

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

January, 2021 - (First Week)

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

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GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Which of the following region is/are correctly matched to the respective country?

1. Khartoum - Sudan
2. Juba - South Sudan
3. Darfur - 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: **Khartoum** is the capital of **Sudan** and **Juba** is the capital of **South Sudan**. Darfur is a conflict zone in the Western Sudan.



Q.2) Which of the following tribe is/are correctly matched to the respective State?

1. Malayali - Tamil Nadu
2. Pateliya - Madhya Pradesh
3. Oraon - Jharkhand

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: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Malayali** is a tribal group found in the Eastern Ghats of northern **Tamil Nadu**. The name derives from malai-alam meaning "hill-place," denoting an inhabitant of the hills. They are the largest Scheduled Tribe in Tamil Nadu.

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Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Pateliya tribals** found in the Indian states of **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan** and some parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka. The term 'Pateliya' has been derived from the term Patel which locally means 'headman'.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Oraon** are a Dravidian-speaking ethnic group inhabiting in Indian states of **Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh**. They predominantly speak Kurukh as their native language.

Q.3) Which of the following beach(s) in India have been awarded with the **International Blue Flag Certification**?

1. Shivrajpur (Gujarat)
2. Ghoghla (Diu)
3. Rushikonda (Andhra 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: **Blue Flag certification** is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by "**Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark**" based on 33 stringent criteria.

India secured the International Blue Flag Certification for eight beaches on 6th October 2020, when an International Jury comprising of member organizations UNEP, UNWTO, UNESCO, IUCN, ILS, FEE etc. announced the award at Copenhagen, Denmark.

The beaches where the International Blue Flags were hoisted recently are: Kappad (Kerala), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kolar Leaf-nosed Bat**:

1. This species is endemic to Karnataka.
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat** is exclusive to Karnataka. Till few years back, it was found in only two caves in the village of Hanumanahalli in Kolar district of Karnataka. For reasons that are still unknown, the bat became locally extinct in one of the two caves.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Kolar Leaf-nosed Bat (Hipposideros hypophyllus)** is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List with decreasing population trend.

There are five species of bats that live in the caves of Hanumanahalli, of which the Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat is just one. According to recent estimates, there are just 150 Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bats left in these caves.

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Carbon Neutrality**:

1. It is achieved when anthropogenic CO₂ emissions are balanced by anthropogenic CO₂ removals over a specified period.
2. India has targeted to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2050 as per its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

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. **Net zero carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions** are achieved when anthropogenic CO₂ emissions are balanced by anthropogenic CO₂ removals over a specified period. Net zero CO₂ emissions are also referred to as carbon neutrality.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs):**

- To reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 levels;
- To increase the share of non-fossil-based energy resources to 40% of installed electric power capacity by 2030, with help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- To create an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5–3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Q.6) Which of the following port(s) is/are correctly matched to respective country?

1. Sihanoukville Port - Cambodia
2. Nha Rong Port - Vietnam
3. Kuantan Port - Malaysia

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 correctly matched.

Indian Naval Ship Kiltan, carrying humanitarian assistance as part of ongoing Mission Sagar-III arrived at **Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia** after offloading relief material for flood-affected people at **Vietnam's Nha Rong Port**, Ho Chi Minh City.

Kuantan Port is a multipurpose port in the East Coast Region of Peninsular Malaysia.

Q.7) **Dard Aryans** are tribal people in which of the following State/UT?

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

Correct answer: A

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Explanation: Some 200 km from Leh are the villages of Dha, Hanu, Garkone and Darchik on both sides of the Indus River, inhabited by the **Buddhist Dard Tribes**. The villages are together called the “Aryan valley. The word ‘Dard’ is derived from a Sanskrit word, ‘Daradas’, which means people who live on hillsides.

The ‘Dard Aryan’ is not among the list of notified Schedule Tribes.

Meteorological (Met) Centre at Leh (Ladakh) has been launched recently. It will provide forecast for important tourist places like Nubra, Changthang, Pangong Lake, Zaskar, Kargil, Drass, Dha-Baima (Aryan valley), Khalsi among others.

Q.8) Monpa tribe belongs to which of the following State/UT?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Monpa people** are of Mongoloid descent and live in the regions of Tawang and West Kameng in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

The art of making **Monpa handmade paper** originated over 1000 years ago. Gradually the art became an integral part of local custom and culture in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. Once produced in every household in Tawang, this handmade paper was a major source of livelihood for the locals.

However, the handmade paper industry almost disappeared in the last 100 years; prompting KVIC to plan revival of this ancient art.

KVIC has commissioned a Monpa handmade paper making unit in Tawang which not only aims at reviving the art but also engaging the local youths with this art professionally and earn.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India is the world’s largest producer and exporter of turmeric.
- 2. Erode turmeric is recognized a Geographical Indication (GI).

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. **India is the largest manufacturer, consumer and exporter of Turmeric**. Turmeric occupies about 6% of the total area under spices and condiments in India.

Curcumin, a substance found in turmeric, in the pharmaceutical for treating critical ailments like cancer, food and cosmetic industries is a major factor driving the growth of the global curcumin market. The rise in demand of curcumin is largely due to the growing awareness among consumers regarding its anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

Statement 2 is correct. **Erode’s** unique slender turmeric has a GI tag for its distinctive fragrance and color.

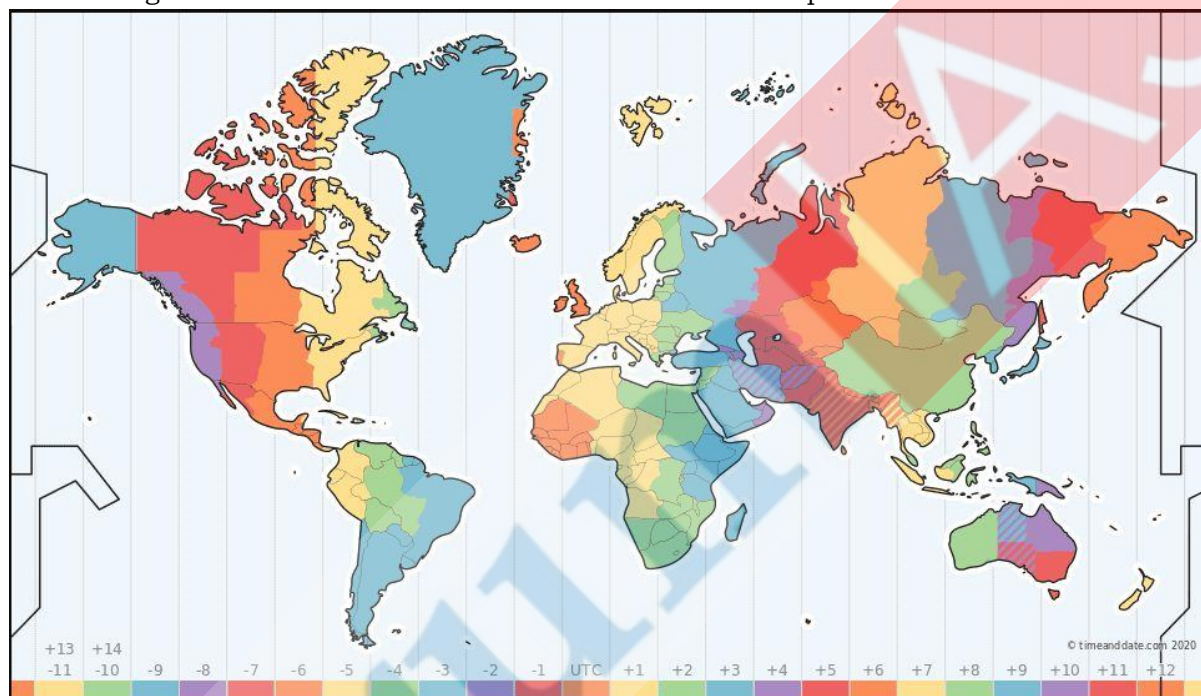
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Q.10) Which of the following country (or part of it) **celebrates the New Year before** the rest of them?

- a) Japan
- b) Australia
- c) China
- d) Myanmar

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Japan Standard Time is 9 hours ahead of UTC and Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) is 10 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Eastern region of Australia celebrates the New Year before Japan.



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ECONOMICS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding a **Zero-Coupon Bond**?

1. It does not offer any profit at maturity.
 2. It trades at a higher price than the face value.
- 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.

A **zero-coupon bond** is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value. The difference between the purchase price of a zero-coupon bond and the par value, indicates the investor's return.

Q.2) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **floating rate bonds**?

1. The interest rate offered is fixed while the maturity period is **not** defined.
2. The rate of interest of a floating rate bond is generally linked to a benchmark rate and is reset at a regular interval.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. Unlike traditional bonds that pay a fixed rate of interest, **floating-rate bonds have a variable rate of interest**. The maturity period is not variable. Statement 2 is correct. The rate of interest of a floating rate bond is linked to a benchmark rate and is reset at a regular interval.

Interest rate risk is largely mitigated as these bonds will pay higher return when prevailing rates are high. Central banks issue floating rate bonds from time to time.

The Government of India recently announced the Sale (Re-issue) of 'GoI Floating Rate Bonds, 2033' for a notified amount of Rs2,000 crore (nominal) through price based auction.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched **Digital Payment index (DPI)** for India:

1. It has been launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. DPI will capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.
3. DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) 1 and 3 only

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Reserve Bank of India** has constructed a composite **Digital Payments Index (DPI)** comprising of 5 broad parameters: (i) Payment Enablers (weight 25%), (ii) Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%), (iii) Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%), (iv) Payment Performance (45%) and (v) Consumer Centricity (5%).

Statement 2 is correct. The RBI-DPI aims to measure the deepening and **penetration of digital payments** in the country over different time periods.

Statement 3 is correct. The RBI-DPI has been constructed with **March 2018 as the base period**, i.e. DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100. The DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 work out to 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth. Going forward, RBI-DPI shall be published on RBI's website on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**:

1. It is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.
2. IFSCA is an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

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

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has been established on April 27, 2020 under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**.

Statement 1 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.

Statement 2 is correct. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the **International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**.

The IOSCO is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **GST revenue** this financial year [2020-21] so far:

1. The GST revenues during December 2020 have been the highest since the introduction of GST.

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2. The December 2020 is fifth month in a row in the current financial year to have GST revenue more than 1 Lakh crore.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

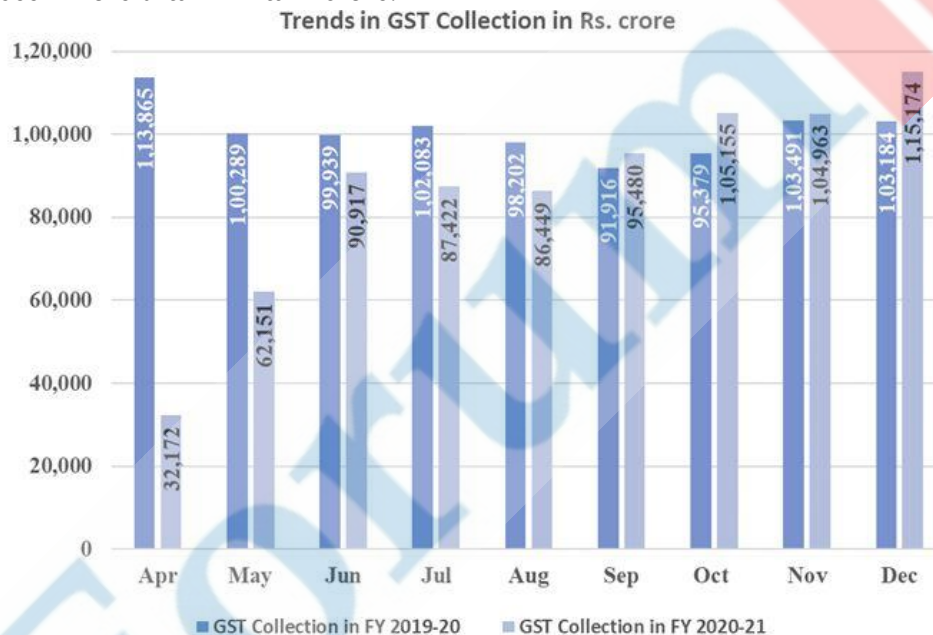
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of **December 2020 is Rs 1,15,174 crore**. The GST revenues during December 2020 have been the **highest since the introduction of GST** and it is the first time that it has crossed ₹ 1.15 lakh crore.

The highest GST collection till now was ₹ 1,13,866 crore in the month of April 2019. The revenues of April normally tend to be high since they pertain to the returns of March, which marks the end of financial year.

Statement 2 is incorrect. This is the **third month in a row in the current financial year** after the economy has been showing signs of recovery post pandemic that the GST revenues have been more than ₹ 1 lakh crore.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The white blood cells consist primarily of macrophages, B-lymphocytes and T-lymphocytes.
2. Active immunity can only be acquired by surviving the infection itself.

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. 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**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Active immunity is stimulation of the immune system to produce antigen-specific humoral (antibody) and cellular immunity.

One way to acquire active immunity is to survive infection with the disease-causing form of the organism.

Another way to produce active immunity is by vaccination. Vaccines interact with the immune system and often produce an immune response similar to that produced by the natural infection, but they do not subject the recipient to the disease and its potential complications. Many vaccines also produce immunologic memory similar to that acquired by having the natural disease.

Q.2) What is **Pneumosil**, which has been in news recently?

- a) A new strain of SARS-CoV-2
- b) Pneumococcal vaccine indigenously developed in India
- c) The Pneumococcal disease caused by SARS-CoV-2
- d) A pentavalent vaccine to be administered under the Universal Vaccination Programme

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Serum Institute of India (SII) unveiled India's first indigenously developed **pneumococcal vaccine** recently. **Pneumosil**, was developed through a collaboration spanning over a decade with the health organisation PATH and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It targets the pneumococcal bacterium, which causes pneumonia and other serious life-threatening diseases such as meningitis and sepsis.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Oxford/AstraZeneca Vaccine** for COVID-19:

1. It is an RNA type vaccine.
2. It has to be stored under extremely cold temperature (-70C) to maintain its effectiveness.

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. The Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine is not a RNA type vaccine; it rather is made from a weakened version of a common cold virus (known as an **adenovirus**) from chimpanzees that carries genetic material from S protein of SARS-COV-2 to generate immune response in human body.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can be transported and stored at **2C-8C temperature** for up to six months.

It is being produced in India by the Serum Insititute of India under the brandname COVISHIELD.

It has been approved for use in the UK by the regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Q.4) Which of the following **COVID-19 vaccine** has become the first one to receive emergency validation from **World Health Organisation**?

- a) Oxford University/AstraZeneca developed COVISHIELD
- b) Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19
- c) Moderna COVID-19 vaccine
- d) Sputnik V

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) today listed the Comirnaty COVID-19 mRNA vaccine for emergency use, making the **Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine** the first to receive emergency validation from WHO since the outbreak began a year ago.

The **WHO's Emergency Use Listing (EUL)** opens the door for countries to expedite their own regulatory approval processes to import and administer the vaccine. It also enables UNICEF and the Pan-American Health Organization to procure the vaccine for distribution to countries in need.

The Comirnaty vaccine requires storage using an ultra-cold chain; it needs to be stored at -60°C to -90°C degrees. This requirement makes the vaccine more challenging to deploy in settings where ultra-cold chain equipment may not be available or reliably accessible. For that reason, WHO is working to support countries in assessing their delivery plans and preparing for use where possible.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **“Thirty Metre Telescope”**:

- 1. It is being built at Hanle, Ladakh.
- 2. The TMT project is an international partnership among various nations including China and 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. The **Thirty Metre Telescope** is proposed to be sited on top of the **Mauna Kea**, Hawaii. Project is expected to be completed in the early 2030s.

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Statement 2 is correct. The Thirty-meter telescope (TMT) project 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).

The “Thirty Meter” in TMT refers to the 30-meter diameter of the main mirror or the primary mirror. Since making a single 30-m glass blank for astronomy is not possible, it comprises 492 segments of 1.45-m each. The complex project involves making all the 492 segments to act as one single mirror of 30-m diameter while the telescope is tracking the sky with extreme precision.

India’s contribution relates to the software, electronics and hardware to control the 492 segments behave as a single mirror within a few nanometers. More than a dozen industries are involved in making these very precision systems.

Q.6) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term ‘**Brachytherapy**’?

- a) Internal radiation therapy to treat cancers and tumors
- b) Supplementary oxygen for people suffering from lung disease
- c) A branch of traditional Indian medicinal system
- d) Prophylaxis for vaccine side-effects

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Brachytherapy** is a type of radiation therapy used to treat cancer. It places **radioactive sources** inside the patient to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors. A small radioactive material called a source is put into your body, inside or close to the cancer.

There are different types of radioactive sources (also called implants) such as seeds, wires or discs. They deliver radiotherapy to the area, destroying the cancer cells. Healthy tissue near to the cancer gets a lot less radiation.

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Mumbai has developed Eye Cancer therapy in the form of the first indigenous Ruthenium 106 Plaque for treatment of Ocular Tumours.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Random number generators have application in field of cryptography.
- 2. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is the only institution in India to have developed a Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG).

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. **Random numbers** have essential roles in many fields, such as Quantum Communication, cryptography (key generation, key wrapping, authentication etc.), scientific simulations, lotteries and fundamental physics experiments. Cryptography requires numbers that attackers can’t guess.

The generation of genuine randomness is generally considered impossible with classical means. Statement 2 is incorrect. **DRDO Young Scientist Laboratory for Quantum Technologies (DYSL-QT)** has developed a Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG) which detects random quantum events and converts those into a stream of binary digits.

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The Laboratory has developed a fiber-optic branch path based QRNG. Branch path based QRNG is based on the principle that if a single photon is incident on a balanced beam splitter, it will take either of the beam-splitter output paths randomly. As the path chosen by photon is random, the randomness is translated to sequence of bits.

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Proxima Centauri is the nearest star to the Sun.
 2. BLC1 is a radio signal being estimated to have emitted from Proxima Centauri.
- 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. **Alpha Centauri star system**, a triple system, is the nearest star system to our sun. Of the three stars in Alpha Centauri, Proxima is thought to be the one actually closest to our sun, at 4.22 light-years away.

Statement 2 is correct. **Breakthrough Listen project**, started by the legendary physicist Stephen Hawking, regularly spot blasts of radio waves using two powerful telescopes– the Parkes Observatory in Australia or the Green Bank Observatory in the US.

BLC1 (Breakthrough Listen Candidate 1) is a candidate SETI radio signal announced in December 2020, possibly coming from the star Proxima Centauri. and an apparent shift in its frequency is consistent with the Doppler effect caused by the movement of Proxima b, a planet of Proxima Centauri.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pneumonia**:

1. It causes infection in the lungs.
 2. Bacteria, viruses, or fungi may cause pneumonia.
- 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.

Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that can cause mild to severe illness in people of all ages. It causes the air sacs, or alveoli, of the lungs to fill up with fluid or pus. Bacteria, viruses, or fungi may cause pneumonia. Symptoms can range from mild to serious and may include a cough with or without mucus (a slimy substance), fever, chills, and trouble breathing.

Some patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have had pneumonia.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) What does the **Nelson Mandela Rules 2015** relate to?

- a) Fair treatment of prisoners
- b) Minimum civil-political rights in a democratic nation
- c) Standards for members of the Judiciary
- d) Universal ownership of the global commons

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners** were first adopted in 1957, and in 2015 were revised and adopted by the UN General Assembly as the Nelson Mandela Rules.

They are supplemented by the UN Bangkok Rules on women prisoners.

The Rules give guidance on all aspects of prison management, from admission and classification to the prohibition of torture and limits on solitary confinement. There is guidance on healthcare, recruitment and training of prison staff, as well as disciplinary sanctions.

Q.2) Which of the following country is not a member of the **Arab League**?

- a) Iran
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Syria
- d) Yemen

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **League of Arab States, or Arab League**, is a voluntary association of countries whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking or where Arabic is an official language. It has 22 members including Palestine, which the League regards as an independent state.

Its stated aims are to strengthen ties among member states, coordinate their policies and direct them towards a common good.



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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**:

1. It is sub-group under the G20 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
2. India and China both are member economies to the APEC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India is not a member to APEC.**

APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. United Kingdom was among the founding members of European Coal and Steel Community.
2. Despite Brexit being enforced, Northern Ireland will continue to be part of the European 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: Statement 1 is incorrect. In 1950, the concept of a European trade area was first established. The **European Coal and Steel Community had six founding members: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.**

In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established a common market. It eliminated customs duties in 1968. It put in place standard policies, particularly in trade and agriculture.

In 1973, the ECSC added Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The UK voted to leave the European Union on June 23rd, 2016 by a majority of 51.9 to 48.1 per cent. **Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom**, therefore UK's departure from the EU means Northern Ireland is leaving the bloc too.

Q.5) The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** belongs to which of the following region?

- a) European Union
- b) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- c) Mercosur
- d) NAFTA

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** is a privacy and security law of the European Union. Though it was drafted and passed by the **European Union (EU)**, it imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.

Some of the key privacy and data protection requirements of the GDPR include:

- Requiring the consent of subjects for data processing
- Anonymizing collected data to protect privacy
- Providing data breach notifications
- Safely handling the transfer of data across borders

Q.6) The '**CANZUK**' acronym includes which of the following country(s)?

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

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: **CANZUK** is an acronym for the theoretical cultural, political, and economic community comprising **Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom** as part of an international body similar in scope to the former European Economic Community.

The idea of a trade bloc between Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand gained traction after the 2016 Brexit vote.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

1. The Declaration addresses both individual and collective rights of Indigenous people.
2. India voted against the declaration at United Nations.

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 **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** is a comprehensive statement addressing the human rights of indigenous peoples. It was drafted and formally debated for over twenty years prior to being adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007.

The document emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to live in dignity, to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their self-determined development, in keeping with their own needs and aspirations.

The Declaration addresses both **individual and collective rights**, cultural rights and identity, rights to education, health, employment, language, and others.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. India voted in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**:

1. It is a vaccination specialized body of the United Nations.
2. India is currently the chair of the GAVI Alliance Board.

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. **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance** is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization. It is not a United Nations body.

Gavi's impact draws on the strengths of its core partners, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and plays a critical role in strengthening primary health care (PHC), bringing us closer to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Statement 2 is incorrect. On the Gavi board, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation hold permanent seats; representatives of other Gavi partners serve on time-limited basis.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board. The Gavi Board is currently chaired by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a Nigerian-born economist.

Q.9) Which of the following country(s) is/are member of the **Arctic Council**?

1. Japan
2. Finland
3. Sweden

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Arctic Council consists of the **eight Arctic States**: Canada; Denmark; Finland; Iceland; Norway; Russia; Sweden; United States.

The Arctic states have territories within the Arctic and thus carry the role as stewards of the region. Their national jurisdictions and international law govern the lands surrounding the Arctic Ocean and its waters.

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International law identifies four global commons, namely the High Seas, the Atmosphere, the Antarctica and the Outer Space. Arctic is mostly governed by Arctic Council states.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Security Council (UNSC) membership**:

1. Every member country of the United Nation has at least once been a member of UNSC.
 2. In 2020, India has been elected to the UNSC membership for the first time in 21st century.
- 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. More than 50 United Nations Member States have **never** been Members of the Security Council.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that country's interests are affected.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India has entered the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for the eighth time in 2021-22.

India was also elected for the **2011-12 of UNSC membership**.

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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Legislative powers of the President:**

1. Constitution mandates the circumstances, which rendered it necessary for an ordinance to be promulgated, to be made public through gazette notification.
2. An ordinance can be withdrawn by President.
3. The President can only promulgate ordinance on the subjects on which Parliament is competent to make laws.

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) 3 only

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. There is no provision under the constitution mandating the circumstances to be made public. **Article 123(1)** states that —

If at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinances as the circumstances appear to him to require.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 123(2)(b) states that an Ordinance promulgated under this article shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament, but every such Ordinance **may be withdrawn at any time by the President.**

Statement 3 is correct. Article 123(3) states that -

If and so far as an Ordinance under this article makes any provision which Parliament would not under this Constitution be competent to enact, it shall be void.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Constitutional provisions on the **sessions of Parliament:**

1. Six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session of a House of Parliament.
2. Each House of Parliament shall meet at least 50 times in a Financial Year.

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 85(1)** states that the President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but **six months** shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Constitution **does not specify when or for how many days** Parliament should meet.

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HISTORY

Q.1) Which of the following architect and the city designed is/are correctly matched?

1. Otto Koenigsberger - Bhubaneswar
2. Le Corbusier - Chandigarh
3. Louis Kahn - Shimla

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. **German architect Otto Koenigsberger** worked for the Maharaja of Mysore in the late 1930s, when he was commissioned by Tata & Sons to develop the industrial township of Jamshedpur in the early 1940s. He would later design the masterplan for **Bhubaneswar (1948) and Faridabad (1949)**.

Option 2 is correctly matched. With English architect **Maxwell Fry** and his wife **Jane Drew**, **Le Corbusier** with his cousin **Pierre Jeanneret** would design many of **Chandigarh's civic buildings**, from courts to housing. Corbusier's modernist approach, without decoration, gave India its brutalist, bare concrete buildings.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. The American Architect **Louis Kahn** had designed the **IIT Ahmedabad** campus. The design for IIM Ahmedabad (1962-1974) carried the essence of learning in the humility of its material, and the way spaces were managed — placing the dormitories, the library and classrooms at the same level, or the faculty residences across a waterbody.

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

1. Haripura Session of Congress
2. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting tricolor at Port Blair
3. Cabinet Mission arriving in India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Indian National Congress met at **Haripura during 19 to 22 February 1938**, under the presidency of Subhas Chandra Bose.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose visited Port Blair during the last three days of December 1943 and hoisted the tricolor at Port Blair on **30th December 1943**.

Cabinet Mission arrived in New Delhi on 24 March 1946. The main objective of Cabinet Mission was to find out ways and means for the peaceful transfer of power in India, to suggest measures for the formation of a Constitution making machinery and also to set up the Interim Government.

The Havelock, Neil and Ross Island were renamed to Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep in 2018.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the ‘**Genomic Surveillance Consortium**’ (**INSACOG**):

1. It has been launched by the World Health Organisation.
2. Its mandate is for epidemiological surveillance of circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2.

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: Recently **National Task Force** discussed testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK.

Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the recommendation of the NTF, a genomic surveillance consortium, INSACOG, has been formed under the leadership of **National Center for Disease Control (NCDC)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The consortium is aimed at laboratory and epidemiological surveillance of circulating **strains of SARS-CoV-2** in the Country.

Q.2) The **Thoubal Multipurpose Project** is located in which of the following State?

- a) Manipur
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Sikkim

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Union Home Minister recently inaugurated several projects in Manipur including the **Thoubal Multipurpose project**. This is a project intended generate electricity and to supply water for irrigation and drinking.

The Thoubal Multipurpose Project, located in the Mapithel valley in the hill districts of Urkhul and Senapati, was approved by the Planning Commission in 1980. Construction started in 1989.

The project is aimed at irrigating an estimated 35,104 hectares of the region surrounding the project.

Q.3) Which of the following vaccines are provided under the **Universal Vaccination Programme** of Government of India?

1. Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine
2. Hepatitis-B vaccine
3. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

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: All of the above are covered under the **Universal Vaccination Programme**.

Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization' (EPI) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. In 1985, the programme was modified as 'Universal Immunization Programme' (UIP) to be implemented in phased manner to cover all districts in the country by 1989-90 with the one of largest health programme in the world.

Vaccines provided under UIP: BCG vaccine; Pentavalent Vaccine (covering Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilis influenza type b infection and Hepatitis B), Rotavirus Vaccine, Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Measles vaccine, Japanese encephalitis, DPT booster (a combined vaccine; it protects children from Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis), Tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine.

Q.4) The **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)** is to pass through which of the following state(s)?

1. Punjab
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Jharkhand

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: **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)** of 1856 route km starts from Sahnewal near Ludhiana (Punjab) and will pass through the states of **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand** to terminate at Dankuni in **West Bengal**.

It is being constructed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), that has been set up as a special purpose vehicle to build and operate Dedicated Freight Corridors.

DFCCIL is also constructing the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (1504 route km) that connects Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai and will traverse through the states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **farming sector reforms** brought in by the Union Government:

1. State Governments are prohibited from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.
2. The process of price determination in a contract between a farmer and a buyer must be mentioned in the agreement.

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 **Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020** allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts.

Such trade can be conducted in an 'outside trade area', i.e., any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers' produce including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

The act prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020** provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.

The price of farming produce should be mentioned in the agreement. For prices subjected to variation, a guaranteed price for the produce and a clear reference for any additional amount above the guaranteed price must be specified in the agreement. Further, the process of price determination must be mentioned in the agreement.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. Its mandate is to promote cultivation, trade and export growth of medicinal plants 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. In order to promote medicinal plants sector, Government of India set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in 2000. Currently the board is working under the **Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The primary mandate of NMPB is to develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination between various ministries/ departments/ organization and implementation of support policies/programs for overall **(conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants** sector both at the Central /State and International level.

NMPB has recently launched a Consortia for Medicinal Plants to address/deliberate (not limited to) on Quality Planting Material, Research & Development, Cultivation, Trade of medicinal plants/market linkage etc.

Q.7) Which of the following Institution/Ministry organizes the **National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare Systems** in India?

- a) Ministry of Health Affairs
- b) NITI Aayog

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- c) National Medical Commission (NMC)
- d) World Health Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare holds the National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare Systems in India. While the first one was held in 2013 at Srinagar to recognize, showcase and document various best practices and innovations in public healthcare system, the last was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare digitally inaugurated the 7th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices through a video conference recently.

The New Health Management Information System (HMIS) along with the Operational Guidelines for TB services at AB-HWCs and the Operational Guidelines 2020 on Active Case Detection and Regular Surveillance for Leprosy were also launched.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems**:

1. It is being implemented by the Department of Science & Technology.
2. The mission aims at developing Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH) to focus on generation of new knowledge through basic and applied research.

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. To harness the potential of this new wave of technology and make India a leading player in CPS, the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** is being implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

Cyber-Physical System (CPS) combines digital/ cyber elements with physical objects (e.g. machines, autonomous vehicles) and data with capabilities of communication, data collection & processing, computing, decision making and action.

Statement 2 is correct. The Mission aims at establishment of 15 numbers of **Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH)**, six numbers of Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and four numbers of Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP).

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has sanctioned Rs. 135 crores to IIT Hyderabad under NM-ICPS to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, RoVs, etc.). 'TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad' is India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial).

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Digital Ocean platform** launched by the Ministry of Earth Science:

1. It has been developed by the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
2. It facilitates an online interactive data visualization to assess the evolution of oceanographic features.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Digital Ocean platform is a first of its kind platform for ocean data management. It has been developed by the **Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

It includes a set of applications developed to organize and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology. It facilitates an online interactive web-based environment for data integration, 3D and 4D (3D inspace with time animation) **data visualization, data analysis to assess the evolution of oceanographic features**, data fusion and multi-format download of disparate data from multiple sources viz., in-situ, remote sensing and model data, all of which is rendered on a georeferenced 3D Ocean.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Digital India Awards (DIA) 2020**:

1. National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) conducts the biennial Digital India Awards.
2. The DIA 2020 will also felicitate Government Entities that have developed innovative digital solutions to facilitate the citizens during pandemic.

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. **National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has been conducting the biennial Digital India Awards (DIA) to promote innovation in e-Governance and digital transformation of government service delivery mechanism.

The awards have been held for 5 seasons earlier, in 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016 & 2018. The Awards were initially known as Web Ratna Awards until 2014 and were re-named Digital India Awards from the 2016 season.

Statement 2 is correct. The **6th Digital India Awards 2020** includes 'Innovation in Pandemic' category to felicitate a Government Entity which has developed an outstanding, innovative digital solution to facilitate the citizens to undertake various activities with ease during the time of pandemic in areas like communication, health, education, travel etc. or to ensure continuity of government services.

Digital India Awards have been institutionalized under the ambit of National Portal of India to honor exemplary initiatives/practices in Digital-Governance. The National Portal of India is a Flagship Project to facilitate single window access to Government Information and Services in cyberspace.

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. SAROD-PORTS is a dispute resolution mechanism for PPP Projects in the Major Ports.

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2. The first Seaplane of India has started its operation from Statue of Unity, Kevadiya to Sabarmati River in Gujarat.

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. **SAROD-Ports is established under Societies Registration Act, 1860** with the objective of affordable and timely resolution of disputes in fair manner Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism with the panel of technical experts as arbitrators.

SAROD-Ports consists members from Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).

SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours.

It will also cover disputes between granting authority and Licensee/Concessionaire /Contractor and also disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors arising out of and during the course of execution of various contracts.

Statement 2 is correct. India's **first seaplane Service operation** was inaugurated by Prime Minister in October, 2020, between **Kevadia and Sabarmati River front in Ahmedabad.**

Ports handle around 90% of EXIM Cargo by volume and 70% by value.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Akash Missile**:

1. It is a short-range air-to-air missile developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

2. AKASH Weapon System can simultaneously engage Multiple Targets.

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. **AKASH is a Short Range Surface to Air Missile** system to protect vulnerable areas and vulnerable points from air attacks. It has been developed indigenously by the Defence Research & Development Organisation.

Statement 2 is correct. AKASH Weapon System can simultaneously **engage Multiple Targets** in Group Mode or Autonomous Mode. It has built in Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) features. The entire weapon system has been configured on mobile platforms.

AKASH Weapon Systems has been inducted and is operational with the Indian Air Force (IAF) as well as the Indian Army (IA).

Union Cabinet has recently approved the export of Akash Missile system.

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Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. India's Sugar production does not completely fulfill the domestic consumption demand of Sugar in country.
 2. Government has fixed target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. There has been **surplus production of sugar in the country since sugar season 2010-11 (except reduction due to drought in sugar season 2016-17)**; & sugar production is likely to remain surplus in the country in coming years due to introduction of improved varieties of sugarcane.

In the normal sugar season (October- September) about 320 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of sugar is produced whereas, our domestic consumption is about 260 LMT.

Statement 2 is correct. Government has fixed target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022, 15% blending by 2026 & 20% blending by 2030.

With a view to support sugar sector and in the interest of sugarcane farmers, the Government has also allowed production of ethanol from B-Heavy Molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and sugar.

Q.14) Which of the following is/are the “**Ease of Doing Business**” reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure for States to become eligible for additional borrowing?

1. Completion of first assessment of ‘District Level Business Reform Action Plan’
2. Elimination of the requirements of renewal of registration certificates/approvals obtained by businesses under various Acts.

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: In view of the resource requirement to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India had in May, 2020 enhanced the **borrowing limit of the States** by 2 percent of their GSDP. Half of this special dispensation was linked to undertaking citizen centric reforms by the States.

The four citizen centric areas for reforms identified were (a) Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System, (b) Ease of doing business reform, (c) Urban Local body/ utility reforms and (d) Power Sector reforms.

The **reforms stipulated in Ease of doing business reform** category are:

--Completion of first assessment of ‘District Level Business Reform Action Plan’

--Elimination of the requirements of renewal of registration certificates/approvals/licences obtained by businesses under various Acts.

--Implementation of computerized central random inspection system under the Acts wherein allocation of inspectors is done centrally, the same inspector is not assigned to the same unit

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in subsequent years, prior inspection notice is provided to the business owner, and inspection report is uploaded within 48 hours of inspection.

So far 10 States have implemented the One Nation One Ration Card System, 7 States have done ease of doing business reforms, and 2 States have done local body reforms.

Q.15) Which of the following is/are **Kala-Azar endemic state(s)** of India?

1. Bihar
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. West Bengal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Visceral leishmaniasis**, also known as kala-azar, is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anaemia.

Kala Azar is the 2nd largest parasitic killer in the world after Malaria and results in a 95% fatality rate if the patients are not treated. Additionally, up to 20% of the patients who are correctly treated and cured, develop a skin condition called Post-Kala-Azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL) which surfaces within months to years after treatment. These patients can contain large amounts of parasites in their skin lesions, making them an important source of transmission.

The disease is endemic in 54 districts in four states namely **Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal**. [PIB]

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG)**:

1. It is to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 and assist in developing potential vaccines in the future.
2. National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) is the coordinating Unit of Genome Sequencing Consortium.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The government has launched the **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG)**, comprising 10 labs namely DBT-NIBMG Kalyani, DBT-ILS Bhubaneswar, ICMR-NIV Pune, DBT-NCCS Pune, CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad, DBT-CDFD Hyderabad, DBT-InSTEM/ NCBS Bengaluru, NIMHANS Bengaluru, CSIR-IGIB Delhi, and NCDC Delhi.

The overall aim of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium is to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 on a regular basis through a multi-laboratory network. This vital research consortium will also assist in developing potential vaccines in the future.

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Statement 2 is correct. **DBT- National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG)** as the Co-ordinating Unit of Genome Sequencing Consortium and will closely work with a Nodal Unit of NCDC on activities like SOPs, data annotation, data analysis, data release etc.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**:

1. The act authorizes attachment and confiscation of any property involved in money-laundering.
2. The Enforcement Directorate is the specialized financial investigation agency enforcing PMLA.

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 **PMLA deals with the confiscation** of the property in accordance with the chapter III of the said Act. The attachments are done by the Director or any person below the Deputy Director authorised to do so by him.

The property here in question relates to both movable and immovable property. In case of immovable property, the term shall include all persons claiming/entitled to claim any interest in the property.

Statement 2 is correct. **Directorate of Enforcement** is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, which enforces the following laws: -

Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) - A Civil Law, with officers empowered to conduct investigations into suspected contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Laws and Regulations, adjudicate, contraventions, and impose penalties on those adjudged to have contravened the law.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) - A Criminal Law, with the officers empowered to conduct investigations to trace assets derived out of the proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach/ confiscate the same, and to arrest and prosecute the offenders found to be involved in Money Laundering.

Q.18) What is **SAHAYAK-NG**, which has been developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation?

- a) Air droppable container
- b) A target drone for missile tests
- c) A robot for testing minefields
- d) A bullet proof armored vehicle

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Indian Navy recently conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy).

The trial was conducted by Indian Navy to enhance its operational logistics capabilities and provide critical engineering stores to ships which are deployed more than 2000 km from the

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coast. It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.

SAHAYAK-NG is an advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I. The newly developed GPS aided air dropped container is having the capability to carry a payload that weighs upto 50 kg and can be dropped from heavy aircraft.

Q.19) Which of the following is/are the primary function(s) of the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**?

1. Regulation of sale and distribution of Drugs
2. Approval of licenses of Vaccines

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 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.

Option 2 is correct. Drug Controller General of India is responsible for **approval of licenses** of specified categories of Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerator – India (ASHA India)**:

1. It is a component of the ‘Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC- India)’ challenge.
2. ASHA-India aims to identify proven foreign construction technologies and implement them 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: **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, Government of India has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Urban (PMAY-U) Mission to provide all weather pucca houses to eligible urban households/ beneficiaries by the year 2022.

Within the ambit of the overarching PMAY (U) Mission, a Technology Sub Mission (TSM) was set up to facilitate the adoption of innovative, sustainable, eco-friendly and disaster-resilient technologies and building materials for low cost, speedier and quality construction of houses.

In this regard, MoHUA launched ‘**Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India)**’ has been launched’ to identify emerging, disaster-resilient, environment friendly, cost effective and speedy construction technologies.

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Statement 1 is correct. The challenge has three components viz. i) Conduct of biennial Expo-conference named Construction Technology India ii) Identifying Proven Demonstrable Technologies from across the globe to construct Light House projects iii) **Promoting Potential Future Technologies (domestic) through Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerator – India (ASHA India)**. (Statement 2 is incorrect)

Q.21) The ‘NAVARITI’ - certificate Course has been launched recently in which of the following academic field?

- a) Innovative Construction Technologies
- b) Teacher Education
- c) Tribal Handicrafts Development
- d) India's Traditional Medicinal System

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Prime Minister recently laid the foundation of six Light House Projects (LHPs) as part of Global Housing Technology Challenge – India (GHTC -India) initiative, in six States at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

As part of ‘Construction Technology Year 2019-20’, besides LHPs, a Certificate Course on Innovative Construction Technologies namely **NAVARITI (New, Affordable, Validated, Research Innovation Technologies for Indian Housing)** was also launched. The objectives of this course are to familiarise the professionals with the latest materials and technologies being used worldwide for housing.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India)**:

- 1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog.
- 2. It aims to evaluate and shortlist proven technologies from across the globe and mainstream them in Indian construction 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. GHTC-India stands for **Global Housing Technology Challenge – India**, an initiative by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India.

Statement 2 is correct. It aims to identify, evaluate and shortlist a basket of proven & potential innovative technologies from across the globe and subsequently mainstream them in Indian construction sector that are sustainable, green, disaster resilient.

Such technologies would be cost effective, faster and ensure a higher quality of construction of houses, suiting to diverse geo-climatic conditions of India and desired structural & functional needs.

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of Light House Projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) at six sites across six States on 1st January 2021.