

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

4th to 10th January, 2020

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Trans fats**:

1. Trans fats are naturally occurring as well as artificially produced unsaturated fats.
2. Trans fats raise low-density lipoproteins (LDL) cholesterol level levels in body.
3. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped the amount of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats.

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: Statement 1 is correct. **Trans fats or trans-fatty acids** are a form of unsaturated fats. They come in both **natural and artificial forms**.

Naturally-occurring trans fats are produced in the gut of some animals and foods made from these animals (e.g., milk and meat products) may contain small quantities of these fats.

Artificial trans fats (or trans fatty acids) are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid. The primary dietary source for trans fats in processed food is "partially hydrogenated oils."

Statement 2 is correct. Trans fats raise the **low-density lipoproteins (LDL) cholesterol levels** and lower the good (HDL) cholesterol levels. Eating trans fats increases the risk of developing heart disease and stroke. It's also associated with a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Statement 3 is correct. The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has capped the amount of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021 and 2% by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5% through an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Atomic Clocks**:

1. Atomic clocks use the electronic transition in an atom from one state to another as their 'pendulum' for time measurement.
2. These are more accurate than the conventional clocks.

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. **Atomic clocks** use atoms, more precisely the electronic transition from one state to another as their 'pendulum'. They take advantage of the fact that all atoms of a particular element (**Caesium and Rubidium**) have exactly the same electron configuration.

Statement 2 is correct. Atomic clocks are **far more precise** than conventional clocks because atomic oscillations have a much higher frequency and are much more stable.

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The National Atomic Timescale generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanosecond.

Q.3) Consider the following statement regarding the **DNA vaccines**:

1. It involves introduction of a plasmid, containing the DNA sequence encoding the disease-causing antigen(s), in the body.
2. The Covaxin developed by the Bharat Biotech in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research is a DNA vaccine.

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. **DNA vaccines** is a new approach to vaccination. It involves the direct introduction into appropriate tissues of a plasmid containing the DNA sequence encoding the antigen(s) against which an immune response is sought, and relies on the in situ production of the target antigen.

This approach offers a number of potential **advantages over traditional** approaches, including the stimulation of both B- and T-cell responses, improved vaccine stability, the absence of any infectious agent and the relative ease of large-scale manufacture.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Bharat Biotech has developed a Whole Virion Inactivated Corona Virus Vaccine (Covaxin) in collaboration with ICMR and NIV (Pune). It is not a DNA vaccine but an inactivated virus vaccine.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate by Zydus Cadila, **ZyCov-D is a DNA type vaccine candidate**. The candidate has been supported by the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) under the aegis of BIRAC and the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

Q.4) Which of the following virus causes the **Bird Flu**?

- a) Influenza A
- b) Coronavirus
- c) Adenovirus
- d) Parvovirus

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Avian influenza** refers to the disease caused by infection with **avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A** viruses. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

Influenza A viruses are divided into subtypes on the basis of two proteins on the surface of the virus: hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA). There are 18 known HA subtypes and 11 known NA subtypes.

Samples of dead migratory water birds found at the Pong Dam Lake in Himachal Pradesh have tested positive for avian influenza or bird flu. It has now become the fifth state to report suspected cases of bird flu after Haryana, Rajasthan, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Oxygen is not a flammable gas.

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2. Pressure swing adsorption (PSA) is the process by which ambient air passes through a filtration system for the generation of enriched oxygen gas.

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. **Oxygen is not a flammable gas**, but it easily supports combustion. All materials that are flammable in air will burn vigorously in oxygen. Some fuels, such as oil and grease, burn with almost explosive violence when combined with oxygen.

Statement 2 is correct. **Pressure swing adsorption (PSA)** is the process by which ambient air passes through an internal filtration system (e.g. a molecular sieve [zeolite granules or membranes]), which has a large enough total surface area to separate nitrogen (N₂) from the air, concentrating the remaining oxygen (O₂) to a known purity.

The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund Trust is allocating Rs.201.58 crores for installation of additional 162 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants inside public health facilities in the country.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Natural sources of ammonia include the decomposition of organic waste matter, forest fires, animal and human waste.
- 2. Ammonia is toxic to aquatic life in elevated concentrations.

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. Ammonia is produced for commercial fertilizers and other industrial applications. Natural sources of ammonia include the decomposition or breakdown of **organic waste matter, gas exchange with the atmosphere, forest fires, animal and human waste, and nitrogen fixation processes.**

Statement 2 is correct. Ammonia can enter the aquatic environment through direct means such as municipal effluent discharges and the excretion of nitrogenous wastes from animals, and indirect means such as nitrogen fixation, air deposition, and runoff from agricultural lands.

When ammonia is present in water at high enough levels, it is difficult for aquatic organisms to sufficiently excrete the toxicant, leading to **toxic buildup in internal tissues and blood**, and potentially death. Environmental factors, such as pH and temperature, can affect ammonia toxicity to aquatic animals.

Q.7) What is 'SwasthVayu' instrument developed by the CSIR scientists, that has been in news recently?

- a) A non-electric indoor air purifier
- b) A non-invasive ventilator

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- c) A Breathalyzer to check alcohol content in breath
- d) Air pollution measuring instrument

Correct answer: B

Explanation: CSIR-NAL (National Aerospace Laboratories) scientists along with medical professionals from CSIR-IGIB came forward to address the shortages of ventilators in the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and indigenously designed and developed the **non-invasive bilevel positive airway pressure ventilator –SwasthVayu**.

The performance of the device has been evaluated by the expert committee constituted by Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The expert committee, after careful evaluation, has concluded that SwasthVayu may be used on Covid-19 patients who require oxygen supplementation up to 35%.

Q.8) Which of the following are threshold limits for Particulate Matter pollution as per the **World Health Organisation's Air Quality Guidelines (AQG)**?

- 1. PM_{2.5} - 10 µg/m³ annual mean
- 2. PM₁₀ - 20 µg/m³ annual mean

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: WHO Air Quality Guidelines (AQG) offer guidance on threshold limits for key air pollutants that pose health risks and provide a reference for setting air pollution targets at regional and national levels to improve air quality.

WHO Guidelines:

PM_{2.5}: 10 µg/m³ (annual mean) and 25 µg/m³ (24-hour mean)

PM₁₀: 20 µg/m³ (annual mean) and 50 µg/m³ (24-hour mean)

Air quality guidelines have been published by WHO in 1987 and they were revised in 1997. The 2005 update represents the most current assessment of air pollution health effects.

India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):

PM_{2.5}: 40µg/m³ (annual mean) and 60µg/m³ (24-hour mean)

PM₁₀: 60µg/m³ (annual mean) and 100µg/m³ (24-hour mean)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Avian Influenza**:

- 1. Human infections are primarily acquired through direct contact with infected animals.
- 2. In India, the disease spreads mainly by migratory birds coming into India during winter months.

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: Avian influenza refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

Statement 1 is correct. Humans can be infected with avian, swine and other zoonotic influenza viruses, such as avian influenza virus subtypes A(H5N1), A(H7N9), and A(H9N2) and swine influenza virus subtypes A(H1N1), A(H1N2) and A(H3N2).

Human infections are primarily acquired through direct contact with infected animals or contaminated environments.

Statement 2 is correct. India notified the first outbreak of avian influenza in 2006. In India, the disease spreads mainly by **migratory birds coming into India during winter months** i.e. from September – October to February – March.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Particulate Matter (PM)**:

1. This term is used for mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air.
2. Anthropogenic sources include combustion engines and solid-fuel combustion for energy production.
3. It does not have major impact on human health due to its extremely small size.

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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Particulate matter (PM) is the term for a **mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets** found in the air.

Particle pollution includes:

PM10: inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller; and

PM2.5: fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

Statement 2 is correct. **Anthropogenic sources** include combustion engines (both diesel and petrol), solid-fuel (coal, lignite, heavy oil and biomass) combustion for energy production in households and industry, other industrial activities (building, mining, manufacture of cement, ceramic and bricks, and smelting), and erosion of the pavement by road traffic and abrasion of brakes and tyres.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Exposure to such particles can affect both lungs and heart. Numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including: premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma etc.

As per a study in The Lancet Planetary Health journal, an estimated 349,681 pregnancy losses per year in South Asia were associated with exposure to PM2.5 concentrations.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Avian Influenza**:

1. The H5N1 subtype of the influenza virus does not infect humans.
2. Seasonal influenza vaccination does not protect against H5N1 infection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Influenza A viruses are divided into subtypes on the basis of two proteins on the surface of the virus: **hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA)**.

H5N1 is a type of influenza virus that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called avian influenza (or "bird flu"). **Human cases of H5N1** avian influenza occur occasionally, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person.

Almost all cases of H5N1 infection in people have been associated with close contact with infected live or dead birds, or H5N1-contaminated environments.

Statement 2 is correct. There is **no vaccine** for humans against avian flu. The vaccine against human influenza virus does not protect against avian flu.

It is safe to eat properly prepared and cooked poultry and game birds. The virus is sensitive to heat.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Analytical Quality Control (AQC)**:

1. In AQC, the quality of analytical data generated in any laboratory is controlled through controlling errors to achieve target accuracy.
2. The AQC exercise of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) aims to ensure the reliability of the analyzed data for prevention and control of pollution.

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: Statement 1 correct. **Analytical Quality Control (AQC)** is one of the main components of a Quality Assurance System, wherein the quality of analytical data being generated in any laboratory is controlled through minimizing or controlling errors to achieve a target accuracy.

Example: A particular water quality study involves the collection, comparison and interpretation of analytical data, which leads to a decision for the management and use of water resource. The correctness of decision or actions depends largely upon the accuracy of the analytical results. If the errors in the analytical results are high, the manpower, material and money spent on any monitoring programme or study would be futile and further lead to wrong decision and improper action plans.

Statement 2 is correct. The **AQC exercise of CPCB** is to evaluate the performance of participating laboratories in terms of analytical activities, the robustness of instruments used for sample analysis and the expertise of manpower engaged in the laboratory.

It also helps to ensure the reliability of the analyzed data, for an informed and conclusive decision for the prevention and control of pollution.

The Instrumentation Laboratory of Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi has organized the 33rd Analytical Quality Control (AQC) exercise for trace metal parameters for Environmental Laboratories of Central and State Pollution Control Boards, Pollution Control Committee's, and EPA Recognized Private Labs.

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Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding **Avian Influenza**:

1. All known subtypes of influenza A viruses can infect birds.
2. Avian influenza A viruses are designated as highly pathogenic or low pathogenic based on the ability of the virus to cause disease in 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Influenza A viruses are divided into subtypes on the basis of two proteins on the surface of the virus: **hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA)**. There are 18 known HA subtypes and 11 known NA subtypes.

All known subtypes of influenza A viruses can infect birds, except subtypes H17N10 and H18N11, which have only been found in bats.

Bats are mammals and not birds.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Avian influenza A viruses are designated as **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI)** based on molecular characteristics of the virus and the ability of the virus to cause disease and mortality in avian species they usually infect.

HPAI and LPAI designations do not refer to the severity of illness in cases of human infection with these viruses; both LPAI and HPAI viruses have caused severe illness in humans.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Lipoproteins**:

1. LDL (low-density lipoprotein) absorbs cholesterol and carries it back to the liver.
2. High levels of HDL high-density lipoprotein cholesterol raises the risk for heart disease and stroke.

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.

Cholesterol travels through the blood on proteins called “lipoproteins”. Two types of lipoproteins carry cholesterol throughout the body:

--**LDL (low-density lipoprotein)**, sometimes called “bad” cholesterol, makes up most of body’s cholesterol. High levels of LDL cholesterol raise the risk for heart disease and stroke.

--**HDL (high-density lipoprotein)**, or “good” cholesterol, absorbs cholesterol and carries it back to the liver. The liver then flushes it from the body. High levels of HDL cholesterol can lower the risk for heart disease and stroke.

When body has too much LDL cholesterol, the LDL cholesterol can build up on the walls of blood vessels. This buildup is called “plaque.” As the blood vessels build up plaque over time, the insides of the vessels narrow. This narrowing blocks blood flow to and from heart and other organs. When blood flow to the heart is blocked, it can cause angina (chest pain) or a heart attack.

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Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. The deficiency of Iron in body is a major cause of Anemia.
2. The '+F' logo has been notified by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to identify fortified food.

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: Statement 1 is correct. **Anemia** occurs when there are not enough healthy red blood cells to carry oxygen to body's organs.

A common cause of anemia is **low levels of iron** in the body. This type of anemia is called iron-deficiency anemia. Human body needs a certain amount of iron to make hemoglobin, the substance that moves oxygen throughout the body.

Statement 2 is correct. In October 2016, FSSAI operationalized the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 for fortifying staples namely Wheat Flour and Rice (with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid), Milk and Edible Oil (with Vitamins A and D) and Double Fortified Salt (with Iodine and Iron) to reduce the high burden of micronutrient malnutrition in India. The **'+F' logo has been notified to identify fortified foods.**

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding **Bird Flu**:

1. The avian influenza Type A viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry.
2. Infected birds can shed flu virus in their saliva and feces.

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. **Avian influenza** refers to infection of birds with avian influenza Type A viruses. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

Wild aquatic birds can be infected with avian influenza A viruses in their intestines and respiratory tract, but usually do not get sick.

However, avian influenza A viruses are very contagious among birds and some of these viruses can sicken and even kill certain domesticated bird species including chickens, ducks, and turkeys.

Statement 2 is correct. Infected birds can **shed avian influenza A viruses** in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Susceptible birds become infected when they have contact with the virus as it is shed by infected birds. They also can become infected through contact with surfaces that are contaminated with virus from infected birds.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. India was a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1966.
2. India is among the ADB's five largest shareholders.
3. The transport sector of India has received more Cumulative Lending, Grant, and Technical Assistance from ADB than the energy sector.

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: Statement 1 is correct. India was a **founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in 1966 and its operations in India commenced in 1986.

ADB, India recently signed a \$100 million loan to upgrade power distribution system in Bengaluru.

Statement 2 is correct. ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), **India (6.3%)**, and Australia (5.8%).

Statement 3 is correct. Since 1986, ADB has committed 239 sovereign loans totaling \$42.26 billion for India.

India's transport sector has received maximum assistance from the ADB. [Source: Asian Development Bank. ADB and India: Fact Sheet]

India: Cumulative Lending, Grant, and Technical Assistance Commitments^{a, b, c}

| Sector | No. | Total Amount (\$ million) ^d | % ^d |
|---|------------|--|----------------|
| Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development | 50 | 1,536.97 | 3.20 |
| Education | 17 | 529.13 | 1.10 |
| Energy | 189 | 13,188.73 | 27.50 |
| Finance | 73 | 5,596.52 | 11.67 |
| Health | 9 | 316.83 | 0.66 |
| Industry and Trade | 18 | 512.42 | 1.07 |
| Information and Communication Technology | 3 | 150.95 | 0.31 |
| Multisector | 29 | 2,131.73 | 4.44 |
| Public Sector Management | 70 | 2,056.09 | 4.29 |
| Transport | 176 | 17,102.29 | 35.66 |
| Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services | 96 | 4,841.26 | 10.09 |
| Total | 730 | 47,962.91 | 100.00 |

^a Grants and technical assistance include ADB-administered cofinancing.

^b Includes sovereign and nonsovereign loans and technical assistance.

^c Using primary sector in reporting of commitments.

^d Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

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Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **non-permanent membership of United Nations Security Council**:

1. Each year the UN General Assembly elects ten non-permanent members for a two-year term.
2. Five seats in UNSC non-permanent membership are reserved for African and Asian States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Each year** the General Assembly elects **five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total)** for a two-year term.

Statement 2 is correct. In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 1991 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, the 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows: **five for African and Asian States**; one for Eastern European States; two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and two for Western European and other States.

Q.3) Which of the following country(s) is/are the members(s) of the **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**?

1. Mauritius
2. Seychelles
3. Maldives

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 **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** is an intergovernmental organisation comprising five member states: The **Union of Comoros, Réunion (an overseas region of France), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles**.

Created by the Port Louis Declaration in 1982, the IOC was institutionalized in Seychelles in 1984 by the General Cooperation Agreement, better known as the "Victoria Agreement".

Observer members of the IOC: India, China, Japan, Malta, European Union, United Nations and International Organization of the Francophonie.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Trade Organisation Trade Policy Review (TPR)** of countries:

1. Its objective is to increase the transparency and understanding of countries' trade policies and practices, through regular monitoring.
2. It is focused only on goods trade of countries.
3. The frequency of each member's review varies according to its share of world trade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) 1 and 3 only

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Surveillance of national trade policies is a fundamentally important activity running throughout the work of the WTO. The **objective of the WTO Trade Policy Review** is:

--to increase the transparency and understanding of countries' trade policies and practices, through regular monitoring

--to enable a multilateral assessment of the effects of policies on the world trading system.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Participants agreed to set up the reviews at the December 1988 ministerial meeting that was intended to be the midway assessment of the Uruguay Round. The first review took place the following year.

Initially they operated under GATT and, like GATT, they focused on goods trade. With the creation of the WTO in 1995, their scope was extended, like the WTO, to **include services and intellectual property**.

Statement 3 is correct. All WTO members are reviewed, the frequency of each country's review varying according to its share of world trade.

India's seventh Trade Policy Review (TPR) began on Wednesday, 6th January 2021. India's last TPR took place in 2015.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **“Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services” (NCAVES)** project:

1. It is being funded under the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
2. It aims to assist SAARC nations to advance the knowledge on environmental-economic accounting.

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 United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the European Union launched the project **“Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services” (NCAVES)** in 2017.

The project funded by the **European Union** through its Partnership Instrument (PI), aims to assist the five participating partner countries, namely **Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa**, to advance the knowledge agenda on environmental-economic accounting, in particular ecosystem accounting.

The main objective of the UNSD-led project is to mainstream natural capital accounting and the valuation of ecosystem services in data-driven decision and policy-making at the national, regional and local levels.

NCAVES India Forum 2021 is being organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). In India, the NCAVES project is being implemented by the MoSPI in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).

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Q.6) Which of the following **defence equipment** is/of the French origin?

1. Rafale Dassault
2. Mirage 2000
3. Ilyushin Il-78

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 correct. **Rafale** is a French twin-engine, canard delta wing, multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation. France, Qatar, India and Greece are the countries operating this fighter jet.

Option 2 is correct. The **Dassault Mirage 2000** is a French multirole, single-engine fourth-generation jet fighter manufactured by Dassault Aviation. France, India, UAE, Egypt are among the major countries operating this aircraft.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Ilyushin Il-78** is a Soviet four-engine aerial refueling tanker based on the Il-76 strategic airlifter.

Diplomatic Advisor to the French President is on a visit to India for the India-France Strategic Dialogue, held on January 7, 2021.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is an intergovernmental organisation launched by the World Health Organisation.
2. India is among the countries hosting a CEPI Centralized Laboratory Network for COVID-19 Vaccine Testing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

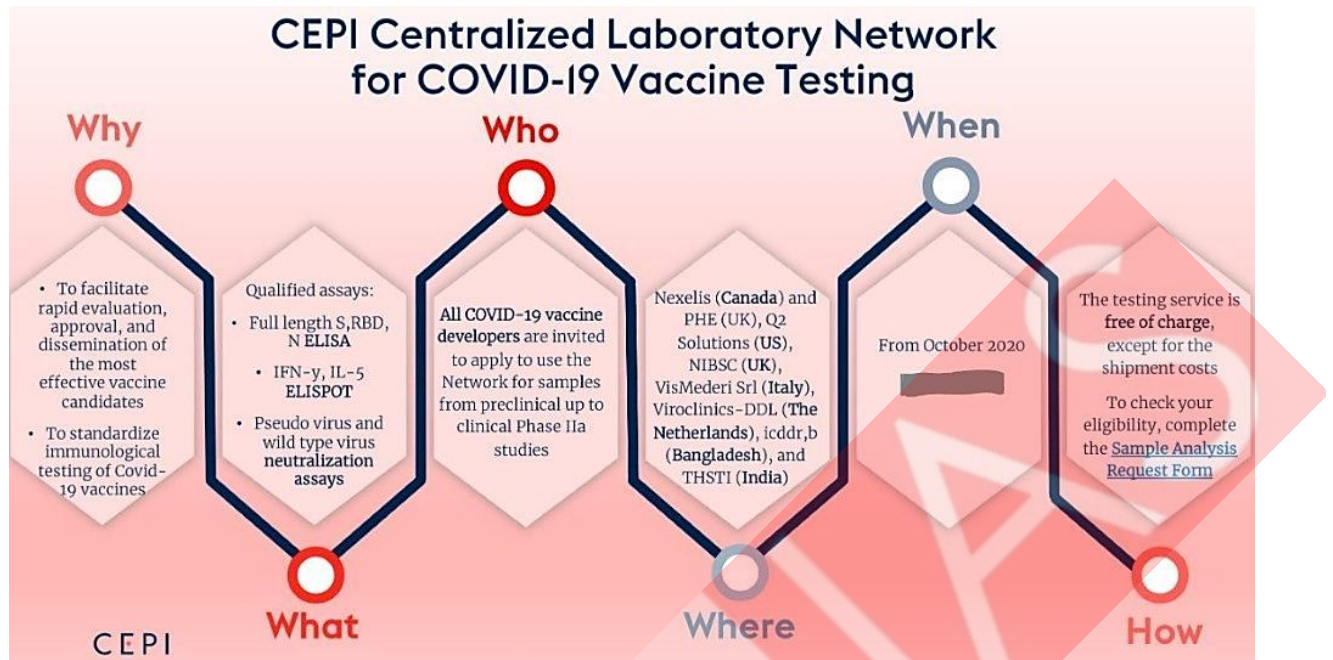
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** is an innovative partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil organizations, launched at Davos in 2017, to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.

Statement 2 is correct. The CEPI in partnerships with seven clinical sample testing laboratories have created a **centralised global network** to reliably assess and compare the immunological responses generated by COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

The clinical sample testing laboratories selected for this collaborative vaccine network are: Nexelis (Canada) and Public Health England (PHE; UK), VisMederiSrl (Italy), Viroclinics Biosciences BV (The Netherlands), Q2 Solutions (USA), International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR-B, Bangladesh), National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC, UK), and **Translational Health Sciences and Technological Institute (THSTI, India)**.



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ECONOMICS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Women in India spend three times more time than men in the unpaid domestic services for household members as per the Time Use Survey (TUS) 2019.
2. The Code on Wages 2019 prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages of employees for the same work.

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. **Time Use Survey (TUS)** provides a framework for measuring time dispositions by the population on different activities. National Statistical Office (NSO) conducted the first Time Use Survey in India during January – December 2019.

81.2 per cent women participate in unpaid domestic services spending an average 299 minutes each day. The participation rate of men in domestic services is low at 26.1 per cent spending around 97 minutes per day while conducting this activity.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Code on Wages 2019** prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature. Work of similar nature is defined as work for which the skill, effort, experience, and responsibility required are the same.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are part of the **Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE)**?

1. expenditure on durable goods which are used in defence sector
2. compensation of employees
3. net purchase of goods and services by government

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: **General government final consumption expenditure** includes all government current expenditures for purchases of goods and services (including compensation of employees).

By convention, expenditure on durable goods, which are used for defence, are also treated as part of consumption expenditure of the Government.

The National Statistical Office has projected that GDP in the FY 2020-21 would total almost 134.4-lakh crore in constant prices, reflecting a 7.7% contraction from the preceding year's figure.

Q.3) What is the purpose of the **Equalisation Levy**?

- a) Taxing business to business transactions of foreign e-commerce companies from India

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- b) Taxing high net worth individuals (HNI) in India
- c) Taxing evasion from Goods & Services Tax
- d) Taxing Multinational Companies in India transacting with parent foreign Company

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Equalisation Levy was introduced in India through Budget 2016. It taxes the income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies from India. It is aimed at taxing business to business transactions.

Services covered under Equalisation Levy are **Online advertisement and Any provision for digital advertising** space or facilities/ service for the purpose of online advertisement.

The U.S. Trade Representative's findings of its "Section 301" investigations into the digital taxes, recently said that the digital taxes imposed by France, India, Italy and Turkey discriminate against big U.S. tech firms, such as Google, Facebook, Apple and Amazon.

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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding office of the **Governor of States in India?**

1. Governor is appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Minister and Chief Justice of the High Court for that State.
2. The Governor shall not hold any other office of profit.
3. When the same person is appointed as Governor of two or more States, the emoluments and allowances payable to the Governor are paid by the Union Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 155 and 156 of the Constitution mandates that the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the **President by warrant under his hand and seal**. Further, the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.

President exercises his/her functions through aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 158(2) states that the Governor shall not hold any other **office of profit**.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Article 158(3A) states that where the same person is appointed as Governor of two or more States, the emoluments and allowances payable to the Governor shall be **allocated among the States** in such proportion as the President may by order determine.

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HISTORY

Q.1) Which of the following **Delhi Durbar(s)** is/are correctly matched to the coronations of Emperors or Empresses?

1. Delhi Durbar 1877 - Queen Victoria
2. Delhi Durbar 1903 - King George V
3. Delhi Durbar 1911 - King Edward VII

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 Delhi Durbars were grand events organised by the Viceroys to **mark the coronations of Emperors or Empresses**. Hence, these were also known as the Coronation Durbars.

Option 1 is correctly matched. In **1876, Queen Victoria** in addition to her title of 'Queen of Great Britain and Ireland' assumed the title of 'Empress of India'. The Viceroy, Lord Lytton was asked to proclaim this on her behalf throughout India. He decided to hold an Imperial Assemblage at Delhi on 1st January 1877 for this purpose.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. Delhi Durbar 1903 marked the succession of **Edward VII**. On the orders of King Edward VII, it was attended by the Duke of Connaught.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. The Darbar of 1911 marked the succession of **King George V**. This Durbar was historic for two reasons; one it was the only one attended by the Emperor himself and second, this was where the shifting of the Imperial Capital from Calcutta to Delhi was announced.

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GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)**:

1. It is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC) coordinated by Wetlands International.
2. It is an annual exercise taking place in the month of January.

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.

Every January, thousands of volunteers across Asia and Australasia visit wetlands in their country and count waterbirds. This citizen science programme is the **Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)**. The AWC is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the **International Waterbird Census (IWC), coordinated by Wetlands International**.

It runs in parallel with other regional programmes of the International Waterbird Census in Africa, Europe, West Asia, the Neotropics and the Caribbean.

The recommended dates for the AWC are 2 – 18 January 2021.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Climate of India during 2020**:

1. The year 2020 was the second warmest year on record of last decade after 2016.
2. The 2020 annual rainfall over the country as a whole was below its Long Period Average (1961-2010).

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: The **Climate Research and Services (CRS)** of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a Statement on Climate of India during 2020.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The annual mean land surface air temperature averaged over India during 2020 was above normal. During the year, annual mean land surface air temperature averaged over the country was +0.290C above normal (based on the data of 1981-2010). The year 2020 was the eighth warmest year on record since nation-wide records commenced in 1901.

The five warmest years on record in order were: 2016 (+0.710C), 2009 (+0.550C), 2017 (+0.5410C), 2010 (+0.5390C), and 2015 (+0.420C).

Statement 2 is incorrect. The 2020 annual rainfall over the country as a whole was 109% of its Long Period Average (LPA) based on the data of 1961-2010.

Q.3) The **Nile River basin** includes parts of which of the following country(s)?

1. Ethiopia

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2. South Sudan

3. Uganda

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 Nile River flows from south to north through eastern Africa. It begins in the rivers that flow into **Lake Victoria**, and empties into the Mediterranean Sea more than 6,600 kilometers to the north, making it one of the longest river in the world.

In addition to Egypt, the Nile runs through or along the border of 10 other African countries, namely, Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. Its three main tributaries are the White Nile, the Blue Nile, and the Atbara.

Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt agreed recently to resume negotiations to resolve their complex dispute over the Grand Renaissance Dam hydropower project in the Horn of Africa.

The 145-meter-tall (475-foot-tall) Grand Renaissance Dam hydropower project, when completed, will be Africa's largest.



Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Skimmer (Rynchops albicollis)**:

- 1. It is a waterbird that is more widespread in summer season.
- 2. It is endemic to the Western Ghats region of India.
- 3. It is listed as Endangered species under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect. More widespread in winter, the **Indian skimmer** is found in the **coastal estuaries of western and eastern India**.

Once distributed across the Indian Subcontinent, Indian skimmers are mainly found along **large rivers in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal**. It occurs primarily on larger, sandy, lowland rivers, around lakes and adjacent marshes and, in the non-breeding season, in estuaries and coasts.

Statement 3 is correct. Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) is listed as **Endangered** species with decreasing population trend in the IUCN Red List.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)**:

1. It is a statutory body constituted under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

2. Standing Committee of the NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** is constituted by the Central Government under Section 5 A of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA)**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister and is responsible for promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests.

Section 5B of the WLPA states that the National Board may, in its discretion, constitute a Standing Committee for the purpose of exercising such powers and performing such duties as may be delegated to the Committee by the National Board.

The Standing Committee consist of the **Vice-Chairperson**, the Member-Secretary, and not more than ten members to be nominated by the Vice-Chairperson from amongst the members of the National Board.

Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change is the Vice-Chairperson of the NBWL and chairs the Sub Committee.

The Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has recently approved the advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the country.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Caracal**:

1. It is a wildcat endemic to rocky hills of Central India.

2. It is protected under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Caracals live on rocky hills or grasslands in the **Middle East, Africa, and south Asia**. In India, it is found in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

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Statement 2 is correct. The Caracal species of cat is protected under **Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. It is listed as Least Concern species under the IUCN Red List.

The Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has approved the inclusion of Caracal, into the list of critically endangered species for taking up conservation efforts with financial support under Centrally sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitat.

Q.7) Which of the following water bodies are correctly matched to respective States?

1. Tehri Dam - Uttarakhand
2. Khindsi Lake - Maharashtra
3. Erai Dam - Madhya 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: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Tehri Dam** is a multi-purpose rock and earth-fill embankment dam on the Bhagirathi River near Tehri in **Uttarakhand**.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Khindsi Lake** is a lake near the city of Ramtek in the Nagpur district, **Maharashtra**.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Irai/Erai Dam** is an earthfill and gravity dam on Irai River near Chandrapur and Tadoba Andhari Tiger Project in state of **Maharashtra**.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is initiating the process of commencing operations of the Seaplane services, on the select routes, under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework through prospective airline operators.

The proposed Origin-Destination pairs under Hub and Spoke model include various islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep, Guwahati Riverfront & Umranso Reservoir in Assam, Yamuna Riverfront / Delhi (as Hub) to Ayodhya, Tehri, Srinagar(Uttarakhand), Chandigarh and many other tourist places of Punjab & HP; Mumbai (as Hub) to Shirdi, Lonavala, Ganpatipule; Surat (as Hub) to Dwarka, Mandvi & Kandla; Khindsi Dam, Nagpur & Erai Dam, Chandrapur (in Maharashtra).

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Pangolin**:

1. Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East.
2. It is a protected species under the Schedule I of 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. Pangolin is understood to occur in various types of tropical forests as well as open land, grasslands and degraded habitats, including in close proximity to villages. The species can adapt well to modified habitats, provided its ant and termite prey remains abundant.

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Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, **except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East**. It can be found at elevation up to 2500 m. The species also occurs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Statement 2 is correct. Indian Pangolin is listed in **Schedule I** of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as **Endangered** on IUCN Red List.

Q.9) The **Omkareshwar Dam** is on which of the following River?

- a) Godavari
- b) Narmada
- c) Krishna
- d) Kaveri

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Omkareshwar Dam** is a gravity dam on the **Narmada River** upstream of Mandhata in Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh.

The Government of India has announced the construction of the World's largest floating solar energy project of 600 MW at Omkareshwar dam. The International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Power Grid have granted in-principle consent for providing aid for the project development.

The project is likely to begin power generation by year 2022-23.

Q.10) Which of the following State accounts for maximum **Bauxite reserves** in India?

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Chhattisgarh

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Bauxite is basically an aluminous rock that contains hydrated aluminum oxide as main constituent and iron oxide, silica & titania as minor constituents present in varying proportions.

Among States, **Odisha alone accounts for 51%** of country's resources of bauxite followed by Andhra Pradesh (16%), Gujarat (9%), Jharkhand (6%), Maharashtra (5%) and Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh (4% each). Major bauxite resources are concentrated in the East Coast bauxite deposits in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Schedule-A Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Mines is one of the largest integrated Bauxite-Alumina-Aluminium- Power Complex in Asia. The company contributes to production of 32% Bauxite, 33% Alumina 12% Aluminium in India.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ganges River dolphin**:

1. It is the National Aquatic Animal of India.
2. These dolphins can only live in freshwater and are essentially blind.
3. It is listed as Critically Endangered species in the IUCN Red List.

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Gangetic Dolphin** was declared as National Aquatic Animal on 5th October 2009.

Statement 2 is correct. The Ganges river dolphins can only live in freshwater and are essentially blind. They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sound waves that bounce off of fish and other prey.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Ganges River Dolphin is listed as **Endangered** in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Q.12) The Pong Dam reservoir is on which of the following River?

- a) Yamuna
- b) Brahmaputra
- c) Kali
- d) Beas

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A reservoir has been constructed on the **River Beas** in the wet land of Shivalik hills of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, which has been named as **Maharana Pratap Sagar**. It is also known as Pong reservoir or Pong Dam. This reservoir or lake is a famous wildlife sanctuary and one of the 25 international wetland sites declared by Ramsar Sammel in India.

Around 1,200 migratory birds have lost their lives under mysterious circumstances at Himachal Pradesh's Pong Dam in the recent weeks. The dead birds include endangered bar-headed goose, black-headed gull, river tern, common teal, and shoveler.

The carcass samples have been sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly and Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Jalandhar for investigation.

Q.13) Gibraltar is an overseas territory of which of the following nation?

- a) France
- b) Britain
- c) United States of America
- d) Germany

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Gibraltar is a British overseas territory occupying a narrow peninsula of Spain's southern Mediterranean coast, just northeast of the Strait of Gibraltar. The territory is self-governing in all aspects, except for defence and foreign policy, which are managed by UK, and Gibraltarians have British citizenship.

Spain and UK have signed an agreement that would allow Gibraltar to be able to join EU programmes and policies such as Schengen with Spain acting as a guarantor.

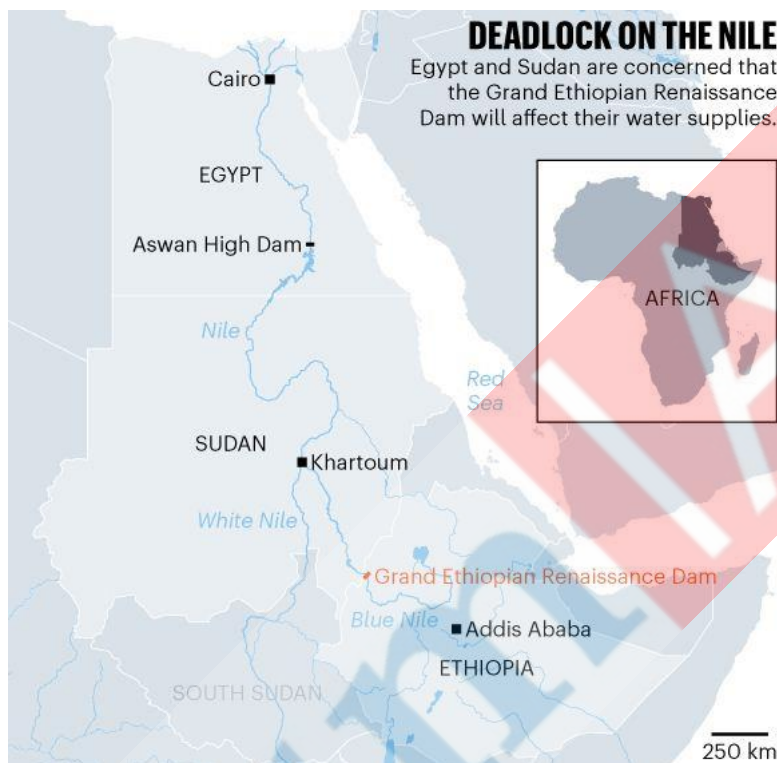
Q.14) The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is on which of the following River?

- a) Congo River
- b) Orange River
- c) Blue Nile River
- d) Nile River

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)** is a 6,450 MW hydropower project on the **Blue Nile in Ethiopia**, located about 30 km upstream of the border with Sudan. It will be the largest hydropower project in Africa.



Q.15) Which of the following country(s) is/are member(s) of the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**?

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Bahrain
3. Iraq

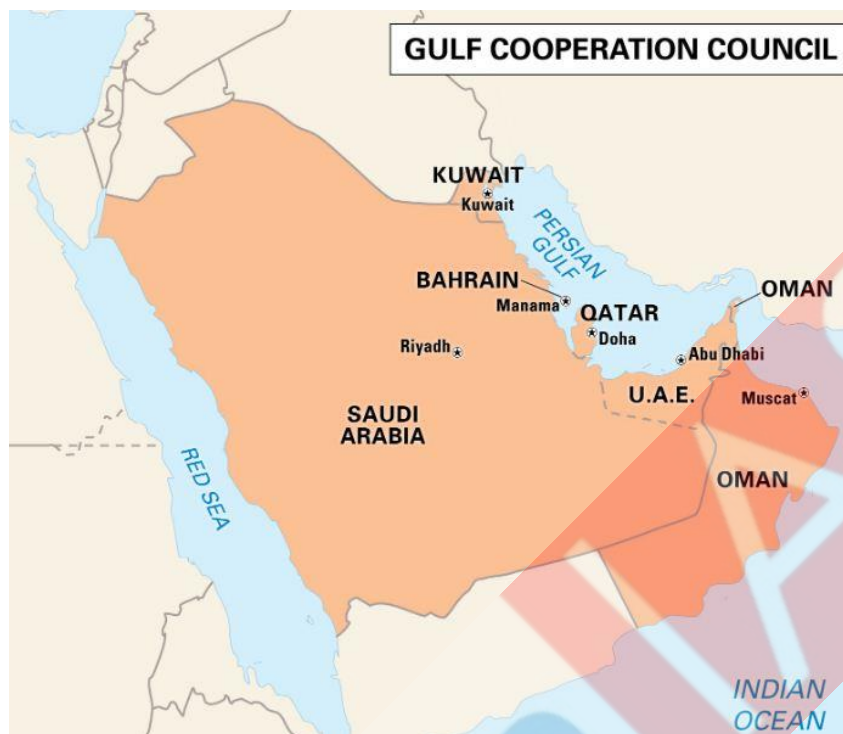
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 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 **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** is a political and economic union of Arab states bordering the Gulf. It was established in 1981 and its 6 members are the **United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain.**

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In June 2017, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt severed all diplomatic and trade ties. Qatar's only land border was closed; ships flying the Qatari flag or those serving Qatar were banned from docking at many ports; and much of the region's airspace was closed to Qatari aircraft.

It has been reported recently that the United Arab Emirates could re-open trade and travel links with Qatar.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.10 Consider the following statements regarding the **Patents (Amendment) Rules of 2020**:

1. The patentee is required to submit the approximate revenue/ value accrued in India through manufacturing in India of the patented invention.
2. Patentees are required to submit reasons for non-working of patent in India and steps taken for working the invention.

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 **Patent (Amendment) Rules 2020** have come into force on October 20, 2020.

It is mandatory under the (Indian) Patents Act, 1970 for every patentee and every licensee to file a statement as to the extent of commercial working of a granted patent in the Indian territory.

The information to be provided in the New Form 27 for the relevant financial year is:

--If patent worked in India - Approximate revenue/value accrued in India through manufacturing in India/import into India of the patented invention;

--If not worked in India – Reasons for non-working and steps taken for working the invention

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **E-way bills**:

1. It is a mechanism to ensure that goods being transported comply with the GST Law.
2. For a distance of less than 200 Km the e-way bill is valid for a day from the bill generation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **E-way bill** is a mechanism to ensure that goods being transported comply with the GST Law and is an effective tool to track movement of goods and check tax evasion.

It is generated from the GST Common Portal for E-Way bill system by the registered persons or transporters who cause movement of goods of consignment before commencement of such movement.

Statement 2 is correct. The **validity of e-way bill** depends on the distance to be travelled by the goods. For a distance of less than 200 Km the e-way bill will be valid for a day from the relevant date. For every 200 Km thereafter, the validity will be additional one day from the relevant date. The “relevant date” shall mean the date on which the e-way bill has been generated.

As per the notification dated 22 December 2020, No. 94 /2020. the validity period of e-waybill will be changed from 100 KM per day to 200 KM per day from 01/01/2021.

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Q.3) Which of the following is/are the objective(s) of the **Co-WIN platform**?

1. Real time information of vaccine stocks
2. Individualized tracking of beneficiaries for COVID-19 vaccine
3. Registration and verification of beneficiaries

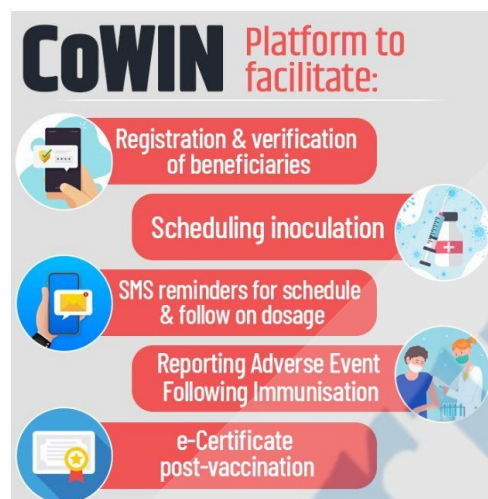
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN)** platform has been developed by MoHFW for real time information of vaccine stocks, their storage temperature and individualized tracking of beneficiaries for COVID-19 vaccine.

This software will assist the programme managers across all levels through automated session allocation for pre-registered beneficiaries, their verification and a digital certificate will be generated upon successful completion of the vaccine schedule.



Q.4) Which of the following vaccine(s) have been granted permission for **restricted use in emergency situation** in India?

1. Covaxin
2. Covishield
3. ZyCoV-D

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 correct. Serum Institute of India, Pune has presented a Recombinant Chimpanzee Adenovirus vector vaccine (**Covishield**) encoding the SARS-CoV-2 Spike (S) glycoprotein with technology transfer from AstraZeneca/Oxford University.

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It has been granted permission for restricted use in emergency situation subject to certain regulatory conditions.

Option 2 is correct. Bharat Biotech has developed a Whole Virion Inactivated Corona Virus Vaccine (**Covaxin**) in collaboration with ICMR and NIV (Pune).

It has been granted permission for restricted use in emergency situation in public interest as an abundant precaution, in clinical trial mode, to have more options for vaccinations, especially in case of infection by mutant strains.

Option 3 is incorrect. Cadila Healthcare Ltd., has developed a Novel Corona Virus-2019-nCov-Vaccine (ZyCov-D) using DNA platform technology. It has been granted permission to conduct **Phase-III clinical** trial in India.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the recent initiatives of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**:

1. The GOAL programme is designed to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.
2. 'Swasthya' online platform provides all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Ministry Tribal Affairs had launched the “**GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)**” programme in partnership with Facebook. The GOAL programme is designed to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.

The program intends to upskill and empower 5,000 tribal youths in the current phase to harness the full potential of digital platforms and tools to learn new ways of doing business, explore and connect with domestic and international markets. The digital skilling and technology will integrate them into the mainstream.

Statement 2 is correct. Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal ‘**Swasthya**’ and opened National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal last year. It is a first of its kind e-portal, providing all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.

Swasthya will also curate innovative practices, research briefs, case studies, and best practices collected from different parts of India to facilitate the exchange of evidence, expertise and experiences.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Draft Model Standing Orders** issued by Ministry of Labour & Employment recently:

1. A 'Model Standing Orders' for Services Sector has been proposed for the first time.
2. The concept of “Work from home” has been formalized in the Model Standing Orders for Manufacturing Sector, Mining Sector and Service Sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Pursuant to **section 29 of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020**; the Central Government has published the draft Model Standing Orders for the Manufacturing Sector, Mining Sector and Service Sector in the official gazette, inviting suggestions/objections from the stakeholders within a period of thirty days.

--All the three Model Standing Orders encourage employer for use of information technology in dissemination of information to the workers through electronic mode.

-- To provide safeguard to IT industry, "Involvement in unauthorized access of any IT system, computer network of the employer/ customer/client" has been prescribed as misconduct.

Statement 1 is correct. Uniformity has been maintained in all the three Model Standing Orders while providing some flexibility considering the sector-specific requirements.

Given the needs and expansion of the services sector in Indian economy, a separate Model Standing Orders for Services Sector has been prepared **first time**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The concept of "**Work from home**" has been formalized in the Model Standing Orders for **Service** Sector.

NOTE: It is a draft issue by the government and the final Model Standing Order.

Q.7) Which of the following matter(s) come fall under the mandate of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)?

1. Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions
2. The Territorial Army
3. Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources

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 **Chief of Defence Staff** heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) within the Ministry of Defence and functions as its Secretary.

The following areas are dealt by the Department of Military Affairs headed by CDS:

--The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

--Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.

--The Territorial Army.

--Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

--Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.

--Promoting jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the Services through joint planning and integration of their requirements.

--Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands.

--Promoting use of indigenous equipment by the Services.

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Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. National Metrology Conclave 2021 is being organised by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
2. The National Atomic Timescale by CSIR- National Physical Laboratory generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanosecond.

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 Metrology Conclave 2021** is being organised by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, which is entering into its 75th year of inception. The theme of the conclave is 'Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation'.

Statement 2 is correct. The **CSIR—NPL National Atomic Timescale** launched recently generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanosecond.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. IN-SPACe is an independent nodal agency under Department of Space (DOS) to promote the private sector for their participation in Space Sector.
2. Private players can also use ISRO infrastructure through IN-SPACe.

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: Government has created **Indian National Space, Promotion & Authorization Centre** (INSPACe), under Department of Space to encourage, promote and hand hold the private sector for their participation in Space Sector. Private players will also be able to use ISRO infrastructure through INSPACe.

It is to be established as a single window nodal agency, with its own cadre, which will permit and oversee the **following activities of Non-Government Private Enterprises:**

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

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

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

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

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

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Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **India's research stations in Antarctica**:

1. Maitri and Bharati are India's two stations in the Antarctica.
2. The research centers are being operated under the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences.

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: India presently has two research stations at Antarctica namely '**Maitri**' and '**Bharati**' which are being operated under **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, Ministry of Earth Sciences. At both the stations, research and investigations are undertaken to understand the Polar processes and phenomenon. Observations and studies are carried out in atmospheric, biological, geological, ecological sciences etc.

Maitri station has been in operation since 1989 while Bharati has been constructed and established in March, 2013.

The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched recently.

Q.11) Which of the following is/are recommendations under the **School Bag Policy 2020**?

1. The weight of a schoolbag across classes 1 to 12 should be 10% of the body weight of the student carrying it.
2. There should be no homework for students from school up to Class 2.

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 **School Bag Policy 2020** released by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education recommends that the weight of a schoolbag across classes 1 to 12 should be 10% of the body weight of the student carrying it.

Weight of school bag needs to be monitored and checked on a regular basis in the school. For this, every school needs to keep a digital weighing machine in the school premises.

In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) it also suggested that there should be no homework up to Class 2. Homework requiring a time of maximum of two hours a week is allowed for Classes 3 to 5, five-six hours a week for classes 6 to 8, and 10-12 hours a week for classes 9-12.

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. India's toy market is import dependent for fulfillment of majority of the domestic demand.
2. Toycathon 2021 is aimed to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system

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: Statement 1 is correct. The size of toy market in India is about one billion USD but unfortunately **80% of the toys are imported**.

Statement 2 is correct. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of I&B and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have jointly launched **Toycathon-2021**.

This is a special kind of hackathon where students and teachers from schools and colleges, design experts, toy experts and startups will get together to crowd source ideas for developing toys and games that are based on Indian culture and ethos, local folklore and heroes, and Indian value systems.

Q.13) Which of the following programme(s) is/are being implemented by the **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**?

1. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All
2. Street Lighting National Programme
3. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

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 and 2 are correct. **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP)** are being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, Government of India since their inception.

Under UJALA, EESL has distributed over 36.69 crore LED bulbs across India. This has resulted in estimated energy savings of 47.65 billion kWh per year with avoided peak demand of 9,540 MW and estimated GHG emission reduction of 38.59 million tonnes CO₂ per year.

With SLNP, EESL has installed about 1.14 crore LED streetlights across India. This has resulted in an estimated energy savings of 7.67 billion kWh per year with avoided peak demand of 1,280 MW and estimated GHG emission reduction of 5.29 million tonnes CO₂ per year.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is implemented the "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana" (PMUY)** providing concessional LPG connections especially the women living below poverty line (BPL) to make smoke free Rural India.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**:

1. It is a statutory body set up under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.
2. QCI provides financial assistance directly to Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Quality Council of India (QCI)** was set up in 1997 jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.

Statement 2 is incorrect. QCI is an autonomous body under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The main objectives of QCI are (a) to establish and operate national accreditation structure (b) to monitor and administer the National Quality Campaign. **QCI does not provide any financial assistance** to MSMEs.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing Udyog Manthan - a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars for promoting Quality and Productivity in Indian Industry in association with Quality Council of India, National Productivity Council, and Industry bodies.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the Scheme of “**Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure**”:

1. It is aimed at boosting capital expenditure by the State Governments in view of the shortfall in tax revenue due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
2. The scheme is supported by the World Bank through financial assistance.
3. It promotes citizen-centric reforms in States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Scheme of “**Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure**” is aimed at boosting capital expenditure by the State Governments who are facing difficult financial environment this year due to the shortfall in tax revenue arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The grants and funds for the scheme are being provided for by the **Union Government**.

Statement 3 is correct. The Scheme has three parts:

Part-I: Rs.200 crore for the 7 north-eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) and Rs.450 crore for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Assam

Part-II: For all other States not included in Part-I, Rs.7,500 crore in proportion to their share of central tax as per the interim award of the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2020-21.

Part-III: An amount of Rs.2000 crore is earmarked for only to those States who carry out at least 3 out of the 4 reforms: One Nation One Ration Card, Ease of doing Business Reform, Urban Local Body/ Utility Reform and Power Sector Reform.

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Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have become the first group of States to complete three out of the four citizen centric reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)**:

1. It is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population aging in India.
2. It is being conducted by the National Sample Survey Office.

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 Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the **health, economic, and social determinants and consequences** of population aging in India. The LASI is a nationally representative survey over 72,000 older adults age 45 and above across all states and union territories of India.

The concept of LASI is comparable to the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) in the United States.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **National Programme for Health Care of Elderly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** has undertaken the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India, through International Institute for Population Sciences, (IIPS), Mumbai in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health, University of Southern California, USA, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and National Institute on Ageing.

Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1 has been released recently.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **Draft Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP)**:

1. It is a first ever national level Science & Technology policy for India.
2. It proposes “one nation, one subscription” policy whereby, in return for one centrally-negotiated payment, all individuals in India will have access to journal articles.

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 **draft Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP)** released recently once approved will be fifth such national policy since independence.

Statement 2 is correct. The draft STIP proposes Open Data Policy for Publicly Funded Research, i.e. all data used in and generated from public-funded research will be available to everyone under **FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable)** terms.

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| | |
|---|---|
| Scientific Policy Resolution 1958 | Sought to “foster, promote and sustain” the “ cultivation of science and scientific research in all its aspects ”. |
| Technology Policy Statement 1983 | “emphasized the need to attain technological competence and self-reliance ” |
| Science and Technology Policy 2003 | sought to “integrate programmes of socio-economic sectors with the national R&D system and the creation of a national innovation system ” |
| Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2013 | “ Science, Technology and Innovation to focus on faster, sustainable and inclusive development of the people” |

Further One Nation, One Subscription is proposed: The Government will negotiate with journal publishers for a “one nation, one subscription” policy whereby, in return for one centrally-negotiated payment, all individuals in India will have access to journal articles.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)**:

1. It is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs for engaging and connecting with the overseas Indians.
2. PBD conventions have been held every year since 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians.

The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, is being organized on 9th January 2021.

Statement 2 is incorrect. PBD conventions were being held every year in January since 2003. Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD **once every two years** and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy makers and stakeholders.

January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K IDS, 2021)**:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. The scheme is exclusive for development of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** recently approved the proposal of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme is approved with a total outlay of Rs. 28,400 crores up to the year 2037. It supports both **smaller and larger units**. Smaller units with an investment in plant & machinery up to Rs. 50 crores will get a capital incentive up to Rs. 7.5 crore and get capital interest subvention at the rate of 6% for maximum 7 years.

The scheme provides **Capital Investment Incentive, Capital Interest subvention, GST Linked Incentive and Working Capital Interest Incentive**.

Q.20) Which of the following is/are the function(s) of the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**?

1. Prepares national accounts as well as publishes annual estimates of national product
2. Organizes and conducts periodic all-India Economic Censuses
3. Conducts the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)

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: National Statistics Office (NSO) is mandated with the following responsibilities:

-- prepares national accounts as well as publishes annual estimates of national product, government and private consumption expenditure, capital formation, savings, estimates of capital stock and consumption of fixed capital

-- compiles and releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) every month in the form of 'quick estimates'; conducts the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**; and provides statistical information to assess and evaluate the changes in the growth, composition and structure of the organized manufacturing sector;

-- organizes and conducts periodic **all-India Economic Censuses** and follow-up enterprise surveys, provides an in-house facility to process the data collected through various socio-economic surveys and follow-up enterprise surveys of Economic Censuses.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) released today the first Advance Estimates (AE) of GDP for the year 2020-21. The real GDP at 2011-12 prices in 2020-21 has been estimated to contract by 7.7 per cent and nominal GDP at current prices by 4.2 per cent.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Liberalised Authorised Economic Operator Package for MSMEs**” Scheme:

1. It is a voluntary compliance programme under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).
2. It enables swifter Customs clearance for accredited 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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Recognising their critical contribution in supporting the economy especially during the present difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic, **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** has taken a new initiative to introduce its flagship “**Liberalised MSME AEO Package**” for **Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

It is a voluntary compliance programme which enables swifter Customs clearance for accredited stakeholders in the global supply chain viz. importers, exporters, logistic service providers, custodians etc.

Another important benefit available to specified AEOs is that their payment of Customs duty is deferred and need not to be paid before the clearance of the imported goods by Customs.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**:

1. It is a statutory body regulating the Internet Service Providers in India.
2. It operates the INRegistry that manages India’s Country Code Top Level domain (.in).

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 Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is a not-for-profit Organization under section 25 of the Companies Act 1956, and was registered on 19th July, 2003.

NIXI was set up for peering of ISPs among themselves for the purpose of routing the domestic traffic within the country, instead of taking it all the way to US/Abroad, thereby resulting in better quality of service (reduced latency) and reduced bandwidth charges for ISPs by saving on International Bandwidth.

Statement 2 is correct. **(dot)IN is India’s Country Code Top Level domain (ccTLD)**. The Govt. of India delegated the operations of INRegistry to NIXI in 2004. The INRegistry operates and manages India’s (dot)IN ccTLD.

NIXI has announced that it will offer a free IDN (Internationalized Domain Name) in any of their preferred 22 official Indian language along with every IN domain booked by the registrant.

Q.23) The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion of which of the following product(s)?

1. Dairy products
2. Honey, jaggery and sugar products
3. Herbal and medicinal plants

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 Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the **APEDA Act, 1985**. It has been entrusted with the responsibility of export promotion and development of agricultural and processed food product groups listed in the **Schedule to the APEDA Act:**

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.

APEDA has organized Virtual Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) in various countries during to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, when the export promotion programme was not possible to be organized physically.

Q.24) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

| Indian Army Command | - | Headquarter |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Southern Command | - | Pune, Maharashtra |
| 2. Central Command | - | Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh |
| 3. Western Command | - | Jaipur, Rajasthan |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Indian Army is divided into six operational commands** (field armies) and one training command, each under the command of a Lieutenant General, who has an equal status to the Vice-Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), working under the control of Army HQ in New Delhi. The Western Command (Chandimandir), Eastern Command (Kolkata), Northern Command (Udhampur), Southern Command (Pune), Central Command (Lucknow), Army Training Command (Shimla) and South-Western Command (Jaipur).

Q.25) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) India Forum-2021 is being organised by the NITI Aayog.
- 2. “EnviStats India” is annually published by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

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. **NCAVES India Forum 2021** is being organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

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The NCAVES Project, funded by EU, has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). India is one of the five countries taking part in this project - the other countries being Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico.

Statement 2 is correct. The participation in the NCAVES project has helped the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** commence the compilation of the Environment Accounts as per the UN-SEEA (System of Environmental Economic Accounting) framework and release environmental accounts in its publication “**EnviStats India**” on an annual basis since 2018.

Q.26) The **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor** passes through which of the following States?

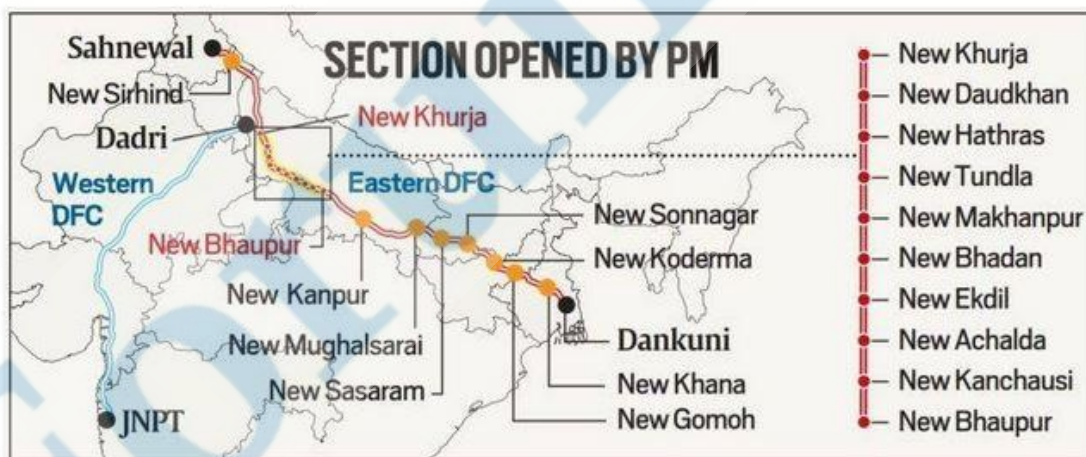
1. Punjab
2. Haryana
3. Uttar Pradesh

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: B

Explanation: The **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor** connecting Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai will traverse through the states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra



Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)**:

1. It is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
2. Its mandate is to develop appropriate programmes for conservation, sustainable development and genetic upgradation of Indigenous breeds of cows.

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 **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)** is a high-powered permanent apex advisory body under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Government of India constituted the Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog through a Resolution dated 21st February, 2019.

Statement 2 is correct. It is mandated to help the Central Government to develop appropriate programmes for conservation, sustainable development and genetic upgradation of Indigenous breeds of cows.

It is a permanent body to formulate policies and to provide directions for the implementation of schemes related to cattle so as to lay more emphasis on livelihood generation for small & marginal farmers, women and youth entrepreneurs.

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