

## *10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation*

8th to 14th 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 - 8th to 14th February, 2021

### GEOGRAPHY

**Q.1)** Which of the following river(s) is/are tributary to the **Alaknanda River**?

1. Kali River
2. Dhauliganga River
3. Pindar River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **River Alaknanda** rises at the confluence and fed of Satopath and Bhagirathi Kharak glacier in Uttarakhand and meet the Sarasvati River tributary at Mana, India, 21 km from Tibet. Three km below Mana the Alaknanda flows past the Hindu pilgrimage centre of Badrinath.

There are many operational dams and HE projects in the Alaknanda basin namely **Tapovan, Tharali, Vishnuprayag, Srinagar etc.**

Various tributaries joining River Alaknanda are: Dhauliganga river at Vishnuprayag, Nandakini River at Nandaprayag, Pindar River at Karnaprayag, Mandakini River at Rudraprayag, and finally it meets Bhagirathi River at Devprayag.



**Q.2)** Which of the following is/are potential causes of a **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)**?

1. Earthquake
2. Heavy rainfall/snowmelt
3. Landslides

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** A **glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)** is a release of meltwater from a moraine- or ice-dam glacial lake due to dam failure.

It is mostly caused by rapid slope movement into the lake, heavy rainfall/snowmelt, cascading processes (flood from a lake situated upstream), earthquake, melting of ice incorporated in dam/forming the dam (including volcanic activity-triggered **jökulhlaups**).

As the volume of the glacial lake grows, so does the pressure on the dam containing it. Fragmentation of the source glacier, landslides and other processes can trigger displacement waves in the lake, potentially compromising the stability of the dam and resulting in a GLOF. Failure of the dam can also occur due to internal processes, such as water seeping through the structure.

**Q.3)** The **Tehri Dam** is on which of the following river?

- a) Alaknanda River
- b) Bhagirathi River
- c) Rishiganga River
- d) Mandakini River

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Tehri hydroelectric power complex**, located in the Himalayan foothills, is owned and operated by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC).

The Tehri Dam is a multi-purpose rock and earth fill dam build on the Bhagirathi River near Tehri Garhwal in Uttarakhand. The Tehri Hydroelectric Complex Phase 1 was completed in 2006. It withholds a reservoir for irrigation, municipal water supply and generates 1,000 megawatts of electricity along with an additional 1,000 MW of pumped storage hydroelectricity. It provides irrigation to an additional area of 270,000 hectares as well as supporting the existing irrigated area of 604,000 hectares. It supplies clean drinking water to about 4 million people in Delhi and 3 million people in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. And last but not least, the Tehri reservoir has a flood control pool capacity of 219.65 Mm<sup>3</sup>.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the recently released report "**Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region**":

1. It has been published by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
2. The surface air temperature over India has risen by about 0.7 °C during last century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India has recently published a Climate Change report entitled "Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region" which covers all the aspects of regional climate change including the climatic extremes across India.

The preparation of this report was led by the Center for Climate Change Research (CCCR) at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune.

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Based on the available climate records, the report documents that the surface air temperature over India has risen by about 0.7 °C during 1901–2018 which is accompanied with an increase in atmospheric moisture content. The sea surface temperatures in the tropical Indian Ocean have also increased by about 1 °C during 1951–2015.

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

1. Blue Pottery - Rajasthan
2. Kala Jeera - Assam
3. Bidriware - Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The ongoing Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav is showcasing various GI products from all over the country. The GI products stall at the Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav features renowned, exquisite items such as **Rajasthan's blue pottery, the Kota Dariya fabric, Madhya Pradesh's Chanderi and Maheshwari silk, Bagh print, Odisha's Pattachitra, Karnataka's Bidriware, Banarasi silk from Uttar Pradesh, Darjeeling tea from West Bengal, Kala jeera from Himachal Pradesh, the extremely spicy Naga chilli, and the large cardamom from the North-east.**

The Geographical Indication, which has been recognized by the World Trade Organization, is used to denote the geographical territory from where a product, be it an agricultural produce, natural product or manufactured, and also conveys assurance of qualities or attributes that are unique to that specific geographic region. India became a signatory to this convention, when, as a member of the WTO, it enacted the **Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection Act), 1999.**

**Q.6)** Which of the following is/are the **effects of sedimentation of Dams**?

1. Increase the flood-risk reduction capability of Dam
2. Reduction of spillway capacity
3. Damage on turbines and other mechanical equipment

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** All rivers naturally transport sediment. However, when the flow velocity and energy of the water is reduced as the river enters a reservoir, most of this sediment settles along the bottom of the reservoir where it becomes trapped, rather than continuing downstream.

Option 1 is incorrect. Sedimentation **decreases the storage** available for flood-risk reduction.

Option 2 is correct. Sediments will often block low-level outlets designed to allow for reservoir drawdown. As sedimentation continues, clogging of spillway tunnels or other conduits may

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occur. **Reduction of spillway capacity** can occur as a result of the loss of approach depth when the sediment front reaches the dam.

Option 3 is correct. Sediment can damage turbines and other mechanical equipment through erosion of the oxide coating on the blades, leading to surface irregularities and more serious material damage.<sup>8</sup> Sustained erosion can lead to extended shutdown time for maintenance or replacement.

**Q.7) The Torres Strait** connects which of the following oceans/seas?

- a) Coral Sea and the Arafura Sea
- b) Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea
- c) Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea
- d) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

**Correct answer:**

**Explanation:** **Torres Strait** is the passage between the **Coral Sea**, on the east, and the **Arafura Sea**, in the western Pacific Ocean. To the north lies New Guinea and to the south Queensland, Australia. It is about 80 mi (130 km) wide and has many reefs and shoals dangerous to navigation, and its larger islands are inhabited.



The Strait of Gibraltar connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates the Iberian Peninsula in Europe from Morocco in Africa.

The Strait of Otranto connects the Adriatic Sea with the Ionian Sea and separates Italy from Albania.

Bab el-Mandeb Strait between Arabia and Africa connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.

**Q.8) The Lalandar (Shatoot) Dam** is being constructed on which of the following river basin in Afghanistan?

- a) Amu Darya
- b) Kabul River
- c) Helmand River
- d) Harut River

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Shahtoot dam** is proposed to be constructed on the **Kabul river** basin. A signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] between India and Afghanistan for the construction of the Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam in Afghanistan took place recently.

The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan. The Lalander [Shatoot] Dam would meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City, provide irrigation water to nearby areas, rehabilitate the existing irrigation and drainage network, aid in flood protection and management efforts in the area, and also provide electricity to the region.

This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India- Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam].

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### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Trade & Investment, 2021**:

1. It was the first ever HLD on Trade & Investment between India and EU.
2. The 'India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025' has been adopted at the HLD.

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 **1<sup>st</sup> India-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD)**, co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and the European Union Executive Vice-President & Trade Commissioner Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, was held on 5th February 2021.

Commitment to the establishment of this Dialogue was a major **outcome of the 15th India-EU Leader's Summit held in July 2020**, with an objective for a Ministerial level guidance towards the bilateral trade and investment relations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **"India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025"** was endorsed as a common roadmap to guide joint action and further strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership over the next five years at 15<sup>th</sup> India-European Union Summit on the 15th July 2020.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 vaccines**:

1. AstraZeneca-Oxford University vaccine AZD1222 became the COVID-19 vaccine first to receive emergency validation from World Health Organisation.
2. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has received emergency use authorization in India from the Drugs Controller General of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **World Health Organization (WHO) in December 2020 listed the Comirnaty COVID-19 mRNA vaccine** for emergency use, making the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine the first to receive emergency validation from WHO since the outbreak began a year ago.

The Comirnaty vaccine requires storage using an ultra-cold chain; it needs to be stored at -60°C to -90°C degrees. This requirement makes the vaccine more challenging to deploy in settings where ultra-cold chain equipment may not be available or reliably accessible.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **COVISHIELD and COVAXIN** are the only vaccines that have received authorization from DCGI for emergency use in India.

It has been reported recently that Pfizer has withdrawn its emergency use application in India for want of local trials.

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**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE)**:

1. GHE is funding the solar electrification of the remote Himalayan villages.
2. It is among the winners of the 2020 UN Global Climate Action Award.

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. **Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE)** is the one of the world's first organizations using the force of tourism coupled with technology to bring solar energy to these remote communities, as recognized by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

GHE conducts "Impact Expeditions" to remote Himalayan villages and uses a portion of the expedition fee to fund the capital cost of the hardware, transportation, installation and training of village-scale solar micro-grids. The micro-grid infrastructure set up by GHE is owned and operated by the community.

Statement 2 is correct. Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) is among the winners of the **2020 UN Global Climate Action Award** for 'Financing for Climate Friendly Investment'.

**Q.4)** The **Democracy Index 2020** has been released by which of the following organisation?

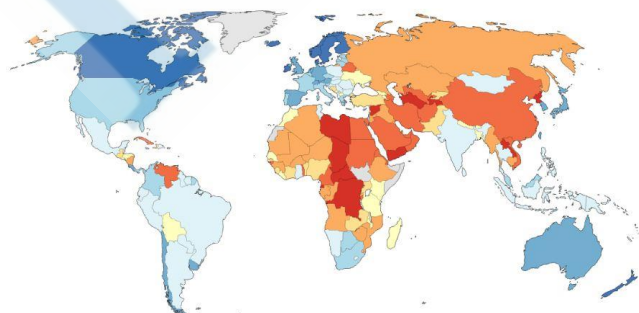
- a) Association for Democratic Reforms
- b) The Economist Intelligence Unit
- c) Inter-Parliamentary Union
- d) Amnesty International

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **EIU Democracy Index** provides a snapshot of the state of world democracy for 165 independent states and two territories. The Democracy Index is based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation, and political culture.

Based on their scores on 60 indicators within these categories, each country is then itself classified as one of four types of regime: **full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime or authoritarian regime.**

### Global Democracy Index 2020



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**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India-Myanmar relations**:

1. India has announced a debt service relief to Myanmar under the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative.
2. Land Border Crossing Agreement (LBCA) has been signed to facilitate movement of bonafide citizens of both countries across India-Myanmar land border.

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

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. COVID-19 has dealt a major blow to world's poorest countries, causing a recession that could push more than 100 million people into extreme poverty.

That is why the **World Bank and the International Monetary Fund urged G20 countries to establish the Debt Service Suspension Initiative**. The DSSI is helping countries concentrate their resources on fighting the pandemic and safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of millions of the most vulnerable people.

India in May 2020 announced the debt service relief to Myanmar under the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative.

Statement 2 is correct. Signing of **Land Border Crossing Agreement (LBCA) in 2018** facilitated movement of bonafide citizens of both countries with valid travel documents/visas to travel across India-Myanmar land border.

**Q.6)** India has recently agreed for development of an **Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP)** with which of the following country?

- a) United Kingdom
- b) United States of America
- c) Japan
- d) Australia

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Minister for Commerce and Industry of India, Shri Piyush Goyal, and UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Ms. Elizabeth Truss MP**, met on Saturday, 6th February 2021, at New Delhi to discuss the India - UK trade and investment relationship.

Both Ministers reiterated their commitment to long term India-UK partnership and agreed to deepen trade cooperation between the two countries through an **Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP)**.

India and UK Trade Ministers reviewed the ongoing engagements between the two sides for an ETP, as part of the development of a roadmap that would lead to a potential comprehensive FTA, including considerations on an Interim Agreement on preferential basis.

It has been reported that ETP will be formally launched during the visit of the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to India later this year.

**Q.7)** India has **Extradition Treaties** with which of the following country(s)?

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. United Kingdom

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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: D**

**Explanation: Extradition** is the recognised international mechanism for the timely return of fugitives from foreign countries. It is defined as the “delivery of an accused or convicted individual from the country he is found in, to another country that requests his extradition”.

At present, India has bilateral extradition treaties with following countries:

**Table 1.1 Countries with which India has bilateral extradition treaties<sup>[iv]</sup>**

Azerbaijan (2013)	Egypt (2008)	Nepal (1953)	Tajikistan (2003)
Australia (2008)	France (2003)	Netherlands (1898)	Thailand (2013)
Bahrain (2004)	Germany (2001)	Oman (2004)	Tunisia (2000)
Bangladesh (2013)	Hong Kong (1997)	Poland (2003)	Turkey (2001)
Belarus (2007)	Indonesia (2011)	Philippines (2004)	UAE (1999)
Belgium (1901)	Iran (2001)	Russia (1998)	UK (1992)
Bhutan (1996)	Kuwait (2004)	Saudi Arabia (2010)	Ukraine (2002)
Brazil (2008)	Malaysia (2010)	South Africa (2003)	USA (1997)
Bulgaria (2003)	Mauritius (2003)	South Korea (2004)	Uzbekistan (2000)
Canada (1987)	Mexico (2007)	Spain (2002)	Vietnam (2011)
Chile (1897)	Mongolia (2001)	Switzerland (1880)	Malawi (2018)

**Q.8)** Which of the following **dams in Afghanistan** have been or is being built in assistance from India?

- 1. Shatoot Dam
- 2. Salma Dam
- 3. Kajaki Dam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** India has assisted Afghanistan in construction of **Salma Dam**, which is a hydroelectric and irrigation dam project located on the Hari River in Chishti Sharif District of Heart.

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Recently India and Afghanistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] for the construction of the Lalander [Shatoot] Dam in Afghanistan. The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.

The **Lalander [Shatoot] Dam** would meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City, provide irrigation water to nearby areas, rehabilitate the existing irrigation and drainage network, aid in flood protection and management efforts in the area, and also provide electricity to the region.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**:

1. It recognizes the human rights of children, defined as persons up to the age of 18 years.
2. India and United States of America have not ratified the Convention.

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 **Convention on the Rights of the Child** is an international treaty that recognizes the human rights of children, defined as persons up to the age of 18 years.

The **Convention** establishes in international law that States Parties must ensure that all children – without discrimination in any form – benefit from special protection measures and assistance; have access to services such as education and health care; can develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential; grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding; and are informed about and participate in, achieving their rights in an accessible and active manner.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** is the most rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history. More countries have ratified the Convention than any other human rights treaty in history – 196 countries have become State Parties to the Convention as of October 2015. The United States of America has not ratified the Convention.

**India** ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**:

1. CDRI is an intergovernmental organization.
2. It has been launched by India and has a secretariat at New Delhi.

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 **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** is a global partnership that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

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Statement 1 is incorrect. CDRI is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions. **At present, it is not an intergovernmental organization**, which are ordinarily treaty-based organizations.

Statement 2 is correct. The Prime Minister of India launched CDRI during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019. The CDRI Secretariat is based in New Delhi, India.

**Q.11)** Which of the following is/are **joint exercise(s)** between Indian and USA's defence forces?

1. Yudh Abhyas
2. Vajra Prahar
3. Dustlik

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The India-US joint military exercise "**Yudh Abhyas 20**" commenced today in Mahajan Field Firing Range of Bikaner district in Rajasthan. This is the 16th edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of both the armies. It will continue till the 21st of this month. The previous version of the joint exercise was held at Seattle in the United States.

'**Vajra Prahar**' is a Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US.

# *Dustlik: India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise*

**Q.12)** Which of the following institution is organizing the **World Sustainable Development Summit 2021**?

- a) United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- b) The Energy and Resources Institute
- c) Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change
- d) Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The 20th edition of **The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI)** flagship event, the World Sustainable Development Summit, will be held online from 10th-12th February, 2021.

India's Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Earth Sciences are key partners of the Summit. Energy and industry transition, adaptation and resilience, nature-based solutions, climate finance, circular economy, clean oceans and air pollution, are amongst the range of topics to be discussed during the Summit.

The **World Sustainable Development Summit 2021** is being held on the theme 'Redefining our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All'

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**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**:

1. It is one of the United Nations organs established in 1945.
2. It conducts Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the human rights records of all UN Member States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Human Rights Council** is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.

*The main organs of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.*

**The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution.**

Statement 2 is correct. The **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

*# The US President has decided to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The moves come after the former US President had withdrawn from the global body three years ago.*

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### ECONOMICS

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**Q.1)** Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding **Expansionary Monetary Policy**?

1. It increases the money supply
2. It is achieved by increasing the interest rates
3. It aims to increase demand in economy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation: Monetary policy** refers to the actions of a central bank to influence a nation's money supply and economy. Monetary policy is used to influence the employment situation and to manage inflation.

Option 1 and 3 are correct. **Expansionary monetary policy** is when a central bank uses its tools to stimulate the economy. That **increases the money supply, lowers interest rates, and increases demand**.

Option 2 is incorrect as higher interest rates lower the money supply thereby decreasing the demand.

# *The Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das announced Friday at the end of the last monetary policy review meeting of the current fiscal to keep the repo and reverse repo rates unchanged at 4% and 3.35%, respectively, while maintaining an accommodative stance.*

**Q.2)** In the **Budget 2021-22**, which of the following estimates are presented?

1. Budget Estimate (BE) for 2021-22
2. Revised Estimate (RE) for 2020-21
3. Actual amounts for 2019-20

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: Budget** is a detailed statement by the government regarding its estimated expenditure and receipts for the next financial year. That means an estimate of expenditure to be made and receipts to be obtained from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The budget also includes statements about two previous budgets. First, there is an actual budget statement of the previous year and a revised estimate of the current year.

So, Budgeted estimates (BE) are budget allocations announced at the beginning of each financial year. Revised Estimates (RE) are estimates of projected amounts of receipts and expenditure until the end of the financial year. Actual amounts are audited accounts of expenditure and receipts in a year.

Therefore, **Budget 2021-22 lists Budget Estimate (BE) for 2021-22, Revised Estimate (RE) for 2020-21 and Actual amounts for 2019-20.**

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**Q.3)** The **Special Drawing Right (SDR)** currency basket includes which of the following currency(s)?

1. Chinese Renminbi
2. Japanese Yen
3. Indian Rupee

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: Special Drawing Right (SDR)** is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of five currencies—the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.

The SDR basket is reviewed every five years, or earlier if warranted, to ensure that the basket reflects the relative importance of currencies in the world's trading and financial systems. During the last review concluded in November 2015, the Board decided to include the Chinese renminbi (RMB) in SDR basket.

**Q.4)** Which of the following institution publishes **Financial Stability Reports** in India?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
- d) Financial Stability and Development Council

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Financial Stability Reports are published by **Reserve Bank of India**, after approved by FSDC Sub-Committee since its inception, taking inputs from financial sector regulators i.e. RBI, SEBI, FRDA, IRDAI including Ministry of Finance.

These are periodic exercise for reviewing the nature, magnitude and implications of risks that may have a bearing on the macroeconomic environment, financial institutions, markets and infrastructure. These reports will also assess the resilience of the financial sector through stress tests.

**Q.5)** Which of the following is/are called the **Gilt-edged securities**?

1. Securities issued by the government
2. Securities issued by any corporation

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: A**

**Explanation: Gilt-edged stocks or securities** are issued by the government for people to invest in for a fixed period of time at a fixed rate of interest.

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# Sometimes securities issued by large corporations are also called gilt edged for their high-quality value.

By nature, a gilt edge denotes a high-quality item whose value remains fairly constant over time. As an investment vehicle, this equates to high-grade securities with relatively low yields compared to riskier, below-investment-grade securities.

# The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to provide direct access to retail investors to its government securities investment platform opens the door to this risk-free investment for retailers. Currently, retail investors are allowed to submit non-competitive bids in auctions of government bonds.

FORUM IAS



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### **POLITY**

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code**:

1. It defines sedition as an attempt to bring hatred or disaffection against the Government established by law in India.
2. It makes sedition an offence punishable with life imprisonment.

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.

**Sedition, as the Section 124A of Indian Penal Code** defines is an attempt to bring hatred or contempt, or disaffection against the Government established by law in India. This can be done by words, signs, or any kind of visible representation.

It further makes sedition a punishable offence that shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which a fine may be added; or, with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which a fine may be added; or, with fine.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements:

1. 'Police' and 'law and order' fall under the category of concurrent list of the seventh Schedule in the Constitution of India.
2. The inter-State distribution of funds for Modernization of Police Forces is based on number of police stations as well as incidence of crime per lakh 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. '**Police**' and '**law and order**' fall under the category of subjects within the domain of the **State** as per Entry 2 of List II of the Seventh Schedule in the Constitution of India. Thus, the principal responsibility for managing these subjects lies with the State Governments.

However, the States have not been able to fully modernize and equip their police forces upto the desired level due to financial constraints. It is in this context that the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has been supplementing the efforts and resources of the States, from time to time, by implementing the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme) since 1969-70.

Statement 2 is correct. The criteria determined for inter-State distribution of funds by the Government in the year 2005 include (i) population (35% weightage), (ii) sanctioned strength of police force (25% weightage), (iii) number of police stations (15% weightage) and (iv) incidence of crime per lakh population (25% weightage).

## 10 PM Compilation for the Week - 8th to 14th February, 2021

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020**:

1. It allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks.
2. It provides death of partner and domestic violence as valid grounds for termination of pregnancy at any time.

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. Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks. The **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020** allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Bill provides that safe abortions can be performed at any stage of the pregnancy in case of foetal “abnormalities,” it fails to consider any other reason such as personal choice, a sudden change in circumstances due to separation from or death of a partner, and domestic violence.

## 10 PM Compilation for the Week – 8th to 14th February, 2021

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

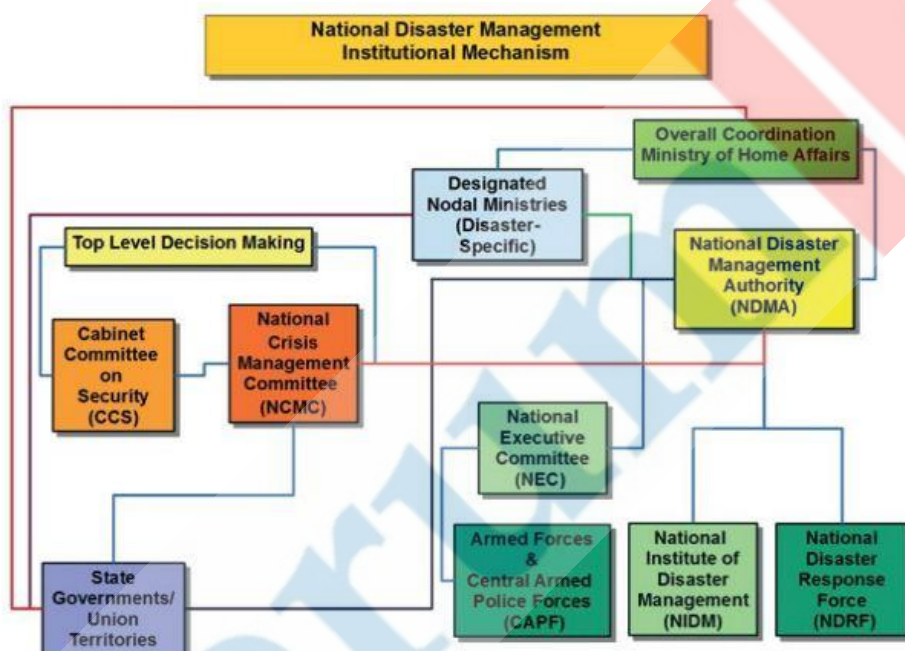
**Q.1)** Who among the following chairs the **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)**?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Cabinet Secretary
- c) Home Minister
- d) Home Secretary

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The overall coordination of disaster management vests with the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) are the key committees involved in the top-level decision-making with regard to disaster management.

The NCMC is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, it consists of Secretaries of Ministries/Departments and agencies with specific DM responsibilities.



**Q.2)** What is the objective of the recently launched **‘Asom Mala’** project?

- a) Assam state highways and major district roads development
- b) Assam Tea industry promotion at global level
- c) Tribal development in Assam
- d) Connectivity of Assam to other states through Railways

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister in his recent visit to Assam launched **‘Asom Mala’, a programme for state highways and major district roads**. The ‘Asom Mala’ has been started in line with ‘Bharat Mala Project’. The programme is unique for its emphasis on effective maintenance through continuous field data collection and its linkage with the Road Asset Management System (ROMS).

# He also laid foundation stone for two new medical colleges in Biswanath and Charaideo.

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**Q.3)** Which of the following reform(s) have been linked to grant of **additional borrowing permissions** to States by the Union Government?

1. Integration of all remaining APMC mandis into the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) platform
2. Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System
3. Completion of first assessment of 'District Level Business Reform Action Plan'

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

The reforms stipulated in Ease of Doing Business category are:

--Completion of first assessment of 'District Level Business Reform Action Plan'

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

--Implementation of computerized central random inspection system under the Acts wherein allocation of inspectors is done centrally, the same inspector is not assigned to the same unit in subsequent years, prior inspection notice is provided to the business owner, and inspection report is uploaded within 48 hours of inspection.

*Till now, 17 States have carried out at least one of the four stipulated reforms and have been granted reform linked borrowing permissions. [08-02-21]*

**Q.4)** Which of the following institution/Ministry is organising the annual international conferences – '**India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021**'?

- a) Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
- b) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India jointly with FICCI & Invest India is organizing the 6th edition of annual programme on Pharmaceuticals & Medical Device sector – '**India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021**' scheduled on 25-26 February & 1-2 March, 2021.

The theme for this year India Pharma is 'Indian Pharma Industry - 'Future is Now' and for India Medical Device is 'India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance'.

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**Q.5)** Which of the following department/instituting has been entrusted for conducting the **All-India Migrant Workers Survey**?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour and Employment**, has been entrusted with the task of conducting the All-India Survey on Migrant workers.

An Expert Group has been constituted by the Government of India on 09th September, 2020 to examine and finalize the schedules, sampling design and other technical details of the aforesaid survey being conducted by Labour Bureau.

This information was given by Minister of State (I/C) for Labour & Employment Lok Sabha.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020**:

- 1. It empowers the state government to exempt any new factory from the provisions of the Code in order to create more employment.
- 2. It provides for the establishment of a Social Security Fund for the welfare of unorganised workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020** subsumes and replaces 13 labour laws relating to safety, health and working conditions. These laws include: Factories Act, 1948; Mines Act, 1952; Dock Workers Act, 1986; Contract Labour Act, 1970; and Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979.

Statement 1 is correct. It empowers the state government to exempt any new factory from the provisions of the Code in order to create **more economic activity and employment**.

Statement 2 is correct. It provides for the establishment of a **Social Security Fund for the welfare of unorganised workers**. The amount collected from certain penalties under the Code (including the amount collected through compounding) will be credited to the Fund. The government may prescribe other sources as well for transferring money to the Fund.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)**:

- 1. It has exclusive right to conduct exploration for uranium in India.
- 2. It has recently estimated presence of vast Lithium Reserves in Uttarakhand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)**, a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy and Geological Survey of India are two agencies which are involved in mineral exploration.

AMD has exclusive right to conduct exploration for uranium, and other prescribed substances such as thorium, beryllium, lithium, zirconium, niobium, tantalum, rare-earths and others like ilmenite and rutile.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In response to media reports on discovery of Lithium reserves in Karnataka, AMD has clarified that exploration efforts have so far established 1600 tonnes lithium in inferred category (low level of confidence) in Allapatna – Marlagalla sector in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya district, **Karnataka**.

This is a preliminary estimate and requires further exploration efforts to convert the estimated resources to exploitable category with high degree of confidence level and explore the possibility of augmenting Li resources in the area.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**National Monsoon Mission**' (NMM):

1. It is being implemented by Department of Science & Technology.
2. It aims to develop a state-of-the-art dynamical prediction system for monsoon rainfall.

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. **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India has launched 'National Monsoon Mission' (NMM) with a vision to develop a state-of-the-art dynamical prediction system for monsoon rainfall on different time scales.

MoES has bestowed the responsibility of execution and coordination of this mission to the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. For this national mission, IITM is collaborating with NCEP (USA), MoES organisations and various academic institutions/organizations under NMM.

Statement 2 is correct. The overall objective of NMM is to improve the monsoon prediction over India on all time scales and hence it is implemented for the whole country which includes all the States and UTs.

Following are the **targets of Monsoon Mission:**

--Development of a seamless prediction system using monsoon mission model, on different time scales, like Seasonal (for whole Monsoon season), Extended range (up-to 4 weeks), Short range prediction (up-to 5days).

--Initiate and coordinate working partnership between Indian and foreign institutes to develop a system for prediction of extremes and climate applications

--Develop and implement system for climate applications having social impacts (such as agriculture, flood forecast, extreme events forecast, wind energy,etc.)

--Advanced data assimilation system for preparing high quality data for model predictions.

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**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Employees' State Insurance Scheme of India**:

1. It is applicable to non-seasonal factories using power and employing ten or more persons.
2. It is a self-financing health insurance scheme with contributions raised from employees and their employers as a fixed percentage of wages.

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: Employees' State Insurance Scheme of India** is an integrated social security scheme tailored to provide social protection to workers and their dependents, in the organised sector, in contingencies, such as, sickness, maternity and death or disablement due to an employment injury or occupational hazard.

The ESI Act, (1948) applies to following categories of factories and establishments in the implemented areas:

--Non-seasonal factories using power and employing ten or more persons

--Non-seasonal and non-power using factories and establishments employing twenty or more persons.

ESI Scheme, like most of the Social Security Schemes the world over, is a **self-financing health insurance scheme**. Contributions are raised from covered employees and their employers as a fixed percentage of wages.

An interesting feature of the ESI Scheme is that the contributions are related to the paying capacity as a fixed percentage of the workers wages, whereas, they are provided social security benefits according to individual needs without distinction.

**Q.10)** The **Indian basket of crude oil** comprises which of the following grades of crude oil?

1. Dubai and Oman average
2. Brent crude
3. West Texas Intermediate

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: Crude oil** is a fundamental source of energy for the world's economy. Besides being one of the most actively traded commodities, the price of crude oil is extremely sensitive to geopolitical and weather events. The most popular traded grades are Brent North Sea Crude (commonly known as Brent crude), Sour grade (Oman & Dubai average) and West Texas Intermediate (commonly known as WTI).

**Indian basket of Crude Oil** represents a derived basket comprising of Sour grade (Oman & Dubai average) and Sweet grade (Brent Dated) of Crude oil processed in Indian refineries.

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Prices of petrol and diesel have been made market-determined with effect since 2010 and 2014 respectively. Public Sector OMCs have implemented daily revision of retail selling price (RSP) of petrol and diesel in the entire country since 2017.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**:

1. The central government may designate an individual as a terrorist if it prepares for terrorism or promotes terrorism.
2. It provides for seizing of properties that may be connected with terrorism with prior approval from Home Secretary.

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. Under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism. The **2019 amendment** to the act additionally empowered the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the Act, an investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. The 2019 amendment act added that if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Child Labour Project**:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme for the rehabilitation of child labour.
2. Under this Scheme, the children in the age group of 9-14 years are withdrawn from work and mainstreamed directly to formal educational system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **National Child Labour Project (NCLP)** Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme for the rehabilitation of child labour. Under this Scheme the District Project Societies (DPS) are set up at the district level under the Chairmanship of the Collector/District Magistrate for overseeing the implementation of the project.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The project societies are required to conduct survey to identify children working in hazardous occupations and processes. These children will then form the target group for the project society. Of the children identified those in the age group 5-8 years will have to be mainstreamed directly to formal educational system through the SSA.

Working children in the age group of **9- 14 years will have to be rehabilitated through NCLP schools** established by the Project Society. The Special Training Centers (STCs) under NCLP

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are run by District Project Societies under the Chairmanship of District Collector/District Magistrate.

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21)**:

1. It is a biennial exercise.
  2. The units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard participate in the exercise.
- 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.

Indian Navy's largest war game – the **biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21)** - which commenced in early January, is currently underway with participation of all operational units of Indian Navy including ships, submarines, aircraft as well as units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard. The exercise will culminate by third week of February.

The exercise is being conducted over a vast geographical expanse in the Indian Ocean Region including its adjunct waters and is aimed at testing combat readiness of the Navy in a complex multi-dimensional scenario set in the context of the current geo strategic environment.

**Q.14)** What is the objective of the **Vigyan Jyoti programme**?

- a) Encourage girl students to pursue their careers in Science, Engineering and Technology
- b) Boost community and private sector participation in government schools
- c) Quality education in the remote tribal regions of India
- d) Improving quality of school education through Integrated Teacher Training

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Vigyan Jyoti programme**, an initiative to encourage girls to take interest in science and build career, was launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) to create a level-playing field for the **meritorious girls to pursue STEM**. It had been running successfully in 50 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) since December 2019 and has now been expanded to 50 more JNVs for the year 2021-22.

The programme addresses the underrepresentation of women in certain areas of STEM. As a first step, the programme has been started at school level for meritorious girls of Class IX to Class XII to encourage and empower them to pursue STEM courses in reputed institutions of the country.

*# The second phase of Vigyan Jyoti programme commenced on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2021.*

**Q.15)** Consider the following statements regarding the **DigiLocker**:

1. It is an initiative under the Digital India program by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
2. The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Digilocker is an initiative under the Digital India program by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** where citizens can get authentic documents/ certificate in digital format from original issuers of these certificates.

It aims at eliminating or minimising the use of physical documents and will enhance effectiveness of service delivery, making these hassle free and friendly for the citizens.

The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the **Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016**.

# IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory Authority of India) in a Circular dated 9th February, 2021, has advised all Insurance companies for issuance of Digital Insurance Policies via DigiLocker.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **GOBAR-DHAN scheme**:

- 1. This scheme focusing on generation of energy from cattle waste is an important element of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- 2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

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 Government of India has launched a multi-ministrial programme named as '**GOBARDHAN waste to wealth**', under Phase II of the **Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)**.

The objective of the scheme is to increase rural income, rural jobs and to keep villages clean through solid waste management. The scheme is intended to manage and convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, bio-slurry, bio-gas and bio-CNG.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The programme is being implemented by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, NDDB and other Ministries.

# Under the Gobar-dhan component, DDWS has included the small holder based Manure Management Model established by NDDB as one of the solid waste management models for implementation across the country wherein bio-degradable waste is envisaged to be managed through composting and bio-gas plants.

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements regarding the **CHIRAAG project**:

- 1. It is being implemented in the Himalayan states of India.
- 2. It aims to develop sustainable production systems that allow tribal households to practice round-the-year production of diversified and nutritious food.

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3. The project is being implemented through assistance from the World Bank.

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: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **CHIRAAG - Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project** will be implemented in the southern tribal-majority region of the state where a large population is undernourished and poor. The project will benefit over 180,000 households from about 1,000 villages in eight districts of Chhattisgarh.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The **Government of India, the Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank** recently signed a \$100 million project to develop sustainable production systems that allow tribal households in remote areas of Chhattisgarh to practice round-the-year production of diversified and nutritious food.

To make agriculture nutrition supportive, the project will implement a series of activities that are climate resilient and profitable. Investments will be made in water-harvesting structures and irrigation facilities; integrated farming systems blending crops, fishery and livestock production; climate-smart production technologies and practices; developing value chains to ensure that surplus commodities reach profitable markets; and in making nutritious food available to tribal households.

# *The \$100 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 17.5 years, including a grace period of 5.5-years.*

**Q.18) KAPILA campaign** relates to which of the following issue?

- a) Intellectual Property
- b) Development of indigenous breeds of cows
- c) Nutrition support for children under poverty
- d) Indigenization of the 5G technology

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** KAPILA stands for **Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness** campaign. The campaign was launched in October 2020 under the Ministry of Education to create awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

It aims to develop training program on IPR for faculty and students of HEIs, sensitize and develop a vibrant Intellectual Property (IP) filing system and enable IPR protection on the inventions originating from the faculty and students of HEIs.

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### HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are listed under the in the **UNESCO Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?**

1. Tradition of Vedic chanting
2. Chhau dance
3. Kumbh Mela

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 **Ministry of Culture** formulated a scheme titled “**Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India**”, with the objective of supporting various institutions, non-Government organisations, researchers and scholars so that they may engage in activities/ projects for strengthening, protecting, preserving and promoting the rich Intangible Cultural Heritage of India.

A total of 13 Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) elements from India have been inscribed till date on the UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

*Tradition of Vedic chanting, Ramlila, Kutiyattam, Ramman, Mudiyyettu Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan, Chhau dance, Buddhist chanting of Ladakh, Sankirtana, Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Yoga, Nawrouz and Kumbh Mela.*

**Q.2)** What is **Tholpavakoothu**?

- a) Classical dance in temples of northern Tamil Nadu
- b) Ancient martial art of coastal Andhra Pradesh
- c) Traditional musical performance during festivals
- d) Shadow puppetry practiced in Kerala

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation: Tholpavakoothu or shadow puppetry** is a temple art form which is prevalent in the Bhagavathy temples (mother Goddess) in Palakkad district and nearby regions in **Kerala**.

The story of Tholppavakoothu performance is from the Indian epic, **Ramayana**. In the olden days it was performed elaborately over a period of forty-one days. The narrative used for the performance is a mixture of prose and poetry called Adalpattu.

Tholppavas are made of the skin of deer and the puppet forms are made by making small holes in the leather that is then attached vertically to a bamboo stick.

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

1. They are followers of the 12th-century philosopher Saint Basava.
2. Lingayats are primarily resident of Karnataka.
3. They reject polytheism and Vedic rituals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Lingayat people** are known for wearing a linga, an object representing a god; in this case, Shiva. They are found primarily in **Karnataka**, where they comprise a major population. They are also found in significant numbers in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. This group formed in the 12th century by **Basava**, a philosopher and a social reformer. He taught against the caste system and its regulations. Lingayats reject polytheism and the Vedas and follow the teachings of the **Vachana sahitya** instead.

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### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Software Defined Radio (SDR)**:

1. It is a radio communication system which uses software for the modulation and demodulation of radio signals.
2. SDR-Tactical has been developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) for use of defence forces.

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. **Software Defined Radio** is Radio in which some or all of the physical layer functions are Software Defined. In other words, the software is used to determine the specification of the radio and what it does. If the software within the radio is changed, its performance and function may change.

SDR is a radio communication system which uses software for the modulation and demodulation of radio signals. An SDR performs significant amounts of signal processing in a general-purpose computer, or a reconfigurable piece of digital electronics.

Statement 2 is correct. The SDR-Tactical, jointly designed and developed by Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory (DEAL) of **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** through a consortium of domestic agencies and industry, will bring strategic depth to the Armed Forces.

The SDR-Tac is a four Channel Multi-mode, Multi Band, 19” Rack mountable, ship borne Software Defined Radio system. It is intended to serve ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore and ship-to-air voice and data communication for network centric operations.

It supports simultaneous operation of all the four channels covering V/UHF and L Band. This SDR system houses multiple types of waveforms for narrow band and wide band applications.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding **Ethanol**:

1. Ethanol is a clear, colorless alcohol made from a variety of biomass materials
2. Ethanol has a lower octane number than petrol.

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. **Ethanol** is a clear, colorless alcohol made from a variety of biomass materials called feedstocks (the raw materials used to make a product). Fuel ethanol feedstocks include grains and crops with high starch and sugar content such as corn, sorghum, barley, sugar cane, and sugar beets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Octane number**, measure of the ability of a fuel to resist knocking when ignited in a mixture with air in the cylinder of an internal-combustion engine. Ethanol has a higher-octane number than gasoline, providing premium blending properties.

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# Government has notified scheme for extending financial assistance to project proponents for enhancement of ethanol distillation capacity or to set up distilleries for producing 1st Generation (1G) ethanol from feed stocks such as cereals (rice, wheat, barley, corn & sorghum), sugarcane, sugar beet etc.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding **Trans fats**:

1. It does not occur naturally and is produced artificially.
2. Consumption of trans fats may increase the risk of heart disease.

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. **Trans fats**, or trans-fatty acids, are a form of unsaturated fat.

They are found in two forms — natural, which occur in some animal products and aren't considered harmful, and artificial, which are hydrogenated vegetable oils and have serious health consequences.

Natural, or ruminant, trans fats occur in the meat and dairy from ruminant animals, such as cattle, sheep, and goats. They form naturally when bacteria in these animals' stomachs digest grass.

Statement 2 is correct. People consuming trans fats instead of other fats or carbs experienced a significant **increase in LDL (bad) cholesterol** without a corresponding rise in HDL (good) cholesterol and may increase risk of heart disease.

# In December 2020, the FSSAI had capped TFAs in oils and fats to 3% by 2021, and 2% by 2022.

**Q.4)** Which of the following country(s) have successfully put a **spacecraft in Mars's orbit**?

1. Japan
2. Israel
3. United Arab Emirates

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation: United Arab Emirates** has put a probe called Hope in orbit around the planet, making it only the fifth spacefaring entity to do so after the **US, the Soviet Union, Europe and India**.

The satellite carries three instruments that will observe, among other targets, how neutral atoms of hydrogen and oxygen - remnants from Mars' once abundant water - leak into space.

On Wednesday, it will be the turn of China with its Tianwen-1 orbiter to reach Mars. Next week, on Thursday 18 February, the Perseverance robot of USA is set to arrive on Mars.

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**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **distributed denial-of-service (DDoS)** attack:

1. It target websites and online services.
2. It overwhelm the targets with more traffic than the server or network can accommodate.

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.

**Distributed denial-of-service attacks** target websites and online services. It disrupts the normal traffic of a targeted server, service or network by overwhelming the target or its surrounding infrastructure with a flood of Internet traffic.

DDoS attacks achieve effectiveness by utilizing multiple compromised computer systems as sources of attack traffic. Exploited machines can include computers and other networked resources such as IoT devices.

**Q.6)** Which of the following **Mars mission(s) include a rover** landing on Mars surface?

1. UAE's Hope Mission
2. China's Tianwen-1
3. NASA's Perseverance

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrect. The United Arab Emirates Mars Mission, **Hope** is an orbiter designed to spend one Martian year (two Earth years) around Mars.

Option 2 is correct. The **Tianwen-1**, China's Mars mission that recently entered the Mars's orbit, comprises an orbiter and a rover. The rover will spend next few months in orbit before landing on Mars surface.

Option 3 is correct. Mars 2020 is a Mars rover mission by NASA's Mars Exploration Program that includes the **Perseverance rover** and the Ingenuity helicopter drone, which is set to achieve first powered flight on Mars. The rover will land on Mars surface on February 18, 2021.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)**:

1. It is a genetic disease.
2. It deteriorates the neuromuscular functioning of the body by causing motor neurons loss and paralysis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation: Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)** is a group of hereditary diseases that progressively destroys motor neurons—nerve cells in the brain stem and spinal cord that control essential skeletal muscle activity such as speaking, walking, breathing, and swallowing, leading to muscle weakness and atrophy.

It deteriorates the neuromuscular functioning of the body by causing motor neurons loss and associated muscle weakness and paralysis.

The disease is caused by a genetic defect in the survival motor neuron (SMN) gene, which encodes the SMN protein essential for the survival of motor neurons.

**Q.8)** The term '**Jökulhlaups**' has been in news recently, what does it mean?

- a) Glacial outburst floods
- b) A situation of liquidity trap rendering monetary policy ineffective
- c) Radio frequency signals received from Proxima Centauri
- d) A plant species found in Karroo, arid to semiarid geographic region of South Africa

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Jökulhlaups** is an Icelandic word that translates as 'glacier burst', it refers to **glacial outburst floods (GLOFS)**. They occur when a lake fed by glacial meltwater breaches its dam and drains catastrophically.

These floods occur very suddenly discharge large volumes of water, ice and debris from a glacial source. They can occur anywhere where water accumulates in a subglacial lake beneath a glacier. The flood is initiated following the failure of an ice or moraine dam.

GLOFs are characterized by extreme peak discharges, often several times in excess of the maximum discharges of hydrometeorological induced floods, with an exceptional erosion/transport potential; therefore, they can turn into flow-type movements, e.g. GLOF-induced debris flows.

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

1. Biogas is the mixture of gases produced by the breakdown of organic matter in the presence of oxygen.
2. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme aims to promote Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) as transport fuel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Bio-gas** is produced naturally through a process of **anaerobic (absence of oxygen)** decomposition from waste / bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc.

It is primarily composed of methane gas, carbon dioxide, and trace amounts of nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide. It occurs naturally in compost heaps, as swamp gas, and as a result of enteric fermentation in cattle and other ruminants.

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Statement 2 is correct. After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has pure methane content of over 95%. Compressed Bio-Gas is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential.

The scheme of **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** aims to promote Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) as an alternative and green transport fuel.

**Q.10) Zolgensma** has been in news recently, what is it?

- a) A gene replacement therapy
- b) A rare disease of heart
- c) A protein found in amniotic fluid
- d) An autoimmune disease

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Zolgensma** is a gene replacement therapy indicated for the treatment of **spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)** in paediatric patients.

Spinal muscular atrophy is a rare genetic disease that deteriorates the neuromuscular functioning of the body by causing motor neurons loss and associated muscle weakness and paralysis.

The disease is caused by a genetic defect in the survival motor neuron (SMN) gene, which encodes the SMN protein essential for the survival of motor neurons.

The Government of India has decided to waive off some GST amount against the import of gene therapy Zolgensma. This therapy is required to treat a child who is suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy.