

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

February, 2021

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

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 1st to 7th February, 2021

HISTORY

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The first ever Census of an Indian city was conducted in 1872 by the British India Government.
2. The 1921 census reported the most recent decline in India's population since the previous census.

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 History of Census began with 1800 when England had begun its Census but the population of dependencies was not known at that time. In its continuation, based on this methodology census was conducted in town of Allahabad in 1824 and in the city of Banaras in the year 1827-28 by James Prinsep. **The first complete census of an Indian city was conducted in 1830 by Henry Walter in Dacca.**

A systematic and modern population census, in its present form was conducted non synchronously between 1865 and 1872 in different parts of the country. This effort culminating in 1872 has been popularly labeled as the first population census of India.

Statements 2 correct. The year **1921 is often referred to as the “Year of the Great Divide,”** the last period in which India's population declined, due to the effects of famine.

Census Years	Population	Change in Population Between Censuses	Percent Change Between Censuses
1901	238,396,327	—	—
1911	252,093,390	13,697,063	5.8
1921	251,321,213	-772,177	-0.03
1931	278,977,238	27,656,025	11.0
1941	318,660,580	39,683,342	14.2
1951	361,088,090	42,427,510	13.3
1961	439,234,771	78,146,681	21.6
1971	548,159,652	108,924,881	24.8
1981	683,329,097	135,169,445	24.7
1991	846,421,039	163,091,942	23.9
2001	1,028,737,436	182,316,397	21.5
2011	1,210,193,422	181,455,986	17.6

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Chauri-Chaura incident:**

1. W. C. Rand, the British plague commissioner was assassinated at Chauri-Chaura.
2. Mahatma Gandhi called off the Civil Disobedience movement as a result of this incident.

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 **Chauri Chaura** incident occurred at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province, (modern Uttar Pradesh) in British India on 4 February 1922, when a large group of protesters, participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police, who opened fire. In retaliation the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The incident led to the deaths of three civilians and 23 policemen. Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the **Non-cooperation Movement** on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

Q.3) The “**Mon Shugu**” handmade paper belongs to which of the following State/UT?

- a) Manipur
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Sikkim
- d) Ladakh

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Monpa Handmade paper 'Mon Shugu' is made from the bark of tree Shugu Sheng grown locally in Tawang and is identified by its distinctive translucent fibrous texture. The paper is weightless but its natural fibers add great tensile strength to this paper making it apt for various art works.

It has been used for writing Buddhist scriptures, manuscripts and for making prayer flags. Writing on this paper is also known to be tamper-proof. The Monpa Handmade paper industry set up in Tawang aims at engaging the local youths with this art professionally and earn.

The sale of the 1000-years old heritage Monpa handmade paper or “Mon Shugu” is quickly catching pace due to its special mention by Prime Minister in his radio program Mann ki Baat.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Health is listed under the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.
2. India's public health expenditure has been consistently above two percent for last five years.

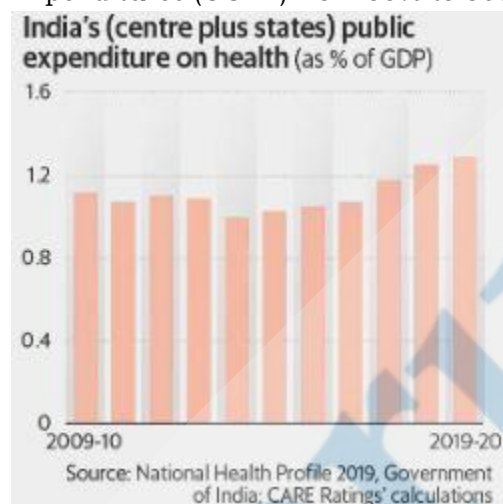
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 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 delivery of health care largely rests with the States, **Health being a state subject**. The allocation of funds to health sector inter-alia is dependent on the overall resource availability of the Government, competing sectoral priorities.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India's public health expenditure is **below two percent**. The recently released **Economic Survey** has suggested an increase in public spending from 1% to 2.5-3% of GDP — as envisaged in the National Health Policy 2017 to decrease the Out-Of-Pocket Expenditures (OOPE) from 65% to 30% of overall healthcare spend.



Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971**:

1. A pregnancy may be terminated up to 12 weeks based on the opinion of one doctor, and up to 20 weeks based on the opinion of two doctors.
2. A grave injury to her mental or physical health is not a ground for termination of pregnancy.
3. Termination is also allowed at any point during the pregnancy if there is an immediate necessity to save the woman's life.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, voluntarily terminating a pregnancy is a criminal offence. The **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971** allows for aborting the pregnancy by medical doctors (with specified specialisation) on certain grounds. A pregnancy may be terminated up to 12 weeks based on the opinion of one doctor, and up to 20 weeks based on the opinion of two doctors.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Termination is permitted only when continuance of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman, **cause grave injury to her mental or physical health** (including rape and failure of birth control measures), or in the case of foetal abnormalities.

Statement 3 is correct. Termination is also allowed at any point during the pregnancy if there is an immediate necessity to save the woman's life.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was introduced and passed in Lok Sabha in 2020. It amends the Act to increase the upper limit for termination from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women, removes this limit in the case of substantial foetal abnormalities, and constitutes Medical Boards at the state-level.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **15th Finance Commission**:

1. The commission's recommendations for the year 2020-21 which has accepted by the Union Government.

2. It is a statutory body formed by the Parliament.

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 **15th Finance Commission** (Chair: Mr N. K. Singh) was required to submit two reports. Last year, the Commission had submitted its report containing recommendations for the year 2020-21 which was accepted by the Union Government and tabled in the Parliament on 30 January 2020. The final report with recommendations for the 2021-26 period has been tabled in Parliament today.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Finance Commission is constituted by the **President under article 280 of the Constitution**, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM AatmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana** proposed in Budget 2021-22:

1. The scheme will focus on developing capacity of the primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems.

2. The scheme is to be implemented as an initiative under the National Health Mission.

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 Finance Minister announced that a new centrally sponsored scheme, **PM AatmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana**.

This will develop capacities of **primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems**, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions, to cater to detection and cure of new and emerging diseases.

Statement 2 is incorrect. PM AatmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana will be **in addition to the National Health Mission**. The main interventions under the scheme are:

- Support for rural and urban Health and Wellness Centers
- Setting up integrated public health labs in all districts and 3382 block public health units in 11 states;
- Establishing critical care hospital blocks in 602 districts and 12 central institutions;
- Strengthening of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
- Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal to all States/UTs
- Setting up of a national institution for One Health, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories and 4 regional National Institutes for Virology.

Q.5) Which of the following initiative has been proposed in Budget 2021-22 for infrastructure financing?

1. A professionally managed 'Development Financial Institution' to be established statutorily to act as a provider, enabler and catalyst for infrastructure financing.
2. A 'National Monetization Pipeline' of potential Brownfield infrastructure assets will be launched.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A professionally managed **Development Financial Institution** is necessary to act as a provider, enabler and catalyst for infrastructure financing. Accordingly, a Bill to set up a DFI will be introduced.

Government has provided a sum of Rs 20,000 crore to capitalise this institution and the ambition is to have a lending portfolio of at least Rs 5 lakh crore for this DFI in three years time.

Statement 2 is correct. The Union Finance Minister announced launch of a **"National Monetization Pipeline"** of potential brownfield infrastructure assets stating that Monetizing operating public infrastructure assets is a very important financing option for new infrastructure construction.

The Minister informed that an Asset Monetization dashboard will also be created for tracking the progress and to provide visibility to investors.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS):

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education.
2. The NESTS is mandated to run the Eklavya Model Residential Schools across India.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** was established in April, 2019 as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to run and manage the **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**; Statement 2 is correct.

EMRSs are a flagship intervention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide quality education to tribal students in remote tribal areas. The programme being implemented since 1998 have created a niche in the tribal education landscape of the country. However, the scheme was revamped in 2018 to improve the geographical outreach of the programme and introduce several qualitative changes to improve learning outcomes in the schools.

Currently there are 588 schools sanctioned across the country in 28 States/UT with around 73391 students enrolled in the Schools. Another 152 schools shall be sanctioned by the year 2022.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are objective(s) of the **Jal Jeevan Mission (URBAN)**?

- 1. Universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all statutory towns
- 2. Coverage of sewerage/septage management in AMRUT cities.
- 3. All projects under the mission will be implemented through 100% funding from Central 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. Finance Minister in Budget 2021-22 announced a **JAL JEEVAN MISSION (URBAN)** which has been designed to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all 4,378 statutory towns in accordance with SDG Goal- 6. Providing coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 AMRUT cities is the other focus area.

Rejuvenation of water bodies to augment sustainable fresh water supply and creating green spaces and sponge cities to reduce floods and enhance amenity value through an Urban Aquifer Management plan are other key areas of the Mission.

Statement 3 is incorrect. For Union Territories, there will be 100% central funding. For North Eastern and Hill States, central funding for projects will be 90%. **Central funding** will be 50% for cities with less than 1 lakh population, one third for cities with 1 lakh to 10 lakh population and 25% for cities with million plus population.

Mission will be monitored through a technology-based platform on which beneficiary response will be monitored along with progress and output-outcome.

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Funding from Government for projects will be in three tranches of 20:40:40. Third instalment onwards will be released based on outcomes achieved and credible exclusion will be exercised while funding.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)**:

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It is supporting research & development projects on medicinal plants in government as well as private universities/research institutions across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Statement 2 is correct. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), under its Central Sector Scheme on '**Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants**' is supporting research & development projects on various aspects of medicinal plants to government as well as private universities/research institutions/organizations across the country.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding '**KRITAGYA- a National level hackathon**':

1. It aims to promote innovation in agriculture and allied sectors in the country.
2. It has been organised by the NITI Aayog.

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. **KRITAGYA- National level hackathon** on agriculture technology aimed to promote innovation in agriculture and allied sectors in the country.

Advantages of organising Agri-Hackathon are to give opportunity to the students along with faculties, innovators for showcasing their innovative approaches & technologies in agriculture and allied sector

KRI-TA-GYA explains, KRI for Krishi (Agriculture), TA for Taknik (Technology) and GYA for Gyan (Knowledge).

Statement 2 is incorrect. The hackathon was organised by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** (ICAR). Several innovations selected under this initiative focused on robotic

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harvesting of coconut/oil palm, real time detection of plant diseases and simultaneous site-specific application of pesticides and Women friendly equipment for small farm operations especially for sericulture and fish cutting.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF)**:

1. It has been established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
2. Financial assistance from CWF is given to Voluntary Consumer Organization (VCOs) and States to promote welfare and interests of the consumers.

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 **Consumer Welfare Fund** has been setup under section 57 of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, 2017.

Earlier, the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 was amended in 1991 to enable the Central Government to create a Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF).

Statement 2 is correct. **Financial assistance from CWF** is given to various Institutions including Universities, Voluntary Consumer Organization (VCOs) and States to promote and protect the welfare and interests of the consumers, create consumer awareness and strengthen consumer movement in the country.

Q.11) Who among the following chairs the **National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC)**?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Minister of Health & Family Welfare
- c) Cabinet Secretary
- d) Member (Health), NITI Aayog

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A **National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC)** has been established, which provides guidance on all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination including prioritization of population groups, procurement and inventory management, vaccine selection, vaccine delivery and tracking mechanism etc.

NEGVAC is chaired by Member (Health), NITI Aayog and co-chaired by Secretary (H&FW). NEGVAC has representation of Secretaries from Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Expenditure, Dept. of Biotechnology, Dept. of Health Research, Dept. of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, representative from five State Governments and technical experts.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC)**:

1. The beneficiaries can lift their entitled food grains from any ePoS (electronic Point of Sale device) enabled Fair Price Shop (FPS) across the country.
2. The Union Government has directed states to issue new ration cards to all beneficiaries to implement the ONORC scheme.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Department in association with State/UT Governments is implementing '**One Nation One Ration Card**' (ONORC) plan for nation-wide portability of ration cards under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). So far, the facility has been enabled in 32 States/UTs covering nearly 69 Crore beneficiaries, almost 86% of NFSA population of the country.

Under ONORC, the beneficiaries, if desire, can lift their entitled food grains from any ePoS (electronic Point of Sale device) enabled Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice by using their **same/existing ration cards** with biometric authentication on the ePoS device at the time of lifting the food grains through portability.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme enables portability using the existing ration cards and no direction has been given to States/UTs for issuance of new ration cards to beneficiaries under ONORC.

However, for the sake of uniformity under ONORC operations, States/UTs have been advised to adopt a standard bi-lingual format for ration cards whenever they decide to issue/print new ration cards under NFSA in the future.

Q.13) What is the mandate of the **Justice Rohini Commission**?

- a) To examine sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes
- b) To recommend on implementation of child labor laws in India
- c) To examine the working of the subordinate court system
- d) To recommend on reforms in India's criminal laws

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Government of India constituted a Commission in 2017 to examine **sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes** with the objective to examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of Other Backward Classes with reference to such classes included in the Central List.

On January 21, the Centre has extended the tenure of the Commission for the tenth time, it is now to submit its report by July 31, 2021.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP)**:

1. It is a centralized system of disease surveillance for timely and effective public health action.
2. The data is collected on epidemic-prone diseases on weekly basis of suspected cases, presumptive cases and laboratory confirmed cases.

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 objective of the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)** is to strengthen/maintain **decentralized** laboratory-based IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained Rapid Response Team (RRTs).

Statement 2 is correct. Under IDSP data is collected on **epidemic-prone diseases on weekly basis** (Monday–Sunday). The information is collected on three specified reporting formats, namely “S” (suspected cases), “P” (presumptive cases) and “L” (laboratory confirmed cases) filled by Health Workers, Clinicians and Laboratory staff respectively. The weekly data gives information on the disease trends and seasonality of diseases.

Whenever there is a rising trend of illnesses in any area, it is investigated by the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to diagnose and control the outbreak.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)**:

1. Ministry of Jal Shakti is the nodal ministry of the MIF operationalized under NABARD.
2. Its objective is to facilitate State government’s efforts in mobilizing additional resources for expanding coverage under micro irrigation

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. **Micro Irrigation Fund** with a corpus of Rs.5000 crore has been operationalized in NABARD from 2019-20. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India is the Nodal Ministry.

Statement 2 is correct. The objective of the fund is to facilitate State Govts. efforts in mobilizing additional resources for expanding coverage under micro irrigation.

States may also access MIF exclusively for innovative integrated projects (like high water duty crops like sugarcane/solar linked systems/Micro irrigation in command area etc.) including projects in PPP mode depending on State specific requirements. The GoI provides 3% interest subvention on loans extended to State Govt. under MIF.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Agriculture Market (eNAM)**:

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis.
2. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing eNAM.

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 Agriculture Market (NAM)** is envisaged as a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to network the existing APMC and other market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

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NAM creates a national network of physical mandis which can be accessed online. It seeks to leverage the physical infrastructure of the mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the State to participate in trading at the local level.

Statement 2 is correct. **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Better market linkage was provided under e-NAM by Integrating 1000 markets across 18 States and 3 UT. So far, more than 1.69 crore Farmers & 1.55 Lakh traders registered on e-NAM platform. Union Budget has declared to further integrate 1000 more mandis with e-NAM.

e-NAM is now developing as "Platforms of Platform" to create a digital ecosystem that leverage the expertise of individual platforms across various segments of agri. value chain viz. developing and Integrating service platform with e-NAM (QC services, transportation & delivery services, sorting/grading services, packaging services, insurance, trade finance, warehouses etc.).

Q.17) What are PRAGYATA guidelines?

- a) Guidelines on Digital Education
- b) Advisories to increase yield of crops without use of fertilizers
- c) Advisory on Hygiene and Sanitation for the Hospitality Industry
- d) Guidelines on COVID-safe behaviour

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Government has taken various steps to provide online education amidst COVID-19 pandemic. These include **PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education**, Internet access under BHARAT NET scheme, etc.

The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of online/ digital learning that is, Plan- Review-Arrange- Guide- Yak(talk)- Assign- Track- Appreciate.

The guidelines outline suggestions for administrators, school heads, teachers, parents and students on the following areas:

--Concerns while planning online and digital education like duration, screen time, inclusiveness, balanced online and offline activities etc.

--Modalities of intervention including resource curation, level wise delivery etc.

--Physical, mental health and wellbeing during digital education

--Cyber safety and ethical practices including precautions and measures for maintaining cyber safety

--Collaboration and convergence with various initiatives

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS):

1. It provides financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development as well as commercialization of product.
2. The startup must have been incorporated in within previous five years at the time of application to be eligible for funding.

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. **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)** aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A startup, recognized by DPIIT, incorporated **not more than 2 years ago** at the time of application is eligible for funding.

Startup must have a business idea to develop a product or a service with market fit, viable commercialization, and scope of scaling. Further, Startup should be using technology in its core product or service, or business model, or distribution model, or methodology to solve the problem being targeted.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) has been approved for the period of next four years starting from 2021-22.

Q.19) Which of the following is/are the objective(s) of the **National AYUSH Mission?**

1. To empower masses for 'self-care' to reduce the disease burden and out of pocket expenditure.
2. To strengthen institutional capacity at the state level.
3. Support cultivation of medicinal plants by adopting Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) so as to provide sustained supply of quality raw-materials.

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: Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **National AYUSH Mission (NAM)** is a flagship scheme of Ministry of AYUSH. Its objectives:

--To provide cost effective AYUSH Services, with a universal access through upgrading AYUSH Hospitals and Dispensaries, co-location of AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs).

To establish a holistic wellness model based on AYUSH principles and practices to empower masses for 'self-care' to reduce the disease burden, out of pocket expenditure and to provide informed choice to the needy public.

--To strengthen institutional capacity at the state level through upgrading AYUSH educational institutions, State Govt. ASU&H Pharmacies, Drug Testing Laboratories and ASU & H enforcement mechanism.

--Support cultivation of medicinal plants by adopting Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) so as to provide sustained supply of quality raw-materials and support certification mechanism for quality standards, Good Agricultural/Collection/Storage Practices.

--Support setting up of clusters through convergence of cultivation, warehousing, value addition and marketing and development of infrastructure for entrepreneurs.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **MCA21 project**:

1. It enables secure access to Ministry of Corporate Affairs services in an assisted manner for corporate entities, professionals, and general public.
2. MCA21 is designed to fully automate all processes related to enforcement and compliance of the legal requirements under the SEBI Act, 1992.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, Government of India, has initiated the MCA21 project, which enables easy and secure access to MCA services in an assisted manner for corporate entities, professionals, and general public.

Statement 2 is incorrect. MCA21 project is designed to fully automate all processes related to enforcement and compliance of the legal requirements under the **Companies Act, 1956**.

During the fiscal 2021-22, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will launch data analytics driven **MCA21 Version 3.0**. This Version will have additional modules for e-Adjudication, e-Consultation and Compliance Management.

MCA21 V3 Project is a technology-driven project, envisioned to strengthen enforcement, promote Ease of Doing Business, enhance user experience, facilitate seamless integration and data exchange among Regulators. The project will have Micro-services architecture with high scalability and capabilities for advanced analytics.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the **DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**:

1. It allows the DNA testing only in offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and completely bars its usage in civil matters.
2. The Bill provides for the establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks, for every state, or two or more 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: The Standing Committee on the **DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019** has recently submitted its report.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the Bill, DNA testing is allowed only in respect of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill. These include offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and for **civil matters such as paternity suits**. Further, the Schedule includes DNA testing for matters related to establishment of individual identity.

Statement 2 is correct. The Bill provides for the establishment of a **National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks**, for every state, or two or more states. DNA laboratories are required to share DNA data prepared by them with the National and Regional DNA Data Banks.

The Standing Committee report suggests one National Data Bank only, to limit the chances of misuse of data.

Every Data Bank will be required to maintain indices for the following categories of data: (i) a crime scene index, (ii) a suspects' or undertrials' index, (iii) an offenders' index, (iv) a missing persons' index, and (v) an unknown deceased persons' index.

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Q.22) Which of the following locations in India have the **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)** facilities?

1. Vishakhapatnam
2. Mangaluru
3. Padur

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: **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL)**, a Government of India Special Purpose Vehicle, has established Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely **Vishakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur.**

As per the consumption pattern of 2019-20, the total capacity is estimated to provide for about 9.5 days of crude oil requirement. In addition, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the country have storage facilities for crude oil and petroleum products for 64.5 days, thus the current total national capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products currently is 74 days.

Under Phase II of the SPR Programme, the Government has given 'in principle' approval in June 2018 for establishing two additional SPR facilities with total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT at two locations namely Chandikhol in Odisha (4 MMT) and Padur in Karnataka (2.5 MMT).

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Safety Council (NSC)**:

1. Its objective is to provide guidance and services to make workplaces safer and environment friendly.
2. Minister of Labour and Employment is the ex-officio chairperson of NSC.

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: The 24th Session of the Standing Labour Committee accepted the proposal concerning the constitution of the **National Safety Council (NSC)** in 1966.

Statement 1 is correct. Its objective is providing guidance and services to make workplaces safer, healthier and environment friendly, building capacity, developing material, methods, procedures and strengthening the national movement (including unorganized sector) on Safety, Health and Environment to prevent and mitigate the loss of life, human suffering and economic losses.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The affairs of the Council are managed by a Board of Governors. The Board consist of 51 members besides the Chairman. The Board is tripartite in nature with members from Government, Employers Organizations and Trade Union Organizations.

An eminent industrialist, nominates by the Govt. of India as the Chairman of NSC.

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Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**:

1. It is a framework promulgated by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
2. Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (SPARK) grants are offered under iDEX to startups.

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.

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) is a framework promulgated by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and launched by the Hon'ble PM in April 2018. iDEX aims to achieve self - reliance and foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.

iDEX-DIO launches of **Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC)** with problem statements from Armed Forces, DPSUs & OFB. Winner start-ups/ individuals receive innovation grants in technological areas through the Prototype funding guidelines called "Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart" (SPARK), which entail provisioning of grants upto Rs 1.5 crore to the Startups on the basis of milestones through multiple tranches, for prototype development.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020**:

1. The central government may regulate the supply of certain food items in times of natural calamity.
2. The any Central Government action of imposing any stock limit on agricultural produce must be based on price rise.

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 **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020** provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances. These include: **(i) war, (ii) famine, (iii) extraordinary price rise and (iv) natural calamity of grave nature.**

Statement 2 is correct. It requires that imposition of any stock limit on agricultural produce **must be based on price rise.** A stock limit may be imposed only if there is: (i) a 100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce; and (ii) a 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.

The increase will be calculated over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or the average retail price of the last five years, whichever is lower.

GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kosi River**:

1. It joins Ganges river west of the Gandak river.
2. The Tamur Koshi and Arun River are tributaries of Kosi River.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Kosi river** has its source in Tibet that includes the world's highest upland it then drains a large part of Nepal before emerging onto the Gangetic plains. Kosi flows east of Gandak River. It crosses into northern Bihar where it branches into distributaries before joining the Ganges near Kursela in Katihar district. Kosi flows east of the Gandak River.



Statement 2 is correct. From a major confluence of tributaries north of the Chatra Gorge onwards, the Koshi River is also known as Saptakoshi for its seven upper tributaries. These include the Tamur Koshi originating from the Kanchenjunga area in the east, **Arun River** from Tibet and Sun Koshi from the Gosainthan area farther west.

The Government of Nepal has allotted 679 MW Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in Nepal to SJVN through competitive bidding.

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Q.2) Which of the following animal(s) is/are listed in **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**?

1. Himalayan Black Bear
2. Leopard
3. Pangolin

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 species are protected under the **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. As per the provisions of the Act, poaching of these animals and trading them by parts is punishable with minimum 03 years of imprisonment extendable up to 07 years.

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) seized large wildlife contrabands recently in Jammu & Kashmir that included the Musk deer and Himalayan Black bear poached for musk pods, bear bile, which is used in **Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM)**.

Pangolin is among the most heavily trafficked nonhuman mammal in the world mainly for their scales, used in traditional medicine.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)**:

1. It is being implemented through financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
2. The project aims to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level.

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 **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III** with the financial assistance of the **World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** is being implemented to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.

Statement 2 is correct. The Project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April, 2021 to March, 2031. DRIP Phase II & Phase III envisages the following objectives:

--To improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.

--To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level, and

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--To explore the alternative incidental means at few of selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Aadi Mahotsav**”:

1. It is organised by the Ministry of Culture.
2. It serves as an avenue of showcasing the tribal products and helping the artisans connect with the mainstream population.

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 “**Aadi Mahotsav**” is a **National Tribal Festival** being organized by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is an annual initiative that was commenced in 2017.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances caused due to the pandemic, TRIFED did not hold any Aadi Mahotsav in 2020 however, the tradition has now been resumed.

Statement 2 is correct. The Aadi Mahotsav acquaints people with and gives a peek into the rich tribal heritage and culture. This helps the underprivileged tribes get a bigger market for displaying and selling their arts and crafts. The Aadi Mahotsav is also an opportunity for the artisans to interact directly with art lovers and get first-hand feedback which can then better their creations and designs. Aadi Mahotsav establishes a direct connect between the masses and the tribal people.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fishing Cat**:

1. Wetlands are the major habitat of the Fishing Cat.
2. It is listed as a Critically Endangered species under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
3. It is protected under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Wetlands** are the favorite habitats of the fishing cat. In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.

Fishing cats have a patchy distribution along the Eastern Ghats. Apart from Sundarbans in West Bengal and Bangladesh, fishing cats inhabit the Chilika lagoon and surrounding wetlands in Odisha, Coringa and Krishna mangroves in Andhra Pradesh.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Fishing cat is protected under the **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) lists the fishing cat on Appendix II part of Article IV of **CITES**, which governs international trade in this species.

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Statement 3 is correct. Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is listed as **Endangered** species with decreasing population trend in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species,

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Organic Agriculture**:

1. The consumption of organic food increases the exposure to biological contaminants.
2. The organic farming has potential to preserve the Biodiversity.

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 have been many claims that eating organic foods increases exposure to micro-biological contaminants. Studies investigating **these claims have found no evidence** to support them. It is important to realize that all organic foods must meet the same quality and safety standards applied to conventional foods. [Food & Agriculture Organisation]

One of the suggested sources of micro-biological contamination is manure. The use of manure is common in both conventional and organic systems, the potential for contamination is therefore applicable to both.

Statement 2 is correct. Organic farmers are both custodians and users of **biodiversity** at all levels.

--At the gene level, traditional and adapted seeds and breeds are preferred for their greater resistance to diseases and their resilience to climatic stress.

--At the species level, diverse combinations of plants and animals optimize nutrient and energy cycling for agricultural production.

--At the ecosystem level, the maintenance of natural areas within and around organic fields and absence of chemical inputs create suitable habitats for wildlife.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram operates a research scheme of All India Network Programme on Organic Farming (AI-NPOF) with 20 cooperating centres covering 16 States to develop package of practices for organic production of crops.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are potential advantages of the **Integrated Farming System (IFS)**?

1. Maximising return from the unit area
2. Increased farm income
3. Utilisation of the by-products of different components of the farming system

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 **integrated farming system** is a commonly used term to explain a more integrated approach to farming compared to monoculture approaches. It refers to agricultural

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systems that integrate livestock and crop production or integrate fish and livestock and may sometimes be known as integrated biosystems.

Advantages of Integrated Farming System:

- Maximising return from the unit area
- Utilising the by-products of one component of the farming system as an input in other for ensuring supplementary and complementary enterprise relationship
- Sustainable soil fertility and productivity through organic waste recycling
- Integration of allied activities will result in the availability of nutritious food enriched with protein, carbohydrate, fat, minerals and vitamins
- Integrated farming will help in environmental protection through effective recycling of waste from animal activities like piggery, poultry and pigeon rearing
- Reduced production cost of components through input recycling from the byproducts of allied enterprises

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 63 Integrated Farming System (IFS) models by involving ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and farming community of 18 states.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vembanad Lake:**

1. It is the largest lake in Kerala.
2. Pamba River empties into the Vembanad Lake.

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. **Vembanad Lake, the largest and the longest lake in Kerala**, hosts the much-celebrated Nehru Trophy Boat Race on a major portion of this lake. Statement 2 is correct. **Pamba River** is the third longest river in the South Indian state of Kerala after Periyar and Bharathappuzha, and the longest river in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river Pamba.

It enriches the lands of Pathanamthitta District and the Kuttanad area of Alappuzha District and few areas of Kottayam and finally empties into the Vembanad Lake.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **seismic zoning map of India:**

1. Zone V exhibits the highest seismic risk and zone II has the least.
2. Zone V seismic area is limited to Himalayan region of the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The whole country has been divided into four zones viz. **zone V, IV, III and II according to the seismic zoning map of India prepared by Bureau of**

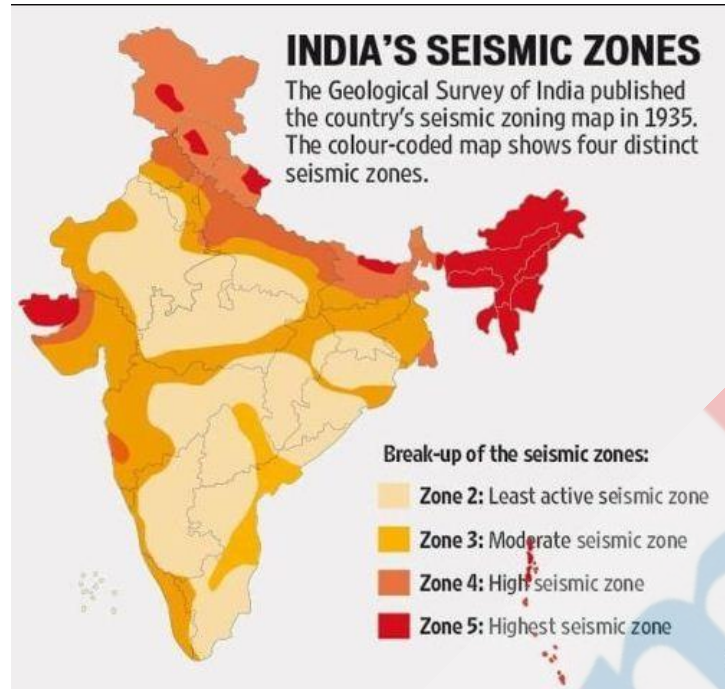
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Indian Standards (BIS) based on the historical seismicity and strong ground motions. Out of these zones, Zone V exhibits the highest seismic risk and zone II has the least.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Zone V** covers parts of Jammu and Kashmir (Kashmir valley); Western part of Himachal Pradesh; Eastern part of Uttarakhand, Kutch in Gujarat; part of Northern Bihar; all northeastern states of India and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



National Centre for Seismology (NCS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), maintains a nation-wide seismological network comprising of 115 seismic stations to monitor the earthquake activity in and around the country.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Wetlands in India**:

1. Gujarat has highest wetland area among all states of India.
2. Inland natural wetland area of India is more than the coastal natural wetland area.

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. Among Indian states, **Gujarat ranks first with 3.47 m ha** (about 23% of the total wetland area of country) comprising vast stretches of intertidal mudflats and salt pans.

Gujarat is followed by Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra having more than 1 m ha area of wetlands.

Statement 2 is correct. **Inland natural wetland area accounts for around 43%** while coastal natural wetland area accounts for around 24% of the total wetland area.

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Table 1. Wetland Types of India (after Panigrahy *et al.* 2012).

S. No.	Wetland Category	Total wetland area (ha)	% of wetland area
1.	Inland wetlands- Natural (Lakes/pondes; Ox-bow lakes/ cut-off meanders; High-altitude wetlands; Riverine wetlands; waterlogged; River/stream)	6623067	43.40
2.	Inland wetlands- Man-made (Reservoirs/barrages; Tanks/ponds; waterlogged; Salt pans)	3941832	25.83
	<i>Total – Inland</i>	<i>10564899</i>	<i>69.22</i>
3.	Coastal wetlands- Natural (Lagoons; Creeks; Sand/beeach/ Intertidal mud flats; Salt marsh; Mangroves; Coral reefs)	3703971	24.27
4.	Coastal wetlands- Man-made (Salt pans; Aquaculture ponds)	436145	2.86
	<i>Total – Coastal</i>	<i>4140116</i>	<i>27.13</i>
	<i>Sub- Total</i>	<i>14705015</i>	<i>96.36</i>
5.	Wetlands (< 2.25 ha)	555557	3.64
	Total	15260572	100

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Sh. Babul Supriyo has announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM), as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, an institution under the Ministry.

Q.11) The **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve** is located in which of the following State?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Haryana
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Dudhwa National Park or the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve residing the areas of Lakhimpur & Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, lying adjacent to the Indo-Nepal border bringing together two most incredible sanctuaries of the area namely, Kishanpur and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuaries to represent the excellent natural forests and greenery along the Terai region.

With funding support under TARA Scheme of Science for Equity, Empowerment & Development (SEED) Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, and implemented through Core Support Group- WWF India; women belonging to the Tharu Hath Karga Gharelu Udyog – a Self Help Group (SHG) have recorded significant increase in revenue from sale of their wares in 2020.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the process of **Biomethanation**:

1. The organic material is microbiologically converted into biogas.
2. It takes place in anaerobic conditions.

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.

Biomethanation is a process by which organic material is **microbiologically converted under anaerobic conditions to biogas**. Three main physiological groups of microorganisms are involved: fermenting bacteria, organic acid oxidizing bacteria, and methanogenic archaea. Microorganisms degrade organic matter via cascades of biochemical conversions to methane and carbon dioxide.

A wide variety of process applications for biomethanation of wastewaters, slurries, and solid waste have been developed. They utilize different reactor types (fully mixed, plug-flow, biofilm, UASB, etc.) and process conditions (retention times, loading rates, temperatures, etc.) in order to maximize the energy output from the waste.

Prime Minister during his Mann Ki Baat address made a mention of the garbage-to-power plant being commissioned inside the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Agriculture Market in Bowenpally.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Polio vaccination**:

1. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) consists of a mixture of inactivated poliovirus strains of each of the three serotypes.
2. Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) is an injectable vaccine that can be administered in combination with other vaccines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Poliomyelitis is a crippling disease that results from infection with any one of the three related poliovirus types (referred to as types P1, P2, and P3), members of the enterovirus (picornavirus) family. Poliovirus is transmitted from one person to another by oral contact with secretions or faecal material from an infected person.

Statement 1 is incorrect. **Oral polio vaccine (OPV)** consists of a mixture of live attenuated poliovirus strains of each of the three serotypes, selected by their ability to mimic the immune response following infection with wild polioviruses, but with a significantly reduced incidence of spreading to the central nervous system.

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Statement 2 is correct. **Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)** is produced from wild-type poliovirus strains of each serotype that have been inactivated (killed) with formalin. As an injectable vaccine, it can be administered alone or in combination with other vaccines (e.g., diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, and haemophilus influenza).

President of India recently launched the Pulse Polio Programme for 2021. Government of India has also introduced the injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine into its routine immunization program.

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

1. It is India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine.
2. It is not suitable for children and develops immune response only above 18-year-old adults.

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. **PNEUMOSIL** is India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine developed by the **Serum Institute of India** Private Limited (SIPL) in collaboration with partners like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Pneumosil has been licensed by Drugs Controller General (India) in July 2020 after approval from Subject Expert Committee (SEC).

Statement 2 is incorrect. PNEUMOSIL will primarily help to fight against pneumococcal pneumonia amongst **children** and will be available at an affordable competitive price with an advantage of presence of serotypes 6A and 19A in the vaccine.

The unique feature of this WHO pre-qualified PCV is its composition which is specially tailored to the prevailing serotype prevalence of *S. pneumoniae* in India and other regions of the world.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the **Metro Neo**?

1. It runs with rubber tyred electric coaches powered by overhead traction system.
2. It requires lesser capital investments, operation and maintenance cost than the conventional metro rail system.

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 metro rail system being developed at present is of high capacity which is required for bigger cities with very high ridership and Peak Hour Peak Direction Traffic (PHPDT).

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs released specifications for a system named **Metro Neo** in November 2020, which will be at much **lesser cost, rail guided, rubber tyred electric coaches powered by overhead traction system** running on a road slab (elevated/at-grade).

It can have a Peak Hour Peak Direction Traffic upto 8,000 and 25% of cost of conventional metro system.

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'Metroneo' would also act as feeder system to high-capacity Metro. In addition to less capital cost, the operation and maintenance cost of Metroneo would also be less making the system more viable.

It is being adopted for the first time in the country in Nashik, Maharashtra.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The COVAX Facility is the global pooled procurement mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines.
2. The COVID-19 vaccine CoronaVac developed by Sinovac is an RNA based 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. The **COVAX Facility** is the global pooled procurement mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines through which COVAX will ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for all 190 participating economies.

COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, is co-led by CEPI, Gavi and WHO. The goal of COVAX is to deliver two billion doses of safe, effective vaccines that have passed regulatory approval and/or WHO prequalification by the end of 2021.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Beijing-based biopharmaceutical company Sinovac is behind the **CoronaVac**, an inactivated vaccine. It works by using killed viral particles to expose the body's immune system to the virus without risking a serious disease response.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are mRNA vaccines.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gaganyaan mission**:

1. It aims to demonstrate human space flight capability to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
2. ISRO's PSLV has been chosen as the launch vehicle to be used in the Gaganyaan Mission.

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 **Gaganyaan project** has the objective of demonstrating human space flight capability to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) with three crew members** in orbit and safely recovering them after the mission.

Statement 2 is incorrect. ISRO's heavy lift launcher, **GSLV MkIII** is identified for the Gaganyaan Mission and the process for human rating of GSLV MkIII is in progress. The high thrust solid propellant strap-on boosters S200 play an important role in the Human Rated GSLV MkIII. In order to human rate the booster, many new design features have been introduced in the hardware.

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

1. It does not occur as free metal in nature.

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- Lithium metal is made into alloys with aluminium and magnesium to improve their strength and make them lighter.
- Lithium carbonate is used in drugs to treat manic depression.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Lithium** does not occur as the metal in nature, but is found combined in small amounts in nearly all igneous rocks and in the waters of many mineral springs. Spodumene, petalite, lepidolite, and amblygonite are the more important minerals containing lithium.

Statement 2 is correct. Lithium metal is made into **alloys with aluminium and magnesium**, improving their strength and making them lighter. A magnesium-lithium alloy is used for armour plating. Aluminium-lithium alloys are used in aircraft, bicycle frames and high-speed trains.

Statement 3 is correct. **Lithium carbonate** is used in drugs to treat manic-depressive disorder (bipolar disorder). It works to stabilize the mood and reduce extremes in behavior by restoring the balance of certain natural substances (neurotransmitters) in the brain.

Preliminary survey shows deposits of Lithium in Mandya district of Karnataka.

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

- These are aggressive root parasitic weeds.
- It attacks food crops such as legumes and vegetables.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Orobanche are aggressive root parasitic weeds, which attack strategic food crops, such as legumes and vegetables, and threaten the livelihood of many nations. The continuous spread of Orobanche limits the choice of rotational crops and often force farmers to give up growing the most profitable host crops.

Heavy Orobanche infestation does not only lead to a **complete crop failure**, but make field soils Orobanche-sick over a long period of time, preventing the reasonable production of legumes and vegetables in the infested fields for many years to come.

A field workshop on “Techno-management options to control Orobanche in mustard-a pilot study” was jointly organized by Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT) and the ICAR-Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research (ICAR-DRMR at village Gurda Nandi in the Bharatpur district.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Aero India Show**:

- It is an annual exhibition organised by the Ministry of Defence.

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2. An Indian company cannot exhibit products developed outside India at Aero 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. Aero India is a **biennial air show** and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru, India by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence.

Statement 2 is correct. Foreign exhibitors are allowed but an Indian company cannot exhibit products developed outside India.

The 13th edition of Aero India is being held currently in Bengaluru. Though the total number of exhibitors has increased to 601 against 403 in the last edition, the number of foreign exhibitors is down from 165 to 78 this year. The number of foreign delegations is also down from 44 to 14. There are 248 virtual exhibitors at the event.

Q.10) What are common ‘One Health’ issues?

- 1. Zoonotic diseases
- 2. Antimicrobial resistance
- 3. Environmental contamination

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: D

Explanation: Finance Minister in Budget 2021-22 declared the Government’s decision of setting up of a **national institution for One Health**, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories and 4 regional National Institutes for Virology.

One Health is an approach that recognizes that the **health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.**

One Health issues include zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and food security, vector-borne diseases, environmental contamination, and other health threats shared by people, animals, and the environment.

Even the fields of chronic disease, mental health, injury, occupational health, and noncommunicable diseases can benefit from a One Health approach involving collaboration across disciplines and sectors.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Square Kilometre Array (SKA)** project:

- 1. It is an international collaborative effort to build the world’s largest radio telescope with over a square kilometre of collecting area.
- 2. Hanle in Ladakh is one of the site hosting part of the array.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Square Kilometre Array (SKA)** project is an international effort to build the world's largest radio telescope, with eventually over a square kilometre (one million square metres) of collecting area.

The SKA telescope will be powerful enough to detect very faint radio signals emitted by cosmic sources billions of light years away from Earth, those signals emitted in the first billion years of the Universe (more than 13 billion years ago) when the first galaxies and stars started forming.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **South Africa's Karoo region and Western Australia's Murchison Shire** were chosen as co-hosting locations for many scientific and technical reasons, from the atmospheric conditions above the sites, through to the radio quietness, which comes from being some of the most remote locations on Earth.

Organisations from 14 countries are members of the SKA Organisation – Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Seroprevalence Surveys**:

1. The percentage of individuals in a population who have antibodies to an infectious agent is called seroprevalence.
 2. Higher the seroprevalence, higher are the chances of a population achieving Herd Immunity.
- 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 percentage of individuals in a population who have antibodies to an infectious agent is called **seroprevalence**. A seroprevalence survey uses antibody tests to estimate the percentage of people in a population who have antibodies against a particular infection.

When most of a population is immune to an infectious disease, this provides indirect protection—or **herd immunity** (also called herd protection)—to those who are not immune to the disease.

For example, if 80% of a population is immune to a virus, four out of every five people who encounter someone with the disease won't get sick (and won't spread the disease any further). In this way, the spread of infectious diseases is kept under control.

Q.13) Which of the following is/are potential uses of the **Seaweeds**?

1. Anti-inflammatory agent
2. Binding agent
3. Nutritious food

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: "Seaweed" is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean as well as in rivers, lakes, and other water bodies.

Seaweed is full of **vitamins**, minerals, and fiber, and can be tasty. For at least 1,500 years, the Japanese have enrobed a mixture of raw fish, sticky rice, and other ingredients in a seaweed called nori.

Many seaweeds contain **anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial** agents. Their known medicinal effects have been legion for thousands of years; the ancient Romans used them to treat wounds, burns, and rashes.

These versatile marine plants and algae have also contributed to economic growth. Among their many uses in manufacturing, they are **effective binding agents (emulsifiers)** in such commercial goods as toothpaste and fruit jelly, and popular softeners (emollients) in organic cosmetics and skin-care products.

In Budget 2021-22, the Finance Minister has proposed to set up a multi-purpose seaweed park in Tamil Nadu.

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ECONOMICS

Q.1) Arrange the following factors in decreasing order of their **weight in formula of Horizontal devolution** of funds, as adopted by the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC):

1. Forest & Ecology
2. Income Distance
3. Demographic Performance

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: B

Explanation: The horizontal devolution determines each state's share in central taxes depending their status/performance in the weights assigned to following criterion:

Criterion	Weight
Population	15
Income Distance	45
Forest & Ecology	10
Demographic Performance	12.5
Area	15
Tax & Fiscal Efforts	2.5
Total	100

--On horizontal devolution, while XVFC agreed that the Census 2011 population data better represents the present need of States, to be fair to, as well as reward, the States which have done better on the demographic front, XVFC has assigned a 12.5 per cent weight to the **demographic performance** criterion.

--**Income distance** is the distance of the state's income from the state with the highest income.

--XVFC has re-introduced tax effort criterion to reward fiscal performance.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC)**:

1. It has recommended a vertical devolution at 41 per cent from the divisible pool of taxes.
2. It has proposed a Modernisation Fund for Defence and Internal Security (MFDIS) under the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. It has recommended an All India Medical and Health Service under the All-India Services Act, 1951.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In order to maintain predictability and stability of resources, especially during the pandemic, XVFC has recommended maintaining the **vertical devolution at 41 per cent** – the same as in report for 2020-21.

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It is at the same level of 42 per cent of the divisible pool as recommended by FC-XIV. However, it has made the required adjustment of about 1 per cent due to the changed status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into the new Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The XVFC proposes that the Union Government may constitute in the **Public Account of India**, a dedicated non-lapsable fund, **Modernisation Fund for Defence and Internal Security (MFDIS)**. The total indicative size of the proposed MFDIS over the period 2021-26 is Rs. 2,38,354 crores.

Statement 3 is correct. XVFC has recommend that health spending by States should be increased to more than **8 per cent of their budget by 2022**.

Given the inter-State disparity in the availability of medical doctors, it is essential to constitute an All India Medical and Health Service as is envisaged under Section 2A of the All-India Services Act, 1951.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding trends in **Indian economy in last five years**:

1. India's fiscal deficit was continuously below five percent before the Financial Year 2020-21.
2. India's current account balance has been consistently positive.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

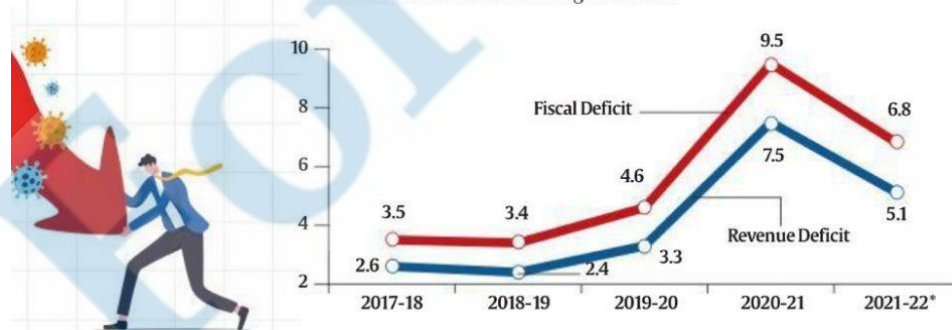
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **fiscal deficit** in BE 2021-2022 is estimated to be 6.8% of GDP. The fiscal deficit in RE 2020-21 is pegged at 9.5% of GDP - funded through Government borrowings, multilateral borrowings, Small Saving Funds and short-term borrowings.

WIDENING FISCAL DEFICIT

The Central government's fiscal deficit, which has been under strain, has slipped further due to a rise in expenditure on account of the outbreak of Covid pandemic and moderation in revenue during this fiscal



	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*
Gross Tax Revenue	11.2	11	9.9	9.8	9.9
Current Account Balance	-1.8	-2.1	-0.9	-	-
GDP	7.0	6.5	4.0	-7.7	-

*Budget Estimates, note: All data (except GDP growth rates) as percentage of GDP

Source: Finance Ministry, RBI

Statement 2 is incorrect. This financial year 2020-21 is expected to end with an Annual Current Account Surplus for the first time after a period of 17 years.

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Q.4) Which of the following option correctly defines a **Gig worker**?

- Unpaid household worker
- Person engaged in the production of goods or services for an employer in his home
- Working outside of traditional employer-employee relationship
- A worker having negligible productivity in an economic activity

Correct answer: C

Explanation: A "**gig worker**" means a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship.

Traditional workers have a long-term employer-employee relationship in which the worker is paid by the hour or year, earning a wage or salary. Outside of that arrangement, work tends to be temporary or project-based; workers are hired to complete a particular task or for a certain period of time.

The **budget 2021-22** has proposed a portal that will collect relevant information on gig, building, and construction workers, among others. This will help formulate health, housing, skill, insurance, credit and food schemes for migrant workers.

Q.5) The Budget 2021-22 has proposed a single **Securities Markets Code** by consolidation of which of the following law(s)?

- Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992
- Depositories Act, 1996
- Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority Act, 2013

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Through Union Budget 2021-22, the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs announced that the Government will consolidate the provisions of **SEBI Act, 1992, Depositories Act, 1996, Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and Government Securities Act, 2007** into a rationalized single **Securities Markets Code**.

Securities are tradable financial instruments used to raise capital in public and private markets. There are primarily three types of securities: equity—which provides ownership rights to holders; debt—essentially loans repaid with periodic payments; and hybrids—which combine aspects of debt and equity.

Q.6) Which of the following is/are principles of **Washington Consensus**?

- Diversification of public spending from subsidies to important long-term growth supporting sectors
- Tax reform policies to broaden the tax base and adopt moderate marginal tax rates.
- High government borrowing

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Washington Consensus** refers to a set of broadly free market economic ideas, supported by prominent economists and international organisations, such as the IMF, the World Bank, the EU and the US.

The ten specific principles originally set out by John Williamson in 1989:

- Low government borrowing. Avoidance of large fiscal deficits relative to GDP;
- Redirection of public spending from subsidies (“especially indiscriminate subsidies”) toward broad-based provision of key pro-growth, pro-poor services like primary education, primary health care and infrastructure investment;
- Tax reform, broadening the tax base and adopting moderate marginal tax rates;
- Interest rates that are market determined and positive (but moderate) in real terms;
- Competitive exchange rates;
- Trade liberalization: liberalization of imports, with particular emphasis on elimination of quantitative restrictions (licensing, etc.); any trade protection to be provided by low and relatively uniform tariffs;
- Liberalization of inward foreign direct investment;
- Privatization of state enterprises;
- Deregulation: abolition of regulations that impede market entry or restrict competition, except for those justified on safety, environmental and consumer protection grounds, and prudential oversight of financial institutions;
- Legal security for property rights.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **India-China trade**:

1. Electrical equipment and nuclear machinery are among top imports from China to India.
2. India’s trade deficit with China has been consistently decreasing since 2015-16.

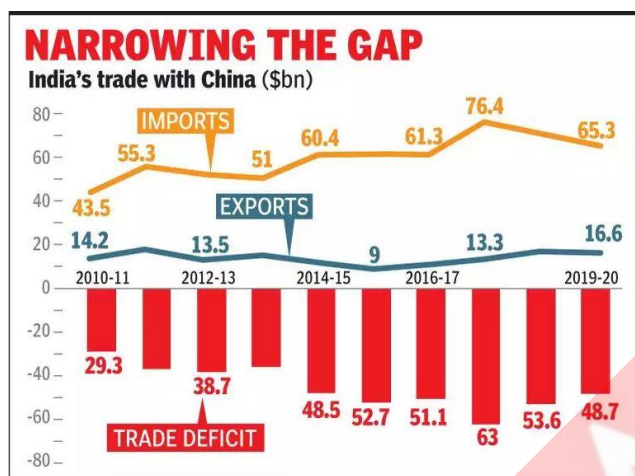
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Electrical machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers, organic chemicals**, plastic items, fertilizers are among the top import from China to India. Statement 2 is incorrect. India trade deficit with China had an increase once in last five years; from 51.1 USD in 2016-17 to 63 USD in 2017-18.

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Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **One Person Companies (OPCs)** rules in India:

1. Any person, who is an Indian citizen, whether resident in India or otherwise is allowed to form an OPC.
2. Conversion of OPC into a Public company is allowed only after two years of the incorporation of the OPC.

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: As a measure which directly benefits Startups & Innovators in the country, especially those who are supplying products & services on e-commerce platforms, and in order to bring in more unincorporated businesses into the organized corporate sector, the incorporation of **One Person Companies (OPCs)** is being incentivized by amending the Companies (Incorporation) Rules.

Statement 1 is correct. Previously NRIs were not allowed to incorporate OPCs. Now any natural person, who is an Indian citizen, **whether resident in India or otherwise would be allowed to form an OPC.**

For being considered as a resident in India, the residency period has been proposed to be reduced to 120 days from 182 days for NRIs.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Rule relating to voluntary conversion unless OPC has completed two years from the date of incorporated is proposed to be **omitted** and with effect from 01.04.2021, Conversion of One Person Company into a Public company or a Private company shall be permitted anytime.

Q.9) Which of the following measures in **fiscal policy** are used to increase the overall demand in economy?

1. Higher government spending
2. Lowering the tax rates
3. Increasing the repo rate

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 and 2 are correct. **Fiscal policy is the use of government spending and taxation** to influence the economy. The most immediate effect of fiscal policy is to change the aggregate demand for goods and services.

A fiscal expansion raises aggregate demand through one of two channels. First, if the government increases its spending but keeps taxes constant, it increases demand directly. Second, if the government cuts taxes or increases transfer payments, households' disposable income rises, and they will spend more on consumption. This rise in consumption will in turn raise aggregate demand.

Option 3 is incorrect. The repo rate adjustment is part of monetary policy and not fiscal policy. Further, an increase in repo rate reduces the money supply and lowers the demand.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon**:

1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog.
2. The hackathon focusses on common ASEAN-India challenges under themes of 'Blue Economy' and 'Education'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon** is an initiative taken by Ministry of Education as proposed by the Prime Minister of India during Singapore India Hackathon in 2019. The ASEAN India Hackathon is being organized online from 1st -3rd February 2021

Statement 2 is correct. The Hackathon will provide a unique opportunity to India and ASEAN countries to solve their common identified challenges under two broad themes of **“Blue Economy” and “Education”** and thereby provide an opportunity to forward their economic and cultural ties through collaboration in education, science and technology.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Length of India's land border with Myanmar is more than that of with Nepal.
2. India has an integrated check post at Moreh in Manipur for ease of travel and trade with Myanmar.

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. India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories. The length of our land borders with neighboring countries is:

Country	Border length
Bangladesh	4,096.7 km
China	3,488 km
Pakistan	3,323 km
Nepal	1,751 km
Myanmar	1,643 km
Bhutan	699 km
Afghanistan	106 km
Total	15,106.7

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Statement 2 is correct. **Integrated Check Post (ICP) Moreh** is located on NH-39 on the India-Myanmar border in the Tengnoupal district at about 110 Km. from Imphal, the State capital of Manipur. Tamu is the corresponding town in Myanmar opposite to Moreh.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the estimates by the **Global Risks Report 2021**:

1. The extreme weather and climate action failure are most likelihood risks of the next decade.
2. The infectious diseases is the most impact risk of the next decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Global Risks Report 2021**, 16th Edition has been released by the World Economic Forum which shares the results of the latest **Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS)**.

Among the highest likelihood risks of the next ten years are **extreme weather, climate action failure and human-led environmental damage**; as well as digital power concentration, digital inequality and cybersecurity failure. Among the highest impact risks of the next decade, **infectious diseases** are in the top spot, followed by climate action failure and other environmental risks; as well as weapons of mass destruction, livelihood crises, debt crises and IT infrastructure breakdown.

Top Global Risks by Likelihood



Top Global Risks by Impact



■ Economic ■ Environmental ■ Geopolitical ■ Societal ■ Technological

Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2021

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Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the “Global Fund”)**:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation to invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.
2. India is a donor country to the Global Fund.

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 **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the “Global Fund”)** is a multistakeholder international financing institution duly formed as a **non-profit** foundation under the laws of Switzerland and recognized as an international organization by various national governments.

The purpose of the Global Fund is to attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.

Statement 2 is correct. **India** joined the Global Fund as a donor in 2006, and has contributed a total US\$53.5 million to date. The Government of India pledged US\$22 million to the Global Fund’s Sixth Replenishment for 2020-2022.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)**:

1. It limits the number of non-deployed Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs).
2. The treat has been extended till 2026 by USA and Russia.

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: The **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)** was signed April 8, 2010, in Prague by the United States and Russia and entered into force in 2011. It is an agreement for nuclear arms reduction between the United States and Russia, establishing a limit on deployed strategic warheads.

Statement 1 is incorrect. New START does not limit the number of non-deployed ICBMs and SLBMs, but it does monitor them and provide for continuous information on their locations and on-site inspections to confirm that they are not added to the deployed force.

Statement 2 is correct. The **United States and Russia** agreed on Feb. 3, 2021, to extend New START by five years, as allowed by the treaty text, until Feb. 5, 2026.

Q.6) Which of the following organisation has launched the **EDISON Alliance**?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) Asian Development Bank

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d) World Health Organization

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The events of 2020 have dramatically accelerated the digitalization of our economies and societies. In response to this complex and urgent challenge, the **World Economic Forum launched The EDISON Alliance** to mobilize a global movement to prioritize digital inclusion as foundational to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and a cross-sector platform to accelerate collaborative action.

The Alliance will prioritize three focus areas related to the Sustainable Development Goals each year. For 2021, the alliance will focus on health and healthcare, education, and financial inclusion.

Q.7) Which of the following institution has released the **Corruption Perception Index 2021**?

- a) Transparency International
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Financial Action Task Force
- d) World Bank

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Transparency International publishes the Corruption Perception Index annually, since 1995. The CPI scores and ranks 180 countries/territories based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be by experts and business executives. It is a composite index, a combination of 13 surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions.

New Zealand and Denmark are ranked at the first position with scores of 88. India ranks at 86 with score of 40.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Climate Risk Index 2021**:

1. It has been released by the Germany-based think tank Germanwatch.
2. India was the most affected country by the impacts of extreme weather events in 2019.

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 **Global Climate Risk Index** annually published by the **Germanwatch** is an analysis based on one of the most reliable data sets available on the impacts of extreme weather events and associated socio-economic data.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Mozambique, Zimbabwe and the Bahamas were the countries most affected by the impacts of extreme weather events in 2019.** India is seventh, most affected country.

Between 2000 and 2019, Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti were the countries most affected by the impacts of extreme weather events.

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Table 1: The 10 most affected countries in 2019

Ranking 2019 (2018)	Country	CRI score	Fatalities	Fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants	Absolute losses (in million US\$ PPP)	Losses per unit GDP in %	Human Development Index 2020 Ranking ¹⁴
1 (54)	Mozambique	2.67	700	2.25	4 930.08	12.16	181
2 (132)	Zimbabwe	6.17	347	2.33	1 836.82	4.26	150
3 (135)	The Bahamas	6.50	56	14.70	4 758.21	31.59	58
4 (1)	Japan	14.50	290	0.23	28 899.79	0.53	19
5 (93)	Malawi	15.17	95	0.47	452.14	2.22	174
6 (24)	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	16.00	191	0.51	548.73	0.67	169
7 (5)	India	16.67	2 267	0.17	68 812.35	0.72	131
8 (133)	South Sudan	17.33	185	1.38	85.86	0.74	185
9 (27)	Niger	18.17	117	0.50	219.58	0.74	189
10 (59)	Bolivia	19.67	33	0.29	798.91	0.76	107

PPP = Purchasing Power Parities. GDP = Gross Domestic Product.

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POLITY

Q.1) On which of the following grounds under the **Information & Technology Act, 2000**, the Central Government can block public access of any information through internet?

1. Interest of sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Friendly relations with foreign States
3. Public order

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: Under article **69A of the Information & Technology Act** if the Central Government or any of its officers specially authorised by it in this behalf is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, in **the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence** relating to above block for access by the public or cause to be blocked for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource. The intermediary who fails to comply with the direction issued shall be punished with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and also be liable to fine.