

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

21th to 27th December, 2020

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

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding provisions under the **Constitution**:

1. Failure to comply with directions of the Union can be construed by President as inability of State Government to carry on the governance in accordance with constitution.
2. If the President or the Chief Justice of the High court is satisfied of the failure of constitutional machinery in States, the State Government can be dismissed.

Which of the 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 365 of the Constitution** states that if any State has failed to comply with, or to give effect to, any directions given in the exercise of the executive power of the Union under any of the provisions of this Constitution, it shall be lawful for the President to hold that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Article 356** provides for provisions regarding the failure of Constitutional machinery in States. The article explicitly puts the onus of such determination on **executive, i.e. President and the Governor** of the State concerned, and not the Judiciary.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Article 356 of the Constitution**:

1. Under the article, President can assume to himself all or any of the functions of the Government of the State.
2. It explicitly prohibits President from assuming to himself powers vested in or exercisable by a 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: Both statements are correct.

Article 356 states that If the President, on receipt of a report from the Governor of a State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the President may by Proclamation—

- (a) assume to himself all or any of the functions of the Government of the State and all or any of the powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor or anybody or authority in the State other than the Legislature of the State;
- (b) declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament.

Provided that nothing in this clause shall authorise the President to assume to himself any of the powers vested in or exercisable by a High Court, or to suspend in whole or in part the operation of any provision of this Constitution relating to High Courts.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Shakti Act' that has been in news recently:

1. It has been proposed by Andhra Pradesh government as an amendment to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.
2. It provides for stringent punishment, including the death penalty for perpetrators of crime against women and children.

Which of the 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 proposed **Maharashtra Government 'Shakti law'** involves two bills — the Maharashtra Shakti Criminal Law (Maharashtra Amendment) Act, 2020, and the Special Court and Machinery for Implementation of Maharashtra Shakti Criminal Law, 2020.

The draft legislation seeks amendments to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to include new offences, increase punishments and speedier investigations and trials.

Statement 2 is correct. Stringent punishment, including the death penalty and heavy fines on the perpetrators is a key feature of the draft bill. The perpetrators will be punished with imprisonment for life for not less than ten years but may extend to the remainder of natural life or with death in cases characterised as 'heinous'.

The draft bill also incorporates provisions with respect to social media. Threatening and intimidating women on social media will be an offence with a maximum punishment of two years and a Rs 1 lakh fine.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding FASTag:

1. It enables automatic deduction of toll charges at toll plazas.
2. The tag employs Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

Which of the 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.

To reduce vehicular traffic at the toll plazas, the Government of India (GOI) has mandated all toll plazas, pan India, to make toll payments electronic.

FASTag is a simple to use, reloadable tag which enables automatic deduction of toll charges and lets you pass through the toll plaza without stopping for the cash transaction. FASTag is linked to a prepaid account from which the applicable toll amount is deducted. The tag employs Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) technology and is affixed on the vehicle's windscreen after the tag account is active.

The government has enforced the use of FASTag mandatorily for all vehicles starting from January 1, 2021.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Q.3) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the “**Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020**”?

1. It is the right of consumer to have minimum standards of service for supply of electricity from the distribution licensee.
2. Maximum time period of 7 days in metro cities and 30 days in rural areas identified to provide new connection and modify an existing connection.
3. No connection shall be given without a meter.

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: Union Ministry of Power has promulgated **Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020** laying down the rights of power consumers in the country.

Rights and Obligations:

--It is the duty of every distribution licensee to supply electricity on request made by an owner or occupier of any premises in line with the provisions of Act.

--It is the right of consumer to have minimum standards of service for supply of electricity from the distribution licensee.

Release of new connection and modification in existing connection:

--Transparent, simple and time bound processes,

--Applicant has option for online application,

--Maximum time period of 7 days in metro cities and 15 days in other municipal areas and 30 days in rural areas identified to provide new connection and modify an existing connection:

Metering: No connection shall be given without a meter, Provision of Testing of meters, Provisions for replacement of defective or burnt or stolen meters specified.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **SANKALP programme**:

1. It is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development with loan assistance from the World Bank.
2. It aims to improve short term skill training qualitatively and quantitatively through strengthening institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (“SANKALP”)** is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development with loan assistance from the World Bank.

SANKALP is funded through three major parts: World Bank loan assistance, States’ contribution and Industry contribution.

Statement 2 is correct. It aims to improve short term skill training qualitatively and quantitatively through strengthening institutions, bring in better market connectivity and inclusion of marginalised sections of the society. SANKALP was launched on 19th January 2018 and has a tenure till March 2023.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

SANKALP has **four key result areas**: (i) Institutional Strengthening at Central, State & District level; (ii) Quality Assurance of skill development programmes; (iii) Inclusion of marginalized population in skill development programmes; and (iv) Expanding Skills through PPPs.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **government interventions during COVID-19**:

1. Masks and Hand sanitizers were added in the list of Essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act for limited period to ensure their availability.
2. The migrant worker families who were not covered under the National Food Security Act were provided with 2 kg of whole chana from Government buffer stocks.

Which of the 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. **Masks (2 ply & 3 ply surgical masks, N95 masks) and Hand sanitizers** were added in the list of Essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act for the period up to 30.6.2020 to ensure their availability and stop hoarding / short supply.

Statement 2 is correct. As a part of **Economic response to COVID 19** to ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by COVID 19, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), a special package which included provision of one kg per family of NFSA beneficiaries, of pulses like moong, tur, chana and urad was approved.

Under the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat package**, a provision was made for supply of 2 kg of whole chana from Government buffer stocks per migrant worker family who were **not covered under the National Food Security Act** or were without ration card in the State / UT in which they were stranded.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Startup Awards (NSA) 2021**:

1. It is the first-ever edition of National Startup Awards (NSA) to be organized.
2. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. First-ever **National Startup Awards ('NSA')** were concluded in October 2020, to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is an initiative of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce. Only DPIIT registered startup entities are eligible for participation.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Q.7) Which of the following government initiative(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. DIKSHA National Digital Infrastructure for Post-Graduation scholars
2. Manodarpan Psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Wellbeing
3. NISHTHA Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training

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: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)** is a national platform for school education, an initiative of National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT).

DIKSHA was developed based on the core principles of open architecture, open access, open licensing diversity, choice and autonomy as outlined in the Strategy and Approach Paper for the National Teacher Platform

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Manodarpan** is an initiative of Ministry of Education covering a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing during the COVID outbreak and beyond.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called **NISHTHA**.

NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Green National Highways Corridors Project**:

1. It aims to reduce Green House Gas emissions by integrating local materials, industrial byproducts, and bioengineering solutions in highways construction.
2. The project in India is being financially supported by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Which of the 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 **Government of India and the World Bank** recently signed a \$500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

The **Green National Highways Corridors Project** will support MoRTH construct 783 km of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts, and other bioengineering solutions.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

The project will help reduce GHG emissions in the construction and maintenance of highways.

The \$500 million loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a maturity of 18.5 years including a grace period of five years.

Q.9) Which of the following institution is organizing the **India International Science Festival 2020**?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)
- c) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- d) Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **India International Science Festival 2020** is being organised by **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** in collaboration with Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).

The sixth edition of this festival will take place from December 22 -25, 2020 with the theme 'Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare'. It aims to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students and innovators.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**:

- 1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- 2. Union government has decided to merge the Directorate of Film Festivals and National Film Archives of India with NFDC.

Which of the 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 Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC)**, incorporated in the year 1975, (100% owned Central Public Sector Undertaking) was formed by the Government of India with the primary objective of planning and promoting an organized, efficient, and integrated development of the Indian film industry.

Statement 2 is correct. Union Cabinet has recently approved to **merge four of its film media units**, namely Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society, India with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. by expanding the Memorandum of Articles of Association of NFDC, which will then carry out all the activities hitherto performed by them.

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Aero India exhibition of aerospace and defence industries is organized every alternate year.
- 2. The Tejas LCA is a single engine Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

Statement 2 is correct. The **Tejas LCA** together with its variants, is the smallest and lightest Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft of its class. This single engine, Compound-Delta-Wing, Tailless Aircraft is designed and developed to meet diverse needs of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN)**:

1. It is a digitalized platform to be used to effectively roll out and scale up the mechanism for COVID Vaccination.
2. It has been launched by the World Health Organisation.

Which of the 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. **COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN)** system is a digitalised platform to be used to effectively roll out and scale up the mechanism for COVID Vaccine Distribution System, nationally in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It has been launched by the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the launching of "CoWIN", a Grand Challenge for strengthening the COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) system.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC)**' scheme:

1. It allows students to pursue any post matric course starting from class 11th and onwards, with the Government meeting the cost of education.
2. The States will undertake fool-proof verification of the eligibility 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

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired recently approved major and transformatory changes in the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC)'**.

The Cabinet has approved a total investment of Rs. 59,048 Cr of which Central Government would spend Rs. 35,534 Cr (60%) and the balance would be spent by the State Govts. This replaces the existing 'committed liability' system and brings greater involvement of the Central Govt in this crucial scheme.

The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes allows students to pursue any post matric course starting from class 11th and onwards, with the Govt meeting the cost of education.

Statement 2 is correct. The scheme will be run on an **online platform** with robust cyber security measures that would assure transparency, accountability, efficiency, and timely delivery of the assistance without any delays.

The States will undertake fool-proof verification of the eligibility, caste status, Aadhar identification and bank account details on the online portal.

Q.14) Which of the following is/are Indian research station(s) at **Antarctica**?

1. Maitri
2. Bharati
3. Himadri

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: India presently has two research stations at Antarctica namely '**Maitri**' and '**Bharati**'. 'Bharati' was established in 2013 and Maitri station has been in operation since 1989. At both the stations, research and investigations are undertaken to understand the Polar processes and phenomenon. Observations and studies are carried out in atmospheric, biological, geological, ecological sciences etc.

At **Arctic**, meteorological, biological, glaciological and past climate studies are undertaken in the vicinity of the station '**Himadri**'.

Several people at a Chilean research station in Antarctica have been found infected with the novel coronavirus.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. The responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments.
3. Persons who paid income tax last assessment year are not eligible under the scheme.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (**PM-KISAN**) is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the Scheme an income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided to all farmer families across the country in three equal installments of Rs.2000/- each every four months.

The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments.

Statement 3 is correct. All Persons who paid **Income Tax in last assessment year** are not eligible for benefits under the scheme.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy 2020 (STIP 2020)**:

1. This is only the second national science and technology policy of/for India that follows the STIP 2013.
2. Its formulation process is being facilitated jointly by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Government of India will launch STIP 2020, a holistic and pragmatic policy dedicated to Science, technology and most importantly innovation. The policy aims to reorient Science Technology & Innovation (STI) in terms of priorities, sectoral focus and strategies.

Statement 1 is incorrect. A preparatory framework has been developed for the formulation of STIP 2020. This is only the **fifth national science, technology, and innovation policy** of/for India that follows Science Policy Resolution 1958 (SPR 1958), Technology Policy Statement 1983 (TPS 1983), Science and Technology Policy 2003 (STP 2003) and Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy 2013 (STIP 2013).

Statement 2 is correct. STIP2020 formulation process is being facilitated jointly by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (**Office of PSA**) and the Department of Science and Technology (**DST**).

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sagarmala programme**:

1. It is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping to promote port-led development in the country.
2. The program includes development of coastal communities through skill development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Sagarmala programme** is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping to promote port-led development in the country

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.

Statement 2 is correct. **Components of Sagarmala Programme are:**

Port Modernization & New Port Development: De-bottlenecking and capacity expansion of existing ports and development of new greenfield ports

Port Connectivity Enhancement: Enhancing the connectivity of the ports to the hinterland, optimizing cost and time of cargo movement through multi-modal logistics solutions including domestic waterways

Port-linked Industrialization: Developing port-proximate industrial clusters and Coastal Economic Zones to reduce logistics cost and time of EXIM and domestic cargo

Coastal Community Development: Promoting sustainable development of coastal communities through skill development & livelihood generation activities, fisheries development, coastal tourism etc.

Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways Transport: Impetus to move cargo through the sustainable and environment-friendly coastal and inland waterways mode.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) intends to create Product Specific Warehouses/Silos at various Ports, Multi Modal Logistics Parks located near Port area and alongside the National Waterways.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT scheme:**

1. It aims to extend Universal Health Coverage to all the residents of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
2. It provides financial health cover upto Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis.

Which of the 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.

Prime Minister will launch **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT** to extend coverage to all the residents of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 26th December 2020.

The scheme will ensure Universal Health Coverage and focus on providing financial risk protection and ensuring quality and affordable essential health services to **all individuals and communities.**

It provides health insurance cover upto Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K. It provides for operational extension of PM-JAY to 15 lakh (approx) additional families.

The scheme will operate on insurance mode in convergence with PM-JAY. The benefits of the scheme will be portable across the country. The hospitals empanelled under PM-JAY scheme shall provide services under this scheme as well.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bharat Skills Learning platform:**

1. It has been launched by the National Skill Development Corporation.
2. It is a Central Repository for skills which provide National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) curriculum and course material.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Bharat Skills is a e-learning portal of the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Statement 2 is correct. **Bharatskills** is a Central Repository for skills providing easy access for the trainees and trainers of the ITI ecosystem, to access updated curriculums and course content of all courses under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), Question Banks, mock/practice papers, learning videos, etc., hence enabling anytime, anywhere learning outside the classrooms.

This platform also presents a unique access to a centralized, scalable and a thriving support ecosystem through its industrial partners for the students and teachers who can now learn the newer IR 4.0 skills to meet the demands of the industry.

The Directorate General of Training (DGT) joined hands with Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation to provide a digital content for ITI students and also future-ready employability skilling program for upskilling and reskilling. Nearly 1,20,000 students in around 3000 ITIs across India can be benefited by this digitized e-learning module via the Bharatskills portal.

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar has been conferred with the status of Institute of National Importance.
2. The traditional medicinal system Sowa-Rigpa has been included under the ambit of Ministry of AYUSH.

Which of the 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: Ministry of AYUSH has released its year end review for 2020 [PIB].

Statement 1 is correct. The **Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Act, 2020** confers the status of Institute of National Importance to the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar by conglomerating four institutes at Gujarat Ayurved University, campus Jamnagar.

Statement 2 is correct. The Government has suitably amended the Allocation of Business Rules and inter-alia included the business of formulation of policy for development and propagation of **Sowa-Rigpa** under the ambit of Ministry of AYUSH.

The National Research Institute of Sowa-Rigpa was upgraded to “National Institute of Sowa Rigpa” in Leh, UT of Ladakh with the approval of Cabinet on 20th November, 2019.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM-FME)** Scheme:

1. The scheme aims at formalization of micro units by means of GST, Udyog Aadhar and FSSAI registrations.
2. The Scheme adopts One District One Product (ODOP) approach to reap benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), in partnership with the States, has launched an all India centrally sponsored "**PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme)**". The objectives of the scheme are:

- Formalization of micro units by means of GST, Udyog Aadhar and FSSAI registrations
- Financial assistance to individual units for upgradation of food processing facilities
- Quality improvement and skill development through trainings and technical knowledge
- Financial assistance to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), producer's cooperatives for setting up common infrastructure facilities

Statement 2 is correct. The PM FME scheme derives inspiration from the **One District One Product (ODOP) Programme** of the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government which aims to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of UP.

Under the PM FME scheme, the states will be required to identify one product per district based on the availability of raw material and existing clusters.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the **Accessible India Campaign**:

1. It has been launched by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in India.
2. It aims to achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Which of the 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. **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** has launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign.

Statement 2 is correct. It aims at achieving **universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities** (PwDs). The mission aims at achieving accessibility by:

- Enhancing the proportion of accessible government buildings
- Transportation System Accessibility
- Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

Q.23) What is the utility of the e-Sampada application launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**?

- a) Monitoring the green cover in urban India
- b) Estate services of government accommodations
- c) Monitoring city wise progress of Smart India mission
- d) Single window information hub for Swachh Bharat-Urban mission

Correct answer: B

Explanation: With the objectives of boosting transparency and accountability while ensuring ease of living for the citizens, the Directorate of Estates, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a new Web Portal and Mobile App, **e-Sampada**.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

The new application provides a single window for all these services including allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, office space allotment to government organisations.

It aims to boost transparency and accountability in providing various Estate Services like allotment, retention, regularisation, no dues certificate etc.

He further said that E-Sampada is developed to simplify processes and bring uniformity in the system across India. This will promote ease of living for Government of India officers / Departments as all services can be availed online on a single window with a live tracking of applications.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **Code on Wages, 2019**:

1. The Code prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature.
2. The Code specifies paying less than the due wages as an offence by the employer.

Which of the 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 Wages 2019** prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature. Work of similar nature is defined as work for which the skill, effort, experience, and responsibility required are the same.

Statement 2 is correct. The Code specifies **penalties for offences** committed by an employer, such as (i) paying less than the due wages, or (ii) for contravening any provision of the Code. Penalties vary depending on the nature of offence, with the maximum penalty being imprisonment for three months along with a fine of up to one lakh rupees.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

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

1. Gatka - Punjab
2. Thang ta - Manipur
3. Kalaripayattu - Kerala

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Sports Ministry** has approved the inclusion of four Indigenous Games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana. The games include: **Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba.**

Gatka is a traditional form of martial arts in Punjab, which is historically associated with Sikh Gurus and is popular among the masses as Sikh martial art.

Manipuri martial art is called Thang-Ta (sword and spear). It is dedicated to fighting skill and worship.

Kalaripayattu, also known simply as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in modern-day Kerala.

Mallakhamb is a traditional sport of India in which a gymnast performs aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling grips in concert with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane, or rope.

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

1. Liberation of Goa from Portuguese Rule
2. Indo-Pak War 1965
3. Gulzari Lal Nanda sworn in as Prime Minister of India for the first time

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Goa Liberation Day** is observed on December 19 every year in India and it marks the day Indian armed forces freed Goa in **1961** following almost 450 years of Portuguese rule.

Following the death of Pt. Nehru, Shri **Gulzari Lal Nanda** was sworn in as Prime Minister of India on **May 27, 1964**. Again on January 11, 1966, he was sworn in as Prime Minister following the death of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri at Tashkent.

The **Indo-Pakistani War of 1965** began following Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar, which was designed to infiltrate forces into Jammu and Kashmir to precipitate an insurgency against Indian rule.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Guru Tegh Bahadur**:

1. He was ninth Guru of the Sikh religion.
2. He was a contemporary of the Mughal King Akbar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Guru** of the Sikh religion. He was beheaded on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb on 24 November 1675 in Delhi.

Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib stand at the sites of beheading and cremation of his body.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Mughal King **Akbar reigned from 1556 to 1605**, whereas Guru Tegh Bahadur was born on 1 April 1621 in Amritsar and was named Tyaga Mal at birth.

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

- a) It is a metal casting style which uses the lost-wax technique
- b) It is a fresco wall painting art from Western India
- c) It is a royal painting tradition in Ayodhya region
- d) It is a scroll painting art of Odisha

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Dhokra is a non-ferrous metal casting style which uses the lost-wax technique. This style of metal casting has been in vogue in all parts of India for centuries.

Exquisite Dhokra products from different tribes of India were among the main items added in its 7th edition of "From Our Home to your Home" campaign on Tribes India, which focusses on sourcing new, natural, attractive as well as immunity-boosting tribal products and bringing them to the customer.

Among the dhokra products being introduced on **Tribes India** are attractive statues of fish, elephants and hangers in the boat jail design from the Lohra tribes of Jharkhand. From the Sadeibaraini tribals from Odisha, Ganesha statues, including a dancing Ganesha, a mask of Goddess Durga and Lord Jagannath, a Buddha Jaali and beautiful diyas in different shapes have been sourced.

Q.5) Which of the following **Prime Minister(s) served as Head of Government** more than once?

1. Gulzari Lal Nanda
2. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
3. Morarji Desai

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. Following the death of Pt. Nehru, **Gulzari Lal Nanda** was sworn in as Prime Minister of India on May 27, 1964. Again on January 11, 1966, he was sworn in as Prime Minister following the death of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri at Tashkent.

Option 2 is correct. **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** served as Prime Minister for a short period in 1996. He later served as PM consecutively from 1998-99 and 1999-2004.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Morarji Desai** served as 4th Prime Minister of India in period March 24, 1977 - July 28, 1979.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) What is **B.1.1.7**, which has been in news recently?

- a) A mutated SARS-COV-2
- b) An asteroid having potential of Earth impact in 2029
- c) A previously unidentified type of radioactive substance
- d) A supersonic vehicle capable of carrying passengers to Space

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **highly infectious variant of SARS-COV-2** that has been reported to have emerged in south-east **England** that is spreading rapidly to the rest of the UK and is already present elsewhere in the world.

The World Health Organisation said its Evolution Working Group is working closely with the UK medical authorities to understand how the variant, now called **B.1.1.7**, is likely to affect the course of the pandemic. It has been detected in the Netherlands, Denmark and Australia.

Scientists say two aspects of B.1.1.7 give cause for concern. One is the unprecedented number of mutations it carries. The other is the speed with which it is supplanting other strains of the Sars-Cov-2 virus in south-east England.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. In general, hypersonic flow is defined as the flow at Mach 5 or greater.
- 2. The hypersonic wind tunnel is used to test and simulate flight characteristics in a hypersonic region.

Which of the 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 aerodynamics, a **hypersonic speed** is one that greatly exceeds the speed of sound, often stated as starting at speeds of **Mach 5 and above**.

A test facility designed or considered for hypersonic testing should simulate the typical flow features of this flow regime. To develop satellite launch rockets, space shuttles, etc., it is essential to test in the hypersonic range of Mach number 5 or more. The **hypersonic wind tunnel** is used to test flight characteristics in a hypersonic region.

Defence minister recently inaugurated the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel test facility in Hyderabad. With this India has become the third country to have such a huge facility in size and capability after America and Russia.

Q.3) Which of the following can cause a **mutation** in genes?

- 1. If an error is made as DNA copies itself during cell division
- 2. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: A mutation is a change in a DNA sequence. Mutations can lead to changes in the structure of an encoded protein or to a decrease or complete loss in its expression.

--When a **cell divides**, it makes a copy of its DNA — and sometimes the copy is not quite perfect. That small difference from the original DNA sequence is a mutation.

-- **Mutations** can also be caused by exposure to specific chemicals or radiation. Ultraviolet (UV) light has strong genotoxic effects to produce DNA damage, induce mutations, and, in the worst case, cause the development of tumors.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **FELUDA test**:

1. It is aimed at detection of genes specific to SARS-CoV-2 virus.
2. It uses CRISPR technology for COVID-19 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **FNCAS9 Editor-Limited Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA) test** is a paper strip test for diagnosis of SARS-COV-2.

It uses CRISPR-Cas technology for the detection of genes specific to SARS-CoV-2 virus.

In this method, a protein called FnCas9 and a guide RNA (gRNA) which helps in recognising the viral genes is used. If the patient sample has the viral gene, this gRNA-FnCas9 complex binds to the gene and using a paper strip this binding can be visualised.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Spike proteins**:

1. These are carbohydrate containing proteins protruding from envelope of coronaviruses.
2. The spike proteins latch the virus onto a human body cell.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Members of the coronavirus family have sharp bumps that protrude from the surface of their outer envelopes. Those bumps are known as **spike proteins**. They're actually glycoproteins. That means they contain a **carbohydrate** (such as a sugar molecule).

Statement 2 is correct. Spike proteins play an important role in how these viruses infect their hosts. S proteins can change shape to interact with a protein on the surface of human cells. Those spike proteins latch the virus onto a cell. This allows them to get entry into those cells.

Without the S protein, viruses like the novel SARS-CoV-2 would not be able to interact with the cells of potential hosts like animals and humans to cause infection. As a result, the S protein represents an ideal target for vaccine and antiviral research endeavors.

Q.6) Which of the following is the major component of the **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)**?

- a) Propane

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

- b) Butane
- c) Ethane
- d) Methane

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Natural gas** as its name indicates is a Gaseous fuel, consisting of 87-92% of **Methane** with a small percentage of other higher hydrocarbons.

PNG, CNG & LNG are different forms of Natural gas under varied temperature & pressure.

Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is generally under atmospheric temperatures but the pressure can up to as high as 90 Kg/cm² in transmission lines and limited to less than 24 Kg/cm² in City Gas grids due to risk involved in movement of high-pressure gas inside crowded cities/towns.

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) means natural gas used as fuel for vehicles, typically compressed to the pressure ranging from 200 to 250 kg/cm² in the gaseous state.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is liquid form of Natural gas, generally intended for transportation of large volumes through ships, where cross country pipelines are not feasible. There will be high degree of economy in transportation logistics due to large scale of operations involved.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Barak 8 missile**:

1. It is a beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile.
2. It has been jointly developed by the Israel Ministry of Defense (IMOD) and the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization).

Which of the 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 **Barak-8 Surface-to-Air Missile Defence system or LRSAM** provides a 360-degree defence against various airborne threats. Complemented by a state-of-the-art multi-mission radar, flexible control and command system, and two-way data link, Barak-8 can engage multiple targets at the same time during day and night in all weather conditions.

Statement 2 is correct. Barak-8, jointly developed by the **Israel Ministry of Defense (IMOD) and the DRDO** (Defence Research and Development Organization) in India, is an advanced groundbreaking air and missile defense system which provides ultimate protection against a variety of aerial platforms, in both land and naval scenarios.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently tested Army version of MRSAM is a surface to Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO, India and IAI, Israel for use of the Indian Army.

Q.8) What is '**Variant Under Investigation (VUI)-20212/01**'?

- a) A new variant of SARS-COV-2 virus
- b) A potential BCG vaccine variant for COVID-19
- c) A spyware attack on US government agencies
- d) Sample from Bennu asteroid

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A **new variant of SARS- CoV 2 virus [Variant Under Investigation (VUI)- 20212/01]** also referred to as B.1.1.7 has been reported by the Government of United Kingdom (UK) to World Health Organization (WHO).

This variant is estimated by European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) to be more transmissible and affecting younger population. This variant is defined by a set of 17 changes or mutations. One of the most significant is an N501Y mutation in the spike protein that the virus uses to bind to the human ACE2 receptor. Changes in this part of the spike protein may result in the virus becoming more infectious and spreading more easily between people.

Q.9) The **501.V2 variant of SARS-COV-2** has been identified in which of the following country?

- a) South Africa
- b) Australia
- c) Argentina
- d) Pakistan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The new variant known as **501Y.V2** was discovered through routine surveillance by a network of laboratories in **South Africa**.

South Africa reported last week that scientists have found a new genetic mutation which might be responsible for the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in South Africa.

The new variant has multiple changes in the **spike protein**, the part of the virus that binds to cells inside the human body and that is also the main target for many of the antibodies produced during infection or after vaccination. Scientists have isolated one particular mutation – N501Y, common to both the new UK variant and that from South Africa – which they believe is important to its ability to spread fast.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **Ammonia**:

1. It is a major ingredient in fertilizer industry.
 2. Exposure to high concentrations of ammonia can result in respiratory distress or failure.
- Which of the 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 tri-hydrogen of nitrogen (NH₃), ammonia is a building block for ammonium nitrate (NH₄NO₃) that is used in agriculture as a high-nitrogen **fertiliser**.

Ammonia is also used as a refrigerant gas, for purification of water supplies, and in the manufacture of plastics, explosives, textiles, pesticides, dyes and other chemicals.

Statement 2 is correct. Ammonia is irritating and corrosive. Exposure to high concentrations of ammonia in air causes immediate burning of the nose, throat and respiratory tract. This can cause bronchiolar and alveolar edema, and airway destruction resulting in **respiratory distress or failure**.

Inhalation of lower concentrations can cause coughing, and nose and throat irritation. Ammonia's odor provides adequate early warning of its presence, but ammonia also causes

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

olfactory fatigue or adaptation, reducing awareness of one's prolonged exposure at low concentrations.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding **Shigella infection**:

1. It is a bacterial infection.
2. Children are more susceptible to the Shigella infection.

Which of the 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. **Shigella bacteria** cause an infection called shigellosis. Most people with Shigella infection have diarrhea (sometimes bloody), fever, and stomach cramps. Symptoms usually begin 1–2 days after infection and last 7 days.

Shigella is very contagious. People get infected with shigella when they come in contact with and swallow small amounts of bacteria from the stool of a person who is infected with shigella.

Statement 2 is correct. **Children under age 10** are most likely to get shigella infection but it can occur at any age.

Recently, several cases of the Shigella infection have been reported in North Kerala.

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Saturn takes more than twice as much as years Jupiter takes to complete one revolution around Sun.
2. Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: In 1623, the solar system's two giant planets, Jupiter and Saturn, traveled together across the sky. Jupiter caught up to and passed Saturn, in an astronomical event known as a "Great Conjunction."

It's been nearly 400 years since the planets passed this close to each other in the sky, and nearly 800 years since the alignment of Saturn and Jupiter occurred at night, as it happening in 2020, allowing nearly everyone around the world to witness this "**great conjunction**."

Statement 1 is correct. Jupiter takes roughly 12 years to complete one lap around the Sun and Saturn takes 30 years.

Statement 2 is correct. Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system at nearly 11 times the size of Earth and 317 times its mass.

Despite its size, Jupiter has the shortest day of any other planet; it only takes about 10 hours for a complete rotation.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

ECONOMY

Q.1) What is measured by the **MSCI Indexes**?

- a) Expansion of a pandemic disease
- b) Measurement of stock market performance
- c) Ease of doing business in a country/State
- d) Extent of government regulation in a particular field

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) has set up many global indices, one of which is a composite of Indian stocks-the MSCI India index.

The MSCI Indexes are a measurement of stock market performance in a particular area. Like other indexes, such as the Dow Jones Averages or the S&P 500, it tracks the performance of the stocks included in the index.

MSCI has indexes for a variety of geographic sub-areas, as well as global indexes for stock categories such as small-cap, large-cap, and mid-cap. The four most popular track emerging markets, frontier markets, developed markets excluding the United States and Canada, and the world market.

MSCI Inc will cut seven Chinese firms from some of its global indexes, it said recently, the third major index publisher after S&P Dow Jones Indices and FTSE Russell to do so following U.S. restrictions on owning the companies.

Q.2) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Positive Pay mechanism**?

- a) Security feature for large value cheque transactions
- b) New auction mechanism for spectrum sale
- c) T+2 settlement cycle for equity transactions
- d) The UPI mandate facility for mutual funds

Correct answer: A

Explanation: From January 1, 2021 onwards Reserve Bank of India has decided to introduce a mechanism of **Positive Pay for all cheques of value ₹50,000 and above**. Under this mechanism, cheques will be processed for payment by the drawee bank based on information passed on by its customer at the time of issuance of cheque.

Under this process, the issuer of the cheque submits electronically, through channels like SMS, mobile app, Internet banking and ATM, certain minimum details of that cheque (like date, name of the beneficiary, or payee and amount) to the drawee bank, details of which are cross-checked with the presented cheque by Cheque Truncation System (CTS).

Any discrepancy is flagged by CTS to the drawee bank and presenting bank, who then take redressal measures.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the conservation status of **Leopard (Panthera pardus)**?

1. Listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
2. Listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972
3. Listed as Vulnerable under IUCN Red List

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: **Leopard (Panthera pardus)** is the most widely distributed and adaptable member of the family Felidae. However, their current distribution and numbers have significantly decreased across the range due to habitat loss, prey depletion, conflict and poaching over the last century.

This has resulted in changing the species status from 'Near Threatened' to '**Vulnerable**' by IUCN. It is also listed in **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**) and in **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972** in India providing it with the highest level of protection.

Q.2) Where is **My Son temple** located?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Myanmar
- c) Indonesia
- d) Thailand

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **My Son**, an architectural complex on the coast of **Vietnam**, was the spiritual and political capital of the Cham people (the Champa Kingdom). The site consists of Hindu temple-towers built between the 4th and 13th centuries, though few pre-7th-century remains survive.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the My Son temple complex is among Vietnam's most cherished cultural treasures. The ancient temples are being restored with support from the **Archaeological Survey of India**.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. An aquifer is a body of porous rock saturated with groundwater.
2. An artesian well doesn't require a pump to bring water to the surface.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. An **aquifer** is a body of saturated rock through which water can easily move. Groundwater enters an aquifer as precipitation seeps through the soil. It can move through the aquifer and resurface through springs and wells.

Aquifers must be both **permeable and porous** and include such rock types as sandstone, conglomerate, fractured limestone and unconsolidated sand and gravel. Fractured volcanic rocks such as columnar basalts also make good aquifers.

Statement 2 is correct. An **artesian well** is simply a well that doesn't require a pump to bring water to the surface. This occurs when there is enough positive pressure in the aquifer to bring the water to the surface.

Groundwater in aquifers between layers of poorly permeable rock, such as clay or shale, may be confined under pressure. If such a confined aquifer is tapped by a well, water will rise above the top of the aquifer and may even flow from the well onto the land surface. Water confined in this way is said to be under artesian pressure, and the aquifer is called an artesian aquifer.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed recently between Central Ground Water Board and CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad for geophysical survey and other scientific studies in North-Western India under the Aquifer Mapping Programme.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the "**Status of Leopards in India 2018**":

1. It has been released the Worldwide Fund for Nature-India.
2. The states of Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have recorded an increase in Leopard population.

Which of the 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. **Status of Leopards in India 2018** report was released recently by the Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Statement 2 is correct. India now has 12,852 leopards as compared to the previous estimate of 7910 conducted 2014. More than 60% increase in population has been recorded. The States of **Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra** recorded the highest leopard estimates at 3,421, 1,783 and 1,690 respectively.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Education Policy 2020**:

1. A legislative framework to be put in place to facilitate top 100 universities in the world to operate in India.
2. Credits acquired in foreign universities will be permitted and may be counted for award of a degree.

Which of the 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 Education Policy 2020** states that:

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

- High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries
- Those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India.
- Furthermore, research collaboration and student exchanges between Indian institutions and global institutions will be promoted through special efforts.
- Credits acquired in foreign universities will be permitted, where appropriate as per the requirements of each HEI, to be counted for the award of a degree.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Great Indian Bustard**:

1. Hunting, high tension lines and habitat loss are the major threat to this species.
2. It is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as Critically Endangered on 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: Statement 1 is correct. Historically, the **Great Indian Bustard** was distributed throughout Western India, spanning 11 states, as well as parts of Pakistan. Its stronghold was once the Thar desert in the north-west and the Deccan plateau of the peninsula. Today, its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The biggest **threat to this species** is hunting, which is still prevalent in Pakistan. This is followed by occasional poaching outside Protected Areas, collisions with high tension electric wires, fast moving vehicles and free-ranging dogs in villages. Other threats include habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion and mechanized farming.

Statement 2 is correct. Great Indian Bustard (*Choriotis nigriceps*) is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tso Kar wetland**:

1. It is north of the Pangong Tso.
2. It is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International.

Which of the 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 **Tso Kar Basin** is a high-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies, Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake of about 438 hectares to the south, and Tso Kar itself, a hypersaline lake of 1800 hectares to the north, situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh, India. It is called Tso Kar, meaning white lake, because of the white salt efflorescence found on the margins due to the evaporation of highly saline water.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

It is southwest of the Pangong Tso lake.



Statement 2 is correct. India has added Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site, which is a second one in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh. The Tso Kar Basin is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway.

Q.8) Where is **Androth Island**?

- a) Lakshadweep
- b) Odisha
- c) Kerala
- d) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Androth Island, also known as Androth Island, is a small inhabited island in the Union Territory of **Lakshadweep**, a group of 36 coral islands scattered in the Arabian Sea off the western coast of India.

A sailing expedition from Kochi to Androth Island in Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands and back is being undertaken by Offshore Sailing Club, Kochi under the aegis of Southern Naval Command.

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

- 1. Bambari - Central African Republic
- 2. Abuja - Nigeria
- 3. Quang Nam - Vietnam

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: Bambari is a town in the Central African Republic, lying on the Ouaka River. It was seized by rebel fighters on recently ahead of elections, is now in the hands of United Nations peacekeepers and national security forces.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria.

Quang Nam is a province in central Vietnam, bordering Laos to the west and the sea to the east. India – Vietnam recently announced New Development Partnership projects in heritage conservation in Vietnam (F-block of Temple at My Son; Dong Duong Buddhist Monastery in Quang Nam and Nhan Cham Tower in Phu Yen).

Q.10) Which of the following is/are recognized as **Important Bird Areas (IBAs)** in India?

1. Tso Kar Basin
2. Tso Moriri
3. Pangong Tso

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are recognized as **Important Bird Areas (IBAs)**.

The IBA programme of Birdlife International aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for conservation of the world's birds and associated biodiversity.

The IBAs serve as conservation areas for protection of birds at the global, regional or sub-regional level. According to Birdlife International, designation of IBAs is based on standardized criteria, namely (i) hold significant numbers of one or more globally threatened bird species, (ii) be one of a set of sites that together hold a suite of restricted-range species or biome-restricted species and (iii) have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory birds.

Q.11) Which of the following species can be found in the Tso Kar wetland?

1. Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*)
2. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)
3. Bar-headed Geese (*Anser 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: The **Tso Kar Basin** is a high-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies, Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake of about 438 hectares to the south, and Tso Kar itself, a hypersaline lake of 1800 hectares to the north, situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh.

The Tso Kar Basin is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway.

The site is also one of the most important breeding areas of the Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) in India. This IBA is also the major breeding area for Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*), Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) and many other species.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Q.12) Where is **Kilauea Volcano**?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Argentina
- c) Japan
- d) Hawaii

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Kilauea** is the youngest and most active Hawaiian shield volcano, located on the southern part of the Island of Hawai'i, known as Big Island. Since 1952, Kilauea has erupted 34 times. From 1983 to 2018 eruptive activity was nearly continuous along the volcano's East Rift Zone.

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted 20th December 2020. The eruption occurred within the Halema'uma'u crater. A magnitude 4.4 earthquake followed the eruption.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Which of the following country's incumbent Head of Government have been awarded **Legion of Merit** recently?

1. India
2. Australia
3. 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: A

Explanation: The **President of the United States of America** conferred the highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 21 December 2020.

The Legion of Merit, in the highest degree of the Chief Commander, is a prestigious award conferred by the President of the United States, typically upon Heads of State or Heads of Government of other countries.

The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, was also awarded to the Prime Minister of **Australia** Scott Morrison, and former (*not incumbent*) Prime Minister of **Japan**, Shinzo Abe.

The US had last awarded Legion of Merit to late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on September 18, 2020 as the senior most Royal in the Middle-East for bridging divides in the restive region.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was convened recently by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).
2. The next Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to be hosted by India in 2021.

Which of the 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 **United Nations, United Kingdom and France co-hosted the Climate Ambition Summit 2020**, in partnership with Chile and Italy. It marked the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, and provided a platform for government and non-governmental leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the multilateral process.

The summit is positioned as a "sprint to **Glasgow**," where the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is scheduled to take place from 1–12 November 2021.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 2019**:

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

1. About 17 percent of the total deaths in India in 2019 have been attributed to air pollution.
2. Lost output from premature deaths and morbidity attributable to air pollution accounted for economic losses of more than one percent of GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: In partnership with **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)**, The Lancet has published global health estimates from the GBD study since 2010. In December 2018, the World Health Organisation and the IHME announced a formal partnership to collaborate to produce a single set of global health estimates to strengthen the validity of the GBD.

Statement 1 is correct. 1.67 million deaths were attributable to air pollution in India in 2019, **17.8% of the total deaths** in the country, the majority of which were from outdoor particulate air pollution (0.98 million) and household air pollution (0.61 million).

Household air pollution is decreasing in India resulting in 64% reduction in the death rate attributable to it from 1990 to 2019, whereas the death rate from outdoor particulate air pollution has increased during this period by 115%.

Statement 2 is correct. Lost output from premature deaths and morbidity attributable to air pollution accounted for economic losses of US\$28.8 billion and \$8.0 billion, respectively, in India in 2019. This total loss of **\$36.8 billion was 1.36%** of India's gross domestic product (GDP).

Q.4) Which of the following initiatives have been **launched by India** as a founding member?

1. International Solar Alliance
2. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
3. Leadership Group for Industry Transition

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 **International Solar Alliance** was launched jointly by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the President of France during COP21 in Paris. It aims to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy.

Prime Minister of India announced a global **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019. The CDRI is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions.

The governments of Sweden and India, with support from the World Economic Forum (WEF) launched the **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)** at the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in September, 2019. The group is open for both

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

government and business leaders and aims to enable the transition of heavy industry towards net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest fish producing country in the world.
2. Fisheries sector of India contributes more than five percent to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA).

Which of the 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: Fisheries and aquaculture continue to be an important source of food, nutrition, income and livelihood to millions of people. Export earnings from the Fisheries sector has been Rs.46,662.85 crores during 2019-20.

The sector provides livelihood support to about 280 lakh people at the primary level and almost twice the number along the value chain and the annual average growth rate in the Fisheries sector has been 7% over the last few years. Fish being an affordable and rich source of animal protein, is one of the healthiest options to mitigate hunger and nutrient deficiency.

Statement 1 is incorrect. **India is the second largest fish producing country** in the world accounting for 7.56% of global production after China.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Fisheries sector is contributing about **1.24% to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA)** and over 7.28% to the agricultural GVA.

Q.6) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Yeondeunghoe - Lantern lighting festival in the Republic of Korea
2. Toguz Korgool - Strategy and intelligence game in Central Asia

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 correctly matched. **YeonDeungHoe, a Korean traditional cultural festival** in which participants light up lanterns to celebrate Buddha's Birthday, has become a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage of Humanity.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **'Traditional intelligence and strategy game: Togyzqumalaq, Toguz Korgool, Mangala/Gocurme'** submitted with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, has been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, during the 15th Session of Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which is being held online between 14-19 December 2020.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**:

1. India is a party to the 1899 convention establishing the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
2. The 'Enrica Lexie' Incident (Italy v. India) case is being arbitrated at the PCA.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 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 PCA was established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at **The Hague in 1899** during the first Hague Peace Conference. India is party to this convention.

Statement 2 is correct. The '**Enrica Lexie Incident (Italy v. India) case** proceedings were instituted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") at PCA.

The dispute arises from an incident that occurred on 15 February 2012 approximately 20.5 nautical miles off the coast of India involving the "Enrica Lexie", an oil tanker flying the Italian flag, and India's subsequent exercise of criminal jurisdiction over the incident and over two Italian marines from the Italian Navy.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague has ruled in favour of Cairn Energy stating that the Indian government failed to uphold its obligations under the India-UK bilateral investment treaty.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **European Union**:

1. The European Commission consists of the heads of state or government of the EU member states.
2. The eurozone consists of all countries the EU and others who use it as national currency.

Which of the 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 **European Union** is a unified trade and monetary body of 27 member countries. It eliminates border controls between members. The open border allows the free flow of goods and people.

The European Council is a collegiate body that defines the overall political directions and priorities of the European Union. It comprises the heads of state or government of the EU member states, along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The eurozone consists of all countries that use the euro. All EU members pledge to convert to the euro, but only 19 have so far.

Q.9) Which of the following institution has released the **Global Status Report for Building and Construction, 2020**?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- c) International Energy Agency
- d) World Economic Forum

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released a report titled Global Status Report for Building and Construction, 2020.

The report has been prepared by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), the Secretariat of which is hosted by the UNEP.

-- The construction activities dropped by 20-30% in 2020 compared to 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and 10% of overall jobs lost or at risk in the building construction sector.

-- The building sector emitted more than a third of global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2019.

-- The CO₂ emissions increased due to a high proportion of fossil fuels used for power generation, combined with higher activity levels in regions where electricity remains carbon-intensive.

Q.10) Which of the following country(s) **withdrew from European Union** after a popular vote?

1. Greenland
2. United Kingdom
3. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Greenland, an autonomous country within the Kingdom of Denmark is one of the EU countries' overseas countries and territories (OCT) associated to the European Union. Greenland joined the then European Community in 1973 as a county along with Denmark, but after gaining autonomy in 1979 with the introduction of home rule within the Kingdom of Denmark, **Greenland voted to leave** in 1982 and left in 1985, to become an OCT.

Brexit happened because a public vote - or referendum - was held in June 2016, to decide whether the UK should be in the EU. Leave won by 52% to 48%.

Q.11) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Nha Rong Port - Vietnam
2. Gwadar Port - Iran
3. Bandar Abbas - Azerbaijan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Nha Rong port** is in Vietnam. Indian Naval Ship Kiltan, carrying humanitarian assistance, arrived at Vietnam's Nha Rong Port, Ho Chi Minh.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 21st to 27th December 2020

The assistance is as a part of Mission Sagar-III, India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries during the ongoing pandemic.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Gwadar port** is a sea port situated on the Arabian Sea at Gwadar in Balochistan province of Pakistan.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Bandar Abbas** is a port city southern coast of Iran, on the Persian Gulf. The city occupies a strategic position on the narrow Strait of Hormuz, and it is the location of the main base of the Iranian Navy.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)**:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization of national broadcasting regulators.
2. No institution from India is a member to the group.

Which of the 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 **Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)** is a non-profit, non-government, professional association of broadcasting organisations, formed in 1964 to facilitate the development of broadcasting in the Asia-Pacific region and to organise co-operative activities amongst its members.

Statement 2 is incorrect. All India Radio and Doordarshan under **Prasar Bharati** are members of the ABU. Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Sekhar Vempati has been elected as Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).

Q.13) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Budima dance - Zambia
2. Pantun - Malaysia

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 correctly matched. **Zambia's Budima Dance** which is practiced by the Wee People of Zambezi/Gwembe Valley in Southern Province has been approved unanimously for Inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Pantun is an old Malay poem** that usually consists of four lines in each stanza. The first two lines are hints and the other two carries the actual meaning. It has been listed under the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity category by UNESCO.