

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

November, 2020

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

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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Education was moved from State list to Concurrent List through the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
2. Kothari Commission was set up by the Government of India to examine all aspects of the educational sector 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. Through the **42nd Amendment to the Constitution, 1976** Five subjects were transferred from State to Concurrent List: **Education**, Forests, Weights & Measures, Protection of Wild Animals and Birds, and Administration of Justice. Statement 2 is correct. **National Education Commission** also known as **Kothari Commission (1964-1966)** was an ad hoc commission set up by the Government of India to examine all aspects of the educational sector in India, to evolve a general pattern of education and to advise guidelines and policies for the development of education in India.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**:

1. Every election candidate is to keep an account of all expenditure in connection with the election incurred or authorised by him.
2. If a person who is already a member of the Lok Sabha is chosen a member of the Rajyasabha, his seat in the Lok Sabha shall become vacant.

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

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Article 77(1) of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** states that **every candidate at an election shall**, either by himself or by his election agent, **keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure** in connection with the election incurred or authorized by him or by his election agent between the date on which he has been nominated] and the date of declaration of the result.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 69 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** states that if a person who is already a member of the House of the People and has taken his seat in such House is chosen a member of the Council of States, his seat in the House of the People shall, on the date on which he is so chosen, become vacant.

Further, if a person who is already a member of the Council of States and has taken his seat in such Council is chosen a member of the House of the People, his seat in the Council of States shall, on the date on which he is so chosen, become vacant.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**:

1. It has a statutory status through Representation of People Act 1951.
2. It mandates that Ministers shall not announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof during the period MCC is in force.

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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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** is not a statutorily backed provision.

The **MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission** to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures.

The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.

Statement 2 is correct. A form of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960. It was a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc.

In **1979, the Election Commission added a section to regulate the 'party in power'** and prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage at the time of elections.

From the time elections are announced by Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not –

- announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or
- (except civil servants) lay foundation stones etc. of projects or schemes of any kind; or
- make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc.; or
- make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertakings etc. which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favor of the party in power.

Q.4) Which of the following languages have been recognized by the government as **Classical Languages of India**?

- 1. Kannada
- 2. Malayalam
- 3. Bengali

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 **Criteria adopted by the Government** to determine the eligibility of a language for granting classical language status, are as under:

- High antiquity of its early texts/ recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
- A body of ancient literature/ texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community;
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Six languages i.e. Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia have been given status of Classical languages of India.

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Q.5) What are the functions of the Finance Commission?

1. The distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be divided between them.
2. The principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. The measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Finance Commission** is constituted by the President under **article 280 of the Constitution**. Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.

It is the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to—

--the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;

--the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India;

--the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State;

--the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State;

--any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.

The Commission determines its procedure and have such powers in the performance of their functions as Parliament may by law confer on them.

Q.6) Which of the following force(s) is/are under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs?

1. Border Security Force (BSF)
2. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
3. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
4. Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Under the Constitution, **police and public order are state subjects**. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) assists state governments by providing them support of the Central Armed Police Forces.

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The **Ministry maintains following CAPFs**: The Central Reserve Police Force, which assists in internal security and counterinsurgency; the Central Industrial Security Force, which protects vital installations (like airports) and public sector undertakings; the National Security Guards, which is a special counterterrorism force, and four border guarding forces, which are the Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal, and Assam Rifles.

The dual control structure for Assam Rifles, which comes under both the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been recently under judicial scrutiny.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Bamboo is classified as a tree under the Indian Forest Act.
2. Bamboo has potential for its use as a clean source of 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Indian Forest Act 1927** says “forest produce” is what is found in or brought from a forest. This **originally included** bamboo as trees.

The **Parliament amendment the act in 2017** to exclude bamboo from the definition of tree under the Indian Forest Act, claiming it would improve the earnings of tribals and dwellers living around forests.

Statement 2 is correct. **Bamboo pellets** are considered reliable biomass energy sources in certain parts of the world. In terms of mass and energy density, pellets from bamboo have characteristics superior to other biomass products, such as woodchips and briquettes.

Such higher density allows for easy and cost-effective transportation and greater efficiency in energy generation with suitable properties for residential and industrial use.

Minister of DONER at inauguration of Virtual Bamboo Exhibition stated that ‘Bamboo has great potential for its use as a clean source of energy and can also replace the single use plastic, thus promoting the environment and Climate cause in India’.

Q.8) Article 15 of the Constitution enables the State for making special provisions for which of the following category of citizens?

1. Women and Children
2. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
3. Economically Weaker Sections

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: Article 15 of the Constitution provides for prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Article 15(3): Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.

Article 15(4): Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

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Article 15(6) (a): Nothing in this article shall prevent state from making any special provision for the advancement of any economically weaker sections of citizens.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Domestic Violence Act, 2005**:

1. It is a gender neutral law with regards to that an aggrieved person can either be male or female.
2. The act covers 'economic abuse' in the category of domestic violence.

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 **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is not a gender neutral law**. An "aggrieved person" is defined under the act as any woman who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the respondent and who alleges to have been subjected to any act of domestic violence by the respondent. Statement 2 is correct. Domestic Violence includes causing any harm or injury to the safety, life, health or well-being of the aggrieved woman by committing any physical, sexual, verbal or **economic abuse**.

"Economic Abuse" is depriving the aggrieved woman from all sorts of financial resources to which she is entitled to under any law or custom or legal order or which she requires out of necessity, such as for running the household, taking care of the children etc.

It also includes alienation of the movable or immovable assets in which she has interest too, prohibiting the aggrieved woman or putting restriction on her to continue the use of resources or facilities.

Q.10) Which of the following is/are direction(s) issued under **Model Code of Conduct** issued by Election Commission of India?

1. Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers during the election period for partisan coverage of political news shall be avoided.
2. The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution.

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. **MCC contains specific directions for party in power**. The party in power whether at the Centre or in the States concerned shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign.

Issue of **advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers** and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously **avoided**.

Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission.

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Statement 2 is correct. The MCC directions state that:

--The **election manifesto** shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.

--The **Directive Principles of State Policy** enshrined in the Constitution enjoin upon the State to frame various welfare measures for the citizens and therefore there can be no objection to the promise of such welfare measures in election manifestos. However, political parties should avoid making those promises which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters in exercising their franchise.

--In the interest of **transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises**, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.

Q.11) Which of the following is/are **terms of reference (ToR) to the fifteenth finance commission?**

1. To examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up.
2. Recommend performance incentives for States for adoption of Direct Benefit Transfer and solid waste management.

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.

The **Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC)** led by Chairman Sh N K Singh have submitted its Report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to the President.

As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30 October, 2020. Last year, the Commission had submitted its report containing recommendations for the year 2020-21 which was accepted by the Union Government and tabled in the Parliament on 30 January 2020.

Apart from the vertical and horizontal tax devolution, local government grants, disaster management grant, the Commission was also asked to examine and recommend performance incentives for States in many areas like power sector, adoption of **DBT, solid waste management** etc.

The Commission was also asked to examine whether a separate mechanism for **funding of defence and internal security** ought to be set up and if so, how such a mechanism could be operationalized. The Commission has sought to address all its ToRs in this Report to the Union government.

Q.12) Arrange the following States in chronological order of their creation:

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Uttarakhand
3. Jharkhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1-2-3
- b) 2-3-1

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- c) 3-1-2
- d) 1-3-2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Chhattisgarh**, carved out of Madhya Pradesh came into being on **1 November 2000** as the 26th State of the Union.

In January 1950, the United Province was renamed as Uttar Pradesh and **Uttaranchal** remained a part of Uttar Pradesh before it was carved out of Uttar Pradesh on **9 November 2000**. It is incepted as the 27th State of India.

Jharkhand which came into being on **15 November 2000** splitting from Bihar, as the 28th State of the Union is the homeland of the tribals.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Finance Commission (FC)**:

1. Constitution mandates the recommendations as well as action taken by the government on the report of FC to be tabled in both houses of Parliament.
2. Parliament may by law determine the qualifications requisite for appointment as members to the commission.

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.

Parliament may by law determine the qualifications which shall be requisite for appointment as members of the Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected. **[Article 280(2)]**

The President shall cause every recommendation made by the Finance Commission under the provisions of the Constitution together with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken thereon to be laid before each House of Parliament. **[Article 281]**

Q.14) Which of the following is/are provided for by the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**?

1. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
2. National Executive Committee (NEC)
3. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

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 **Disaster Management Act** was passed with the primary objective of preparedness, prevention and early planning towards disaster.

It puts into place a systematic structure of institutions at the national, state and district levels. Four important entities have been placed at the national level:

--The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** tasked with laying down disaster management policies and ensuring timely and effective response mechanism.

--The **National Executive Committee (NEC)** comprised of secretary level officers of the Government of India assigned to assist the NDMA

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--The **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)** is an institute for planning and promoting training and research in the area of disaster management, documentation and development of national level information base relating to disaster management policies.

--**National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster.

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. The State Election Commissions are responsible for superintendence, direction and control of elections to state legislative assemblies.
2. The Directive Principles of State Policy proposes the terms of legislative assemblies to be coterminous with the Lok Sabha term.

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. **State Election Commission** has been vested with the power of the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Three- tier Panchayat Raj Institutions.

The elections to the legislative assembly fall under the jurisdiction of Election Commission of India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Constitution lays down certain **Directive Principles of State Policy**, which though not justiciable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country', and it is the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.

There is no proposal under the DPSPs to end the terms of state legislative assemblies with the Lok Sabha.

Q.16) As per the recently amended Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 the '**News and current affairs content on online platforms**' is under which of the following Ministry?

- a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- b) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- d) Ministry of Education

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Currently, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content. The **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961** have been amended recently to add following items under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;

Digital/Online media:

--Films and Audio-Visual programmes made available by online content providers.

--News and current affairs content on online platforms

At present, the Press Council of India regulates the print media, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) represents the news channels, the Advertising Standards Council of India regulates advertising, while the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) monitors films.

This will give the government control over OTT platforms, which were unregulated till now.

Q.17) 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.

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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.18) 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.19) 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?

- 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. **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.20) 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.21) 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.

Q.22) 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

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- 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.

Q.23) 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.24) 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:

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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.25) Consider the following statements:

1. Trade unions, industrial and labour disputes fall under the Concurrent List of Constitution.
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.26) 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.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Which of the following statements correctly defines **Superconductivity**?

- a) Some materials offering zero resistance at very low temperature
- b) Some materials offering infinite resistance at very low temperature
- c) Semiconductors offering conducting high conductivity due to photoelectric effect
- d) Insulators offering high conductivity at very high temperatures

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Superconductivity is a phenomenon displayed by some materials when they are cooled below a certain temperature, known as the superconducting critical temperature. Below a certain “critical” temperature, materials undergo transition into the superconducting state, characterized by two basic properties: firstly, they offer no resistance to the passage of electrical current.

When resistance falls to zero, a current can circulate inside the material without any dissipation of energy. Secondly, provided they are sufficiently weak, external magnetic fields will not penetrate the superconductor, but remain at its surface. This field expulsion phenomenon is known as the Meissner effect, after the physicist who first observed it in 1933.

A group of researchers at University of Rochester, Intel corporation and University of Nevada in the U.S. have created a material that is superconducting at 15 degrees Celsius. But it needs ultrahigh pressure of about 2 million atmospheres to achieve this transition.

Q.2) The **Clavius Crater** was in news recently, where is it located?

- a) Moon
- b) Mars
- c) Bennu asteroid
- d) Europa

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Clavius is one of the largest crater formations on the Moon and the second largest crater on the visible near side.

NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has confirmed, for the first time, water on the sunlit surface of the Moon. This discovery indicates that water may be distributed across the lunar surface, and not limited to cold, shadowed places.

SOFIA has detected water molecules (H₂O) in Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth, located in the Moon’s southern hemisphere.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Serological Surveys**:

- 1. It is based on antibody test conducted on a sample of the population.
- 2. It is used to estimate the part of population that has already been infected with an infection.

Which of the statements give 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.

Serological surveys are conducted to assess the prevalence of a disease in a population. It is done by detecting the presence of specific antibodies that are produced against the virus.

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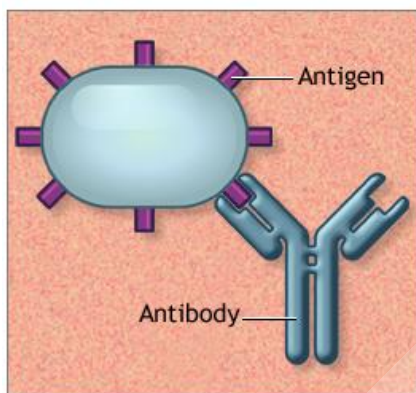
A serological survey generally includes the IgG Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test. It estimates the proportion of the population exposed to an infection. The human body produces **Immunoglobulin M (IgM) and Immunoglobulin G (IgG)** antibodies to fight against a pathogen.

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

- a) It induces an immune response in the body
- b) It is the immune response of the body
- c) It prohibits the immune response of the body
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Antigens** are substances that cause an immune response in the body by identifying substances in or markers on cells. The human body produces **antibodies** to fight antigens, or harmful substances, and tries to eliminate them.



An antigen is a substance that induces the formation of antibodies because it is recognized by the immune system as a threat.

An antigen may be a substance from the environment, such as chemicals, bacteria, viruses, or pollen.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **food fortification**:

- 1. It is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient of the food.
 - 2. Rice fortification is not possible due to its brittle character.
- 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. **Fortification** is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Rice** can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder to the rice that adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains in several layers with a vitamin and mineral mix to form a protective coating.

Rice can also be extruded and shaped into partially precooked grain-like structures resembling rice grains, which can then be blended with natural polished rice. Rice kernels can be fortified with several micronutrients, such as iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc.

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To initiate the process of taking the country towards nutritional security, Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) has been running a “Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System”.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **PINAKA Rocket System**:

1. It is a beyond visual range air to air missile system.
2. It has been developed by the Dassault Aviation of France

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.

PINAKA is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** for the Indian Army. The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark-II.

Enhanced PINAKA rocket, developed by DRDO has been successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha recently.

Enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets which are currently under production.

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

1. The cancer cells are less specialized in their functions than normal cells.
2. The Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 does not include any cancer treatment drugs.

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. **Cancer** is the name given to a collection of related diseases. In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues.

Cancer cells differ from normal cells in many ways that allow them to grow out of control and become invasive. One important difference is that cancer cells are less specialized than normal cells. That is, whereas normal cells mature into very distinct cell types with specific functions, cancer cells do not. This is one reason that, unlike normal cells, cancer cells continue to divide without stopping.

In addition, cancer cells are able to ignore signals that normally tell cells to stop dividing or that begin a process known as programmed cell death, or apoptosis, which the body uses to get rid of unneeded cells.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** regulates the prices of all Drugs as per the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013.

It fixes the Ceiling Price of scheduled formulations as per the list of medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which are included in the First Schedule of Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), 2013.

First Schedule of DPCO, 2013 also includes select drugs used for the treatment of cancer. However, there has been a long standing felt need to further regulate the Non Scheduled segment also where high markups have led to arbitrary pricing practices.

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Q.8) What is the **potential** impact of the **D614G** mutation in coronavirus?

- a) Increased infectivity and high viral load
- b) No ill effect on health of infected person
- c) High infectivity on infants and zero infectivity on adults
- d) Zero infectivity and zero viral load in the individual

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A **mutation** is a change in a DNA sequence. Mutations can result from DNA copying mistakes made during cell division, exposure to ionizing radiation, exposure to chemicals called mutagens, or infection by viruses.

In the **D614G mutation** in coronavirus, the virus replaced the aspartic acid (D) in the 614th position of the amino acid with glycine (G). Hence the mutation is called the D614G.

It has also been reported in India.

A preprint posted in medRxiv, which has **not undergone peer-review**, explains the sequenced genomes of 5,085 SARS-CoV-2 strains in Houston. By doing so, it discovered that not only did the D614G show increased infectivity but it also displayed greater ability at attaching itself to the cell walls inside an individual's nose and throat, increasing the viral load.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the asteroid **16 Psyche**:

- 1. It orbits in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- 2. It is a metallic asteroid comprised mostly of metallic iron and nickel.

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.

16 Psyche is a giant **metal asteroid**, about three times farther away from the sun than is the Earth. Its average diameter is about 140 miles (226 kilometers) — about one-sixteenth the diameter of Earth's Moon. Psyche orbits the Sun between the orbits of **Mars and Jupiter**.

Unlike most other asteroids that are rocky or icy bodies, scientists think the M-type (metallic) asteroid 16 Psyche is comprised mostly of metallic iron and nickel similar to Earth's core. Scientists wonder whether Psyche could be an exposed core of an early planet that lost its rocky outer layers due to a number of violent collisions billions of years ago.

NASA's Psyche mission is targeted to launch in August of 2022, the Psyche spacecraft would arrive at the asteroid in early 2026, following a Mars gravity assist in 2023.

Q.10) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Kessler syndrome**?

- a) A trisomy of chromosome 21
- b) A mutation in the blood-clotting factors VIII
- c) Collision among objects in space causing cascading effect
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Kessler syndrome**, also called the Kessler effect, collisional cascading or ablation cascade, is a scenario in which the density of objects in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) is

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high enough that collisions between objects could cause a cascade where each collision generates space debris that increases the likelihood of further collisions.

According to European Space Agency, the number of space debris objects in Earth's orbit is 6.7 lakh (larger than 1 cm) and over 17 crore (larger than 1 mm).

Q.11) The **Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)** is mostly associated with which profession?

- a) Astronauts
- b) Contact sports
- c) Radio operators
- d) Sanitation workers

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) is a progressive brain condition that's thought to be caused by repeated blows to the head and repeated episodes of concussion.

It's particularly associated with **contact sports**, such as boxing or American football. CTE was previously known as "punch drunk" syndrome and dementia pugilistica. But these terms are no longer used because it's now known that the condition is not limited to ex-boxers.

The symptoms of CTE vary between individuals, but tend to be similar to those of other types of degenerative brain conditions, particularly Alzheimer's disease.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding **Visceral Leishmaniasis**:

1. It is caused by protozoan parasites.
2. It is never a fatal disease and may remain undetected in asymptomatic person throughout lifespan.

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 **leishmaniases** are a group of diseases caused by **protozoan parasites** from more than 20 Leishmania species. These parasites are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected female phlebotomine sandfly, a tiny – 2–3 mm long – insect vector.

The most common forms are cutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin sores, and visceral leishmaniasis, which affects several internal organs (usually spleen, liver, and bone marrow).

Some people have a silent infection, without any symptoms or signs. People who develop clinical evidence of infection usually have fever, weight loss, enlargement (swelling) of the spleen and liver, and abnormal blood tests.

Statement 2 is incorrect. If not treated, **severe (advanced) cases of visceral leishmaniasis typically are fatal.**

To recognize the significant contributions towards defining the survival tactics of *Leishmania donovani*, Society of Biological Chemists (India) has chosen Dr Susanta Kar, Senior Scientist, CSIR-CDRI for this year's Prof.A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award.

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Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs)**:

1. These are super intense, millisecond-long bursts of radio waves.
2. FRBs have been theoretically predicted but are yet to be recorded in the Milky Way galaxy.

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. **Fast radio bursts (FRBs)** are super intense, millisecond-long bursts of radio waves produced by unidentified sources in the distant cosmos.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **NASA** has reported that on April 28, it observed a **mix of X-ray and radio signals never observed before in the Milky Way**. Significantly, the flare-up it observed included the first fast radio burst (FRB) seen within the galaxy.

It was detected by several satellites including NASA's Wind mission and Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME), a radio telescope located in British Columbia.

Q.14) Which of the following statements correctly defines **Tarballs**?

- a) Chemical developed by PUSA to decompose agricultural waste
- b) Brown carbon particles emitted during the burning of fossil fuels
- c) High volatile component containing coal
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Tarballs** are small light-absorbing, carbonaceous particles formed due to burning of biomass or fossil fuels that deposit on snow and ice. Tarballs are formed from brown carbon, emitted during the burning of fossil fuels.

They also form when crude oil floats on the ocean surface. Tarballs are formed by weathering of crude oil in marine environments.

Q.15) Which of the following is/are application(s) of the **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**?

1. Air-conditioning (AC)
2. Building insulation
3. Fire extinguishing systems

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: D

Explanation: **HFCs** or **hydrofluorocarbons**, are super greenhouse gases, manufactured for use in **refrigeration, air conditioning, foam blowing, aerosols, fire protection and solvents**.

HFCs unlike most other greenhouse gases are not waste products but are intentionally produced. HFCs were developed as alternatives to ozone depleting substances that are being phased-out under the Montreal Protocol. Unfortunately, HFCs have a global warming potential 1000 to 3000 times that of CO₂.

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The **Kigali Amendment** to phase down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol entered into force in 2019. Under the amendment, countries commit to cut the production and consumption of HFCs by more than 80% over the next 30 years to avoid more than 70 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2050 -- and up to 0.5° C warming by the end of the century.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile**:

1. India conducted a successful ASAT test with Mission Shakti.
2. India is the only Asian country to have demonstrated the anti-satellite weapon technology till date.

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. 'Mission Shakti' was India's first ever Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile Test successfully conducted on 27th March 2019 from Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, where a fast-moving Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) was neutralized with pinpoint accuracy.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **China** conducted its first acknowledged test of an anti-satellite missile in 2007. Apart from India and China, USA and Russia possess the anti-satellite weapons technology.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **RNA vaccine technology**:

1. The antigen of the pathogen is directly introduced in the body by injecting a serum.
2. The production of RNA-based vaccines is more rapid compared to production of traditional vaccines.

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. For a **classical vaccine**, the antigen is introduced in the body to produce an immune response. However, in the case of **DNA- or RNA-based vaccines**, no antigen is introduced, only the RNA or DNA containing the genetic information to produce the antigen. That is, for this specific class of vaccines, introduction of DNA and RNA provides the instructions to the body to produce the antigen itself.

After this step, the mechanism is similar to classical vaccines: the antigen is presented at the surface of a subset of cells and triggers the activation of specific cells of the immune system.

Statement 2 is correct. **RNA vaccines** are faster and cheaper to produce than traditional vaccines, and an 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 standardized and scaled, allowing quick responses to large outbreaks and epidemics.

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Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **Thirty Meter Telescope project**:

1. It is being installed in Maunkea, Hawaii.
2. India is a partner in construction of this the next-generation observatory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

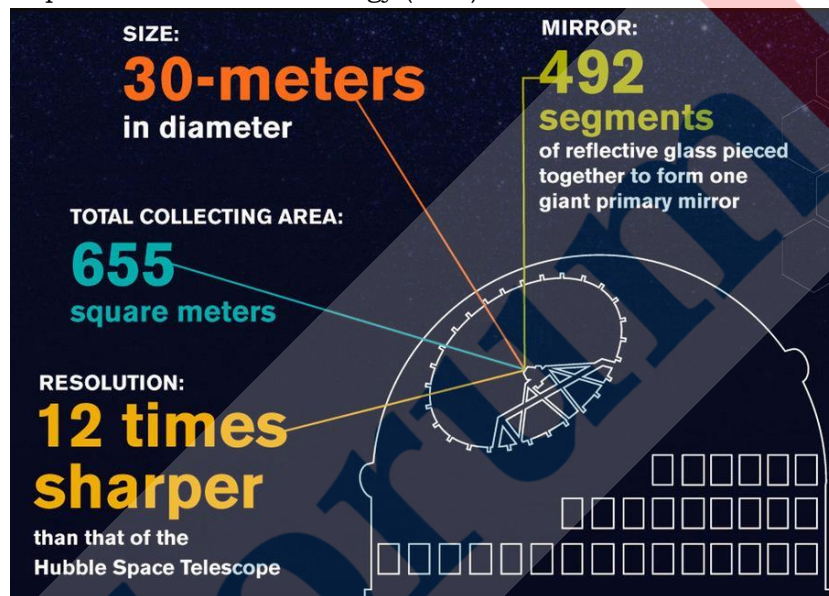
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Thirty Meter Telescope** is a new class of extremely large telescopes that will allow us to see deeper into space and observe cosmic objects with unprecedented sensitivity. With its 30 m prime mirror diameter, TMT will be three times as wide, with nine times more area, than the largest currently existing visible-light telescope in the world.

The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project being installed at **Maunakea in Hawaii** is an international partnership between CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India; through the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).



Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cytokine storm**:

1. It refers to an accelerated immune response.
2. It can become life threatening and lead to multiple organ failure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Cytokine storm is a severe immune reaction in which the body releases too many cytokines into the blood too quickly. Cytokines play an important role in normal immune responses, but having a large amount of them released in the body all at once can be harmful.

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A cytokine storm can occur as a result of an infection, autoimmune condition, or other disease. It may also occur after treatment with some types of immunotherapy. Signs and symptoms include high fever, inflammation (redness and swelling), and severe fatigue and nausea. Sometimes, a cytokine storm may be severe or life threatening and lead to multiple organ failure.

Q.20) Which of the following fall in category of '**Over-The-Top (OTT)** platforms?

1. Newspapers being supplied daily to households
2. Netflix online streaming service
3. TV Cable news network

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: An **over-the-top** media service is a streaming media service offered directly to viewers via the Internet. OTT bypasses cable, broadcast, and satellite television platforms, the companies that traditionally act as a controller or distributor of such content.

A notification from the Cabinet Secretariat on November 9, said that films and audio-visual programs made available by online content providers and news and current affairs content on online platform will be under the purview of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Q.21) 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.22) 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

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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.23) '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.

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

- a) The expansion of speed and capability of computer systems
- b) The growth of human expeditions into the space
- c) The trajectory of population growth and food demand on Earth
- d) 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.25) Which of the following is/are **Scorpene submarine of Project-75?**

- 1. INS Karanj
- 2. INS Vela
- 3. INS Vagir

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 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.26) Crew Dragon spacecraft belongs to which of the following space agency/corporation?

- a) SpaceX
- 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.27) 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

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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.28) 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**.

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.29) 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.30) Which of the following has been declared as the **fastest Supercomputer** recently?

- a) Mihir

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- 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.31) 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

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.32) 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.

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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.33) 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 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.34) 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.

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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.35) 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.

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 κ -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.36) 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**.

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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.37) 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.

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.38) 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.39) 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

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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.

Q.40) 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.41) 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.42) 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?

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- 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.

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.43) 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.44) 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

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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.

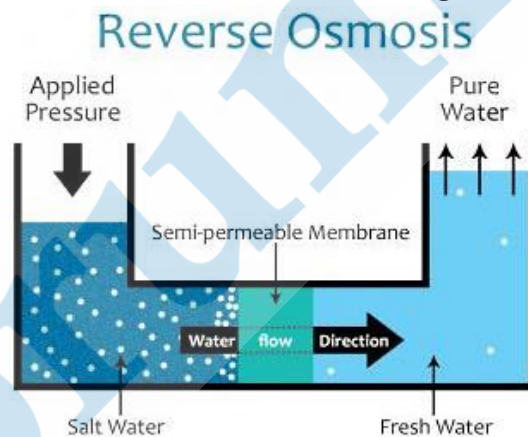
Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the **Desalination plants**:

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.46) 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

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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.

Rotavac received WHO-Prequalification in January 2018.

Q.47) 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.48) 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.49) Consider the following statements regarding the **Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling (BEOS)**:

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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 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.50) 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.51) 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

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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.

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GEOGRAPHY

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

1. Khartoum - Sudan
2. Oaxaca - Mexico
2. Baku - Azerbaijan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Khartoum** is the capital of **Sudan**. It is located at the confluence of the White Nile, flowing north from Lake Victoria, and the Blue Nile, flowing west from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.

Oaxaca is in Mexico; it was in news recently as the **Khadi Oaxaca** collective was mentioned by the Prime Minister in *Mann Ki Baat*.

Baku, the capital and commercial hub of **Azerbaijan**, is a low-lying city with coastline along the Caspian Sea.

Q.2) The **Mansar Lake** is located in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Ladakh
- c) Manipur
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: **Mansar Lake** is situated 37 km from Jammu, Mansar is a lake fringed by forest-covered hills, over a mile in length by half-a-mile in width.

Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.

Comprehensive Mansar Lake Rejuvenation/Development Plan was launched recently to increase the tourism potential of the historic lake.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the **Kaziranga National Park**?

1. The Brahmaputra River flows north of the park.
2. Kaziranga National Park is prescribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in India.

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

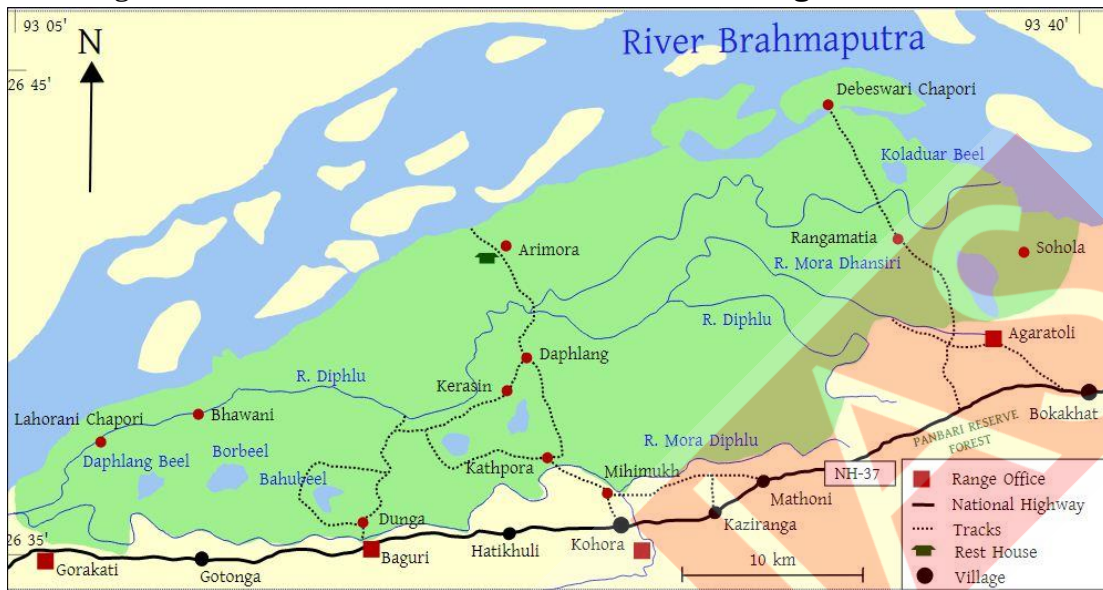
Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Kaziranga national park is located fairly in the Golaghat and Nagaon regions of Assam in India. It is also placed beside the **Brahmaputra** River on the North and the Karbi Anglong mounts on the South.

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It is famous for the Great Indian one horned rhinoceros; the landscape of Kaziranga is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes & shallow pools. It has been declared as National Park in 1974.

The Kaziranga National Park was inscribed on the **World Heritage List in 1985**.



Q.4) Which of the following lake is the **northernmost** of all the **Great Lakes**?

- a) Lake Superior
- b) Lake Michigan
- c) Lake Erie
- d) Lake Huron

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Great Lakes, chain of deep freshwater lakes in east-central North America comprising **Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario**.

Situated on the northern edge of Wisconsin, Lake Superior extends from the upper peninsula of Michigan north to Ontario, Canada, and reaches west to the eastern edge of Minnesota. The name Superior refers to its size and also designates the lake's position as the northernmost of all the Great Lakes.



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Q.5) Which of the following city(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Nice - France
2. Vienna - Austria
3. Herat - Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. Located in the French Riviera, on the south east coast of **France** on the Mediterranean Sea, at the foot of the Alps, Nice is the second-largest French city on the Mediterranean coast.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Vienna** is the national capital, largest city, and one of nine states of **Austria**.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Herat** city is the capital of Herat Province, situated in the fertile valley of the Hari River in the western part of **Afghanistan**.

Q.6) Where is **Luhri Hydro Power Project** located?

- a) Ladakh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Luhri Stage Hydro Electric Project** is located on river **Satluj** in Shimla & Kullu districts of **Himachal Pradesh**.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister has approved the investment of Rs.1810.56 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project. This project will generate 758.20 million units of electricity annually.

This project is being implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis with active support from Government of India and State Government.

Q.7) Which of the following country(s) border the **Mediterranean Sea**?

1. France
2. Austria
3. Spain

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: Mediterranean Sea, an intercontinental sea that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean on the west to Asia on the east and separates Europe from Africa.

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Q.8) Where is the **Shaksgam Valley** located?

1. North of Baltistan
2. North-West of Siachen glacier
3. North-East of Pangong Tso

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Shaksgam Valley** lies to the north-west of Siachen glacier, north of Baltistan, much north-west of Pangong Tso, east of Gilgit and south of Chinese province of Xinjiang.



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

1. Kunlun Mountains - Cambodia
2. Pamir Mountains - Russia
3. Taklamakan Desert - China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

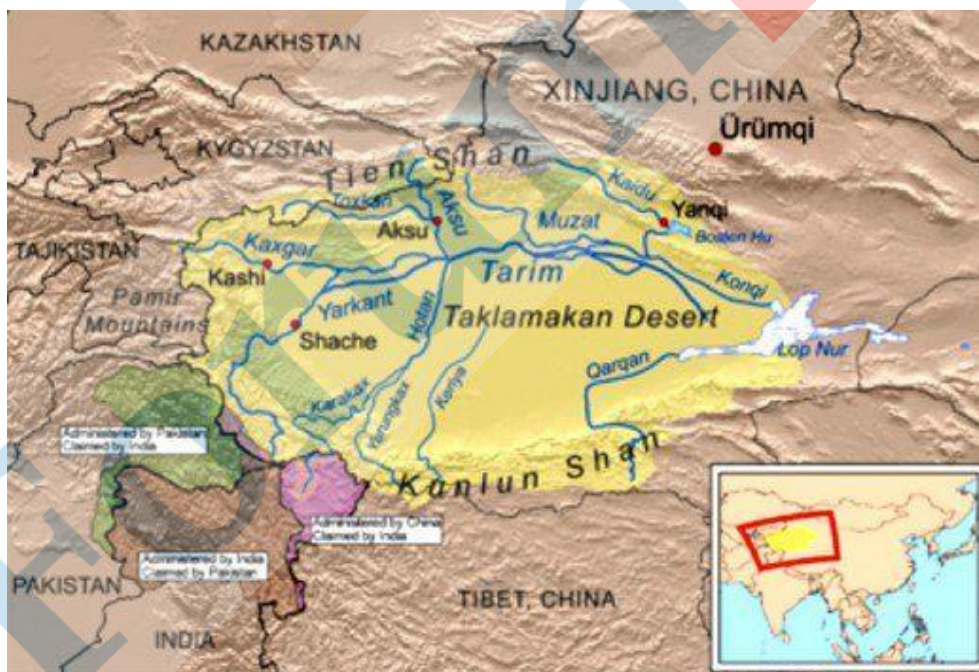
Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. The **Kunlun Mountains** constitute one of the longest mountain chains in Asia, extending for more than 3,000 km. The chain forms the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau south of the Tarim Basin.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The **Pamirs** are the most famous mountain convergence zone in the world. It is the largest mountain convergence zone that was formed by the convergence of the Tianshan Mountains, the Kunlun Mountains, the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush Mountains and the Jierter-Sulaiman Mountains.

Most of the Pamirs lie within **Tajikistan**, but the fringes penetrate Afghanistan, China, and Kyrgyzstan.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Taklamakan Desert** is a desert in Southwest Xinjiang in Northwest **China**. It is bounded by the Kunlun Mountains to the south, the Pamir Mountains and Tian Shan to the west and north and the Gobi Desert to the east.



Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **La-Nina**:

1. It refers to the periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific.
2. La Nina correlates with heavy monsoon rains 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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The term **El Niño** refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific.

La Nina episodes represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific. Global climate La Niña impacts tend to be opposite those of El Niño impacts. In the tropics, ocean temperature variations in La Niña also tend to be opposite those of El Niño.

Statement 2 is correct. **La Nina results in heavy or better monsoon rains in India**, droughts in Peru and Ecuador, heavy floods in Australia, and high temperatures in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the La Nina weather phenomenon is back in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean after nearly a decade's absence.

Q.11) Where is 'Tigray region'?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Brazil
- c) Namibia
- d) Kazakhstan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Tigray Region** is the northernmost of the nine regions of **Ethiopia**. It is the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama peoples.

--The leaders of Tigray dominated Ethiopia for many years until Mr Abiy came to power in 2018 on the back of anti-government protests and curbed their influence.

--They claim they have been unfairly targeted by purges and allegations of corruption, and say Mr Abiy is an illegitimate leader, because his mandate ran out when he postponed elections due to coronavirus.

--The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), defied the nationwide ban on elections, and held a vote which was declared illegal by the central government.

--The UN says there have now been clashes between federal troops and Tigrayan forces in eight different locations.

Mr Abiy won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for helping to end a long-standing conflict with Eritrea.



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Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. More than two thirds of the surface of Earth is covered by water.
2. More than two thirds of the freshwater of Earth is in the form of Glaciers and ice caps.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

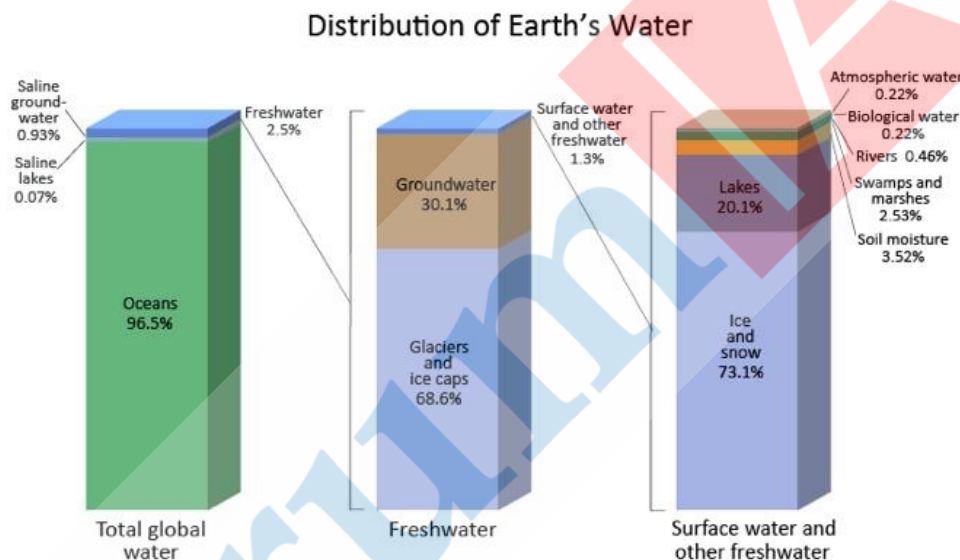
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Water makes up about 71% of the Earth's surface, while the other 29% consists of continents and islands.

About 96.5% of all the Earth's water is contained within the oceans as salt water, while the remaining 3.5% is freshwater lakes and frozen water locked up in glaciers and the polar ice caps. Of that fresh water, **69% of it takes the form of ice.**



Source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, *Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources*.

Q.13) **Kiwi fruit or Chinese gooseberry** is grown in which of the following State(s) of India?

1. Nagaland
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Arunachal Pradesh

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: Kiwi or Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia deliciosa*) is grown widely in **New Zealand, Italy, USA, China, Japan, Australia, France, Chile and Spain.**

In India, it is mostly grown in the mid hills of **Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, J & K, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.** India currently imports 4,000 tonnes of Kiwis.

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Kiwi can be grown in areas experiencing 700-800 chilling hours (no. of hours during which temperature remains at or below 70 C during the winter season). The plant can be grown at 800-1500 m. above m.s.l. A rainfall of about 150 cm. /year is sufficient.

The plant does not withstand strong winds and frost during the growing period because of its vigorous vegetative growth, large leaves and viny habit. In summer, high temperature (> 350 C) and low humidity may cause scorching of leaves. Sun scald and heat stress are the main problems in its cultivation in lower areas.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding use of **Sulphur** in agriculture:

1. Sulphur fertilization helps plants to grow and develop properly and improves utilization of nutrients.
2. High content of Sulphur in soil causes soil acidification.

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. **Sulphur** is essential in the structural and enzymatic components in plants. Sulphur is a key component of some essential amino acids and is needed for protein synthesis. **Chlorophyll synthesis** also requires S.

Sulphur is not readily translocated within plants, so all plants need a continuous supply of Sulphur from emergence to crop maturity.

Sulphur is part of an **enzyme required for nitrogen uptake** and lack of it can severely hamper nitrogen metabolism. Together with nitrogen, Sulphur enables the formations of amino acids needed for protein synthesis.

Statement 2 is correct. Soil organic matter is the primary source of plant-available SO₄-S in surface soil.

High Sulphur deposition in soils contributes to their acidification. Soil bacteria change the sulfur to sulfuric acid, lowering the soil pH. Adverse effects of Sulphur contamination of soils are shown by the fall in pH, an increase of phytotoxic aluminium concentration.

Q.15) Typhoon Vamco has developed in which of the following region?

- a) Northwest Pacific Ocean
- b) Western Indian Ocean
- c) Bay of Fundy
- d) Sea of Okhotsk

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Typhoon Vamco** is currently an active Category 1-equivalent typhoon in northwest Pacific region around **Philippines**. Vamco originated as a tropical depression northwest of Palau, where it slowly continued its northwest track.

The storm was given the name Vamco by the **Japanese Meteorological Agency**, but is referred to as **Ulysses** in the Philippines.

Q.16) Where is **Kabartal Wetland** located?

- a) Bihar
- b) Assam
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) West Bengal

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Kabartal Wetland**, also known as Kanwar Jheel, covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the **Bihar** State. It has been designated as a wetland of International importance.

It is an important wetland of the Central Asian Flyway for the population of migratory birds and biodiversity. With the new addition, **now India has 39 Ramsar sites.**

Q.17) 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.



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Q.18) The **Ishad mango** variety belongs to which of the following State?

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

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.19) 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 14th October.

Q.20) Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the region called '**Horn of Africa**'?

- 1. Djibouti
- 2. Eritrea
- 3. Ethiopia

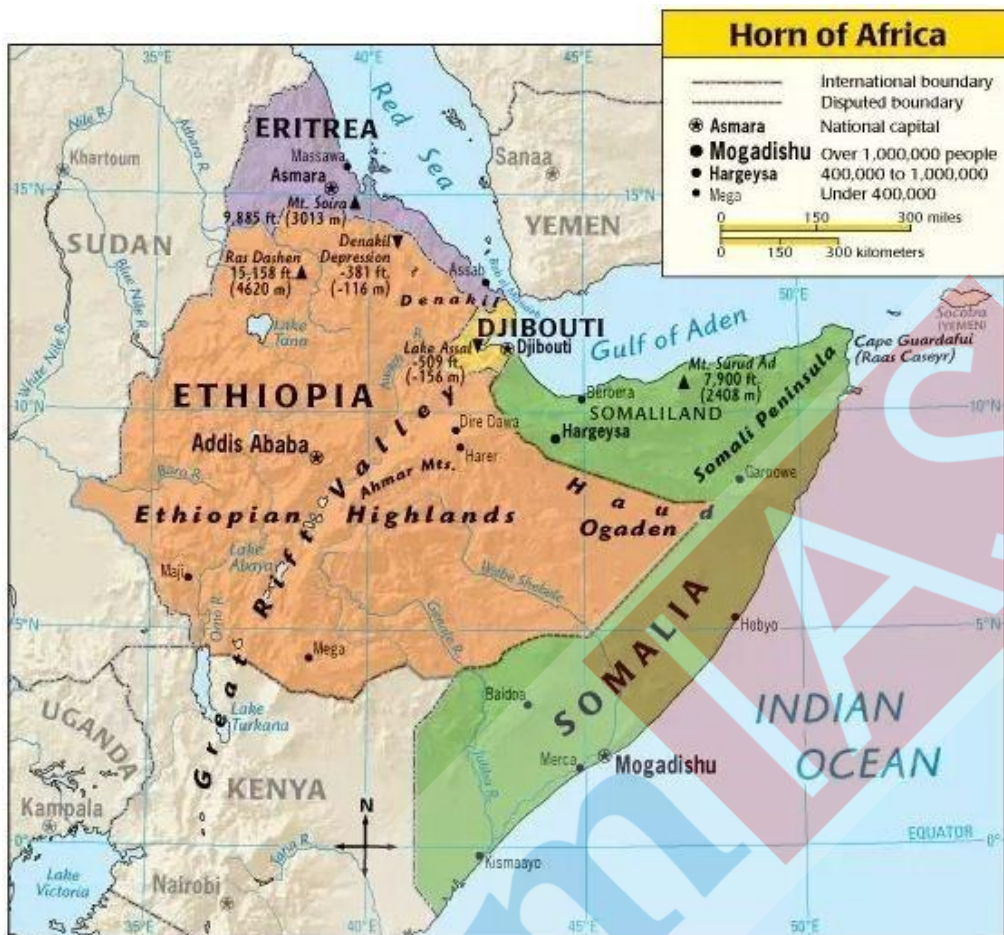
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 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**.

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Q.21) 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.22) 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.23) 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.24) 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.25) Which of the following river flows through Himachal Pradesh?

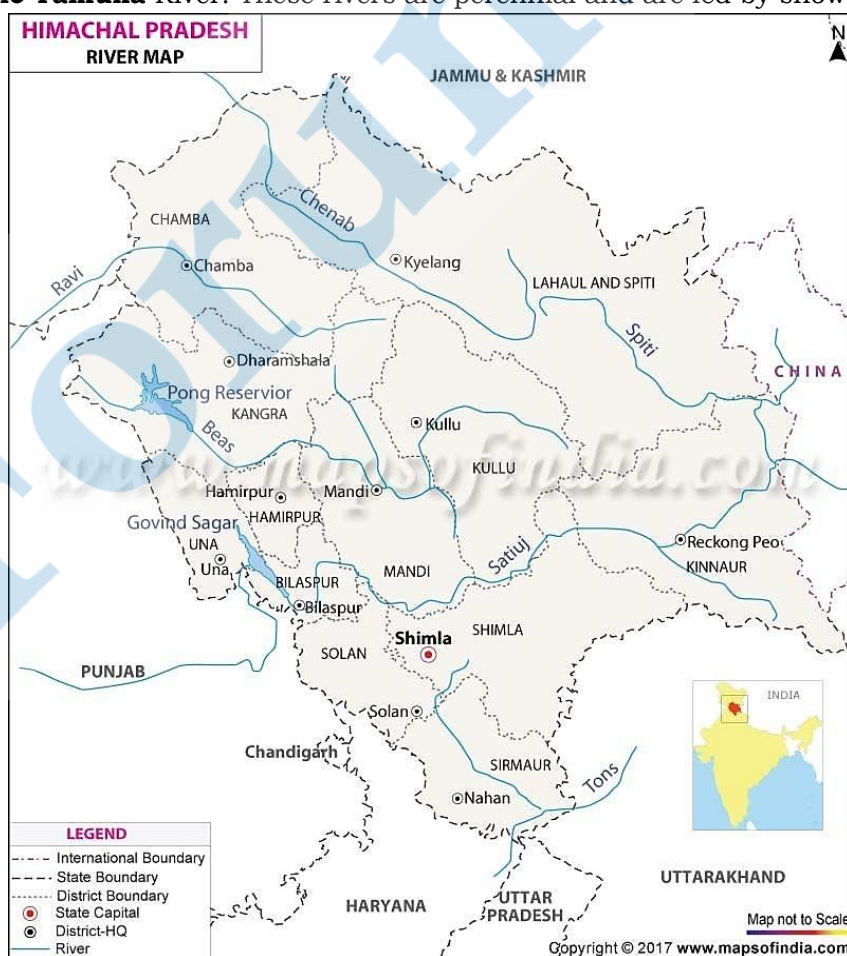
- 1. Chenab
- 2. Ravi
- 3. Satluj

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.26) Where is **Tristan da Cunha** located?

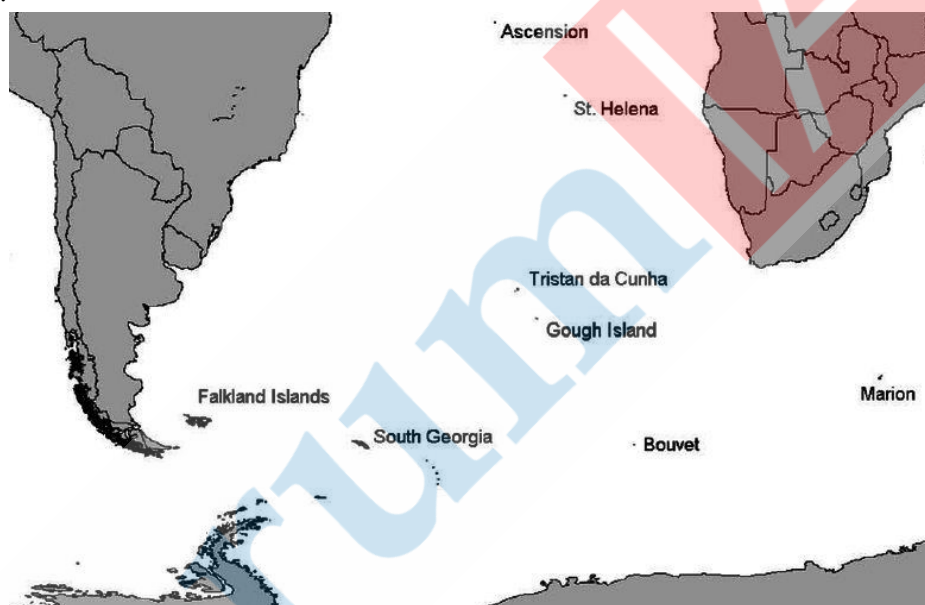
- a) Antarctica
- b) Siberia
- c) South Atlantic Ocean
- d) South Pacific Ocean

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.27) 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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Q.28) 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.29) 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.30) 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.31) 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.32) **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.33) 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.34) 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.35) 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

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Correct answer: D

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

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.36) 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.37) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kigali Agreement Reduce the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons

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2. Kyoto Protocol Limit and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions
3. Montreal Protocol Phasing out Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

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.38) 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.39) 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

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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.

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.

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ECONOMICS

Q.1) Which of the following subject(s) is/are *not* under the purview of **Goods and Services Tax** in India?

1. Alcohol for human consumptions
2. Petroleum Products
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: **Alcohol** for human consumption has been kept outside the purview of GST in India at present. These goods are subject to existing State levies.

Petroleum Products such as petroleum crude, motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel etc. are also kept outside the purview of GST in India. At present, **electricity** is not subject to GST and power companies pay multiple taxes on capital goods and other inputs like excise duty, customs duty etc.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Commission functions as a market regulator by preventing and regulating anti-competitive practices in the country.

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. Post liberalization in the early nineties there was a paradigm shift from a regime of command and control to a facilitating regime with increased reliance on market forces.

It also led to the enactment of the **Competition Act 2002** and establishment of the Competition Commission of India to lay the foundation of a competition ecosystem in the country. It **replaced** its predecessor the **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Commission functions as a **market regulator** by preventing and regulating anti-competitive practices in the country. It also carries out advisory and advocacy functions. The objectives of the Commission as given under Section 18 of the Act are:

- to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition,
- to promote and sustain competition in markets,
- to protect the interests of consumers, and
- to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets in India.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **GST e-Invoice System**:

1. Presently, Invoice Reference Number (IRN) can be generated only by tax payers whose turnover is more than Rs. 500 Crores.

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2. Each Invoice uploaded by the tax payer gets a unique Invoice Reference Number (IRN). 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 GST **e-invoice system** was launched on 1st October, 2020 for the businesses with aggregate turnover of more than Rs. 500 Crores in the financial year.

Note: The Government is planning to reduce the aggregate turnover cut off to Rs 100 Crores for generation of IRN by the tax payers in coming days.

Statement 2 is correct. Each Invoice uploaded by the tax payer will get the **unique number called as Invoice Reference Number (IRN)**. IRN is of 64 Characters length.

This IRN is unique number in the GST system, irrespective of tax payer, financial year and document type. It is hash of Supplier GSTIN + Fin. Year + Doc Type + Doc Number.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Base Effect**?

- 1. It can result from abnormally high or low levels of inflation in a period.
- 2. It is the result of a consistent and constant growth in an economy.

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. **Base effect** is often a term used in relation to economic indicators such as inflation and GDP data which are primarily based on the base effect of last year.

For inflation, Base effect refers to the distortion in monthly inflation figures from a sudden spike or decline in them during a short period of time. They are caused by seasonal or monthly variations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is usually **a result of volatility** rather than consistency in an economy.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **GST collection trend in current Financial Year [2020-21]**:

- 1. The monthly GST collection has consistently been below one lakh crore rupees.
- 2. The GST collection has not crossed the previous year's monthly collection in any of the month so far.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

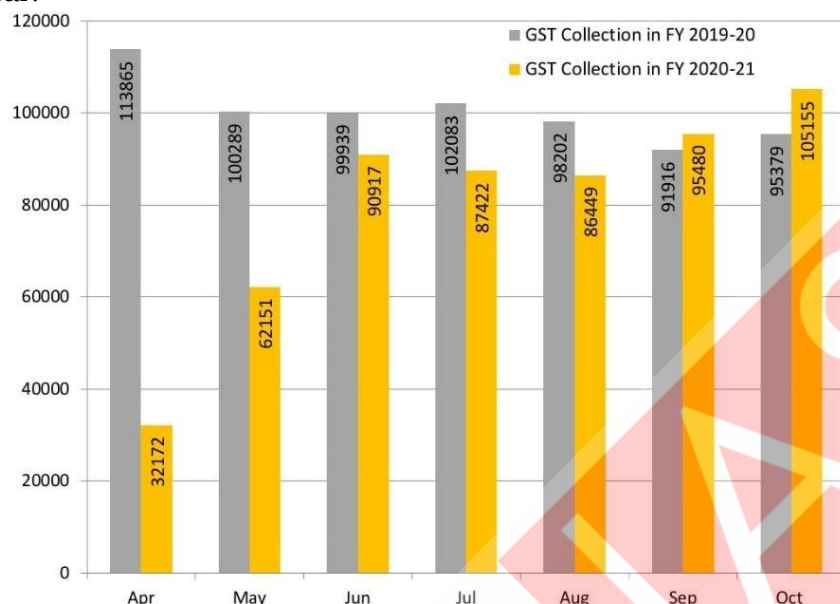
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

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Rs 1,05,155 crore of gross GST revenue have been collected in the month of October 2020. The revenues for the month are 10% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.



Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **laws of demand and supply**:

1. The law of demand says that at higher prices, buyers will demand less of an economic good.
2. Producers supply more at a higher price because the higher selling price justifies the higher opportunity cost of each additional unit sold.

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 **law of demand states** that, if all other factors remain equal, the higher the price of a good, the less people will demand that good. In other words, the higher the price, the lower the quantity demanded.

The amount of a good that buyers purchase at a higher price is less because as the price of a good goes up, so does the opportunity cost of buying that good.

Statement 2 is correct. The **law of supply** says that at higher prices, sellers will supply more of an economic good.

From the seller's perspective, the opportunity cost of each additional unit that they sell tends to be higher and higher. Producers supply more at a higher price because the higher selling price justifies the higher opportunity cost of each additional unit sold.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The input tax credit is tax reduced from output tax payable on account of it being already paid at the time of buying raw material.
2. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not applicable on the mobility aids used by disabled citizens.

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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Input tax credit (ITC)** is the tax paid by the buyer on purchase of goods or services. Such tax which is paid at the purchase when reduced from liability payable on outward supplies is known as input tax credit.

ITC is one of the key features of Goods and Services Tax. ITC is a mechanism to avoid cascading of taxes.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **mobility aids used by disabled citizens are not exempt from GST** at present. It is subject to five percent GST.

On October 27, the Supreme Court of India heard an appeal on the constitutional validity of the levy of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on mobility aids used by disabled citizens. But it said that the taxation was a matter of policy over which the judiciary ought not to ordinarily interfere and advised petitioner to appeal to the GST Council.

Q.8) Which of the following resources fall under the category of **Capital Goods**?

1. Buildings
2. Machinery
3. Labour

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: **Capital goods** are physical assets that a company uses in the production process to manufacture products and services that consumers will later use. Capital goods include buildings, machinery, equipment, vehicles, and tools. Capital goods are not finished goods instead; they are used to make finished goods.

Capital goods are one of the four factors of production. The other three are: Natural resources, such as land, oil, and water; Labor, such as workers; and Entrepreneurship.

Q.9) 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.

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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.10) 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.11) 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
- 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.12) 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.

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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.

Q.13) 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.14) 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.15) 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

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

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.16) 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.17) 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.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES/ORGANISATION

Q.1) Which of the following pollutants is/are monitored under the **National Air Quality Index**?

1. SO₂
2. NO₂
3. NH₃

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: **Air Quality Index** is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. It transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour.

There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts (known as health breakpoints). AQ sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved for eight pollutants (**PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃, NH₃, and Pb**).

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**:

1. The ISRO chairperson is the ex-officio chairman of the NSIL.
2. NSIL will be the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route.

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: In order to commercially exploit the products and services emanating from Indian Space Programme, the “NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)” was incorporated in March 2019, as a wholly-owned Government of India under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS).

Statement 1 is incorrect. **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** is a Central Public Sector Enterprise of Government of India and commercial arm of ISRO.

ISRO chairperson is not NSIL head, the current NSIL's Chairman and Managing Director, G. Narayanan, was earlier a Deputy Director at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Thiruvananthapuram.

Statement 2 is correct. NSIL will be the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route. The Industry consortium will be responsible for producing, assembling and integrating the launch vehicle.

NSIL will be responsible for providing launch services to global satellite customers, on-board SSLV, PSLV, GSLV and GSLV-MkIII launchers.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **The Code On Social Security, 2020**:

1. It defines ‘platform work’ as a work arrangement within the traditional employer-employee relationship in which individuals use an online platform.

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2. It provides for a social security funds for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

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 Code On Social Security, 2020 defines that "platform work" means a **work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship** in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment.

Statement 2 is correct. The code mandates that there shall be established by the Central Government a **Social Security Fund** for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **AYUSH Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)**:

- 1. It is being set up by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Invest India.
- 2. The bureau will act as drug regulator for AYUSH sector 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. The **Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau** is being set up by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with **Invest India**, a National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency that helps those looking for investment opportunities and options in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As a partner in the project, Invest India would collaborate extensively with the Ministry to frame the work plan of the Bureau and define its short-and long-term targets. Invest India would deploy highly trained and expert resources to implement and execute the plans of the Ministry of AYUSH.

The activities to be undertaken by the SPFB would include:

- Knowledge Creation and Management,
- State Policy Bench marking: Undertaking State Policy bench marking to formulate uniform guidelines/regulations regarding AYUSH sector in India,
- Investment Facilitation: Follow up and facilitation of investment cases and MoUs, and coordination among different Department, organisations and States.
- Issue Resolution: Invest India would work with companies and other institutions on issue resolution across States and among various sub-sectors.

Q.5) Which of the following statement is correct regarding the recently concluded **VAIBHAV Summit**?

- a) It aimed to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation
- b) It was a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians

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- c) It proposed a model for equitable distribution of COVID-9 vaccines
- d) It was an intergovernmental summit of International Solar Alliance members

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit was a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians on Gandhi Jayanti. The deliberations started on 3rd of October and concluded on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti, 31st October 2020.

Among panelists, 45% were overseas Indians and 55% were resident Indian academicians and scientists. The Summit intended to “create an ideal research ecosystem, merging tradition with modernity to create prosperity”.

The discussions were held on computational sciences, electronics & communication, quantum technologies, photonics, aerospace technologies, health and medical sciences, pharma and biotechnology, agro-economy and food security, material & processing technologies, advanced manufacturing, earth sciences, energy, environmental sciences, management and social sciences.

Q.6) What was the objective of the Indian Navy’s **Mission Sagar** in past few months?

- a) Providing food aid and medicines to countries in Indian Ocean
- b) Strategic deployment of destroyers at Strait of Malacca
- c) Bilateral exercises with countries in South China Sea
- d) Naval deployment for anti-piracy operations

Correct answer: A

Explanation: As part of the Government of India outreach amidst the ongoing **COVID-19 pandemic**, Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams embarked, on 10 May 20.

This deployment as ‘Mission Sagar’, is in line with India’s role as the first responder in the region and builds on the excellent relations existing between these countries to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant difficulties.

Mission Sagar-II, follows the first ‘Mission Sagar’ undertaken in May-June 2020, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Aero India**:

1. It is an aerospace and defence industries exhibition organised every year.
2. Foreign exhibitors are not allowed at the Aero India exhibition.

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

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

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Statement 2 is incorrect. **Foreign Exhibitors** are allowed at Aero India exhibition. The 2019 edition had 165 Foreign Exhibitors.

An Indian company cannot exhibit products developed outside India.

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

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**:

1. It provides fully guaranteed and collateral free credit to borrowers.
2. The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) borrowers are also covered under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** was announced as part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package (ANBP).

A **100% guarantee would be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)** to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), and which will be extended in the form of additional working capital term loan facility in case of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Financial Institutions (FIs), and additional term loan facility in case of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), to eligible MSMEs/ Business Enterprises, individual borrowers in case of the original loan having been for own business and **interested Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) borrowers.**

The Union Government has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by one month till November 30th, 2020, or till such time that an amount of Rs. 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the Scheme, whichever is earlier.

Q.9) Which of the following initiatives have been proposed in the **National Education Policy 2020**?

1. National Research Foundation (NRF)
2. A Vedic Education Board
3. National Assessment Centre (PARAKH)

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 correct. To build on these various elements in a synergistic manner, and to thereby truly grow and catalyze quality research in the nation, the NEP envisions the establishment of a **National Research Foundation (NRF).**

The overarching **goal of the NRF** will be to enable a culture of research to permeate through our universities. In particular, the NRF will provide a reliable base of merit-based but equitable peer-reviewed research funding, helping to develop a culture of research in the country through suitable incentives for and recognition of outstanding research, and by undertaking major initiatives to seed and grow research at State Universities and other public institutions where research capability is currently limited.

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Option 2 is incorrect. No such proposal in the **NEP 2020** document.

The policy does state that traditional **Indian values and all basic human and Constitutional values** (such as seva, ahimsa, swachchhata, satya, nishkam karma, shanti, etc.) will be developed in all students. Children will have the opportunity to read and learn from the original stories of the Panchatantra, Jataka, Hitopadesh, and other fun fables and inspiring tales from the Indian tradition and learn about their influences on global literature.

Option 3 is correct. It is proposed to set up a **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)**, as a standard-setting body under Education Ministry that fulfils the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards of India.

Q.10) Which of the following institution is organizing the **Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
- c) National Informatics Centre
- d) Invest India

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Prime Minister will chair the **Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR)** on 5th November, 2020. The VGIR is being organized by the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.**

It is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision makers from the Government of India and Financial Market Regulators.

The Roundtable will witness participation from twenty of the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds with a total Assets Under Management of about US\$6 trillion. These global institutional investors represent key regions including the US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, Middle East, Australia, and Singapore.

VGIR 2020 will focus on discussions around India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and the government's vision for the path to a USD 5 trillion economy.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):**

1. It aims to reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare by providing quality medicines available at affordable prices for all.
2. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for the PMBJP.

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.

Objectives of the scheme: Making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets "**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras**", so as to **reduce out of pocket expenses** in healthcare.

The **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)**, the implementing agency for PMBJP, has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, with the

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support of all the Pharma CPSUs for coordinating procurement, supply and marketing of generic drugs through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras.

Since then, the Jan Aushadhi stores selling affordable generic medicines has grown from mere 99 stores in 2014-15 to around 6600 stores at present.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge**:

1. It was organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN Women.
2. It aimed to encourage and involve women led startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against 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.

Six women led startups have won **COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN Women**. With an objective to encourage and involve women led startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against COVID19 or solve problems that impact a large number of women.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)**':

1. It is provided for by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
2. Under the scheme, farmers receive crop and location specific weather based agro-advisories twice a week.

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.

Under **Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa project (GKMS)**, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Science in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities /Indian Council of Agricultural Research etc. is issuing crop and location specific weather based agro advisories for the benefit of farming community on every **Tuesday and Friday** and occurrence of extreme weather.

These advisories are communicated to farmers via mobile SMS, apps such as Meghdhoot, on IMD website, Kisan Portal, and conventional media such as television, radio, and newspapers. Farmers use these advisories for critical farm operations like management of sowing, changing crop variety, spraying pesticides for disease control and managing irrigation etc.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**:

1. It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
2. It is responsible for regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs.

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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. The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.

The CDSCO is the **Central Drug Authority** for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the Drug and Cosmetics Act, the **regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities** while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs, coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations and providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Further CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), India and the United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (UK MHRA) on cooperation in the field of medical Product Regulation.

Q.15) What is the objective of the recently launched '**Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge**'?

- a) Shaping cities for young children and their families
- b) Evaluate data ecosystems of cities
- c) An on-line training programme for City Data Officers
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge**, a 3-year initiative launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs recently, will support cities to develop, pilot, and scale solutions that enhance the quality of life of young **children, their caregivers and families** in the public realm.

The challenge is conducted with the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands with technical support from WRI India. Through the challenge, selected cities will receive technical assistance and capacity-building to reimagine parks and open spaces; improve access to early childhood facilities; adapt public spaces with early childhood-oriented amenities; and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for young children and families.

The challenge will be open to all **Smart Cities**, other cities with more than five lakh population, and capitals of States and UTs.

MoHUA launched three initiatives recently, namely, the Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge focusing on shaping cities for young children and their families; the Data Maturity Assessment Framework to evaluate data ecosystems of cities; and an on-line training programme for City Data Officers (CDOs) of 100 Smart Cities.

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Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the recently signed '**Declaration of the Private Sector on Climate Change**':

1. It was signed at the India CEO Forum on Climate Change 2020.
2. The declaration has been signed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and India's key Industrial corporates.

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 '**Declaration of the Private Sector on Climate Change**' signed by 24 key industry captains and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the virtual **India CEO forum on Climate Change** was released recently.

The declaration commits to set achievable GHG reduction targets, develop and submit annual reports to MoEFCC among other pledges to support India's NDC to Paris Agreement.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the Grand Challenge for developing the '**Smart water supply measurement and monitoring system**':

1. It aims for creating smart rural water supply eco-system to measure and monitor the service delivery of the water supply in rural areas.
2. It will provide an opportunity to work for Jal Jeevan Mission assuring potable water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections to every rural household.
3. It is being implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above statements are correct.

The **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** aims providing Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024 with particular focus on regular water supply in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality on long-term basis. This necessitates the use of modern technology in monitoring of the programme and to capture service delivery data automatically for ensuring the quality of services.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology in partnership with National Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti had announced an **ICT Grand Challenge to develop a 'Smart water supply measurement and monitoring system'**.

The **Jal Jeevan Mission would be the user agent** of the Grand Challenge and **C-DAC, Bangalore** is the implementing agency and would provide technical support for the challenge.

This Grand Challenge will harness the vibrant IoT eco-systems of India for creating smart rural water supply eco-system to measure and monitor the service delivery of the water supply in rural areas.

This Challenge will provide an opportunity to work for Jal Jeevan Mission and to assure potable water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections to every rural household.

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Q.18) What is the mandate of recently constituted **Shashi S. Vempati committee**?

- Review Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India
- Criminal Law Reforms
- 5G Technology Regulations in India
- Personal Data Protection Law

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a committee headed by **Shashi S. Vempati**, CEO, Prasar Bharti to review “**Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India**” notified by the Ministry in 2014.

The present guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on Television Rating Agencies in India were notified after detailed deliberations by the Parliamentary Committee, Committee on Television Rating Points (TRP) constituted by the MIB and recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority etc.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **One Rank One Pension (OROP)**:

- It implies that uniform pension be paid to the personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service regardless of their date of retirement.
- Union Government has been providing for OROP to Military as well as Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel since 2014.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **One Rank One Pension (OROP)** implies that uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces Personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service regardless of their date of retirement. Thus, OROP implies bridging the gap between the rate of pension of current and past retirees at periodic intervals.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Government of India has been implementing the OROP for defence personnel effective from 01.07.2014. **OROP is not applicable to CAPFs.**

OROP was introduced for defence personnel in consideration of their early age of retirement in government service. However, the CAPF personnel retire at the age of 57-60 years depending upon their ranks.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Education Technology Forum (NETF)**:

- It has been proposed to be set up as an autonomous body by the National Education Policy 2020.
- The NETF aims to provide independent evidence-based advice to Central and State Government agencies on technology-based interventions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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The **National Education Policy 2020** proposes **NETF** as an autonomous body to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance le

The NETF will have the following **functions**:

- provide independent evidence-based advice to Central and State Government agencies on technology-based interventions;
- build intellectual and institutional capacities in educational technology;
- envision strategic thrust areas in this domain; and
- articulate new directions for research and innovation.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gov-Tech-Thon 2020**:

1. It has been organised by the NITI Aayog.
2. The Hackathon was to focus on the problem statements provided by the select Ministries of the Union Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Gov-Tech-Thon 2020**, a 36 hours, pan-India virtual hackathon organized by **IEEE, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Oracle**, under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, witnessed a successful conclusion on 1st November, 2020.

Statement 2 is correct. 100 teams participated in the Hackathon on the five problem statements provided by 3 central Government Ministries – **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Road Transport and Highway and Ministry of Education.**

Q.22) Which of the following is/are part of the **Gandhian Young Technological Awards**?

1. Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations
2. Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technological Innovations
3. National Youth Award

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: **Gandhian Young Technological Innovation** awards constitute two categories of awards, Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations – GYTI under Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technological Innovations -GYTI given by SRISTI.

The awards and appreciations are given under these two categories to encourage technology students to move towards setting up Biotech and other start-ups.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Integrated Govt. Online training**' (iGOT) program:

1. It is a training module for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the COVID-19 pandemic efficiently.

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2. The iGOT module has been launched on the DIKSHA platform of Ministry of Education. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

In April 2020 Government of India had launched a training module for management of COVID-19 named '**Integrated Govt. Online training**' (iGOT) portal on Ministry of Education's **DIKSHA platform** for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the pandemic efficiently.

Courses on iGOT have been launched for Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Hygiene Workers, Technicians, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs), State Government Officers, Civil Defence Officers, Various Police Organizations, National Cadet Corps (NCC), NehruYuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme, Indian Red Cross Society, Bharat Scouts and Guides and other volunteers at the stage.

Ministry of Health has said that uniquely designed Integrated Government Online training'- iGOT platform provides self-contained training material for COVID-19 warriors comprising 56 modules, 196 videos and 133 training documents.

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Water Awards (NWA) 2019**:

- 1. These are the inaugural edition of NWA being organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- 2. The award recognizes States, Organisations as well as individuals for their efforts in water sector.

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 **Ground Water Augmentation Awards and National Water Award** were launched in the year 2007 with an objective to encourage all stakeholders for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, promoting water use efficiency, recycling & re-use of water.

Last year National Water Award 2018 was successfully launched by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and is now is organizing National Water Awards 2019.

Statement 2 is correct. The awards recognize the work done by **all stakeholders** including the State Governments, Districts, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies, Water User Associations, Institutions, Corporate Sector, Individuals etc.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**:

- 1. It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

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2. It has allowed pensioners to submit Digital Life Certificate to avail the benefits instead of the hard copy.

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 **Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952** and Schemes framed there under are administered by a tri-partite Board known as the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund, consisting of representatives of Government (Both Central and State), Employers, and Employees.

The **Central Board of Trustees** administers a contributory provident fund, pension scheme and an insurance scheme for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.

The EPFO is under the administrative control of **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, Government of India.

Statement 2 is correct. EPFO has proactively partnered with **Common Service Centre (CSC)** to provide facilities to submit **Digital Jeevan Pramaan Patra**. Further Post offices have also started collection of Digital Jeevan Pramaan. A multi- agency model adopted by EPFO empowers EPS pensioners with choice and autonomy to select the service delivery agency as per their convenience.

In this regard, a key policy change has been brought by EPFO to allow EPS pensioners to submit their Digital Pramaan Patra at any time during the year as per their convenience and not just during the months of November & December. The Life Certificate will remain valid for One year from the date of submission.

Q.25) The report '**Assessment of climate change over the Indian region**' has been released by which of the following institution/organisation?

- a) India Meteorological Department
- b) Geological Survey of India
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Assessment of climate change over the Indian region: A report of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) discusses the impact of human-induced global climate change on the Indian subcontinent and regional monsoon, the adjoining Indian Ocean and the Himalayas.

--India's average temperature has risen by around 0.7°C during 1901–2018. In the recent 30-year period (1986–2015), temperatures of the warmest day and the coldest night of the year have risen by about 0.63°C and 0.4°C, respectively.

--Sea surface temperature (SST) of the tropical Indian Ocean has risen by 1°C on average during 1951–2015, markedly higher than the global average SST warming of 0.7°C, over the same period.

--The summer monsoon precipitation (June to September) over India has declined by around 6% from 1951 to 2015, with notable decreases over the Indo-Gangetic Plains and the Western Ghats.

--The overall decrease of seasonal summer monsoon rainfall during the last 6–7 decades has led to an increased propensity for droughts over India. Both the frequency and spatial extent of droughts have increased significantly during 1951–2016.

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Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)**:

1. The pipeline is to be completely funded wholly through the private investment.
2. The NIP dashboard is being hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** is a first-of-its-kind, whole-of-government exercise to provide world-class infrastructure across the country, and improve the quality of life for all citizens. It aims to improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic and foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025.

The Final Report of NIP Task Force has projected total infrastructure investment of Rs 111 lakh crore during the period FY 2020-25.

The **Centre (39 per cent) and states (40 per cent)** are expected to have an almost equal share in implementing the projects, while the private sector has a 21 per cent share.

Statement 2 is correct. The NIP dashboard is being hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG).

India Investment Grid (IIG) is an interactive and dynamic online platform to showcase the best of investment opportunities in India to the global investor community. Developed and managed by Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, IIG serves as the gateway to investments in India, and is also widely used by Indian missions and embassies across the world.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**:

1. It aims to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year.
2. The program focusses specifically on the non-attainment cities identified based on the air quality data.

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 Central Government launched **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

Under NCAP, **122 non-attainment cities have been identified** across the country based on the Air Quality data from 2014-2018.

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The city specific action plans have been prepared which, inter-alia, include measures for strengthening the monitoring network, reducing vehicular/industrial emissions, increasing public awareness etc.

Implementation of the city specific action plans are regularly monitored by Committees at Central and State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**:

1. It is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
2. It does not have jurisdiction over the offences in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The Tribunal is **not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, but is guided by principles of natural justice.

Statement 2 is correct. Any person seeking **relief and compensation** for environmental damage involving subjects in the legislations mentioned in **Schedule I of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010** may approach the Tribunal. The statutes in Schedule I are:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;
- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Q.29) Which of the following institution(s) is/are organizing the **India Mobile Congress 2020**?

1. Department of Telecom
2. Cellular Operators Association of India
3. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

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 **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020** jointly organized by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.

The IMC 2020, fourth edition of the event is scheduled for 8th -10th December, and will be held virtually this year given the ongoing pandemic. This year IMC's theme is going to be - "Inclusive Innovation - Smart I Secure I Sustainable".

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society.

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Q.30) Which of the following is/are focus area(s) of the **National Health Mission**?

1. Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases
2. Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health

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.

The **National Health Mission (NHM)** encompasses its two Sub-Missions, The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).

The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening, Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.

The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Q.31) What is the mandate of the **D.P. Singh Committee**?

- a) Implementation of the National Education Policy 2020
- b) Measures to ensure that more students stay and study in India
- c) Reforms in Civil Services of India
- d) Framework for National Institute's ranking

Correct answer: B

Explanation: DP Singh, Chairman UGC led committee was declared in July 2020 to prepare guidelines and measures to ensure that more and more students stay here for study in India and come out with mechanism for increasing intake in well performing universities.

The mechanisms will be explored for starting Multi-disciplinary and innovative programs, twinning and joint degree programs, Cross Country designing of centers, facilitating online lectures by eminent faculty abroad, linkage between academia and industry, facilitate Joint degree ventures and lateral entry to Indian Higher Education Institutions.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **USTTAD scheme**:

1. It is being implemented under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. The scheme aims at capacity building and upgrading of the traditional skills of master craftsmen and artisans.

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.

USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development) under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** aims at capacity building and upgrading of the traditional skills of master craftsmen and artisans; documentation of identified traditional arts/crafts of minorities; set standards of traditional skills; training of

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minority youths in various identified traditional arts/ crafts through master craftsmen; develop national and international market linkages; and preservation of languishing Arts/Crafts.

The Ministry has engaged the institutions of national repute namely, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), National Institute of Design (NID) and Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) to work in various craft clusters for design intervention; product range development; packaging; exhibitions, tying up with e-marketing portals to enhance sales; and brand building.

Further, **Hunar Haat** is implemented as a component of USTTAD scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Q.33) Union Government has recently announced **Production Linked Incentives** for which of the following sectors?

1. Pharmaceuticals
2. Advance Chemistry Cell Battery
3. Solar PV

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 **Union Cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval to introduce the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** in the following 10 key sectors for Enhancing India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports:

- Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery: NITI Aayog and Department of Heavy Industries
- Electronic/Technology Products: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Automobiles & Auto Components: Department of Heavy Industries
- Pharmaceuticals drugs: Department of Pharmaceuticals
- Telecom & Networking Products: Department of Telecom
- Textile Products, MMF segment and technical textiles: Ministry of Textiles
- Food Products: Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- High Efficiency Solar PV Modules: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- White Goods (ACs & LED): Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- Speciality Steel: Ministry of Steel

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce.
2. It is a unified authority for regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** is a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

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Statement 2 is correct. The **IFSCA is a unified authority** for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.

At present, the **GIFT IFSC** is the maiden international financial services centre in India. Prior to the establishment of IFSCA, the domestic financial regulators, namely, RBI, SEBI, PFRDA and IRDAI regulated the business in IFSC.

The IFSC Authority has recently approved the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding **Operation Greens (TOP to TOTAL) scheme**:

1. It aims to protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post -harvest losses.
2. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides subsidy for transportation and hiring storage facilities for eligible crops.

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.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had recently extended the **Operation Greens Scheme from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits & vegetables (TOTAL)** for a period of six months on pilot basis as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post - harvest losses.

Ministry provides subsidy at 50 % of the cost of the following two components:

- Transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption centre; and/or
- Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops (for maximum period of 3 months).

Q.36) Which of the following is/are features of the **PM SVANidhi scheme**?

1. Collateral free working capital loans
2. Interest subsidy on regular repayment of loan

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 options are correct.

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched a scheme **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** to empower Street Vendors by not only extending loans to them, but also for their holistic development and economic upliftment.

The scheme intends to facilitate collateral free working capital loans of up to INR10,000/- of one-year tenure to street vendors, to help resume their businesses in the **urban areas, including surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.**

The PM SVANidhi scheme offers incentives in the form of:

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- interest subsidy at seven percent per annum on regular repayment of loan
- cashback on undertaking prescribed digital transactions
- eligibility for enhanced next tranche of loans

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the funds managed by **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**:

1. The Master Fund invests in mature businesses in core infrastructure sectors with long-term track record.
2. The Fund of Funds (FoF) invests through India-focused equity fund managers with a focus on social infrastructure sectors services.
3. The Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) is aimed at investing in growth and development stage in sectors that are strategically important to the Indian economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** currently manage three funds registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and are currently raising capital from domestic and international institutional investors.

--The **Master Fund** is an infrastructure fund primarily investing in operating assets in core infrastructure sectors such as roads, ports, airports, power etc.

It invests in mature businesses with long-term track record, often operating in regulated environments or under concession or long-term agreements.

--The **Fund of Funds (FoF)** invests through India-focused equity fund managers who have a strong track record of managing investments successfully.

It has a focus on social infrastructure sectors services such as healthcare, education, digital as well as financial services, logistics and consumer services.

--The **Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF)** is aimed at investing in growth and development stage investments in companies and sectors that are strategically important to the Indian economy.

The sectors of initial focus are financial services, food & agriculture, healthcare, education among others.

NIIF Strategic Opportunities Fund has set up a Debt Platform comprising an NBFC Infra Debt Fund and an NBFC Infra Finance Company.

Government has announced an investment of Rs 6000 cr as equity in NIIF Debt Platform.

Q.38) What was the mandate of **K.V. Kamath committee** set up by RBI recently?

- a) Parameters for restructuring of loans impacted by the COVID-19
- b) Classification of banks by size for potential merger
- c) Revision of monetary policy framework of India
- d) International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Reserve Bank of India** had formed a five-member committee under the chairmanship of former ICICI Bank Chief Executive **KV Kamath** to make recommendations on the **financial parameters** to be considered in the restructuring of loans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The committee has selected 26 sectors which will require restructuring based on its analyses of financial parameters hit due to the economic crash caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government has recently extended Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to Entities in 26 stressed sectors identified by Kamath Committee plus health care sector with credit outstanding of above Rs. 50 crore and up to 500 Crore as on 29.2.2020.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding **Prasar Bharti**:

1. It is a statutory body and Public Service Broadcaster of India.
2. It comprises of Doordarshan and All India Radio.

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.

Prasar Bharati is the Public Service Broadcaster of the country. It is a statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act and came into existence in 1997.

The Prasar Bharati comprises of All India Radio and Doordarshan Television Network, which were previously media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

All India Radio is India's Public Service Radio Broadcaster and the Radio vertical of Prasar Bharati.

Doordarshan is India's Public Service Television Network and the television vertical of Prasar Bharati. It is one of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of studios and transmitters.

Q.40) Which of the following institution has released the **Interstate Migrant Policy Index (IMPEX)**?

- a) India Migration Now
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- d) International Labour Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Interstate Migrant Policy Index (IMPEX)** is a regional adaptation of the international Migrant Integration Policy Index, conceptualized by the Migration Policy Group and the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, both nonprofit policy think-tanks based in Europe.

The IMPEX has been developed by Mumbai-based research non-profit India Migration Now (IMN), and it assesses states' performance on eight policy areas spanning more than 60 policy indicators.

The states of Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been most successful in integrating migrant workers, while crucial migrant receiving states, including Delhi, have done poorly.

Q.41) The **Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH)** is an initiative of which of the following institution/department?

- a) Department of Science & Technology

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- b) Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India
- c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- d) 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.42) Consider the following statements regarding the **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)** programme:

1. The program is managed by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
2. 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?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) 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.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019**:

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?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The 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.44) 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.45) 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.
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

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- 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.46) 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.47) 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.

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.

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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.48) 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.49) 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.

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.

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

Q.50) 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.51) 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.52) 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
- 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**.

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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.53) 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.54) 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.

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. 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.

Q.55) 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.56) 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.

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- 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.57) 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.

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.58) 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.59) 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?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **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.

Q.60) 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.61) 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.

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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.62) 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

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 disbursement 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.63) 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.

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Q.64) 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 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.65) 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.66) 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

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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.67) 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
- 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 Phillipines.

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

Q.68) 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.69) The **RE-Invest 2020** is being organised by which of the following institution /Ministry?

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- 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.

Q.70) 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.71) 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

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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.

-- 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.72) 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.73) Indian Navy have recently leased **Sea Guardian drones** form 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.

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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.74) 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?

- 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.75) 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

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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.76) 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
- 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.77) 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.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation of non-nuclear weapon countries.
2. It has been awarded Nobel Peace Prize for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of use of nuclear weapons.

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 **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** is promoting nuclear disarmament. ICAN is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in more than 100 countries and has been a leader in efforts that resulted in 122 United Nations member countries concurring with a draft agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in 2017.

Statement 2 is correct. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded with the **Nobel Peace Prize 2017** "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."

Q.2) What does the '**Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**' (BPfA) relate to?

- a) Women's rights
- b) Climate change
- c) Abolition of nuclear weapons
- d) Sustainable Development Goals

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995** took place in Beijing that came out with the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, a progressive blueprint for advancing women's rights.

The document identifies 12 critical areas of concern. In each critical area of concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives. In this way, the BPfA becomes a comprehensive guide to understanding and combatting the key barriers to gender equality.

Q.3) Which of the following defence agreement(s) is/are yet to be signed between **India and USA**?

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
2. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
3. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above agreements have already been signed by India and USA. The agreements include: General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**, 2002), Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**, 2016) and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**, 2018) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) was signed recently.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **USA's Presidential system**:

1. It does not follow the doctrine of Separation of Powers.
2. No person can be elected to the office of President and Vice President for more than two terms.

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: In the U.S. presidential system, the President is both the chief executive of the government and the head of state. The President oversees the executive branch of government, which includes the cabinet, or heads of various executive departments, and various administrative bureaus and agencies.

Statement 1 is incorrect. **Separation of powers** is a model that divides the government into separate branches, each of which has separate and independent powers. By having multiple branches of government, this system helps to ensure that no one branch is more powerful than another.

Typically, this system divides the government into three branches: the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch. The United States federal government and states divide their governments into these three branches.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **United States** placed a **limit of two terms** on its presidency by means of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1951. There are **no term limits for Vice Presidency**, Representatives and Senators, although there have been calls for term limits for those offices.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**:

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
2. India is a member of IPBES.

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 **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

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It is not a United Nations body. However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

All States Members of the United Nations are eligible for IPBES membership. **India** is a member since 2012.

Q.6) Which of the following correctly defines the 'principles of laïcité' that has been in news recently?

- a) Principle of secularism
- b) Equal protection of the law
- c) The market volatility being subdued by market forces
- d) Principle of territorial integrity of a State Nation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **1905 French law separating the Church and the State** is now over a hundred years old. **The laïcité (or secularism)** principle it defines, despite the term not being mentioned in the text, is unique in the world and is an integral part of France's contemporary political DNA.

Laïcité relies on the division between private life, where adherents believe religion belongs, and the public sphere, in which each individual, adherents believe, should appear as a simple citizen equal to all other citizens, devoid of ethnic, religious or other particularities.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the report '**Banking on Climate Change 2020**':

- 1. It has been released by Rainforest Action Network.
- 2. It notes that the total bank financing to fossil fuels industry has consistently reduced since the Paris Agreement of 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

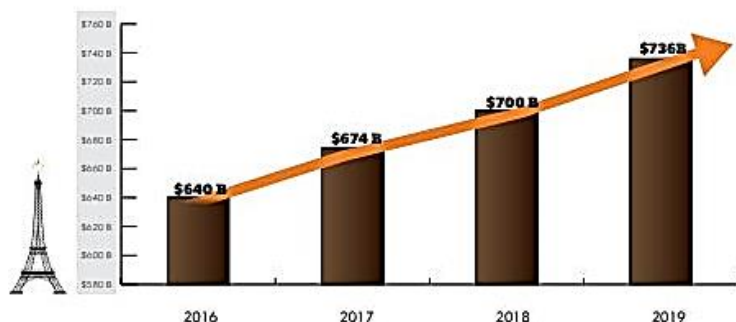
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The 11th edition of the annual fossil fuel finance report, '**Banking on Climate Change 2020**' has been released by the **Rainforest Action Network**. The report lays out banks' support for fossil fuels in the four years after the Paris Agreement was adopted.

Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the 2020 report, after the **Paris Agreement of 2015**, where countries agreed to try to limit average global warming to well below 2°C, global banks continued to finance the fossil fuel industry with \$2.7 trillion. The report finds that big U.S. banks dominate this arena with JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citi being the world's top fossil fuel financiers.

TOTAL FINANCING for Fossil Fuels (\$USD)



- » **35** global banks financed fossil fuels with **\$2.7 trillion** since Paris.
- » Bank financing for fossil fuels has increased each year since the Paris Agreement.
- » At this rate, fossil financing will hit **\$1 trillion** per year by **2030**.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**:

1. It was established recently on the proposal of United Nations Security Council
2. Election Commission of India is a member to A-WEB.

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 **National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea** first proposed the creation of a global election management body institution to the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) in 2010.

After a series of Working Group meetings, a Charter was drawn up and the name A-WEB was chosen upon the suggestion of the Election Commission of India.

Statement 2 is correct. **India is a member of AWEB** and the current chairman of AWEB is Sunil Arora (India-CEC). The chairperson serves a two-year term and presides over General Assembly and Executive Board meetings.

The Election Commission of India is organizing an International Virtual Election Visitors Programme 2020 (IEVP) for foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs)/Organisations from 05-07 Nov 2020, in the context of the ongoing Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**:

1. There is no provision under the agreement to withdraw from the agreement.
2. India has pledged to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

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. **Article 28 of the Paris agreement** enables parties to withdraw from the agreement after sending a withdrawal notification to the depositary,

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but notice can be given no earlier than three years after the agreement goes into force for the country. Withdrawal is effective one year after the depositary is notified.

After a three-year delay, the US has become the first nation in the world to formally withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.

Statement 2 is correct. **India has pledged three quantitative climate change goals:**

--reduction in the emissions intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level

--achieving about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

--creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **India and Italy**:

1. The Venetian merchant Marco Polo traveled to India in the 13th century.

2. Both countries are members of the Group of Twenty (G20).

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. **Marco Polo**, famous for his travels to Asia in the 13th century, returned to Italy 24 long years after he left. In India, Marco Polo stopped by in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Statement 2 is correct. 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.

Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022.

Q.11) The '**Urban October**' is an initiative of which of the following organisation?

- a) UN-Habitat
- b) United Nations Environment Program
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) United Nations Development Program

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Urban October** was launched by **UN-Habitat** in 2014 to emphasize the world's urban challenges and engage the international community towards the **New Urban Agenda**.

Each October, everyone interested in sustainable urbanization from national and local governments to universities, NGOs and communities is encouraged to hold or participate in activities, events, and discussions.

The month begins with **World Habitat Day** on the first Monday of the month, 5 October in 2020, and ends with World Cities Day on 31 October. Activities can take place on those specific days or at any time during the month.

World Cities Day 2020 is the seventh global celebration since it was launched on 31 October 2014 in Shanghai, China. The theme is Better City, Better Life and the sub-theme for this year is Valuing our communities and cities, and the Global Observance was hosted in Nakuru, Kenya.

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Q.12) Which of the following protected area(s) is/are part of **UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves**?

1. Panna Biosphere Reserve
2. Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve
3. Similipal Biosphere 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: All of the above have been recognized as part of “**World network of Biosphere Reserves**”.

Panna Biosphere Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) is the latest inclusion in this list taking the total count from India to 12. The others are: Nilgiri, Gulf of Mannar, Sunderban, Nanda Devi, Nokrek, Pachmarhi, Similipal, Achanakmar – Amarkantak, Great Nicobar, Agasthyamala and Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve.

The **Man and the Biosphere** (MAB) programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.

Q.13) The ‘**Water Risk Filter**’ is an initiative of which of the following organisation?

- a) UN Environment Programme
- b) World Wide Fund for Nature
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Launched in 2012, developed by **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** and the German finance institution DEG, the Water Risk Filter is a practical online tool that helps evaluate the severity of risk places faced by graphically illustrating various factors that can contribute to water risk.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released the **Water Risk Filter analysis** report.

According to the scenarios in the WWF Water Risk Filter, the 100 cities that are expected to suffer the greatest rise in water risk by 2050 are home to at least 350 million people as well as nationally and globally important economies.

Jaipur topped the list of Indian cities, followed by Indore and Thane.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**:

1. It is a system of trade concessions provided by certain developed countries to developing countries on non-reciprocal basis.
2. Presently, India does not benefit from the GSP of United States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The concept of **generalized tariff preferences** was originally mooted at the first **UNCTAD Conference**, which took place in Geneva in 1964. It was formally accepted in 1968 by the members of the UN at the second UNCTAD Conference in New Delhi, which established the key principles of the **generalized system of preferences (GSP)**, i.e. its application to all developing countries, non-reciprocity of concessions and internal non-discrimination.

Statement 2 is correct. In **March 2019**, President Trump's administration announced that it would revoke India's GSP status, since India failed to make improvements. India's GSP benefits were terminated in June 2019.

Q.15) Which of the following statements correctly defines the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty**?

- a) An arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- b) A multilateral treaty banning conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles
- c) A subset of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- d) An arms control treaty among the European Union members

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty** required the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate and permanently forswear all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers.

On Aug. 2, 2019, the United States formally withdrew from the INF Treaty citing Russian noncompliance and concerns about China's intermediate-range missile arsenal.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **India-Maldives relations**:

1. Maldives claim to Minicoy islands was resolved by the Maritime Boundary Treaty of 1976.
 2. Indian military's Operation Cactus foiled the 1988 coup attempt in Maldives.
- 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 **one-time claim of Maldives to Minicoy Island** was resolved by the **Maritime Boundary Treaty of 1976** between the two countries, whereby Maldives has recognized Minicoy as an integral part of India.

Statement 2 is correct. In 1988, a Maldivian group led by Abdullah Luthufi attempted to overthrow the government in Maldives. The group was aided by armed mercenaries of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), a Sri Lankan Tamil secessionist organisation.

The intervention by Indian armed forces - codenamed '**Operation Cactus**' - foiled the attempted coup.

Q.17) Which of the following country(s) is/are members of the **East Asia Summit**?

1. United States of America
2. China
3. India

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 **East Asia Summit** is a unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity.

Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level.

The membership of EAS consists of **ten ASEAN Member States** (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA. EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.

Q.18) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**?

- a) It placed significant restrictions on Iran's nuclear program
- b) It proposed lifting of sanctions from North Korea
- c) It proposed a climate partnership agreement between European Union and USA
- d) It mandated to keep global temperature rise below one-degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** signed by China, France, Germany, Iran, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States in 2015, placed significant **restrictions on Iran's nuclear program** in exchange for sanctions relief.

President Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the agreement in 2018, claiming it failed to curtail Iran's missile program and its influence in the region.

Despite European efforts to salvage the JCPOA, Iran began ignoring limitations on its nuclear program in 2019.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **New Development Bank (NDB)**:

1. It was established at the BRICS Summit in Fortaleza.
2. All members of the UN could be members of the NDB but the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.

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. At the fourth BRICS Summit in **New Delhi (2012)**, the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa considered the possibility of setting up a new Development Bank to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies, as well as in developing countries.

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Following the report from the Finance Ministers at the fifth BRICS summit in **Durban (2013)**, the leaders agreed on the feasibility of establishing the New Development Bank.

During the sixth BRICS Summit in **Fortaleza (2014)**, the leaders **signed** the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).

Statement 2 is correct. The Bank has an initial authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion. The initial subscribed capital is US\$ 50 billion, equally shared among founding (BRICS) members.

Bank's Articles of Agreement specify that all members of the United Nations could be members of the bank; however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.

Q.20) Which of the following country(s) is/are *not* member(s) to the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**?

1. Mongolia
2. Belarus
3. Afghanistan

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 **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** is a eight-member multilateral organization, established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

These countries, except for Uzbekistan, had been members of the Shanghai Five group, formed on 26 April 1996 with the signing of the Treaty on Deepening Military Trust in Border Regions. In 2001, during the annual summit in Shanghai, the five member nations first admitted Uzbekistan in the Shanghai Five mechanism (thus transforming it into the Shanghai Six).

In July 2015 in Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members. The four Observers of the SCO are Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

Q.21) The **Nagorno-Karabakh** is a disputed region between which of the following countries?

- a) Armenia and Azerbaijan
- b) Turkey and Armenia
- c) Turkey and Azerbaijan
- d) Iran and Azerbaijan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Nagorno-Karabakh** enclave is internationally recognised as Azerbaijani but has been run by ethnic Armenians since 1994.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have signed an agreement to end military conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh following six weeks of fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenians.

The peace deal was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

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Under the deal, Azerbaijan will hold on to areas of Nagorno-Karabakh that it has taken during the conflict. Armenia has also agreed to withdraw from several other adjacent areas over the next few weeks.



Q.22) What does the **Good Friday Agreement** relate to?

- a) Ceasefire agreement between Israel and Palestine
- b) Border agreement between Canada and United States of America
- c) Establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Arab governments
- d) Peace agreement for Northern Ireland

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Belfast Agreement** is also known as the **Good Friday Agreement**, because it was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998. It was an agreement between the British and Irish governments, and most of the political parties in **Northern Ireland**, on how Northern Ireland should be governed.

The talks leading to the Agreement addressed issues which had caused conflict during previous decades. The aim was to establish a new, devolved government for Northern Ireland in which unionists and nationalists would share power.

Q.23) 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

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- 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.24) 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.25) 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:

- 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.

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--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.26) 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.27) 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.

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

1. Germany
2. Russia
3. France

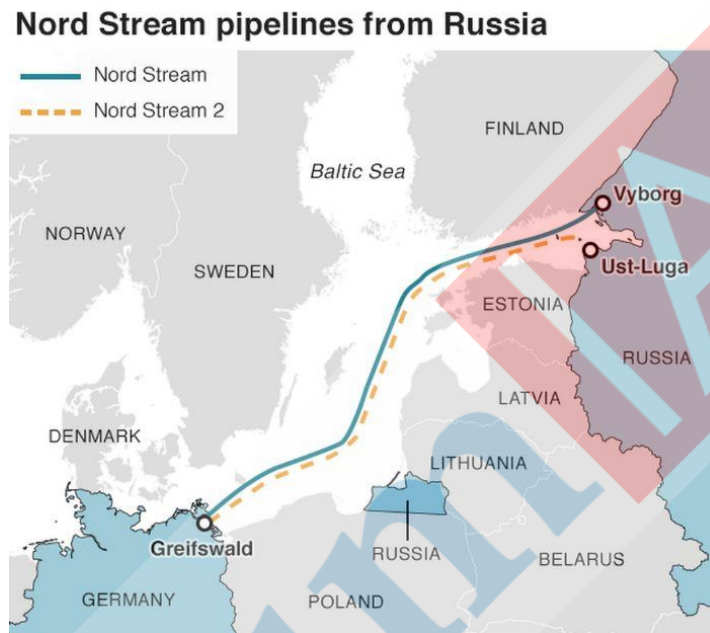
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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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: 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.



Q.29) 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.

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.30) 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

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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.31) 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.32) 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.

--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.33) Consider the following statements regarding the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**:

1. There is no country from Europe that has signed the RCEP agreement.

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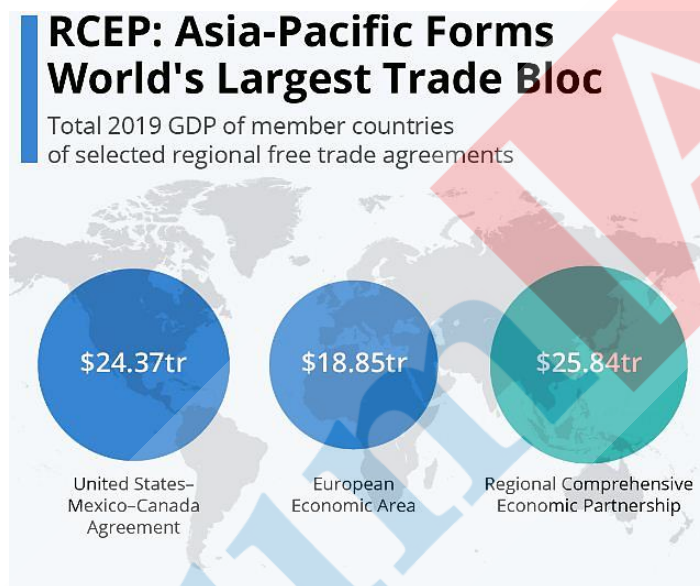
2. ASEAN already has free trade agreements (FTA) with all other members of the RCEP. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 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.34) 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.

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.35) 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.

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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. **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".

Q.36) 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.37) 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.

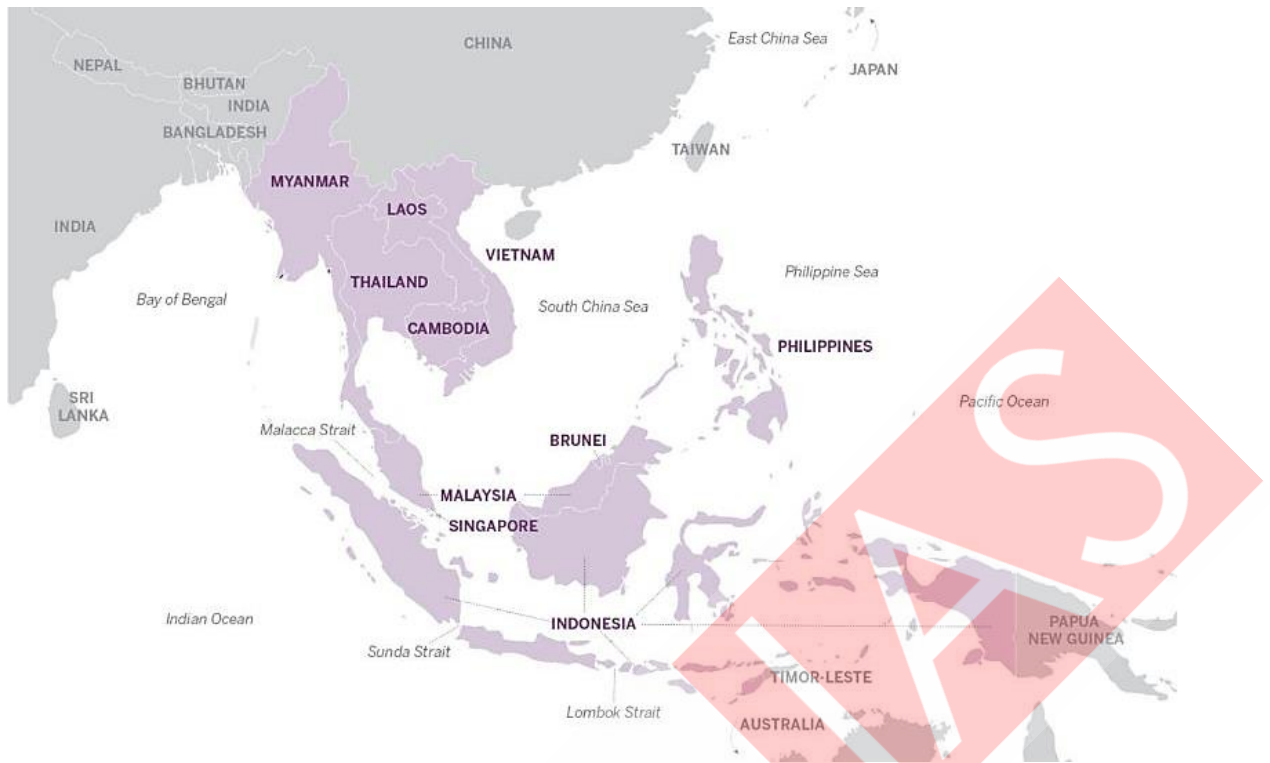
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 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.38) 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.39) 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

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- 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.40) 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
- 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.41) 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

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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.42) 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

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.43) 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.

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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.44) 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.

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

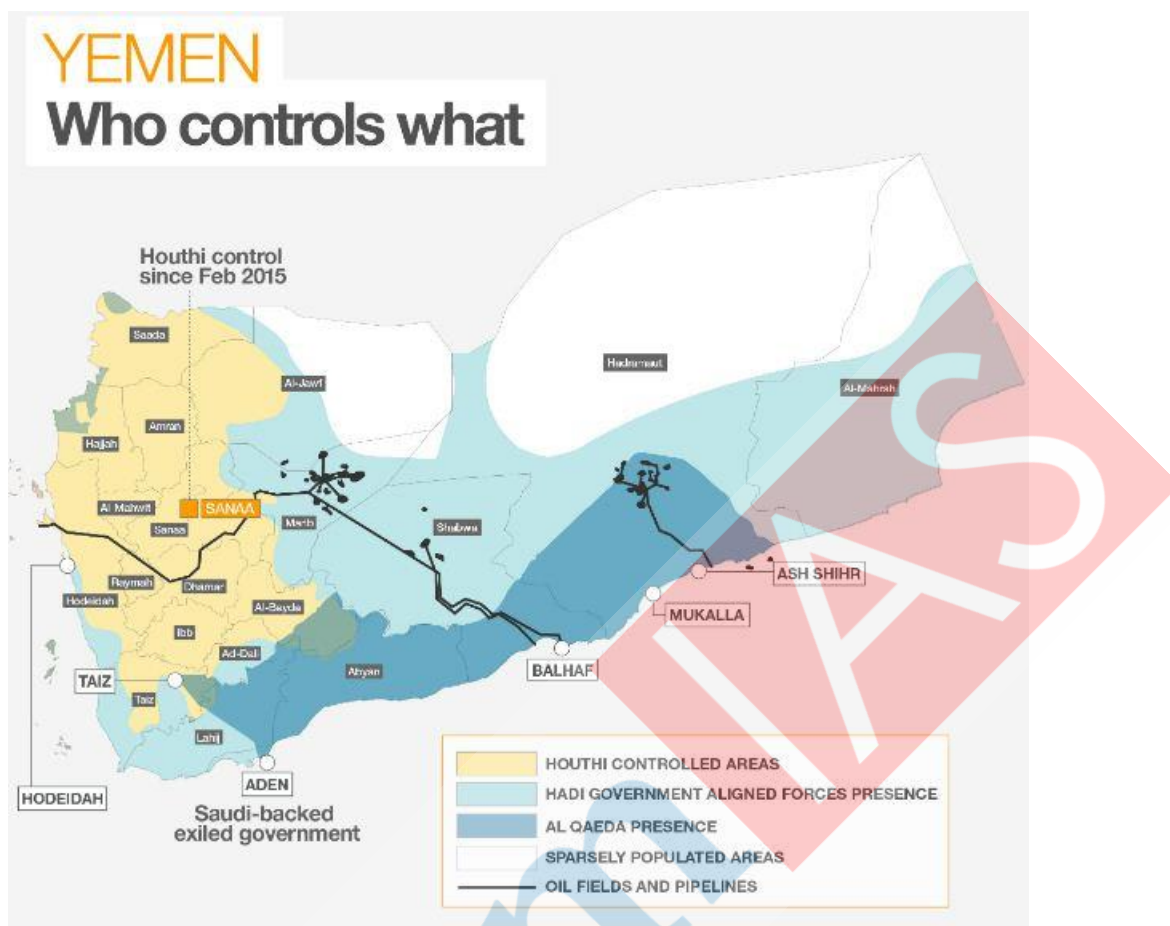
Q.45) **Houthis** belong to which of the following country?

- 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.46) 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

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.

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Q.47) 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.

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HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

Q.1) Which of the following event took place first?

- a) K.R. Narayanan became President of India
- b) Pokhran-II tests
- c) Kargil War
- d) Starting of Tenth Five Year Plan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **K.R. Narayanan** was elected as Vice President in 1992, he went on to become President in 1997.

The **Pokhran-II** tests were a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions conducted by India at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in May 1998. It was the second instance of nuclear testing conducted by India; the first test, code-named Smiling Buddha, was conducted in May 1974.

The **Kargil war** was fought between India and Pakistan between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LOC).

The time period for **Tenth FYP was 2002-07**.

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

- 1. Creation of State of Haryana
- 2. Nagaland was granted statehood
- 3. Gujarat and Maharashtra carved out of Bombay

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: On **1 November 1956**, Bombay State was re-organized under the States Reorganisation Act on linguistic lines, absorbing various territories including the Saurashtra and Kutch States, which ceased to exist. **On 1 May 1960**, Bombay State was dissolved and split on linguistic lines into the two states of Gujarat, with Gujarati speaking population and Maharashtra, with Marathi speaking population.

Nagaland attained statehood with the enactment of the state of **Nagaland Act in 1962** by the Parliament.

On **1 November 1966**, **Haryana** was carved out on the basis of that the parts of Punjab which were to be Haryana's "Hindi-speaking areas."

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Chart 2

Linguistic reorganization continues right after 1956 SRC (1956-1966)

1957

Naga Hill Tuensang Area was carved out of Assam as UT



1960

Gujarat and Maharashtra were carved out of Bombay



1961

Goa joined the Indian Union and with it, European colonialism came to an end on the subcontinent

1962

Pondicherry officially became a part of the Union

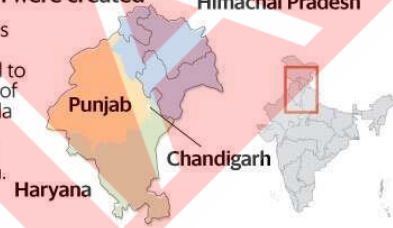
1963

Nagaland was granted statehood

1966

Punjab, Haryana, UTs Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh were created

Akali Dal's protests for linguistic reorganization led to the former states of East Punjab, Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Himachal Pradesh.



Q.3) Which of the following statements correctly defines 'Avadhanam'?

- A literary performance popular from ancient India
- A traditional fresco painting culture of rural Andhra Pradesh
- Livestock rearing practice in North-East India
- Dance performance in front of Rajputana kings

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Avadhanam is a literary performance popular from the very ancient days in India. Avadhānaṃ originated as a Sanskrit literary process and is revived by poets in Telugu and Kannada in modern times. It involves the partial improvisation of poems using specific themes, metres, forms, or words.

The 'International 'Sataavadhanam'' program was launched virtually by the Vice President recently. It was organized by Dr. Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**:

- He was twice elected President of the Indian National Congress.
- He was the first education minister of independent India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was **twice** elected President of the Indian National Congress, the first time in 1923 when he was only thirty - five years old, and the second time in 1940. He continued as the President of the Congress

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till 1946, for no election was held during this period as almost every Congress leader was in prison on account of the Quit India Movement in 1942.

Statement 2 is correct. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad served the country from 1947 to 1958 as the first **Minister of Education** in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.

National Education Day is celebrated every year on November 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Acharya JB Kripalani**:

1. He opposed the Quit India movement and left Congress for a brief period in 1942.
2. He was the president of Indian National Congress when India gained independence.

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. **Acharya JB Kripalani** was arrested in 1942 during the Quit India movement and released along with the other Congress leaders in 1945.

Statement 2 is correct. He was well-known as a Gandhian and a socialist. He became the Congress president in 1946 and resigned from his position in 1947, soon after Independence.

In 1975, when Emergency was declared, Kripalani was among the first political leaders to be arrested.

He earned the moniker 'Acharya' around 1922 when he was teaching at the Gujarat Vidyapith

Q.6) 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**.

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Q.7) 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".

Q.8) 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.

Q.9) 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

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- 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 Jayadvaj 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, Chakradhvaj Singha appointed Lachit Borphukan as the Commander-in-Chief of Ahom kingdom.

Q.10) 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.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **India Energy Forum 2020**:

1. It is the inaugural edition being organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
2. It is an intergovernmental summit having participation of heads of governments from ISA 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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

The 2020 edition of the **India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK** is its fourth edition. The event is hosted by IHS Markit. The theme of this edition is "**India's Energy Future in a world of Change**".

It is not an intergovernmental summit, rather the event will convene an international group of speakers and a community of over a thousand delegates from India and over 30 countries, including from regional energy companies, energy-related industries, institutions and governments.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **Public Affairs Index (PAI)**:

1. It has been released by the NITI Aayog.
2. As per PAI, Kerala is the best governed state in large states category.

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. **Public Affairs Index (PAI)** is a data driven platform to rank the 30 States of India from the lens of governance. **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)** has developed PAI as a unique statistical tool to evaluate the performance of governance in the States. PAI is largely based on secondary data and has been extracted from Union Government Ministries and Departments.

PAI is released by the Public Affairs Centre, a not-for-profit organisation headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan.

Statement 2 is correct. **Kerala** (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large State category in terms of governance.