

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

OCTOBER, 2020

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of October, 2020

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **External Debt of India**:

1. Bilateral debt is the largest component of external debt of India.
2. More than 90 percent of the external debt is denominated in US dollar.

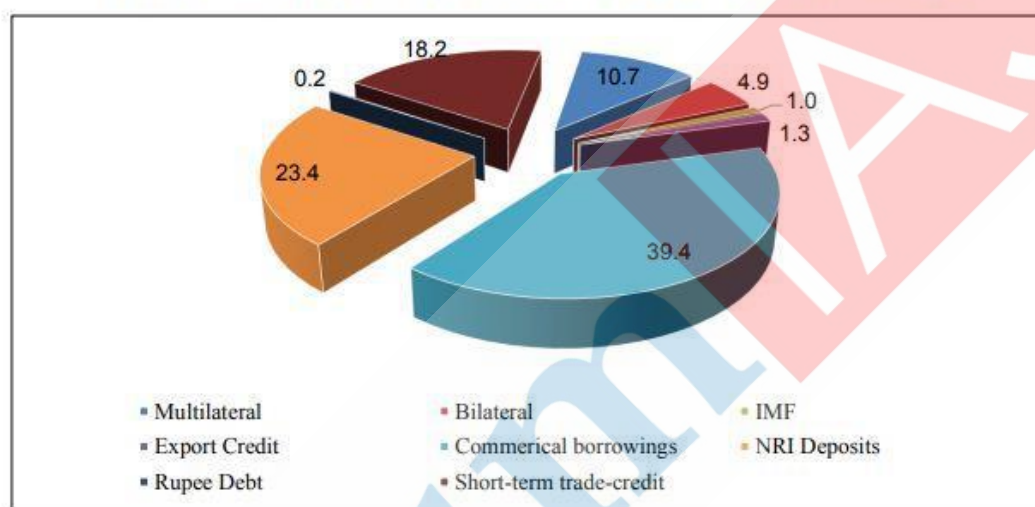
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Multilateral Debt is the largest contributor** to the external debt of India.

Figure 2:1: Share of External Debt as at-End March 2020: Creditor-Wise

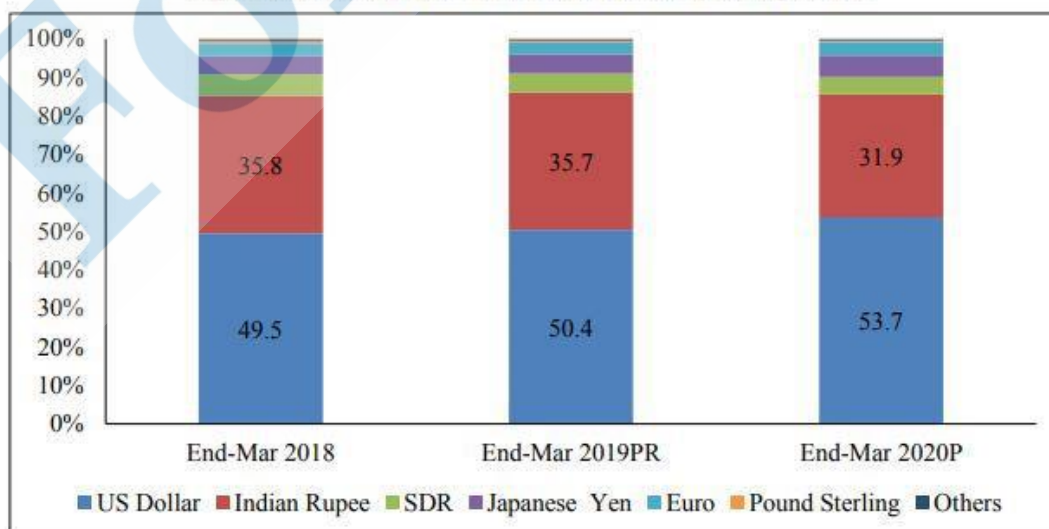


Source: RBI

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **US dollar** is the leading currency of denomination in External Debt of India accounting (about 54 per cent of the total as at-end March 2020).

Indian rupee is the second leading currency with a share of 32 per cent followed by Japanese Yen (5.6 per cent), SDRs (4.5 per cent) and Euro (3.5 per cent).

Figure 2:2: India's External Debt: Currency Composition



Data Source: India's External Debt: A Status Report 2019-20 by Ministry of Finance.

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Q.2) The **Indo-Pacific Division of the Ministry of External Affairs** deals with which of the following matters?

1. East Asia Summit
2. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
3. Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

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: Given the increasing salience of the Indo-Pacific concept in global discourse, the Ministry of External Affairs established a new **Division for the Indo-Pacific in April 2019**.

Indo-Pacific Division deals with matters relating to the Indo-Pacific, India-ASEAN relations, East Asia Summit, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) is the biggest inter-governmental process between Asia and Europe. It currently has 53 Partners – 51 countries and 2 regional organisations (ASEAN and European Union).

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tulu Language**:

1. It is a Dravidian language spoken in parts of Karnataka and Kerala.
2. It is listed under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Tulu** is a southern Dravidian language that's spoken by 1.85 million people in the districts of Dakshina Kannada (by 48.6% of the population as per the 2011 Census) and Udupi (31.4%), and is also widely spoken in the Manjeshwaram and Kasargod taluks (16.2% combined) of Kerala's Kasargod district.

Tulu has a rich oral tradition, reviving folk song forms like paḍḍana, stories, and popular theater (naṭaka), including yakṣagana.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Tulu language is not included in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The **Eight Schedule consists of the 22 languages** namely Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was added by the 21st Constitution Amendment Act of 1967.

Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were included by the 71st Constitution Amendment Act of 1992.

Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali were added by the 92nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2003.

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Q.4) Which of the following statements correctly defines the vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**?

- a) India's vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)
- b) Regional development in integrated South Asia
- c) India's maritime connectivity to Afghanistan through Iran
- d) Deep Sea Exploration project of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: India's vision for the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** commonly known by its acronym - **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**.

The goal is to seek a climate of trust and transparency; respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries; sensitivity to each other's interests; peaceful resolution of maritime issues; and increase in maritime cooperation.

India would do everything to safeguard its mainland and islands and defend its interests. Further, India will also work to ensure a safe, secure and stable IOR.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)**:

- 1. It is a monthly production volume index.
- 2. It is released by Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

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

Statement 2 is correct. It is compiled and released by **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA)**, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

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

India's eight core industrial sectors contracted by 8.5% in August compared to August 2019, marking the sixth month in a row of shrinking output.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)**:

- 1. It aims for a transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions.
- 2. The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi is the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. “Unnat Bharat Abhiyan” is a flagship programme of **Ministry of Education** conceptualized and launched in IIT Delhi, with a vision of transformational change in **rural development** processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi** (IIT, Delhi) has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA scheme.

The UBA aims to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.

In a joint initiative of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA), a set of CSIR Technologies has been launched for rural development.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are potential reason(s) for a **Current Account Surplus** under Balance of Payments?

1. Decline in imports
2. High foreign direct investments

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **balance of payments (BOP)** is a statement of all transactions made between entities in one country and the rest of the world over a defined period of time, such as a quarter or a year.

Option 1 is correct. Under **current account of the BoP**, transactions are classified into merchandise (**exports and imports**) and invisibles. Lower import bill can lead to a Surplus Current Account.

Option 2 is incorrect. **FDI is not part of the Current Account**. The main components of capital and financial account include foreign investment, loans and banking capital.

Foreign investment comprising foreign direct investment (FDI) and portfolio investment represents non-debt liabilities, while loans (external assistance, external commercial borrowings and trade credit) and banking capital including non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits are debt liabilities.

A new convention splits the Capital Account into financial account and capital account. The financial account measures change in international ownership of assets, whether they be individuals, businesses, governments, or central banks. These assets include foreign direct investments, securities like stocks and bonds, and gold and foreign exchange reserves. The capital account measures financial transactions that do not affect income, production, or savings, such as international transfers of drilling rights, trademarks, and copyrights.

Q.8) The **Sawantwadi toy** craft belongs to which of the following State?

- a) Odisha
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Rajasthan

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Sawantwadi toys** handmade works of art made of wood in Sawantwadi a town in Sindhudurg district of **Maharashtra**. The toys are made by assembling flat shaped solid wood. Seasoned mango wood is chiseled or carved into desired toy shape. The cutout pieces are finished on a sander, painted and assembled. The craft is traditionally done by the Chitari or Chitrakar community

India Post is releasing a set of Post Cards on Traditional Toys of India including one featuring Sawantwadi Toys.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Brahmos missile**:

1. It is a hypersonic cruise missile.
2. The missile uses air-breathing ramjet propulsion.

Which of the 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. **BrahMos** is a **supersonic** cruise missile being developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia. BrahMos has a flight range of up to 290km and can reach a maximum speed of Mach 3.

Statement 2 is correct. BrahMos is powered by a **two-stage propulsion system**. Initial acceleration is provided by a solid-propellant booster and supersonic cruise speed is provided by a liquid-fuelled **ramjet system**.

BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section was successfully flight tested recently.

Q.10) The **Liberhan Commission of Inquiry** was related to which of the following?

- a) The destruction of the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure
- b) Excesses committed in the National Emergency (1975 - 77)
- c) Systematic fraud committed in the Indian stock market (1992)
- d) To examine the sequence of events leading to Kargil War

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry** was a long-running inquiry commissioned by the Government of India to investigate the destruction of the **Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid** structure on 6 December 1992.

Headed by Justice M. S. Liberhan, set up on December 16, 1992, the Commission was initially asked to give a report in three months. Extensions were given 48 times, and after a delay of about 17 years, the one-man commission submitted the report in 2009.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding **Mahatma Gandhi**:

1. International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. Gandhi was nominated several times for the Nobel Peace prize but was never awarded.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Each year the **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world on **21 September**. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

The **International Day of Non-Violence** is observed on **2 October**, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence [UN].

International days designated by UN are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

Statement 2 is correct. **Mahatma Gandhi was nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize** in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1947 and 1948. He was never awarded with peace prize.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding **Lal Bahadur Shastri**:

1. He signed Shimla Agreement as Prime Minister of India on culmination of Indo-Pak war of 1965.
2. He was appointed the second Home Minister of Independent India after death of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Which of the 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. **Lal Bahadur Shastri** held several portfolios in the Union Cabinet – Minister for Railways; Minister for Transport and Communications; Minister for Commerce and Industry; Home Minister.

Home Ministers of India:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1946-1950)
- C. Rajagopalachari (1950-1951)
- Kailash Nath Katju (1951-1955)
- Govind Ballabh Pant (1955-1961)
- Lal Bahadur Shastri (1961-1963)

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Lal Bahadur Shastri** led India as Prime Minister in the 1965 Indo-Pak War. He died in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Soviet Union) on the 11th January, 1966, one day after signing a peace treaty (**Tashkent Declaration**) to end the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War.

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Betting and gambling is listed under the Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
2. The Information Technology Act 2000 explicitly prohibits online betting and gambling.

Which 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. 'Betting and gambling' is listed as **Entry 34 under the State List** of Seventh Schedule under the Constitution.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Information Technology Act 2000** regulates cyber activities in India but does not explicitly regulate or mention online betting or gambling. Various states have their own legislation on gambling, and most States have an exemption for games of skill.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON)**:

1. It is a digital communication system based on microwave radio and optical fiber cable.
2. Services of Data Transfer and Video are available to defence users on this network.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON)** was evolved to integrate the telecommunication infrastructure of the hinterland with the tactical communication networks.

It is a digital, fully automated, secure, reliable and survivable static communication system based on **microwave radio, optical fiber cable, and satellite and mill metric wave** communication equipments.

Statement 2 is correct. Value added Services such as **FAX, TELEX, Data Transfer and Video** are also available to defence users on this network.

Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the proposal for establishment of Army Static Switched Communication Network, ASCON Phase IV Network.

The project will provide better survivability, responsiveness and high bandwidth in any operational scenario and enhance the communication coverage of network closer to International Border, Line of Control and Line of Actual Control.

Q.15) RAISE (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment) 2020 Summit is being organized by which of the following institution?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Telecommunication Union
- d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **NITI Aayog** are organizing a Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), **RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,'** from October 5-9, 2020.

The event will witness participation from global industry leaders, key opinion makers, Government representatives and academia.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**:

1. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is one of the objectives of CBD.

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2. The countries under CBD had agreed to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Convention on Biological Diversity** is an international treaty agreed to at the **UN Earth Summit** in Brazil in 1992.

It has **three goals**: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of nature; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic science.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the CBD, countries in 2010 agreed to the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** – a group of 20 goals to conserve biodiversity that range from preserving species, to reducing deforestation by 2020.

Countries had until 2020 to reach the targets, and then move on to create a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. But despite some progress, the targets – which range from stopping species from extinction to cutting pollution and preserving forests – were not achieved.

Q.17) Which of the following constitutes the **National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE)?**

- 1. Dedicated outdoor and indoor patients' services to be developed at Primary Health Centre (PHC), Community Health Centre (CHC) and District Hospitals.
- 2. Post graduate courses in geriatric medicine to be introduced in Regional Geriatric Centres.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The basic objective of the **National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE)** is to provide separate, specialized and comprehensive health care to the senior citizens at various level of State health care delivery system including outreach services.

Main Strategies:

- **Preventive and promotive care:** Services such as regular physical exercise, balanced diet, vegetarianism, stress management, avoidance of smoking or tobacco products and prevention of fall, etc. are provided by expanding access to health practices through domiciliary visits by trained health workers.

- **Management of Illness:** Dedicated outdoor and indoor patients' services will be developed at PHCs, CHCs, District Hospitals and Regional Geriatric Centres.

- **Health Man Power Development for Geriatric Services:** In service training will be imparted to the health manpower using standard training modules prepared with the help of medical colleges and regional institutions.

The post graduate courses in geriatric medicine will be introduced in Regional Geriatric Centres for which additional teaching and supportive faculties are provided to these institutions.

The UN theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2020 (1 October) was "Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?"

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Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rights of Good Samaritan** in India:

1. No police officer shall compel a Good Samaritan to disclose his/her name.
2. Every public and private hospital shall publish a charter stating the rights of Good Samaritans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has published the rules stating the rights of **Good Samaritans**:

- They shall be treated respectfully without any discrimination on the grounds of religion, nationality, caste or sex.
- No police officer or any other person shall compel a Good Samaritan to disclose his/her name, identity, address or any such other personal details. However, he may voluntarily choose to disclose the same.
- Every public and private hospital shall publish a charter in Hindi, English and vernacular language, at the entrance or other conspicuous location, and on their website, stating the rights of Good Samaritans under the Act and the rules made thereunder.
- If a person has voluntarily agreed to become a witness in the case in which he has acted as a Good Samaritan, he shall be examined in accordance with the provisions of this rule, for which detailed guidelines and process has been mentioned in the rules.

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. The UltraViolet Imaging Telescope onboard AstroSat can simultaneously observe in the visible, the near-ultraviolet and the far-ultraviolet spectrum.
2. AstroSat has detected extreme-UV light from AUDFs01 galaxy.

Which of the 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: **AstroSat** was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in 2015 and is capable of carrying out simultaneous observations over a range of wavelengths from the far ultraviolet to the hard X-ray band.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT)** is a remarkable 3-in-1 imaging telescope. Weighing all of 230 kg, the UVIT can simultaneously observe in the visible, the near-ultraviolet (NUV) and the far-ultraviolet (FUV).

UVIT comprises of two separate telescopes. One of them works in the visible (320-550 nm) and the NUV (200-300 nm). The second works only in the FUV (130-180 nm).

Statement 2 is correct. India's first multi-wavelength satellite, **AstroSat**, has detected **extreme-UV (EUV)** light from a galaxy, called **AUDFs01**, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. At the time, our universe was forming stars at its peak rate.

The EUV photons emitted by galaxies like AUDFs01 could play a crucial role in reionizing the early universe soon after the Cosmic Dark Age and emitting the first light.

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Q.20) Arrange the following time periods chronologically:

1. Little Ice Age
2. Roman Warm Period
3. Medieval Warm Period

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

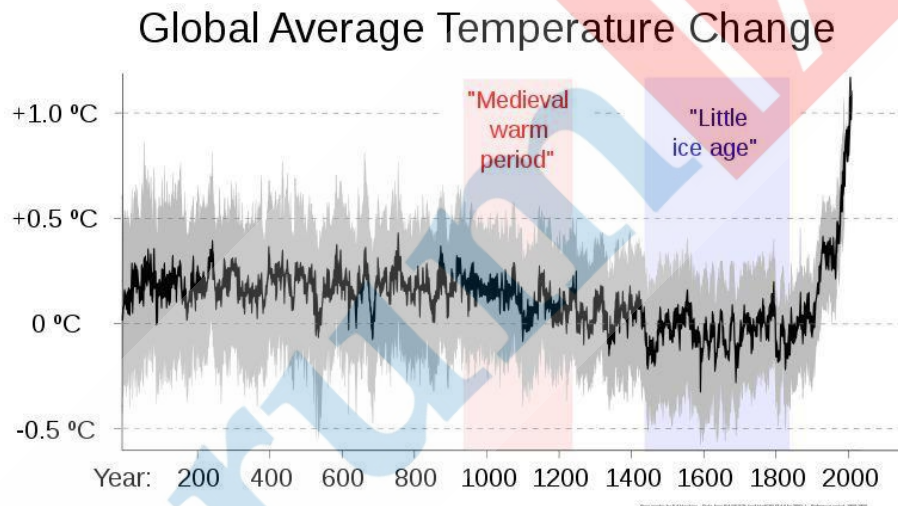
- a) 1-2-3
- b) 2-3-1
- c) 3-1-2
- d) 1-3-2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Roman Warm Period** was a period of unusually warm weather in Europe and the North Atlantic that ran from approximately 250 BC to AD 400.

The **Medieval Warm Period (MWP)** or Medieval Climate Anomaly was a time of warm climate in the North Atlantic region lasting from about 900–1300 AD.

The **Little Ice Age (LIA)**, climate interval that occurred from the early 14th century through the mid-19th century, when mountain glaciers expanded at several locations, including the European Alps, New Zealand, Alaska, and the southern Andes, and mean annual temperatures across the Northern Hemisphere declined.



As per a new study by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST); Global climatic events like the Roman Warm Period, Medieval Climate Anomaly, and the Little Ice Age may have had significant impacts on India's landscape, vegetation, and socio-economic growth, with abrupt shifts in the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) coinciding with these climatic events.

Q.21) Which of the following is/are strategic goal(s) of **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**?

1. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.
2. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.
3. To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Aichi Biodiversity targets** were included in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011-2020 period adopted by the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the **Convention on Biological Diversity**.

The **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity includes** 20 time-bound, measurable targets to be met by the year 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets). These targets are classified into five **strategic goals**:

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Q.22) What is the purpose of recently inaugurated **VAIBHAV Summit**?

- a) Showcase India's natural biodiversity
- b) Leveraging the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers
- c) Promoting niche tourism in India
- d) Promoting responsible Artificial Intelligence for social empowerment

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit** is a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians.

It is a collaborative initiative by S&T and Academic Organizations of India to enable deliberations on thought process, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.

The VAIBHAV initiative aims to bring out the comprehensive roadmap to **leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researcher** for solving emerging challenges. By bringing the Indian Overseas and Resident academicians/scientists together a structure of association will be evolved.

The summit will reflect on the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India and abroad. The goal is to create an ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through global outreach.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **AYUSH Grid** initiative:

- 1. It aims to bring onboard all AYUSH facilities including hospitals and laboratories to promote traditional systems of healthcare.
- 2. The grid will include Drug Licensing Portal, Education and Training programs for AYUSH Professionals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The Ministry of AYUSH has initiated steps to set up a nationwide digital platform called "**AYUSH GRID**" which aims to bring onboard all AYUSH facilities including hospitals and laboratories and to promote traditional systems of healthcare.

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The AYUSH Grid project was initiated by the Ministry in 2018 for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the entire sector.

The most significant among the different initiatives implemented so far in the project is the **AYUSH Health Management Information System (AHMIS)**.

Another success of Ayush Grid is the development and implementation of the **Ayush Sanjivani mobile app and the Yoga locator mobile app**, to meet the urgent demands of the concerned Divisions of the Ministry.

Further, a customized IT course for Ayush Professionals was developed in collaboration with C-DAC, Pune.

The components of **Ayush Grid initiative** will cover all the verticals of the Ayush Sector, like Health Services, Education, Ayush Research, Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Training Programmes, Citizen Centric Services, Drug Licencing Portal, and Media Outreach.

Q.24) Which of the following statements correctly defines **Antisera**?

- a) The blood serum containing antibodies
- b) Potential drug to prevent antigen binding
- c) An immune response suppressing agent
- d) Drug to accelerate the antibody generation in body

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Antisera** are blood sera that contain **antibodies against a specific viral toxin** or antigen and are injected to help in the treatment or prevention of the diseases associated with that virus.

Antisera are prepared by injecting antigens or venoms into healthy animals such as horses so as to produce in them antibodies which are normally associated with a globulin fraction serum.

Plasma recovered from Covid-19 patients could serve a similar purpose, but the profile of antibodies, their efficacy and concentration keep varying from patient to patient.

Hyderabad-based vaccine maker Biological E, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has developed "highly purified antisera" that can be used in prevention and treatment of Covid-19.

Q.25) Which of the following is/are **defence exercise(s)** between India and Bangladesh?

- 1. Exercise Bongosagar
- 2. Exercise Sampriti

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The second edition of **Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar** is scheduled to commence in Northern Bay of Bengal on 03 October 2020.

Exercise Bongosagar, whose first edition was held in 2019, is aimed at developing inter-operability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.

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Option 2 is correct. **SAMPRITI** series of joint exercise is a very important military engagement between Armies of **India and Bangladesh**. The 9th edition of the joint Exercise SAMPRITI was held in February 2020.

Q.26) The Central Government had recently allowed **additional borrowing limit** to the States for current financial year subject to which of the following reform(s)?

1. Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System
2. Ease of doing business reform
3. Implementation of National Education Policy 2020

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In view of the unprecedented **COVID-19 pandemic**, the Central Government had in May, 2020 allowed additional borrowing limit of up to **2 percent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** to the States for the year 2020-21.

One percent of this is **subject to implementation of following four specific State level reforms**, where weightage of each reform is 0.25 percent of GSDP:

- Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System;
- Ease of doing business reform;
- Urban Local body/ utility reforms; and
- Power Sector reforms

Q.27) The **Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO)** is a flagship publication of which of the following convention/protocol?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Convention on Biological Diversity
- c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- d) Montreal Protocol

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO)** is the flagship publication of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.

It is a periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the Convention.

GBO-5 released recently provides global summary of progress towards the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** and is based on a range of indicators, research studies and assessments (in particular the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), as well as the national reports provided by countries on their implementation of the CBD.

The fifth edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) is the final report card on progress against the 20 global biodiversity targets agreed in 2010 with a 2020 deadline, and offers lessons learned and best practices for getting on track.

None of the 20 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets' agreed on by national governments through the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have been fully met.

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Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the **Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)**:

1. It has been released by the NITI Aayog.
2. It is based on survey assessing different Ministries/Departments' performance on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)**, **NITI Aayog** has undertaken **Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)** exercise to assess different Ministries /Departments' performance on the implementation of **Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**. It is a self-assessment-based review of data preparedness levels across Ministries / Departments to produce a DGQI score card.

Accordingly, a survey was initiated with the objective of assessing data preparedness of Ministries / Departments on a standardized framework to drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning from best practices.

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) was constituted in September 2015 by merging the erstwhile Program Evaluation Office (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). It is an attached office under NITI Aayog, aimed at fulfilling the organization's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mandate and building the M&E ecosystem in India.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the **Atal Tunnel**:

1. The tunnel is to connect Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.
2. The Railway Tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas.

Which of the 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 recently inaugurated 9.02 Km long **Atal tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti** valley throughout the year. Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is horse shoe shaped, single tube **double lane highway tunnel** (not railway). The Tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3000 Mtrs (10,000 Feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).

Q.30) The **Paharia Tribe** belongs to which of the following State?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Assam
- d) Himachal Pradesh

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Paharias** are one of the primitive tribal groups in Santhal Parganas of **Jharkhand**. In Jharkhand, there are two types of Paharias:

- **Mal Paharia** people live in the southern hills of Damin-i-koh and in the south and east of Santhal Parganas. A few of them are also found in Odisha and West Bengal.

- **Shauria Paharia** (Maler Paharia) people are mostly found in Santhal Parganas.

Pakur Honey produced by vulnerable Pahariya tribe was launched as a product by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Q.31) Who among the following can vote through **postal ballot** in India?

1. A person subjected to preventive detention.
 2. A public servant on election duty.
- 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: **Postal ballot** allows a voter to cast her/his vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting.

A **voter on election duty** on election duty, i.e. any polling agent, any polling officer, presiding officer or other public servant, who is an elector in the constituency and is by reason of his being on election duty unable to vote as the polling station where he is entitled to vote, can vote through postal ballot.

Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 confers voting rights on the electors subjected to **preventive detention**. As per Rule 18 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the electors under preventive detention are entitled to cast their votes by post.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**:

1. It is an indicator of business activity based exclusively on the value of change in production volume.
2. PMI value above 50 denotes expansion in business activity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **purchasing managers' index (PMI)** is an economic indicator that surveys purchasing managers at businesses that make up a given sector. The most common PMI surveys are the manufacturing PMI and the services PMI.

It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before.

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

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

Statement 2 is correct. A figure **above 50** denotes **expansion** in business activity. Anything below 50 denotes contraction. Higher the difference from this mid-point greater is the expansion or contraction.

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Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016**:

1. The code applies to companies as well as individuals.
2. Insolvency Professionals administer the resolution process and manage the assets of the debtor.
3. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India is the regulator over Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies and Information Utilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016** applies to companies and individuals. The proceedings of the resolution process are adjudicated by the National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT), for companies; and the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), for individuals.

Statement 2 is correct. **Insolvency Professionals** are a specialised cadre of licensed professionals. These professionals administer the resolution process, manage the assets of the debtor, and provide information for creditors to assist them in decision making.

Statement 3 is correct. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was established under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code).

It has **regulatory oversight** over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professional Entities and Information Utilities.

Q.34) Which of the following language(s) is/are *not* listed in the **eighth schedule** of the Constitution?

1. English
2. Dogri
3. Garhwali

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

Dogri.

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

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council**:

1. Every decision of the GST Council is taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.

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2. Two-third of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council constitute the quorum at its meetings.
3. The vote of the Central Government has a weightage of one third of the total votes cast.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax. The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

Statement 1 is correct. Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council is taken at a meeting, by a majority of **not less than three-fourths** of the weighted votes of the members present and voting

Statement 2 is incorrect. **One-half** of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall constitute the **quorum** at its meetings.

Statement 3 is correct. In the GST Council meeting; the vote of the **Central Government has a weightage of one third** of the total votes cast, and the votes of all the State Governments taken together have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast.

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) 2012.
2. The commission may inquire into complaints and take suo-motu notice of matters relating to deprivation and violation of child rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** is a statutory body under the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005** under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

Statement 2 is correct. The commission may **inquire** into complaints and take **suo-motu** notice of matters relating to-

- Deprivation and violation of child rights;
- Non-implementation of laws providing for protection and development of children;
- Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships to and ensuring welfare of the children and to provide relief to such children.

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NCPCR also monitors the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Q.37) Where is **Dhulasidh Hydro Project** located?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Uttarakhand

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Union Government has recently given approval for the construction of 66 Megawatt **Dhulasidh hydroelectric projects** in Hamirpur district, **Himachal Pradesh**. It is a run of river scheme on river **Beas** with a concrete gravity dam. The dam would create a reservoir of about 20 Kilometer. The project is being implemented by the **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN)**.

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India has declared that its carbon emissions will peak before the year 2030.
- 2. China aims to achieve carbon net-zero emissions by the year 2060.

Which of the 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. India has **not declared** any peak year for carbon emissions. India's pledges under the **Paris agreement** are:

- To reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 levels;
- To increase the share of non-fossil-based energy resources to 40% of installed electric power capacity by 2030, with help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- To create an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5–3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Statement 2 is correct. **China's President** made two announcements at UNGA recently:

- China would become carbon net-zero by the year 2060. Net-zero is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated by absorptions and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
- China's carbon emissions will peak before 2030.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the **Char Dham Pariyojna**:

- 1. The projects under it lie within the State of Uttarakhand only.
- 2. The Border Road Organization (BRO) is executing the complete project by itself.

Which of the 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. **Char Dham National Highway (NH)** connectivity programme comprises projects of improvement/development of 889 km length of NHs

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leading to **Yamunotri Dham, Gangotri Dham, Kedarnath Dham, Badrinath Dham**. Projects under Char Dham lie within the State of **Uttarakhand** only.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The works under Char Dham Pariyojna are being implemented on Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode of contract. These projects are being implemented **by 3 executing agencies** of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, viz, Uttarakhand State PWD, **Border Road Organization (BRO)** and National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

Q.40) The **monetary policy** of Reserve Bank of India targets which of the following Inflation Index?

- a) Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rural
- b) Consumer Price Index (CPI) Combined
- c) Wholesale Price Index (WPI)
- d) Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)

Correct answer: B

Explanation: As per the **RBI Act 1934 (amended 2016)**, the Central Government shall, in consultation with the Bank, determine the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years.

Accordingly, the Central Government has notified 4 per cent Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation as the target for the period from August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021 with the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 per cent.

As per the Act, the **CPI Combined** published by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is used as inflation targeting index.

Q.41) Which of the following subject(s) is/are listed in the **Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule**?

- 1. Trade and commerce in foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils
- 2. Adulteration of foodstuffs
- 3. Trade unions; industrial and labour disputes

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: Entry 33 in the concurrent list is: Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of,— (a) the products of any industry where the control of such industry by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest, and imported goods of the same kind as such products; (b) foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils; (c) cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates; (d) raw cotton, whether ginned or unginned, and cotton seed; and (e) raw jute.

Entry 18 in the concurrent list is: Adulteration of foodstuffs and other goods.

Entry 22 in the concurrent list is: Trade unions; industrial and labour disputes.

Q.42) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The speaker is not bound to accept the resignation of a member if s/he is satisfied that such resignation is not voluntary or genuine.
- 2. Constitution mandates to hold by-elections within six months of a seat getting vacated, either due to resignation or the death of a legislator.

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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. **Article 190(3) of the Constitution** states that if a member of a House of the Legislature of a State resigns his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the speaker and his resignation is accepted by the Speaker his seat shall thereupon become vacant;

Provided that in the case of resignation, if from information received or otherwise and after making such inquiry as he thinks fit, the Speaker is satisfied that such resignation is **not voluntary or genuine**, he shall not accept such resignation.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is not mandated in the Constitution, rather under the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, the election commission is supposed to hold by-elections within six months of a seat getting vacated, either due to resignation or the death of a legislator.

Q.43) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Case fatality ratio (CFR) is the proportion of individuals diagnosed with a disease who die from that disease.
- 2. The infection fatality ratio (IFR) for a disease estimates proportion of deaths among all infected individuals.

Which of the 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.

There are two measures used to assess the proportion of infected individuals with fatal outcomes. The first is infection fatality ratio (IFR), which estimates this proportion of deaths among all infected individuals. The second is case fatality ratio (CFR), which estimates this proportion of deaths among identified confirmed cases.

The true severity of a disease can be described by the **Infection Fatality Ratio**:

$$\text{Infection fatality ratio (IFR, in \%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of infected individuals}} \times 100$$

Serological testing of a representative random sample of the population to detect evidence of exposure to a pathogen is an important method to estimate the true number of infected individuals.

Case fatality ratio (CFR) is the proportion of individuals diagnosed with a disease who die from that disease and is therefore a measure of severity among detected cases:

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in \%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$

Q.44) What does the **Good Friday Agreement** relate to?

- a) Northern Ireland governance
- b) Nagorno-Karabakh disputed territory

- c) Second Libyan Civil War
- d) Israel Palestine conflict

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Belfast Agreement** is also known as the **Good Friday Agreement**, because it was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998. It was a peace agreement between the British and Irish governments, and most of the political parties in **Northern Ireland**, on how Northern Ireland should be governed.

This agreement helped to bring to an end a period of conflict in the region called the Troubles. In 1998 - after nearly two years of talks and 30 years of conflict - the Good Friday agreement was signed. This resulted in a new government being formed that would see power being shared between Unionists and Nationalists.

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding **Hepatitis C**:

1. It is a major cause of liver cancer.
 2. It can spread through exposure to blood from infected person.
- Which of the 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. **Hepatitis C is a liver disease** caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV): the virus can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis, ranging in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. Hepatitis C is a major cause of liver cancer.

Statement 2 is correct. The hepatitis C virus is a **bloodborne** virus: the most common modes of infection are through exposure to small quantities of blood. This may happen through injection drug use, unsafe injection practices, unsafe health care, transfusion of unscreened blood and blood products, and sexual practices that lead to exposure to blood.

This year's Nobel Prize winners in Medicine; Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice made seminal discoveries that led to the identification of a novel virus, Hepatitis C virus.

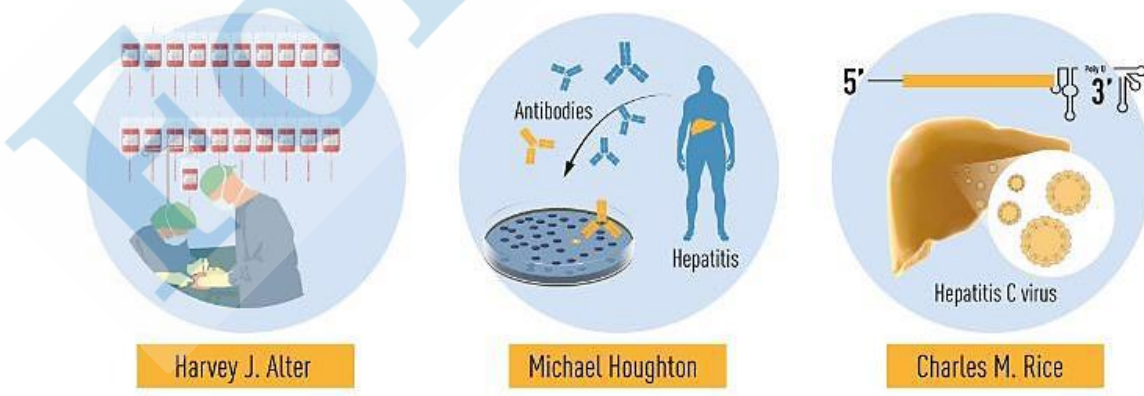


Figure Summary of the discoveries awarded by this year's Nobel prize. The methodical studies of transfusion-associated hepatitis by Harvey J. Alter demonstrated that an unknown virus was a common cause of chronic hepatitis. Michael Houghton used an untested strategy to isolate the genome of the new virus that was named Hepatitis C virus. Charles M. Rice provided the final evidence showing that Hepatitis C virus alone could cause hepatitis.

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Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding the **RAISE 2020 Summit**:

1. It is being organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog.
2. The Summit aims to chart a course for using Artificial Intelligence for social transformation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog are organizing the **RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'**, a Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence-AI from 5th to 9th of October.

Statement 2 is correct. RAISE 2020 is a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using **AI for social transformation**, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)**:

1. It is targeted to achieve Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations within the Torpedo range.
2. It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** has been successfully flight tested recently from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

Statement 1 is incorrect. SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations **far beyond Torpedo range**. This launch and demonstration is significant in establishing Anti-Submarine warfare capabilities.

Statement 2 is correct. It has been developed by **DRDO**, a number of DRDO laboratories including DRDL, RCI Hyderabad, ADRDE Agra, NSTL Visakhapatnam have developed the technologies required for SMART.

Q.48) The **New Caledonia** is a French overseas territory in which of the following Ocean?

- a) Indian Ocean
- b) Pacific Ocean
- c) South Atlantic Ocean
- d) North Atlantic Ocean

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **New Caledonia** is a French overseas territory in **South Pacific Ocean**. It is rich in resources and accounts for around 10% of the world's nickel reserve.

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New Caledonia enjoys a large degree of autonomy but depends heavily on France for matters like defence and education.



Following bouts of violence in the 1980s over the issue of independence, several agreements were signed including the 1998 Noumea Accord, which set out a roadmap for greater autonomy for the territory.

Under this agreement, New Caledonia is allowed up to three referendums on independence. The first took place in November 2018, where voters rejected independence from France by 56.4% to 43.6%, with a turnout of about 81%.

It has again voted to remain French with 53.26% of votes in October 2020. Turnout was at 85.6%. A third referendum can take place by 2022, if requested by a third of the local assembly.

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP)**:

1. It aims to achieve country wide elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030.
2. Its components include prevention, diagnosis as well as treatment of Hepatitis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **National Viral Hepatitis Control Program** was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the World Hepatitis Day, 28th July 2018.

It is an integrated initiative for the prevention and control of viral hepatitis in India to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3 which aims to ending viral hepatitis by 2030.

Statement 1 is correct. Aim of the program:

- Combat hepatitis and achieve country wide elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030;
- Achieve significant reduction in the infected population, morbidity and mortality associated with Hepatitis B and C viz. Cirrhosis and Hepato-cellular carcinoma (liver cancer);
- Reduce the risk, morbidity and mortality due to Hepatitis A and E.

Statement 2 is correct. **Components** of NVHCP: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment, Monitoring and Evaluation, Surveillance and Research; and Training and Capacity Building.

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Q.50) Which of the following region(s) form part of the **United Kingdom**?

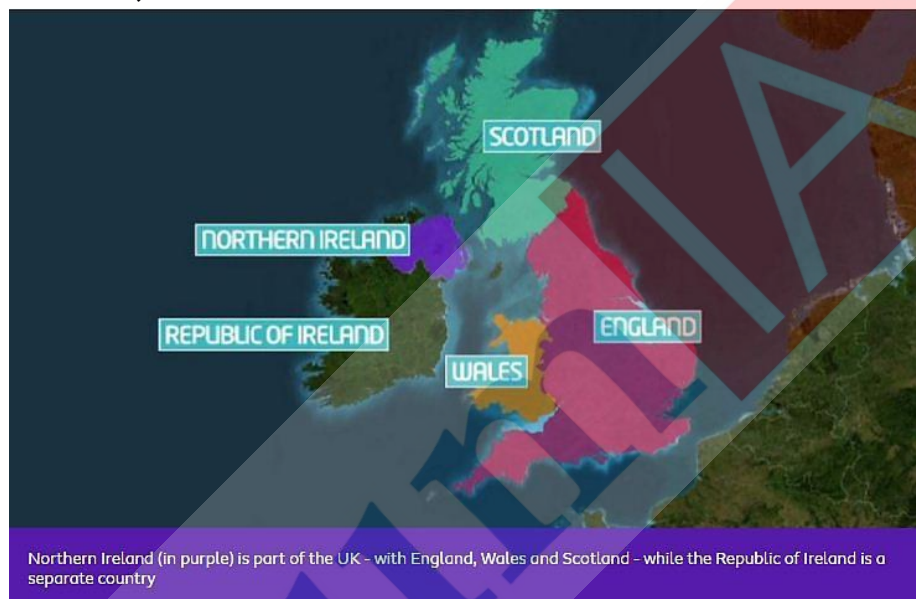
1. Wales
2. Northern Ireland
3. Scotland

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **United Kingdom** is a state made up of the historic countries of **England, Wales and Scotland, as well as Northern Ireland.**



The Internal Market Bill of UK government seeks to create a single uniform market across the four nations of the U.K. It is being disputed by many in UK as well as EU for it breaking the international law by going back on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill signed by the Boris Johnson government in January 2020.

Q.51) Vaccine(s) is/are available for which of the following disease(s)?

1. Hepatitis A
2. Hepatitis B
3. Hepatitis C

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: Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. When the liver is inflamed or damaged, its function can be affected. The common hepatitis viruses are hepatitis A virus, hepatitis B virus, and hepatitis C virus.

Hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are liver infections caused by three different viruses. Although each can cause similar symptoms, they are spread in different ways and can affect the liver differently.

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Hepatitis A is usually a short-term infection. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C can also begin as short-term infections, but in some people, the virus remains in the body and causes chronic (long-term) infection. There are vaccines to prevent hepatitis A and hepatitis B; however, there is **no vaccine for hepatitis C**.

Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding **diagnostic tests**:

1. A test with high Sensitivity correctly identifies patients who do not have the disease.
 2. A test with high Specificity correctly identifies patients infected with the disease.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The definitions of **Sensitivity and Specificity** have been interchanged in the statements.

The **sensitivity of a test (also called the true positive rate)** is defined as the proportion of people with the disease who will have a positive result. A highly sensitive test is one that correctly identifies patients with a disease.

The **specificity of a test (also called the true negative Rate)** is the proportion of people without the disease who will have a negative result. The specificity of a test refers to how well a test identifies patients who do not have a disease.

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 RT-PCR** test:

1. Real time RT-PCR is a nuclear-derived method for detecting the presence of specific genetic material.
2. The test uses sample from the upper and lower respiratory system.
3. The real time RT-PCR cannot be used to detect past infections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Real time RT-PCR** is a nuclear-derived method for detecting the presence of specific **genetic material** in any pathogen, including a virus.

In order for an **RNA virus** like the COVID-19 virus to be detected early in the body using real time RT-PCR, scientists need to convert the RNA to DNA (because only DNA can be copied or amplified). This is a process called 'reverse transcription'. Scientists amplify a specific part of the transcribed viral DNA hundreds of thousands of times to accurately confirm that the virus is present.

Statement 2 is correct. The RT-PCR test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in upper and lower respiratory specimens (such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate) collected from individuals suspected of COVID-19.

Statement 3 is correct. The real time RT-PCR **cannot** be used to detect past infections it can only detect the current infections.

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. The AYUSH products are regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

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2. The AYUSH Ministry has released the Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for the management of COVID-19.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **AYUSH products** are regulated under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** by the Drugs Controller General of India through the State Governments.

Statement 2 is correct. The **National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga** for the management of Covid-19 has been released recently as per the Report & Recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Committee.

The AYUSH Ministry has also setup an Interdisciplinary Committee for Integration of Ayurveda and Yoga Interventions in the 'National Clinical Management Protocol: COVID-19, which was chaired by Dr V M Katoch, former Director General ICMR and group of experts.

Q.55) The **Nobel Prize in Physics 2020** has been awarded for which of the following discovery/research?

- 1. The discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
- 2. The discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
- 3. The discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star

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 and 2 are correct. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the **Nobel Prize in Physics 2020** with

--one half to **Roger Penrose** "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity";

--other half jointly to **Michel Mayor and Andrea Ghez** "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy".

Option 3 is incorrect. Part of **Nobel Prize in Physics 2019** was awarded to James Peebles "for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology" and Michel Mayor "for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star".

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding **Black Holes**:

- 1. The 'event horizon' is the boundary defining the region of space around a black hole from which not even light can escape.
- 2. Black holes can form when the center of a massive star collapses-in upon itself.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A black hole is an astronomical object with a gravitational pull so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape it. A **black hole's "surface," called its event horizon**, defines the boundary within which the velocity needed to escape exceeds the speed of light, which is the speed limit of the cosmos. Matter and radiation fall in, but they can't get out.

Statement 2 is correct. The smallest ones are known as **primordial** black holes. These are thought to have formed in the early universe, soon after the big bang.

The most common type of medium-sized black holes is called **stellar** black holes. These black holes form when the center of a very massive star collapses in upon itself. This collapse also causes a supernova, or an exploding star, that blasts part of the star into space.

The largest black holes are called **supermassive**. Scientists think supermassive black holes formed at the same time as the galaxy they are in. The size of the supermassive black hole is related to the size and mass of the galaxy it is in.

Q.57) Which of the following is/are types of **Ecosystem Services** derived from nature?

1. Provisioning Services
2. Regulating Services
3. Cultural Services

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**, a major UN-sponsored effort to analyze the impact of human actions on ecosystems and human well-being, defined Ecosystem Services as "the benefits people derive from ecosystems" and identified four major categories of ecosystem services: provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.

Provisioning services are: The products obtained from ecosystems, including, for example, genetic resources, food and fiber, and fresh water.

Regulating services are: The benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes, including, for example, the regulation of climate, water, and some human diseases.

Cultural services are: The non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experience, including, e.g., knowledge systems, social relations, and aesthetic values.

Supporting services are: Ecosystem services that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. Some examples include biomass production, production of atmospheric oxygen, soil formation and retention, nutrient cycling, water cycling, and provisioning of habitat.

Ecosystem services provided by New Delhi's National Zoological Park are estimated to have generated Rs 422.76 crore in 2019-20 as per the study by the Energy and Resources Institute commissioned by Central Zoo Authority.

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. No zoo can be operated in India without being recognised by the CZA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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- 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 **Central Zoo Authority** was established as a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment & Forests by the Government of India in the year 1992 by adding a separate chapter in the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. The Authority consists of a Chairman, ten members and a Member Secretary.

Statement 2 is correct. Its functions include recognizing or derecognizing zoos and further Section 38H(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides that 'no zoo shall be operated without being recognised by the CZA'.

Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Habitat Day 2020**:

1. The theme for this year is 'Housing For All — A Better Urban Future'.
2. Indian city of Indore is the host of Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In 1985 the United Nations designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. The World Habitat Day 2020 theme is **Housing For All — A Better Urban Future**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Indonesian city of **Surabaya** is the host of Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2020.

The Habitat Scroll of Honour award was launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in 1989. The award, a plaque engraved with the name of the winner and their achievement is presented to the winners during the Global Observance of World Habitat Day.

Q.60) Consider the following statements regarding the **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**:

1. It is part of the COVAX pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.
2. It has launched a Global network of Laboratories for centralized assessment of COVID-19 Vaccines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **COVAX** is the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator

The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

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

Statement 2 is correct. The international non-profit, **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** has launched a 'Global network of Laboratories for centralized assessment of COVID-19 Vaccines'.

The clinical sample testing laboratories selected for this collaborative vaccine network are: Nexelis (Canada) and Public Health England (PHE; UK), VisMederi Srl (Italy), Viroclinics-DDL (The Netherlands), icddr,b (formerly International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh), and **Translational Health Sciences and Technological Institute (THSTI, India)**.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ensemble forecasting**:

1. It is a forecasting methodology using a single set of conditions.
2. It can be used for optimization of weather forecasting.

Which of the statements give above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. In **Ensemble Forecasting**, instead of running just a single forecast, the computer model is run a **number of times from slightly different starting conditions**. The complete set of forecasts is referred to as the ensemble, and individual forecasts within it as ensemble members.

Statement 2 is correct. Various countries have migrated to ensemble weather forecasting for optimal results. A forecast is an estimate of the future state of the atmosphere. It is created by estimating the current state of the atmosphere using observations, and then calculating how this state will evolve in time using a numerical weather prediction computer model.

The ensemble forecasts give the forecaster a much better idea of what weather events may occur at a particular time. By comparing these different forecasts, the forecaster can decide how likely a particular weather event will be.

Q.62) Which of the following statements correctly defines **Quasars**?

- a) Remote celestial objects emitting exceptionally large amounts of energy
- b) A rapidly spinning neutron star
- c) A star system consisting of two stars orbiting around their common barycenter
- d) Star that have exhausted their nuclear fuel

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Quasars** are extremely **remote** celestial objects, **emitting** exceptionally large amounts of energy.

Quasars are believed to produce their energy from **supermassive black holes** in the center of the galaxies in which the quasars are located. Because quasars are so bright, they drown out the light from all the other stars in the same galaxy.

Q.63) Consider the following statements **Doppler Radars**:

1. The Doppler Effect causes the received frequency of a source to differ from the sent frequency if the distance between the source and the receiver is changing.
2. The frequency of the received wave forms increases with increasing distance between source and receiver.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

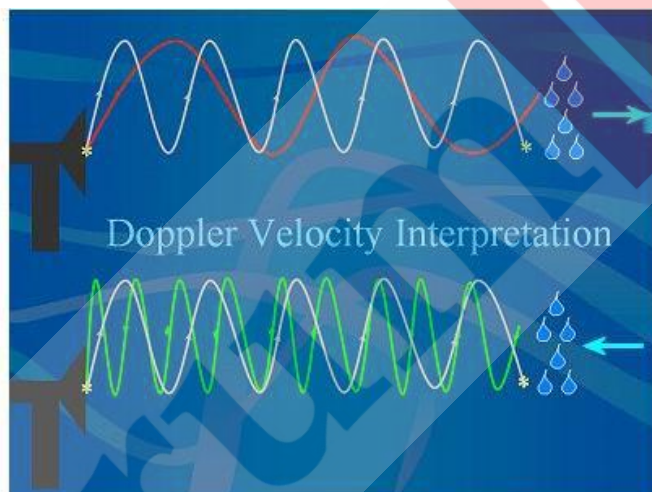
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. When wave energy like sound or radio waves travels from two objects, the wavelength can seem to be changed if one or both of them are moving. This is called the **Doppler effect**.

The Doppler effect causes the received frequency of a source (how it is perceived when it gets to its destination) to **differ from the sent frequency** if there is motion that is increasing or decreasing the distance between the source and the receiver.

Statement 2 is incorrect. When the **distance** between the source and receiver of electromagnetic waves remains **constant**, the **frequency** waves is the **same** in both places. When the **distance** between the source and receiver of electromagnetic waves is **increasing**, the **frequency** of the received wave forms is **lower** than the frequency of the source wave form. When the **distance** is **decreasing**, the **frequency** of the received wave form will be **higher** than the source wave form.



In the image above, the grey line is the transmitted signal. You can see how the returned energy changes its wavelength characteristics when it hits a target moving away or toward the radar (red and green line, respectively)

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding **Platform work**:

1. Platform workers use an online platform to access other organizations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services.
2. As per Code on Social Security 2020, central government will set up social security fund for 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Code on Social Security** provides definition of **Platform Work** as a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organizations or individuals use an online platform to access other organizations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services.

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Statement 2 is correct. The Code on Social Security, 2020 states that the central government will set up **social security funds for unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers**.

Further, state governments will also set up and administer separate social security funds for unorganized workers. It also makes provisions for registration of all three categories of workers - unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Q.65) The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020** has been awarded for which of the following research?

- a) The development of lithium-ion batteries
- b) The phage display of peptides and antibodies
- c) The design and synthesis of molecular machines
- d) The development of a method for genome editing

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020** has been awarded jointly to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna "**for the development of a method for genome editing**."

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna have discovered one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the **CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors**. Using these, researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2019: John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino "for the development of lithium-ion batteries".

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2018: Frances H. Arnold "for the directed evolution of enzymes", George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies".

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017: Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson "for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution".

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016: Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringa "for the design and synthesis of molecular machines".

Q.66) Consider the following statements regarding the recently approved '**Natural Gas Marketing Reforms**':

- 1. The affiliate companies can participate in the bidding process for sale of gas.
- 2. It will grant marketing freedom to the Field Development Plans (FDPs) of certain Blocks with Production Sharing Contracts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has recently approved '**Natural Gas Marketing Reforms**'.

-- The policy aims to provide standard procedure for sale of natural gas in a transparent and competitive manner to discover market price by issuing guidelines for sale by contractor through **e-bidding**.

-- The policy has also permitted **Affiliate companies** to participate in the bidding process in view of the open, transparent and electronic bidding. This will facilitate and promote more

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competition in marketing of gas. However, rebidding will have to be done in case only affiliates participate, and there are no other bidders.

-- The policy will also grant marketing freedom to the **Field Development Plans** (FDPs) of those Blocks in which Production Sharing Contracts already provide pricing freedom.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the **Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Cybersecurity** between India and Japan:

1. It will provide India with the access to Five Eyes intelligence database.
 2. Both countries commit to an interoperable, free, fair and secure cyberspace environment.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Union Cabinet has recently given its approval for signing a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** in the field of cybersecurity between India and Japan. Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Five Eyes (FVEY)** is an intelligence alliance comprising **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States**. These countries are parties to the multilateral UKUSA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.

Statement 2 is correct. The MoC will enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including capacity building in the area of cyberspace; protection of critical infrastructure; cooperation in emerging technologies; sharing information on cyber security threats/incidents and malicious cyber activities etc.

India and Japan commit to an **open, interoperable, free, fair, secure and reliable cyberspace environment** and to promote the Internet as an engine of innovation, economic growth, and trade and commerce that would be consistent with their respective domestic laws and international obligations, and with their wide-ranging strategic partnership.

Q.68) What is 'Kasturi Cotton'?

- a) India's premium Cotton brand
- b) Genetically modified cotton variety
- c) Pest resistant hybrid Cotton seeds indigenously developed by PUSA
- d) Anti-bacterial cotton variety

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Ministry of Textiles** has launched the 1st ever **Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton** on 2nd World Cotton Day on 7th October, 2020. Now India's premium Cotton would be known as '**Kasturi Cotton**' in the world cotton Trade.

Cotton is one of the principal commercial crops of India: It provides livelihood to about 6.00 million cotton farmers. India is the 2nd largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world. India produces about 6.00 Million tons of cotton every year which is about 23% of the world cotton. India produces about 51% of the total organic cotton production of the world.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**:

1. India has ratified the Stockholm Convention but new amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless further ratified by India.

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2. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has powers to ratify chemicals under the Convention in respect of domestically regulated POPs.

Which of the 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. India had ratified the **Stockholm Convention** on January 13, 2006 as per Article 25(4), which enabled it to keep itself in a default "opt-out" position such that amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless an instrument of ratification/ acceptance/ approval or accession is explicitly deposited with UN depositary.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Union Cabinet recently delegated** its powers to ratify chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to Union Ministers of **External Affairs (MEA) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC)** in respect of POPs already regulated under the domestic regulations thereby streamlining the procedure.

Q.70) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pusa Decomposer**:

- 1. It is a microbial-based strategy that degrades the agricultural waste.
- 2. It has the disadvantage not being ecofriendly and reducing nutrient capacity of soil.

Which of the 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. **Pusa Decomposer Technology** is a microbial-based strategy (liquid formulation & capsules) which degrades the waste (pit or windrows).

Statement 2 is incorrect. The recycling of this agri-waste is both an ecological necessity and economic compulsion. Similarly, vegetable, fruit, and kitchen waste when degraded properly are great sources of nutrient-rich compost.

Pusa Decomposer converts waste into **nutrient-enriched compost**. This is an eco-friendly and environmentally useful technology.

It is being proposed as a solution for stubble disposal in farm fields around Delhi which is usually burned by farmers causing pollution.

Q.71) Consider the following statements regarding the **CRISPR technology**:

- 1. It is used to alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.
- 2. The technology has been adapted from the natural defense mechanisms of bacteria.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)** technology is a tool for editing genomes. It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

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CRISPRs are specialized stretches of DNA. The protein **Cas9 (CRISPR-associated-9)** is an enzyme that acts like a pair of **molecular scissors**, capable of cutting strands of DNA. Its many potential applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases and improving crops.

Statement 2 is correct. CRISPR technology was adapted from the **natural defense mechanisms of bacteria and archaea (the domain of single-celled microorganisms)**. These organisms use CRISPR-derived RNA and various Cas proteins, including **Cas9**, to foil attacks by viruses and other foreign bodies. They do so primarily by chopping up and destroying the DNA of a foreign invader. When these components are transferred into other, more complex, organisms, it allows for the manipulation of genes, or "editing."

Q.72) Global Network of Advanced Manufacturing Hubs (AMHUBs) is a project of which of the following organisation?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Renewable Energy Agency
- d) Intel Corporation

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Advanced Manufacturing HUB or AMHUB** is one of the 19 platforms designed by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**. This platform focuses on engaging entire regional production ecosystems to identify and address regional opportunities and challenges brought by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) by amplifying regional success stories, sharing best practices & incubating new partnerships.

The Global Network of AMHUBs uses the Forum's platform to aggregate and accelerate regional efforts to adapt to the future of advanced manufacturing and production and highlight key regional case examples on the global stage, while creating a feedback loop wherein best practices from around the world are conveyed to the regional level to further amplify the impact potential of this network.

Guidance, nodal investment promotion and facilitation agency of the state of Tamil Nadu has partnered with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to establish India's first advanced manufacturing hub (AMHUB) in Tamil Nadu.

Q.73) Consider the following statements regarding the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India:

- 1. CAG has the authority to inspect any office of accounts under the control of the Union or of a State.
- 2. The Governor of a State can request the CAG to audit the accounts of a corporation established by law of state legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and can only be removed from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Statement 1 is correct. The Comptroller and Auditor-General, in connection with the performance of his duties have **authority to inspect any office of accounts** under the

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control of the Union or of a State, including treasuries and such offices responsible for the keeping of initial or subsidiary accounts, as submit accounts to him.

Statement 2 is correct. The Governor of a State, where he is of opinion that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, can **request the Comptroller and Auditor-General to audit** the accounts of a corporation established by law made by the Legislature of the State.

Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971

Q.74) The **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** relates to which of the following issue?

- a) Doubling farmers' income by 2022
- b) Control of air pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR)
- c) Increasing solar power capacity to 100GW by 2022
- d) Eliminating child labour practices

Correct answer: B

Explanation: In pursuant to the Supreme Court's order dated December 02, 2016 in the matter of **M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India** regarding air quality in National Capital Region of Delhi, a **Graded Response Action Plan** was prepared and notified for implementation under **different Air Quality Index (AQI)** categories namely, Moderate & Poor, Very Poor, and Severe as per National Air Quality Index.

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change had notified for implementation of Graded Response Action Plan through Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority in 2017.

The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) has directed Delhi and neighboring States to implement air pollution control measures under "very poor" and "severe" category air quality of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) from October 15, including a ban on the use of diesel generators, except for emergency activities.

Q.75) Consider the following statements regarding the **Television Rating Points (TRP)**:

- 1. It represents the traffic of viewers a television channel or program receives.
- 2. Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is a statutory body measuring TRPs 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. **Television Rating Points (TRPs)** represent how many people, from diverse socio-economic categories, watched which channels for how much time during a particular period of hours/days/week/months.

Television ratings in turn influence programmes produced for the viewers. Better ratings would promote a programme while poor ratings will discourage a programme. It also has commercial impact as program/channel with higher ratings is able to attract more and profitable advertisements.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India** is a **Joint Industry Company** founded by stakeholder bodies that represent Broadcasters, Advertisers, and Advertising and Media Agencies.

The I&B Ministry notified the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India in January 2014 and registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.

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Q.76) Which of the following institution has published the **Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020** report?

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- d) Asian Development Bank

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Poverty and Shared Prosperity biennial series published by the **World Bank** provides a global audience with the latest and most accurate estimates on trends in global poverty and shared prosperity.

Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune report presents new estimates of COVID-19's impacts on global poverty and inequality. Harnessing fresh data from frontline surveys and economic simulations, it shows that pandemic-related job losses and deprivation worldwide are hitting already-poor and vulnerable people hard, while also partly changing the profile of global poverty by creating millions of "new poor."

Global extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in 20 years because of the disruption caused by COVID-19. Around 9.1% to 9.4% of the world will be affected by extreme poverty in 2020.

Q.77) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gyan Circle Ventures**:

- 1. It is a Technology Business Incubator (TBI) funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- 2. It aims to provide investments, infrastructure and mentoring support for innovation and startups.

Which of the 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 Minister of Education recently inaugurated the **Gyan Circle Ventures, a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology funded Technology Business Incubator** (TBI) of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sri City (Chittoor), Andhra Pradesh.

Gyan Circle Ventures would function as a **Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0)** incubation center as approved by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

TIDE 2.0 scheme promotes tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups primarily engaged in using emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, Block-chain, Robotics etc. in pre-identified areas of societal relevance.

Statement 2 is correct. The Gyan Circle Ventures will serve as a hub for innovation and startups by providing support, in various phases, via **investments, infrastructure and mentoring**.

The TBI would have an Advisory Committee comprising leading Industrialists, entrepreneurs and technical experts. It would enable incubatees to leverage these expert mentors and networks from both academia and the industry.

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Q.78) Who among the following has been awarded with **Nobel Prize in Literature 2020**?

- a) Louise Glück
- b) Peter Handke
- c) Bob Dylan
- d) Olga Tokarczuk

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Nobel Prize in Literature 2020** has been awarded to American poet and essayist **Louise Glück** “for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”.

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2019: Peter Handke “for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience”.

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2018: Olga Tokarczuk “for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life”.

Bob Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2016.

Q.79) As per the Constitution, which of the following is/are basis for **reasonable restrictions on the right to assemble peaceably and without arms**?

- 1. Public order
- 2. Sovereignty and integrity of 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: Article 19(1) (b) provides for fundamental right to assemble peacefully and without arms.

Further, **Article 19(3)** of the Constitution provides for power of the State to provide for any law imposing reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right to assemble peaceably and without arms in the interests of the **sovereignty and integrity of India or public order**.

Supreme Court has recently stated that that public places cannot be occupied indefinitely for protests.

Q.80) Which of the following was/were the recommendation(s) of the **Justice J.S. Verma Committee**?

- 1. It rejected the proposal for chemical castration for crimes against women.
- 2. Electoral candidates should be disqualified for committing sexual offences.
- 3. It proposed death penalty for the offence of rape.

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: Justice Verma Committee was constituted to recommend amendments to the Criminal Law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing sexual assault against women. The Committee submitted its report in January 2013.

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Statement 1 is correct. The Committee **rejected the proposal for chemical castration** as it fails to treat the social foundations of rape.

Statement 2 is correct. The Committee recommended the amendment of the Representation of People Act, 1951. The Committee was of the opinion that filing of charge sheet and cognizance by the Court was sufficient for disqualification of a candidate under the Act. It further recommended that **candidates should be disqualified for committing sexual offences**.

Statement 3 is incorrect. It opined that **death penalty should not be awarded** for the offence of rape as there was considerable evidence that death penalty was not a deterrence to serious crimes. It recommended life imprisonment for rape.



Q.81) Consider the following statements regarding the **DNA barcoding**:

1. It is a methodology for rapidly and accurately identifying species by sequencing a short segment of standardized gene regions.
2. BIOSCAN is a global project that aims to generate barcode coverage for two million species.

Which of the 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. **DNA barcoding** is a methodology for rapidly and accurately identifying species by sequencing a short segment of standardized gene regions and comparing individual sequences to a reference database.

Statement 2 is correct. **International Barcode of Life (iBOL)**, a Canadian not-for-profit corporation, after successful completion of BARCODE 500K in 2015, has launched project BIOSCAN in 2019 to generate barcode coverage for two million species.

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Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and International Barcode of Life (iBOL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU will enable ZSI to participate at the Global level programmes like Bioscan and Planetary Biodiversity Mission.

Q.82) Consider the following statements regarding **Political parties** in India:

1. Registration of political parties is governed by the explicit provisions provided under the Constitution.

2. All registered political parties are eligible to raise funds through electoral bonds.

Which of the 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. **Registration of Political parties** is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Election Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

As per existing guidelines, the applicant association is asked to publish proposed Name of the party in two national daily newspapers and two local daily newspapers, on two days for submitting objections, if any, with regard to the proposed registration of the party before the Commission within 30 days from such publication. Notice so published is also displayed on the website of the Commission.

Election Commission of India has given a relaxation and has reduced the notice period from 30 days to 7 days for the parties who have published their public notice on or before 07.10.2020. This relaxation will remain in force till 20th October, 2020.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Any party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 and has **secured at least one per cent of the votes** polled in the most recent General elections or Assembly elections is eligible to receive electoral bonds.

The party is allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the electoral bond transactions can be made only through this account.

Q.83) What is “**Sagittarius A***” that has been in news recently?

- a) Nearest solar system to our solar system
- b) A supermassive compact object at the centre of Milky Way
- c) Nearest star to Sun
- d) An asteroid heading towards Earth's vicinity

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Sagittarius A*** is a bright and very compact astronomical radio source at the **Galactic Center of the Milky Way**. Based on mass and increasingly precise radius limits, astronomers have concluded that Sagittarius A* is the Milky Way's central supermassive black hole.

Nobel Prize 2020 (Physics) winners Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez each lead a group of astronomers that, since the early 1990s, has focused on a region called Sagittarius

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A* at the centre of our galaxy. Their pioneering work has produced the most convincing evidence yet of a **supermassive black hole** at the centre of the Milky Way.

Q.84) Varosha beach has been news recently, where is it located?

- a) Cyprus
- b) Israel
- c) Scotland
- d) Lebanon

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Varosha** is an abandoned southern quarter of the **Cypriot city of Famagusta**. Its inhabitants fled during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, after years of inter-ethnic violence culminating in a coup inspired by Greece's ruling military junta, Turkey invaded Cyprus and occupied the northern third of the island.

As its troops approached Varosha, a Greek-Cypriot community, the inhabitants fled, intending to return when the situation calmed down. However, the resort was fenced off by the Turkish military and has been a ghost town ever since.

A **UN resolution of 1984** calls for the handover of Varosha to UN control and prohibits any attempt to resettle it by anyone other than those who were forced out.



Northern Cyprus said on Tuesday it will reopen the beach area of an abandoned resort in no-man's land, a move condemned by Greek Cypriots. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed concern over Turkey's decision to reopen the beach of Varosha in Cyprus.

Q.85) Consider the following statements regarding the Universal Postal Union (UPU):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. India is a member country of UPU.

Which of the 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 **Universal Postal Union** established by the **Treaty of Bern of 1874**, is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations (UN). It is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.

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Statement 2 is correct. Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU. Any non-member country of the United Nations may become a UPU member provided that its request is approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries of the UPU.

India is also a member country of UPU with **India Post** as designated operator.

World Post Day is observed every year on October 9. It marks the anniversary of the establishment of Universal Postal Union.

Q.86) Which of the following is/are potential applications of **Calcium nitrate**?

1. Agricultural fertilizer
2. Waste water treatment
3. As baking soda

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: A

Explanation: **Calcium nitrate** also known as **Norwegian saltpeter** is mainly produced as a **fertilizer**, used for plant nutrition purposes, and for **wastewater treatment**. It is a source of both calcium and nitrogen, for plants.

'Calcium Nitrate' & 'Boronated Calcium Nitrate' is now being manufactured for the first time in India by Gujrat State Fertilizers and Chemicals -GSFC India Ltd. GSFC launched these two products in the retail market for the first time from Solan in Himachal Pradesh and Bhavnagar in Gujarat.

Sodium bicarbonate is commonly known as baking soda.

Q.87) Who among the following has been awarded with the **Nobel Peace Prize 2020**?

- a) Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict
- b) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- c) Abiy Ahmed Ali for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighboring Eritrea
- d) World Food Programme (WFP) for its efforts to combat hunger and contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Nobel Peace Prize 2020** has been awarded to **World Food Programme (WFP)** "for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict."

The **Nobel Peace Prize 2019**: Abiy Ahmed Ali "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighboring Eritrea".

The **Nobel Peace Prize 2018**: Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict".

The **Nobel Peace Prize 2017**: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) "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".

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Q.88) Consider the following statements regarding the **RUDRAM** missile:

1. It is an Anti-Radiation Missile indigenously developed in India.
2. It can detect, classify and engage targets over a wide band of frequencies.

Which of the 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 **RUDRAM** is first indigenous anti-radiation missile of the country being developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

It is a **new generation Anti-Radiation Missile** and was successfully Flight tested recently onto a radiation target located on Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

Statement 2 is correct. It has **INS-GPS navigation** with Passive Homing Head for the final attack. The RUDRAM hit the radiation target with pin-point accuracy.

The Passive Homing Head can detect, classify and engage targets over a **wide band of frequencies** as programmed.

Q.89) Consider the following statements regarding the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)** for Electronics Manufacturing:

1. It provides a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain in India.
2. The scheme covers all electronics items manufacturing in India except mobile phones.

Which of the 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 **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)** for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain including electronic components and semiconductor packaging.

Incentive: The Scheme extends an incentive of **4% to 6% on incremental sales** (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year 2019-20.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Scheme is only applicable for target segments namely **mobile phones and specified electronic components**.

Specified Electronic Components: SMT components, Discrete semiconductor devices including transistors, diodes, thyristors, etc., Passive components including resistors, capacitors, etc. for electronic applications, Printed Circuit Boards (PCB), PCB laminates, prepregs, photopolymer films, PCB printing inks, Sensors, transducers, actuators, crystals for electronic applications, System in Package (SIP), Micro or Nano-electronic components such as Micro Electromechanical Systems (MEMS) and Nano Electromechanical Systems (NEMS), and Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.

Q.90) The **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** is a branch of which of the following fields of study?

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- a) Artificial Intelligence
- b) Object Oriented Programming language
- c) Space Technology Development
- d) Biodiversity Conservation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** is a branch of **artificial intelligence** that deals with the interaction between computers and humans using the natural language. The ultimate objective of NLP is to read, decipher, understand, and make sense of the human languages in a manner that is valuable. Most NLP techniques rely on machine learning to derive meaning from human languages.

Q.91) Consider the following statements regarding the **H-CNG**:

1. It is a blend of hydrogen and CNG, the hydrogen concentration being 18 percent.
2. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has allowed use of H-CNG in CNG engines.

Which of the 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. CNG is compressed natural gas. **Natural Gas** is mainly composed of methane, it emits less air pollutants — carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter — than petrol or diesel.

H-CNG is a blend of hydrogen and CNG, the ideal hydrogen concentration being **18%**. Tests by the Automotive Research Association of India and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) have found that compared to conventional CNG, use of H-CNG can reduce emission of carbon monoxide up to 70%, besides enabling up to 5% savings in fuel.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has recently allowed use of **H-CNG (18% mix of hydrogen) in CNG engines**. A notification for amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, for inclusion of H-CNG as an automotive fuel has been published by the Ministry.

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has also developed specifications (IS 17314:2019) of Hydrogen enriched Compressed Natural Gas (H-CNG) for automotive purposes, as a fuel. Certain CNG-engine were tested to understand the emission reduction using H-CNG as compared to 'neat' CNG.

Q.92) Consider the following statements regarding the **Nagorno-Karabakh** region:

1. It is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.
2. It is bordered by Caspian Sea in the East.

Which of the 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 region is internationally recognised as part of **Azerbaijan** but controlled by ethnic **Armenians**.

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After the end of World War I and the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, the new Soviet rulers established the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, with an ethnic Armenian majority, within the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan in the early 1920s.

In 1988, towards the end of Soviet rule, Azerbaijani troops and Armenian secessionists began a violent war which left the de facto independent state in the hands of ethnic Armenians when a truce was signed in 1994.

Negotiations have so far failed to produce a permanent peace agreement

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a **landlocked mountainous region**.



Q.93) Which of the following correctly defines the term '**monopsony**'?

- a) A single enterprise is being supplier of a particular commodity or service
- b) An industry being dominated by a small group of large suppliers
- c) An industry being dominated by small group of buyers
- d) A single buyer substantially controlling the market

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A **monopsony** is a market condition in which there is only one buyer, the monopsonist. It is a market structure in which a single buyer substantially controls the market as the major purchaser of goods and services offered by many would-be sellers.

An **oligopoly** is a market structure in which a few firms dominate. When a market is shared between a few firms, it is said to be highly concentrated.

A **monopoly** contains a single firm that produces goods with no close substitute.

Q.94) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Vigyan Jyoti scheme encourages women scientists to pursue research in frontier areas of science and engineering, on problems of societal relevance.
- 2. KIRAN scheme aims to encourage girls in high school pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in higher 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: D

Explanation: Scheme objectives have been interchanged in the given statements.

Vigyan Jyoti Scheme is intended to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in their higher education. It also offers exposure for girl students from the rural background to help to plan their journey from school to a job of their choice in the field of science.

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Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN): women scientists are being encouraged to pursue research in frontier areas of science and engineering, on problems of societal relevance and to take up S&T-based internship followed by self-employment.

Q.95) Which of the following most correctly defines **MICE Tourism**?

- a) Travelling for business purposes
- b) Tourism in wilderness environments
- c) Tourism product tailored for a particular audience/market segment
- d) Historical sites and monuments tourist attractions

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In tourism, travelling for business is referred to as **MICE tourism**; which stands for **Meetings, Incentives, Conference/ Conventions and Exhibitions/ Events**.

It is also referred to as the Meetings Industry. The travel sellers specializing in MICE are usually affiliated with large corporate agencies because it requires advance planning and organization. There are Conventions and Visitor Bureau (CVB), India Convention promotion Bureau (ICPB) and others, which are working for the promotion of MICE in India.

Q.96) Belarus is bordered by which of the following country(s)?

- 1. Russia
- 2. Ukraine
- 3. Lithuania

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: Belarus is a landlocked country bordered by **Russia** - its former imperial master - to the east and **Ukraine** to the south. To the north and west lie EU and NATO members **Latvia**, **Lithuania** and **Poland**.



President Lukashenko, an ally of Russia, nicknamed "Europe's last dictator", has been in power for 26 years.

Recently, there has been an opposition movement, demanding new, democratic leadership and economic reform. They say Lukashenko rigged the 9 August election - officially, he won by a landslide.

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Q.97) Which of the following is/are ‘Global Commons’?

1. High Seas
2. Atmosphere
3. Antarctica

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: Global commons have been traditionally defined as those parts of the planet that fall **outside national jurisdictions** and to which all nations have access.

International law identifies four global commons, namely the **High Seas, the Atmosphere, the Antarctica and the Outer Space**. These resource domains are guided by the principle of the common heritage of mankind.

The international conventions and treaties to govern global commons include:

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982 and instruments governed by the International Maritime Organization and UNEP’s Regional Seas Conventions to govern the high seas;
- Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) ensuring the protection of the Antarctica fauna and flora;
- A multitude of international environmental treaties that administer and protect the atmosphere and deal with the air pollution and atmospheric depletion, like the UNFCCC and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;
- The Treaty on Principles governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

Q.98) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cat Que Virus**:

1. Domestic pigs are considered to be the primary mammalian hosts for CQV.
2. Humans can get infected through mosquitoes carrying CQV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The presence of the **Cat Que virus** has been largely reported in **Culex mosquitoes** in China and in **pigs** in Vietnam.

The **domestic pigs** are considered to be the primary mammalian hosts for CQV.

CQV belongs to the Simbu serogroup and infects both humans and economically important livestock species. **Humans** can get infected through **mosquitoes** as well.

In a study published in July in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, scientists from the Pune-based Maximum Containment Laboratory and ICMR-National Institute of Virology have noted the presence of antibodies against the Cat Que virus (CQV) in two human serum samples.

Q.99) Consider the following statements regarding the **Food Loss Index (FLI)**:

1. It examines the food loss along supply activities such as production, handling & storage, and processing.
2. It has been developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

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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: Sustainable Development Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. SDG Target 12.3 seeks to halve global food waste at retail and consumer levels, as well as to reduce food loss during production and supply. In order to measure food waste and losses, two indices have been proposed: **Food Waste Index (FWI)** and **Food Loss Index (FLI)**.

Statement 1 is correct. The Food Loss Index examines the food loss along **supply activities** such as production, handling & storage, and processing. It focuses on food losses that occur from production up to (and not including) the retail level. It measures the changes in percentage losses for a basket of 10 main commodities by country in comparison with a base period.

Statement 2 is incorrect. To monitor SDG Target 12.3, **Food and Agriculture Organization** has created the Food Loss Index (FLI). The focus of the indicator is on percentages of food removed from the supply chain.

Further, the **Food Waste Index** is currently in development at UN Environment. The FWI will measure tons of wasted food per capita, considering a mixed stream of products from processing through to consumption.

Q.100) Which of the following constitute the **internal debt of the Central Government**?

- 1. Treasury Bills
- 2. Non-marketable securities issued by Central Government

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Public Debt denotes liabilities payable by the Central Government, which are contracted against the Consolidated Fund of India, as provided under Article 292 of the Constitution of India. It has been further classified under two heads, i.e., Internal Debt and External Debt.

Internal debt of the Central Government consists of marketable securities and nonmarketable securities.

- Marketable securities include fixed tenor and fixed/ floating rate **dated securities**, and short-term borrowings through **treasury bills**.

- **Nonmarketable securities** in internal debt are the special Central Government securities issued to National Small Savings Fund (NSSF), securities issued to international financial institutions, special securities issued against securitisation of balances under postal insurance and annuity funds (POLIF and RPOLIF), compensation & other bonds, special securities issued to public sector banks/ EXIM Bank and 14-day Intermediate Treasury Bills.

Q.101) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Information Technology Act 2000 explicitly prohibits online Betting and Gambling in India.

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2. The Public Gambling Act 1867 which provides for punishment of public gambling does not apply to games of skill.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Information Technology Act 2000** regulates cyber activities in India and provides for offences in cyber domain does not provide for explicit prohibition on Gambling or Betting.

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

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

Q.102) Consider the following statements regarding the **voting rights in India**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Article 326** of the Constitution provides for the elections to the House of the People (not both houses) and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.

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

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

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

Q.103) Recently government has **banned certain mobile applications** in India by invoking which of the following statutory law?

- a) Information Technology Act
- b) National Security Act
- c) Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act
- d) Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

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Correct answer: A

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

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

Q.104) Consider the following statements regarding the **Repurchase (buyback) of Government securities**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

Q.105) Consider the following statement regarding the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad** is an informal strategic forum between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by semi-regular summits and information exchanges among the member countries.

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

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

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Q.106) Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution of India provides for fundamental right of an accused against forced self-incrimination.
2. India has incorporated the relevant provisions against torture in its criminal laws after ratifying the UN Convention against Torture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Constitution provides fundamental right against the forced self-incrimination by the accused under **article 20(3)** which states that no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India signed the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1997 but has **not ratified** it so far.

21st Law Commission under Justice B.S. Chauhan (retd.) recommended on implementation of convention by legislation. It proposed amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. In addition, the Commission submitted a draft Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017 which defines acts that should constitute torture and prescribed punishments for such acts.

Q.107) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Farzad B Gas Field - Iran
2. Baghjan Oil Field - India
3. Ghawar Oil Field - Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above gas/oil fields are correctly matched.

Farzad B Gas Field is located in Persian Gulf under the control of Iran. India has plans to invest in the exploration of this oilfield.

Baghjan Oil field is in Tinsukia district of Assam. Recently a massive fire engulfed the damaged Baghjan oil well in Assam.

Ghawar Oil Field is located in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, owned and operated by state-owned Saudi Aramco. It is one of the largest conventional oil field in the world, and accounts for roughly a third of the cumulative oil production of Saudi Arabia.

Q.108) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the **Community transmission** of a disease?

- a) Community has achieved Herd Immunity
- b) Source of infection for a person is not traceable
- c) The infecting virus strain is not identifiable
- d) None of the above

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation: A disease is said to be in **Community transmission** stage when there is no clear source of origin of the infection in a new person/community. It can no longer be identified who became infected after being exposed to someone, who interacted with infected people.

The source and chain of infections can no longer be established. Therefore, contact tracing becomes difficult and has limited use in arresting the spread of disease.

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. This can happen in two ways: Many people contract the disease and in time build up an immune response to it (natural immunity) or many people are vaccinated against the disease to achieve immunity.

Q.109) Which of the following statement correctly defines the term '**Immunogenicity**'?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

Q.110) What is the mandate of the **KV Kamath Committee** formed by the Reserve Bank of India?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

Q.111) Consider the following statements regarding the **ACE2 receptor**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

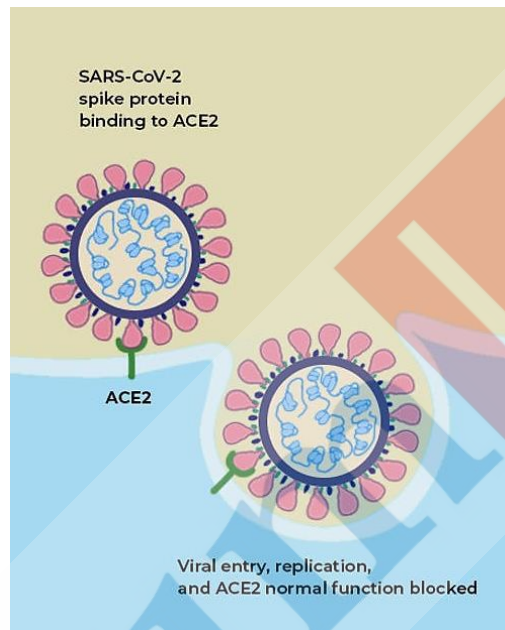
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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



Q.112) Consider the following statements regarding the **Antigen tests** for disease diagnosis:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The sample for the rapid **Antigen test** is taken through a Nasal or throat swab. The Antibody test on the other hand requires a blood sample.

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

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

Q.113) What is '**Loya Jirga**', that was in news recently?

- a) A Tibetan ancient immunity booster herbal combination

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

Q.114) Consider the following statements regarding **Monetary Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In May 2016, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934** was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q.115) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**:

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

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

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

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

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

Q.116) India is part of which of the following group(s) or alliance(s)?

- 1. Quad
- 2. MIKTA
- 3. Five Eyes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

Q.117) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

Q.118) The **contaminated water and poor sanitation** are linked to transmission of which of the following disease(s)?

1. Cholera
2. Hepatitis A
3. Typhoid

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

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

Data Source: World Health Organisation Website.

Q.119) Consider the following statements regarding the **AstroSat**:

1. It is first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
 2. AstroSat is orbiting Earth in a Geo-Synchronous Orbit.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **AstroSat** is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources **in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands** simultaneously.

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

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

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

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

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

Q.120) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

Q.121) Who among the following has been awarded the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2020**?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

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

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Q.122) Which of the following is/are related to the **Israel-Palestine** dispute resolution?

1. Oslo Accords
2. Arab Peace Initiative

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

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



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Q.123) Consider the following statements regarding the **Right to Information Act**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

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

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

Q.124) Which of the following country(s) is/are members of the **Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)**?

1. Iran
2. Russia
3. Pakistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Q.125) Which of the following institution has released the **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020**?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

*Health + education + social protection

Q.126) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Government has constituted **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog** by a **resolution** in February, 2019 under **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.

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

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

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

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

Q.127) The **INAI** is an India specific applied AI research centre initiative of which of the following institution/company?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

Q.128) What is the purpose of the **MOSAiC Expedition**?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

Q.129) Consider the following statements regarding the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

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

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

Q.130) Which of the following institution has released the '**Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019**' report?

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

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Correct answer: C

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

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

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

Q.131) Consider the following statements regarding the **Governor of a State**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

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

Term of office of Governor: The Governor shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**. The Governor may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office and a Governor shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that a Governor shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Article 153 states that **there shall be a Governor for each State**:

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

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

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

Q.132) Consider the following statements regarding the **High Courts** in India:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 215** states that every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

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

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

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

Q.133) Which of the following program(s) provide impetus to **mobile phone manufacturing** in India?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

Q.134) Consider the following statements:

1. 'Opposition' refers to an event when Sun, Earth and an outer planet are lined up, with the Earth in the middle.
2. Mars has made its closest approach of twenty first century to Earth in October 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

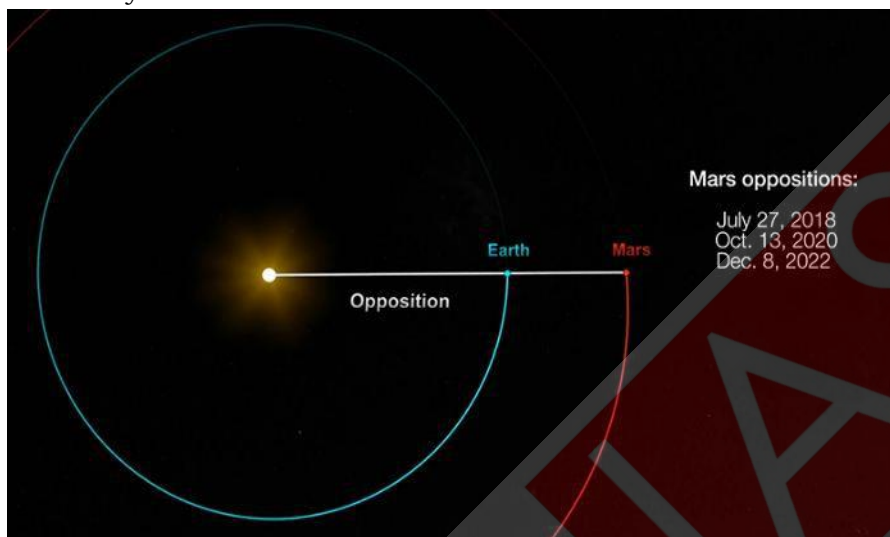
Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. '**Opposition**' is the event when the Sun, Earth and an outer planet are lined up, with the Earth in the middle. Mars opposition event is when Mars is directly on the opposite side of Earth from the Sun. During this opposition, Mars and Earth are closest to each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

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

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

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



Q.135) Which of the following institution has recently published the '**World Economic Outlook: A Long and Difficult Ascent**'?

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

Correct answer: C

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

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



Q.136) Consider the following statements regarding **Biofortification**:

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

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

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

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

Examples of biofortification projects include:

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

Q.137) Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the **Five Eyes (FVEY)** group?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

Q.138) Consider the following statements regarding the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Cabinet has recently approved the implementation of the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project with a total project cost of Rs 5718 crore with the financial support of **World Bank** amounting to US \$ 500 million.

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

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

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

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

Q.139) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term **Aquaponics**?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

Q.140) Which of the following organization conducts the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**?

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

Correct answer: A

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

The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of industrial statistics in India. It provides statistical information to assess and evaluate, objectively and realistically, the changes in the growth, composition and structure of organized manufacturing sector comprising activities related to manufacturing processes, repair services, gas and water supply and cold storage.

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

Q.141) Where is **Asan Conservation Reserve** located?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

Q.142) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Food Programme (WFP)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

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

Q.143) Consider the following statements regarding the **State Development Loans (SDL)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **Government Security (G-Sec)** is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.

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

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

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

Q.144) Which of the following is/are **inherited blood disorders**?

1. Thalassemia
2. Sickle Cell Disease

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

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

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

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

Q.145) Consider the following statements regarding the **New Shepherd rocket system**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

It has recently completed its seventh successful test launch.

Q.146) Which of the following organisation has released the '**State of Climate Services 2020**' report?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

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

Q.147) Consider the following statements regarding the **SCALE platform** launched by Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC):

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

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

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

Q.148) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2019**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study** is the most comprehensive worldwide observational epidemiological study to date. It is led by the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, Seattle (USA)**.

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

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

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

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

Q.149) What is the objective of the recently launched '**KAPILA**' Kalam Program?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention and they will be aware of their rights. He further said that we need to take a giant leap in the field of patents.

Q.150) Which of the following statements correctly defines the **M-Sand**?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

Q.151) Consider the following statements regarding the **Solidarity Trial**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Solidarity is an international clinical trial** to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19, launched by the **World Health Organization** and partners.

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

Q.152) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. In order to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a **citizen** of India and must have been, for at least five years, a

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

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

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

Q.153) Consider the following statements regarding the reorganization of the erstwhile **Jammu and Kashmir State**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** reorganized the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature, and the Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature.

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

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

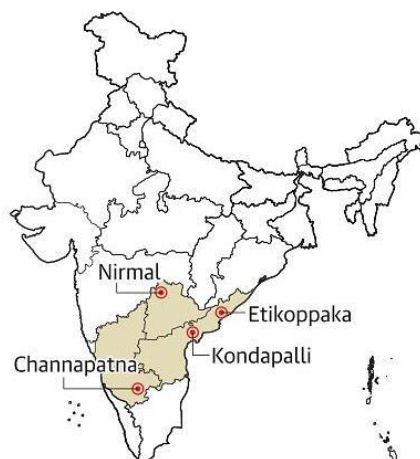
Statement 2 is correct. The Act provided that the **High Court** of Jammu and Kashmir will be the common High Court for the Union Territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir. Further, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have an Advocate General to provide legal advice to the government of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

Q.154) The **Channapatna toys** belong to which State?

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

Correct answer: D

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



Q.155) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Hunger Index 2020**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

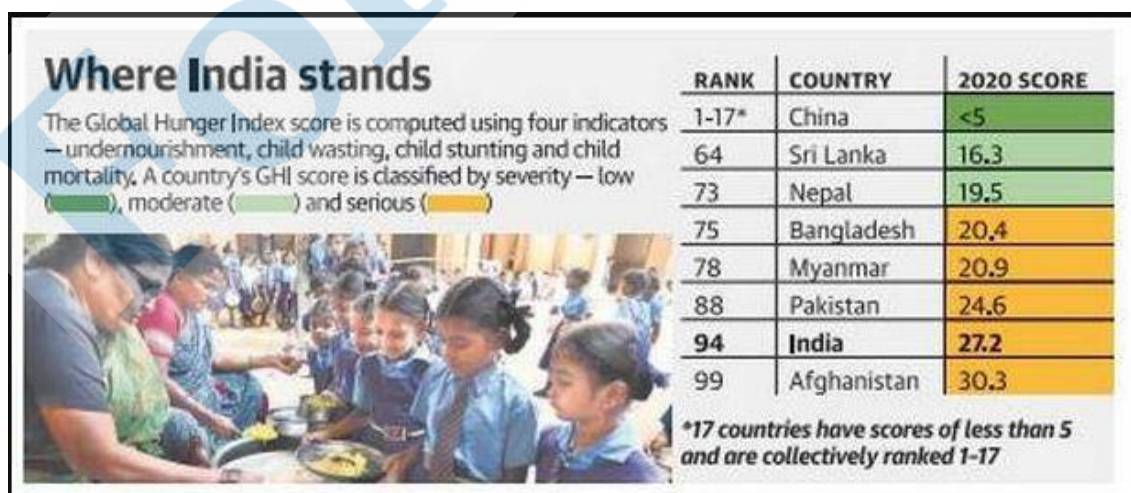
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: D

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

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

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



Q.156) Consider the following statements regarding **Trans fats**:

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

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

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

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

Q.157) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gov Tech-Thon 2020**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Gov Tech-Thon 2020** aims to incubate new ideas, boost innovation and use technology in agriculture and allied sectors. The virtual hackathon is open to students, working professionals, startups, freelance technologists, faculty, and other IT service firms in India.

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

Q.158) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tropical cyclones**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Q.159) Which of the following is/are **RAMSAR Wetland Sites** in India?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

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

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

Q.160) The **Dumbarton Oaks Conference** relates to which of the following issue?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

Q.161) Which of the beach(s) of India have received the **Blue flag** certification?

1. Rushikonda
2. Golden Beach
3. Radhanagar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

Q.162) Consider the following statements regarding **Brahma Kamal**:

1. It is endemic to Western Ghats of India.
 2. It is the State Flower of Maharashtra.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

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

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

State Flower of Maharashtra is Jarul.

Q.163) India is party to which of the following convention/agreement?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Developed under the framework of the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** and administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), AEWA brings together countries and the wider international conservation community in an effort to

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establish coordinated conservation and management of migratory waterbirds throughout their entire migratory range.

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

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

Q.164) The **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following State/UT?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

Q.165) Which of the following is/are '**priorities for action**' under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

Q.166) Consider the following statements regarding the **SVAMITVA Scheme**:

- 1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- 2. The scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **SVAMITVA Scheme** is a Central Sector scheme. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the scheme.

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

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

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

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

Q.167) Krishna Peacock, Indian Jezebel, and Orange Oakleaf have been in news recently, what are they?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

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

Q.168) What does Phillips Curve indicate?

- a) Inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment
- b) Income inequality
- c) Relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue

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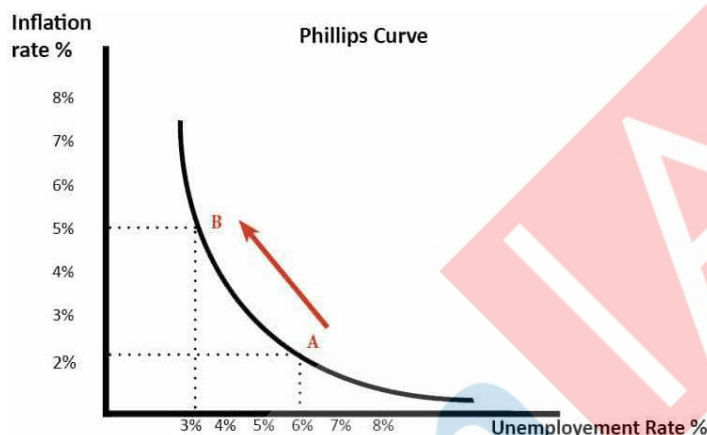
d) Impossible trilemma of exchange rate, capital flow and autonomous monetary policy

Correct answer: A

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

A Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of income inequality.

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



Q.169) Consider the following statements regarding the **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**:

1. It is being implemented under National Health Mission by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)** is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country. This is being implemented under **National Health Mission (NHM)** by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

Q.170) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fishing Cat**:

1. It is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **fishing cat** is a medium-sized wild cat of South and Southeast Asia. It is resident species in Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand.

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

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

Q.171) Which of the following correctly defines the '**Buldhana Pattern**' of water conservation that was in news recently?

- a) Precision water conservation of dew
- b) Synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation
- c) Sprinkle irrigation of farms using drone technology
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: B

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

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

Q.172) Which of the following **treatment options (s)** was/were used in **Solidarity Trial for COVID-19**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

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

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

Q.173) Which of the following organization has published the **Global Tuberculosis Report 2020**?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: WHO has published a global TB report every year since 1997. The main aim of the report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global, regional and country levels.

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

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

Q.174) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** of India:

1. It is conducted annually by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It is a multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** is not an annual survey. The **First** National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1) was conducted in 1992-93. The **Second** National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2) was conducted in 1998-99. The **Third** National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) was carried out in 2005-2006.

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

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

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

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

Q.175) Which of the following is/are **qualifications for appointment as Governor** provided under the Constitution?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. No person shall be eligible for appointment as Governor unless he is a citizen of India and has completed the age of thirty-five years. [Article 57]
Option 2 is incorrect. There is no such limitation provided for under the Constitution.
Option 3 is correct. The Governor shall not hold any other office of profit. [Article 158(2)]

Q.176) The '**End SARS**' protests have been in news recently in which of the following country?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Q.177) One can approach the **National Green Tribunal** for seeking relief and compensation under which of the following legislations?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: D

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

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

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

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

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

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Q.178) Which of the following committee(s) relate to **criminal law reforms** in India?

1. Malimath Committee

2. Ranbir Singh Committee

3. K. Kasturirangan Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 3 only

d) 1 and 3 only

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

Q.179) Consider the following statements regarding the **Supreme Court** of India:

1. Constitution empowers the President to refer a question of law of public importance to the Supreme Court for consideration.

2. The Supreme Court may transfer any case proceedings pending before any High Court to any other High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Supreme Court** may, if it deems it expedient so to do for the ends of justice, **transfer any case**, appeal or other proceedings pending before any High Court to any other High Court. [Article 139A (2)]

Statement 2 is correct. If at any time it appears to the **President** that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may

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refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President. [Article 143(1)]

Q.180) What is the **Kármán line**?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

Q.181) Consider the following statements regarding the **Exercise Malabar**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It is not held on Malabar coast every year.

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

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

Q.182) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ayushman Sahakar** scheme:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Ayushman Sahakar** scheme aims to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of **healthcare infrastructure** in the country. Ayushman Sahakar specifically covers establishment, modernization, expansion, repairs, renovation of hospital and healthcare and education infrastructure encompassing: Statement 2 is correct. It will be implemented/funded by the **NCDC**. Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund. NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.

Q.183) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Moushik**' microprocessor:

1. Its applications include smart cards like credit and debit cards.
 2. Its design and fabrication have been done indigenously in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

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

Q.184) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

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Q.185) Consider the following statements regarding the **Heeng (asafoetida)** production in India:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

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

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

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

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

Q.186) Which of the following is/are source(s) of **Vitamin A**?

1. Milk
2. Eggs
3. Fish oil

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

Q.187) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**:

1. IFSCA is a statutory regulatory body.
2. It is empowered to exercise the powers of Reserve Bank of India in respect of the international financial services centres in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** is a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs established by an Act of Parliament to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services and financial institutions located / performed in the International Financial Services Centres in India.

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

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

Q.188) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term 'Regulatory Sandbox'?

- a) Live testing of new products or services in a controlled regulatory environment
- b) Regulatory framework for sand mining in India
- c) Regulatory body exclusive for internet-based entities
- d) Regulatory mechanism for globally operating entities

Correct answer: A

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

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

Q.189) Which of the following is/are potential benefits of using **Neem Coated Urea** in farms?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

Q.190) Consider the following statements regarding the **Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q.191) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched **Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **NITI Aayog** recently announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**.

Statement 2 is correct. This CIC is part of the **AWS CIC Global Program**, which provides an opportunity for government agencies, non-profits, and educational institutions, to come

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together on pressing challenges, apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technology expertise of AWS.

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

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

Q.192) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tourism sector** of India:

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

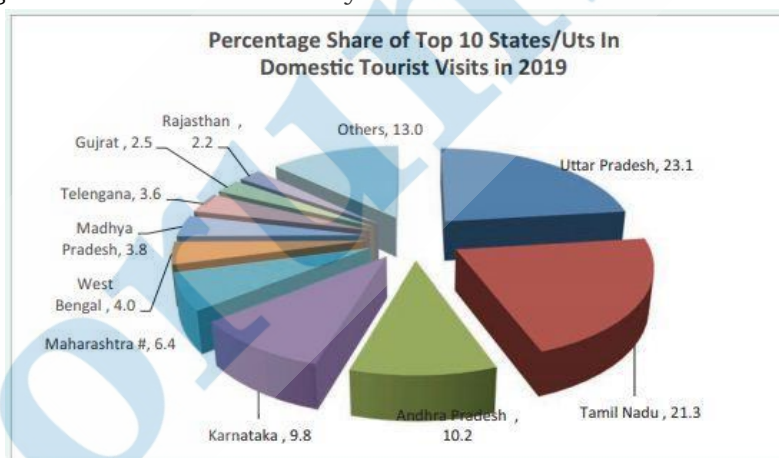
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

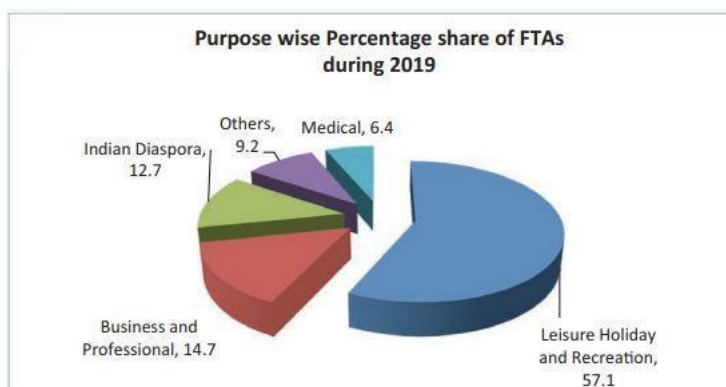
Correct answer: A

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

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



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



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Q.193) Which of the following is/are components of the **Jal Jeevan Mission**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

The components supported under JJM include:

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

Q.194) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bharatmala Pariyojana**:

1. It focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
2. It aims to promote port-led development in the country by harnessing India's coastline.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Bharatmala Pariyojana** is an umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.

A multi-modal logistic park is being developed in Assam under the *Bharatmala Pariyojana*.

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

Q.195) Which of the following is/are potential benefits of incoming **Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)** in a country?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q.196) What is the objective of recently launched **CuRED online platform**?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

Q.197) Consider the following statements regarding the **LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

Q.198) The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project** is proposed on which of the following River?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

Q.199) Which of the following states are bordered by the State of **Mizoram**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

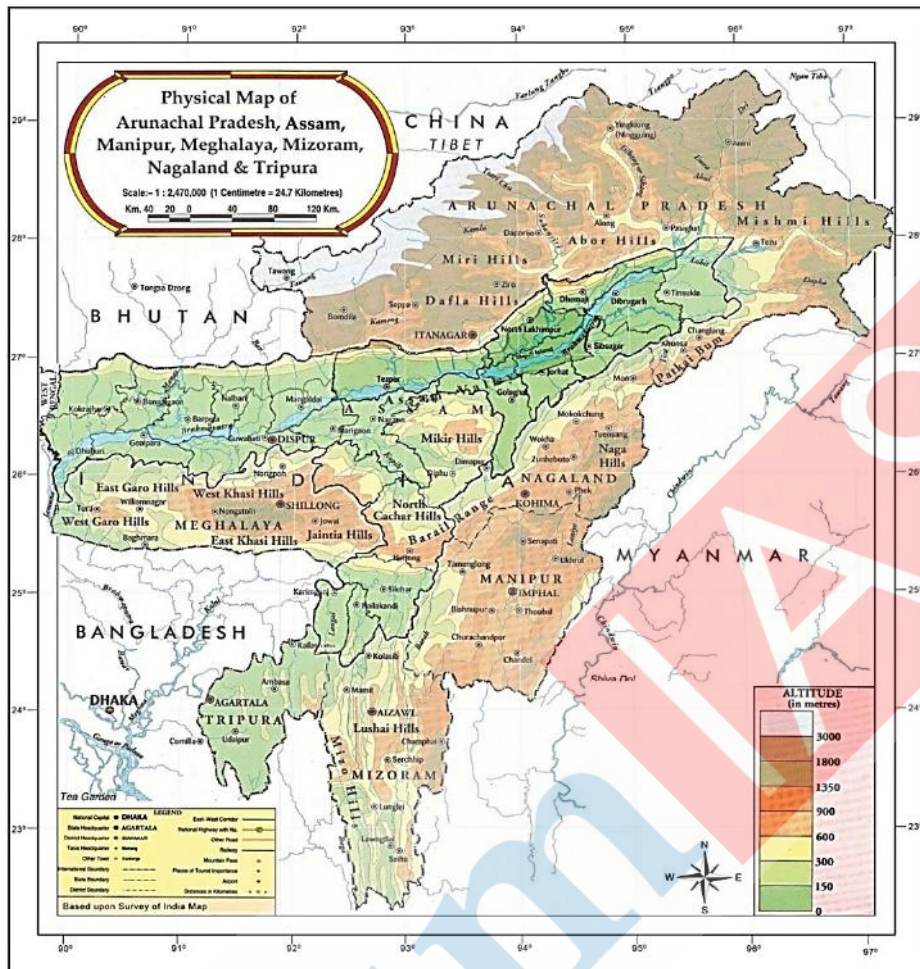
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

Q.200) Which of the following organization has published the **Future of Jobs Report 2020**?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

--The pace of technology adoption is expected to remain unabated and may accelerate in some areas.

--Automation, in tandem with the COVID-19 recession, is creating a ‘double-disruption’ scenario for workers. In addition to the current disruption from the pandemic-induced lockdowns and economic contraction, technological adoption by companies will transform tasks, jobs and skills by 2025.

--Although the number of jobs destroyed will be surpassed by the number of 'jobs of tomorrow' created, in contrast to previous years, job creation is slowing while job destruction accelerates.

--In the absence of proactive efforts, inequality is likely to be exacerbated by the dual impact of technology and the pandemic recession.

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Q.201) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

Q.202) Which of the following is/are located in **Bolivia**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. **Lake Titicaca** is located on the border between northern **Bolivia** and southern **Peru**.

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

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



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Q.203) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

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

Q.204) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cost Inflation Index (CII)**:

1. It calculates the increase in the price of goods due to inflation year-by-year.
2. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is responsible for notifying the CII every year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

Q.205) Consider the following statements regarding the **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** scheme:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **RCS-UDAN, "Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik"** is a Government of India's flagship program which aims to provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes. This Regional Connectivity Scheme offers unique opportunity to a common man to fly at an affordable price.

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

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

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

Q.206) Consider the following statements regarding the **Provisional Government of 'Azad Hind'**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Q.207) Arrange the following events chronologically in the year 1947:

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

Q.208) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Strait of Hormuz** is a strait between the **Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman**. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.

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

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

Q.209) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVIRAP** diagnostic test:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

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Q.210) Who among the following has written the treatise of **Chandah-Sutra**?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

Halayudha's commentary includes a presentation of Pascal's triangle (called meruprastāra).

Pingala's work also includes material related to the Fibonacci numbers, called matrameru.

Q.211) Which of the following is/are **diagnostic kits** for **COVID-19**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. **COVIRAP diagnostic kit** using a low-cost portable unit developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

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

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

Q.212) What is **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)**?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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Q.213) Consider the following statements regarding the **Positron emission tomography (PET)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **Positron Emission Tomography (PET)** scan is an imaging test that helps reveal how the tissues and organs in the body are functioning.

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

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

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

Q.214) Consider the following statements regarding the **Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

Q.215) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian miniature painting**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

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

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

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

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

Q.216) Consider the following statements regarding the **INS Kavaratti**:

1. It is a nuclear powered Scorpene-class submarine of India.
2. It is an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette indigenously built in India.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **“INS Kavaratti” is a Project 28 (Kamorta class) Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette.**

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

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

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

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

Q.217) What is the utility of the **e-Dharti Geo Portal**?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **e-Dharti Geo Portal is GIS based mapping** of each and every Government property under Land & Development Office (L&DO), whether it is allotted or still lying

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vacant. Through this portal the Lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of his/her property along with map showing its location.

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

Q.218) Consider the following statements regarding the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The principle of **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** was agreed at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and is a facility granted to developing countries ("beneficiary countries") by certain developed countries ("donor countries"). It is not negotiated with them: the preferential treatment is non-reciprocal.

Statement 2 is correct. The **UNCTAD website** mentions that the following 13 countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Q.219) Consider the following statements regarding the **State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020)** report:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

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

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Q.220) Consider the following statements regarding the **Osiris-Rex** spacecraft:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

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

Q.221) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

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

--It covers every establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed (and certain other establishments which may be notified by the Central Government even if they employ less than 20 persons each), subject to certain conditions and exemptions as provided for in the Act.

--The pay ceiling is Rs.15000/- per month. Persons drawing pay above Rs. 15,000/- are exempted or can be enrolled with some permission or on voluntary basis.

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

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--ESI Scheme for India is an integrated social security scheme for the workers in the organized sector and their dependents, in contingencies, such as Sickness, Maternity and Death or Disablement due to an employment injury or occupational hazard.

--The wage ceiling is Rs.21000/- per month. Subscribers are termed as Insured Persons (IP) and a new IP number can also arise due to change in employment.

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

-- From 1st January 2004, the Central and the State Governments have adopted this scheme for new employees except for armed forces.

--NPS was **extended to Corporate Sector from 2009** onwards and it provides platform for Corporates to make co-contribution in NPS accounts of their subscribers or facilitate them to make their own contributions for their NPS accounts.

Q.222) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prevention of Corruption Act:**

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

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

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

Q.223) Which of the following subject(s) is/are listed in the **Concurrent List** under the Constitution?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are listed in the Concurrent List under Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. In the Concurrent list;

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

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

Entry 38 is Electricity.

Q.224) Which of the following is/are **Anti-Tank missiles** of India?

1. ASTRA
2. Nag Missile
3. SANT Missile

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

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

Q.225) Consider the following statements regarding the **monoclonal antibodies**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

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

Q.226) The **Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs)** are released by which of the following organisation?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

Q.227) Which of the following country(s) is/are currently named as '**High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action**' by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

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Q.228) Consider the following statements regarding **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**:

1. It was set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
 2. The Fund aims for equal balance between mitigation and adaptation investments.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** was set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010.

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

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

Q.229) The **World Happiness Report 2020** has been published by which of the following organisation?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

Q.230) As of today [24-10-2020], which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Q.231) Which of the following indicator(s) is/are measured under the **Global Hunger Index (GHI)**?

1. Undernutrition
2. Child wasting
3. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q.232) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

Q.233) Which of the following electoral constituency has the highest **ceiling on poll expenditure**?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

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

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

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

Q.234) Consider the following statements regarding **FELUDA test for COVID-19**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

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Q.235) Who among the following takes oath to “**preserve, protect and defend the Constitution**”?

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

Correct answer: A

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

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

Q.236) The **Nazca (Nasca) lines** are found in which country?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

Q.237) Consider the following statements regarding the **Soil-transmitted helminths (STH)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

Q.238) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Dr. Abdul Kalam Island - Odisha
2. Gahirmatha Beach - Andhra Pradesh
3. Swaraj Dweep - Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

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

Q.239) Consider the following statements regarding the **Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

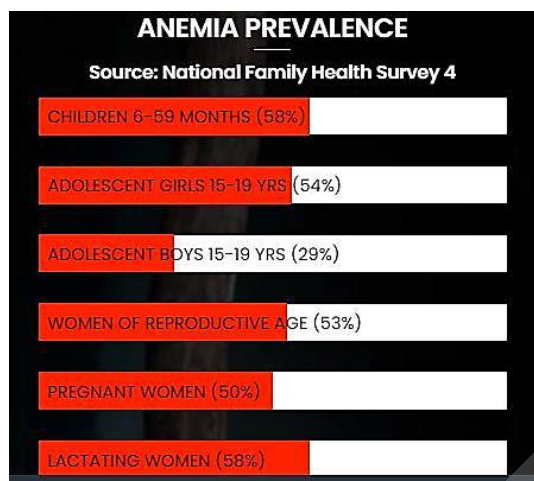
Correct answer: B

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

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

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

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

Q.240) Which of the following **Indian naval project(s)** is/are correctly matched?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q.241) What are **Safe water releaser (SWAS)** and **Safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL)** that have been in news recently?

- a) Greywater treatment modules
- b) Less Polluting Firecrackers
- c) Habitable outer space environment modules
- d) Artificial Intelligence based irrigation system

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: CSIR scientists had developed **Less Polluting Firecrackers** which are not only environment friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional ones. These crackers have been named as **safe water releaser (SWAS)**, **safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL)** and **safe thermite cracker (STAR)**.

SWAS crackers eliminates usage of (KNO₃) Potassium nitrate and Sulphur with consequent reduction in particulate matter (30-35%) SO₂ and NO_x. It has matching sound intensity with commercial crackers in the range of 105-110 dBA.

STAR eliminates usage of KNO₃ and S with consequent reduction in particulate matter (35-40%), SO₂ and NO_x. It has matching sound intensity with commercial crackers in the range of 105-110 dBA.

SAFAL has minimal usage of aluminium (only in flash powder for initiation) with consequent significant reduction in particulate matter (35-40 %) compared to commercial crackers.

Q.242) Consider the following statements:

1. Brown bears are endemic to Himalayan range.
2. Himalayan brown bear is listed in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the 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. **Brown bears** are not endemic to Himalaya, rather various subspecies of the Brown bear are found in Europe, Russia, Himalaya and Alaska. Statement 2 is correct. **Himalayan Brown bear** (Ursus Arctos) is listed in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. The Brown Bear (Ursus arctos) is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List.

A recent study by Zoological Survey of India on the Himalayan brown bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus) has predicted a significant reduction in suitable habitat and biological corridors of the species in the climate change scenario.

Q.243) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)**:

1. It is a statutory body constituted under Environment Protection Act 1984.
2. The Prime Minister is the chairperson of the board.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** is a statutory body constituted under **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. The functions of the board are also enumerated under the act.

The WPA mandates that without the approval/recommendation of the NBWL, construction of tourist lodges, alteration of the boundaries of PAs, destruction or diversion of wildlife habitat and de-notification of Tiger Reserves, cannot be done.

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Statement 2 is correct. The **Prime minister** is the chairperson of the board while Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change is the Vice-Chairperson.

Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025 has been approved by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) recently.

Q.244) Consider the following statements regarding the '**yellow dust**' blowing from China recently:

1. It is the sand from Thar Desert that blows into North and South Korea through China.
2. World Health Organisation has issued advisory warning the spread of SARS-CoV-2 through this dust.

Which of the 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. **Yellow dust** refers to sand from **Mongolian and Chinese deserts** that blow into North and South Korea at certain times of the year. It is intermingled with toxic dust that for years has raised health concerns in both countries. Statement 2 is incorrect. WHO has not issued any such advisory.

North Korea has though warned its citizens to stay indoors over fears that "yellow dust" which blows in from China could bring coronavirus with it.

The US Centres for Disease Control has said coronavirus can remain suspended in the air "for hours". However, it also says it is extremely rare for someone to be infected this way - especially outdoors. The main way people get infected is from standing in close proximity to someone who is infected who then coughs, sneezes or talks, spreading the virus through droplets.

Q.245) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana**:

1. It is being implemented by the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy.
2. The scheme aims at providing solar power to farmers for irrigation during daytime.

Which of the 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. It is a scheme of the **Gujarat** government.

Prime Minister inaugurated three projects, including **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana** for the farmers in Gujarat recently.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the scheme, farmers will be able to avail **power supply from 5am to 9pm for irrigation purposes**. The state government has allocated a budget of Rs 3,500 crores for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by 2023.

Dahod, Patan, Mahisagar, Panchmahal, Chhota Udepur, Kheda, Tapi, Valsad, Anand and Gir-Somnath districts have been covered under the scheme for 2020-21. The rest will be included in a phased manner by 2022-23.

Q.246) Which of the following vulture species is/are listed as **Critically Endangered under IUCN Red List**?

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1. White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)
2. Slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*)
3. Long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*)

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: Nine species of vultures are found in India. The species worst hit are White-rumped, Indian (Long billed), and Slender-billed Vultures. These are also listed as **Critically Endangered in the IUCN RED List**.

The white-rumped vulture had previously numbered in the millions, and was possibly the most abundant large bird of prey in the world. The long-billed vulture had also been very common in India, while the slender-billed vulture had historically been less common.

Others are affected too, but not as badly, due to a number of factors, including their migratory nature (such as Cinereous Vulture and Eurasian Griffon) or their habitats being more remote and forested (such as Himalayan Griffon).

Q.247) Consider the following statements regarding the **Carbon Neutrality**:

1. It means to have a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere.
2. India's Nationally Determined Contribution to Paris Agreement includes becoming Climate Neutral by 2050.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Carbon neutrality** means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. Sometimes entities fund the equivalent amount of carbon savings elsewhere in the world to achieve neutrality.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India's **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)** are:

- To reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 levels;
- To increase the share of non-fossil-based energy resources to 40% of installed electric power capacity by 2030, with help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- To create an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5–3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Q.248) What is **Khadi Oaxaca**?

- a) A farm-to-garment collective in Mexico
- b) A global Khadi brand of Khadi India
- c) A traditional khadi weave method of Gujarat
- d) A bacteria resistant variety approved by Khadi and Village Industries Commission

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Khadi Oaxaca** is a farm-to-garment collective which comprises around 400 families, which live and work on traditional farms and homesteads in the Oaxaca region of southern **Mexico**.

It was mentioned by the Prime Minister in Mann ki Baat address on Sunday (October 25).

Q.249) Consider the following statements regarding the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**:

1. The Scheme is a specific response to the unprecedented situation of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) provides hundred percent guarantee for loans 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)** has been formulated as a specific response to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown, which has severely impacted manufacturing and other activities in the MSME sector.

The Scheme aims at mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs by providing them additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crores in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.

Under the Scheme, 100% guarantee coverage is provided by **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)** for additional funding of up to Rs. three lakh crores to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers, in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.

The GECL is a loan for which 100% guarantee would be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs).

Q.250) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAX Facility**:

1. COVAX is the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.
2. It is led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **COVAX** is the vaccines pillar of the Access to **COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator**.

The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Statement 2 is incorrect. COVAX is co-led by **Gavi**, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (**CEPI**) and **WHO**. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of

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COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said that 184 countries have now joined the COVAX facility.

Q.251) Which of the following country(s) is/are currently listed as '**Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring**' by FATF?

1. Iceland
2. Pakistan
3. Myanmar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The statement "**Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring**" (Grey List) identifies countries that are actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

Iceland and Mongolia were recently taken off the Grey List.

Jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies: Albania, The Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Cambodia, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Syria, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Q.252) The **Galwan River** is a tributary of which of the following river?

- a) Shyok River
- b) Zaskar River
- c) Hunza River
- d) Nubra River

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Galwan valley** is the land that sits between steep mountains that buffet the Galwan River. The river has its source in Aksai Chin, on China's side of the LAC, and it flows from the east to Ladakh, where it meets the **Shyok River** on India's side of the LAC.

Contested valley

For the first time since 1962, the Galwan Valley has emerged as a site of dispute



Q.253) Consider the following statements regarding the **e-Sanjeevani Platform**:

1. It is a web-based telemedicine solution.
2. It has been developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

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

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

eSanjeevani is Government of India's flagship telemedicine technology developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (Mohali).

'eSanjeevani', is a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution. It extends the reach of specialized healthcare services to masses in both rural areas and isolated communities.

As per PIB [August release] eSanjeevani has been implemented so far by 23 States and other States are in the process of rolling it out.

The top five States which have been utilizing the e-health services being offered through this platform are Tamil Nadu (56,346 consultations), Uttar Pradesh (33,325), Andhra Pradesh (29,400), Himachal Pradesh (26,535) and Kerala (21,433).

Q.254) Consider the following statements regarding the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**:

- 1. It bans the use, possession, development, testing, deployment and transfer of nuclear weapons under international law.
- 2. India is a signatory to this treaty.

Which of the 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 **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. These include undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

The Treaty also prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons on national territory and the provision of assistance to any State in the conduct of prohibited activities. States parties will be obliged to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the TPNW undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The treaty was approved by the 193-member **UN General Assembly** in 2017 by a vote of 122 in favour. Among countries voting in favor was Iran. The five nuclear powers and four other countries known or believed to possess nuclear weapons — **India**, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel — **boycotted negotiations** and the vote on the treaty, along with many of their allies.

India [2017] said that it supports the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention in the Conference on Disarmament, which is the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum working on the basis of consensus.

The United Nations recently announced that 50 countries have ratified a UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons triggering its entry into force in 90 days.

Q.255) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)**?

- 1. Evidence shows that people wore cotton garments in IVC.

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2. Wheat and barley constituted the staple food.

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.

The **Archaeological Department of India** carried out excavations in the Indus valley post 1920s wherein the ruins of the two old cities; Mohenjodaro and Harappa were unearthed.

The ruins of buildings and other things like household articles, weapons of war, gold and silver ornaments, seals, toys, pottery wares, etc., show that some four to five thousand years ago a highly developed Civilization flourished in this region.

The Indus valley civilization was basically an **urban** civilization and the people lived in well-planned and well-built towns, which were also the centers for trade. They had wide roads and a well-developed drainage system. The houses were made of baked bricks and had two or more storeys.

The highly civilized Harappans knew the art of **growing cereals, and wheat and barley** constituted their staple food. Evidences also show that they wore **cotton** as well as woollen garments.

By 1500 BC, the Harappan culture came to an end. Among various causes ascribed to the decay of Indus Valley Civilization are the recurrent floods and other natural causes like earthquake, etc.

The year 2020 marks 100 years of discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation, and a new study has shown that dairy products were being produced by the Harappans as far back as 2500 BCE.

Q.256) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Snow Leopard is listed as a Vulnerable species under the IUCN Red List.
- 2. India is party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme.
- 3. Himat Sanrakshak is a community volunteer programme for protection of Snow Leopards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Snow leopards** are officially recognized as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Their general population trend is thought to be decreasing. Localized extinctions are believed to have occurred in some areas of the former Soviet Union, including Kyrgyzstan.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)** seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship. **India** is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.

Statement 3 is correct. In India, their **geographical range** encompasses a large part of the western Himalayas including the states and UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

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Recently, during a virtual meet, community volunteer programme “**Himal Sanrakshak**” was launched by Minister of Environment for snow leopard conservation.

Q.257) What was the mandate of the **K.S. Radhakrishnan Committee**?

- a) National Education Policy
- b) Conservation of Eco-Sensitive Zones
- c) Road Safety in India
- d) Personal data protection policy

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Supreme Court's Road Safety Committee headed the Justice KS Radhakrishnan** was formed by the apex court on the basis of a PIL to measure and monitor the implementation of road safety laws in the country.

In its report [2015], the panel has recommended for ban on sale of alcohol on highways, both National and State highways, to curb the menace of road accident.

A total of 151,113 people were killed in 480,652 road accidents across India in 2019, an average of 414 a day or 17 an hour, according to a report by the transport research wing of the ministry of road transport and highways.

According to the report, speeding was the leading cause of deaths, while, in terms of vehicles, two-wheelers were involved in most road fatalities.

India continued to have the most road fatalities in the world, followed by China.

Q.258) Consider the following statements regarding the **India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)**:

- 1. It is being organised by Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.
- 2. It will focus on identification and development of innovative technology solutions by students, startups and MSMEs of both nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

AIM (Atal Innovation Mission), in association with CSIRO, is organizing a two-day hackathon on circular economy, 'India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)' in collaboration with Australia's **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation** (CSIRO).

I-ACE will focus on identification and development of innovative technology solutions by bright-minded students, startups and MSMEs of both nations. Shortlisted students and startups/MSMEs will be called for the hackathon, where two winners (one student and one startup/MSME) per theme from each country will be awarded.

Q.259) Which of the following statements most appropriately defines an ‘**Integrity Pact**’?

- a) A pact to prevent any corrupt practice in any aspect of a contract at any stage
- b) An intergovernmental agreement to not deal with countries adverse to each other
- c) Agreement prohibiting any environmental damage while infrastructural development
- d) A pact among political parties to not field tainted candidates in elections

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: “Integrity Pact” is a vigilance tool that envisages an agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer, committing both (contracting) the parties not to exercise any corrupt influence on any aspect of the contract. The pact is also to ensure transparency, equity and competitiveness in public procurement.

Q.260) Consider the following statements regarding the **Blood Plasma**:

1. The Convalescent plasma therapy uses blood from people who've recovered from an infection.
 2. Plasma makes up more than half of the Blood content.
- Which of the 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. **Convalescent plasma**, extracted from the blood of patients recovering from an infection, is a source of antibodies against the infection. The therapy involves using their plasma to help others recover.

Statement 2 is correct. Blood is a specialized body fluid. It has four main components: plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

Plasma is the largest part of your blood. It, makes up **more than half (about 55%)** of its overall content. When separated from the rest of the blood, plasma is a light-yellow liquid. Plasma carries water, salts and enzymes.

The main role of plasma is to take nutrients, hormones, and proteins to the parts of the body that need it. Cells also put their waste products into the plasma. The plasma then helps remove this waste from the body. Blood plasma also carries all parts of the blood through your circulatory system.

Q.261) Consider the following statements regarding geography of **South America**:

1. Chile's north-south expansion is more than that of Brazil.
2. Patagonia region of South America is shared by Argentina and Chile.

Which of the 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. **Chile** is the **longest north-south trending** country in the world, extending across 39 degrees of latitudes, around 2653 miles (4,270 km). Brazil is the second-longest country as it extends across 38 degrees of latitudes.

Statement 2 is correct. **Patagonia** is a region encompassing the vast southernmost tip of South America, shared by **Argentina** and **Chile**, with the Andes Mountains as its dividing line. The Argentine side features arid steppes, grasslands and deserts, while the Chilean has glacial fjords and temperate rainforest.

Q.262) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods and Services Tax** in India:

1. It for the first time in India introduced taxation on services.
2. It is a destination-based tax.

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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. The provisions relating to **Service Tax** were brought into force with effect from **July 1, 1994** by chapter V of the Finance Act, 1994.

Goods and Services Tax was launched all over India with effect from 1 July 2017.

Statement 2 is correct. **Destination based tax** or consumption tax are levied where goods and services are consumed. GST is a destination-based tax, i.e., the goods/services will be taxed at the place where they are consumed and not at the origin.

Q.263) Which of the following agreement(s) have been signed between **India and United States of America**?

- 1. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
- 2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
- 3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. **India has not signed Status of Forces Agreement with USA.** A status of forces agreement (SOFA) is an agreement between a host country and a foreign nation stationing military forces in that country.

Option 2 is correct. Logistics agreements are administrative arrangements which help to facilitate the replenishment of fuel, rations, spares, and berthing and maintenance for the other nations' warships, military aircraft and troops during routine port calls, joint exercises and training carried out in each other's countries as well as during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).

India signed LEMOA with USA in 2016.

Option 3 is correct. **India recently signed the BECA with USA at 2+2 meeting.** It is essentially a communication agreement proposed between the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency of the US Department of Defence and the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.

It will allow India and the US to share military information including advanced satellite and topographic data such as maps, nautical and aeronautical charts and geodetic, geophysical, geomagnetic and gravity data.

India and the US have already signed three key foundational agreements — General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018.

Q.264) Which of the following organization has released the report **The World's Women 2020**?

- a) UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- b) World Health Organization (WHO)

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- c) UN Women
- d) Amnesty International

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **World's Women reports** are prepared by the Statistics Division of the **UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)** at five-year intervals, starting in 1990.

The **World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics** compiles 100 data stories that provide a snapshot of the state of gender equality worldwide.

The report analyses gender equality in six critical areas: population and families; health; education; economic empowerment and asset ownership; power and decision-making; and violence against women and the girl child as well as the impact of COVID-19.

Less than 50% of working-age women are in the labour market, a figure that has barely changed over the last quarter of a century. Unpaid domestic and care work falls disproportionately on women, restraining their economic potential as the COVID-19 pandemic additionally affects women's jobs and livelihoods, the report warns.

Q.265) Consider the following statements regarding the NASA's **SOFIA Mission**:

1. It a lander-rover project on the surface of Moon.
2. It has confirmed the presence of water on the surface of the Moon.

Which of the 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. **SOFIA, the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy**, is a Boeing 747SP aircraft modified to carry a 2.7-meter (106-inch) reflecting telescope (with an effective diameter of 2.5 meters or 100 inches).

Flying into the stratosphere at 38,000-45,000 feet puts SOFIA above 99 percent of Earth's infrared-blocking atmosphere, allowing astronomers to study the solar system and beyond in ways that are not possible with ground-based telescopes.

SOFIA is designed to observe the infrared universe. Many objects in space emit almost all their energy at infrared wavelengths and are often invisible when observed with visible light.

Statement 2 is correct. 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 (H₂O) in Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth, located in the Moon's southern hemisphere.

Q.266) Which of the following State(s) of India share border with **Myanmar**?

1. Nagaland
2. Manipur
3. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Four Northeast Indian states share the border with Myanmar: **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Manipur.**



Q.267) The **National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption** is being organized by which of the following institution?

- a) Central Bureau of Investigation
- b) Central Vigilance Commission
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Bureau of Police Research and Development

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the **National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption** on the theme 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India'.

The **Central Bureau of Investigation** organizes this National Conference coinciding with 'Vigilance Awareness Week', which is observed in India every year from 27th October to 2nd November.

Activities in this conference would be focused on Vigilance issues aimed at raising awareness and reaffirming India's commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation.

Q.268) The **Bani Thani painting** is associated with which of the following place?

- a) Bundi
- b) Kishangarh
- c) Garhwal
- d) Kullu

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Bani Thani paintings** are group of Indian miniature paintings of around 1750 attributed to Nihal Chand from the Marwar school of Kishangarh show Krishna and Radha.

It is a totally different style with highly exaggerated features like long necks, large, almond shaped eyes, and long fingers. This style of painting essentially depicts Radha and Krishna as divine lovers, and beautifully portrays their mystical love.

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Kishangarh miniature painting reached a peak in the eighteenth century, during the rule of Raja Sawant Singh, who fell in love with a slave girl, Bani Thani and commanded his artists to portray himself and her as Krishna and Radha.

Q.269) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Vigilance Commission**:

1. It was established on recommendation of the K. Santhanam Committee.
2. It is a statutory body monitoring vigilance activity under the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Central Vigilance Commission** was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.

CVC are conceived to be the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilant work.

It is a statutory authority under the **Central Vigilance Commission Act 2003**. It consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner – Chairperson and not more than two Vigilance Commissioners – Members.

Q.270) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant - Iran
2. Barakah nuclear power plant - United Arab Emirates

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: **Natanz** is **Iran's** primary nuclear enrichment facility and houses both the commercial Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP) and the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP).

The **Barakah** nuclear power plant is the **United Arab Emirates's** first nuclear power station, the first nuclear power station in the Arabian Peninsula.

Q.271) Consider the following statements regarding the **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** signed between India and USA:

1. It allows the militaries of the US and India to replenish from each other's bases, and access supplies.
2. It will enable sharing of advanced satellite and topographic data such as maps, nautical and aeronautical charts.

Which 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. **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) signed in August 2016** allows the militaries of the US and India to replenish from each other's bases, and access supplies, spare parts and services from each other's land facilities, air bases, and ports, which can then be reimbursed.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** for geospatial cooperation is essentially a communication agreement proposed between the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency of the US Department of Defence and the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.

It will allow India and the US to share military information including advanced satellite and topographic data such as maps, nautical and aeronautical charts and geodetic, geophysical, geomagnetic and gravity data.

Q.272) Consider the following statements regarding the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**:

1. The Legislative Assembly of UT of Jammu and Kashmir can make laws on any subject in State list except land and public order.
2. Parliament has the power to make laws in relation to any matter for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Act provides for a **Legislative Assembly** for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Legislative Assembly may make laws for any part of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir related to: (i) any matters specified in the State List of the Constitution, except "**Police**" and "**Public Order**", and (ii) any matter in the Concurrent List applicable to Union Territories.

Further, **Parliament** will have the power to make laws in relation to any matter for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Statement 2 is correct.

Q.273) Which of the following institution has released the '**Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities**' report?

- a) International Energy Agency
- b) Solar Energy Corporation of India
- c) Central Electricity Authority
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **NITI Aayog, Ministry of Power, Rockefeller Foundation, and Smart Power India launched the 'Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities'** report recently.

Based on a primary survey conducted across 10 states—representing about 65% of the total rural population of India and with a sample size of more than 25,000, including households, commercial enterprises and institutions—the report assesses 25 distribution utilities.

Key findings of the report:

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- As much as 92% of customers reported the overall availability of electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises; however, not all have connections, the primary reason being the distance of households from the nearest pole.
- Overall, 87% of the surveyed customers have access to grid-based electricity. The remaining 13% either use non-grid sources or don't use any electricity at all.
- The hours of supply have improved significantly across the customer categories to nearly 17 hours per day.
- Nearly 85% of customers reported to have a metered electricity connection.
- Access to electricity is observed in 83% of household customers.
- A satisfaction index was created to assess the overall satisfaction level of customers with utility services. The study suggested that a total of 66% of those surveyed were satisfied—74% of customers in urban areas and 60% in rural areas.

Q.274) Consider the following statements regarding the **Amur Falcons**:

1. These migratory birds travel from Siberia to India before heading towards Africa in winter.
 2. It listed as a Vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Every October, flocks of **Amur falcons** from Siberia start landing in north east India (fame for Pangti village of Nagaland). Thousands of these small raptors (*Falco amurensis*) frolic in the village for about two months before they head for warmer climes in Kenya and South Africa in a non-stop flight over the Arabian Sea. Statement 2 is incorrect. *Falco amurensis* is listed as **Least Concern** under IUCN Red List. # *Chuilon and Irang, the radio-tagged Amur Falcons, arrived in Manipur after completing one migratory journey that covered 29,000 km in 361 days recently.*

Q.275) The **Annual State of Education Report (ASER)** survey is conducted by which of the following organisation?

- a) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Non-Government Organisation 'Pratham'
- d) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **ASER** is a nationwide survey of rural education and learning outcomes in terms of reading and arithmetic skills that has been conducted by the **NGO Pratham** for the last 15 years. This year, the survey was conducted via phone calls, reaching 52,227 rural households with school age children in 30 States and Union Territories.

Learning hit

Some highlights from the Annual Status of Education Report's September survey:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 5.3% of rural children aged 6-10 years are not enrolled in school this year, in comparison to just 1.8% in 2018▪ Around 20% of rural children did not have textbooks at home by September▪ About 70% of rural | <p>children did some learning activity. Of these, only 11% had live online classes</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Less than 36% of rural children received some learning materials or activities from the school. Almost 75% of such school interaction was via Whatsapp |
|---|---|

Q.276) Consider the following statements:

1. India has not signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
2. QUAD is an informal group of countries located around the Indian Ocean.

Which of the 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 correct. The **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and five of their FTA partners—Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea.

India opted out of RCEP in November 2019 in ASEAN+3 summit, citing the adverse impact the deal would have on its citizens.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is an informal strategic forum between the **United States, Japan, Australia and India**.

USA and Japan are not in Indian Ocean.

Q.277) Which of the following Central Asian country does *not* border the **Aral Sea**?

1. Kazakhstan
2. Tajikistan
3. Uzbekistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

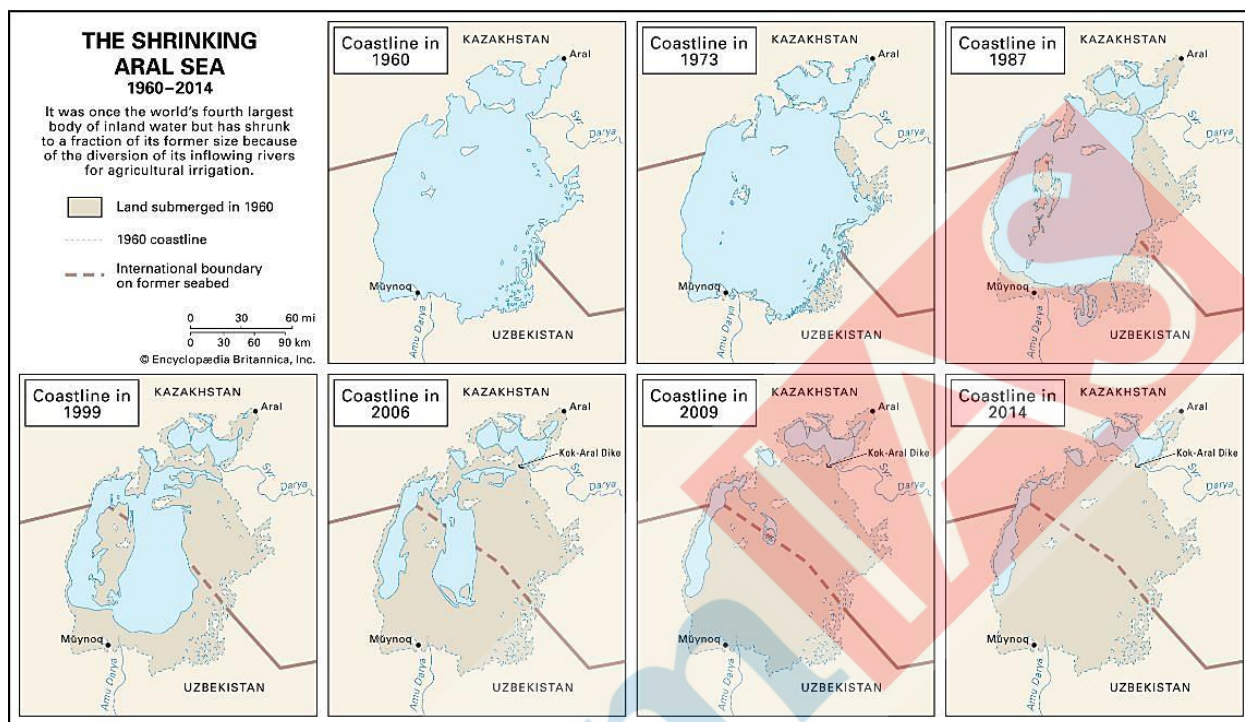
Explanation: The **Aral Sea** was an endorheic lake lying between **Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan** which began shrinking in the 1960s and had largely dried up by the 2010s.

In the 1960s, the Soviet Union undertook a major water diversion project on the arid plains of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

The region's two major rivers, fed by snowmelt and precipitation in faraway mountains, were used to transform the desert into farms for cotton and other crops. Before the project,

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the **Syr Darya and the Amu Darya** rivers flowed down from the mountains, cut northwest through the Kyzylkum Desert, and finally pooled together in the lowest part of the basin. The lake they made, the Aral Sea, was once the fourth largest in the world. Although irrigation made the desert bloom, it devastated the Aral Sea.



Q.278) Consider the following statements regarding **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**:

1. An IFSC caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
2. India's first IFSC's is being set up in GIFT City in Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

An IFSC caters to customers **outside the jurisdiction** of the domestic economy. Such centres deal with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders. London, New York and Singapore can be counted as global financial centres.

An expert panel headed by former World Bank economist Percy Mistry submitted a report on making Mumbai an international financial centre in 2007. However, the global financial crisis that unfolded in 2008 made countries including India cautious about rapidly opening up their financial sectors.

Finance Minister announced in the Union Budget 2015 that India's first IFSC's would be set up in GIFT City in Gujarat.

The United Kingdom has entered into a strategic partnership to develop India's fledgling international financial services centre GIFT City, and agreed to set up a new Fund of Funds to be managed by the State Bank of India group in order to route U.K.'s future capital investments into India.

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Q.279) Which of the following is/are **Earth Observation Satellites** of ISRO?

1. HySIS
2. RISAT-2BR1
3. CARTOSAT-3

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are **Earth Observation Satellites**.

Starting with IRS-1A in 1988, ISRO has launched many operational remote sensing satellites. Today, India has one of the largest constellations of remote sensing satellites in operation.

The data from these satellites are used for several applications covering agriculture, water resources, urban planning, rural development, mineral prospecting, environment, forestry, ocean resources and disaster management.

HySIS is an Earth observation satellite which will provide hyperspectral imaging services to India for a range of applications in agriculture, forestry and in the assessment of geography such as coastal zones and inland waterways.

RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging earth observation satellite. The satellite will provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management.

Cartosat-3 satellite is a third-generation agile advanced satellite having high resolution imaging capability. It addresses the increased user's demands for large scale urban planning, rural resource and infrastructure development, coastal land use and land cover etc.

ISRO will launch its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01 and nine international customer spacecraft onboard its PSLV-C49 rocket from the spaceport of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 7.

Q.280) Which of the following is/are listed as **Directive Principle of State Policy** under the Constitution?

1. Early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years
2. State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health.
3. State to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The Constitution lays down certain Directive Principles of State Policy, which though not justiciable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country', and it is the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.

Option 1 is correct. The State shall endeavour to provide early **childhood care** and education for all children until they complete the age of six years. [Article 45]

Option 2 is correct. The State shall regard the raising of the level of **nutrition and the standard of living** of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary

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duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health. [Article 47]

Option 3 is correct. The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a **uniform civil code** throughout the territory of India. [Article 44]

Q.281) India is a member of which of the following regime(s)?

1. Australia Group
2. Missile Technology Control Regime
3. Wassenaar Arrangement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Australia Group (AG)** is an informal association that works on the basis of consensus. It aims to allow exporters or transshipment countries to minimize the risk of further proliferation of chemical and biological weapons (CBW).

India became the 43rd member of the Australia Group in 2018.

Option 2 is correct. The **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)** is an informal non-treaty association of governments sharing common interests in the nonproliferation of missiles, unmanned air vehicles, and related technologies. The regime consists of the Guidelines and an Equipment and Technology Annex.

In 2016, India became a full member of the MTCR. This marked the first entry into any multilateral export control regime for India.

Option 3 is correct. **Wassenaar Arrangement** membership is universal and nondiscriminatory for countries meeting the established criteria:

- Produce/export arms or associated dual-use goods and technologies
- Implement national policies that do not permit the sale of arms or sensitive dual-use items to countries whose behavior is a cause for concern
- Adhere to international nonproliferation norms and guidelines
- Implement fully effective export controls

India became Arrangement's 42nd State in 2017.

Q.282) Which of the following statements correctly defines the Strategic Trade Authorisation (STA)?

- a) License exception with regards to exports from the USA
- b) European Union dual-use material export control regime
- c) World Trade Organisation's regulations regarding defence technology transfer
- d) India's defence technology transfer arrangement

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Strategic Trade Authorisation (STA)** allows for license exception with regards to exports from the US. This type of **US government authorisation** allows a certain item to be exported under defined conditions without a transaction-specific license.

India became the third Asian country after Japan and South Korea to get the Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) status in 2018 mostly for the purposes of increasing the speed of sale of high-tech defence and non-defence products that are otherwise subjected to strict controls and licensing.

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Q.283) Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. India sent Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) to disarm the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
2. Goa officially becoming part of India
3. India Gandhi was assassinated

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Portugal continued to challenge India's claim on its coastal enclave of Goa post 1947. Following an incident of firing by Portuguese troops at Indian steamers and fishing boats, India sent in the army to liberate the territory by force. On **December 19, 1961, Goa officially became part of India** and two years later, held its first general election.

The then Prime Minister of India **Indira Gandhi was assassinated on 31 October 1984** at her residence in Safdarjung Road, New Delhi. She was killed by her Sikh bodyguards Satwant Singh and Beant Singh in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star.

Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was the Indian military contingent performing a peacekeeping operation in Sri Lanka between **1987 and 1990**. It was formed under the mandate of the 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan Accord that aimed to end the Sri Lankan Civil War between Sri Lankan Tamil nationalists such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan military.

Q.284) Consider the following statements regarding the **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)**:

1. The scheme aims at strengthening dam safety in the Himalayan region of India only.
2. The project is supported by the financial assistance from the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The project originally [2011] envisaged the rehabilitation and improvement of 223 dam projects in four states namely, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. Later Karnataka, Uttarakhand (UJVNL) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) joined the DRIP.

DRIP Phase II & Phase III envisages comprehensive rehabilitation of 736 existing dams located across the country.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** started with financial assistance from World Bank in 2011.

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the DRIP Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the **World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.

DRIP Phase II & Phase III envisages the following objectives:

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- To improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.
- To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level, and
- To explore the alternative incidental means at few of selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams

Q.285) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Meri Saheli**” initiative of Indian Railways:

1. This initiative provides a fifty percent reservation for female passengers on selected routes.
2. The initiative is based on feedback from female passengers and corrective actions thereon.

Which of the 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. Indian Railways has launched “**Meri Saheli**” initiative for focused action on security of women across all zones with an objective to provide **safety and security to lady passengers** travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.

Statement 2 is correct. An initiative of RPF, the Strategy entails interaction with lady passengers especially those travelling alone by a team of young lady RPF personnel at the originating station.

RPF teams at the destination **collect the feedback from the identified lady passengers**.

The feedback is then analysed and corrective action, if any, is taken. If some distress call comes from a train covered under “Meri Saheli” initiative, the disposal of the call is monitored at the level of senior officers.

Q.286) Arrange the following zones in **North to South** direction:

1. Indus-Tsangpo suture zone (ITSZ)
2. Main Boundary Thrust (MBT)
3. Main Central Thrust (MCT)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

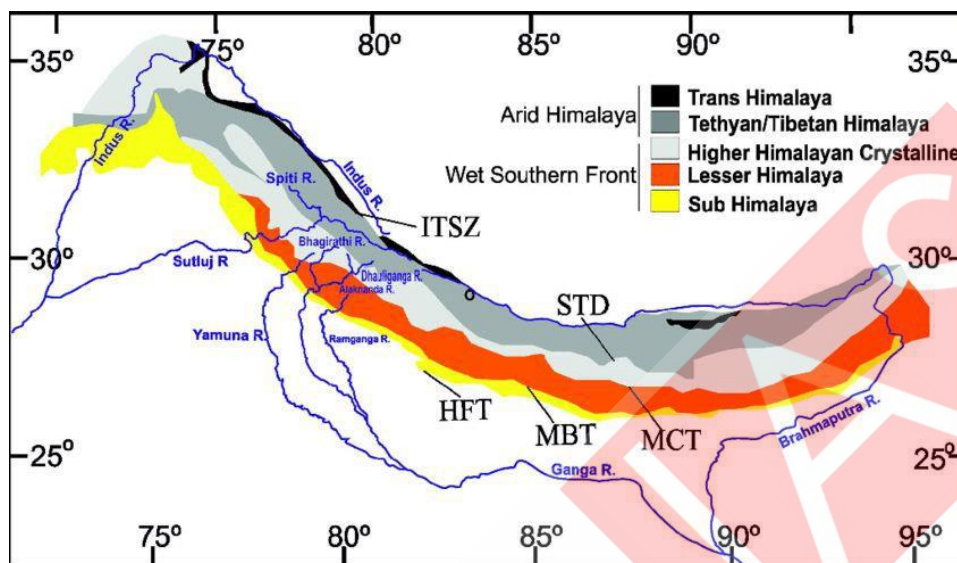
Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Indus Tsangpo suture** is a tectonic suture in southern Tibet and across the north margin of the Himalayas which resulted from the collision between the Indian plate and the Eurasian plate.

Himalayas are known to be made up of north dipping thrusts like the **Main Central Thrust (MCT), the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), and the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT)**. As per the established models, all of these thrusts except MFT are locked, and overall deformation in Himalaya is being accommodated only along with the MFT.

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Recently, a group of Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun have observed that suture zone of the Himalayas or the **Indus Suture Zone (ISZ)** in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates are joined has been found to be **tectonically active**, as against current understanding that it is a locked zone.



Q.287) Consider the following statements regarding the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas**:

1. The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the ex-officio chairperson of the commission.
2. The adjoining areas for the commission include State of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.

Which of the 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.

Dissolving the 22-year-old Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) that has so far addressed air pollution in Delhi, the Central Government promulgated an **ordinance** to constitute “permanent” body — the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas**.

The adjoining areas for the body include Delhi NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The proposed commission shall consist of a full-time chairperson who is or has been a Secretary to Union Government or Chief Secretary to Government of State.

Q.288) Which of the following is/are proposals under the **draft Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020**?

1. It is proposed to do away with the requirement of trading licence for Indian flag vessels for coastal trade.
2. Integration of coastal maritime transport with inland waterways.
3. National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan to be implemented.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Ministry of Shipping has issued the **draft of Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020** for suggestions from the stakeholders and general public

As the shipping sector grows and evolves in the country, a need was felt to have a separate legislation on coastal shipping, which considers it an integral part of the transport chain and recognizes the policy priorities of the sector to meet the demands of the Indian shipping industry. While drafting this Bill, the global best practices have also been considered.

--The definition of coastal shipping and coastal waters has been expanded.

--It is proposed to do away with the requirement of trading licence for Indian flag vessels for coastal trade.

--The Bill seeks to create a competitive environment and reduce transportation costs, while encouraging Indian vessels to increase their share in coastal shipping.

--The Bill also proposes integration of coastal maritime transport with inland waterways.

--There is a provision for a National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan.

Q.289) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched '**National Program and Project Management Policy Framework**':

1. It has been launched by Quality Council of India (QCI) in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to bring reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

India will require an investment of around \$4.5 trillion by 2040 to develop the infrastructure for sustaining its economic growth. However, the challenges in infrastructure development that obstruct the smooth execution of projects can be a deterrent.

NITI Aayog and Quality Council of India (QCI) recently launched the '**National Program and Project Management Policy Framework**' (NPMPF), with the aim of bringing radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.

The **Indian Infrastructure Body of Knowledge (InBoK)**, a book on the practice of program and project management in India was also unveiled.

Further, a task force was also constituted to lay down a national program and project management policy framework.

Q.290) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pusa Decomposer**:

1. It is a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften the hard stubble.
2. The decomposer is an immediate solution for converting the agricultural waste into compost overnight.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Pusa Decomposer** developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) is essentially a **fungi-based liquid** solution that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost.

This would then rule out the need to burn the stubble, and also help in retaining the essential microbes and nutrients in soil that are otherwise damaged when the residue is burned.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The window of time required for the solution to work, which is currently the main concern of farmers, is around **20 to 25 days**, as per the IARI.

Farmers argue that this window is too long for them, as they ideally wait about a week or 10 days after harvesting the non-basmati variety of rice — which leaves hard stubble — to sow the wheat crop.

Q.291) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Monsoon**:

1. The long period average (LPA) of monsoon rainfall over India between 1961-2010 is about 88cm.
2. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has revised the monsoon arrival date in Kerala from June 1 to June 5 from this year onwards.

Which of the 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. LPA of rainfall is the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given interval (like month or season) average over a long period like 30years, 50-years etc.

Current LPA of all India south west monsoon rainfall based on the average rainfall over the period 1961 -2010 is **880.6mm**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has revised the normal onset and withdrawal dates based on recent data. The normal dates of onset are revised based on data during 1961-2019 and normal dates of withdrawal are revised based on data during 1971-2019.

Monsoon onset over Kerala remains the same, i.e., 1 June. However, new monsoon advance dates over the states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and parts of Uttar Pradesh are delayed by 3-7 days compared to existing normal dates. However, over extreme northwest India, the monsoon arrives now little earlier, on 8th July compared to the existing date of 15th July. There are however appreciable changes in the monsoon withdrawal dates, especially over Northwest and Central India. Monsoon withdraws from NW India almost 7-14 days later from the existing dates. **There is no change in the final withdrawal date over south India, i.e., 15th October.**

Q.292) Consider the following statements regarding the **15th Finance Commission**:

1. It recommended 42 percent devolution for share of States in the Centre's taxes for the Financial Year (FY) 2020-21.
2. The commission is mandated to recommend on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States upto FY 2024-25 only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Finance Commission** is constituted by the President under **article 280** of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The share of states in the center's taxes was recommended to be decreased from 42% during the 2015-20 period to **41% for 2020-21**. The 1% decrease is to provide for the newly formed union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh from the resources of the central government.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The 15th Finance Commission (Chair: Mr N. K. Singh) was required to submit two reports. The first report, consisting of recommendations for the financial year 2020-21, was tabled in Parliament on February 1, 2020. The final report with recommendations for the next five financial years starting from **2021-22 to 2025-26** will be submitted on November 9, 2020.

Q.293) Consider the following statements regarding the **Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC)** provisions under the Constitution:

1. Two-thirds of the members of MPC shall be elected by, and amongst, the elected members of the Municipalities and Chairpersons of the Panchayats.
2. The member of the Legislative Assembly in the metropolitan area shall be ex-officio chairperson of the MPC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Constitution under **article 243ZE** provides that there shall be constituted in every Metropolitan area a Metropolitan Planning Committee to prepare a draft development plan for the Metropolitan area as a whole.

The Legislature of a State may, by law, make provision with respect to-

--the composition of the Metropolitan Planning Committees;

--the manner in which the seats in such Committees shall be filled:

Provided that not less than **two-thirds of the members** of such Committee shall be elected by, and from amongst, the elected members of the Municipalities and Chairpersons of the Panchayats in the Metropolitan area in proportion to the ratio between the population of the Municipalities and of the Panchayats in that area.

Statement 2 is incorrect. No such provision exists. The Legislature of a State may, by law, make provision with respect to the manner in which the Chairpersons of such Committees shall be chosen.

Q.294) Which of the following country(s) border the **Aegean Sea**?

1. Turkey
2. Greece
3. Bulgaria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Aegean Sea**, an arm of the Mediterranean Sea, located between the Greek peninsula on the west and Asia Minor on the east.

A strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea has shaken Turkey and Greece on 30th October 2020.



Q.295) Consider the following statements regarding the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**:

1. It is an organ of the United Nations.
 2. India and China are both members to the IPU.
- Which of the 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 **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** is the global organization of national parliaments and not a UN organ.

It is financed primarily by Members out of public funds. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

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The main organs of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.

Statement 2 is correct. The IPU has 179 Member Parliaments out of the 193 countries in the world – from huge nations like **China, India** and Indonesia, to the tiny States of Cabo Verde, San Marino and Palau.

All parliaments can join IPU if they are lawfully established national bodies operating in States or aspirational States recognized by the United Nations. On rare occasions, Members are suspended due to the unconstitutional dissolution of parliament.

Lok Sabha Speaker will lead Indian Parliamentary delegation to 206th session of Governing Council of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be held from 1 to 4 November 2020.

Q.296) What is ‘Secure Application for Internet’ (SAI) that has been launched recently?

- a) Simple messaging application developed by Indian Army
- b) A communication channel between Indian and USA defence forces
- c) An antivirus application developed by CSIR
- d) A secure firewall deployed by Reserve Bank of India to block unauthorized access

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Indian Army has developed a simple messaging application named the Secure Application for Internet (SAI). The application supports end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platform over the internet.

SAI scores over on security features with local in-house servers and coding which can be tweaked as per requirements. It will be utilized pan Army to facilitate secure messaging within the service.

Q.297) Consider the following statements regarding the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**:

- 1. It is a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- 2. The SERB-POWER scheme has been specifically designed to promote Women Scientists.

Which of the 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 **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament, 2008. The mandate is to support basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering.

Statement 2 is correct. “**SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)**”, designed exclusively for women scientists was launched recently.

SERB POWER Scheme will have two components namely (i) SERB-POWER **Fellowship** (ii) SERB- POWER **Research Grants**. While a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for the purpose will help in identifying the POWER Fellowship, the existing Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) mechanism will be used to select the POWER Research Grants.

It is proposed to institute 25 POWER Fellowships annually. A total of 50 Power Grants each will be sanctioned in Level I & Level II per annum.

Q.298) Consider the following statements regarding the **Input Tax Credit (ITC)**:

- 1. It is a mechanism to avoid cascading of taxes.

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2. The Goods and Services Tax mechanism in India does not incorporate the ITC. Which of the 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)** allows a person to avail credit of tax paid on the inward supply of goods or services or both which is used or intended to be used in the course or furtherance of business.

ITC is a mechanism to avoid cascading of taxes, i.e., 'tax on tax'.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Uninterrupted and seamless chain of input tax credit is **one of the key features of Goods and Services Tax**.

One of the most important features of the GST system is that the entire supply chain is subject to GST to be levied by Central and State Government concurrently. As the tax charged by the Central or the State Governments would be part of the same tax regime, credit of tax paid at every stage would be available as set-off for payment of tax at every subsequent stage.

Q.299) Consider the following statements regarding **Vallabhbhai Patel**:

- 1. He presided over the Congress session that ratified the Gandhi-Irwin pact.
- 2. He was the first Deputy Prime Minister of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

In March 1931 Vallabhbhai presided over the **46th session of the Indian National Congress at Karachi** which was called upon to ratify the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which had just then been concluded.

He was the **first deputy prime minister of India**, while being home minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet. He occupied the post for 3 years until his death in 1950. The post was vacant until Morarji Desai became the second deputy prime minister in 1967.

Sardar Patel's birth anniversary on 31st October is celebrated as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day).

Q.300) Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):

- 1. It was founded by Sardar Patel.
- 2. Its objectives include formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations.

Which 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. **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, independent India's first Minister for Education, established many institutions such as the Sahitya Akademi, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Lalit Kala Akademi, and the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations**, and also provided a major stimulus for the setting up of the Indian Institutes of Technology.

Statement 2 is correct. The Objects of the Council as defined in the Memorandum of Association are:

--To participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations;

--To foster and strengthen **cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries**;

--To promote cultural exchange with other countries and peoples;

--To establish and develop relations with national and inter-national Organization in the field of culture;

--To take such measures as may be required to further these objectives.

The ICCR recently organised a global painting competition named 'United Against CORONA-Express through Art'.