaziranga National Park**?

1. The Brahmaputra River flows north of the park.
2. Kaziranga National Park is prescribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

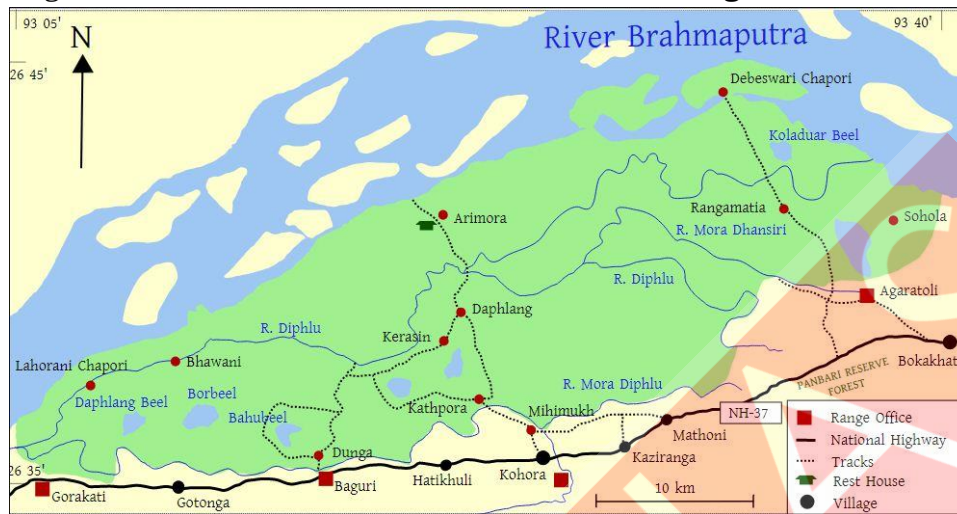
**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Kaziranga national park** is located fairly in the Golaghat and Nagaon regions of Assam in India. It is also placed beside the **Brahmaputra** River on the North and the Karbi Anglong mounts on the South.

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It is famous for the Great Indian one horned rhinoceros; the landscape of Kaziranga is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes & shallow pools. It has been declared as National Park in 1974.

The Kaziranga National Park was inscribed on the **World Heritage List in 1985**.



**Q.4)** Which of the following lake is the **northernmost** of all the **Great Lakes**?

- a) Lake Superior
- b) Lake Michigan
- c) Lake Erie
- d) Lake Huron

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Great Lakes**, chain of deep freshwater lakes in east-central North America comprising **Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario**.

Situated on the northern edge of Wisconsin, Lake Superior extends from the upper peninsula of Michigan north to Ontario, Canada, and reaches west to the eastern edge of Minnesota. The name Superior refers to its size and also designates the lake's position as the northernmost of all the Great Lakes.



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## **10 PM Compilation for the Week – 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

**Q.5)** Which of the following city(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Nice - France
2. Vienna - Austria
3. Herat - Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. Located in the French Riviera, on the south east coast of **France** on the Mediterranean Sea, at the foot of the Alps, Nice is the second-largest French city on the Mediterranean coast.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Vienna** is the national capital, largest city, and one of nine states of **Austria**.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Herat** city is the capital of Herat Province, situated in the fertile valley of the Hari River in the western part of **Afghanistan**.

**Q.6)** Where is **Luhri Hydro Power Project** located?

- a) Ladakh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Luhri Stage Hydro Electric Project** is located on river **Satluj** in Shimla & Kullu districts of **Himachal Pradesh**.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister has approved the investment of Rs.1810.56 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project. This project will generate 758.20 million units of electricity annually.

This project is being implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis with active support from Government of India and State Government.

**Q.7)** Which of the following country(s) border the **Mediterranean Sea**?

1. France
2. Austria
3. Spain

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: Mediterranean Sea**, an intercontinental sea that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean on the west to Asia on the east and separates Europe from Africa.

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**Q.8)** Where is the **Shaksgam Valley** located?

1. North of Baltistan
2. North-West of Siachen glacier
3. North-East of Pangong Tso

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:** **Shaksgam Valley** lies to the north-west of Siachen glacier, north of Baltistan, much north-west of Pangong Tso, east of Gilgit and south of Chinese province of Xinjiang.





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**Q.9)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kunlun Mountains - Cambodia
2. Pamir Mountains - Russia
3. Taklamakan Desert - China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. The **Kunlun Mountains** constitute one of the longest mountain chains in Asia, extending for more than 3,000 km. The chain forms the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau south of the Tarim Basin.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The **Pamirs** are the most famous mountain convergence zone in the world. It is the largest mountain convergence zone that was formed by the convergence of the Tianshan Mountains, the Kunlun Mountains, the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush Mountains and the Jierter-Sulaiman Mountains.

Most of the Pamirs lie within **Tajikistan**, but the fringes penetrate Afghanistan, China, and Kyrgyzstan.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Taklamakan Desert** is a desert in Southwest Xinjiang in Northwest **China**. It is bounded by the Kunlun Mountains to the south, the Pamir Mountains and Tian Shan to the west and north and the Gobi Desert to the east.



**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding **La-Nina**:

1. It refers to the periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific.
2. La Nina correlates with heavy monsoon rains 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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The term **El Niño** refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific.

**La Nina** episodes represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific. Global climate La Niña impacts tend to be opposite those of El Niño impacts. In the tropics, ocean temperature variations in La Niña also tend to be opposite those of El Niño.

Statement 2 is correct. **La Nina results in heavy or better monsoon rains in India**, droughts in Peru and Ecuador, heavy floods in Australia, and high temperatures in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.

# According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the La Nina weather phenomenon is back in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean after nearly a decade's absence.

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### ECONOMICS

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**Q.1)** Which of the following subject(s) is/are *not* under the purview of **Goods and Services Tax** in India?

1. Alcohol for human consumptions
2. Petroleum Products
3. Electricity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Alcohol** for human consumption has been kept outside the purview of GST in India at present. These goods are subject to existing State levies.

**Petroleum** Products such as petroleum crude, motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel etc. are also kept outside the purview of GST in India. At present, **electricity** is not subject to GST and power companies pay multiple taxes on capital goods and other inputs like excise duty, customs duty etc.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Commission functions as a market regulator by preventing and regulating anti-competitive practices in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Post liberalization in the early nineties there was a paradigm shift from a regime of command and control to a facilitating regime with increased reliance on market forces.

It also led to the enactment of the **Competition Act 2002** and establishment of the Competition Commission of India to lay the foundation of a competition ecosystem in the country. It **replaced** its predecessor the **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Commission functions as a **market regulator** by preventing and regulating anti-competitive practices in the country. It also carries out advisory and advocacy functions. The objectives of the Commission as given under Section 18 of the Act are:

- to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition,
- to promote and sustain competition in markets,
- to protect the interests of consumers, and
- to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets in India.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **GST e-Invoice System**:

1. Presently, Invoice Reference Number (IRN) can be generated only by tax payers whose turnover is more than Rs. 500 Crores.

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2. Each Invoice uploaded by the tax payer gets a unique Invoice Reference Number (IRN). Which of the 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 GST **e-invoice system** was launched on 1st October, 2020 for the businesses with aggregate turnover of more than Rs. 500 Crores in the financial year.

**Note:** The Government is planning to reduce the aggregate turnover cut off to Rs 100 Crores for generation of IRN by the tax payers in coming days.

Statement 2 is correct. Each Invoice uploaded by the tax payer will get the **unique number called as Invoice Reference Number (IRN)**. IRN is of 64 Characters length.

This IRN is unique number in the GST system, irrespective of tax payer, financial year and document type. It is hash of Supplier GSTIN + Fin. Year + Doc Type + Doc Number.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Base Effect**?

- 1. It can result from abnormally high or low levels of inflation in a period.
- 2. It is the result of a consistent and constant growth in an 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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Base effect** is often a term used in relation to economic indicators such as inflation and GDP data which are primarily based on the base effect of last year.

For inflation, Base effect refers to the distortion in monthly inflation figures from a sudden spike or decline in them during a short period of time. They are caused by seasonal or monthly variations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is usually **a result of volatility** rather than consistency in an economy.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding **GST collection trend in current Financial Year [2020-21]**:

- 1. The monthly GST collection has consistently been below one lakh crore rupees.
- 2. The GST collection has not crossed the previous year's monthly collection in any of the month so far.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

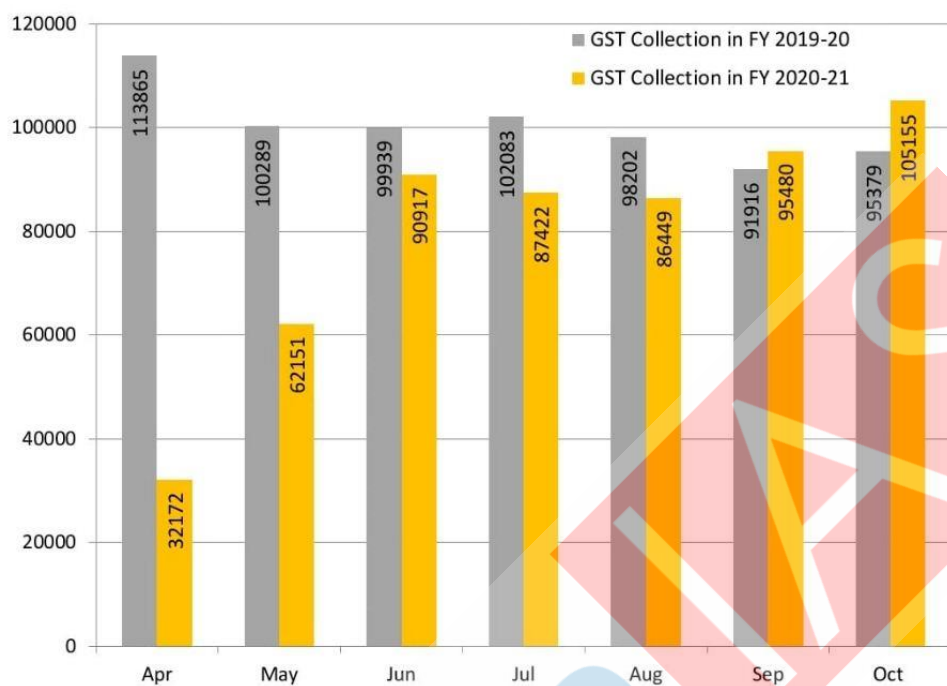
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

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**Rs 1,05,155 crore of gross GST revenue have been collected in the month of October 2020.** The revenues for the month are 10% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.



**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding **laws of demand and supply**:

1. The law of demand says that at higher prices, buyers will demand less of an economic good.
2. Producers supply more at a higher price because the higher selling price justifies the higher opportunity cost of each additional unit sold.

Which of the 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 **law of demand states** that, if all other factors remain equal, the higher the price of a good, the less people will demand that good. In other words, the higher the price, the lower the quantity demanded.

The amount of a good that buyers purchase at a higher price is less because as the price of a good goes up, so does the opportunity cost of buying that good.

Statement 2 is correct. The **law of supply** says that at higher prices, sellers will supply more of an economic good.

**From the seller's perspective**, the opportunity cost of each additional unit that they sell tends to be higher and higher. Producers supply more at a higher price because the higher selling price justifies the higher opportunity cost of each additional unit sold.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements:

1. The input tax credit is tax reduced from output tax payable on account of it being already paid at the time of buying raw material.
2. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not applicable on the mobility aids used by disabled citizens.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Input tax credit (ITC)** is the tax paid by the buyer on purchase of goods or services. Such tax which is paid at the purchase when reduced from liability payable on outward supplies is known as input tax credit.

ITC is one of the key features of Goods and Services Tax. ITC is a mechanism to avoid cascading of taxes.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **mobility aids used by disabled citizens are not exempt from GST** at present. It is subject to five percent GST.

*# On October 27, the Supreme Court of India heard an appeal on the constitutional validity of the levy of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on mobility aids used by disabled citizens. But it said that the taxation was a matter of policy over which the judiciary ought not to ordinarily interfere and advised petitioner to appeal to the GST Council.*

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### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES/ORGANISATION

**Q.1)** Which of the following pollutants is/are monitored under the **National Air Quality Index**?

1. SO<sub>2</sub>
2. NO<sub>2</sub>
3. NH<sub>3</sub>

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:** **Air Quality Index** is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. It transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour.

There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts (known as health breakpoints). AQ sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved for eight pollutants (**PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and Pb**).

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**:

1. The ISRO chairperson is the ex-officio chairman of the NSIL.
2. NSIL will be the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route.

Which of the 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:** In order to commercially exploit the products and services emanating from Indian Space Programme, the “NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)” was incorporated in March 2019, as a wholly-owned Government of India under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS).

Statement 1 is incorrect. **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** is a Central Public Sector Enterprise of Government of India and commercial arm of ISRO.

ISRO chairperson is not NSIL head, the current NSIL's Chairman and Managing Director, G. Narayanan, was earlier a Deputy Director at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Thiruvananthapuram.

Statement 2 is correct. NSIL will be the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route. The Industry consortium will be responsible for producing, assembling and integrating the launch vehicle.

NSIL will be responsible for providing launch services to global satellite customers, on-board SSLV, PSLV, GSLV and GSLV-MkIII launchers.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding **The Code On Social Security, 2020**:

1. It defines ‘platform work’ as a work arrangement within the traditional employer-employee relationship in which individuals use an online platform.

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2. It provides for a social security funds for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Which of the 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 Code On Social Security, 2020 defines that "platform work" means a **work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship** in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment.

Statement 2 is correct. The code mandates that there shall be established by the Central Government a **Social Security Fund** for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **AYUSH Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)**:

- 1. It is being set up by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Invest India.
- 2. The bureau will act as drug regulator for AYUSH sector in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau** is being set up by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with **Invest India**, a National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency that helps those looking for investment opportunities and options in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As a partner in the project, Invest India would collaborate extensively with the Ministry to frame the work plan of the Bureau and define its short-and long-term targets. Invest India would deploy highly trained and expert resources to implement and execute the plans of the Ministry of AYUSH.

The activities to be undertaken by the SPFB would include:

- Knowledge Creation and Management,
- State Policy Bench marking: Undertaking State Policy bench marking to formulate uniform guidelines/regulations regarding AYUSH sector in India,
- Investment Facilitation: Follow up and facilitation of investment cases and MoUs, and coordination among different Department, organisations and States.
- Issue Resolution: Invest India would work with companies and other institutions on issue resolution across States and among various sub-sectors.

**Q.5)** Which of the following statement is correct regarding the recently concluded **VAIBHAV Summit**?

- a) It aimed to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation
- b) It was a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians



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- c) It proposed a model for equitable distribution of COVID-9 vaccines
- d) It was an intergovernmental summit of International Solar Alliance members

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation: Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit** was a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians on Gandhi Jayanti. The deliberations started on 3rd of October and concluded on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

Among panelists, 45% were overseas Indians and 55% were resident Indian academicians and scientists. The Summit intended to “create an ideal research ecosystem, merging tradition with modernity to create prosperity”.

The discussions were held on computational sciences, electronics & communication, quantum technologies, photonics, aerospace technologies, health and medical sciences, pharma and biotechnology, agro-economy and food security, material & processing technologies, advanced manufacturing, earth sciences, energy, environmental sciences, management and social sciences.

**Q.6)** What was the objective of the Indian Navy’s **Mission Sagar** in past few months?

- a) Providing food aid and medicines to countries in Indian Ocean
- b) Strategic deployment of destroyers at Strait of Malacca
- c) Bilateral exercises with countries in South China Sea
- d) Naval deployment for anti-piracy operations

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** As part of the Government of India outreach amidst the ongoing **COVID-19 pandemic**, Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams embarked, on 10 May 20.

**This deployment as ‘Mission Sagar’**, is in line with India’s role as the first responder in the region and builds on the excellent relations existing between these countries to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant difficulties.

**Mission Sagar-II**, follows the first ‘Mission Sagar’ undertaken in May-June 2020, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding **Aero India**:

1. It is an aerospace and defence industries exhibition organised every year.
2. Foreign exhibitors are not allowed at the Aero India exhibition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Aero India exhibition** is organized **every alternate year**. It is one of the major exhibitions for aerospace and defence industries with a public air show. It enables industry professional to gain market insights, announce new developments and gain media coverage. Aero India offers a unique platform to international aviation sector to bolster business.

**Aero India 2021 is the 13<sup>th</sup> edition** of Aero India being organised at Bengaluru, Karnataka from 03-07 February 2021.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. **Foreign Exhibitors** are allowed at Aero India exhibition. The 2019 edition had 165 Foreign Exhibitors.

# An Indian company cannot exhibit products developed outside India.

# The logo for Aero India is inspired by the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) design.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**:

1. It provides fully guaranteed and collateral free credit to borrowers.
2. The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) borrowers are also covered under 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: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** was announced as part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package (ANBP).

A **100% guarantee would be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)** to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), and which will be extended in the form of additional working capital term loan facility in case of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Financial Institutions (FIs), and additional term loan facility in case of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), to eligible MSMEs/ Business Enterprises, individual borrowers in case of the original loan having been for own business and **interested Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) borrowers.**

# The Union Government has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by one month till November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, or till such time that an amount of Rs. 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the Scheme, whichever is earlier.

**Q.9)** Which of the following initiatives have been proposed in the **National Education Policy 2020**?

1. National Research Foundation (NRF)
2. A Vedic Education Board
3. National Assessment Centre (PARAKH)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. To build on these various elements in a synergistic manner, and to thereby truly grow and catalyze quality research in the nation, the NEP envisions the establishment of a **National Research Foundation (NRF).**

The overarching **goal of the NRF** will be to enable a culture of research to permeate through our universities. In particular, the NRF will provide a reliable base of merit-based but equitable peer-reviewed research funding, helping to develop a culture of research in the country through suitable incentives for and recognition of outstanding research, and by undertaking major initiatives to seed and grow research at State Universities and other public institutions where research capability is currently limited.

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Option 2 is incorrect. No such proposal in the **NEP 2020** document.

The policy does state that traditional **Indian values and all basic human and Constitutional values** (such as seva, ahimsa, swachchhata, satya, nishkam karma, shanti, etc.) will be developed in all students. Children will have the opportunity to read and learn from the original stories of the Panchatantra, Jataka, Hitopadesh, and other fun fables and inspiring tales from the Indian tradition and learn about their influences on global literature.

Option 3 is correct. It is proposed to set up a **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)**, as a standard-setting body under Education Ministry that fulfils the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards of India.

**Q.10)** Which of the following institution is organizing the **Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
- c) National Informatics Centre
- d) Invest India

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister will chair the **Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR)** on 5th November, 2020. The VGIR is being organized by the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.**

It is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision makers from the Government of India and Financial Market Regulators.

The Roundtable will witness participation from twenty of the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds with a total Assets Under Management of about US\$6 trillion. These global institutional investors represent key regions including the US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, Middle East, Australia, and Singapore.

VGIR 2020 will focus on discussions around India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and the government's vision for the path to a USD 5 trillion economy.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):**

- 1. It aims to reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare by providing quality medicines available at affordable prices for all.
- 2. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for the PMBJP.

Which of the 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.

Objectives of the scheme: Making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets "**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras**", so as to **reduce out of pocket expenses** in healthcare.

The **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)**, the implementing agency for PMBJP, has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, with the

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support of all the Pharma CPSUs for coordinating procurement, supply and marketing of generic drugs through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras.

*# Since then, the Jan Aushadhi stores selling affordable generic medicines has grown from mere 99 stores in 2014-15 to around 6600 stores at present.*

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge**:

1. It was organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN Women.
2. It aimed to encourage and involve women led startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against 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:** Both statements are correct.

Six women led startups have won **COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN Women**. With an objective to encourage and involve women led startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against COVID19 or solve problems that impact a large number of women.

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)**':

1. It is provided for by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
2. Under the scheme, farmers receive crop and location specific weather based agro-advisories twice a week.

Which of the 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.

Under **Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa project (GKMS)**, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Science in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities /Indian Council of Agricultural Research etc. is issuing crop and location specific weather based agro advisories for the benefit of farming community on every **Tuesday and Friday** and occurrence of extreme weather.

These advisories are communicated to farmers via mobile SMS, apps such as Meghdhoot, on IMD website, Kisan Portal, and conventional media such as television, radio, and newspapers. Farmers use these advisories for critical farm operations like management of sowing, changing crop variety, spraying pesticides for disease control and managing irrigation etc.

**Q.14)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**:

1. It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
2. It is responsible for regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.

The CDSCO is the **Central Drug Authority** for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the Drug and Cosmetics Act, the **regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities** while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs, coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations and providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Further CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

*# Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), India and the United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (UK MHRA) on cooperation in the field of medical Product Regulation.*

**Q.15)** What is the objective of the recently launched **'Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge'**?

- a) Shaping cities for young children and their families
- b) Evaluate data ecosystems of cities
- c) An on-line training programme for City Data Officers
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge**, a 3-year initiative launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs recently, will support cities to develop, pilot, and scale solutions that enhance the quality of life of young **children, their caregivers and families** in the public realm.

The challenge is conducted with the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands with technical support from WRI India. Through the challenge, selected cities will receive technical assistance and capacity-building to reimagine parks and open spaces; improve access to early childhood facilities; adapt public spaces with early childhood-oriented amenities; and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for young children and families.

The challenge will be open to all **Smart Cities**, other cities with more than five lakh population, and capitals of States and UTs.

*# MoHUA launched three initiatives recently, namely, the Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge focusing on shaping cities for young children and their families; the Data Maturity Assessment Framework to evaluate data ecosystems of cities; and an on-line training programme for City Data Officers (CDOs) of 100 Smart Cities.*

## 10 PM Compilation for the Week – 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the recently signed '**Declaration of the Private Sector on Climate Change**':

1. It was signed at the India CEO Forum on Climate Change 2020.
2. The declaration has been signed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and India's key Industrial corporates.

Which of the 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 '**Declaration of the Private Sector on Climate Change**' signed by 24 key industry captains and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the virtual **India CEO forum on Climate Change** was released recently.

The declaration commits to set achievable GHG reduction targets, develop and submit annual reports to MoEFCC among other pledges to support India's NDC to Paris Agreement.

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements regarding the Grand Challenge for developing the '**Smart water supply measurement and monitoring system**':

1. It aims for creating smart rural water supply eco-system to measure and monitor the service delivery of the water supply in rural areas.
2. It will provide an opportunity to work for Jal Jeevan Mission assuring potable water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections to every rural household.
3. It is being implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above statements are correct.

The **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** aims providing Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024 with particular focus on regular water supply in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality on long-term basis. This necessitates the use of modern technology in monitoring of the programme and to capture service delivery data automatically for ensuring the quality of services.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology in partnership with National Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti had announced an **ICT Grand Challenge to develop a 'Smart water supply measurement and monitoring system'**.

The **Jal Jeevan Mission would be the user agent** of the Grand Challenge and **C-DAC, Bangalore** is the implementing agency and would provide technical support for the challenge.

This Grand Challenge will harness the vibrant IoT eco-systems of India for creating smart rural water supply eco-system to measure and monitor the service delivery of the water supply in rural areas.

This Challenge will provide an opportunity to work for Jal Jeevan Mission and to assure potable water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections to every rural household.

## **10 PM Compilation for the Week – 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

**Q.18)** What is the mandate of recently constituted **Shashi S. Vempati committee**?

- a) Review Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India
- b) Criminal Law Reforms
- c) 5G Technology Regulations in India
- d) Personal Data Protection Law

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a committee headed by **Shashi S. Vempati**, CEO, Prasar Bharti to review “**Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India**” notified by the Ministry in 2014.

The present guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on Television Rating Agencies in India were notified after detailed deliberations by the Parliamentary Committee, Committee on Television Rating Points (TRP) constituted by the MIB and recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority etc.

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the **One Rank One Pension (OROP)**:

1. It implies that uniform pension be paid to the personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service regardless of their date of retirement.
2. Union Government has been providing for OROP to Military as well as Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel since 2014.

Which of the 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. **One Rank One Pension (OROP)** implies that uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces Personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service regardless of their date of retirement. Thus, OROP implies bridging the gap between the rate of pension of current and past retirees at periodic intervals.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Government of India has been implementing the OROP for defence personnel effective from 01.07.2014. **OROP is not applicable to CAPFs.**

OROP was introduced for defence personnel in consideration of their early age of retirement in government service. However, the CAPF personnel retire at the age of 57-60 years depending upon their ranks.

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Education Technology Forum (NETF)**:

1. It has been proposed to be set up as an autonomous body by the National Education Policy 2020.
2. The NETF aims to provide independent evidence-based advice to Central and State Government agencies on technology-based interventions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

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The **National Education Policy 2020** proposes **NETF** as an autonomous body to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance le

The NETF will have the following **functions**:

- provide independent evidence-based advice to Central and State Government agencies on technology-based interventions;
- build intellectual and institutional capacities in educational technology;
- envision strategic thrust areas in this domain; and
- articulate new directions for research and innovation.

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Gov-Tech-Thon 2020**:

1. It has been organised by the NITI Aayog.
2. The Hackathon was to focus on the problem statements provided by the select Ministries of the Union Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Gov-Tech-Thon 2020**, a 36 hours, pan-India virtual hackathon organized by **IEEE, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Oracle**, under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, witnessed a successful conclusion on 1st November, 2020.

Statement 2 is correct. 100 teams participated in the Hackathon on the five problem statements provided by 3 central Government Ministries – **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Road Transport and Highway and Ministry of Education.**

**Q.22)** Which of the following is/are part of the **Gandhian Young Technological Awards**?

1. Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations
2. Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technological Innovations
3. National Youth Award

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:** **Gandhian Young Technological Innovation** awards constitute two categories of awards, Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations – GYTI under Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technological Innovations -GYTI given by SRISTI.

The awards and appreciations are given under these two categories to encourage technology students to move towards setting up Biotech and other start-ups.

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**Integrated Govt. Online training**' (iGOT) program:

1. It is a training module for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the COVID-19 pandemic efficiently.



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2. The iGOT module has been launched on the DIKSHA platform of 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: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

In April 2020 Government of India had launched a training module for management of COVID-19 named '**Integrated Govt. Online training**' (iGOT) portal on Ministry of Education's **DIKSHA platform** for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the pandemic efficiently.

Courses on iGOT have been launched for Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Hygiene Workers, Technicians, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs), State Government Officers, Civil Defence Officers, Various Police Organizations, National Cadet Corps (NCC), NehruYuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme, Indian Red Cross Society, Bharat Scouts and Guides and other volunteers at the stage.

# *Ministry of Health has said that uniquely designed Integrated Government Online training'- iGOT platform provides self-contained training material for COVID-19 warriors comprising 56 modules, 196 videos and 133 training documents.*

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### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation of non-nuclear weapon countries.
2. It has been awarded Nobel Peace Prize for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of use of nuclear weapons.

Which of the 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 **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** is promoting nuclear disarmament. ICAN is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in more than 100 countries and has been a leader in efforts that resulted in 122 United Nations member countries concurring with a draft agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in 2017.

Statement 2 is correct. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded with the **Nobel Peace Prize 2017** "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."

**Q.2)** What does the '**Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**' (BPfA) relate to?

- a) Women's rights
- b) Climate change
- c) Abolition of nuclear weapons
- d) Sustainable Development Goals

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995** took place in Beijing that came out with the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, a progressive blueprint for advancing women's rights.

The document identifies 12 critical areas of concern. In each critical area of concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives. In this way, the BPfA becomes a comprehensive guide to understanding and combatting the key barriers to gender equality.

**Q.3)** Which of the following defence agreement(s) is/are yet to be signed between **India and USA**?

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
2. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
3. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above agreements have already been signed by India and USA.

The agreements include: General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**, 2002), Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**, 2016) and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**, 2018) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) was signed recently.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **USA's Presidential system**:

1. It does not follow the doctrine of Separation of Powers.
2. No person can be elected to the office of President and Vice President for more than two terms.

Which of the 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:** In the U.S. presidential system, the President is both the chief executive of the government and the head of state. The President oversees the executive branch of government, which includes the cabinet, or heads of various executive departments, and various administrative bureaus and agencies.

Statement 1 is incorrect. **Separation of powers** is a model that divides the government into separate branches, each of which has separate and independent powers. By having multiple branches of government, this system helps to ensure that no one branch is more powerful than another.

Typically, this system divides the government into three branches: the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch. The United States federal government and states divide their governments into these three branches.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **United States** placed a **limit of two terms** on its presidency by means of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution in 1951. There are **no term limits for Vice Presidency**, Representatives and Senators, although there have been calls for term limits for those offices.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**:

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
2. India is a member of IPBES.

Which of the 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 **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

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It is not a United Nations body. However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

All States Members of the United Nations are eligible for IPBES membership. **India** is a member since 2012.

**Q.6)** Which of the following correctly defines the ‘**principles of laïcité**’ that has been in news recently?

- a) Principle of secularism
- b) Equal protection of the law
- c) The market volatility being subdued by market forces
- d) Principle of territorial integrity of a State Nation

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **1905 French law separating the Church and the State** is now over a hundred years old. **The laïcité (or secularism)** principle it defines, despite the term not being mentioned in the text, is unique in the world and is an integral part of France’s contemporary political DNA.

Laïcité relies on the division between private life, where adherents believe religion belongs, and the public sphere, in which each individual, adherents believe, should appear as a simple citizen equal to all other citizens, devoid of ethnic, religious or other particularities.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the report ‘**Banking on Climate Change 2020**’:

- 1. It has been released by Rainforest Action Network.
- 2. It notes that the total bank financing to fossil fuels industry has consistently reduced since the Paris Agreement of 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

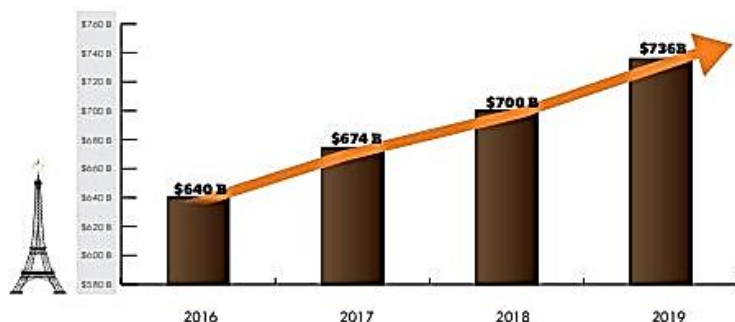
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The 11th edition of the annual fossil fuel finance report, ‘**Banking on Climate Change 2020**’ has been released by the **Rainforest Action Network**. The report lays out banks’ support for fossil fuels in the four years after the Paris Agreement was adopted.

Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the 2020 report, after the **Paris Agreement of 2015**, where countries agreed to try to limit average global warming to well below 2°C, global banks continued to finance the fossil fuel industry with \$2.7 trillion. The report finds that big U.S. banks dominate this arena with JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citi being the world’s top fossil fuel financiers.

## TOTAL FINANCING for Fossil Fuels (\$USD)



- » 35 global banks financed fossil fuels with **\$2.7 trillion** since Paris.
- » Bank financing for fossil fuels has increased each year since the Paris Agreement.
- » At this rate, fossil financing will hit **\$1 trillion** per year by **2030**.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**:

1. It was established recently on the proposal of United Nations Security Council
2. Election Commission of India is a member to A-WEB.

Which of the 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 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.

After a series of Working Group meetings, a Charter was drawn up and the name A-WEB was chosen upon the suggestion of the Election Commission of India.

Statement 2 is correct. **India is a member of AWEB** and the current chairman of AWEB is Sunil Arora (India-CEC). The chairperson serves a two-year term and presides over General Assembly and Executive Board meetings.

# *The Election Commission of India is organizing an International Virtual Election Visitors Programme 2020 (IEVP) for foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs)/Organisations from 05-07 Nov 2020, in the context of the ongoing Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections.*

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**:

1. There is no provision under the agreement to withdraw from the agreement.
2. India has pledged to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Which of the 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 28 of the Paris agreement** enables parties to withdraw from the agreement after sending a withdrawal notification to the depositary,

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but notice can be given no earlier than three years after the agreement goes into force for the country. Withdrawal is effective one year after the depositary is notified.

# *After a three-year delay, the US has become the first nation in the world to formally withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.*

Statement 2 is correct. **India has pledged three quantitative climate change goals:**

--reduction in the emissions intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level

--achieving about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

--creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding **India and Italy**:

1. The Venetian merchant Marco Polo traveled to India in the 13th century.

2. Both countries are members of the Group of Twenty (G20).

Which of the 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. **Marco Polo**, famous for his travels to Asia in the 13th century, returned to Italy 24 long years after he left. In India, Marco Polo stopped by in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Statement 2 is correct. The **members of the G20** are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union.

Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022.

**Q.11)** The '**Urban October**' is an initiative of which of the following organisation?

- a) UN-Habitat
- b) United Nations Environment Program
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) United Nations Development Program

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Urban October** was launched by **UN-Habitat** in 2014 to emphasize the world's urban challenges and engage the international community towards the **New Urban Agenda**.

Each October, everyone interested in sustainable urbanization from national and local governments to universities, NGOs and communities is encouraged to hold or participate in activities, events, and discussions.

The month begins with **World Habitat Day** on the first Monday of the month, 5 October in 2020, and ends with World Cities Day on 31 October. Activities can take place on those specific days or at any time during the month.

**World Cities Day 2020** is the seventh global celebration since it was launched on 31 October 2014 in Shanghai, China. The theme is Better City, Better Life and the sub-theme for this year is Valuing our communities and cities, and the Global Observance was hosted in Nakuru, Kenya.

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**Q.12)** Which of the following protected area(s) is/are part of **UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves**?

1. Panna Biosphere Reserve
2. Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve
3. Similipal Biosphere 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: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above have been recognized as part of “**World network of Biosphere Reserves**”.

**Panna Biosphere Reserve** (Madhya Pradesh) is the latest inclusion in this list taking the total count from India to 12. The others are: Nilgiri, Gulf of Mannar, Sunderban, Nanda Devi, Nokrek, Pachmarhi, Similipal, Achanakmar – Amarkantak, Great Nicobar, Agasthyamala and Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve.

The **Man and the Biosphere** (MAB) programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.

**Q.13)** The ‘**Water Risk Filter**’ is an initiative of which of the following organisation?

- a) UN Environment Programme
- b) World Wide Fund for Nature
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Launched in 2012, developed by **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** and the German finance institution DEG, the Water Risk Filter is a practical online tool that helps evaluate the severity of risk places faced by graphically illustrating various factors that can contribute to water risk.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released the **Water Risk Filter analysis** report.

According to the scenarios in the WWF Water Risk Filter, the 100 cities that are expected to suffer the greatest rise in water risk by 2050 are home to at least 350 million people as well as nationally and globally important economies.

Jaipur topped the list of Indian cities, followed by Indore and Thane.

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### HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

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**Q.1)** Which of the following event took place first?

- a) K.R. Narayanan became President of India
- b) Pokhran-II tests
- c) Kargil War
- d) Starting of Tenth Five Year Plan

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **K.R. Narayanan** was elected as Vice President in 1992, he went on to become President in 1997.

The **Pokhran-II** tests were a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions conducted by India at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in May 1998. It was the second instance of nuclear testing conducted by India; the first test, code-named Smiling Buddha, was conducted in May 1974.

The **Kargil war** was fought between India and Pakistan between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LOC).

The time period for **Tenth FYP was 2002-07**.

**Q.2)** Arrange the following events in chronological order:

- 1. Creation of State of Haryana
- 2. Nagaland was granted statehood
- 3. Gujarat and Maharashtra carved out of Bombay

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** On **1 November 1956**, Bombay State was re-organized under the States Reorganisation Act on linguistic lines, absorbing various territories including the Saurashtra and Kutch States, which ceased to exist. **On 1 May 1960**, Bombay State was dissolved and split on linguistic lines into the two states of Gujarat, with Gujarati speaking population and Maharashtra, with Marathi speaking population.

Nagaland attained statehood with the enactment of the state of **Nagaland Act in 1962** by the Parliament.

On **1 November 1966**, **Haryana** was carved out on the basis of that the parts of Punjab which were to be Haryana's "Hindi-speaking areas."



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Chart 2

### Linguistic reorganization continues right after 1956 SRC (1956-1966)

1957

Naga Hill Tuensang Area was carved out of Assam as UT



1960

Gujarat and Maharashtra were carved out of Bombay



1961

Goa joined the Indian Union and with it, European colonialism came to an end on the subcontinent

1962

Pondicherry officially became a part of the Union

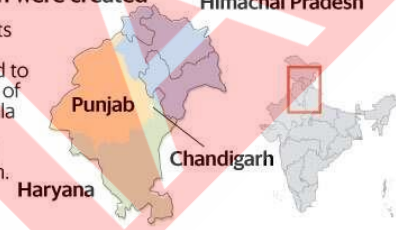
1963

Nagaland was granted statehood

1966

Punjab, Haryana, UTs Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh were created

Akali Dal's protests for linguistic reorganization led to the former states of East Punjab, Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Himachal Pradesh.



**Q.3)** Which of the following statements correctly defines 'Avadhanam'?

- a) A literary performance popular from ancient India
- b) A traditional fresco painting culture of rural Andhra Pradesh
- c) Livestock rearing practice in North-East India
- d) Dance performance in front of Rajputana kings

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Avadhanam is a literary performance popular from the very ancient days in India. Avadhānaṃ originated as a Sanskrit literary process and is revived by poets in Telugu and Kannada in modern times. It involves the partial improvisation of poems using specific themes, metres, forms, or words.

# The 'International 'Satavadhanam'' program was launched virtually by the Vice President recently. It was organized by Dr. Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati.

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### MISCELLANEOUS

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding **India Energy Forum 2020**:

1. It is the inaugural edition being organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
2. It is an intergovernmental summit having participation of heads of governments from ISA 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: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

The 2020 edition of the **India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK** is its fourth edition. The event is hosted by IHS Markit. The theme of this edition is "**India's Energy Future in a world of Change**".

It is not an intergovernmental summit, rather the event will convene an international group of speakers and a community of over a thousand delegates from India and over 30 countries, including from regional energy companies, energy-related industries, institutions and governments.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **Public Affairs Index (PAI)**:

1. It has been released by the NITI Aayog.
2. As per PAI, Kerala is the best governed state in large states category.

Which of the 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. **Public Affairs Index (PAI)** is a data driven platform to rank the 30 States of India from the lens of governance. **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)** has developed PAI as a unique statistical tool to evaluate the performance of governance in the States. PAI is largely based on secondary data and has been extracted from Union Government Ministries and Departments.

PAI is released by the Public Affairs Centre, a not-for-profit organisation headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan.

Statement 2 is correct. **Kerala** (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large State category in terms of governance.