

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

14th to 20th December, 2020

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

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure**”:

1. The Scheme is aimed at boosting capital expenditure by the State Governments facing difficult financial environment due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
2. It pushes for adoption of One Nation One Ration Card and Ease of doing Business Reforms in States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The “**Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure**” is aimed at boosting capital expenditure by the State Governments who are facing difficult financial environment this year due to the shortfall in tax revenue arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.

Part-I of the Scheme covers the north-eastern region. Under this part, Rs.200 crores is allocated to 7 north-eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura). In view of higher population and geographical area, Assam has been allocated Rs.450 crores under the scheme.

Part-II of the Scheme is, for all other States not included in Part-I. Rs.7,500 has been allocated amongst these States in proportion to their share of central tax as per the interim award of the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2020-21.

Part-III of the Scheme is aimed at pushing various citizen-centric reforms in the States. Under this Part, an amount of Rs.2000 crores is earmarked. This amount will be available only to those States who carry out at least 3 out of the 4 reforms specified by the Ministry of Finance in its letter dated 17th May, 2020 regarding reform linked additional borrowing permissions. The 4 reforms are - One Nation One Ration Card, Ease of doing Business Reform, Urban Local Body/ Utility Reform and Power Sector Reform.

All the States except Tamil Nadu have availed benefits of the newly announced scheme for “Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure”.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**:

1. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) is the nodal agency for providing coordination and technical guidance for the NFHS.
2. It is being conducted decennially in India since 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.

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The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, **designated IIPS as the nodal agency**, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the NFHS.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Four NFHS have been conducted with first being in 1992-93.** The Union Health Ministry recently released partial data for the fifth edition of the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** noting a considerable improvement in the supply of vaccine for childhood immunization from the fourth round in 2015-16.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. National Medical Commission is responsible for establishing a uniform standard of training for nurses, Midwives and health visitors.
2. 'Education, including technical and medical education' is listed in the concurrent list of the Seventh Schedule under the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Indian Nursing Council is an Autonomous Body** under the Government of India; Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was constituted by the Central Government under section 3(1) of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 of parliament in order to establish a uniform standard of training for nurses, Midwives and health visitors.

Similar to the National Medical Commission, the **draft National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2020** calls for providing regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals.

Statement 2 is correct. **Concurrent List Entry 25:** Education, including technical education, medical education and universities, subject to the provisions of entries 63, 64, 65 and 66 of List I; vocational and technical training of labour.

Entry 26: Legal, medical and other professions.

Q.4) Which of the following is/are explicitly included in the definition of 'service' under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**?

1. Telecom
2. Banking
3. Transport

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 **Consumer Protection Act 2019** aims at protecting and strengthening the rights of the consumers by establishing authorities, imposing strict liabilities and penalties on product manufacturers, electronic service providers, misleading advertisers, and by providing additional settlement of consumer disputes through mediation.

Article 2(42) of the act defines "service" as service of any description which is made available to potential users and includes, but not limited to, the provision of facilities in

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connection with banking, financing, insurance, transport, processing, supply of electrical or other energy, telecom, boarding or lodging or both, housing construction, entertainment, amusement or the purveying of news or other information, but does not include the rendering of any service free of charge or under a contract of personal service.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**:

1. It aims for a better co-ordination, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the national capital region (NCR) and adjoining areas.
2. In case of any conflict, the orders or directions of the Commission will prevail over the orders of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Which of the 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 **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020** was promulgated in October, 2020.

It provides for constitution of a CAQM for better co-ordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the **national capital region (NCR) and adjoining areas**.

Adjoining areas refers to areas in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh where any source of pollution may cause adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.

Statement 2 is correct. The Commission is to be the sole authority with jurisdiction over matters defined in the Ordinance and in case of any conflict, the orders or directions of the Commission will prevail over the orders of the state governments (of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), state PCBs, and state-level statutory bodies.

Q.6) Which of the following institution has released the document '**Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India**'?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Indian Council for Medical Research
- c) National Center for Disease Control
- d) World Health Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **NITI Aayog** recently released a white paper **Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India**. The white paper lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.

It also spells out the need for expanded referral networks and enhanced laboratory capacity. The building blocks for this vision are an interdependent federated system of governance between the Centre and states.

Q.7) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe)**?

1. IN-SPACe is to work as a single window nodal agency for usage of ISRO facilities by Non-Government-Private-Entities (NGPEs).

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2. It is to oversee the space activities of NGPEs including building of launch vehicles and satellites

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

IN-SPACe is to act as an autonomous body, under **Department of Space**, as a single window nodal agency for enabling and regulating space activities and usage of ISRO facilities by NGPEs.

It will permit and oversee the following activities of **Non-Government-Private-Entities (NGPEs)**.

--Space activities including building of launch vehicles and satellites and providing space based services as per the definition of space activities.

Sharing of space infrastructure and premises under the control of ISRO with due considerations to on-going activities.

--Establishment of new space infrastructure and facilities, by NGPEs, in pursuance of space activities based on safety norms and other statutory guidelines and necessary clearances.

Initiation of launch campaign and launch, based on readiness of launch vehicle and spacecraft systems, ground and user segment.

Building, operation and control of spacecraft for registration as Indian Satellite by NGPEs and all the associated infrastructure for the same.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **eSanjeevani platform**:

- 1. It is an independent, browser-based application facilitating both doctor-to-doctor and patient-to-doctor tele-consultations.
 - 2. It has been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Which of the 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 **eSanjeevani** is Government of India's flagship telemedicine technology developed by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (Mohali)**.

eSanjeevani is a platform independent, browser-based application facilitating both doctor-to-doctor and patient-to-doctor tele-consultations. It is being deployed nationally for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at 155,000 Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Scheme of Government of India.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Project Arth Ganga is aimed at promoting economic activities along the Ganga river bank.
- 2. Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) is a statutory body under Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)** aimed to develop river Ganges as a safe mode of navigation and is being implemented with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. '**Project Arth Ganga**' envisages to re-engineer the JMVP by involving the local community with a focus on economic activities in and around the Ganga river.

Apart from providing benefits in terms of trade and access to markets, local community's economic enhancement and passenger facilitation, the 'Arth Ganga' project will also ensure large scale skills enhancement and public/private sector capability development.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)** is a think tank formed under the aegis of NMCG. The Centre is headquartered at IIT Kanpur and has representation from most leading science and technological institutes of the country.

cGanga's mandate is to serve as think-tank in implementation and dynamic evolution of Ganga River Basin Management Plan (GRBMP) prepared by the Consortium of 7 IITs.

The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), has signed an MOU for development of sludge management framework in India, in collaboration with cGanga.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Project 17A Ship 'Himgiri'**:

1. It is being built by in collaboration with France.
2. Project 17A ships use the gas turbine propulsion for thrust generation.

Which of the 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. Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, **four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd., GRSE** are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

'Himgiri', the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was launched on 14 December 2020.

Statement 2 is correct. P17A ships are the first **gas turbine propulsion** and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.

Q.11) What was the mandate of the **Akhilesh Ranjan Task Force**?

- a) Direct Tax Code
- b) Reforms in Food Corporation of India
- c) GST Compensation for States
- d) Indirect Tax code

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: In order to review the **Income-tax Act, 1961** and to draft a new direct tax law in consonance with the economic needs of the country, a Task Force was constituted by the Government of India in November 2017.

The Government has appointed **Akhilesh Ranjan**, then Member (Legislation), CBDT as Convenor of the Task Force. The report is with the government but has not yet been made public.

Previously Kelkar Committee had submitted a report and then the draft new Direct Tax Code in 2008, that was also not implemented by the government.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding **Hygiene Rating in India**:

1. It is a certification system for food businesses supplying food directly to consumers, either on or off premise.
2. Food business owners with hygiene rating of 4/5 and the compliant to voluntary conditions are rated as 'Right Place to Eat'.

Which of the 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.

Hygiene rating is a voluntary scheme of FSSAI applicable to food businesses supplying food directly to consumers either on or off the premises and food businesses are rated on the basis of food hygiene and safety conditions found at the time of inspection.

Hygiene + "Right Place to Eat": Hygiene rating of 4/5 and the compliance of voluntary conditions to be adopted by FBO will rate the FBO as Right Place to Eat. This will also enhance the commercial viability of an FBO and responsibility towards providing safe and nutritious food to consumers and promote sustainability.

Quality Council of India (QCI) at the behest of the FSSAI has come out with a Scheme for approval of Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies to scale up Hygiene Rating by increasing the number of recognised Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies in the country.

Q.13) Which of the following category is/are entitled to free legal aid under the **Legal Services Authority Act, 1987**?

1. A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe
2. A victim of trafficking in human beings
3. A mentally ill or otherwise disabled person

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 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** prescribes the criteria for giving legal services to the eligible persons. It includes following categories:

--A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.

--A victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution.

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- A woman or a child.
- A mentally ill or otherwise disabled person.
- A person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster or
- An industrial workman

Q.14) Meghdoot Awards are given in which of the following category?

- a) Excellence in Postal Service
- b) Weather prediction system development
- c) Excellence in athletics
- d) Notable performance of public information officers

Correct answer: A

Explanation: With the view of recognizing outstanding performance by the **Postal service employees**, 'Meghdoot Award', presented at national level, was introduced in the year 1984 by the Department of Posts.

A cash award, Gold Medallion and a Citation are presented as Meghdoot Award. Keeping in view the nature of work for various levels, employees have been divided in the eight categories for presenting Meghdoot Award.

Mehdoot Awards 2020 were recently organised by the Department of Posts.

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. Government fixes the Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of white/refined sugar for sale by sugar mills at the factory gate for domestic consumption.

Which of the 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. 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)' of sugarcane announced by the Central Government is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** in consultation with the State Governments and after taking feedback from associations of sugar industry.

Statement 2 is correct. Price of sugar is market driven & depends on demand & supply of sugar. However, with a view to protect the interests of farmers, concept of **Minimum Selling Price (MSP)** of sugar has been introduced since 2018 so that industry may get atleast the minimum cost of production of sugar, so as to enable them to clear cane price dues of farmers.

Government fixes the **Minimum Selling Price (MSP)** of white/refined sugar for sale by sugar mills at the factory gate for domestic consumption. MSP of sugar has been fixed taking into account the components of Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and minimum conversion cost of the most efficient mills.

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
2. The telecom spectrum auction is being conducted for validity period of 20 years by the Department of Telecommunications.

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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. **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** is the specialized agency of the United Nations on Telecommunications. India has been a member of ITU since 1869. The ITU has three sectors viz. Standardization, Radio, Development. For Asia Pacific regional coordination, it has a regional office in Bangkok. India is also a Member in the current council.

Statement 2 is correct. The spectrum licenses auctioned by DoT are valid for 20 years and can be renewed by the respective buyers.

The Union Cabinet has recently approved a proposal of the Department of Telecommunications to conduct spectrum auction through which spectrum will be assigned to the successful bidders for providing commercial mobile services.

The auction will be for spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz frequency bands. Spectrum will be offered for assignment for **validity period of 20 years**.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prime Ministers Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS)**:

1. The youths of J&K and Ladakh are supported by way of scholarship in two parts namely the academic fee & maintenance allowance under the scheme.
2. It is being implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Which of the 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 **Prime Ministers Special Scholarship Scheme** aims to build the capacities of the youths of J&K and Ladakh by Educating, Enabling and Empowering them to compete in the normal course. Under the Scheme, the youths of J&K and Ladakh are supported by way of scholarship in two parts namely the academic fee & maintenance allowance.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) is being implemented by the **All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**, New Delhi.

Q.18) Which of the following is/are among the reform(s) for States to adopt for being eligible for additional borrowing under the "**Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure**"?

1. Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System
2. Urban Local body/ utility reforms
3. Power Sector reforms

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The Government of India has identified four critical areas for reforms by the States:

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

States successfully completing the reforms are eligible to get two benefits. Such States get the facility of **additional borrowing equivalent to 0.25 percent of their Gross States Domestic Product (GSDP) for completing each reform**. Under this facility, additional borrowings of up to Rs.2.14 lakh crore is available to the States on completion of all the four reforms.

Further, States completing three out of the four reforms is additional funds assistance under the **“Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure”**. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs.2,000 crore is earmarked for the States that will complete at least three out of the four stipulated reforms.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Hydrology Project (NHP)**:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with 50:50 cost shared between the States and Center.
2. It aims to improve the extent, quality, and accessibility of water resources information, decision support system for floods.

Which of the 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 Hydrology Project** (World Bank supported initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti) is a Central Sector Scheme, with 100% grant to the States. Its Budget Outlay is about Rs3,680 Crore, with World Bank Assistance to the tune of 50% of the project cost.

Project Timeline: 8 years from 2016-17 to 2023-24.

Statement 2 is correct. Project Objective is to improve the **extent, quality, and accessibility of water resources information, decision support system** for floods and basin level resource assessment/planning and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resources professionals and management institutions in India.

The Project, in its mid-term, has made significant progress in the fields of Water resource monitoring system, water resource information system (WRIS), water resource operation and planning systems and institutional capacity enhancement. Under the NHP, a nationwide repository of water resources data - NWIC has been established. NHP is focusing on establishment of real time data acquisition system (RTDAS) on pan India basis.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector**:

1. The list of the trusted source and product will be decided based on approval of a committee headed by the deputy national security advisor.

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2. The directive envisages a mandatory replacement of the existing equipment already inducted in the network of Telecom Service Providers.

Which of the 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 **Cabinet Committee on Security** has announced the National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector, which will mandate service providers to purchase equipment from trusted sources.

The **list of the trusted source** and product will be decided based on approval of a committee headed by the **deputy national security advisor**. The committee will consist of members from relevant departments, ministries and will also have two members from the industry and independent experts. The committee will be called the **national security committee on telecom**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Telecom service providers (TSPs) are required to connect **new devices** that are designated trusted products. The present directive does not envisage mandatory replacement of the existing equipment already inducted in the network of TSPs.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the **Yogasana**:

- 1. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recognized it as a competitive sport.
- 2. The Khelo India programme have been organizing the Yogasana competition since 2017.

Which of the 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 **Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** announced the formal recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport recently.

Minister of Sports stated that it is being planned to include Yogasana as a Sport discipline in Khelo India and in the University Games and we will also pitch it at the National Games.

The Secretary AYUSH gave a presentation and explained that the sports discipline of Yogasana is likely to have 51 medals in 4 events & 7 categories. The proposed events for both men and women include Traditional Yogasana, Artistic Yogasana (Single), Artistic Yogasana (Pair), Rhythmic Yogasana (Pair), Free Flow/Group Yogasana, Individual All Round – Championship and Team Championship.

Q.22) What is **E20 fuel**, for adoption of which the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is seeking comments from the public?

- a) A blend of ethanol with gasoline
- b) An environment friendly third-generation biofuel
- c) Mixture of compressed natural gas and hydrogen
- d) Natural gas that is found trapped within shale formations

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** is seeking comments from the public for adoption of E20 fuel, i.e, blend of 20% of ethanol with gasoline, as an automotive fuel and for the adoption of mass emission standards for this fuel.

The notification facilitates the development of E20 compliant vehicles. It will also help in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, etc. It will help reduce the oil import bill, thereby saving foreign exchange and boosting energy security.

The compatibility of the vehicle to the percentage of ethanol in the blend of ethanol and gasoline shall be defined by the vehicle manufacturer and the same shall be displayed on the vehicle by putting a clearly visible sticker.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Which of the following country/organisation hosted the **Climate Ambition Summit 2020**?

- a) United Nations
- b) United Kingdom
- c) France
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **United Nations, United Kingdom and France are co-hosting the Climate Ambition Summit 2020**, in partnership with Chile and Italy.

The Summit is a major step on the road to the next UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which will be hosted by the UK next November in Glasgow. The Summit provided leaders with a global platform to showcase commitments to tackle climate change which will be under the three pillars of the Paris Agreement: mitigation, adaptation and finance commitments.

India's Prime Minister stated that India is not only on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets, but to exceed them beyond expectations. India has reduced its emission intensity by 21% over 2005 levels. Our solar capacity has grown from 2.63 GigaWatts in 2014 to 36 GigaWatts in 2020. Our renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world.

It will reach 175 GigaWatts before 2022. And, India has an even more ambitious target now - 450 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Q.2) Which of the following institution has released the **Emission Gap Report 2020**?

- a) United Nations Environment Program
- b) Worldwide Fund for Nature
- c) Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **UNEP Emissions Gap Report** provides a yearly review of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

--despite a brief dip in carbon dioxide emissions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C.

--a low-carbon pandemic recovery could cut 25 per cent off the greenhouse emissions expected in 2030, based on policies in place before COVID-19. Such a recovery would far outstrip savings foreseen with the implementation of unconditional Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, and put the world close to the 2°C pathway.

Q.3) Which of the following institution has released the report “**Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development**”?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released a report titled “Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development: Transitioning to a New Normal”.

It projects that the global economy would contract 4.3 per cent this year due to the pandemic. It warned the crisis could send an additional 130 million people into extreme poverty.

Further, the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 could be derailed unless immediate policy actions are taken.

Q.4) Which of the following was/were the event(s) leading up to the **India-Pakistan War of 1971**?

1. Awami League launched non-cooperation and civil disobedience movement
2. Pak Army launched ‘Operation Searchlight’
3. Pakistan Air Force carried out pre-emptive air strikes on Indian airfields

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: Causes and events leading up to the **1971 India-Pakistan war:**

--Mass genocide & atrocities by Pakistan Army of their people in East Pakistan

--Cultural & economic domination of West Pakistan over East Pakistan

--Awami League launched non-cooperation and civil disobedience movement after General Elections of December 1970

--25 March 1971: Pak Army launched ‘Operation Searchlight’ to quell the autonomy movement committing atrocities against unarmed Bengalis

--Millions of refugees from East Pakistan took shelter in India

--Mukti Bahini stepped up guerilla warfare

--PAF carried out pre-emptive air strikes on five Indian airfields on 03 December 1971 starting a full scale war

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. India and the New Development Bank (NDB) have signed a loan agreement for ‘supporting India’s economic recovery from COVID-19’.
2. India and the World Bank have signed a \$400 million project to provide social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households of India, impacted by the COVID-19.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Government of **India and the New Development Bank (NDB)** today signed a loan agreement for lending \$1,000 million for ‘supporting India’s economic recovery from COVID-19’ by supporting expenditures on rural infrastructure related to natural resource management (NRM) and rural employment

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generation under Government of India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Statement 2 is correct. The Government of **India and the World Bank** today signed a \$400 million project to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the second operation in a programmatic series of two. The first operation of \$750 million was approved in May 2020. The programme will strengthen the capability of state and national governments in India to provide coordinated and adequate social protection to the poor and vulnerable from the shocks triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **India-United Kingdom** trade relations:

1. India have had a continuous trade surplus with United Kingdom in past five years.
2. India and United Kingdom have signed a free trade agreement called Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

Which of the 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 **UK is among the few countries with which India has a trade surplus** and both nations share a trade relation of over \$15 billion annually.

Country: U K

S.No.	Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
1.	EXPORT	8,828.48	8,530.07	9,691.07	9,309.29	8,737.85
2.	IMPORT	5,192.54	3,664.96	4,806.75	7,561.93	6,712.63
3.	TOTAL TRADE	14,021.02	12,195.03	14,497.82	16,871.22	15,450.49
4.	TRADE BALANCE	3,635.95	4,865.11	4,884.32	1,747.35	2,025.22

Statement 2 is incorrect. India and the UK recently agreed on key elements of a **10-year roadmap** to enhance their relationship and pledged to fast track talks on a free trade agreement.

India had earlier been negotiating a broad-based trade and investment agreement (BTIA) with the **EU**. Although talks on India-EU BTIA started in 2007, it has been stuck in issues including market access for automobiles and alcohol and inclusion of labour and environment matters in the pact.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Human Development Report 2020**:

1. It has been released by the World Bank.
2. India ranked 131 among 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. 2020 Human Development Report, '**The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene**' has been published by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme.

Statement 2 is correct. India ranked **131 among 189 countries** on the Human Development Index (HDI) for 2019, slipping two places from the previous year, according to the Human Development Report (HDR) 2020.

India's HDI value for 2019 is 0.645, which put the country in the medium human development category, positioning it at 131 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2019, India's HDI value increased from 0.429 to 0.645, an increase of 50.3%.

Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Iceland complete the top five.

Q.8) Which of the following institution(s) have published the **Human Freedom Index 2020**?

- a) Amnesty International
- b) Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
- c) United Nations Development Programme
- d) Cato Institute and the Fraser Institute

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Human Freedom Index** presents the state of human freedom in the world based on a broad measure that encompasses personal, civil, and economic freedom. The report is co-published by the **Cato Institute and the Fraser Institute**.

The Human Freedom Index 2020, which uses data from 2008 to 2018, by the Cato Institute in the United States and Fraser Institute in Canada, noted a decrease in personal freedoms since 2008 globally.

The jurisdictions that took the top 10 places, in order, were New Zealand, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Denmark, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Estonia, and Germany and Sweden (tied in 9th place).

India ranks at 111 out of 162 countries, China at 129 rank, Bangladesh at 139 and Pakistan at 140.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP)**:

- 1. It makes images of radio signals from the sky, allowing astronomers to view the Universe at wavelengths that our eyes cannot see.
- 2. It uses many antennas acting together as one large telescope.

Which of the 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 **Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP)** is a new type of radio telescope designed and built by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The ASKAP telescope makes images of radio signals from the sky, allowing astronomers to view the Universe at wavelengths that our eyes cannot see.

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It is a type of radio telescope known as an **'interferometer'**. This means it uses many antennas acting together as one large telescope. ASKAP is an array of 36 dish antennas each with a diameter of 12 metres and linked by fibre-optic cable, the antennas work together as one telescope.

ASKAP is located on the traditional lands of the Wajarri people in Western Australia.

It has mapped over three million galaxies in a record 300 hours during its first all-sky survey. The initial results of this survey were published recently.

Q.10) Which of the following institution has released the **Global Health Estimates 2019**?

- a) World Health Organization
- b) Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
- c) Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance
- d) International Vaccine Institute

Correct answer: A

Explanation: World Health Organisation's Global Health Estimates (GHE) provide the latest available data on death and disability globally, by region and country, and by age, sex and cause. The latest updates include global, regional and country trends from 2000 to 2019 inclusive.

--Life expectancy has increased by more than 6 years between 2000 and 2019 – from 66.8 years in 2000 to 73.4 years in 2019.

--Noncommunicable diseases make up 7 of the world's top 10 causes of death. This is an increase from 4 of the 10 leading causes in 2000.

--Ischaemic heart disease, Stroke, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Lower respiratory infections, Neonatal conditions, Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers, Alzheimer disease, Diarrheal diseases, Diabetes mellitus and Kidney diseases are the top ten causes of death globally.

Q.11) The **San Isidro Movement** relates to which of the following country?

- a) Brazil
- b) Cuba
- c) Argentina
- d) Chile

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Cuba's San Isidro Movement (MSI) started in September 2018, when the Cuban government sought to enforce Decree 349, a law that would have given powers to the nation's Culture Ministry to restrict cultural activity it did not approve of. This would essentially make it illegal for artists to work without being registered.

It brings together ghetto rappers, design professors, dissident poets, art specialists, scientists and regular citizens.

Q.12) Which of the following organization has launched the **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)**?

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) World Health Organisation
- c) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched \$9 billion COVID-19 vaccine initiative, the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility, or APVAX.

The Rapid Response Component will provide timely support for critical vaccine diagnostics, procurement of vaccines, and transporting vaccines from the place of purchase to ADB's developing members.

The Project Investment Component will support investments in systems for successful distribution, delivery, and administration of vaccines along with associated investments in building capacity, community outreach, and surveillance. This may include such areas as cold-chain storage and transportation, vehicles, distribution infrastructure, processing facilities, and other physical investments.

Q.13) Which of the following organisation has released the '2020 State of the Education Report for India: Vocational Education First'?

- a) Central Board of Secondary Education
- b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) National Skill Development Corporation

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The 'State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)', was launched virtually recently by UNESCO New Delhi.

The State of the Education Report for India, is one of UNESCO New Delhi's flagship reports to be published annually. Its main objective will be to monitor progress towards the education targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The second edition of the State of Education Report focuses on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

The Report provides an overview of the present capacity for TVET provision through short-term and long-term courses, by state as well as non-state actors, and also through educational institutions such as schools, colleges and universities. It discusses previous education policies, and the approach to TVET provision in the light of the priorities of the country as reflected in NEP 2020.

Q.14) The Champions of the Earth award is an initiative of which of the following organisation?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The UN Environment Programme's Champions of the Earth award is the UN's highest environmental honor that recognizes outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment.

Since 2005, Champions of the Earth has recognized 93 laureates, ranging from world leaders to technology inventors. They include 22 world leaders, 57 individuals and 14 groups or organizations.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) recently named seven young scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and activists from across the globe as its 2020 Young Champions of the Earth.

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The Young Champions of the Earth prize is awarded every year to seven entrepreneurs under the age of 30 with bold ideas for sustainable environmental change.

Q.15) Which of the following city(s) falls on the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway?**

1. Moreh
2. Mandalay
3. Mae Sot

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 1360 kms long India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway is an initiative pertaining to India, Myanmar and Thailand. It traverses from **Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand through Mandalay in Myanmar.**

At the India-Bangladesh Virtual Summit recently Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed keen interest in the ongoing India Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway project and sought support of India for enabling Bangladesh to connect with this project with a view to enhance connectivity between the regions of South and South East Asia.



Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**:

1. It was launched by India at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.
2. It is a treaty based intergovernmental 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **CDRI** was launched by the Prime Minister of India during his speech at the **UN Climate Action Summit** on 23 September 2019.

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The Prime Minister had initially announced India's intention to work with partner countries and key stakeholders to form a coalition working towards the goal of improving the disaster resilience of infrastructure at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) held in November 2016 in New Delhi.

Statement 2 is incorrect. 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.

At present, it is **not an intergovernmental organization**, which are ordinarily treaty-based organizations.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally addressed an event by Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) recently. The theme of the event was "Build Back Better: building resilient health infrastructure and supply chains."

GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Which of the following is/are **invasive species** in the Shola forests of Nilgiris?

1. Eucalyptus
2. Acacia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Shola vegetation** are tropical montane forests found in the Western Ghats separated by rolling grasslands in high altitudes.

Most species such as **Eucalyptus, Wattle (Acacia), introduced from Australia**, have become highly invasive. Introduced about four centuries ago to create tannin in the Nilgiris have colonised the grasslands extensively and encroached upon the adjoining shola forests.

Q.2) Which of the following river(s) is/are tributary of the **Brahmaputra River**?

1. Kameng River
2. Subansari River
3. Kopili River

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: **Brahmaputra River** originates from Kailash ranges of Himalayas at an elevation of about 5150 m and flows for about 2900 km through Tibet (China), India and Bangladesh and joins the Ganga. The river Brahmaputra receives a number of tributaries at its north and south banks, in the catchment area in India.

Tributaries from North bank	Tributaries from South bank
The Jiadhal	The Noa Dehing
The Subansiri	The Buridehing
The Siang	The Debang
The Kameng (Jiabharali in Assam)	The Dikhow
The Dhansiri(North)	The Dhansiri(S)
The Puthimari	The Kopili
The Pagladiya	The Digaru
The Manas	The Dudhnai
The Champamati	The Krishnai
The Saralbhanga	
The Aie	
The Sankosh	

China has announced that it is planning to build a major hydropower project as a part of its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), on the Yarlung Zangbo River (upper stream of the Brahmaputra) in Tibet.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Himalayan Serow**:

1. It is an herbivore animal.
2. Serows are protected under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Himalayan serows (Capricornis sumatraensis thar)** are herbivores, and are typically found at altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres (6,500 to 13,000 feet). They are known to be found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas, but not in the Trans Himalayan region.

It was recently spotted by locals and wildlife officials at a riverside rocky wall near Hurling village in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.

Statement 2 is correct. **Serow (Capricornis sumatraensis)** is protected under the Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Capricornis sumatraensis is also listed as Vulnerable specie in the IUCN Red list.

Q.4) The **Myristica swamp treefrog** can be found in which geographic region of India?

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Shivalik range of Himalaya
- c) North East India
- d) Aravali Hills

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Myristica swamp treefrog** is a rare arboreal species endemic to the Western Ghats. It bears the scientific name *Mercurana myristicapalustris* and recently has been recorded for the first time north of the Shencottah gap in the **Vazha-chal Reserve Forest** in Kera-la's Thrissur district.

The frog was first spotted in 2013 in the Myristica swamps of Arippa, near the Kulathupuzha Reserve For-est, in the western foothills of Agasthyamalai, in Kollam district. These frogs are rare and elu-sive for the reason that they are arboreal and active only for a few weeks during their breeding season.

Q.5) The **Lubombo Mountains** are in which of the following country(s)?

1. South Africa
2. Eswatini
3. Namibia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Lebombo Mountains**, long, narrow mountain range in **South Africa, Eswatini/Swaziland, and Mozambique**, southeastern Africa. It is about 500 miles (800 km) long and consists of volcanic rocks.

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Q.6) Where is the **R Cluster of the KGD6** basin located?

- a) Off the Kakinada coast
- b) Offshore of Mumbai
- c) Malabar Coast
- d) Konkan coast

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and British multinational oil and gas major BP Plc have announced their first gas finding in what is Asia's deepest offshore field. The combine has struck gas at the ultra-deep-water gas field called **R Cluster of the Krishna Godavari (KG) D6 basin**. Other than this, the combine is also developing two more deep-water gas fields in KG D6 block, called the Satellites Cluster and MJ.

The field (R cluster) is located about 60 kilometers from the existing KG D6 Control & Riser Platform (CRP) off the Kakinada coast and comprises a subsea production system tied back to CRP via a subsea pipeline.

The Krishna-Godavari basin covers an area of 15,000 sq. km onshore and 25,000 sq. km in the Bay of Bengal



Q.7) The **Kushiyara River** is a trans-boundary river between India and which of the following country?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Nepal
- c) Myanmar
- d) Bhutan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Kushiyara River is a distributary river** in Bangladesh and Assam, India. It forms on the India-Bangladesh border as a branch of the **Barak River**, when the Barak separates into the Kushiyara and Surma. The Kushiyara flows westward forming the boundary between Assam, India, and the Sylhet District of Bangladesh.

At the India-Bangladesh Virtual Summit Bangladesh requested India to inform its border authorities to allow excavation work of the remaining portion of the Rahimpur Khal for utilization of Kushiyara River waters for irrigation purposes. India was also requested to provide early concurrence on the proposed MoU to be signed between the two countries for monitoring the withdrawal of water from the Kushiyara River by both the sides, pending signing of the Treaty/Agreement regarding sharing of water of the Kushiyara River.

Q.8) Turkey is bordered by which of the following country(s)?

1. Iran
2. Armenia
3. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Turkey is bounded on the north by the Black Sea, on the northeast by **Georgia** and **Armenia**, on the east by **Azerbaijan** and **Iran**, on the southeast by **Iraq** and **Syria**, on the southwest and west by the Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea, and on the northwest by **Greece** and **Bulgaria**.



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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Parliamentary procedure**:

1. Standing Committees are permanent and regular committees constituted from time to time in pursuance of the Rules of Procedure.
2. Ad hoc Committees are appointed for a specific purpose and they cease to exist when they finish the task assigned to them and submit a report.

Which of the 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: Most of the business of Parliament is, therefore, transacted in Committees of the House, known as Parliamentary Committees.

Statement 1 is correct. **Standing Committees** are permanent and regular committees which are constituted from time to time in pursuance of the provisions of an Act of Parliament or Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha. The work of these Committees is of continuous nature. The Financial Committees, DRSCs and some other Committees come under the category of Standing Committees.

Statement 2 is correct. **Ad hoc Committees** are appointed for a specific purpose and they cease to exist when they finish the task assigned to them and submit a report. The principal Ad hoc Committees are the Select and Joint Committees on Bills.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service are deemed to be services created by Parliament under the Constitution.
2. Members of civil service cannot be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which they were appointed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As per **article 312(2) of the Constitution** the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service shall be deemed to be services created by Parliament under this article.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 311 of Constitution** of India deals with Dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of persons employed in civil capacities under the Union or a State.

According to article 311, no person who is a member of a civil service of the Union or an all-India service or a civil service of a State or holds a civil post under the Union or a State shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Right to protest is explicitly guaranteed as a fundamental right under the Constitution of India.

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2. State can make laws providing reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the fundamental right to assemble peacefully in interest of public order.

Which of the 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 right to protest is **not explicitly** mentioned under the constitution. It is derived from the right to free speech and expression [19(1) (a)]; and right to assemble peacefully without arms [19(1) (b)].

Statement 2 is correct. Article 19 (3) provides that State can make any law imposing, in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India or **public order**, reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right to assemble peacefully and without arms.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Which of the following statement correctly defines the term **Epigenetics**?

- a) Study of changes in heritable changes in gene expression due to change in DNA sequence
- b) Study of heritable changes in gene expression that do not involve changes to DNA sequence
- c) Genetic variation resulting in the several different forms of individuals in a single species
- d) Large-scale study of proteomes

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Epigenetics** literally means "above" or "on top of" genetics. It refers to external modifications to DNA that turn genes "on" or "off." These modifications do not change the DNA sequence, but instead, they affect how cells "read" genes. Unlike genetic changes, epigenetic changes are reversible.

It is therefore, the study of heritable changes in gene expression (active versus inactive genes) that do not involve changes to the underlying DNA sequence — a change in phenotype without a change in genotype — which in turn affects how cells read the genes.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are **malaria parasites** that infect humans?

- 1. Plasmodium falciparum
- 2. Plasmodium vivax
- 3. Plasmodium ovale

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: Four kinds of malaria parasites infect humans: **Plasmodium falciparum, P. vivax, P. ovale, and P. malariae**. In addition, *P. knowlesi*, a type of malaria that naturally infects macaques in Southeast Asia, also infects humans, causing malaria that is transmitted from animal to human ("zoonotic" malaria).

P. falciparum is the type of malaria that is most likely to result in severe infections and if not promptly treated, may lead to death. Although malaria can be a deadly disease, illness and death from malaria can usually be prevented.

Recently it was reported that a soldier in Kerala is believed to have contracted Plasmodium ovale during his posting in Sudan.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Geminids**:

- 1. These are annual meteor showers observed in month of December.
- 2. These meteors originate from Ceres in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Which 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 **Geminids** are widely recognized as the best annual meteor shower, occurring between Dec. 4 to Dec. 17.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **parent of the Geminids is 3200 Phaethon**, which is arguably considered to be either an asteroid or an extinct comet. When the Earth passes through trails of dust, or meteoroids, left by 3200 Phaethon, that dust burns up in Earth's atmosphere, creating the Geminid meteor shower.

All meteors associated with a shower have similar orbits, and they all appear to come from the same place in the sky, which is called the radiant. The Geminids appear to radiate from a point in the constellation Gemini, hence the name "Geminids."

Q.4) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. S-400 Triumph - Russia
2. THAAD - United States of America

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. The **S-400 Triumph** is an air defence missile system developed by Almaz Central Design Bureau of Russia. The new system replaced the S-300P and S-200 air defence systems of the Russian Army. The S-400 was developed as an upgrade of the S-300 series of surface-to-air missile systems.

In October 2018, Rosoboronexport signed a **contract with India to deliver S-400 missile system**. China and Turkey are other buyers of the system from Russia.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Terminal High Altitude Area Defense** is a transportable, ground-based missile defense system. It has been designed and manufactured by the US company Lockheed Martin. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense is a transportable, ground-based missile defense system.

Q.5) Which of the following **frequency spectrum** is/are used in **cellular communication** networks?

1. 900MHz
2. 1800MHz
3. 2100MHz

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: Commonly used bands for cellular communication are **800MHz, 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz, and 2300MHz**. Beyond that are the unlicensed bands used for technology such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth - Wi-Fi used to be 2.4GHz (2400MHz) and has started to shift to the 5GHz band.

The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal of the Department of Telecommunications to conduct spectrum auction through which spectrum will be assigned to the successful bidders for providing commercial mobile services.

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The auction will be for spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz frequency bands.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **frequency spectrums**:

1. Unlicensed frequency bands have limited applications and are designated for certain specific types of use.
2. The frequency band for FM radio is about 88 to 108 MHz.

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: At the broadest level, spectrum is regulated in two ways, it is either managed through a spectrum licence or it is licence exempt (i.e. unlicensed).

The vast majority of radio spectrum is licensed and encompasses a range of technologies that operate with enough power to allow the services to cover a relatively wide area.

Licence holders include commercial organisations, such as TV and radio broadcasters or mobile operators, and non-commercial organisations, such as the emergency services and the military.

The frequency band for FM radio is about 88 to 108 MHz.

Unlicensed frequency bands have more limited applications and are designated for certain specific types of use. There is no need for a licence from the regulator as long as the devices used meet certain technical standards in order to minimise interference.

The most notable examples of **'unlicensed' technologies** are Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, which both operate in the 2.4 GHz band, other examples are cordless telephones, baby monitors, car key fobs and garage door openers.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **CMS-01** satellite launched by ISRO recently:

1. It is an Earth Observation Satellite aimed at environmental monitoring.
2. It is to be placed in the Geostationary orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India's **communication satellite CMS-01** was successfully launched by PSLV-C50 on Wednesday December 17, 2020 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

The CMS-01 is envisaged to provide services in the **Extended-C Band** of the frequency spectrum whose coverage will include the Indian mainland, Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. The satellite will be the first in a new series of communication satellites by India after the GSAT and INSAT series.

Statement 2 is correct. After injection, the solar panels of CMS-01 were automatically deployed and ISRO's Master Control Facility at Hassan has assumed the control of the satellite. In the coming days, orbit raising manoeuvres will be executed to position the satellite in the **Geostationary Orbit** at its designated location.

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Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Project Loon**:

1. It aims to provide internet connectivity to remote parts of the world.
2. It has been launched by the aerospace company SpaceX.

Which of the 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. **Project Loon**, which comprises of helium-filled balloons that aim to deliver internet access to remote parts of the world. These high-altitude balloons are found in the stratosphere and create aerial wireless networks.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Project Loon belongs to **Alphabet's moonshot company X**. (Alphabet is parent company of Google).

Last year, the subsidiary announced that its balloons reached 1 million hours of stratospheric flight. And in October, it was revealed that Loon set a new record for the longest stratospheric flight by staying in air for 312 days.

The balloons navigate up or down in the altitude to catch a favorable wind current that takes them to the desired direction. There is no manual control on when the helium balloons will ascend or descend. So, this decision is taken by the data mined by sophisticated algorithms.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **DRDO Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)** system:

1. It is a system for detecting & tracking of hostile aircrafts or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.
2. The Netra AEW&C system operated by Indian Air Force uses Embraer aircraft as jet platform.

Which of the 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 **DRDO Airborne Early Warning & Control System (AEW&C)**, is a force multiplier system of systems for detecting & tracking of enemy/hostile aircrafts/ UAVs etc. It also enables operators onboard and on ground to identify, assess the threat and take actions to guide our interceptors to those for neutralizing those threats.

Statement 2 is correct. The jet platform selected for the DRDO AEW&C Netra system is the **Embraer EMB-145**.

The Ministry of Defence recently approved a proposal in which Defence R&D Organisation (DRDO) will integrate airborne early warning radars and sensor on six Airbus A320 commercial airliners from national carrier Air India's current fleet. The six aircraft are to be sent to France, where they will be refurbished and modified to Indian Air Force/DRDO specifications.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **ACE2 receptors**:

1. It is found on the cells and tissues of heart and lungs.
2. It provides entry point to SARS-CoV-2 to infect the human body.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

ACE2 is a protein on the surface of many cell types. It is an enzyme that generates small proteins – by cutting up the larger protein angiotensinogen – that then go on to regulate functions in the cell.

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

Using its **spike proteins the SARS-CoV-2** binds to the ACE2 receptors which acts as a doorway for the virus to enter the human body.

When the SARS-CoV-2 virus binds to ACE2, it prevents ACE2 from performing its normal function to regulate ANG II signaling. Thus, ACE2 action is “inhibited,” removing the brakes from ANG II signaling and making more ANG II available to injure tissues. This “decreased braking” likely contributes to injury, especially to the lungs and heart, in COVID-19 patients.

Q.11) 'Solarwinds hack' have been in news recently, what is it?

- a) A cyber theft attempted on Iran's nuclear program
- b) A cyber-attack targeted at US government agencies
- c) A potential methodology for exploiting Solar and Wind energies for generating electricity
- d) A device to record the events of solar flares entering Earth's atmosphere

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The '**SolarWinds hack**', a cyberattack recently discovered in the United States, has emerged as one of the biggest ever targeted against the US government, its agencies and several other private companies.

This is being called a 'Supply Chain' attack: Instead of directly attacking the federal government or a private organisation's network, the hackers target a third-party vendor, which supplies software to them. In this case, the target was an IT management software called Orion, supplied by the Texas-based company SolarWinds.

Q.12) Which of the following causes the Alpha-gal Syndrome?

- a) Eating red meat
- b) Reaction to antibiotics
- c) A symptom of Long Covid
- d) Allergy to lactose

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) (also called alpha-gal allergy, red meat allergy, or tick bite meat allergy) is a serious, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. AGS may occur after people eat **red meat** or are exposed to other products containing alpha-gal.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved a first-of-its-kind intentional genomic alteration (IGA) in a line of domestic pigs referred to as GalSafe pigs. It aims to eliminate a type of sugar found in mammals called alpha-gal.

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ECONOMICS

Q.1) What is **e-Kuber**?

- The Core Banking Solution platform of RBI
- The Dematerialized account database of SEBI
- Foreign Exchange account of RBI
- State Government's account with the RBI

Correct answer: A

Explanation: E-kuber is the core banking solution of the RBI that gives high degree of access to commercial banks and other institutions to their current account with the RBI. Several financial engagements like the auction of Government securities are done through e-kuber system.

Core Banking Solutions (CBS) is a facility or arrangement that helps banks to offer large number of customer-centric services on a 24×7 basis from a single location. The core banking solution can support retail as well as corporate banking activities.

It enables banks access with their current account at any time, everywhere across the country. The e-kuber is used by the RBI to execute various transactions with banks. Utility of e-kuber is that it is used to conduct exercises like auctioning of government securities.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- Central Government cannot issue dated securities and the State Governments cannot issues treasury bills.
- State Development Loans (SDLs) are dated securities issued by State Governments to raise loans from the market.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. A **Government Security (G-Sec)** is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.

It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).

In India, the **Central Government issues both**, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the **State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities**.

Statement 2 is correct. State Governments also raise loans from the market which are called **State Development Loans (SDLs)**. SDLs are dated securities issued through normal auction similar to the auctions conducted for dated securities issued by the Central Government.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** System in India:

- It is an electronic fund transfer system in which the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches.
- It can receive and process transactions only during working hours of the banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** is a system where there is continuous and real-time settlement of fund-transfers, individually on a transaction-by-transaction basis (without netting). 'Real Time' means the processing of instructions at the time they are received; 'Gross Settlement' means that the settlement of funds transfer instructions occurs individually.

National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) System is an electronic fund transfer system in which the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) for high-value transactions has been made available **round-the-clock** recently, making India one of the few countries in the world to operate the system 24X7.

In December 2019, RBI had made the national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) available 24X7.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **India's foreign trade this financial year (2020-21)** so far:

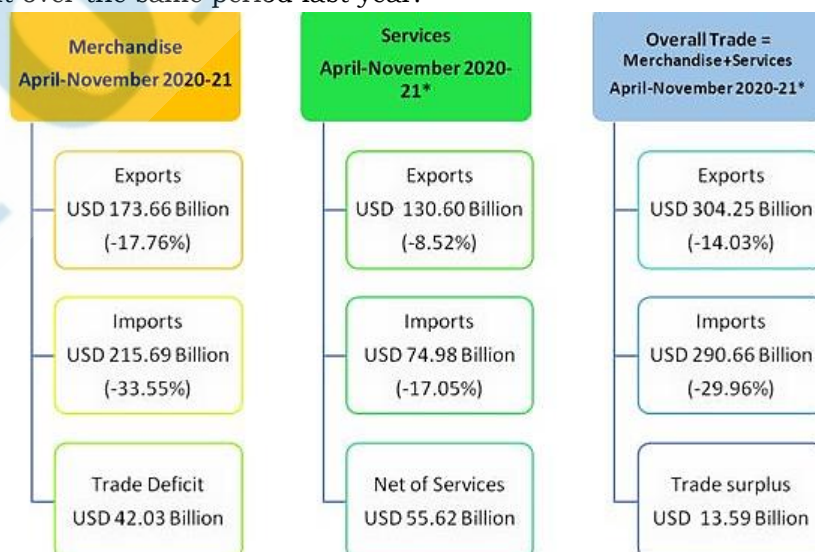
1. Compared to 2019-20, India's exports have fallen more than imports in percentage terms.
2. Taking merchandise and services together, India has an overall trade surplus for April-November 2020-21.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-November 2020-21 are estimated to be USD 304.25 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 14.03 per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-November 2020-21 are estimated to be USD 290.66 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 29.96 per cent over the same period last year.



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Statement 2 is correct. Taking merchandise and services together, overall trade surplus for April-November 2020-21 is estimated at USD13.59Billion as compared to the deficit of USD61.06Billion in April-November 2019-20.

Q.5) Who is the chairperson of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)**?

- a) Governor, Reserve Bank of India
- b) Union Finance Minister
- c) Prime Minister
- d) Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India

Correct answer: B

Explanation: With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development, the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was set up by the Government as the apex level forum in December 2010.

The Chairman of the Council is the **Finance Minister**, and its members include the heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC) Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser. The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.

The **FSDC Sub-committee** has also been set up under the chairmanship of Governor, RBI. It meets more often than the full Council. All the members of the FSDC are also the members of the Sub-committee.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **flexible inflation targeting (FIT)** framework of Reserve Bank of India:

1. The inflation target is set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.
2. RBI's flexible inflation targeting places price stability, in terms of Consumer Price Index inflation, as the primary objective of the monetary policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

India formally adopted **flexible inflation targeting (FIT)** in **June 2016** to place price stability, defined in terms of a target CPI inflation, as the primary objective of the monetary policy.

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

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

Q.7) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Core Inflation**?

- a) An Inflation measure excluding volatile and transitory price changes
- b) An inflation measure of short-term price changes

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- c) Price changes in the core sector industries
- d) Inflation in the fuel and food commodities

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Core Inflation is a measure of inflation which **excludes certain volatile and seasonal prices**. It is the trend increase of the cost of factors of production that originates in the long-term expectations of inflation.

It excludes transitory or temporary price volatility as in the case of some commodities such as food and fuel. If temporary price shocks are taken into account, they may affect the estimated overall inflation numbers in such a way that they are different from actual inflation. To eliminate this possibility, core inflation is calculated to gauge the actual inflation apart from temporary shocks and volatility.

Q.8) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** of Reserve Bank of India?

1. The operations of LAF are conducted by way of repurchase agreements (repos and reverse repos).
2. The Regional Rural Banks have been made eligible to avail the LAF facility of RBI.

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: Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) is a facility extended by RBI to the scheduled commercial banks and Primary Dealers to avail of liquidity in case of requirement or park excess funds with RBI in case of excess liquidity on an overnight basis against the collateral of G-Secs including SDLs. Basically, LAF enables liquidity management on a day-to-day basis.

The operations of LAF are conducted by way of **repurchase agreements (repos and reverse repos)** with RBI being the counter-party to all the transactions.

As per a recent RBI circular, in order to provide an additional avenue for liquidity management to **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**, it has been decided that Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) will be extended to Scheduled RRBs meeting the following criteria:

- Implemented Core Banking Solution (CBS)
- There is a minimum CRAR of nine per cent and
- Fully compliant with the terms and conditions for availing LAF and MSF issued by Financial Markets Operations Department (FMOD), Reserve Bank of India.

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HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

Q.1) Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. India-Russia Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation
2. Surrender of Pakistan Armed forces after Indo-Pak war 1971
3. Starting of Fifth Five-year plan period

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: A

Explanation: The **Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation** was a treaty signed between India and the Soviet Union in **August 1971** that specified mutual strategic cooperation.

India, on **December 16** celebrates Vijay Diwas to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan. It was on this day in **1971** that the chief of the Pakistani forces, General AA Khan Niazi, along with 93,000 troops, surrendered unconditionally before the Indian forces.

Fifth Five Year Plan's duration was **1974 to 1978**. This plan focussed on Garibi Hatao, employment, justice, agricultural production and defense.