

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

1st to 6th December, 2020

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

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)**:

1. Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) on the basis of recommendations of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
2. The inter-crop price parity along with price trends in market are considered before recommending MSP.

Which of the 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 fixes minimum support prices (MSPs) of 22 mandated crops including paddy, wheat, for every agricultural year and fair & remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)**, after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned & other relevant factors.

In addition, MSP for Toria and De-Husked coconut is also fixed on the basis of MSPs of Rapeseed & Mustard and Copra respectively.

Statement 2 is correct. While recommending MSPs, CACP considers important factors like **cost of production, overall demand-supply conditions, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity**, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect on the rest of the economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of land, water and other production resources and a minimum of 50 percent as the margin over cost of production in case of MSPs and reasonable margins over cost of production in case of FRP.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020**:

1. It allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts.
2. It prohibits state governments from levying any market fee on farmers and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.

Which of the 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.

Agricultural markets in India are mainly regulated by state **Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC)** laws. APMCs were set up with the objective of ensuring fair trade between buyers and sellers for effective price discovery of farmers' produce.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020

--Allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts.

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--Such trade can be conducted in an 'outside trade area', i.e., any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers' produce including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

--It permits the electronic trading of scheduled farmers' produce (agricultural produce regulated under any state APMC Act) in the specified trade area.

--It prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are grounds for exemption from disclosure of information under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**?

1. Information received in confidence from foreign Government
2. Trade secrets or intellectual property
3. Personal information the which has no relationship to any public activity or interest

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Section 8 of the Right to Information Act provides for exemption from disclosure of information. Some of the grounds for exemption are:

--information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information

--information received in confidence from foreign Government

--information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information.

Q.4) Which of the following is/are objectives of the **KVIC's Honey Mission**?

1. Enforce nationally acceptable standards of Good Beekeeping Practices (GPB) in the country.
2. Develop a network of quality master trainers in the field of beekeeping for imparting Good Beekeeping / Apicultural Practices.
3. Offer a passage for overseas market for hive products.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The KVIC's Honey Mission aims to create an end-to-end implementation framework for beekeeping skill development, which provides employment opportunities and income generation to agriculturists, beekeepers rural & urban unemployed youth.

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- Enforce nationally acceptable standards of Good Beekeeping Practices (GPB) in the country.
- Develop a network of quality master trainers in the field of beekeeping for imparting Good Beekeeping / Apicultural Practices.
- Offer a passage for overseas market for hive products.
- Enable pathways from novice beekeepers to viable commercial beekeeping by handholding to credit linkages.
- Promote convergence and co-ordination between all the stakeholders of beekeeping in India.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**:

1. Under the Scheme, the Department of Sports identifies athletes who are potential medal winners in 2024 Olympics.
2. The Mission Olympic Cell is a dedicated body created to assist the athletes who are selected under the TOP 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: Statement 1 is correct. The **Target Olympic Podium Scheme** is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes. The Scheme looks to add a premium to the preparations of these athletes so that they can win Olympic medals in 2020 and 2024 Olympics.

Under the Scheme, the Department of Sports shall **identify athletes** who are potential medal winners in 2020 / 2024 Olympics. The idea of the Scheme is to also keep an eye in the future and fund a Developmental Group of Athletes who are medal prospects for the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles Games in 2028.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Mission Olympic Cell** is a dedicated body created to assist the athletes who are selected under the TOP Scheme. The idea of the MOC is to debate, discuss and decide the processes and methods so that the athlete receives best assistance. The MOC also focuses on selection, exclusion and retention of athletes, coaches, training institutes that can receive TOPS assistance.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA)**:

1. It has been launched by the European Union.
2. GITA extends financial support in form of Grants to promote industrial R&D and Innovation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA)** is a "not-for-profit" Section-8 Public Private Partnership (PPP) company promoted jointly by

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the Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Statement 2 is correct. The mandate of GITA includes:

--GITA extends financial support in form of Grant/ Conditional Grant to promote industrial R&D, Innovation, Technology Acquisition and International S & T collaborative efforts.

--GITA catalyzes innovation and empowers ideas by offering specialized Information, matchmaking, IP protection etc. in the areas of technology design and IPR management.

--GITA is involved in Technical, Financial, Strategic policy research and recommendation to industry, research institution, State & Central Government and offers global networking platforms.

--GITA is mandated to facilitate the implementation of various innovative and revolutionary scientific and technological industrial research and development projects worldwide.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**:

1. Every child with benchmark disability between the age of six to eighteen years shall have the right to free education
2. The act recognizes intellectual disability as a limitation both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Section 31 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, every child with benchmark disability between the age of **six to eighteen years** shall have the right to free education in a neighborhood school, or in a special school, of his choice.

Statement 2 is correct. The statute recognizes **Intellectual disability**, a condition characterized by significant limitation both in intellectual functioning (reasoning, learning, problem solving) and in adaptive behavior which covers a range of every day, social and practical skills, including—

---“**specific learning disabilities**” means a heterogeneous group of conditions wherein there is a deficit in processing language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself as a difficulty to comprehend, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations and includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and developmental aphasia;

---“**autism spectrum disorder**” means a neuro-developmental condition typically appearing in the first three years of life that significantly affects a person's ability to communicate, understand relationships and relate to others, and is frequently associated with unusual or stereotypical rituals or behaviors.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Green Charcoal Hackathon**:

1. It is being organised by the NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to clean the air by eliminating farm fire and producing renewable energy out of the agri-residue.

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. To fast-track the carbon footprint reduction technology development, **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) in partnership with EESL** organises technology challenge named as Green Charcoal Hackathon.

Statement 2 is correct. The purpose of the event is to leverage the innovative Indian mind to bridge the technology gap, with the prime objective to **clean the air by eliminating farm fire**, producing renewable energy out of the agro residue, to promote local entrepreneurship, and to increase the income of the farmers.

Q.9) The government provides **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** for which of the following crops?

1. Soyabean
2. Mustard
3. Groundnut

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: Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)**, after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors.

The 22 mandated crops, for which MSP is being announced by the government for the last three years, include **14 Kharif crops** viz. paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, arhar, moong, urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, nigerseed, cotton and **6 Rabi crops** viz. wheat, barley, gram, masur (lentil), rapeseed & mustard, safflower and two commercial crops viz. jute and copra (milling and ball copra).

In addition, MSP for toria and de-husked coconut are also fixed on the basis of MSPs of rapeseed & mustard and copra respectively.

Q.10) Which of the following cost(s) is/are considered by the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** while recommending the Minimum Support Prices?

1. Cost of Seeds and fertilizers
2. Value of unpaid family labour

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: CACP considers **A2+FL and C2 costs** while recommending MSP. CACP reckons only A2+FL cost for return. However, C2 costs are used by CACP primarily as benchmark reference costs (opportunity costs) to see if the MSPs recommended by them at least cover these costs in some of the major producing States.

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'A2' covers all paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer — in cash and kind — on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation, etc. 'A2+FL' includes A2 plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour. 'C2' is a more comprehensive cost that factors in rentals and interest forgone on owned land and fixed capital assets, on top of A2+FL.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**:

1. The Act allows the High Court to punish for contempt of subordinate courts.
2. It mandates for the consent of Attorney or Solicitor General for initiating a case of criminal contempt.

Which of the 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 superior courts (Supreme Court and High Courts) derive their contempt powers from the Constitution. The **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** additionally allows the High Court to punish for contempt of subordinate courts.

Statement 2 is correct. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, lays down the law on contempt of court. **Section 15** of the legislation describes the procedure on how a case for criminal contempt of court can be initiated.

In the case of the Supreme Court, the **Attorney General or the Solicitor General**, and in the case of High Courts, the Advocate General, may bring in a motion before the court for initiating a case of criminal contempt.

If the motion is brought by any other person, the consent in writing of the Attorney General or the Advocate General is required.

However, when the court itself initiates a contempt of court case the AG's consent is not required. This is because the court is exercising its inherent powers under the Constitution to punish for contempt.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Technical Textiles**:

1. These are textile products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.
2. India is the largest global producer of technical textiles.

Which of the 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. **Technical textiles** are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.

Technical Textiles products are divided into 12 broad categories (Agrotech, Buildtech, Clothtech, Geotech, Hometech, Indutech, Mobiltech, Meditech, Protech, Sportstech, Oekotech, Packtech) depending upon their application areas.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **United States of America** is the world's largest producer and consumer of technical textiles having 23% share followed by Western Europe having 22 % share, China having 13% and Japan having 7% share.

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India shares nearly 6% of world market size of 250 Billion USD. However, the annual average growth of the segment is 12%, as compared to 4% world average growth.

Ministry of Textiles has invited proposals for constitution of a dedicated Export Promotion Council (EPC) for Technical Textiles.

The National Technical Textiles Mission has a four year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24. Constitution of an Export Promotion Council for Technical Textiles is part of one of the components of the National Technical Textiles Mission.

Q.13) Which of the following is/are part of the **Accessible India Campaign**?

1. Accessibility to schools, medical facilities, and workplaces
2. Transportation System Accessibility
3. Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

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: **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). It has the following three important components:

--- **Built Environment Accessibility:** Measures should be undertaken to eliminate obstacles and barriers to indoor and outdoor facilities including schools, medical facilities, and workplaces. These would include not only buildings, but also footpaths, curb cuts, and obstacles that block the flow of pedestrian traffic.

--- **Transportation System Accessibility:** Transportation is a vital component for independent living, and like others in society, PwDs rely on transportation facilities to move from one place to another. The term transportation covers a number of areas including air travel, buses, taxis, and trains.

--- **Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility:** Access to information creates opportunities for everyone in society. People use information in many forms to make decisions about their daily lives. This can range from actions such as being able to read price tags, to physically enter a hall, to participate in an event, to read a pamphlet with healthcare information, to understand a train timetable, or to view webpages.

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Biofuel Policy (NBP) 2018 has a target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol and 5% of bio-diesel by 2030.
2. A drop in fuel is one that can be utilized in vehicles without any modifications in the conventional engine systems.

Which of the 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 goal of the **National Biofuel Policy (NBP) 2018** is to enable availability of biofuels in the market thereby increasing its blending percentage.

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An indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel is proposed by 2030. This goal is to be achieved by:

- reinforcing ongoing ethanol/biodiesel supplies through increasing domestic production
- setting up Second Generation (2G) bio refineries
- development of new feedstock for biofuels
- creating suitable environment for biofuels and its integration with the main fuels.

Statement 2 is correct. A **drop-in fuel** is a synthetic and completely interchangeable substitute for conventional petroleum-derived hydrocarbons (gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel), meaning it does not require adaptation of the engine, fuel system or the fuel distribution network.

The NBP 2018 defines drop-in fuels as any liquid fuel produced from Biomass, agri-residues, wastes such as Municipal Solid Wastes (MSW), Plastic wastes, Industrial wastes etc. which meets the Indian standards for MS, HSD and Jet fuel, in pure or blended form, for its subsequent utilization in vehicles without any modifications in the engine systems and can utilize existing petroleum distribution system.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020**:

1. It provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.
2. A farming agreement must provide for a conciliation board as well as a conciliation process for settlement of disputes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020** provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.

The minimum period of an agreement will be one crop season, or one production cycle of livestock. The maximum period is five years, unless the production cycle is more than five years.

Statement 2 is correct. A farming agreement must provide for a **conciliation board as well as a conciliation process** for settlement of disputes. The Board should have a fair and balanced representation of parties to the agreement.

At first, all disputes must be referred to the board for resolution. If the dispute remains unresolved by the Board after thirty days, parties may approach the Sub-divisional Magistrate for resolution.

Q.16) What was the mandate of the **Ashok Dalwai Committee**?

- a) Doubling Farmer's Income
- b) Review of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) laws
- c) Reforms in Criminal Laws
- d) Electoral Reforms

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Union Government had constituted an inter-ministerial committee headed by **Ashok Dalwai** to prepare a blueprint for **doubling farmers' income by 2022**. The Committee submitted its final report to the Government in September 2018.

It recommended to place agricultural marketing in the Concurrent list and a greater private sector participation in agri-marketing and logistics. It suggested that farmer producer and village producer organisations (FPO/VPO) could play a critical role in integrating small and marginal farmers into the agricultural market system.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)** initiative:

1. It aims to upgrade the infrastructure of rural haats across the country.
2. Government announced to set up of an Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund for developing and upgrading agricultural marketing infrastructure in Gramin Agricultural Markets.

Which of the 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.

Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) are retail agricultural markets in close proximity of the farm gate that promote and service a more efficient transaction of the farmers' produce across the agricultural sub-sectors, by enabling both direct sales, between the producer and consumer, and aggregation of small produce-lots for subsequent transaction, both of which can occur either physically or online.

Government of India had announced to develop and upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). In these GrAMs, physical infrastructure will be strengthened using MGNREGS and other Government Schemes.

Further, the Government announced to set up of an **Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund** with a corpus of Rs. 2000 crore for developing and upgrading agricultural marketing infrastructure in the 22000 Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) and 585 Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**:

1. It provides for the establishment of the State Food Commissions for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of this Act.
2. Two or more States may have a Joint State Food Commission with the approval of 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: Statement 1 is correct. **Section 16 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)** provides that every State Government shall, by notification, constitute a State Food Commission for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of the Act.

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Statement 2 is correct. Section 18 of the Act provides that the State Government, if considers it necessary, by notification, designate any statutory commission or a body to exercise the powers and perform the functions of the State Commission. **Section 19 provides that two or more States** may have a joint State Food Commission with the approval of the Central Government.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **Aadi Mahotsav**:

1. It is a tribal craft exhibition having individual tribal artisans, tribal Self Help Groups as participants.
2. It is organised by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

Which of the 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.

Aadi Mahotsav is a national tribal festival and a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** in which individual tribal artisans, tribal SHGs, agencies, organisations working with tribals participate.

It started in 2017 and has held many events all over the country since then. The virtual edition of Aadi Mahotsav- Madhya Pradesh was recently inaugurated.

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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Right to Freedom of Religion**:

1. All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.
2. State can make law for throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 25(1)** provides that subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 25(2)** states that nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law—

--regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;

-- providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.

The reference to Hindus is construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist religion.

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SCIENCE & TECCHNOLOGY

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

1. It is a group of viruses that cause diseases in animals and humans.
2. MERS-CoV was the first ever coronavirus to be discovered.

Which of the 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. **Coronaviruses** are a large group of viruses that cause diseases in animals and humans. They often circulate among camels, cats, and bats, and can sometimes evolve and infect people.

In animals, coronaviruses can cause diarrhea in cows and pigs, and upper respiratory disease in chickens. In humans, the viruses can cause mild respiratory infections, like the common cold, but can lead to serious illnesses, like pneumonia.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Coronaviruses are named for the **crown-like spikes** on their surface. Human coronaviruses were **first identified in the mid-1960s**.

There are currently seven coronaviruses known to infect humans. Four of them cause mild to moderate disease. More specifically, HCoV-OC43, HCoV-HKU1 and HCoV-229E cause common colds, and severe lower respiratory tract infections in the youngest and oldest age groups, while HCoV-NL63 is an important cause of (pseudo) croup and bronchiolitis in children.

The other three cause more severe and even fatal disease and have emerged more recently: **SARS-CoV** responsible for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2002, **MERS-CoV** the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2012 and **SARS-CoV-2**, identified with a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China in late 2019.

Q.2) What is measure by the **Octane Rating/Number**?

- a) Mileage performance of a fuel in non-ideal conditions
- b) Ability of a fuel to resist knocking in an internal combustion engine
- c) Ignition temperature fuels
- d) Amount of volatile content in fuel

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Octane Number/Rating, measure of the ability of a fuel to **resist knocking** when ignited in a mixture with air in the cylinder of an internal-combustion engine. The octane number is determined by comparing, under standard conditions, the knock intensity of the fuel with that of blends of two reference fuels: iso-octane, which resists knocking, and heptane, which knocks readily.

The higher the number, the better the fuel burns within the engine of a vehicle. Higher performance vehicles require fuels with a higher-octane rating.

Indian Oil has launched world-class premium grade Petrol (Octane 100) branded as XP100 in the country recently.

Knocking, in an internal-combustion engine, sharp sounds caused by premature combustion of part of the compressed air-fuel mixture in the cylinder.

Q.3) Which of the following disease(s) have **zoonotic origin**?

1. Lyme disease

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2. COVID-19
3. Brucellosis

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 diseases have zoonotic origin.

Zoonotic diseases (also known as zoonoses) are caused by germs that spread between animals and people.

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and rarely, *Borrelia mayonii*. It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans.

All available evidence for COVID-19 suggests that **SARS-CoV-2 has a zoonotic source**. Since there is usually limited close contact between humans and bats, it is more likely that transmission of the virus to humans happened through another animal species, one that is more likely to be handled by humans [World Health Organisation].

Brucellosis is a disease caused by a group of bacteria from the genus *Brucella*. These bacteria can infect both humans and animals. Most commonly, people are infected by eating raw or unpasteurized dairy products.

Q.4) The term '**Long Covid**' have been used with reference to which of the following condition?

- a) People having comorbidities getting infected by SARS-COV-2
- b) People struggling with symptoms for weeks or months after being infected with COVID-19
- c) An infected person not testing negative for COVID-19 after 28 days of being infected
- d) Infection from a mutated SARS-COV-2 virus

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Long Covid is not medically definitive, but a term that describes a portion of the population **struggling with symptoms for weeks or months** after being infected with Covid-19, and not just those who were seriously ill.

The most common feature is crippling fatigue. Others symptoms include: breathlessness, a cough that won't go away, joint pain, muscle aches, hearing and eyesight problems, headaches, loss of smell and taste as well as damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys and gut. Mental health problems have been reported including depression, anxiety and struggling to think clearly.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**:

1. It refers to a phenomenon of human body acquiring resistance to antibiotics.
2. It only occurs in case of the bacterial infection diseases.

Which 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: Both statements are incorrect.

Antimicrobials – including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.

Antibiotic resistance does not mean the body is becoming resistant to antibiotics; it is that bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotics designed to kill them.

Especially alarming is the rapid global spread of multi- and pan-resistant bacteria (also known as “superbugs”) that cause infections that are not treatable with existing antimicrobial medicines such as antibiotics.

The clinical pipeline of new antimicrobials is scarce. In 2019 WHO identified 32 antibiotics in clinical development that address the WHO list of priority pathogens, of which only six were classified as innovative.

Q.6) Which of the following is/are type(s) of **Intellectual Property**?

1. Industrial Designs
2. Music
3. Geographical Indications

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: Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.

Types of intellectual property:

Copyright is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works. Works covered by copyright range from books, music, paintings, sculpture and films, to computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps and technical drawings.

Patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention. Generally speaking, a patent provides the patent owner with the right to decide how - or whether - the invention can be used by others.

Trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises.

Industrial design constitutes the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article. A design may consist of three-dimensional features, such as the shape or surface of an article, or of two-dimensional features, such as patterns, lines or color.

Geographical indications and appellations of origin are signs used on goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, a reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that place of origin. Most commonly, a geographical indication includes the name of the place of origin of the goods.

Trade secrets are IP rights on confidential information which may be sold or licensed.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a blow or jolt to the head.
2. A contusion happens when an injured capillary or blood vessel leaks blood into the surrounding area.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI)** caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. This sudden movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging brain cells.

Statement 2 is correct. A **contusion** happens when an injured capillary or blood vessel leaks blood into the surrounding area. Contusions are a type of hematoma, which refers to any collection of blood outside of a blood vessel. It is a medical term for the common bruise.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cancer Genome Atlas**:

1. It is a catalogue of genetic mutations responsible for cancer developed using genome sequencing.
2. Indian Cancer Genomics Atlas (ICGA) has been developed by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Cancer Genome Atlas** is a catalogue of genetic mutations responsible for cancer, developed using genome sequencing and bioinformatics.

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) was a joint effort of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), which are both part of the National Institutes of Health, **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. The project then molecularly characterized over 20,000 primary cancer and matched normal samples from 33 cancer types.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The establishment of an **'Indian Cancer Genomics Atlas (ICGA)'** has been initiated by a consortium of key stakeholders in India led by **CSIR**, Government of India in which several government agencies, cancer hospitals, academic institutions and private sector partners.

Q.9) Which of the following may result in **Vasoplegic syndrome**?

- a) A cardiothoracic surgery
- b) An accident involving fractured leg
- c) Amnesia
- d) COVID-19

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Vasoplegia** is the syndrome of pathological low systemic vascular resistance, the dominant clinical feature of which is reduced blood pressure in the presence of a normal or raised cardiac output.

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Vasoplegic syndrome is a common occurrence following **cardiothoracic surgery** and is characterized as a high-output shock state with poor systemic vascular resistance. The pathophysiology is complex and includes dysregulation of vasodilatory and vasoconstrictive properties of smooth vascular muscle cells.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **RT-LAMP**:

1. It can be used as a serological test for viral diagnosis.
2. It is faster than a RT-PCR test for diagnosis of 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It is **not a serological test**. Serologic tests measure the antibody response in an individual.

Loop-mediated isothermal amplification, or LAMP, is an assay that can be used for viral RNA detection. This is a one -step nucleic acid amplification method to multiply specific sequences of RNA of the coronavirus. Here, the RNA is first made into cDNA (copy DNA) by the usual re-verse transcription. Then, the DNA is amplified by the LAMP technique.

Statement 2 is correct. The benefits of **RT-LAMP** are important for the viability of broadscale use of this technology. Chief among these is that amplification of genetic material is done quickly under isothermal conditions, which removes the requirements for a thermal cycle.

This also allows for higher amplification efficiency, because there is no need to wait for thermal changes, and thus no time is lost. Whereas a traditional PCR can take around 3 to 4 hours, RT-LAMP takes less than an hour. Other benefits include the high specificity and selectivity for the genetic material in question.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)**:

1. It is set up at Pune by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics.
2. It has been awarded the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) milestone.

Which of the 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 Centre for Radio Astrophysics-TIFR** has set up a unique facility for radio astronomical research using the metre wavelengths range of the radio spectrum, known as the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), it is located at a site about 80 km north of Pune.

GMRT is a very versatile instrument for investigating a variety of radio astrophysical problems ranging from nearby Solar system to the edge of observable Universe.

Statement 2 is correct. **Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)** has become the third Indian scientific facility to be awarded the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics**

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Engineers (IEEE) milestone for its novel engineering, advanced technology and scientific contributions made in the field of radio astronomy.

The previous two Indian contributions, recognised by the world's largest technical professional organisation recognised in 2012, are for the pioneering work done by **Sir JC Bose** to demonstrate the generation and reception of radio waves in 1895, and for the Nobel Prize winning discovery of the scattering of light named "**Raman effect**" by Sir CV Raman in 1928.

The IEEE Milestones programme honours significant technical achievements and excellence for the benefit of humanity found in unique products, services, seminal papers and patents, which have global or regional impact, in all areas associated with IEEE.

Q.12) What is Torrefaction?

- a) Reducing volatile content of coal
- b) Thermal degradation of organic biomass
- c) Conversion of crude oil into refined petroleum
- d) Force of attraction between two moving bodies in space

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Torrefaction is a thermal process to convert biomass into a coal-like material, which has better fuel characteristics than the original biomass. Torrefied biomass is more brittle, making grinding easier and less energy intensive. Compared to fresh biomass, storage of the torrefied material can be substantially simplified since biological degradation and water uptake is minimized.

Torrefaction involves the heating of biomass in the absence of oxygen to a temperature of typically 200 to 400°C. The structure of the biomass changes in such a way, that the material becomes brittle, and more hydrophobic. Although the weight loss is about 30%, the energy loss is only 10%. Main product is the solid, torrefied biomass.

The increasing air pollution due to the burning of **stubble and agro-residue** by local farmers has become a major concern for the country. Torrefaction offers a potential solution for it.

GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) The **Cyclonic Storm ‘Burevi’** is developing in which of the following region?

- a) North Pacific Ocean
- b) Southwest Bay of Bengal
- c) Arabian Sea
- d) South Indian Ocean

Correct answer: B

Explanation: According to the **Cyclone Warning Division of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)**: The Deep Depression over **southwest Bay of Bengal** moved west-northwestwards and intensified into **Cyclonic Storm ‘Burevi’**. IMD has issued Cyclone Alert (Yellow) for South Tamilnadu and South Kerala coasts.

Burevi will be the fifth cyclone over the North Indian Ocean this year, after Amphan, Nisarga, Gati and Nivar. The name ‘Burevi’ has been suggested by Maldives.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Iran is bordered by Caspian Sea in north and Persian Gulf in south.
- 2. Chabahar port is on Gulf of Oman.

Which of the 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. **Iran** is situated in south-western Asia and borders Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, as well as the **Caspian Sea to the north**, Turkey and Iraq to the west, the **Persian Gulf** and the Gulf of Oman to the **south** and Pakistan and Afghanistan to the east.



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Statement 2 is correct. **Chabahar Port** is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. The Trilateral Transit Agreement (Chabahar Agreement) was signed by the three transport ministers of India, Iran and Afghanistan in 2016.

Q.3) Where is **Arecibo Observatory** located?

- a) Puerto Rico
- b) Venezuela
- c) Mauna Kea
- d) International Space Station

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Arecibo Observatory**, also known as the **National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC)**, is an observatory in Arecibo, **Puerto Rico** owned by the US National Science Foundation (NSF).

The telescope was built in the early 1960s, with the intention of studying the ionised upper part of Earth's atmosphere, the ionosphere.

Recently the **telescope's 900-ton instrument platform collapsed onto a reflector dish** some 450ft (137m) below.

It came just weeks after officials announced that the telescope would be dismantled amid safety fears, following damage to its support system.

The Arecibo Observatory telescope was one of the largest in the world.

Q.4) The **Brahmaputra River** flows through which of the following region(s)?

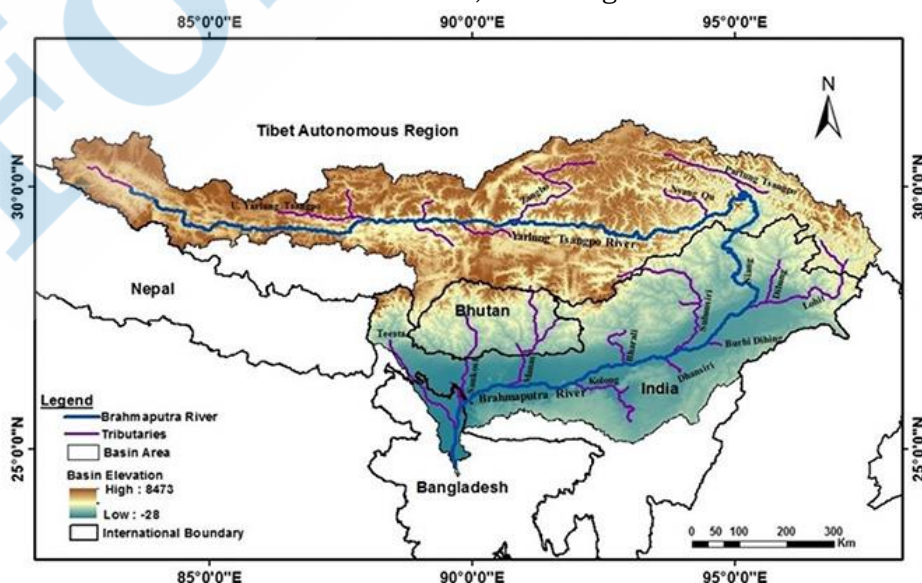
- 1. Bhutan
- 2. Nepal
- 3. China

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: C

Explanation: The **Brahmaputra River**; Bengali Jamuna, Tibetan Tsangpo, Chinese Yarlung Zangbo Jianga; along its course passes through the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, and Bangladesh.



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China's media reported recently that authorities have given the go-ahead for a Chinese hydropower company to construct the first down-stream dam on the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra river.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Kiwi or Chinese gooseberry**:

1. It is a rich source of vitamin B & C.
2. No agroclimatic region in India is suitable for Kiwi farming.

Which of the 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 **Kiwi fruit** has high nutritive and medicinal value. It is a rich source of vitamin B & C and minerals like phosphorus, potassium & calcium.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In India, **Kiwi** is mostly grown in the mid hills of **Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, J & K, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.**

Kiwi can be grown in areas experiencing 700-800 chilling hours (no. of hours during which temperature remains at or below 70 C during the winter season).

The plant can be grown at 800-1500 m. above m.s.l. A rainfall of about 150 cm. /year is sufficient. In summer, high temperature (> 350 C) and low humidity may cause scorching of leaves. Sun scald and heat stress are the main problems in its cultivation in lower areas.

Deep, rich, well-drained sandy loam soils are ideal for cultivation of kiwi. A soil pH slightly less than 6.9 results in maximum yield but higher pH upto 7.3 adversely affects the yield due to Mn deficiency.

Arunachal has recently become first state to obtain Organic Certification for Kiwi under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER).

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle**:

1. It is widespread in the northern and central parts of the Indian subcontinent.
2. It is listed as vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle** species is confined to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. It is widespread in the northern and central parts of the Indian subcontinent. It is found in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds with mud or sand bottoms. It is omnivorous, juveniles observed feeding on mosquito larvae and fish, while adults consume snails, earthworms, prawns, fish, frogs, carrion, and vegetation.

It is listed as **Vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.**

--The species is heavily exploited for its meat and calipee (the outer cartilaginous rim of the shell).

--Threats in the River Ganga to the species are those generic for all large river turtles, including reduction of fish stock, as a result of overfishing, pollution, increase in river traffic, and sand-mining, among others.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Six states of India share their border with Nepal.
2. SURYA KIRAN is a joint military training exercise between India and Nepal.
3. India and Nepal award each other's Army Chief with the honorary rank of General.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Nepal** shares a border of over 1850 km with **five Indian states** – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Statement 2 is correct. A number of defence personnel from Nepal Army attend training courses in various Indian Army training institutions. The 'Indo-Nepal Battalion-level Joint Military Exercise **SURYA KIRAN**' is conducted alternately in India and in Nepal.

Statement 3 is correct. Since 1950, India and Nepal have been awarding each other's **Army Chief** with the honorary rank of General in recognition of the mutual harmonious relationship between the two armies.

Q.2) Which of the site(s) in Asia is/are related to **Buddhism**?

1. Ajina Tepe
2. Termez
3. Sahri Bahlol

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 Buddhist cloister of **Ajina tepe** is situated at a distance of 12 km east from the city of Kurgan-Tiube, **Tajikistan**.

Option 2 is correct. **Termez** is a city in the southernmost part of Uzbekistan. The ancient Termez was one of the largest centres of Buddhism in the region.

Option 3 is correct. **Sahri Bahlol**, is a city and archaeological site located in Mardan District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. It is a historical place and it has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1980. The site has remnants of Buddhist structures.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**:

1. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent body of SCO.
2. English is one of the official languages of SCO.

Which 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. Currently, eight countries enjoy the status of the SCO full members: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; four countries — Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia — have an observer status with the SCO, and six countries — Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka — have a dialogue partner status.

The Organisation has **two permanent bodies — the Secretariat in Beijing (China) and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Russian and Chinese** are the official working languages of the SCO.

It has been reported that India has proposed English to be adopted as an official language at SCO.

Q.4) Which of the following organisation has released the ‘**State of Food and Agriculture 2020**’ report?

- a) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- b) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- c) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- d) World Food Programme (WFP)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **State of Food and Agriculture**, one of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)’s major annual flagship publications, aims at bringing to a wider audience balanced science-based assessments of important issues in the field of food and agriculture. Each edition of the report contains a comprehensive, yet easily accessible, overview of a selected topic of major relevance for rural and agriculture development and for global food security.

The **State of Food and Agriculture 2020** presents new estimates on the pervasiveness of water scarcity in irrigated agriculture and of water shortages in rainfed agriculture, as well as on the number of people affected.

--Some 520 million of the 1.2 billion people lived in rural areas while 660 million lived in small urban centres surrounded by agricultural areas.

--Nearly half of the 1.2 billion people lived in south Asia, while 460 million lived in east and Southeast Asia.

--In central Asia, west Asia and North Africa, about one-fifth of the population lived in agricultural areas with very high-water shortages or scarcity.

Q.5) Which of the following country(s) is/are member to **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation as well as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership?**

- 1. China
- 2. India
- 3. Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a proposed agreement between the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

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(ASEAN) and its free trade agreement (FTA) partners: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, **China**, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** currently comprises eight Member States **China**, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**:

1. It guarantees that States that have ratified the treaty will promote and protect the rights of people with disability.
2. India is a signatory of this United Nations Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** is a legally binding international instrument now exists to guarantee that States that have ratified the treaty will promote and protect the rights of people with disability. These States will next work on passing their own national civil rights legislation to improve the lives of people with disability.

Statement 2 is correct. **India is a signatory** of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). It ratified this Convention on 01-10-2007 in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention. India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India in November 2015.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**:

1. It has been launched by India and Sweden.
2. It recently organised the Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020 summit.

Which of the 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. **LeadIT is launched by India and Sweden along with the World Economic Forum** with the support of Stockholm Environment Institute in 2019 during the United Nations Secretary General Climate Action Summit.

Currently, the Group has membership of 13 countries and 15 companies that are working together to drive the low-carbon transition of energy-intensive industries and achieve net-zero carbon emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Ministry of Electronics & IT** is hosted a global virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE) 2020 in October.

Q.8) Which of the following cyclone(s) is/are correctly matched to the countries that recommended their names?

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1. Nivar - Pakistan
2. Burevi - Maldives
3. Amphan - Thailand

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: In 2000, the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** agreed to start assigning names for cyclones over the North Indian Ocean using a list of names suggested by the countries surrounding the ocean basin.

There are six **regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs)** and five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) across the globe to monitor cyclogenesis, issue advisories and name cyclones.

IMD's RSMC in New Delhi is one among them that provide advisories to 13 countries in the north Indian Ocean basin: Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. RSMC, New Delhi is also responsible for naming cyclones over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

Cyclone Nivar has been named from Iran's suggestions, **Amphan** from Thailand's and the **Burevi** Cyclone has been named from the list submitted by Maldives.

Q.9) Which of the following organisation has released the **World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020**?

- a) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- b) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- c) Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
- d) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **World malaria report**, published annually by **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, provides a comprehensive update on global and regional malaria data and trends. The report tracks investments in malaria programmes and research as well as progress across all intervention areas: prevention, diagnosis, treatment and surveillance.

The **World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020** indicates that India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden. India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.

The **Annual Parasitic Incidence (API)** reduced by 27.6% in 2018 compared to 2017 and by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018. India has sustained API less than one since year 2012.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)**:

1. It is a constituent of the World Trade Organisation.
2. India's International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is a member to the IAIS.

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. Established in 1994, the IAIS headquartered in Switzerland is a **voluntary membership organization of insurance supervisors and regulators** from more than 200 jurisdictions, constituting 97% of the world's insurance premiums.

It is the international standard-setting body responsible for developing and assisting in the implementation of principles, standards and other supporting material for the supervision of the insurance sector.

Statement 2 is correct. The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** obtained membership of International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).

Q.11) Which of the following organisation has published the **World Trade Report 2020?**

- a) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- b) World Trade Organisation
- c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- d) World Economic Forum

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **World Trade Report (WTR)** is the annual report published since 2003 by the **World Trade Organization**. Each WTR provides an in-depth analysis of an aspect of trends in international trade, trade policy issues and the multilateral trading system.

The 2020 edition of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) World Trade Report analyzes the adoption of government policies to foster digital innovation and technological progress for economies, and explains the WTO's role in this changing context.

It observes that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the uptake of digital innovation and e-commerce and led countries to strengthen policies aimed at boosting growth through innovation and technological upgrading

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **SCO Young Scientist Conclave:**

- 1. The first edition of the conclave was hosted by India.
- 2. Its objectives included to increase collaboration in combating COVID-19 and emerging pandemics through research and innovation.

Which of the 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 a follow of the fifth session of **Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Member States, at which the huge talent pool of young scientists has been recognized as a potential tool to foster innovative research among the SCO nations, the first SCO-Young Scientists Conclave is being held in India in 2020, as an integral part of SCO Young Scientists Forum (SCO YSF).

Statement 2 is correct. The following thematic areas are chosen to promote collaborative work in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) among Member States:

- Agriculture and food processing
- Sustainable energy and energy storage

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- Biotechnology and bio-engineering
- Combating COVID-19 and emerging pandemics through research and innovation
- Environmental protection and natural resource management

Q.13) Which of the following organisation has released the **Global Wage Report 2020**?

- a) International Labour Organisation
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Trade Organisation
- d) International Trade Union Confederation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Global Wage Report 2020-21** released by the **International Labour Organisation** looks at recent trends in wages, the global economic and labour market context, and the impact that the pandemic has had on wages. The report also includes a number of policy recommendations to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis.

--During 2016-19, the global wage growth fluctuated between 1.6% and 2.2%.

--In the first half of 2020, the average wages in two-third countries fell or grew more slowly due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

--In the remaining one-third of countries — an increase in average wages was observed as the result of a large number of low-paid workers losing their jobs or leaving the labour market.

Q.14) What is the objective of the **SHINE trial**?

- a) Trial for potential COVID-19 vaccines
- b) Shortened treatment for drug-susceptible tuberculosis in children
- c) Trial for diagnostic tests for SARS-COV2
- d) Development of next generation antibiotics to counter Antimicrobial Resistant pathogens

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The study, named **SHINE (Shorter Treatment for Minimal Tuberculosis in Children)**, was sponsored by University College London (UCL).

Children often have mild forms of TB and it is likely that they could be successfully treated for less than the standard 6 months. This would have major advantages for the child, their family and carers, and for overburdened health systems, by reducing the number of clinic visits children need to make to take their drugs.

This study is examined whether a shorter 4-month regimen will be non-inferior to the standard 6-month regimen in terms of unfavourable outcomes at 72 weeks.

The **trial has found no significant differences** between children who received the shortened four-month long treatment compared to those who received the standard six-month treatment plan.

Q.15) Which of the following **dams in Afghanistan** have been/are to be constructed by India's assistance?

- 1. Salma dam
- 2. Shatoot dam
- 3. Kajaki dam

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: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. **Afghan-India Friendship Dam (AIFD) also known as the Salma Dam**, is a hydroelectric and irrigation dam project located on the Hari River in Chishti Sharif District of Herat Province in western Afghanistan. This project is funded and constructed by the Government of India as a part of the Indian aid project.

Option 2 is correct. India has signed an agreement with Afghanistan for building the **Shahtoot Dam** in Afghanistan. It is a proposed dam in the Kabul river basin, one of the five river basins in Afghanistan.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Kajaki Dam** is one of the major hydroelectric power dams of Helmand province on Helmand River in southern Afghanistan. It was constructed in 1950s by an American company as part of the Helmand Valley Authority project.

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ECONOMICS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**:

1. It projects market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting.
2. It is published by the National Statistical Office (NSO) for India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **purchasing managers' index (PMI)** is an economic indicator that surveys purchasing managers at businesses that make up a given sector. The purchasing managers' index consists of several different surveys that are compiled into a single numerical result depending on one of several possible answers to each question.

It is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting.

Statement 2 is incorrect. For India, the PMI Data is published by Japanese firm **Nikkei** but compiled and constructed by **Markit Economics**.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods and Services Tax Council**:

1. Union Minister of State for Finance is the ex-officio Vice-Chairperson of the Council.
2. One-half of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council constitute the quorum at its meetings.
3. It can recommend any special rate for a specified period, to raise additional resources during any natural calamity.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Members of the **Goods and Services Tax Council** choose one amongst themselves to be the **Vice-Chairperson** of the Council for such period as they may decide.

Statement 2 is correct. **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. The Goods and Services Tax Council's mandate includes that it can make recommendations to the Union and the States on any special rate or rates for a specified period, to raise additional resources during any **natural calamity or disaster**.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Municipal Bonds**:

1. It is an equity instrument issued by local governing bodies across the world.
2. Lucknow Municipal Corporation has become the first urban local body in India to issue Municipal Bonds.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. A **municipal bond is a debt instrument** issued by municipal corporations or associated bodies in India. These local governmental bodies utilize the funds raised through these bonds to finance projects for socio-economic development through building bridges, schools, hospitals, providing proper amenities to households, etc.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The INR 200 crore municipal bonds issue of the **Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC)** was listed at Bombay Stock Exchange recently.

With this, **Lucknow has become the 9th city in the country** to have raised municipal bonds, which has been incentivized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India under the mission AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation).

The **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, in 1998**, was the first to make a public offering. Since then, other local bodies in the cities of Nashik, Nagpur, Ludhiana, and Madurai, have also accessed the capital markets through municipal bonds.

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HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**:

1. He was elected as the President of the Constituent Assembly in 1946.
2. He became president of Indian National Congress following the resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose in 1939.

Which of the 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: Dr. Rajendra Prasad, son of Mahadev Sahai, was born in Siwan, Bihar on December 3, 1884.

Statement 1 is correct. In September 1946 Prasad was sworn in as minister for food and agriculture in the interim government preceding full independence. From **1946 to 1949 he presided over the Indian Constituent Assembly** and helped to shape the constitution.

He was unanimously elected president in 1950 and, after the first general election (1952), was chosen by an overwhelming majority of the new electoral college; in 1957 he was elected to a third term.

Statement 2 is correct. **Subhash Chandra Bose resigned** from the Congress presidentship after not getting much support within the party in 1939. Dr Rajendra Prasad became the INC President following the resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose.

Q.2) Arrange the following events in chronological order?

1. I.K. Gujral becoming the Prime Minister of India
2. R. Venkataraman becoming President of India
3. Assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Indian Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi was assassinated on 31 October 1984** at her residence in Safdarjung Road, New Delhi.

Ramaswamy Venkataraman, Indian politician, government official, and lawyer who was president of India from **1987 to 1992**.

Inder Kumar Gujral was sworn in as the 12th Prime Minister of India in April, **1997**.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Operation Trident of Indian Navy**:

1. It was an offensive operation launched by the Indian Navy on Pakistan's port city of Karachi during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.
2. The INS Vikrant of Indian Navy took part in the offensive operation.

Which 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. The **4th of December is celebrated every year as the Navy Day**. The day has great significance in the history of the Nation and the Indian Navy, as it marks a decisive victory for India when the missile boats of the India Navy during Operation Trident, in the 1971 India-Pakistan War, successfully fired their missiles onto ships, oil installations and shore defence installations of Pakistan at Karachi.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **INS Vikrant**, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 (IAC-1) is an aircraft carrier under construction by Cochin Shipyard in Kochi, Kerala for the Indian Navy. It is the first aircraft carrier to be built in India. It is expected to be commissioned in **2021**.

Q.4) The **Hornbill festival** is celebrated every year in which of the following State of India?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Kerala
- c) Telangana
- d) Assam

Correct answer: A

Explanation: To encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of **Nagaland**, the Government of Nagaland organizes the Hornbill Festival every year in the **first week of December**.

Organized by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments, Hornbill Festival showcases a mélange of cultural displays under one roof. This festival usually takes place between the 1st and the 7th of December every year at Naga Heritage Village, **Kisama**.

The Festival is named after the Indian Hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in folklore in most of the state's tribes.

The state has decided to hold the festival on a virtual platform this year.