

## *10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation*

16th to 22nd November, 2020

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

## 10 PM Compilation for the Week - 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**Q.1)** What is the objective of the recently launched **EOS-01 satellite**?

- a) Applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support
- b) 5G connectivity
- c) Internet connectivity to islands in Indian Ocean
- d) Military intelligence network

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fifty first flight (PSLV-C49), successfully launched EOS-01 along with nine international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on November 07, 2020.

EOS-01 is an earth observation satellite, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

EOS-01 is nothing but another Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) that will work together with RISAT-2B and RISAT-2BR1 launched last year. EOS-01 was initially named RISAT-2BR2.

With EOS-01, ISRO is moving to a new naming system for its earth observation satellites which till now have been named thematically, according to the purpose they are meant for.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Immune System**:

- 1. Macrophages are white blood cells that swallow up and digest germs, plus dead or dying cells.
- 2. B-lymphocytes are defensive white blood cells that produce antibodies.

Which 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.

**Blood contains red blood cells**, for carrying oxygen to tissues and organs, and white or immune cells, for fighting infection. These white cells consist primarily of macrophages, B-lymphocytes and T-lymphocytes.

--**Macrophages** are white blood cells that swallow up and digest germs, plus dead or dying cells. The macrophages leave behind parts of the invading germs called antigens. The body identifies antigens as dangerous and stimulates antibodies to attack them.

--**B-lymphocytes** are defensive white blood cells. They produce antibodies that attack the antigens left behind by the macrophages.

--**T-lymphocytes** are another type of defensive white blood cell. They attack cells in the body that have already been infected.

**Q.3)** '**Apophis**' has been in news recently, what is it?

- a) A Near-Earth asteroid
- b) A phenomenon of cancer cells accelerating in COVID-19 patients
- c) A gateway for next crewed landing on Moon
- d) A new organ discovered in human body

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Asteroid 99942 **Apophis** is a near-Earth asteroid more than 1000 feet (over 300 meters) in size that will harmlessly pass close to Earth on April 13, 2029.

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Astronomers now have revealed that a large asteroid named 'Apophis' expected to pass extremely close or may hit the Earth in 2068 due to a phenomenon called Yarkovsky effect. Researchers at the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy (IfA) in the US, have announced the detection of Yarkovsky acceleration on the near-Earth asteroid Apophis. The Yarkovsky effect describes a small but significant force that affects the orbital motion of small meteoroids and asteroids. It is caused by sunlight; when these bodies heat up in the Sun, they eventually re-radiate the energy away as heat, which in turn creates a tiny thrust.

**Q.4)** What does the **Moore's law** relate to?

- The expansion of speed and capability of computer systems
- The growth of human expeditions into the space
- The trajectory of population growth and food demand on Earth
- The development of Artificial Intelligence

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Moore's Law** refers to Moore's perception that the number of transistors on a microchip doubles every two years, though the cost of computers is halved. Moore's Law states that it can be expected that the speed and capability of computers will increase every couple of years, and we will pay less for them.

Moore's law is an observation and projection of a historical trend. Rather than a law of physics, it is an empirical relationship linked to gains from experience in production.

**Q.5)** Which of the following is/are **Scorpene submarine of Project-75**?

- INS Karanj
- INS Vela
- INS Vagir

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All of the above

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Two submarines of the ongoing **Project-75 Scorpene programme** at MDL, **Kalvari** and **Khanderi**, have been commissioned into the Indian Navy. The third submarine, **Karanj**, is in the last phase of rigorous sea trials. The fourth Scorpene, **Vela**, has commenced her sea trials, fifth Scorpene submarine of Project-75 named '**Vagir**' has been launched at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai recently whilst the sixth and last submarine, **Vagsheer**, is being readied for boot together.

Scorpene submarines can undertake multifarious types of missions i.e Anti-Surface warfare, Anti-Submarine warfare, Intelligence gathering, Mine Laying, Area Surveillance etc. The Scorpene project is given support by the Department of Defence Production (MoD) and Indian Navy throughout its various phases of construction.

*# The number 75 in Project 75 refers to such unique identifier which was assigned to a programme for series production of submarines in India. Based on the specifications drawn for Project 75, the Scorpene class submarine from France, chosen under the project, is being constructed at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.*

**Q.6)** **Crew Dragon** spacecraft belongs to which of the following space agency/corporation?

- SpaceX

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- b) Blue Origin
- c) China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- d) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Crew Dragon** is a class of reusable spacecraft developed and manufactured by American aerospace manufacturer **SpaceX**.

The SpaceX Crew Dragon, including the Falcon 9 rocket and associated ground systems, is the first new, crew spacecraft to be NASA-certified for regular flights with astronauts since the space shuttle nearly 40 years ago.

SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft will lift off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida carrying a crew of four people to the International Space Station (ISS) on a six-month-long mission on Nov 14.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **RNA vaccines**:

1. They work by introducing an mRNA sequence in body which is coded for a disease specific antigen.
  2. Production of RNA vaccines is laboratory based.
- Which 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.

**RNA vaccines** work by introducing an mRNA sequence (the molecule which tells cells what to build) which is coded for a disease specific antigen, once produced within the body, the antigen is recognised by the immune system, preparing it to fight the real thing. RNA vaccines are faster and cheaper to produce than traditional vaccines, and a RNA based vaccine is also safer for the patient, as they are not produced using infectious elements. Production of RNA vaccines is laboratory based, and the process could be standardised and scaled, allowing quick responses to large outbreaks and epidemics.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **T-cell immunity**:

1. It is a major component of the adaptive immune system.
  2. T cells form in bone marrow and mature in thymus.
- Which 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 immune response to viral infection comprises **innate and adaptive** defenses. The innate response functions continuously in a normal host without exposure to any virus. Most viral infections are controlled by the innate immune system.

The adaptive defense consists of antibodies and lymphocytes, often called the humoral response and the cell mediated response. The cells of the adaptive immune system are lymphocytes – **B cells and T cells**.

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Statement 2 is correct. **T cells** originate from haematopoietic stem cells which are produced in the **bone marrow**. Some of these multipotent cells will become progenitor cells that leave the bone marrow and travel to the **thymus** via the blood. In the thymus these cells mature: T cells are named after their thymus-dependent development.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Chapare hemorrhagic fever (CHHF)**:

1. It is a viral fever.
2. It usually spread to people through direct contact with infected rodents.

Which 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.

**Chapare hemorrhagic fever (CHHF)** is a viral hemorrhagic fever caused by infection with Chapare virus. The Chapare virus is in the arenavirus family. Arenaviruses are usually spread to people through direct contact with infected rodents or indirectly through the urine or feces (droppings) of an infected rodent.

There have been two documented outbreaks of CHHF to date. The first occurred in 2003 in Chapare Province, Bolivia, which resulted in one fatal case. The second outbreak occurred in 2019 in Caranavi Province, Bolivia and resulted in five confirmed cases— three of which were fatal.

It has recently been reported that it can spread through human-to-human transmission.

**Q.10)** Which of the following has been declared as the **fastest Supercomputer** recently?

- a) Mihir
- b) PARAM Siddhi-AI
- c) Selene
- d) Fugaku

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Japan's Fugaku supercomputer** has topped the list of fastest supercomputers with the publication of the 56th Top500 list.

**Summit and Sierra** (IBM/Mellanox/Nvidia, United States) remain at number two and three, respectively, and Sunway TaihuLight (China) holds the fourth position.

Nvidia's in-house HPC-AI machine Selene, doubles in size of Fugaku, moved up to two spots to secure a fifth-place.

Two supercomputers from India — PARAM Siddhi-AI and Mihir have been ranked 63rd and 146th, respectively, and remain the only two supercomputers from India in the latest list of TOP500.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Guillain-Barre syndrome**:

1. It is a rare disorder in which body's immune system attacks its own nerves.
2. It is mostly associated with respiratory or gastrointestinal infections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Guillain-Barre syndrome** is a rare disorder in which body's immune system attacks the nerves. It mainly affects the feet, hands and limbs, causing problems such as numbness, weakness and pain.

Statement 2 is correct. Guillain-Barré syndrome is thought to be caused by a problem with the immune system, the body's natural defence against illness and infection.

The exact cause of Guillain-Barre syndrome is **unknown**. But two-thirds of patients report symptoms of an infection in the six weeks preceding. These include respiratory or a gastrointestinal infection or Zika virus.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Placebo effect**:

1. Placebo contains multiple active medicinal ingredients.
2. Drug companies prove that their new drugs work better than a placebo before the drugs are approved by regulators.

Which 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. A **placebo is a medical treatment** or procedure designed to deceive the participant of a clinical experiment. It **does not contain any active ingredients** but often still produces a physical effect on the individual.

The placebo effect refers to the impact of a placebo on an individual. Even inactive treatment has repeatedly demonstrated a measurable, positive health response. The power of the placebo effect is considered to be a psychological phenomenon.

Statement 2 is correct. Placebos are **essential to the design of reliable clinical trials**. Drug companies must show that their new drugs work better than a placebo before the drugs are approved.

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the **GRIHA ratings**:

1. It evaluates the environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle.
2. GRIHA Council was founded by The Energy and Resources Institute with support from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Which 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. **GRIHA** is an acronym for Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment. GRIHA is a rating tool that helps people assesses the performance of their building against certain nationally acceptable benchmarks. It evaluates the environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle, thereby providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a 'green building'.

Statement 2 is correct. GRIHA Council is mandated to promote development of buildings and habitats in India through GRIHA. GRIHA Council an independent platform for the

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interaction on scientific and administrative issues related to sustainable habitats in the Indian subcontinent.

It was founded by **TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi) with support from MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India)** along with a handful of experts in the sustainability of built environment from across the country.

**Q.14)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**:

1. It aims to provide Standard Positioning Service (SPS) to all the users and Restricted Service (RS), an encrypted service only to the authorized users.
2. It has been accepted as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the Indian Ocean Region by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Which 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. **IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite** system being developed by India. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area.

An Extended Service Area lies between primary service area and area enclosed by the rectangle from Latitude 30 deg South to 50 deg North, Longitude 30 deg East to 130 deg East.

IRNSS will provide two types of services, namely, **Standard Positioning Service (SPS)** which is provided to all the users and **Restricted Service (RS)**, which is an encrypted service provided only to the authorised users. The IRNSS System is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.

Statement 2 is correct. It has been accepted as a component of the **World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS)** for operation in the Indian Ocean Region by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

This will enable merchant vessels to use IRNSS for obtaining position information similar to GPS and GLONASS to assist in the navigation of ships in ocean waters within the area covered by 50°N latitude, 55°E longitude, 5°S latitude and 110°E longitude (approximately up to 1500 km from Indian boundary).

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of IMO during its recent meeting (102nd session) held from 4 to 11 November 2020 has approved the recognition of the IRNSS as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System.

**Q.15)** What is **kappa-carrageenan** that has been in news recently?

- a) A crater on Moon's surface
- b) A water-soluble polysaccharide found in edible red seaweeds
- c) A potential drug for COVID-19 disease
- d) A newly discovered species of butterfly in Western Ghats

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** An injectable hydrogel derived from **spirulina** can help accelerated wound repair in internal injuries and rapid healing in diabetic patients.

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Repeated dressing of diabetic wound badly affects its healing process while it is difficult to assess the wound repair in internal injuries due to treatment complications.

To address this need, Scientists at the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST)**, Mohali, an autonomous Institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have recently developed an injectable hydrogel from **kappa-carrageenan**, a water-soluble polysaccharide found in edible red seaweeds and a pigmented protein called C-phycoyanin found in spirulina.

The gelling property of  $\kappa$ -carrageenan was utilized by the researchers along with C-phycoyanin as an injectable and regenerative wound dressing matrix to heal the wound rapidly and also to monitor its progress in real-time.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Solar flares**:

1. These are sudden explosions of energy from the solar surface.
2. The radiation it releases can interfere with radio communications on 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: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **surface of the Sun** has electrically charged gases that generate areas of powerful magnetic forces. These areas are called magnetic fields. The Sun's gases are constantly moving, which tangles, stretches and twists the magnetic fields. This motion creates a lot of activity on the Sun's surface, called **solar activity**.

The magnetic field lines near sunspots often tangle, cross, and reorganize. This can cause a sudden explosion of energy called a solar flare. **Solar flares** release a lot of radiation into space. If a solar flare is very intense, the radiation it releases can interfere with our radio communications here on Earth.

*# Recently, the solar physicists at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) Nainital, along with their collaborators from the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), Tenerife, Spain and the University of Oslo, Norway, used the imaging observations from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), and Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SoHO), and KCor coronagraph in Mauna Loa Solar Observatory (US), to observe a very hot current sheet with temperature over 20 million Kelvin associated with the biggest solar flare of the decade observed on September 10, 2017.*

*# The research provides the first evidence of significant number of plasma blobs along with the current sheet in the wake of a solar flare that could help delve deeper into solar flares.*

**Q.17)** Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Aplastic anemia**?

- a) Body doesn't produce enough blood cells
- b) Body doesn't produce enough antibodies against infection
- c) The somatic cell's capacity to utilize oxygen diminishes
- d) The antibodies in the blood start targeting the healthy cells

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Aplastic anemia** is a condition that occurs when body **stops producing enough new blood cells**. The condition leaves person fatigued and more prone to infections and uncontrolled bleeding.



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A rare and serious condition, aplastic anemia can develop at any age. It can occur suddenly, or it can come on slowly and worsen over time. It can be mild or severe. Treatment for aplastic anemia might include medications, blood transfusions or a stem cell transplant, also known as a bone marrow transplant.

**Q.18)** Which of the following statements correctly defines the **Exoplanets**?

- a) Asteroids revolving around Sun and located between Mars and Jupiter
- b) Planets that orbit a star other than our Sun
- c) Planets beyond Pluto orbiting the Sun
- d) Planets in the Solar System beyond Jupiter

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** All of the planets in our solar system orbit around the Sun. **Planets that orbit around other stars are called exoplanets.** Exoplanets are very hard to see directly with telescopes. They are hidden by the bright glare of the stars they orbit.

The prefix exo comes from the Greek and means outside; these worlds are far, far outside our own solar system.

**Q.19)** Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Yarkovsky effect**?

- a) Force caused by sunlight that affects the orbital motion of small meteoroids and asteroids
- b) Cascading effect of collisions in Low Earth Orbit
- c) Force acting upon artificial satellites by other planets, drifting them away from near earth orbit
- d) Force exerted by the Sun on Exoplanets

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Yarkovsky effect** describes a small but significant force that affects the orbital motion of meteoroids and asteroids smaller than 30-40 kilometers in diameter. It is caused by sunlight; when these bodies heat up in the Sun, they eventually re-radiate the energy away as heat, which in turn creates a tiny thrust.

Astronomers have revealed that a large asteroid named '**Apophis**' expected to pass extremely close or may hit the Earth in 2068 due to a phenomenon called Yarkovsky effect.

Prior to the detection of Yarkovsky acceleration on Apophis, astronomers had concluded that a potential impact with Earth in 2068 was impossible. The detection of this effect acting on Apophis means that the 2068 impact scenario is still a possibility.

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### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

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**Q.1)** Which of the following country(s) is/are members to the **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**?

1. Canada
2. Australia
3. United States of America

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)** is a free trade agreement between Canada and 10 other countries in the Asia-Pacific region: Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

It came into being after newly elected US president Donald Trump withdrew the US signature from TPP in January 2017.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**Food Coalition**':

1. It has been launched by the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
2. It is a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral alliance that will activate and mobilize support for unified global actions in response to 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:** Both statements are correct.

The **Food Coalition** launched by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations is a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral alliance that will activate and mobilize support for unified global actions in response to COVID-19.

The Food Coalition will support innovative COVID-19 initiatives, identified in the context of various synergistic lines of action, not only to ensure global food access, but also to increase the resilience of and, in many cases, the transformation of agri-food systems in a more sustainable manner.

The Food Coalition will also promote the establishment of a web-based hub that provides access to country needs and demands in the form of "Action Sheets" being developed by FAO's COVID-19 working groups, in close consultation with decentralized offices and national stakeholders.

**Q.3)** Which of the following country(s) have recently signed the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** agreement?

1. Vietnam
2. Australia
3. Philippines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership** is a free trade agreement in the Asia-Pacific region between the ten ASEAN states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and five of their FTA partners—Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea.

--The members make up nearly a third of the world's population and account for 29% of global gross domestic product.

--The new free trade zone will be bigger than both the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the European Union.

--India was also part of the negotiations, but pulled out last year, over concerns that lower tariffs could hurt local producers.

**Q.4)** Which of the following is/are initiatives of **BRICS**?

- 1. New Development Bank
- 2. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- 3. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** During the sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014), the BRICS leaders signed the Agreement establishing the **New Development Bank (NDB)** having an initial authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion.

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** (proposed by **China**) is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.

The **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure** operates in accordance with the SCO Charter, the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, the Agreement among the SCO member states on the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, as well as documents and decisions adopted in the SCO framework.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**:

- 1. It was launched by India and France at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris.
- 2. United States of America is not a member of ISA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

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**The International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is a treaty-based intergovernmental organisation and a joint initiative of France and India, launched during COP21 with the aim of making an unprecedented effort to promote solar energy.

The United States of America is currently not a member of ISA.

**Q.6)** The **Nord Stream** gas pipeline is proposed to connect which of the following countries?

1. Germany
2. Russia
3. France

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: Nord Stream** is a system of offshore natural gas pipelines from **Russia to Germany**. It includes two lines running from Vyborg to Lubmin near Greifswald forming original Nord Stream, and two lines under construction running from Ust-Luga to Lubmin termed Nord Stream 2.

**Nord Stream pipelines from Russia**



**Q.7)** The **Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer** was launched recently by which of the following organisation?

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) UN Women
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- d) Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: World Health Organisation's Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer**, launched recently, outlines three key steps: vaccination, screening and treatment. Successful implementation of all three could reduce more than 40% of new cases of the disease and 5 million related deaths by 2050.

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Cervical cancer is a preventable disease. It is also curable if detected early and adequately treated. Yet it is the fourth most common cancer among women globally.

**Q.8)** What is the objective of the **Team Halo** initiative recently launched by United Nations?

- a) Develop a global strategy to counter the rising carbon emissions
- b) Counter the misinformation around COVID-19 vaccines
- c) A global mobility promotion project
- d) An initiative to promote best agricultural practices

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **UN has collaborated with The Vaccine Confidence Project** at the University of London to undertake Team Halo, an initiative which aims to counter the misinformation around Covid-19 vaccines.

Over 100 scientists have joined the Team Halo to tackle the issue of misinformation around Covid-19 vaccines and build confidence by busting myths and sharing information on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines via the social media. In India, over 22 scientists have joined Team Halo from various renowned institutes.

**Q.9)** Which of the following statements correctly defines **G20 Troika**?

- a) Original founding members of the G20 group
- b) Three-pronged strategy to counter global money laundering
- c) Observer organizations to G20 summits
- d) Three-member management group of the previous, present and future chairs of G20

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **G-20 operates without a permanent secretariat or staff**. The chair rotates annually among the members and is selected from a different regional grouping of countries. The chair is part of a revolving **three-member management group of past, present and future chairs referred to as the Troika**.

The 15th G20 Summit chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the theme "Realising the Opportunities of 21st Century for All", is being virtually organised on 21-22 November 2020.

**India** will enter the G20 Troika, along with Saudi Arabia when Italy will take over the Presidency of the G-20 on 1st December, 2020.

**Q.10)** Which of the following institution has recently published the '**Renewables 2020**' report?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Energy Agency
- c) International Renewable Energy Agency
- d) International Solar Alliance

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The '**Renewables 2020 — Analysis and forecast to 2025**' report has been published by the **International Energy Agency**.

Highlights:

--Renewable energy has been one sector that has been resilient amid economic shock generated due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and India is expected to gain handsomely.

--In sharp contrast to all other fuels, renewables used for generating electricity will grow by almost 7% in 2020.

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- Wind and solar capacity will exceed coal and gas in less than five years.
- The increase will mean wind and solar will overtake gas capacity in 2023 and coal in 2024.
- The report also showed how renewables had proved to be resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**:

1. There is no country from Europe that has signed the RCEP agreement.
2. ASEAN already has free trade agreements (FTA) with all other members of the RCEP.

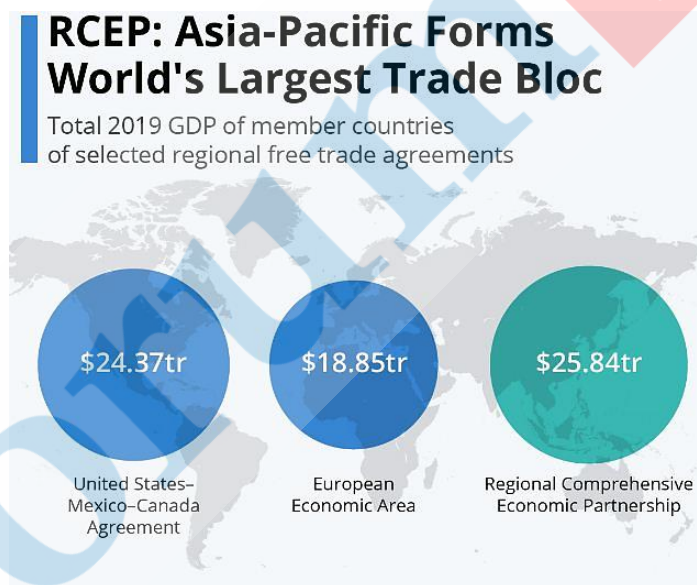
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** was originally being negotiated between 16 countries — ASEAN members and countries with which they have free trade agreements (FTAs), namely Australia, China, Korea, Japan, New Zealand and India. On November 4, 2019, India decided to exit discussions over “significant outstanding issues”.



**Q.12)** What is the utility of the **World Health Organisation's AWaRe Classification Database**?

- a) Classification of antibiotics for monitoring the antibiotic use
- b) Classification of diseases based on their geographical spread
- c) Country based classification of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- d) Vaccine and drug's safety and therapeutic assessment

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **World Health Organisation AWaRe Classification Database** was developed on the recommendation of the WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines. It includes details of 180 antibiotics classified as Access, Watch or Reserve, their pharmacological classes, Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) codes and WHO Essential Medicines List status.

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It is intended to be used as an interactive tool for countries to better support antibiotic monitoring and optimal use.

AWaRe classifies antibiotics into three stewardship groups: **Access, Watch and Reserve**, to emphasize the importance of their optimal uses and potential for antimicrobial resistance.

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements:

1. Access to water and sanitation for all is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The UN General Assembly has designated 2018-2028 as Water Action Decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all:** While substantial progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, billions of people—mostly in rural areas—still lack these basic services. Worldwide, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water, two out of five people do not have a basic hand-washing facility with soap and water, and more than 673 million people still practice open defecation.

Statement 2 is correct. Recognizing the growing challenge of water scarcity, the UN General Assembly launched the **Water Action Decade (2018-2028)** to mobilize action that will help transform how we manage water.

# *World Toilet Day (19 November); this year the theme remarks the importance of "Sustainable sanitation and climate change".*

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### HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Warli Folk Painting**:

1. These paintings depict more social life rather than mythological characters.
2. It has been recognized as a Geographical indication.

Which 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. Maharashtra is known for its **Warli** folk paintings. Warli is the name of the largest tribe found on the northern outskirts of Mumbai, in Western India.

**Women** are mainly engaged in the creation of these paintings. These paintings do not depict mythological characters or images of deities, but depict social life. Images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life are created in a loose rhythmic pattern.

These tribal paintings of Maharashtra are traditionally done in the homes of the Warlis. Painted white on mud walls, they are pretty close to pre-historic cave paintings in execution and usually depict scenes of human figures engaged in activities like hunting, dancing, sowing and harvesting.

Statement 2 is correct. The Warli paintings have been recognized as **Geographical Indication**.

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

1. National Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi government
2. Morarji Desai becomes Deputy Prime Minister
3. Navnirman Andolan in Gujarat

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** In **1967**, **Morarji Desai** joined Smt. Indira Gandhi's cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Finance. Post-emergency, he was unanimously elected as Leader of the Janata Party in Parliament and was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on March 24, 1977.

In December **1973**, **students of L D College of Engineering in Ahmedabad** went on a strike to protest against a hike in school fees. A month later, students of Gujarat University erupted in protest, demanding the dismissal of the state government. It called itself the 'Navnirman movement'. The student protests against the government escalated and soon factory workers and people from other sectors of society joined in. By February 1974, the central government was forced to act upon the protest. It suspended the Assembly and imposed President's rule upon the state.

The **1975 emergency** was the third national emergency (first one was in 1962 when China invaded India while the second one was in 1971 during the war with Pakistan), and the only one to be declared citing of "internal disturbances".



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

1. Rani Lakshmi Bai was born in the family of peshwa of the Maratha Empire, Baji Rao II.
2. Gen. Hugh Rose laid siege to the fortress of Jhansi in the rebellion of 1857.

Which 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. **Lakshmi Bai** was born around 1827 in present-day Varanasi in northeast India. Named Manikarnika, she was the daughter of a Brahman who worked as an adviser to the court of the peshwa, or prime minister, of the Maratha Empire, Baji Rao II.

Statement 2 is correct. In **1853 Gangadhar Rao**, the maharaja of Jhansi became ill. He then instructed that Lakshmi Bai would rule as regent until the adopted boy came of age. Shortly after the adoption, Lakshmi became a widow. Lakshmi Bai's hold on power in Jhansi lasted until March 1858, when company troops led by **Gen. Hugh Rose** laid siege to the fortress.

**GEOGRAPHY**

**Q.1)** Which of the following country(s) border the **Bohai Sea**?

1. China
2. Mongolia
3. Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Bohai Sea is a marginal sea in area on the east coast of mainland China. It is the northwestern and innermost extension of the Yellow Sea, to which it connects to the east via the Bohai Strait.



**Q.2)** The **Ishad mango** variety belongs to which of the following State?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Bihar
- d) Karnataka

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**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** 'Ishad' is a native mango variety grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district in **Karnataka**. The mango has two variants — Kari Ishad, which has thin skin, more pulp and is sweeter, and Bili Ishad, which has thick skin and has less pulp and sweetness. Karnataka Biodiversity Board has recommended that the Union government grant Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kari Ishad, a variety of mango grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada, the Gajani Kagga paddy cultivated in Kumta taluk in the same district, and the Rajamudi variety of paddy grown in Hassan district.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **north-east monsoon (NEM)**:

1. Its onset occurs subsequent to the withdrawal of the South-west monsoon.
2. It is primary source of annual rainfall for the north-east region 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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Indian **southwest monsoon (SWM)** season of June to September is the chief rainy season for India and about 75% of the country's annual rainfall is realized during this season.

Subsequent to the withdrawal of SWM, the **northeast monsoon (NEM)**, a small-scale monsoon confined to parts of southern peninsular India occurs.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The rainfall from the NEM is mostly confines to Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, Kerala & Mahe, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and South Interior Karnataka regions.

The northeast monsoon derives its name from the direction in which it travels – from the northeast to the southwest. The normal date of setting in of easterlies over the southeastern peninsular India is 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**Q.4)** Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the region called '**Horn of Africa**'?

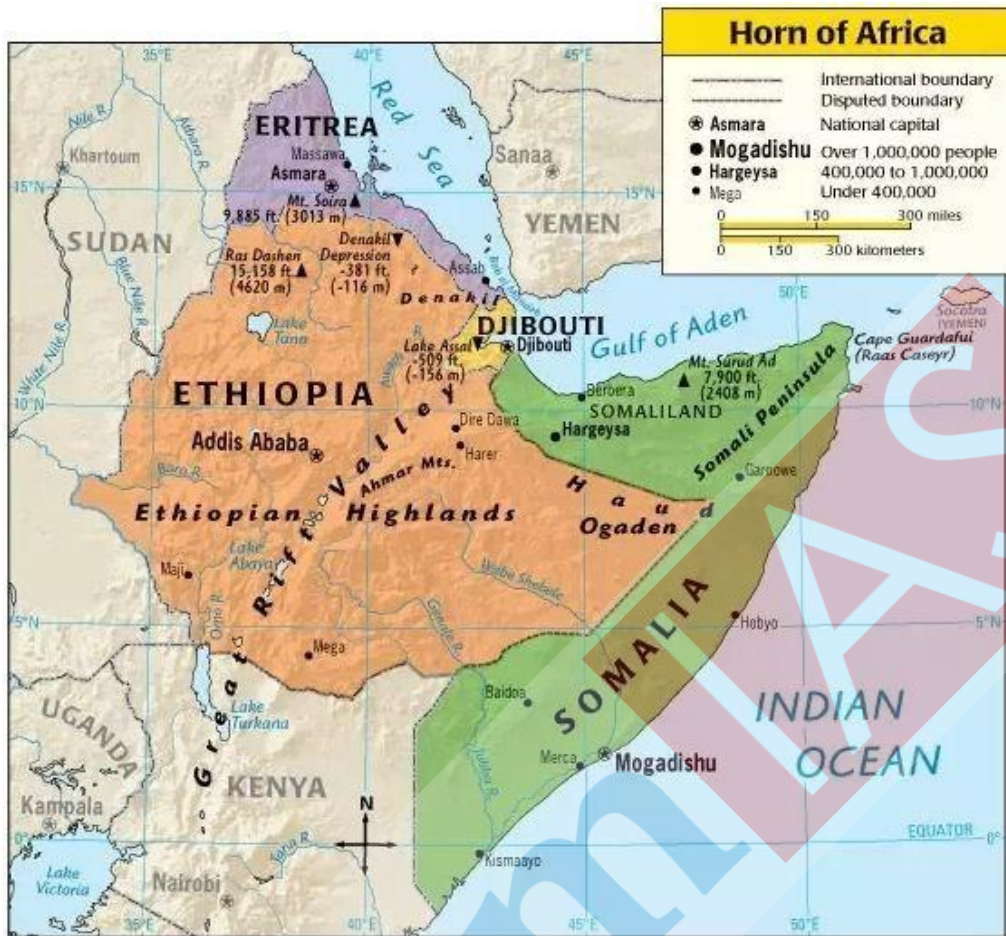
1. Djibouti
2. Eritrea
3. Ethiopia

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:** Horn of Africa refers to region of eastern Africa. It is the easternmost extension of African land and is mostly defined as the region comprising the countries of **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia**.



**Q.5)** The **Chandipur beach** is in which of the following State of India?

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Karnataka

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Chandipur beach in Odisha** is one of the unique sea beaches in the country. The water of the sea recedes off shore and proceeds rhythmically after a regular interval twice a day.

Chandipur is also the location of the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** where various missile development tests of DRDO take place.

**Q.6)** Where is **Stepanakert** located?

- a) Inner Mongolia
- b) Nagorno-Karabakh
- c) Israel-Palestine border region
- d) Ukraine

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Stepanakert** is the de facto capital and the largest city of the self-proclaimed **Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh)**, though the city is within internationally recognised borders of Azerbaijan.

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**Q.7)** Where is **Saltoro Ridge** located?

- a) Southwest of Siachen glacier
- b) Northeast of Pangong Tso
- c) Southeast of Depsang plains
- d) Northwest of Baltistan

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Saltoro Mountains** are a subrange of the Karakoram Range. They are located in the southeast Karakoram on the **southwest side of the Siachen Glacier**.

The Indian Army dominates the glaciers, occupying the high ground on the Saltoro ridge on the western edge of the glacier, restricting Pakistani forces to lower positions.



**Q.8)** The **Ardennes Forest** spreads in which of the following country(s)?

- 1. Luxembourg
- 2. Belgium
- 3. Belarus

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Ardennes Forest** is a region of extensive forests, rough terrain, rolling hills and ridges located primarily in Belgium and Luxembourg, but stretching as well into Germany and France.

# PM held India – Luxembourg Virtual Summit with Prime Minister of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg recently. Luxembourg is a small country landlocked by Belgium, France and Germany, and a prominent financial centre.

**Q.9)** Which of the following river flows through **Himachal Pradesh**?

- 1. Chenab
- 2. Ravi
- 3. Satluj

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: Himachal Pradesh** topography provides water to both the Indus and Ganges basins. The drainage systems of the region include the **Chenab, the Ravi, the Beas, the Sutlej and the Yamuna** River. These rivers are perennial and are fed by snow and rainfall.



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**Q.10)** Where is **Tristan da Cunha** located?

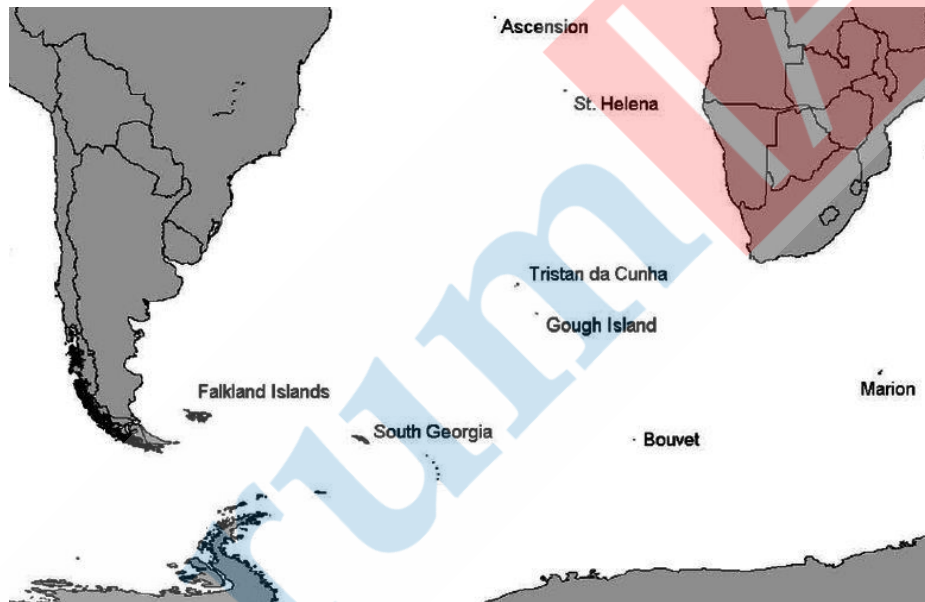
- a) Antarctica
- b) Siberia
- c) South Atlantic Ocean
- d) South Pacific Ocean

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Tristan da Cunha**, island and group of islands in the **South Atlantic Ocean**, about midway between southern Africa and South America. The island group is a constituent part of the British overseas territory of St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

It is creating a marine protection zone to safeguard endangered rockhopper penguins, yellow-nosed albatross and other wildlife in an area of the South Atlantic three times the size of the United Kingdom.

The protection zone will become part of the **U.K.'s Blue Belt Program**, which is providing 27 million pounds (\$35.5 million) to promote marine conservation in the country's overseas territories.



**Q.11)** Which of the following is/are **Ramsar wetland sites** in India?

- 1. Kabartal Wetland
- 2. Lonar Lake
- 3. Asan Conservation Reserve

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Lonar lake** in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra, have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites recently.

Before that, **Kabartal in Bihar's** Begusarai district was recognised as a wetland of international importance, the first such wetland in Bihar.

The **Asan Conservation Reserve** in Dehradun, the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar convention, was added to the list in October 2020.

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### ECONOMICS

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework**:

1. The capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net non-performing assets (NPA) and Return on Assets (RoA) are the trigger points for banks to be put under PCA.
  2. It is not applicable to co-operative banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- Which 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. **Prompt Corrective Action** or PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.

The Reserve Bank has specified certain regulatory trigger points, as a part of prompt corrective action (PCA) Framework, in terms of three parameters, i.e. **capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net non-performing assets (NPA) and Return on Assets (RoA)**, for initiation of certain structured and discretionary actions in respect of banks hitting such trigger points.

Statement 2 is correct. The PCA framework is **applicable only to commercial banks** and not extended to co-operative banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI).

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India International Exchange (INDIA INX)**:

1. It is India's first international exchange in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located at the Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City).
  2. It is a subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- Which 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 **India International Exchange (IFSC) Limited (India INX)** is India's first international exchange in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located at the Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (**GIFT City**). India INX is a subsidiary of **BSE Limited**. The Exchange commenced its operations from Jan 16, 2017.

It has recently signed MoU with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange for cooperation in financial services industry, maintenance of orderly markets in securities respective country, ESG (environmental, social and governance) and green finance in the local market.

**Q.3)** Which of the following institution publishes the **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** in India?

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- c) Competition Commission of India



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d) NITI Aayog

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: The Financial Stability Reports**, published by **Reserve Bank of India**, after approved by Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) Sub-Committee since its inception, taking inputs from financial sector regulators i.e. RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI including Ministry of Finance, are periodic exercise for reviewing the nature, magnitude and implications of risks that may have a bearing on the macroeconomic environment, financial institutions, markets and infrastructure.

**Q.4)** The term **‘technical recession’** was in news recently, what does it mean?

- a) GDP of a country increasing while global GDP is decreasing
- b) Economic output reducing for two consecutive quarters
- c) Increase in supply despite low demand in economy
- d) Economic output of manufacturing sector reducing while primary and tertiary sector keeps growing

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation: Reserve Bank of India** in its monthly bulletin stated that India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history with Q2:2020-21 likely to record the second successive quarter of GDP contraction.

A **technical recession** is a term used to describe two consecutive quarters of decline in output. In the case of a nation's economy, the term usually refers to back-to-back contractions in real GDP.

The difference between a ‘technical recession’ and a ‘recession’ is that while the former term is mainly used to capture the trend in GDP, the latter expression encompasses an appreciably more broad-based decline in economic activity.

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### **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES**

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**Q.1)** The **Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH)** is an initiative of which of the following institution/department?

- Department of Science & Technology
- Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- Indian Council for Medical Research

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (**CAWACH**) is an initiative by National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (**NSTEDB**), Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), Government of India.

DST had nominated Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT B to implement Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) to source and support startups having solutions to fight pandemic COVID-19 by way of funding.

CAWACH supports innovations in the areas of diagnostics, devices, informatics including bio-informatics & information management systems, any intervention for the control of COVID-19 and/or startup ideas to address/mitigate various challenges faced by country / society due to severe impact of COVID-19.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)** programme:

- The program is managed by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) component of INSPIRE aims to promote youths to undertake higher education in science intensive programmes.

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. "**Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)**" is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the **Department of Science & Technology** for attraction of talent to Science.

Statement 2 is correct. INSPIRE has three components:

--**Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS)** aims to attract talented youth to study science by providing INSPIRE Award of Rs 5000 to one million young learners of the age group 10-15 years, ranging from Class VI to Class X standards, and also by arranging summer camps for about 50,000 science students of Class XI with global leaders in science to experience the joy of innovations on an annual basis through INSPIRE Internship.

--**Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)** aims to enhance rates of attachment of talented youth to undertake higher education in science intensive programmes, by providing scholarships and mentorship.

--**Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)** aims to attract, attach, retain and nourish talented young scientific Human Resource for strengthening the R&D foundation and base.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019**:

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1. It is aimed at liquidating the legacy cases of Central Excise and Service Tax that are subsumed in GST and are pending in litigation at various forums.
2. The scheme is currently active in all States and Union Territories except Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The two main components of the **Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019** are dispute resolution and amnesty.

The dispute resolution component is aimed at liquidating the legacy cases of Central Excise and Service Tax that are subsumed in GST and are pending in litigation at various forums. The amnesty component of the Scheme offers an opportunity to the taxpayers to pay the outstanding tax and be free of any other consequence under the law.

Statement 2 is incorrect. SVLDRS, 2019 was introduced on 1st September, 2019 and provided taxpayers relief in payment of disputed tax amounts ranging from 70% (of the tax amount) to 40%. It also provided for full waiver of interest and penalty. **The Scheme closed on 30.06.2020.**

The Central Government has recently **decided to extend** the period for availing the SVLDR Scheme, 2019 to 31st December, 2020 for eligible taxpayers from **Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh.**

**Q.4)** Which of the following is/are component(s) of the **PM-KUSUM Scheme**?

1. Setting up of decentralized grid connected Renewable Energy power plants on barren land.
2. Installation of stand-alone solar agriculture pumps.

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 Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) recently issued an order to scale-up and expand **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyaan** (PM-KUSUM) Scheme.

PM-KUSUM Scheme has three Components:

- Renewable energy-based power plants (REPP) of capacity 500 kW to 2 MW will be setup by individual farmers/ group of farmers/ cooperatives/ panchayats/ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)/Water User associations (WUA) on barren/fallow land.
- Installation of 20 lakh (up from 17.50 lakh) stand-alone agricultural pumps that are solar-powered.
- Solarisation of 15 lakh (up from 10 lakh) grid-connected agriculture pumps that are solar-powered.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010**:

1. Members of legislatures and political parties are prohibited from receiving any foreign contribution.

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2. Any donation received from a 'foreign source' whether in rupees or in foreign currency is construed as 'foreign contribution' under FCRA.

Which 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.

**Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010** was been enacted by the Parliament to consolidate the law to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies.

As per the FCRA, members of **legislatures, political parties, government officials, judges and media persons** are prohibited from receiving any foreign contribution

Any donation, delivery or transfer received from a 'foreign source' whether in rupees or in foreign currency is construed as 'foreign contribution' under FCRA, 2010. Such transactions even in **rupees** term are considered as foreign contribution.

# *The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently relaxed norms for farmer, student, religious and other groups who are not directly aligned to any political party to receive foreign funds if the groups are not involved in "active politics".*

**Q.5)** The **Lilavati Awards** launched recently is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- c) University Grants Commission
- d) All India Council for Technical Education

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Lilavati Awards 2020** is an initiative of the technical education regulator, **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**, and it aims to recognise efforts by AICTE-approved institutions to treat women with 'equality and fairness'.

With women empowerment as the theme, the objective of the award is to create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**:

- 1. It is a public sector corporation under the Ministry of Renewable Energy.
- 2. It has been established as a statutory body under the Electricity Act, 2003.

Which 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.

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**Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO), which enables consumers, industries and governments to effectively manage their energy needs through energy efficient technologies.

Founded in 2009, EESL is promoted by **Ministry of Power**, Government of India as a Joint Venture of four reputed public- sector undertakings NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited.

EESL focuses on solution-driven innovation with no subsidy or capital expenditure (CAPEX). It is able to do so using its Pay-As-You-Save (PAYS) model, which obviates the need for any upfront capital investment by the consumer.

*# Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa, have signed a memorandum of understanding to discuss rolling out of India's first Convergence Project in the State.*

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **RuPay card**:

1. It is a product of the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. It can only be issued by the Public Sector 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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **RuPay** is the first-of-its-kind Global Card payment network from India, with wide acceptance at Shops, ATMs, and online.

**RuPay is a product of NPCI**, the umbrella organisation that powers retail payments in the country. The provision under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, empowered the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** to create a secure electronic payment and settlement system in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Presently, RuPay cards are issued by more than 1,100 banks which includes **Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Regional Rural and Co-Operative Banks**.

Its ten core promoter banks are State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Citibank N. A. and HSBC.

*# RuPay card Phase-II has been launched in Bhutan.*

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements:

1. The Press Council of India has the power to receive complaints of violation of the journalistic ethics, or professional misconduct by an editor or journalist.
2. News Broadcasters Association is a statutory body under the Cable Television Networks 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. **Press Council of India (PCI)** was established under the PCI Act of 1978 for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

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The **PCI has the power** to receive complaints of violation of the journalistic ethics, or professional misconduct by an editor or journalist. The PCI is responsible for enquiring into complaints received. It may summon witnesses and take evidence under oath, demand copies of public records to be submitted, even issue warnings and admonish the newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist. It can even require any newspaper to publish details of the inquiry.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **News Broadcasters Association** is a private association of different current affairs and news television broadcasters in India.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **'REINVEST- 2020'**:

1. It is being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
2. It aims to connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders.

Which 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 **3rd Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo**, organised by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** will be held from 26 – 28 November 2020 on a Virtual Platform.

**RE-INVEST 2020**, themed 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition' 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.

**Q.10)** Which of the following organisation has conducted the **India Time Use Survey, 2019**?

- a) National Statistical Office (NSO)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Labour Bureau
- d) Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: National Statistical Office (NSO) conducted the first Time Use Survey in India** during January – December 2019. The survey measures the participation rate and time spent on paid activities, care activities, unpaid activities, etc.

A **Time Use Survey (TUS)** provides a framework for measuring time dispositions by the population on different activities. The primary objective of TUS is to measure participation of men and women in paid and unpaid activities. TUS is an important source of information on the time spent in unpaid caregiving activities, volunteer work, and unpaid domestic service producing activities of the household members.

It also provides information on time spent on learning, socializing, leisure activities, self-care activities, etc., by the household members.

**Q.11)** What is the objective of **Mission Purvodaya**?

- a) River linking project in northeast India
- b) Development of eastern India through establishment of integrated steel hub

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- c) Increase the incentives for use of Solar based energy
- d) Flood mitigation program in the Brahmaputra river basin

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **eastern belt of India** has the potential to add over 75 percent of the country's incremental steel capacity envisioned by the **National Steel Policy**.

It is expected that out of the 300 Million Tonne capacity by 2030-31, over 200 Million Tonne can come from this region alone.

**Mission Purvodaya** was launched by the government for accelerated development of eastern India through establishment of integrated steel hub.

Through this programme, the government aims to transform logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the eastern India. The steps, under mission, also include growth of steel industry along with employment opportunities across the entire value chain.

**Q.12)** Which of the following is/are the components of the **Ayushman Bharat** scheme?

1. Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

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 options are correct.

**Ayushman Bharat**, a flagship scheme of Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

This scheme aims to undertake path breaking interventions to holistically address the healthcare system (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care). Ayushman Bharat adopts a continuum of care approach, comprising of two inter-related components, which are -

**Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs):** creation of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) by transforming the existing Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres. These centres are to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) bringing healthcare closer to the homes of people.

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):** aims at providing a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) that form the bottom 40% of the Indian population.

*# More than 50,000 (50,025) Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) are now operational across the country. Aiming at providing Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) services to the communities closer to their homes, 1.5 lakh AB-HWCs are to be established by December 2022.*

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the 'Swarnajayanti Fellowships Scheme':

1. Selected young scientists are provided special assistance and support to enable them to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.
2. Only the scholars of Indian Institutes of Technology are eligible for support under the scheme.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Govt. of India had instituted a scheme "**The Swarnajayanti Fellowships**" to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence. Under this scheme a selected number of young scientists, with proven track record, are provided special assistance and support to enable them to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The fellowships are **scientist specific and not institution specific**, very selective and have close academic monitoring.

The applicant should possess one of the following degrees or equivalent: Ph.D in Science/Engineering, Masters in Engineering or Technology/MD in Medicine.

The fellowship is open to Indian Nationals residing in India or abroad. The **scientists can choose to work at any S&T institution in India**; however, he/she will have to submit a letter from Head of the institution at which they wish to pursue research, stating that administrative and basic infrastructural support to facilitate research will be provided.



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### **POLITY**

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

1. Parliament may by law form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States.
2. First Schedule of the Constitution lists the States and their Capital cities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 3 of the Constitution** states that the Parliament may by law—

--form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State;

--increase the area of any State;

--diminish the area of any State;

--alter the boundaries of any State;

--alter the name of any State.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **first schedule** of the Constitution lists the States and Union Territories, not the capital cities.

**Q.2)** Which of the following is/are part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy**?

1. Men and women to equally have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.
2. The State shall provide free legal aid to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

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:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 39(a)** states that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 39A** states that the State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

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

1. The executive power of a State extends to the matters with respect to which the Legislature of the State has power to make laws.
2. The Governor of a State has the power to grant pardons of punishment of any person convicted of an offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 161 of the Constitution** states that the Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 162 of the Constitution** provides that subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive power of a State shall extend to the matters with respect to which the Legislature of the State has power to make laws:

Provided that in any matter with respect to which the Legislature of a State and Parliament have power to make laws, the executive power of the State shall be subject to, and limited by, the executive power expressly conferred by this Constitution or by any law made by Parliament upon the Union or authorities thereof.

**Q.4) Who among the following appoints the Judges of High Courts in India?**

- a) President of India
- b) Governor of the State
- c) Chief Justice of India
- d) National Judicial Appointments Commission

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: President of India** in exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of **Article 217** of the Constitution of India appoints the Judges of High Courts in India.

The provisions relating the **National Judicial Appointments Commission** (NJAC) has been struck down by the Supreme Court vide its order dated the 16th October, 2015 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Another Vs. Union of India.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the article 226 of the Constitution?**

1. The writ of habeas corpus cannot be issued by a High Court.
2. High Courts are not competent to issue writs on violation of fundamental rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

As per **article 226(1) of the Constitution** every High Court shall have power, throughout the territories in relation to which it exercises jurisdiction, to issue to any person or authority, including in appropriate cases, any Government, within those territories directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, or any of them, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by Part III and for any other purpose.

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**Q.6)** The Central Government can **designate an individual as terrorist** under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on which of the following grounds?

1. Commits or participates in acts of terrorism
2. Promotes or encourages terrorism

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:** Under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 additionally **empowered the government to designate individuals** as terrorists on the same grounds.