

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

23rd to 29th November, 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:

1. Betting and gambling is listed under the Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

2. The Information Technology Act 2000 explicitly prohibits online betting and gambling.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

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

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rights of Good Samaritan** in India:

1. No police officer shall compel a Good Samaritan to disclose his/her name.

2. Every public and private hospital shall publish a charter stating the rights of Good Samaritans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**:

1. It is being implemented under National Health Mission by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

2. It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.

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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. The **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)** is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country. This is being implemented under **National Health Mission (NHM)** by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Statement 2 is correct. eVIN aims to provide **real-time** information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.

The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) system is being enhanced to address the needs for distribution and tracking of COVID-19 vaccine, whenever it becomes available.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **e-Sanjeevani Platform**:

- 1. It is a web-based telemedicine solution.
- 2. It has been developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

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

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

eSanjeevani is Government of India's flagship telemedicine technology developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (Mohali).

'eSanjeevani', is a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution. It extends the reach of specialized healthcare services to masses in both rural areas and isolated communities.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology Act, 2000**:

- 1. It provides legal recognition to the electronic signatures.
- 2. Any person who sends grossly offensive messages through a computer resource can be jailed under the act.

Which 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 **Information Technology Act, 2000** provides for legal recognition to the electronic records as well as the electronic signatures.

The electronic signature under the act means authentication of any electronic record by a subscriber by means of the electronic technique specified in the Second Schedule and includes digital signature.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Section 66A of the IT Act** that provided for punishment to person sending offensive messages, has been struck down by Supreme Court's Order dated 24th March, 2015 in the Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, 2015.

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM-KUSUM** scheme:

1. Solar power plants can be installed on pasture land and marshy land of farmers.
2. The scheme aims to achieve solar capacity of 30.8 GW by 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has amended the guidelines of the scheme based on the learning from its implementation during the first year.

Now, besides barren, fallow and agricultural lands, solar power plants can also be installed on pasture land and marshy land of farmers.

To support small farmers, solar projects smaller than 500 kW may be allowed by states based on techno-commercial feasibility.

Statement 2 is correct. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued an order for the scale-up and expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme. The target now is to achieve enhanced **solar capacity of 30.8 (GW) by 2022** with revised Central financial support.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **UMANG** mobile application:

1. It is a private sector initiative offering services to the government sector.
2. UMANG's international version has been launched recently for select countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)** is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app. providing access to high impact services of various Government of India Departments and State Governments.

Statement 2 is correct. **UMANG's international version** in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs was launched recently for select countries that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

It will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad, to avail Government of India services, anytime. It will also help in taking India to the world through 'Indian Culture' services available on UMANG and create interest amongst foreign tourists to visit India.

Q.8) ATAL Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) All India Council for Technical Education
- b) Central Board of Secondary Education
- c) University Grants Commission
- d) NITI Aayog

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs)** aims to train teachers of higher education institutions associated with AICTE in thrust and emerging areas in technology.

ATAL Academy is conducting FDPs in online mode, including the process of registration till certificate disbursal mechanism. In the year 2020-21, new thrust areas in the field of Engineering, Management, Life Skills, Design & Media have been incorporated. The online FDPs will be conducted according to the new National Education Policy (2020).

ATAL Academy has been included in the Book of World Records. The London-based organization has recognized the FDPs as a world record, under which 1,000 online FDPs in over 100 emerging areas will benefit one lakh faculty members across premier institutions like IITs, NITs, and IIITs.

Q.9) Government of India has recently **banned several mobile applications**, citing national security threats, using which of the following legal provision?

- a) Information and Technology Act
- b) Epidemic Diseases Act
- c) National Investigation Agency Act
- d) Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology recently issued an order under **section 69A of the Information Technology Act** blocking access to 43 mobile apps.

This action was taken based on the inputs regarding these apps for engaging in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.

The order for blocking the access of these apps by users in India is based on the comprehensive reports received from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Earlier on 29th June, 2020 the Government of India had blocked access to 59 mobile apps and on 2nd September, 2020 118 more apps were banned under section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**:

- 1. An establishment having at least 100 workers is required to seek prior permission of the government before closure, lay-off, or retrenchment.
- 2. In an establishment having multiple trade unions, the union having more than 75% of the workers as members would be recognised as the sole negotiating union.

Which 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. **These provisions were part of the 2019 bill but were further revised in the 2020 bill.**

An establishment having at least **300 workers** is required to seek prior permission of the government before closure, lay-off, or retrenchment. Lay-off refers to an employer's

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inability to continue giving employment to a worker in the face of adverse business conditions. Retrenchment refers to the termination of service of a worker for any reason other than disciplinary action.

The threshold was 100 workers in the 2019 bill.

Under the 2019 Bill, if there were more than one registered trade union of workers functioning in an establishment, the trade union having more than 75% of the workers as members would be recognised as the sole negotiating union. The **2020 Bill lowers this threshold to 51% of workers.**

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network)**:

1. It has been developed by the World Health Organisation.
2. It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points.

Which 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. **eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network)** is an **indigenously developed** technology system in India that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.

Statement 2 is correct. eVIN aims to support the Government of India's Universal Immunization Programme by providing **real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows**, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in these states.

#The government is using eVIN – Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network in association with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to identify primary beneficiaries and vaccine distribution networks for potential COVID-19 vaccination program.

Q.12) What is the utility of the recently launched '**Sahakar Pragya**'?

- a) Training primary cooperative societies in rural areas
- b) Promoting self-help groups in urban India to join organized workforce
- c) Rationalisation of different cooperative development programs of the Union and States
- d) Bringing cooperative societies in contact with multi-national corporations

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Agriculture Minister recently unveiled **Sahakar Pragya**. The 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will **impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas** of the country along with Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

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

1. Rudram 1 - Anti-Radiation missile
2. Brahmos - Ramjet supersonic cruise missile

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Rudram-1** is an air-to-surface **anti-radiation missile** in development by Defence Research and Development Organisation.

It is first anti-radiation missile to be developed in India.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Brahmos** is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile produced by an Indo-Russian joint venture Brahmos Aerospace.

There have been reports recently that Brahmos missiles may be exported to Phillippines.

India on November 24 successfully test fired the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM)**:

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
2. It prescribes standards of education in Indian Systems of Medicine.

Which 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 **Central Council of Indian Medicine** is the statutory body constituted under the **Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970**.

Statement 2 is correct. Since its establishment in 1971, the Central Council has been framing on and implementing various regulations including the Curricula and Syllabii in **Indian Systems of Medicine viz. Ayurved, Siddha and Unani** at Under-graduate and Post-graduate level. The **Sowa Rigpa System** of Medicine is included in the Central Council of Indian Medicine from the year 2012.

Q.15) The **RE-Invest 2020** is being organised by which of the following institution /Ministry?

- a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020)** is being organised by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.

It aims to accelerate the worldwide effort to scale up development and deployment of renewable energy and connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders. It will feature a 3-day conference on renewables and future energy choices, and an exhibition of manufacturers, developers, investors and innovators.

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Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**:

1. It is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
2. APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.

Which 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 **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985.

It is under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**; and facilitates export of its scheduled agricultural and processed products through several export promotional activities.

Statement 2 is correct. APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the following scheduled products:

Fruits, Vegetables and their Products; Meat and Meat Products; Poultry and Poultry Products; Dairy Products; Confectionery, Biscuits and Bakery Products; Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products; Cocoa and its products, chocolates of all kinds; Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages; Cereal and Cereal Products; Groundnuts, Peanuts and Walnuts; Pickles, Papads and Chutneys; Guar Gum; Floriculture and Floriculture Products; and Herbal and Medicinal Plants.

In addition to this, APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.

Q.17) Which of the following is/are part of the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**?

1. HealthID
2. DigiDoctor
3. Health Facility Registry

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 **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**, is a Government of India initiative, aimed at developing the backbone for a unified digital health infrastructure.

The key systems of NDHM - **HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, eHospital, Patient Health Records and Consent Manager.**

-- Every patient who wishes to have their health records available digitally must start by creating a **Health ID**. Each Health ID will be linked to a health data consent manager (such as NDHM) which will be used to seek the patient's consent and allow for seamless flow of health information from the Personal Health Records module.

-- **Digi-Doctor** is a comprehensive repository of all doctors practicing or teaching modern/traditional systems of medicine. Enrolling on Digi-Doctor is completely voluntary and enables doctors to get connected to India's digital health ecosystem.

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-- The **Health Facility Registry (HFR)** is a comprehensive repository of health facilities of the country across different systems of medicine. It includes both public and private health facilities including hospitals, clinics, diagnostic laboratories and imaging centers, pharmacies, etc.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **PRAGATI platform**:

1. It is a three-tier system consisting Prime Ministers' Office, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States.
2. It is aimed at monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

Which 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.

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is a unique integrating and interactive platform. The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

It is a **three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States)**. The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.

It also offers a unique combination in the direction of cooperative federalism since it brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.

Q.19) Indian Navy have recently leased **Sea Guardian drones** from which of the following country?

- a) United States of America
- b) Russia
- c) France
- d) Israel

Correct answer: A

Explanation: It has been reported that the **Indian Navy has inducted two MQ-9B Sea Guardian** unarmed drones procured from the **United States of America** on lease for one year.

The recently released **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** has introduced an option for leasing military platforms.

The Guardian is the maritime variant of the **Predator MQ-9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** and has a maximum endurance of 40 hours and a maximum flying altitude of 40,000 feet. It has a 3600 maritime surveillance radar and an optional multimode maritime surface search radar.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding India's maritime security **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC)**:

1. It is jointly operated by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.
2. It tracks only non-military and commercial ships.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC), based in Gurgaon, was established in November 2014, and is the nodal centre for maritime security information collation and dissemination. It is jointly operated by the **Navy and Coast Guard** and is the cornerstone of the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network for monitoring maritime traffic in India's area of interest.

It is important to note that **IMAC tracks only non-military or commercial ships**, known as white shipping. Military ships, or grey hull ships, are tracked by the Directorate of Naval Operations.

The IMAC monitors movement of more than 120,000 ships a year passing through the Indian Ocean. The cargo carried by these ships account for 66 per cent of world crude oil, 50 per cent of container traffic and 33 per cent of bulk cargo. Thus, IMAC performs a very crucial role in collecting shipping information, analysing traffic patterns and sharing the inputs with the user agencies.

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) can be produced from biomass and organic waste sources like paddy straw & farm stubble.
2. Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative aims to promote CBG as an alternative, green transport fuel.

Which 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.

Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) can be produced from biomass and organic waste sources like paddy straw & farm stubble, agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, distillery spent wash, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, forest residue etc.

Bio-gas is produced naturally through a process of **anaerobic decomposition** from waste / bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc. After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has pure methane content of over 95%. Compressed Bio-Gas is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential.

Government of India launched **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** initiative in 2018 to promote CBG as an alternative, green transport fuel for efficient management of biomass and organic waste.

Q.22) Which of the following would fall in the category of **Motor Vehicle aggregator**?

- a) Uber cab service
- b) Tata Motors Ltd
- c) Taxi operators Union of Uttarakhand

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d) None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019** defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state. Further, they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has come up with **Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines-2020** to regulate cab aggregators such as Ola and Uber, among others, in India. These are issued as guiding framework for State Governments, to consider for issuance of licenses to transport aggregators and for the purposes of regulating the business conducted by such aggregators

Q.23) Which of the following is/are the objectives of the **PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME)?**

1. Support for capital investment for upgradation and formalization with registration for FSSAI hygiene standards and Udyog Aadhar.
2. Capacity building through skill training, imparting technical knowledge on food safety.
3. Support to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) for capital investment.

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: **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)**" for providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises. The objectives of the scheme are:

- Support for capital investment for upgradation and formalization with registration for GST, FSSAI hygiene standards and Udyog Aadhar;
- Capacity building through skill training, imparting technical knowledge on food safety, standards & hygiene and quality improvement;
- Hand holding support for preparation of DPR, availing bank loan and upgradation;
- Support to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), producers' cooperatives for capital investment, common infrastructure and support branding and marketing.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Which of the following organisation is the co-organiser of the **Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies**?

- a) Interpol
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Financial Action Task Force
- d) World Trade Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The virtual **4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies** co-organised by the **Basel Institute on Governance, Interpol and Europol**, the conference gathers cryptocurrency experts, money laundering investigators and other law enforcement representatives from around the world was held from November 18 to 19.

The conference is an initiative of the **Working Group on Cryptocurrencies and Money Laundering** established in 2016 by the three organisations, launched with an objective of strengthening knowledge, expertise and best practices for investigations into financial crimes and intelligence on virtual assets and cryptocurrencies.

Over 2,000 representatives from 132 countries attended the virtual 4th Global Conference.

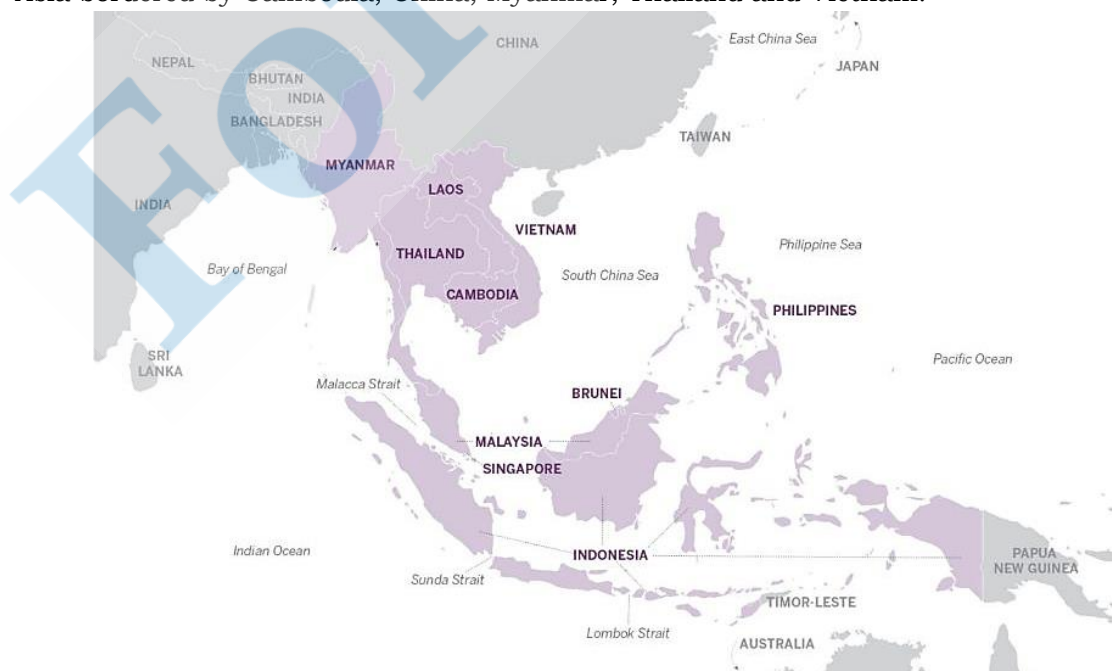
Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **ASEAN**:

- 1. None of the ASEAN nation is a landlocked country.
 - 2. ASEAN members are participant to the East Asia Summit.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Laos** is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia bordered by Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.



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Statement 2 is correct. The **East Asia Summit** has 18 members - the **ten ASEAN countries** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States. ASEAN leads the forum, and the chair position rotates between ASEAN Member States annually.

Q.3) Which of the following organisation has launched the **Sanitation and Hygiene Fund**?

- a) United Nations
- b) African Union
- c) Asian Development Bank
- d) New Development Bank

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Sanitation and Hygiene Fund** backed by the **United Nations** was launched recently. It is hosted by the **UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**, a UN entity providing service, technical advice and implementing projects for the Organization and partners globally.

Currently, half the world's population does not have access to safely managed sanitation. 620 million children attend schools that do not have toilets. 1 in 3 schools do not have even basic sanitation and hygiene services, and 1 in 5 healthcare facilities have no sanitation services whatsoever. The estimated cost of lack of sanitation and hygiene is US\$222 billion per year in lost productivity, increased health expenditures, and economic output.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **SDG Investor Map for India**:

- 1. It has been launched by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Invest India.
- 2. It aims to help public and private sector direct capital towards Investment Opportunity Areas (IOAs) targeting sustainable development goals.

Which 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.

SDG Finance Facility platform at UNDP in partnership with Invest India, the investment promotion arm of the Government of India has developed the **SDG Investor Map for India**. The Map will help public and private sector stake-holders direct capital towards **Investment Opportunity Areas (IOAs)**, and **White Spaces (Areas of Potential)** that can contribute to the nationally determined sustainable development needs of the country. The Map has identified 18 IOAs and 8 White Spaces across 6 Priority Sectors including Education, Healthcare, Agriculture and Allied Services, Financial Services, Renewable Energy and Alternatives, and Sustainable Environment.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAX Facility**:

- 1. It is an initiative of the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- 2. It aims to guarantee fair and equitable access of COVID-19 vaccine for every country in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **COVAX** is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and World Health Organisation.

COVAX is the vaccines pillar of the **Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator**. The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Statement 2 is correct. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee **fair and equitable access** for every country in the world.

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

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World | Food and Agricultural Organization |
| 2. Global Report on Food Crises | Food Security Information Network |
| 3. Hunger Report 2020: Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow | Bread for the World Institute |

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 reports are correctly matched.

--The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World** is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

--The **2020 Global Report on Food Crises** is the result of a joint, consensus-based assessment of acute food insecurity situations around the world by 16 partner organizations (FAO, UNICEF, WFP etc.). It is facilitated by the Food Security Information Network, which provides the core coordination and technical support to pillar 1 of the Global Network Against Food Crises's.

--Launched amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Bread for the World Institute's 2020 report **Hunger Report 2020: Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow** focuses on the greatest obstacles to ending hunger and malnutrition: inequities associated with gender, race, ethnicity, and other identifiers of marginalized social status.

Q.7) Which of the following are the tripartite organisations that have formed the **One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance**?

- 1. World Health Organisation
- 2. Food and Agriculture Organisation
- 3. World Organisation for Animal Health
- 4. International Fund for Agricultural Development

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The heads of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, the **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**, and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** recently launched the new One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Group members include heads of government, government ministers, leaders from private sector and civil society. The group is co-chaired by their Excellencies Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, and Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

The group was created in response to a recommendation from the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and supported by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Group of Twenty (G20)**:

1. Argentina is not a part of the group.
2. India is to host the 2022 G20 summit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The members of the G20 are: **Argentina**, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union.

Statement 2 is incorrect. G20 leaders announced on recently **that India will host the summit of grouping in 2023** — a year later than what was decided earlier. India was earlier slated to host the summit in 2022.

“We thank Saudi Arabia for hosting a successful Riyadh Summit and its contribution to the G20 process. We look forward to our next meetings in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024,” the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders Declaration said.

Q.9) Which of the following country(s) is/are participating in the **SITMEX 2020**?

1. India
2. Singapore
3. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A trilateral naval exercise involving **India, Singapore and Thailand** commenced in the Andaman Sea recently.

The two-day long exercise, **SITMEX-2020**, is scheduled in a “non-contact, at sea only format”, in wake of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The primary aim of the exercise is to further consolidate interoperability between the three navies and also enhance understanding, sharing best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations.

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The Indian Navy is represented by two indigenous warships -- an ASW corvette, INS Kamorta, and a guided Missile corvette, INS Karmuk.

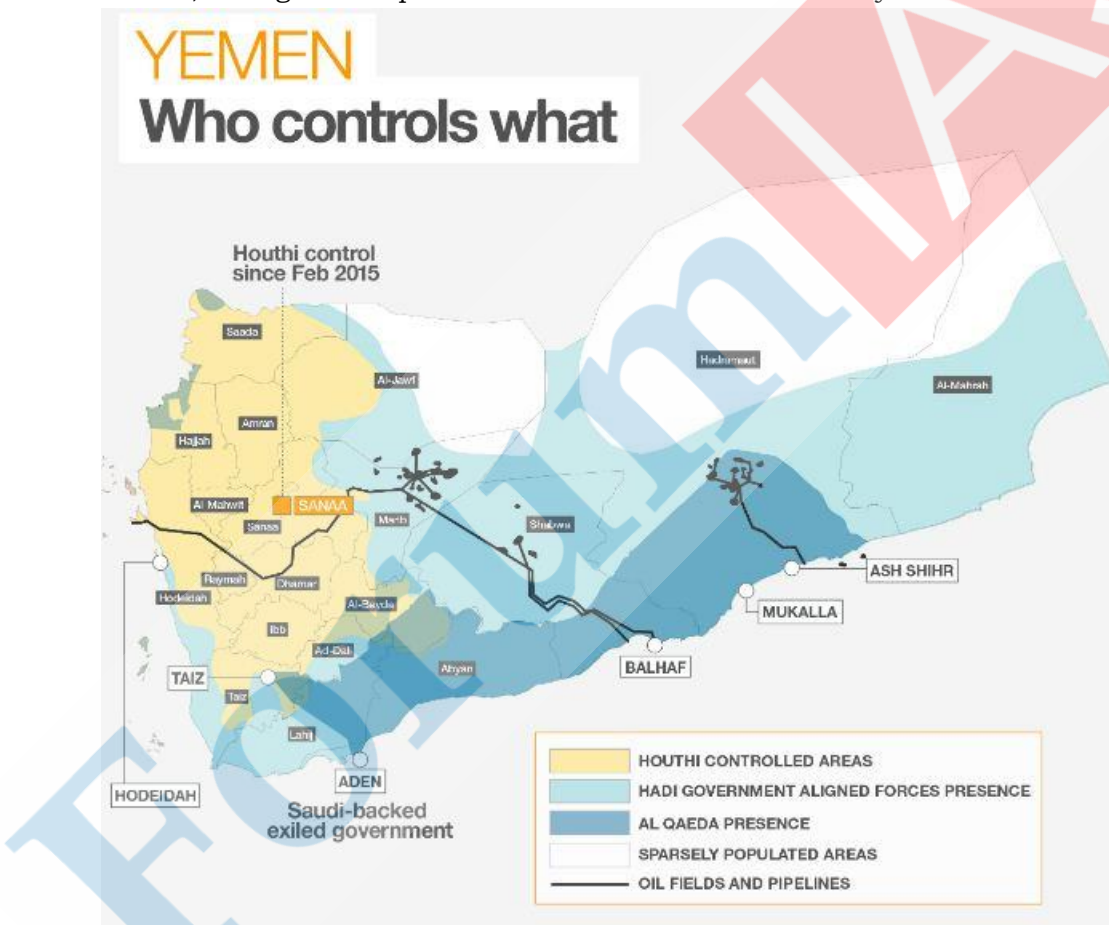
Q.10) Houthis belong to which of the following country?

- a) Lebanon
- b) Yemen
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Israel

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Houthi movement**, named after the family it is associated with, emerged from **Yemen's** Northern Province Saada, bordering Saudi Arabia, and has been locked in an increasingly complex war.

Their influence has grown since first challenging former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in 2004, taking then-capital Sanaa and much of the north by 2014.



Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC):

1. The treaty prohibits the development, stockpile, production, or transfer of biological agents and toxins that have no justification for protective or peaceful use.
2. There is no formal verification regime to monitor compliance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)** was the first multilateral treaty categorically banning a class of weapon. The treaty prohibits the development, stockpile, production, or transfer of biological agents and toxins of "types and quantities" that have no justification for protective or peaceful use. Furthermore, the treaty bans the development of weapons, equipment, or delivery systems to disseminate such agents or toxins.

There is no formal verification regime to monitor compliance. Member States are encouraged to abide by numerous confidence-building measures (CBMs) prescribed by State Parties at various review conferences.

India signed the BTWC with some reservations on January 15, 1973 and ratified the treaty a year and a half later on July 15, 1974.

Q.12) Which of the following institution has recently published the report '**Averting a Lost COVID Generation**'?

- a) United Nations Children's Fund
- b) World Health Organisation
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- d) Food and Agriculture Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Released ahead of World Children's Day 2020, **Averting a Lost COVID Generation** is the first **UNICEF report** to comprehensively outline the dire and growing consequences for children as the pandemic drags on.

The report finds that, as of 3 November, in 87 countries with age-disaggregated data, children and adolescents under 20 years of age accounted for 1 in 9 of COVID-19 infections, or 11 per cent of the 25.7 million infections reported by these countries.

It shows that while symptoms among infected children remain mild, infections are rising and the longer-term impact on the education, nutrition and well-being of an entire generation of children and young people can be life-altering.

GEOGRAPHY

Q.1) The **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Ladakh
- d) Jammu & Kashmir

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary**, with altitude range from 600m to 6,905m is located in the Pithoragarh district in **Uttarakhand**. The term 'Askot' is derived from 'Assi Kot' or Eighty Forts, many of which are located in Nepal.

The River Kali forms the international boundary and separates it from Nepal in the east and to the west it is bounded by West Almora Forest Division, to the north by Tibet and the south by Pithoragarh Forest Division.

Q.2) The **New Caledonia** is a French overseas territory in which of the following Ocean?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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



Q.3) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Strait of Hormuz - Connects Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman
- 2. Golan Heights - Israel and Syria dispute
- 3. Nagorno Karabakh - Azerbaijan and Armenia dispute

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Strait of Hormuz** is a strait between the **Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman**. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.

Option 2 is correctly matched. Since the 1967 Six-Day War, the western two-thirds of the **Golan Heights** has been occupied and administered by **Israel**, whereas the eastern third remains under control of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Nagorno-Karabakh** lies within **Azerbaijan** but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by **Armenia**.

Q.4) Which of the following area(s) have won the **TX2 Conservation Excellence Award for 2020**?

1. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
2. Transboundary Manas Conservation Area
3. Rajaji National Park

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 and Bhutan are among 13 tiger range countries working towards **TX2 (doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years)**, a goal that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) had set through the Global Tiger Initiative, Global Tiger Forum and other critical platforms.

The award recognises a site that has achieved excellence in two or more of five themes: Tiger and prey population monitoring and research (tiger translocation/prey augmentation); effective site management; enhanced law enforcement, protection and ranger welfare improvement; community-based conservation, benefits and human-wildlife conflict mitigation and habitat and prey management.

Transboundary Manas Conservation Area or TraMCA comprising the 500 sq. km. Manas National Park in Assam and the 1,057-sq. km. Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan have won the award.

The **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh** also won the TX2 award for doubling its population of wild tigers since 2010.

Q.5) **Pangda village** has been in news recently, where is it located?

- a) India-Nepal border
- b) China-Bhutan border
- c) India-China border
- d) India-Pakistan border

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Pangda Village** is news for being recently populated by Chinese settlements on disputed territory on **China-Bhutan border**.

The area is east of the India-Bhutan-China trijunction on the **Doklam plateau**, which was the site of a 72-day stand-off in 2017.

Authorities in Yadong county of Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region have confirmed that 27 households with 124 people voluntarily moved from Shangdui village of Duina prefecture of Yadong county to Pangda village in September 2020.

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

1. Cyclonic Amphan - Arabian Sea
2. Cyclone Nivar - Bay of Bengal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan** was a powerful and catastrophic tropical cyclone in **Bay of Bengal** that caused widespread damage in Eastern India, specifically West Bengal, and also Bangladesh in May 2020.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast the development of a cyclone in the Southwest region of the Bay of Bengal, off Tamil Nadu coast.

The Met department has said that it will strengthen into a cyclone. **Once intensified, it would acquire its name 'Nivar', proposed by Iran.**

Q.7) Which of the following country's submitted name has been chosen for **Cyclone Nivar**?

- a) Iran
- b) India
- c) Indonesia
- d) Bangladesh

Correct answer: A

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

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

In 2020, a new list of cyclone names was issued by IMD, following WMO guidelines. The new list comprises 13 names of cyclones each for the 13 member countries, totalling to 169. The names for India include Gati, Tej, Murasu, Aag, Vyom, Jhar, Probaho, Neer, Prabhanjan, Ghurni, Ambud, Jaladhi and Vega.

Cyclone Nivar's name is among the names submitted by Iran.

Q.8) Which of the following country(s) form part of the group called **Nordic countries**?

1. Finland
2. Denmark
3. Sweden

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 **Nordic Region** consists of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland, as well as the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland.

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Norden means literally '**the North**' in the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish languages. The terms Scandinavia and Scandinavian are often used as synonyms for Norden and Nordic in English.

India and Finland recently signed a MOU for developing cooperation between two countries in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

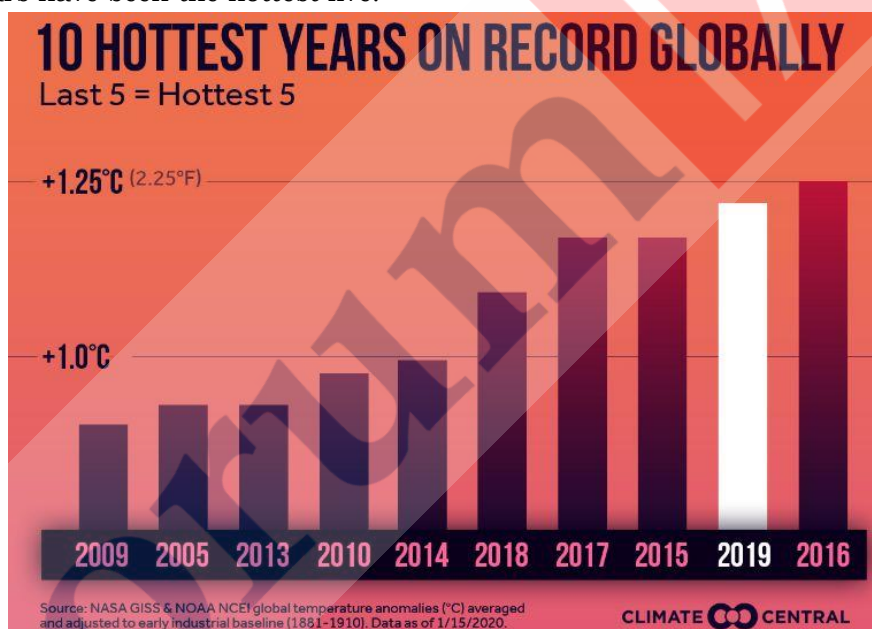
1. Year 2019 was the hottest year on record.
2. More than half of incoming sunlight is reflected back into space by bright surfaces like clouds and ice.

Which 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. **2019 was the 2nd warmest year** on record. The past five years have been the hottest five.



Statement 2 is incorrect. About **29 percent of the solar energy** that arrives at the top of the atmosphere is reflected back to space by clouds, atmospheric particles, or bright ground surfaces like sea ice and snow. About 23 percent of incoming solar energy is absorbed in the atmosphere by water vapor, dust, and ozone, and 48 percent passes through the atmosphere and is absorbed by the surface. Thus, about 71 percent of the total incoming solar energy is absorbed by the Earth system.

New Zealand's government will decide next week if a climate emergency should be declared in the country or not.

Q.10) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Kigali Agreement | Reduce the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons |
| 2. Kyoto Protocol | Limit and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions |
| 3. Montreal Protocol | Phasing out Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer |

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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 **Kigali Amendment** to the Montreal protocol will reduce the projected production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years.

The **Kyoto Protocol** operationalizes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets.

The **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** is the landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances (ODS).

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently launched the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal. The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.

Q.11) The **Bonda tribe** belongs to which State?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Bihar
- c) Kerala
- d) Odisha

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Bonda tribe of Odisha** is believed to be part of the first wave of migration out of Africa about 60,000 years ago. Anthropologists say that they are members of a group of Austroasiatic tribes, who at some time in the ancient past migrated and settled in an area of about 130 sq km in the wild Jeypore hills.

The Bondas continue to speak in their language, **Remo**, which comes under the Austroasiatic language belonging to the Mundari group. They are one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Odisha. A matriarchal society, the women prefer to marry men who are younger by at least 5-10 years, so that the men can earn for them when they grow old.

Q.12) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Baku - Azerbaijan
- 2. Neom - Israel
- 3. Yerevan - Armenia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Baku**, the capital and commercial hub of **Azerbaijan**, is a low-lying city with coastline along the Caspian Sea.

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Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Neom** is a planned cross-border city in the Tabuk Province of northwestern **Saudi Arabia**. It is planned to incorporate smart city technologies and also function as a tourist destination. The site is near the Red Sea, and Strait of Tiran and the borders of Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Yerevan** is the capital and largest city of **Armenia**, and one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Situated along the Hrazdan River, Yerevan is the administrative, cultural, and industrial center of the country.

ForumIAS

ECONOMICS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **State Development Loans (SDL)**:

1. These are Government Securities (G-Sec) issued by State governments in India.
2. These are eligible for meeting the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirements of banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **Government Security (G-Sec)** is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.

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

In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the **State Governments** issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.

Statement 2 is correct. SDLs are **eligible** securities for Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) purposes, and are bought by banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, provident funds and other institutional investors.

Q.2) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term '**Regulatory Sandbox**'?

- a) Live testing of new products or services in a controlled regulatory environment
- b) Regulatory framework for sand mining in India
- c) Regulatory body exclusive for internet-based entities
- d) Regulatory mechanism for globally operating entities

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A **regulatory sandbox (RS)** usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

It allows the regulator, the innovators, the financial service providers (as potential deployers of the technology) and the customers (as final users) to conduct field tests to collect evidence on the benefits and risks of new financial innovations, while carefully monitoring and containing their risks.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. As per the Constitution, states can legislate on the incorporation, regulation and winding up of co-operative societies.
2. The Reserve Bank of India does not regulate the cooperative banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Entry 32 in the Seventh Schedule's State List** mentions 'Incorporation, regulation and winding up of corporations, other than those specified in List I, and universities; unincorporated trading, literary, scientific, religious and other societies and associations; cooperative societies.'

Statement 2 is incorrect. In **1965, certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act) were made applicable to co-operative banks**. This gave Reserve Bank of India (RBI) some powers to regulate co-operative banks.

RBI regulated state co-operative banks, district (central) co-operative banks and primary co-operative banks (also called urban co-operative banks).

The **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020** amended the Act to further expand RBI's regulatory control over co-operative banks in terms of management, capital, audit and liquidation.

Q.4) What is a Negative Bond Yield?

- a) Investor receives more money at the bond's maturity than the original purchase price for the bond
- b) Investor receives less money at the bond's maturity than the original purchase price for the bond
- c) Investor receives no money at the bond's maturity but is offered another bond with higher return
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: A **negative bond yield** is when an investor receives **less money at the bond's maturity** than the original purchase price for the bond.

A negative bond yield is an unusual situation in which issuers of debt are paid to borrow. In other words, the depositors, or buyers of bonds, are effectively paying the bond issuer a net amount at maturity instead of earning a return through interest income.

Negative-yield bonds **attract investments during times of stress** and uncertainty as investors look to protect their capital from significant erosion.

These are generally issued by central banks or governments, and investors pay interest to the borrower to keep their money with them.

Q.5) The Committee on Financial Sector Reforms was headed by whom?

- a) Raghuram Rajan
- b) Viral Acharya
- c) Urjit Patel
- d) Shaktikanta Das

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Raghuram Rajan Committee on Financial Sector Reforms** was a committee constituted by the Government of India in 2007 for proposing the next generation of financial sector reforms in India.

An **Internal Working Group of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently recommended that corporate houses be given bank licenses. The Raghuram Rajan committee had said that it is premature to allow industrial houses to own banks.

POLITY

Q.1) Which of the following subject(s) is/are listed in the **Concurrent List** under the Constitution?

1. Transfer of property other than agricultural land
2. Trade and commerce in foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils
3. Electricity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are listed in the Concurrent List under Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. In the Concurrent list;

Entry 6 is Transfer of property other than agricultural land; registration of deeds and documents;

Entry 33(b) is Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils; and

Entry 38 is Electricity.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Constitution Day** of India:

1. It is celebrated to commemorate the coming into effect of the Constitution of India.
2. The date of the Constitution Day is mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Constitution Day** also known as '**Samvidhan Divas**' is celebrated in our country on **26th November** every year to commemorate the **adoption** of the Constitution of India.

On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950.

Statement 2 is correct. Preamble states that "WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;

and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this **twenty-sixth day of November, 1949**, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION".

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Trade unions, industrial and labour disputes fall under the Concurrent List of Constitution.

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2. The right to form associations or unions is a fundamental right.

Which 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. Under the Constitution of India, **Labour is a subject in the Concurrent List** where both the Central & State Governments are competent to enact legislation subject to certain matters being reserved for the Centre. Trade Unions; industrial and labour disputes are listed as Entry 22 in **Concurrent List**.

Statement 2 is correct. All citizens have the fundamental right to form associations or unions or co-operative societies. [**Article 19(c)**]

Q.4) Which of the following **fundamental right(s)** is/are guaranteed by the Constitution?

- 1. Right to practice and propagate religion
- 2. Right to convert religion of people
- 3. Right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

Option 2 is incorrect. In the case of **Stanislaus vs State of Madhya Pradesh (1977)**, the court made a clear distinction between the right to propagate one's religion or faith and the right to convert. Court ruled that former is guaranteed by Article 25 of Constitution. Conversion enjoys no such protection.

Option 3 is correct. **Article 26** states that subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right—

- to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;
- to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;
- to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and
- to administer such property in accordance with law.

HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

Q.1) Which of the statements given below is correct regarding **Lachit Borphukan**?

1. He was a contemporary of Aurangzeb.

2. He fought in the Battle of Saraighat.

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.

Lachit Borphukan was an army general from Assam, India. He is remembered for his extraordinary victory against the **Mughal army of Aurangzeb headed by Ram Singh in the Battle of Saraighat** (fought in 1671 between the Mughals and the Ahom Kingdom on the Brahmaputra river at Saraighat, now in Guwahati).

In this battle the weaker, the Ahom Army defeated the Mughal Army by brilliant uses of the terrain, clever diplomatic negotiations to buy time, guerrilla tactics, psychological warfare, military intelligence and by exploiting the sole weakness of the Mughal forces—its navy.

His father, Momai Tamuli Borbarua was the 'Governor' of the kingdom and also 'Commander-in-Chief' of Ahom army under King Pratap Singha during his reign starting from 1603 to 1639.

Lachit received military training from an early age and joined the Ahom King Jayadhwaj Singha (1648-1663) as a scarf-bearer. The post '**scarf-bearer**' or '**Soladhara Barua**' is considered as a part of the incumbent king's personal staff.

In August 1667, Chakradhwaj Singha appointed Lachit Borphukan as the Commander-in-Chief of Ahom kingdom.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Bhavai - Andhra Pradesh

2. Therukoothu - Tamil Nadu

3. Pichwai - Rajasthan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Bhavai** is a genre of folk dance popular in **Rajasthan** state in western India. The male or female performers balance a number of earthen pots or brass/metal pitchers as they dance.

Also, *Bhavai (Vesha or Swang) is a popular folk theatre form of western India, especially in Gujarat.*

Therukoothu is an ancient art, where artists play songs with dance and music in storytelling the epics, performed in Tamil; it is a folk art originated from the early Tamil region.

Pichwai are large devotional Hindu painted pictures, normally on cloth, which portray Krishna. It originated over 400 years ago, in the town of **Nathdwara near Udaipur in Rajasthan**, India. Intricate and visually stunning, pichwai paintings, made on cloth, depict tales from Lord Krishna's life.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Which of the following statement most appropriately defines the **One Health approach**?

- a) A solution to communicable as well as non-communicable disease
- b) A curative approach without vaccine intervention
- c) A non-allopathic treatment option for diseases
- d) An approach recognizing the interconnection among people and environmental

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **One Health** is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach—working at the local, regional, national, and global levels—with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

It has gained importance as many of the same microbes infect animals and humans, as they share the eco-systems, they live in. Efforts by just one sector cannot prevent or eliminate the problem.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Coronavirus**:

- 1. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is caused by a type of coronavirus.
- 2. Several coronaviruses can transmit from animals to humans.

Which 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. **Coronaviruses** are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)** and **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**.

Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface.

Statement 2 is correct. Detailed investigations found that **SARS-CoV** was transmitted from civet cats to humans in China in 2002 and **MERS-CoV** from dromedary camels to humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans. The **SARS-CoV-2** is being claimed to have transmitted from bats to humans.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Chang'e-5 spacecraft**:

- 1. It is targeted to land at the far-side of the moon.
- 2. The mission aims to bring back sample from the lunar surface to Earth.

Which 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. **Chang'e-4 spacecraft** made a soft touch down on the Moon's far-side. The Chang'e-5 is going to target a nearside location called Mons Rümker, a high volcanic complex in a region known as Oceanus Procellarum.

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Statement 2 is correct. It is a multi-step mission that involves an orbiter, a lander-ascender and finally a return component that uses a capsule to survive a fast and hot entry into Earth's atmosphere at the end of the mission to **bring back sample** from Lunar surface.

The last sample returned from the moon was delivered by the Soviet Union's Luna 24 spacecraft in 1976.

Q.4) Which of the following technologies relate to solutions in **Drinking water and Sanitation**?

1. Janajal Water on Wheel
2. Grundfos AQpure
3. Johkasou technology

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: A multi-disciplinary technical committee in the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**, Ministry of Jal Shakti has recommended five technologies, specifically three technologies for drinking water and two technologies for sanitation as innovative technologies out of the ten technologies considered by it and these technologies would now be listed in the innovation portal of the department

The technologies include **Grundfos AQpure**, a solar energy-based water treatment plant based on ultra-filtration, **Janajal Water on Wheel**, an Internet of Things (IoT) based electric vehicle to deliver safe water to households and **Presto Online Chlorinator**, a non-electric online chlorinator for disinfection of water for removal of bacterial contamination.

The other two are **Johkasou technology**, an inbuilt packaged black (sewage) and greywater (kitchen and bath water) treatment system having advanced anaerobic-aerobic configuration that can be installed underground, while **FBTec** is a site assembled decentralised sewage treatment system using fixed filter media.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Shukrayaan mission**:

1. It is a proposed space mission of ISRO to the planet closest to the Sun.
2. It is an orbiter and lander mission to study the topography of the planet.

Which 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. **Mercury** is the planet closest to the Sun. **Shukrayaan** is a proposed mission to Venus (second closest planet).

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has short-listed 20 space-based experiment proposals, including from France, for its proposed **Venus orbiter mission 'Shukrayaan'** to study the planet for more than four years.

ISRO was earlier eyeing June, 2023 that has now been delayed due to pandemic, future launch opportunity is either in 2024 or 2026. The optimal launch window, when Venus is closest to the Earth comes about every 19 months.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Desalination plants**:

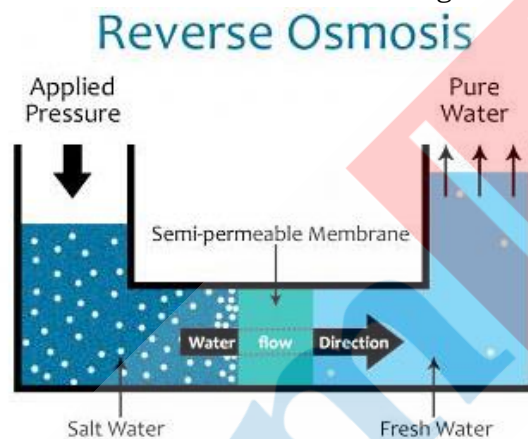
1. It can turn salt water into drinkable water.
2. There are no desalination plants in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **desalination plant** turns salt water into water that is fit to drink. The most commonly used technology used for the process is **reverse osmosis** where an external pressure is applied to push solvents from an area of high-solute concentration to an area of low-solute concentration through a membrane.



Statement 2 is incorrect. In India, **Tamil Nadu** has been the pioneer in using this technology, setting up two up in Chennai. The other states that have proposed these plants are **Gujarat**, which has announced to set up a 100 MLD RO plant at the Jodiya coast in Jamnagar district.

Desalination has largely been limited to affluent countries in the Middle East and has recently started making inroads in parts of the United States and Australia.

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

1. It can cause severe watery diarrhea among children.
2. ROTAVAC is a rotavirus vaccine developed in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Rotavirus** spreads easily among infants and young children. The virus can cause severe watery diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and abdominal pain. Children who get rotavirus disease can become dehydrated and may need to be hospitalized.

Good hygiene like handwashing and cleanliness are important, but are not enough to control the spread of the disease.

Statement 2 is correct. The **ROTAVAC vaccine** developed by Bharat Biotech originated in India from an attenuated (weakened) strain of rotavirus that was isolated from an Indian child at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi in 1985-86.

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Rotavac received WHO-Prequalification in January 2018.

Q.8) What is the reason behind the '**Blue Tide**' recently seen on Mumbai coast?

- a) Geomagnetic anomaly causing the rocks to illuminate
- b) Microscopic marine plants producing light through chemical reactions in proteins
- c) Abundance of blue-green-algae
- d) Waste water discharge from coastal industrial units

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Maharashtra coasts have witnessed a fluorescent bluish glow when the waves hit the shoreline in recent days.

The '**Blue tide**' appears when luminescent marine life makes the sea appear a deep shade of blue. This phenomenon occurs when **microscopic marine plants known as dinoflagellates**, produce light through chemical reactions in proteins. Waves disturb these unicellular microorganisms and make them release blue light.

Bioluminescence is the production and emission of light by a living organism. Bioluminescent creatures are found throughout marine habitats, from the ocean surface to the deep seafloor.

Q.9) Which of the following statements correctly defines the '**White shipping information**'?

- a) Information on the commercial non-military merchant shipping
- b) Information regarding naval military movements
- c) Data on exclusive economic zone mining
- d) Information on global seas mineral exploitation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **White shipping information** refers to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of commercial non-military merchant vessels.

The seas around India abound in vessels of various types ranging from small inland fishing crafts to larger fishing vessels, coastal crafts carrying personnel and cargo and merchant ships of all shapes and sizes that carry various types of cargo.

Being aware of the identity of these vessels is imperative to preventing any potential threat from the sea from impinging on the coastal and offshore security of the country. The 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack is a case in point. Indian Navy has thus been working towards achieving complete **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** along with all other concerned agencies like the coast guard, customs, ports, fisheries, etc.

White Shipping agreements refer to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of commercial non-military merchant vessels.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling (BEOS)**:

- 1. Its objective is to diagnose any malignant tumors in the brain.
- 2. It is a non-invasive technique.

Which 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. **Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling (BEOS)** also known as brain fingerprinting is a **neuro psychological method of**

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interrogation in which a suspect participation in a crime is detected by electing electro physiological impulses, it is also a tool which measures the changes in electrical activity of the brain associated with the presence of knowledge provoked by probe when the suspect does not have to offer an answer or response.

Statement 2 is correct. It works on **EEG (Electro encephalograph machine)**. BEOS is a **non-invasive technique** with a great degree of sensitivity and a neuro-psychological method of interrogation which is referred to as brain fingerprinting or brain finger mapping. BEOS is used to identify individuals with experience of participating in a crime.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sentinel-6 satellite**:

1. It is a joint endeavor of China and the United States of America.
2. It is aimed at monitoring the asteroids that have potential to impact Earth in near future.

Which 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.

Sentinel-6 has been developed jointly by the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, **NASA**, **European Organisation** for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (Eumetsat), the USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EU, with contributions from France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES).

The **Sentinel** is a joint endeavour between Europe and the US, and will continue the measurements that have been made by a succession of spacecraft, called the Jason-Topex/Poseidon series, going back to 1992. It aims to collect the most accurate data yet on **sea level** and how it changes over time.

These earlier missions have shown unequivocally that sea levels globally are rising, at a rate in excess of 3mm per year over the 28-year period. And their most recent data even suggests there is acceleration under way, with levels recorded as going up at over 4mm per year.

About one-third of the measured global sea-level rise on Earth is from the expansion of warming water, a key driver of which is climate change. The rest is largely from melting ice.

Q.12) The '**Sea Sparkle**' has been in news recently, what is it?

- a) Phenomenon causing the water preservation in Europa moon of Jupiter
- b) A seawater organism that can emit light
- c) A proposed Pacific Ocean naval fleet of Quad nations
- d) A new tree species discovered in Western Ghats

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Particularly during a warm summery night, where the water is in motion, such as the surf, the sea can radiate light. The **bluish light is caused by sea sparkle (Noctiluca Scintillans)**, a round one-celled organism. In turbulent water, a chemical reaction in sea sparkle causes it to emit light. It is meant to scare off enemies.

The bloom of **Noctiluca Scintillans** that the **Karnataka** coast has been witnessing since about a month has displaced microscopic algae called diatoms, which form the basis of the marine food chain. This has deprived food for the planktivorous fish as per scientists from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Mangaluru.