

## *10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation*

15th to 20th 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 - 15th to 20th February, 2021

### GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding **Groundwater**:

1. Artificial recharge to an aquifer can occur when people inject water down into a well.
2. Water can flow in streams even during periods of drought due to groundwater seeping into stream banks.
3. Land subsidence occurs in areas underlain by highly fractured granite, which is readily dissolved by moving acidic groundwater.

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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Artificial recharge** to an aquifer can occur when people inject water down into a well to force it back into an aquifer so they can withdraw it later. In places where the water table is close to the land surface and where water can move through the aquifer at a high rate, aquifers can be replenished artificially.

Statement 2 is correct. **Groundwater contributes** to streams in most geographic areas and climatic settings. The proportion of stream water that comes from groundwater inflow varies according to a region's geography, geology, and climate. This groundwater component of a stream's flow is called "base flow."

Statement 3 is incorrect. This statement is **truer for sinkholes and not land subsidence**. Sinkholes can occur when water, sometimes a bit acidic in nature, dissolves underground rock, often **limestone or dolomite**. The land surface can collapse, often dramatically, into the void space underneath.

Land subsidence is a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface owing to subsurface movement of earth materials. The basic cause of land subsidence is a loss of support below ground. In other words, sometimes when water is taken out of the soil, the soil collapses, compacts, and drops. This depends on the type of soil and also on the type of rock below the surface.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Pangong Tso**:

1. It is a saltwater lake.
2. It is south of Tso Moriri.
3. It is a wetland of international importance under Ramsar Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, endorheic **saltwater** lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Union Territory at Line of Actual Control.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. The lake lies **north** of the Tso Moriri.



Statement 3 is incorrect. It is **yet to be recognised** under the Ramsar Convention as wetland of international importance.

**Q.3)** The **Galathea National Park** is in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- c) Lakshadweep
- d) Goa

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Galathea National Park** is a National Park located in the Union Territory of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.

It comprises the core area of the southern part of the Biosphere Reserve in Great Nicobar Island and consists of lowland forests which have the greatest abundance of endemic avifauna. It is the prime nesting habitat of the Nicobar Megapode.

The leather back turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) nests in large numbers during the months between December to February at South Bay.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Seed Replacement Rate (SRR)**:

1. It is the percentage of area sown out of total area of crop planted in the season by using certified seeds.
2. SRR has a direct bearing on productivity augmentation and enhancement in farmers' income.

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: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Seed Replacement Rate** is the percentage of area sown out of total area of crop planted in the season by using certified/quality seeds other than the farm saved seed.

In India, **farm-saved seed (FSS)** is the most prominent source to raise crop year after year since farmers are familiar with the seed they grow themselves and know that the variety is adapted to local conditions and preferences. This often reduces the quality of seeds sown despite the availability of quality seed of superior genotypes from the organized seed industry.

SRR is a measure of cropped area covered with quality seed. Hence SRR is having a direct bearing on **productivity augmentation and enhancement in farmers' income** and is one of the means for achieving doubling the farmers' income.

# Focused attention for improving the seed replacement rate and varietal replacement is given in the National Food Security Mission. To increase the seed replacement rate (SRR) of improved varieties of food grains, about 74 lakh quintals of certified seed of high yielding varieties/hybrids of rice, wheat, pulses & coarse cereals were distributed under NFSM from 2014-15 to 2019-20.

**Q.5)** Arrange the following locations from **North to South**:

1. Depsang plains
2. Karakoram Pass
2. Pangong Tso

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Depsang Plains** come under India's Sub Sector North (SSN) and as elsewhere, the LAC here is disputed. The importance of the Depsang Plains lies in its geographical location.

To the north of Depsang is the over 18,000 feet **Karakoram Pass**. To its right is the Chinese-annexed Aksai Chin, across which runs the G219 highway that connects Tibet and Xinjiang provinces. The Lingzi Thang mountain range divides the Depsang Plains from Aksai Chin.



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**Q.6)** The **Auditorium cave** have been in news recently, where is it?

- a) Manipur
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Bihar

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Auditorium Cave is an ancient rock-cut cave situated in **Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh**. It is one of the prominent caves in the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters Complex. The whole cave gallery resembling a 'cathedral-like' atmosphere, with its **Gothic arches and soaring spaces**.

# *Researchers have discovered three fossils of the earliest known living animal — the 550-million-year-old 'Dickinsonia' — at Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, which can be seen right at the beginning of the 'Auditorium Cave'.*

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

- 1. India has nine coastal states.
- 2. India's has world's third largest Exclusive Economic Zone.

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. With a coastline of nearly 7.5 thousand kilometers, India has a unique maritime position. Indian coastline touches nine states-- **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal**; and the nation's geography includes 1,382 islands. There are nearly 199 ports, including 12 major ports that handle approximately 1,400 million tons of cargo each year.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An **exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** is a region in which a has special rights in terms of marine resource exploration and use. These regions are adjacent and beyond a country's territorial waters and do not extend beyond 200 nautical miles (nmi) from a nation's coast.

India's Exclusive Economic Zone of over 2 million square kilometers is 18th largest in the world. Due to its numerous overseas departments and territories scattered all over the oceans, **France** has the largest exclusive economic zone in the world. It is followed by **USA, Australia, Russia and UK**.

# *The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has rolled out the Draft Blue Economy policy for India in the public domain inviting suggestions and inputs.*

**Q.8)** Which of the following bridge(s) is/are on mainstream of the **River Brahmaputra**?

- 1. Bogibeel Bridge
- 2. Saraighat Bridge
- 3. Dhola-Sadiya Bridge

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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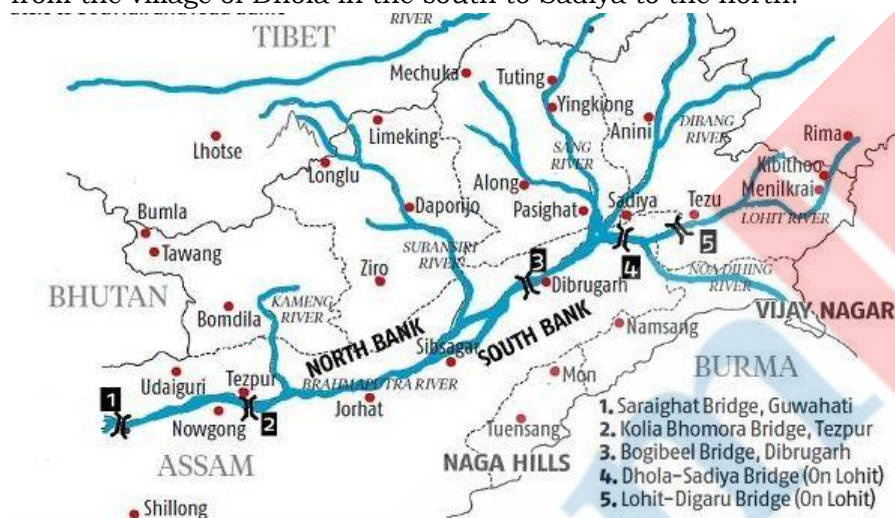
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. **Bogibeel bridge** is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam between Dhemaji district and Dibrugarh district.

Option 2 is correct. The first rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra, **Saraighat Bridge** was opened to public in 1962. Adjacent New Saraighat Bridge is a road only bridge.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Dhola-Sadiya Bridge** (Bhupen Hazarika Setu), connecting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh spans the **Lohit River**, a major tributary of the Brahmaputra River, from the village of Dhola in the south to Sadiya to the north.



**Q.9)** Which of the following Iron ore mines is/are correctly matched to the respective State(s)?

- 1. Kiriburu - Jharkhand
- 2. Jiling-Langlota - Odisha
- 3. Guali - Chhattisgarh

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:** **Kiriburu Iron ore** Mines (KIOM) is one of the captive Iron ore Mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in **Jharkhand**.

Union Minister for Mines and Chief Minister of Odisha recently inaugurated the production in two new iron ore mines of **Odisha** namely **Jiling-Langlota Iron ore Block and Guali Iron ore Block**.

Both the mines have production capacity of 15 lakh tonnes per month and they possess approx. 275 million tonnes of consolidated iron ore reserves. These blocks were recently reserved for the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC), a state PSU, within a short time of 25 days, after a request was made by State Government to the Central Government, in order to ease the shortage of iron ore in the state of Odisha.

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**Q.10)** The **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (NDBR)** is in which of the following State?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Assam
- d) Uttar Pradesh

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**, located in the Himalayan Mountains in the northern part of the country, includes as core areas the **Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks**, which are one World Heritage site.

Nanda Devi National Park has remained more or less intact because of its inaccessibility. The Valley of Flowers National Park is renowned for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and outstanding natural beauty. Together they encompass a unique transition zone between the mountain ranges of the Zaskar and Great Himalaya.

The important mammals' species in the region are Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Himalayan musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*), Bharal (*Pseudois nayaur*) and Himalayan tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*).

**Q.11)** The **Carbon Credits** can be accumulated by which of the following means?

- 1. Reducing emissions
- 2. Carbon capture and planting forests
- 3. Avoiding emissions by refraining from cutting down rainforests

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 UNFCCC developed a carbon credit proposal to reduce worldwide carbon emissions in a 1997 agreement known as the **Kyoto Protocol**.

A **carbon credit** is a generic term for any tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas.

If one party can't stop emitting CO<sub>2</sub>, it can ask another to emit less so that, even as the first carries on producing CO<sub>2</sub>, the total amount of carbon in the atmosphere is reduced. There are three basic types of carbon credit:

--Those from reduced emissions (typically energy efficiency measures)

--Removed emissions (carbon capture and planting forests)

--And avoided emissions (for example refraining from cutting down rainforests).

# *The Rishiganga project was among the several hydropower projects that had applied to secure carbon credits under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in early 2012.*

**Q.12)** Which of the following glacier(s) is/are correctly matched to the respective State?

- 1. Kolhai Glacier - Sikkim
- 2. Chhota Shigri Glacier - Himachal Pradesh
- 3. Dokriani Glacier - Uttarakhand

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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: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Kolhai glacier** is situated in the Lidder Valley in **Jammu & Kashmir**. The origin of the glacier is below the cirques on the north flank of Kolahoi Peak. It is the main source of Lidder River and its waters become the tributaries of the Jhelum River.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Chhota Shigri Glacier** lies on the northern slope of the main ridge of the Pir Panjal Range in the east of the Rohtang Pass in **Himachal Pradesh**. The high, steep ridges and mountain terrain provide an ideal condition for the development of this glacier.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Dokriani Glacier** is a valley type glacier located in Garhwal region (**Uttarakhand**) of Himalayas. It follows a narrow valley and meets Bhagirathi River at Bhukki.

**Q.13)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Jezero Crater - Mars
- 2. Gale Crater - Venus
- 3. Aitken Crater - Moon

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. **Jezero Crater** is 28 miles (45 kilometers) wide, and is located on the western edge of a flat plain called Isidis Planitia, which lies just north of the Martian equator. It is the landing site of Perseverance Rover.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Gale Crater** formed when a meteor hit Mars in its early history, about 3.5 to 3.8 billion years ago. In 2012, the Curiosity rover of NASA landed in the Gale crater.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Aitken crater** is about 135 km in diameter. It is located on the northern rim of the South Pole-Aitken Basin, the largest preserved basin on the moon.

# *The Perseverance Rover's landing site is about 2,300 miles (3,700 kilometers) from Curiosity's landing site in Gale Crater.*

**Q.14)** The **Chitaura Lake** is in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Odisha
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand



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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Chitaura lake is a Hindu pilgrimage site, centred around a pond in **Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh**. According to local folklore, the area beside the lake is the site of an 11th-century battle between the Hindu king Suhaldev and the Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud.

It is also called Ashtwarka jheel, in the name of Ashtwarka Muni, the Guru of Maharaja Janak who used to live here in his ashram.



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### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**Q.1)** The fossils of which of the following organism have been found at **Bhimbetka** recently?

- a) Kimberella
- b) Dickinsonia
- c) Spriggina
- d) Charnia

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Researchers have discovered three fossils of the earliest known living animal — the 550-million-year-old '**Dickinsonia**' — on the roof of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters.

Dickinsonia is an extinct genus of basal animal that lived during the late Ediacaran period. It is one of the **Ediacaran** critters (first discovered in Ediacara hills in the Flinders ranges of South Australia), more than 50 types of Ediacarans are now known, and they have been found on every continent, save for Antarctica.

Bhimbetka Rock Shelters are a UNESCO World Heritage Site housing hundreds of pre-historic paintings.

**Q.2)** What is a **Blazar**?

- a) An active galactic nucleus
- b) A neutron star with an extremely powerful magnetic field
- c) An interstellar cloud of dust
- d) A region of spacetime with zero gravity

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** A blazar is an **active galactic nucleus (AGN)** that produces a high-energy jet viewed face-on from Earth. Like other forms of active galactic nuclei (AGN), blazars are the most luminous and energetic objects in the known universe.

The central **super-massive black-hole (SMBH)** that drives an AGN are the nucleation seeds that stimulates the formation of their host galaxies, while the SMBH itself grows in the process.

*# Indian Astronomers have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding supermassive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae.*

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB):**

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of SERB.
3. The Board offers JC Bose National Fellowship to scientists and engineers for their outstanding performance and contributions.

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. The **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament. Supporting basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering are the primary and distinctive mandate of the Board.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. Secretary to the Government of India in Department of Science & Technology is the ex-officio chairperson of the SERB.

Statement 3 is correct. SERB supports research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. The Board offers **JC Bose National Fellowship** to scientists and engineers for their outstanding performance and contributions and **RAMANUJAN Fellowship** for brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions in India, especially those scientists who want to return to India from abroad.

# *Four young women fellows of National Science Academies have been awarded the SERB Women Excellence Award for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021.*

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Leatherback turtles**:

1. They are the largest sea turtle species.
2. These are endemic to Indian Ocean.
3. They are listed Vulnerable species under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **leatherback** is the largest turtle in the world, and has a primarily black rubbery skin with pinkish-white coloring on its underside. They are the only species of sea turtle that lack scales. Their shell (carapace) consists of small, interlocking dermal bones beneath the skin that overlie a supportive layer of connective tissue and fat and the deeper skeleton.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Leatherbacks occur in the **Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans**. In India leatherbacks come to beaches of Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands for nesting.

Statement 3 is correct. Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is listed as Vulnerable species with decreasing trend under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Q.5)** Which of the following is/are the uses of the **Carbon Black**?

1. Rubber reinforcement
2. Colors and pigments for plastics
3. Electric equipment and conductive components

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: Carbon black (CB)** is derived via thermal decomposition of heavy petroleum products.

-- Carbon black is added to the rubber used in tire treads, to high-pressure hoses, and has other demanding applications, as well as added to plastics as material reinforcement.

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-- Since carbon black has excellent conductive properties, it is used as a component for magnetic tapes and semiconductors.

-- Compared with other colorants, carbon black has a high coloring power. It is used as ink for printing newspapers, as ink-jet toner, and other such uses. It is also suitable as a pigment for heat-molded plastics, car fenders, coating for electric wires and other products.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Buruli ulcer**:

1. It is a viral disease.
2. It can destroy the skin or soft tissue on body.

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. Buruli ulcer is a disease caused by the **bacterium Mycobacterium ulcerans**.

Statement 2 is correct. It mainly affects the skin but can also affect the bone. Cases are generally seen in the tropics, primarily in **West Africa and Australia**.

Infection often leads to ulcers on the arms or legs, which can also destroy skin or soft tissue. When not properly treated, the disease can cause irreversible deformity or long-term functional disability.

The Buruli ulcer is classified as a "neglected" disease by the World Health Organization, it has recently been reported in rising numbers in Australia.

**Q.7) Hydrogen** can be extracted/produced from which of the following methods?

1. Separation of Hydrogen from water molecules
2. Extraction of hydrogen from hydrocarbons
3. Break down of organic matter by microbes

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: Hydrogen** is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water. Hydrogen is an energy carrier that can be used to store, move, and deliver energy produced from other sources. Hydrogen can be extracted from **fossil fuels and biomass, from water**, or from a mix of both.

-- Thermal processes for hydrogen production typically involve steam reforming, a high-temperature process in which steam reacts with a hydrocarbon fuel to produce hydrogen.

-- Water can be separated into oxygen and hydrogen through a process called electrolysis.

-- In microbial biomass conversion, the microbes break down organic matter like biomass or wastewater to produce hydrogen, while in photobiological processes the microbes use sunlight as the energy source.

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**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Perseverance Rover**:

1. It has landed on the Jezero crater on Mars.
2. It will study Mars' habitability, seek signs of past microbial life.
3. The rover spent a year in Mars's orbit for suitable landing site.

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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 and 2 are correct.

Mission Name: Mars 2020; Rover Name: **Perseverance**

**Main Job:** Seek signs of ancient life and collect samples of rock and regolith (broken rock and soil) for possible return to Earth.

**Launch:** July 30, 2020; Landing: Feb. 18, 2021

**Landing Site:** Jezero Crater, Mars

**Tech Demonstration:** The Mars Helicopter is a technology demonstration, hitching a ride on the Perseverance rover.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Last week, two other spacecraft, Hope from the United Arab Emirates and Tianwen-1 from China, entered orbit around Mars. But NASA's spacecraft did not go into orbit first, instead it went along a **direct path to the surface of Mars**.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Particle Pollution (Particulate Matter)**:

1. It contains microscopic solids or liquid droplets.
2. Particulate matter is never directly emitted but is always formed when gaseous pollutants previously emitted to air turn into particles.

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. **Particle pollution** — also called particulate matter (PM) — is made up of particles (tiny pieces) of **solids or liquids** that are in the air. These particles may include Dust, Dirt, Soot, Smoke or Drops of liquid.

Particle pollution includes:

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

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

Statement 2 is incorrect. Particle pollution can come from two different kinds of sources — **primary or secondary**. Primary sources cause particle pollution on their own. For example, wood stoves and forest fires are primary sources.

Secondary sources let off gases that can form particles. Power plants and coal fires are examples of secondary sources.

**Q.10)** Which of the following is/are **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles**?

1. Helina

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2. Dhruvastra
3. Astra

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:** **HELINA (Helicopter based NAG)** is a third-generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). The system has all weather day and night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as explosive reactive armour.

HELINA Weapon Systems is being inducted into the Indian Army (IA). A variant of HELINA Weapon System called **DHRUVA STRA** is being inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Astra is India's first beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missile indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation.

**Q.11)** Which of the following country(s) have successfully **landed spacecraft on Mars surface**?

1. Russia
2. United Kingdom
3. Japan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** There have been **nine successful US Mars landings**: Viking 1 and Viking 2 (both 1976), Pathfinder (1997), Spirit and Opportunity (both 2004), Phoenix (2008), Curiosity (2012), InSight (2018) and Perseverance (2021).

The only other country to land a spacecraft on Mars was the **Soviet Union in 1971 and 1973**. The USSR's Mars 3 lander made the first successful landing on the planet's surface. It transmitted data for 20 seconds before failing.

The United States, the Soviet Union, the European Space Agency, India, UAE and China have successfully sent spacecraft to enter Mars' orbit.

**China's mission to Mars includes a lander which will descent from the Tianwen-1 orbiter soon.**

**Q.12)** What is **Placebo effect**?

- a) Change in metabolism after migrating to a new place
- b) Effect of fake treatment on body
- c) Psychological effect of a drug on body
- d) Negative effects of gene therapy

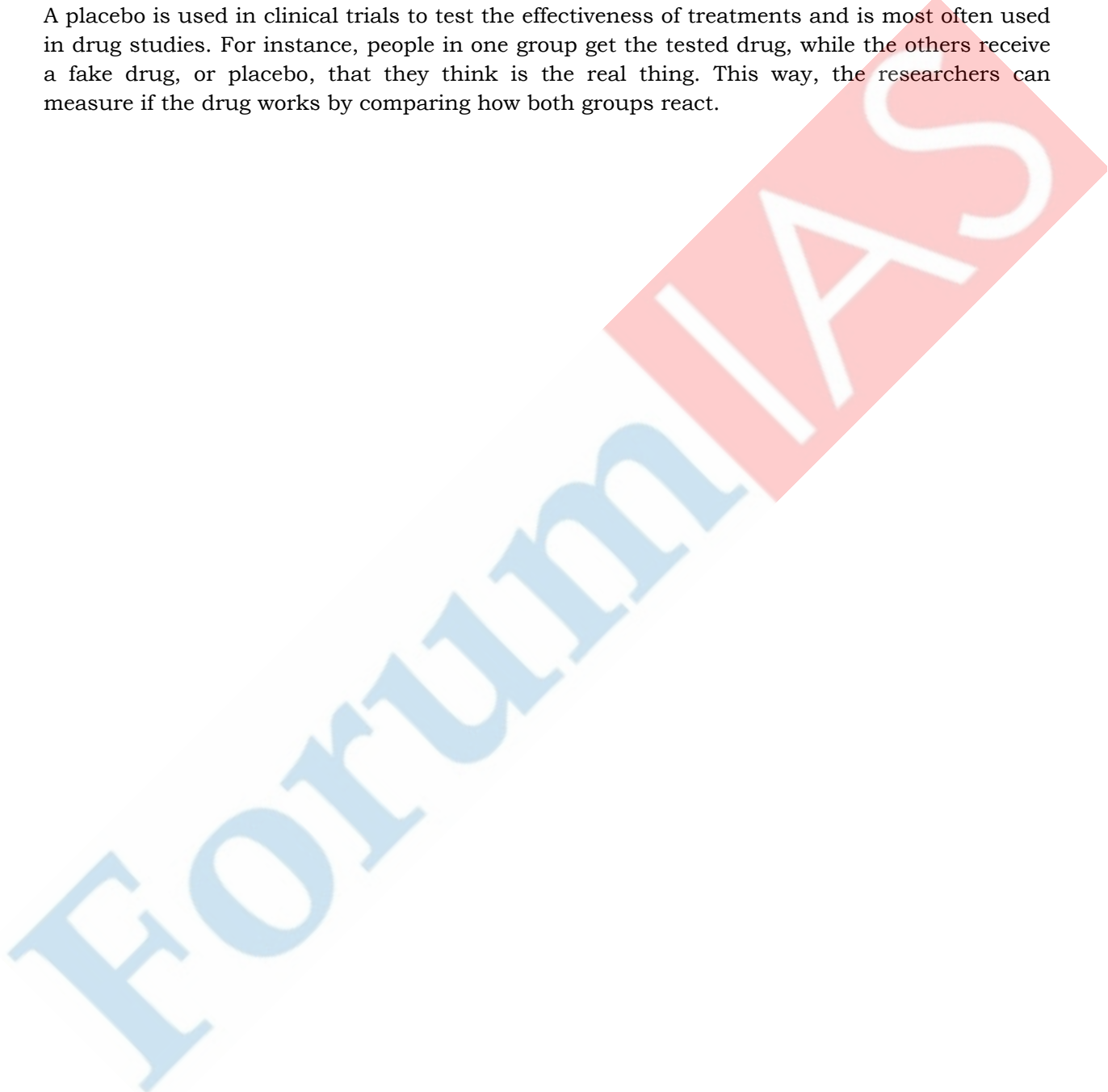
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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **placebo effect** refers to the impact of a placebo on an individual. A placebo is a substance or treatment which is designed to have no therapeutic value.

The idea that the brain can convince body a fake treatment is the real thing — the so-called placebo effect — and thus stimulate healing has been around for millennia.

A placebo is used in clinical trials to test the effectiveness of treatments and is most often used in drug studies. For instance, people in one group get the tested drug, while the others receive a fake drug, or placebo, that they think is the real thing. This way, the researchers can measure if the drug works by comparing how both groups react.



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### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology Act, 2000**:

1. It provides legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange.
2. The sending of offensive messages through a computer or other communication devices is a criminal offence under the act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Information Technology Act 2000 provides **legal recognition** for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as —electronic commerce, which involve the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information, to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the Government agencies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India** judgement by a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in 2015 struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act that criminalised the sending of offensive messages through a computer or other communication devices.

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

1. It employs Near Field Communication (NFC) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it.
2. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has decided that all lanes in the fee plazas on National Highways shall be declared as FASTag lanes.
3. The FASTags can only be sold by the State Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. FASTag is a device that employs **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it. It is affixed on the windscreen of vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas, without stopping for cash transactions.

Statement 2 is correct. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has decided that all lanes in the fee plazas on National Highways shall be declared as “FASTag lane of the fee plaza” w.e.f midnight of 15th/16th February 2021.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Bank-specific FASTags are sold by various issuer banks whereas bank-neutral FASTags will be available across various NHA points of sale, several petrol pumps, RTOs, and even e-commerce websites.



## 10 PM Compilation for the Week – 15th to 20th February, 2021

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the ‘**Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav**’:

1. It is the national film festival of India held annually at Goa.
2. It is organised by the Ministry of Culture.

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. **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav** was conceived in the year 2015 and after the grand success of the First Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in November-2015, the Ministry of Culture decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Ministry of Culture** is mandated with the task of preservation, promotion and propagation of Indian Culture, both tangible and intangible which inter-alia includes traditional folk dances and art forms, performing arts and rich tribal heritage. It organizes cultural programs, festivals and theatrical performances to fulfill this mandate.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, the flagship festival of this Ministry organized since 2015 with the active participation of Seven Zonal Culture.

# *The eleventh edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is being held between 14th to 28th February, 2021 in West Bengal.*

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019**:

1. It defines golden hour as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which a death can be prevented through prompt medical care.
2. It protects Good Samaritans from any civil or criminal action for any injury/death of an accident victim, caused due to their assistance to the victim.

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 **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019** defines **golden hour** as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.

Statement 2 is correct. The act defines a **good samaritan** as a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident. The assistance must have been in good faith, voluntary, and without the expectation of any reward. Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.

# *World Bank Report titled “Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on India Society”, prepared in association with the NGO – Save Life Foundation was released recently.*

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**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (“SANKALP”)** programme:

1. It is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development with loan assistance from the World Bank.
2. It aims to improve short term skill training by strengthening institutions and inclusion of marginalised sections of the society.

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.

**Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (“SANKALP”)** is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development with loan assistance from the World Bank. It aims to improve short term skill training qualitatively and quantitatively through strengthening institutions, bring in better market connectivity and inclusion of **marginalised sections of the society**. SANKALP was launched on 19th January 2018 and has a tenure till March 2023.

The outcomes in the project are measured through the Results Framework, and Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) agreed between MSDE and World Bank.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **guidelines on Geospatial Data** in India:

1. Every Geospatial data generated in India must be stored in servers located in India only cannot be uploaded to the cloud.
2. Indian Entities, whether in Government or outside, will be free to acquire, collect and generate geospatial data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Digital Maps/Geospatial Data** of spatial accuracy/value up to the threshold value **can be uploaded to the cloud** but those with accuracy finer than the threshold value shall only be stored and processed on a domestic cloud or on servers physically located within territory of India.

*# Threshold value for on-site spatial accuracy shall be one meter for horizontal or Planimetry and three meters for vertical or Elevation.*

Statement 2 is correct. **Indian Entities**, whether in Government or outside, will be free to acquire, collect, generate, prepare, disseminate, store, share, publish, distribute, update, digitize and/or create Geospatial Data, including Maps, of any spatial accuracy within the territory of India including underwater within its territorial waters by using any Geospatial Technology, subject to regulations on attributes in the negative lists.

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**Q.7)** Which of the following **tax(s) is/are levied on Petrol** in India?

1. Central Excise duty
2. State VAT/Sales tax
3. Goods and Services Tax

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Petroleum products**—petrol, diesel, crude oil, natural gas and ATF—were **not included in the GST list** when it was introduced on 1 July, 2017. The GST Council excluded these products from the new indirect tax regime as state governments largely rely on them for their revenue.

The retail rate of Petrol in India is inclusive of **Central Excise tax, State VAT/Sales tax and Dealer commission**.

--Despite crude prices falling in 2015-16, petrol prices remained unchanged as the tax component of the price at the pump was raised.

--When crude prices started to rise again from 2017, petrol prices also increased.

--In 2020, when crude prices fell again, petrol prices at the pump did not remain unchanged as in 2015-16 but increased, because of a surge in taxes.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **GrapeNet**?

1. It is a web-based certification and traceability software system for monitoring fresh grapes exported from India to the United States of America.
2. GrapeNet has been integrated with Blockchain to help track all the activities and steps involved in the grape's lifecycle process.

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 **GrapeNet** is a web-based certification and traceability software system for monitoring fresh grapes exported from India to the **European Union**. APEDA can trace details of the consignment right up to the farm plot level.

Statement 2 is correct. In a bid to ensure cyber security protection for its traceability initiative, APEDA has adopted next generation **Blockchain and Cloud migration enabled GrapeNet System** which would ensure a secured, scalable and cost-effective interface for all the stakeholders in the exports value chain.

The **Blockchain** will help track all the activities and steps involved in the grape's lifecycle process, right from the allocation of the farms for production of the grapes to the point of grapes being delivered to the customers. It will keep a record of all the processes involved which can be traced by the customers at the end of the chain to validate the authenticity of the grapes being provided to them.

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**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO)**:

1. It is the nodal agency for regulating safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gas and petroleum in India.
2. It administers the responsibilities delegated under the Explosives Act 1884 and Petroleum Act 1934.

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 **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO)**, formerly known as Department of Explosives, since its inception on 05/09/1898, has been serving the nation as a nodal agency for regulating safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gases and petroleum.

Statement 2 is correct. With an overall objective of ensuring safety and security of public and property from fire and explosion, the Organisation as a statutory authority is entrusted with the administration of **Explosives Act, 1884, Petroleum Act, 1934; Inflammable Substances Act, 1952** and the following Rules framed under these Acts.

**Q.10)** What is the purpose of the **URJIT Cluster scheme**?

- a) Solar energy development in rural India
- b) Tapping the overseas market for horticulture crops
- c) Support the inventions & innovations coming out of academic research activities
- d) Development of self-help groups in Schedule Tribe communities

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, is implementing the BIOTECH URJIT CLUSTER i.e. **University Research Joint Industry Translational Cluster** scheme in the country to synergize resources between institutions, Universities research laboratories, industries and SMEs for technology & product development and building enterprises.

The purpose of Biotech URJIT Cluster scheme is to complement and enhance the translational and commercialization potential of inventions & innovations coming out of academic research activities. These are being set up in 10 locations as per the Budget Announcement in February 2020.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **eSanjeevani**:

1. It is a telemedicine technology developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
2. It is being deployed nationally at Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Scheme

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: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **eSanjeevani** is Government of India's flagship telemedicine technology developed by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (Mohali)**. It is an independent platform, browser-based application facilitating both doctor-to-doctor and patient-to-doctor tele-consultations.

Statement 2 is correct. eSanjeevani doctor to doctor telemedicine system is being deployed nationally for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at 155,000 Health and Wellness Centres under **Ayushman Bharat Scheme** of Government of India.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)**:

1. It aims to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all statutory towns.
2. Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched Pey Jal Survekshan 2021 to collect data on drinking water in Indian cities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban** 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.

JJM(U) will promote circular economy of water through development of city water balance plan for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation. 20% of water demand to be met by reused water with development of institutional mechanism.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the mission, a **Pey Jal Survekshan** will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies with respect to quantity and quality of water through a challenge process.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan 2021 under the Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban. As a first step, the Ministry has decided to launch the Survekshan in 10 cities- Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** for Telecom and Networking Products:

1. Eligibility for support under the Scheme will be subject to achievement of a minimum threshold of investment and sales of manufactured goods in past.
2. The scheme is focused on domestic consumption and does not promote export of the products.

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. The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** intends to promote manufacture of **Telecom and Networking Products** in India and proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract investments in the target segments of telecom and networking products in order to encourage Make in India.

Support under the Scheme will be provided to companies/entities engaged in manufacturing of specified telecom and networking products in India. **Eligibility** will be further subject to achievement of a minimum threshold of cumulative incremental investment over a period of four years and incremental sales of manufactured goods net of taxes (as distinct from traded goods) over the Base Year 2019-2020. The cumulative investment can be made at one go, subject to annual cumulative threshold as prescribed for four years being met.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme will also **encourage exports** of telecom and networking products 'Made in India'.

Globally Telecom and Networking Products exports represent an US\$100 billion market opportunity, which can be exploited by India. With support under the scheme, India will augment capacities by attracting large investments from global players and at the same time encourage promising domestic champion companies to seize the emerging opportunities and become big players in the export market.

**Q.14)** Which of the following surveys being undertaken by **Labour Bureau**?

1. All India Survey on Migrant workers
2. All India survey on Domestic Workers
3. All India survey on employment generated by Professionals

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 surveys being undertaken by **Labour Bureau** are:

--**All India Survey on Domestic Workers** is to estimate the proportion of DW in the workforce by major states and all-India and percentage distribution of these DWs / households that employ them by important socio-demographic key characteristics.

--**All India Survey on Migrant Workers** is to estimate the number of migrant workers in India and also to collect information on their living conditions, working conditions and other socio-economic conditions.

--**All India Survey on Employment Generated by Professionals** is to estimate the total number of active professionals in the country & (to capture the employment generated by these professionals.

--**All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey** is to measure relative change in employment situation over successive quarters in sizeable segment of Non-Farm economy covering 8 important sectors of the Indian economy.

# *Labour Bureau is an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment.*

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**Q.15)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mission COVID Suraksha**:

1. It aimed to accelerate Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development.
2. The mission is being implemented by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

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 **Mission COVID Suraksha** was launched by the Government of India to accelerate Indian **COVID-19 Vaccine Development**. The COVID-19 Vaccine development Mission with end-to-end focus from preclinical development through clinical development and manufacturing and regulatory facilitation for deployment, would consolidate all available and funded resources towards an accelerated product development. Statement 2 is incorrect. Led by **Department of Biotechnology** and implemented by a dedicated Mission Implementation Unit at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), the existing activities under National Bio Pharma Mission (NBM) and Ind-CEPI Mission provide complementary strengths to this Mission.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **NITI Aayog**:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Maximum of four members of the Union Council of Ministers are nominated by the Prime Minister as ex-officio members.
3. The chairperson of the Aayog is appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Institution for Transforming India**, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a **resolution** of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

Statement 2 is correct. Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister as ex-officio members of the NITI Aayog.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Prime Minister is the chairperson of the NITO Aayog**. Vice-chairperson and CEO are appointed by the Prime Minister.

*# Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will chair the sixth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog on 20th February 2021. The agenda of the meeting includes deliberations on agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, human resource development, service delivery at grassroots level and health & nutrition.*

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**:

1. It aims to provide technical support and capacity-building to develop solutions that enhance the quality of life of young children in cities.

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2. Only the Smart Cities under the Smart City mission are eligible for the challenge.

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 Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, announced twenty-five (25) shortlisted cities for the ‘**Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**’ cohort, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner WRI India.

Statement 1 is correct. The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge is a **3-year initiative** that aims to work with Indian cities and their partners to pilot and scale ways to improve public space, mobility, neighborhood planning, access to early childhood services and amenities, and data management across city agencies.

The Challenge aims to propagate an early childhood centric approach among Indian cities, helping urban planners, architects, engineers, and city managers to implement pilots and scale up solutions using the **Infant, Toddler, Caregiver-Friendly Neighborhood (ITCN) Framework**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Challenge is open to all Indian cities with population above 5 lakhs, Smart Cities, and capitals of States/Union Territories.

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) Program**:

- 1. It is a Certificate Program in Public Policy and Management offered by Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
- 2. It is an initiative of 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:** The **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)** is a Certificate Program in Public Policy and Management offered by IIMs. It has been designed at the initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India (GoI) and implemented in collaboration with State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs).

It is a two-year academic program. It aims to address the challenge of the non-availability of personnel for the implementation of various skill development programs at national, state, and district levels.

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Technological Advancement for Rural Areas (TARA) scheme**:

- 1. It aims to provide short term core support to Science based Voluntary Organizations to promote and nurture them as incubators in rural areas.
- 2. It is being implemented by the Science for Equity, Empowerment, and Development (SEED) Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST).

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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. This scheme under **SEED programmes** is essentially to provide **long term core support** to Science based Voluntary Organizations/field institutions to promote and nurture them as “S&T Incubators” / “Active Field Laboratories” in rural and other disadvantaged areas to work and provide technological solutions and effective delivery of technologies for livelihood generation & societal benefits.

Statement 2 is correct. **Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED) Division** has been set up under the Department of Science and Technology, established with the broad objectives of providing opportunities to motivated scientists and field level workers to take up action oriented and location specific projects aiming towards socio-economic upliftment of poor and disadvantaged sections of the society through appropriate technological interventions especially in the rural areas.

The TARA scheme is under the Science for Equity, Empowerment, and Development (SEED) Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST).

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**:

- 1. It is a Skill Certification Scheme to enable a large number of Indian youths to take up industry-relevant skill training.
- 2. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills are also not certified under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youths to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills are also assessed and certified under **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**. RPL is a platform to assess and certify an individual, already skilled in a particular job role/trade. This skill may have been acquired by the individual via formal/informal or non-formal training and experience in the past.

# Other important schemes being implemented by MSDE which are not linked to placement are: Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS); and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS).

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### INTERATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**:

1. The WTO's General Council also meets as the Dispute Settlement Body.
2. All WTO members must undergo periodic scrutiny under the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM).

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 **General Council** is the WTO's highest-level decision-making body in Geneva, meeting regularly to carry out the functions of the WTO. It has representatives (usually ambassadors or equivalent) from all member governments and has the authority to act on behalf of the ministerial conference which only meets about every two years. The General Council also meets, under different rules, as the **Dispute Settlement Body and as the Trade Policy Review Body**.

Statement 2 is correct. Surveillance of national trade policies is a fundamentally important activity running throughout the work of the WTO. At the centre of this work is the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM). All WTO members are reviewed, the frequency of each country's review varying according to its share of world trade.

# *Dr Okonjo-Iweala will become the first woman and the first African to be chosen as Director-General, when she takes office on 1 March.*

**Q.2)** Which of the following **COVID-19 vaccine** have been approved so far by World Health Organisation for emergency use?

1. COVISHIELD by Serum Institute of India
2. Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
3. NOVAVAX vaccine

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The World Health Organization (WHO) recently listed two versions of the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the green light for these vaccines to be rolled out globally through COVAX. The vaccines are produced by **AstraZeneca-SKBio (Republic of Korea) and the Serum Institute of India**.

It also listed the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for emergency use on 31 December 2020.

WHO's Emergency Use Listing (EUL) assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and is a prerequisite for COVAX Facility vaccine supply.

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**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**:

1. It investigates and tries organisations and corporations charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community.
2. It is governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute to which India is not a signatory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** investigates and, where warranted, tries **individuals** charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

Statement 2 is correct. ICC is governed by an international treaty called the **Rome Statute**. India is not a party to Rome Statute.

*# There have thus far been 30 cases before the Court, with some cases having more than one suspect. The judges have issued 9 convictions and 4 acquittals.*

*# The International Criminal Court said on February 5 that the court has jurisdiction over war crimes committed in the Palestinian territories. Palestinian Authority got formal membership of international criminal court in 2015. Israel is not a member of the ICC.*

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India and Mauritius trade relations**:

1. Mauritius is among the top five Foreign Direct Investment source countries for India.
2. India has signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with Mauritius.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. India biggest FDI source countries are **Singapore, Mauritius, Netherlands, Japan and USA**.

Mauritius was the second top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2018-19. India received USD 8 billion (about Rs 56,000 crore) foreign inflows from the country.

Statement 2 is correct. The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)** between India and Mauritius.

The Agreement is a limited agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Financial services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas.

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**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Peacekeeping**:

1. Peacekeeping has been explicitly provided for in the UN Charter.
2. UN peacekeeping operations are deployed with the consent of the main parties to the conflict.

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 **Charter of the United Nations** is the foundation document for all the UN work. Peacekeeping, although **not explicitly provided for in the Charter**, has evolved into one of the main tools used by the United Nations to achieve this purpose. UN peace operations are deployed on the basis of mandates from the United Nations Security Council.

Statement 2 is correct. UN peacekeeping operations are deployed with the **consent of the main parties** to the conflict. This requires a commitment by the parties to a political process. Their acceptance of a peacekeeping operation provides the UN with the necessary freedom of action, both political and physical, to carry out its mandated tasks.

There are three basic principles that continue to set UN peacekeeping operations: Consent of the parties, Impartiality, Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

*# India has announced that it will gift 2,00,000 doses of coronavirus vaccine to United Nations peacekeepers.*

**Q.6)** The **India Energy Outlook 2021** has been released by which of the following institution/organization?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Energy Agency
- c) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
- d) International Atomic Energy Agency

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **India Energy Outlook 2021** is a new special report from the **International Energy Agency's** World Energy Outlook series.

--India is the world's third-largest energy consuming country, thanks to rising incomes and improving standards of living.

--Energy use has doubled since 2000, with 80% of demand still being met by coal, oil and solid biomass.

--On a per capita basis, India's energy use and emissions are less than half the world average, as are other key indicators such as vehicle ownership, steel and cement output.

-- To meet growth in electricity demand over the next twenty years, India will need to add a power system the size of the European Union to what it has now.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding **Quad countries**:

1. All Quad countries are members of the G20.
2. The Quad countries have expressed support for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

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3. India holds 2+2 Ministerial dialogues with all Quad countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Quad is a dialogue forum between the **United States, Japan, Australia and India.**

Statement 1 is correct. The members of the G20 are: Argentina, **Australia**, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, **India**, Indonesia, Italy, **Japan**, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the **United States**, and the European Union.

Statement 2 is correct. Quad group's various readouts/statements have professed for **'their common vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, with clear support for ASEAN cohesion and centrality.'**

Statement 3 is correct. India has 2+2 Ministerial dialogue with USA, Australia and Japan.

India & its Quad Partners	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>JAPAN</b>
2+2 Ministerial Agreements Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, Information Sharing Agreement Dialogues: defense policy, defense research & material, maritime security (+ Indonesia) Staff talks: all 3 services Bilateral military exercises AUSINDEX, AUSTRALIA HIND Participation in Australian exercises PITCH BLACK, KAKADU	2+2 Ministerial Agreements GSOMIA, Reciprocal Provision of Supplies & Services Dialogues: defense policy, joint research on UGVs & robotics technology Staff talks: all 3 services Bilateral military exercises JIMEX, DHARMA GUARDIAN, SHINYUU MAITRI, SAHYOG-KAIJIN
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	
2+2 Ministerial Agreements GSOMIA, LEMOA, COMCASA, ISA, HOSTAC Dialogues: defense policy, defense technology & trade, maritime security, etc. Joint training of peacekeepers Indian liaison at NAVCENT	Bilateral military exercises VAJRA PRAHAR, YUDH ABHYAS, COPE INDIA, Tiger TRIUMPH Defense deals C-17, C-130J, P-8I, M777, SIG716, AH-64E, CH-47F(I), MH-60R Strategic Trade Authorization-1 for India

Tanvi Madan, BROOKINGS

**Q.8)** Which of the following organisation has released the **“Making Peace With Nature”** report?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- c) Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The first UNEP synthesis report is titled: **“Making Peace With Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies”** and is based on evidence from global environmental assessments.

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The UNEP's cross-disciplinary approach aims to tackle interlinked environmental crises within the framework of the **UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals**, and to lay the groundwork for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The UNEP calculates that natural capital constitutes around 20% of so-called planetary wealth (in addition to human capital, manufactured capital and so on).

The report details our reliance on what it calls "**natural capital**" for livelihoods, prosperity, health and well-being, and outlines how that value is unevenly distributed.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Tree Cities of the World**:

1. It is an initiative of the UN Habitat.
2. Hyderabad is the only city of India to have received the Tree City recognition.

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 **Tree Cities of the World programme** is an international effort to recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Arbor Day Foundation** have developed this programme to celebrate greener cities and towns worldwide.

Statement 2 is correct. **Hyderabad** has won a green contest among cities in India, and emerged one of the 'Tree Cities of the World'. With the recognition, the city joins 120 others from 23 countries, including the U.S., the U.K., Canada, and Australia.

The city was evaluated on five metrics: 'Establish Responsibility', 'Set the Rules', 'Know What YouHave', 'Allocate the Resources', and 'Celebrate the Achievements'.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India Australian Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)**:

1. It is being organised by the World Bank.
2. It aims to enable the students and startups in fostering innovative solutions for the development of a circular economy across the food system value chain.

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 Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)** is jointly being organized by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Government of India and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia.

Statement 2 is correct. It aims to enable the students and startups/MSMEs of both the nations in fostering innovative solutions for the development of a **circular economy** across the food system value chain with the aim of increasing the long-term health and resilience of our planet, through innovative technology solutions. I-ACE aims to accelerate the development of young

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and promising students and startups/MSMEs working towards the creation of a sustainable future.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards**:

1. It is an initiative of the Asian Development Bank.
2. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) have been awarded with Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020.

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 **Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards by UNEP** publicly recognize and celebrate excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions or teams combating transboundary environmental crime.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020 in innovation category.

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau initiated Operation WILDNET-II to deter potential traders and bring offenders to justice. WCCB created awareness-raising programmes with stakeholders and other agencies and worked through social media and online trade portals such as Indiamart, Amazon, and OLX, to share information on illegal wildlife trade activity.

**Q.12)** The United Kingdom is conducting **Human Challenge Trials for COVID-19**, what is the objective of such trials?

1. Study the amount of virus it takes to start an infection
2. Measure the initial response of immune system to the infection

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:** Healthy, young volunteers will be infected with coronavirus to test vaccines and treatments in the world's first Covid-19 "**human challenge**" study, which will take place in the UK.

The study, which has received ethics approval, will start in the next few weeks and recruit 90 people aged 18-30. They will be exposed to the virus in a safe and controlled environment while medics monitor their health.

The trials will help scientists work out the **smallest amount of coronavirus** needed to cause infection, and how the body's immune system reacts to it. This will give doctors a better understanding of Covid-19, the disease caused by the virus, which will feed into the development of vaccines and treatments.

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**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)**:

1. It is an autonomous and entire voluntarily funded UN organization.
2. It is the largest recipient of funds from the UNCDF.

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. **UNCDF is an autonomous, voluntarily funded UN organization**, affiliated with UNDP. UNCDF raises its funding separately from UNDP. Its funding comes from UN member states, foundations and the private sector.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The UN Capital Development Fund makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's **47 least developed countries (LDCs)**. With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers last mile finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, in support of households, localities and small enterprises that are underserved, where development needs are greatest and where resources are scarcest.



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### **POLITY**

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the seat of **Supreme Court in India**:

1. Constitution of India provides for Delhi to be seat of the Supreme Court.
  2. The Supreme Court can sit at any places as determined by the Parliament from time to 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 and 2 is incorrect.

The Constitution of India has specific provision for seat of the Supreme Court under the **Article 130**, which states that:

*“The Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.”*

Other seats/benches for the Supreme Court have been suggested by various Bar Councils as well as current Attorney General of India.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the recommendations of the **15th Finance Commission**:

1. It has recommended a vertical devolution of 42 percent to the States from the Central pool of divisible taxes.
2. It has recommended inclusion of Tax and Fiscal efforts of States criteria in Horizontal devolution formula.

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 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 its report for 2020-21**.

It is at the similar 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 correct. Based on principles of need, equity and performance, overall horizontal devolution formula is as follows:

Criteria	Weight (%)
<b>Population</b>	15
<b>Area</b>	15
<b>Forest &amp; Ecology</b>	10
<b>Income Distance</b>	45

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<b>Tax &amp; fiscal efforts</b>	2.5
<b>Demographic performance</b>	12.5

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Defamation laws in India:**

1. Defamation is among the reasonable restrictions to freedom of speech and expression under the Constitution.
2. Defamation is not a criminal offence in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The grounds for **reasonable restrictions** on freedom of speech and expressions as provide under **article 19(2)** are: interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, **defamation** or incitement to an offence. Statement 2 is incorrect. Defamation in India is both a civil and a criminal offence. In Civil Law, the punishment is in the form of damages awarded to the claimant. Under Criminal Law, Defamation is bailable, non-cognizable and compoundable offence. Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 defines what is defamation and its exceptions.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:**

1. The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is given the status of a statutory body under the act.
2. It permits juveniles between the ages of 14-18 years to be tried as adults for heinous offences.

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. To streamline adoption procedures for orphan, abandoned and surrendered children, the earlier **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is given the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function more effectively.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under Section 15, special provisions have been made to tackle child offenders committing heinous offences in the **age group of 16-18 years**. The Juvenile Justice Board is given the option to transfer cases of heinous offences by such children to a Children's Court (Court of Session) after conducting preliminary assessment to be tried as adults.

*# The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to introduce measures for strengthening Child Protection set-up to ensure best interest of children.*

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*The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.*

**Q.5)** Which of the following is/are ‘intermediary’ as per the **Information Technology Act, 2000**?

1. Telecom Service Providers
2. Online marketplaces
3. Cyber cafes

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:** An ‘intermediary’ has been defined in **Section 2(w) of the Information Technology Act, 2000** as “any person who on behalf of another person receives, stores or transmits that record or provides any service with respect to that record and includes telecom service providers, web-housing service providers, search engines, online payment sites, online auction sites, online market places and cyber cafes”.

**Section 79** of the Act grants conditional immunity to intermediaries from liability for third party acts. Section 79(1) of the Act grants intermediaries a conditional immunity with regard to any third-party information, data or communication link made available or hosted by them.

**Q.6)** Which of the following is/are **exceptions to Defamation** under the Indian Penal Code?

1. Attribution of any truth made for public good.
2. Publication of true reports of the proceedings of the Courts
3. Statements made about the character of a person if it is made in order to protect the interests of the person making it

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: Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code**, 1860 defines what is defamation and its exceptions. Persons who make defamatory statements are exempted from punishments if they fall in one of the ten exceptions provided in Section 499. They are:

--Attribution of any truth made for public good.

--Any opinion made in good faith regarding the conduct of a public servant in the discharge of his public functions.

--Any opinion made in good faith respecting the conduct of any person which relates to a public question.

--Publication of true reports of the proceedings of the Courts or the result of the proceedings is not defamation.

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--Any opinion made in good faith regarding the merits of any civil or criminal case decided by the Court of Justice, or the conduct of any person as a party, witness or agent to that case and no further.

--Opinions made about the merits of any performance which its author has submitted to the judgement of the public, or about the author is not defamation if made in good faith.

--Censures passed by persons neither having authority over another either conferred by a law or from a lawful contract in good faith is nor defamation. Censure is formal statement of severe disapproval.

--Accusation of offence to any person having lawful authority over the alleged person in good faith is an exception to defamation. Complaints about servants to masters and children to parents are examples to the exception.

--Statements made about the character of another is not defamation if it is made in order to protect the interests of the person making it, or any other person, or for the public good.

--Cautions conveyed to one person against another are not defamation if it is intended for the good of the conveyed person, or any other, or for public good.

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

1. India is party to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
2. Vishakha guidelines were passed by the Indian Parliament against sexual harassment of women at workplace.

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 **UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and is ratified by India. Often described as an international bill of rights for women, it calls for the equality of women and men in terms of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural and civil spheres. It underlines that discrimination and attacks on women's dignity violate the principle of equality of rights.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Based on the facts of **Bhanwari Devi's case in Rajasthan**, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed by Vishaka and other women groups against the State of Rajasthan and Union of India before the Supreme Court of India.

In a landmark judgment, **Vishaka vs. State of Rajasthan (1997)**, the Supreme Court of India created legally binding guidelines basing it on the right to equality and dignity accorded under the Indian Constitution. It included: A definition of sexual harassment, Shifting accountability from individuals to institutions, Prioritizing prevention and Provision of an innovative redress mechanism.

They were later superseded in 2013 by the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**:

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1. It recognizes the right of every woman to a safe and secure workplace environment irrespective of her age.
2. The act explicitly provides protection to domestic workers in dwelling places.
3. The act provide for establishment of Complaints Committees which must have three-fourth of representation of women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013** recognizes the right of every woman to a safe and secure workplace environment irrespective of her age or employment/work status.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the definition of “workplace” under section 2(o) it includes a dwelling place or a house. Therefore, your house is very much a workplace for your **domestic help**.

According to the Act, a **domestic worker** means a woman who is employed to do the household work in any household for remuneration whether in cash or kind, either directly or through any agency on a temporary, permanent, part time or full-time basis, but does not include any member of the family of the employer.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Act provides for two kinds of complaints mechanisms: **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and Local Complaints Committee (LCC)**. All Complaints Committees **must have 50 per cent representation of women**. ICC or LCC members will hold their position not exceeding three years from the date of their nomination or appointment.

Every employer is obliged to constitute an ICC through a written order and the District Officer will constitute an LCC in every district so as to enable women in the unorganised sector or small establishments to work in an environment free of sexual harassment.

**Q.9) Which of the following is/are grounds provided under the Constitution for reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression?**

1. Defamation
2. Contempt of Court
3. Incitement to an offence

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: Article 19(2)** of the Constitution authorizes the government to impose, by law, reasonable restrictions upon the freedom of speech and expression.

It lists following grounds: The sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

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### HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

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**Q.1)** Which of the following region of India was ruled by **Raja Suheldev**?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Maharaja Suheldev was the erstwhile ruler of **Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district**, who ruled in the 11th century.

The legend goes that that when invaders were conquering one region after another in India, it was Raja Suheldev of Shravasti who gathered heads of different communities likes Tharu and Banjara as well as small kings to block the invasion. It is said that it was his army which defeated and killed Ghazi Salar Masud, the nephew of Mahmud of Gazni at Bahraich.

**Q.2)** The **Ali-Aye-Ligang festival** is celebrated by which of the following community?

- a) Mishing tribe of Assam
- b) Tharu tribe of Uttarakhand
- c) Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Oram tribe of Odisha

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Ali Aye Ligang** literally means sowing of roots and fruits as Ali means seeds, Aye stands for fruits and Ligang means sowing.

Ali-Aye-Ligang festival is a spring festival associated with agriculture, especially with the beginning of the Ahu paddy cultivation celebrated by the **Mising/Mishing tribe of Assam**. They perform traditional rituals and dances. This festival is celebrated on the first Wednesday of the Phagun month, which starts from mid-February.