

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

8th TO 14th March, 2021

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HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

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

1. She opened shelter for the destitute women, widows and child brides cast aside by their families.
2. Savitribai started the practice of Satyashodhak Marriage, where couples took an oath of education and equality.
3. She started the Self-Respect Movement against Brahmanical domination in society.

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. Sympathising with the plight of widows in India, Savitribai opened a **shelter for them in 1854**. After years of continuous reform, she paved the way to build a large shelter in 1864 for destitute women, widows and child brides cast aside by their families. She educated them all. She also adopted Yashwantrao, the son of a widow sheltered in this institution.

Statement 2 is correct. Savitribai was instrumental in shaping **SatyashodhakSamaj**, The Truthseeker's Society, a brainchild of JyotiraoPhule. The Samaj primarily aimed at eliminating discrimination and the need for social order.

In 1873, Savitribai started the practice of **Satyashodhak Marriage**, where couples took an oath of education and equality.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Self-Respect Movement was started under the leadership of EV RamaswamiNaicker or Periyar in 1925.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are recognized as the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India**?

1. Dholavira: A Harappan City
2. Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park
3. Red Fort Complex

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: Red Fort Complex, Delhi (2007) and Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004) are among the 38 UNESCO recognized World Heritage Sites in India.

At present, India has 42 sites listed under Tentative List which is a pre-requisite condition for inscription as World Heritage Site. **'Dholavira: A Harappan City'** has been submitted for nomination of World Heritage Site in 2019-2020. Nomination dossiers of **'Santiniketan, India'** and **'Sacred Ensemble of Hoysalas'** have been submitted to UNESCO for the year 2021-22 cycle.

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Q.3) Which of the following place(s) were on the route of the historic **Dandi march of 1930**?

1. Navagam
2. Ankleshwar
3. Kanakpura

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 **24-day march from March 12 to April 5, 1930** was a tax resistance campaign against the British salt monopoly and heavy taxation. The 1882 Salt Act gave the British a monopoly in the manufacture and sale of salt. Even though salt was freely available on the coasts of India, Indians were forced to buy it from the colonisers.

Gandhi reached Dandi on April 5. The following day, early morning he proceeded along with the other marchers to the sea, where he picked up lumps of natural salt lying in a small pit.



Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sattras**:

1. The Institution of Satra is a unique feature of Vaishnavism in Assam, founded by the first Ahom king Sukapha.
2. The sattras consist of a large prayer hall facing a simple shrine surrounded by dormitories for monks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Institution of **Satra is a unique feature of Vaishnavism in Assam, founded by Sankardeva**, the father of Assamese culture. The satras are not just monasteries, but centers of traditional performing arts.

Statement 2 is correct. The satras consist of a large prayer hall facing a simple shrine, surrounded by dormitories and bathing tanks for monks. The satras also offer guest accommodation where devotees and visitors not only take part in worship of Vishnu and Krishna, but also watch traditional bhaona performances.

SrimantaSankardev (1449–1568) was a 15th–16th century Assamese saint, scholar, poet, and social-religious reformer.

He propagated a form of Bhakti philosophy called EkaSarananaam Dharma. The philosophy had an influence on two medieval kingdoms—Koch and the Ahom kingdoms.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Press Council of India**:

1. It is a statutory organization.
2. It is headed by the Minister of Information & Broadcasting.
3. Publishers of news on digital media are required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India.

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 Press Council of India was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission with the object of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of press in India.

The present Council functions under the **Press Council Act, 1978**. It is a statutory, quasi-judicial authority functioning as a watchdog of the press, for the press and by the press.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Press Council is headed by a **Chairman**, who has by convention, been a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Statement 3 is correct. As per the recently published **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, Publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**:

1. Aadhar is mandatory for the generation of Health ID for an individual.
2. Digi-Doctor is a proposed comprehensive repository of all doctors practicing or teaching modern/ traditional systems of medicine.
3. The Health Facility Registry (HFR) is to be a repository of health facilities of the country including both public and private health facilities.

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: The **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)** aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Every patient who wishes to have their health records available digitally must start by creating a **Health ID**. Each Health ID will be linked to a health data

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consent manager (such as NDHM) which will be used to seek the patient's consent and allow for seamless flow of health information from the Personal Health Records module.

The process of generation of Health ID has voluntary usage of AADHAAR.

Statement 2 is correct. **Digi-Doctor** is a comprehensive repository of all doctors practicing or teaching modern/ traditional systems of medicine. Enrolling on Digi-Doctor is completely voluntary and enables doctors to get connected to India's digital health ecosystem.

Statement 3 is correct. The **Health Facility Registry (HFR)** is a comprehensive repository of health facilities of the country across different systems of medicine. It includes both public and private health facilities including hospitals, clinics, diagnostic laboratories and imaging centers, pharmacies, etc.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding:

1. 'Police' and 'Public order' are Concurrent List subjects as per the Constitution of India.
2. 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' is an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs to combat cybercrime in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. '**Police**' and '**Public order**' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. States/UTs are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their law enforcement machinery.

Statement 2 is correct. '**Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**' is Ministry of Home Affairs' scheme to combat cyber-crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.

The scheme has following seven components: National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit; National Cybercrime Reporting Portal; Platform for Joint Cybercrime Investigation Team; National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem.; National Cybercrime Training Centre.; Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit; and National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) have launched the Cyber Crime Volunteers Program with the aim to allow citizens to register themselves as "Cyber Crime Volunteers" in the role of "Unlawful Content Flaggers". The programme, which will be launched all over the country, is going to have its test run in Jammu and Kashmir and Tripura.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Stand-Up India Scheme seeks to facilitate financing of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Women Entrepreneurs.
2. The Mudra Yojana aims to promote institutionalized lending to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The objective of the **Stand-Up India scheme** is to facilitate bank loans between 10 lakh and 1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and at least one-woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise.

This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services, agri-allied activities or the trading sector. In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

As on 26.02.2021, more than 81% i.e., 91,109 accounts with an amount of Rs. 20,749 crore have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs under Stand Up India Scheme.

Statement 2 is correct. **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)** is a scheme for providing loans upto 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, MFIs and NBFCs.

As on 26.02.2021, about 68% i.e., 19.04 crore accounts with an amount of Rs. 6.36 lakh crore have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs under MUDRA scheme since inception.

Q.5) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- c) India Climate Collaborative
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Correct answer: A

Explanation: India played a prominent role in the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and much of the country's National Development Agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

NITI Aayog has constructed the SDG India Index that tracks the progress of all the States and Union Territories (UTs) on a set of National Indicators, measuring their progress on the outcomes of the interventions and schemes of the Government of India. The SDG India Index is intended to provide a holistic view on the social, economic and environmental status of the country and its States and UTs.

The third rendition of India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index will be launched by NITI Aayog on 10 March 2021.

Q.6) Which of the following is/are the components under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)?

- 1. Development of in-village piped water supply infrastructure
- 2. Greywater management

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: The following components are supported under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**:

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- Development of **in-village piped water supply infrastructure** to provide tap water connection to every rural household
- Development of reliable drinking water sources and/ or augmentation of existing sources to provide long-term sustainability of water supply system
- Wherever necessary, bulk water transfer, treatment plants and distribution network to cater to every rural household
- Technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue
- Retrofitting of completed and ongoing schemes to provide FHTCs at minimum service level of 55 lpcd;

--Greywater management

Ministry of Jal Shakti is also running a 100 day campaign to provide tap water connections in schools, anganwadicentres (AWCs) and Ashramshalas under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**:

1. It aims to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year.
2. 122 non-attainment cities have been identified under the initiative for preparing city specific action plans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The Central Government launched **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

Under NCAP, **122 non-attainment cities have been identified across the country based on the Air Quality data from 2014-2018**. The city specific action plans have been prepared which, inter-alia, include measures for strengthening the monitoring network, reducing vehicular/industrial emissions, increasing public awareness etc.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Science and Technology, in its report on the demand for grants of the ministry said that the government reduced its 2020-21 budgetary allocation for the ministry by 35 per cent in its revised estimates due to “adverse effects” of the Covid 19 pandemic, which resulted in non-release of funds in “all proposed activities mentioned in the Annual Plan of Operations” of various schemes.

Q.8) Which of the following is/are the component(s) of the **National Social Assistance Programme?**

1. Annapurna Scheme
2. PM AwasYojana
3. National Family Benefit Scheme

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 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: C

Explanation: The **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** represents a significant step towards the fulfilment of the Directive Principles in Article 41 and 42 of the Constitution. In particular, Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development.

The NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely - (1) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), (2) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), (3) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), (4) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and (5) Annapurna.

The NSAP is implemented in the States/UTs in accordance with the general conditions applicable to all components of the NSAP as well as specific condition applicable to each component.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**:

1. It aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states.
2. The scheme targets development of theme-based tourist circuits across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** programme aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.

Statement 2 is correct. The Ministry of Tourism launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Integrated Development of **theme-based Tourist Circuits** for development of tourism infrastructure including last mile connectivity in the country.

The scheme was completely funded by the central government of India. Projects under the scheme are under the following identified themes; Eco-tourism, Wildlife, Buddhist, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Coastal, Northeast, Rural, Himalayan, Tribal and Heritage.

Q.10) Which of the following institution has recently published the report '**Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India**'?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) National Highway Authority of India
- c) Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers
- d) India Climate Collaborative

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India released a new report ‘Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India’, which highlights the role of finance in the India’s transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and analyses that the transition will require a cumulative capital investment of USD 266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh crore) in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries over the next decade.

The report also identifies a market size of USD 50 billion (Rs 3.7 lakh crore) for the financing of EVs in 2030—about 80% of the current size of India’s retail vehicle finance industry, worth USD 60 billion (Rs 4.5 lakh crore) today.

Q.11) Union Government has launched the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme** for which of the following sector(s)?

1. Food Products
2. Specialty Steel
3. Pharmaceuticals Drugs

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 outlay of INR 1.97 lakh crore has been announced in **Union Budget 2021-22 for PLI schemes for 13 key sectors for a period of 5 years** starting from fiscal year (FY) 2021- 22.

These 13 sectors include already existing 3 sectors named (i) Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components, (ii) Critical Key Starting materials/Drug Intermediaries & Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, and (iii) Manufacturing of Medical Devices and 10 new key sectors which have been approved by the Union Cabinet recently in November 2020. These 10 key sectors are:

(i) Automobiles and Auto Components, (ii) Pharmaceuticals Drugs, (iii) Specialty Steel, (iv) Telecom & Networking Products, (v) Electronic/Technology Products, (vi) White Goods (ACs and LEDs), (vii) Food Products, (viii) Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles, (ix) High efficiency solar PV modules, and (x) Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery.

The PLI schemes will be implemented by the concerned Ministries/ Departments and will be within the overall financial limits prescribed.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)**:

1. It is a non-lapsable reserve fund for Health in the Public Account.
2. Proceeds of share of health in the Health and Education Cess will be credited into PMSSN.
3. Accruals into the PMSSN will be distributed among states as formulated by the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan MantriSwasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)** as a non-lapsable reserve fund for Health in the Public Account from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.

-- **Accruals into the PMSSN will be utilized for the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** namely, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (AB-PMJAY), National Health Mission, Pradhan MantriSwasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) etc.

-- Administration and maintenance of the PMSSN is entrusted to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

-- In any financial year, the expenditure on such schemes of the MoHFW would be initially incurred from the PMSSN and thereafter, from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS).

Q.13) Which of the following is/are the feature(s) of the **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**?

1. Service sector unit is not allowed to be set up in SEZ.
2. Domestic sales are subject to full customs duty and import policy in force.
3. It is not subject to the routine examination by customs authorities of export/import cargo.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect while 2 and 3 are correct.

The **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** policy was launched in April, 2000. The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005. The salient features of the SEZ scheme are:

--A designated duty free enclave to be treated as a territory outside the customs territory of India for the purpose of authorised operations in the SEZ;

--No licence required for import;

--Manufacturing or service activities allowed;

--Domestic sales subject to full customs duty and import policy in force;

--SEZ units will have freedom for subcontracting;

--No routine examination by customs authorities of export/import cargo;

Presently, 378 SEZs are notified, out of which 265 are operational.

Q.14) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. PM-SVANidhi - Collateral free working capital loan to street vendors
2. Aatmanirbhar Bharat RozgarYojana - Reduces the financial burden of the employers
3. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana - Loans to micro/small business enterprises and individuals

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are correctly matched.

PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme intends to facilitate collateral free working capital loans of up to INR10,000/- of one-year tenure, to approximately 50 lakh street vendors, to help resume their businesses in the urban areas, including surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.

Under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat RozgarYojna (ABRY)**, the Government of India is bearing for a period of two years, both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers' share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been initiated by Government inter alia, for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans uptoRs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals

Q.15) The **AzadiKaAmrutMahotsav** is a series of events to be organised by the Government of India to commemorate which of the following event?

- The 75th Anniversary of India's Independence
- Mahatma Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary
- None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **AzadiKaAmrutMahotsav** is a series of events to be organised by the Government of India to commemorate the **75th Anniversary of India's Independence**. The Mahotsav will be celebrated as a Jan-Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari.

A National Implementation Committee headed by the Home Minister has been constituted to chalk out policies and planning of various events to be undertaken under the Commemoration. The curtain raiser activities are beginning from 12th March 2021, 75 weeks prior to 15th August 2022.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' scheme:

- It aims to ensure all beneficiaries are able to get ration across the nation from any Public Distribution System (PDS) shop.
- States completing One Nation One Ration Card system reform are eligible for additional borrowing of one percent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. This scheme aims to ensure all beneficiaries, especially migrants get ration (wheat, rice and other food grains) across the nation from any **Public Distribution System (PDS)** shop of their own choice.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In view of the resource requirement to meet multiple challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India had on 17th May, 2020 enhanced the

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borrowing limit of the States by 2 percent of their GSDP. Half of this special dispensation i.e. 1 percent of GSDP was linked to undertaking citizen centric reforms by the States.

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

States completing One Nation One Ration Card system reform are eligible for additional borrowing of 0.25 percent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Seventeen (17) States have successfully operationalised “One Nation One Ration Card system” with Uttarakhand being the latest State to complete the reform.

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. One Nation One Ration Card system allows both inter-State and intra-State portability of ration cards.
2. Government has launched a Mobile Application “MERA RATION”, to facilitate various ONORC related services among NFSA beneficiaries.

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. **One Nation One Ration Card** allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through existing ration card in a seamless manner.

Their family members back home, if any, can also claim the balance food grains on same ration card. The Ration card details and entitlements are available online on any ePoS device in the country and it includes both **inter-State and intra-State (inter-district/intra-district)** portability of ration cards.

Statement 2 is correct. NIC has developed a Mobile Application “**MERA RATION**”, to facilitate various ONORC related services among NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, FPS dealers and other relevant stakeholders.

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GEOGRAPHY

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Arunachal Pradesh has largest Brahmaputra River drainage area among all States of India.
2. The Brahmaputra Board has jurisdiction over the Brahmaputra valley as well as adjacent Barak valley.
3. Teesta River Joins the Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Brahmaputra** sub-basin extends over an area of 580,000 sq. km lying in Tibet (China), Bhutan, India and Bangladesh. The drainage area lying in India is 194413 sq. km which is nearly 5.9% of the total geographical area of the country.

The State-wise distribution of drainage area (sq. km):

Arunachal Pradesh (81,424); Assam (70,634); West Bengal (12,585); Meghalaya (11,667); Nagaland (10,803); Sikkim (7,300).

Statement 2 is correct. **Brahmaputra Board** was established by the Govt. of India in 1980 with the object of preparing a master plan for controlling the flood and bank erosion and improving the drainage of the Brahmaputra valley, simultaneously tapping the immense water potential for hydropower generation and possible irrigation. The Board has jurisdiction over the adjacent Barak valley also.

Statement 3 is correct. The **Teesta**, the Sankosh, the Raidak-I, the Raidak-II, the Torsa and the Jaldhaka flowing through the northern West Bengal also join the main stream of Brahmaputra but, in the plains of Bangladesh.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Miyawaki Method** of planting:

1. It results in faster growth of vegetation.
2. It involves denser planting of seedlings, making plants to compete with each other for space and access to light and water

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.

Invented by and named after Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki**, the 'Miyawaki Method' is a unique technique to grow forests.

Under the approach, dozens of native species are planted in the same area, **close to each other**, which ensures that the plants receive sunlight only from the top, and grow upwards than sideways.

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During early period, the plantings compete with each other for space and access to light and water—a battle that encourages much faster growth. In conventional afforestation techniques, 1 meter of growth per year is considered the norm. In the Miyawaki method, trees grow about 10 times faster. Once stabilized, the forest is left to flourish, forevermore, on its own without further interference.

Q.3) The '**MaitriSetu**' has been built on which of the following river?

- a) Sankosh River
- b) Feni River
- c) Manas River
- d) Kameng River

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The bridge '**MaitriSetu**' has been built over **Feni river** which flows between Indian boundary in Tripura State and Bangladesh. The name 'MaitriSetu' symbolizes growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.

The construction was taken up by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd at a project cost of Rs. 133 Crores. The 1.9 Km long bridge joins Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.

The Feni River originates in South Tripura district and flows through Sabroom town and then enters Bangladesh.

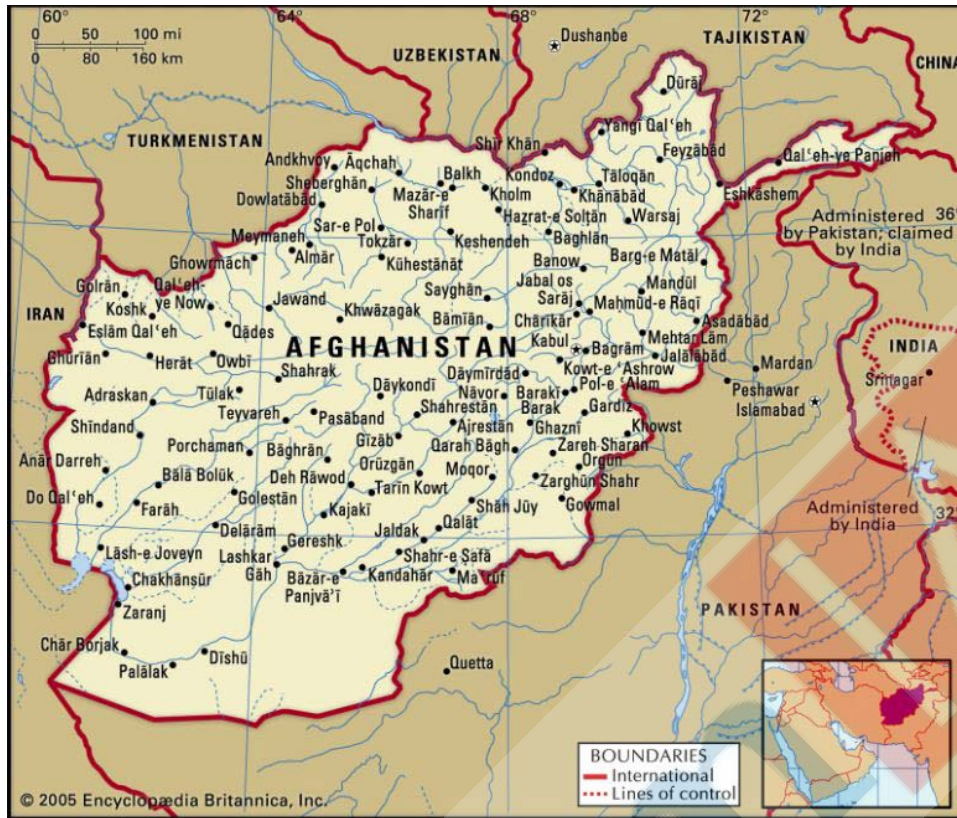
Q.4) Which of the following country *does not* share border with **Afghanistan**?

- a) Iran
- b) Turkmenistan
- c) Uzbekistan
- d) Kyrgyzstan

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Afghanistan**, a mountainous landlocked republic in Central Asia is bordered by Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to the north, Iran in west, Pakistan in east and south and it has a small stretch of border in north east with both China and India (disputed because in Pakistan occupied Kashmir).

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Q.5) The **Toda tribe** belongs to which of the following State/UT?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Ladakh
- c) Odisha
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Toda Tribe is an ancient tribe of Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.** The todas have their own language. They have their own secretive customs and regulations. Todas worship nature like hill gods, Lord Amodr (the realm of the dead) & Goddess Teikirzi.

Toda way of life The Toda culture revolves around their cattle herds and the dairy temples. Each of the six grades of temple dairies has its cattle herd of sacred buffaloes and an exclusive array of varied rituals.

Toda community is well known for its **embroidery garments** which were also highlighted recently by the Prime Minister on occasion of the International Women's Day. This is made usually by women using red and black threads on a white background giving a rich effect.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Feni River**:

- 1. It is a transboundary river between India and Bangladesh.
- 2. It is a right bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River.

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 **Feniriver**, which forms part of the India-Bangladesh border, originates in the South Tripura district, passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh. Statement 2 is incorrect. The Prime Minister recently inaugurated '**MaitriSetu**' between India and Bangladesh on the Feni River. It connects Tripura with Chittagong port in Bangladesh, which is only 70 km away from the Indo-Bangla border.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Similipal Tiger Reserve / Biosphere Reserve**:

1. It is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
2. The Joranda waterfall is located within the reserve.
3. The park is known for wide presence the tiger, elephant and hill myna.

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: **Similipal**, which derives its name from 'Simul' (Silk Cotton) tree, is a national park and a Tiger Reserve situated in the northern part of Orissa's Mayurbhanj district. It is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.

The **Joranda and Barehipani** are located within the protected area in the reserve. At least twelve rivers cut across the plain area, all of which drain into the Bay of Bengal. The prominent among them are Burhabalanga, PalpalaBandan, Salandi, Kahairi and Deo.

The vegetation is a mix of different forest types and habitats, with Northern tropical moist deciduous dominating some semi-evergreen patches. Sal is the dominant tree species here. The park is known for the tiger, elephant and hill mynah. It holds the highest tiger population in the state of Orissa.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Brahmaputra River**:

1. The north bank tributaries of the Brahmaputra River have boulder, pebble and coarse sandy beds and carry a heavy silt charge.
2. The south bank tributaries of the Brahmaputra River have meandering channels and comparatively low silt charge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The characteristics of the north bank tributaries are different than that of the south bank tributaries of the **Brahmaputra**, which may be summarized as below:

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The North Bank Tributaries:

- Have very steep slopes and shallow braided channels for a considerable distance from the foot hills and in some cases right up to the outfall.
- Have boulder, pebble and coarse sandy beds and carry a heavy silt charge.
- Generally, north bank has flashy floods.

The South bank Tributaries:

- Have comparatively flatter grades and deep meandering channels almost from the foot hills.
- Have comparatively low silt charge.

Q.9) Which of the following Shark species is/are protected under the **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?**

1. Whale Shark
2. Ganges Shark
3. Speartooth Shark

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: Recognizing the dangers faced by **Whale Shark, Ganges Shark and Speartooth Shark** are protected under Schedule I, Part II A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

IUCN Red List status: Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is listed as Endangered, Ganges Shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*) and Speartooth Shark (*Glyphis glyphis*) are listed as Critically Endangered species.

India is one of the world's largest shark fishing nations and Maharashtra and Gujarat together contribute more than 50% of the harvest.

*# Sharks are the most important predators found in oceans across the world. Sharks are also found in freshwater habitats in some countries. There are six species of river sharks found in the world, out of which the Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*) is endemic to India.*

Q.10) Which of the following state(s) of India share border with **Myanmar?**

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Tripura
3. Manipur

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: Myanmar shares a long land border of over 1600 Km with India as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Four North-Eastern States viz. **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram** share international boundary with Myanmar.

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The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to the Chief Secretaries of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh to “take appropriate action as per law to check illegal influx from Myanmar into India.”

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Strait of Hormuz**:

1. It connects Red Sea to the Gulf of Oman.
2. It is bounded to the north by Iran and to the south by Oman.

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: **Strait of Hormuz** is one of the world's most important shipping routes. It is about 96 miles long and only 21 miles wide at its narrowest point, with shipping lanes in each direction just two miles wide.

Bounded to the north by **Iran** and to the south by **Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, the Strait of Hormuz connects the **Persian Gulf (west) with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea (southeast)**.



Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan**:

1. The area contains numerous Buddhist monastic ensembles and sanctuaries.
2. The cultural landscape and archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **cultural landscape and archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley** represent the artistic and religious developments which from the 1st to the 13th centuries characterized ancient Bakhtria, integrating various cultural influences into the Gandhara school of Buddhist art.

These niches are inscribed on the **World Heritage List** as part of the “Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley” World Heritage property.

The area contains numerous **Buddhist monastic ensembles** and sanctuaries, as well as fortified edifices from the Islamic period. The site is also testimony to the tragic destruction by the Taliban of the two standing Buddha statues, which shook the world in March 2001.

Q.13) Which of the following is/are not bordered by **El Salvador**?

- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Guatemala
- c) Honduras
- d) Belize

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **El Salvador is bounded by Honduras to the north and east, by the Pacific Ocean to the south, and by Guatemala to the northwest.** Its territory is situated wholly on

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the western side of the isthmus, and it is therefore the only Central American country that lacks a Caribbean coast.

El Salvador recently became the first Malaria-free country in Central America and the third in America. It received a Malaria-free certificate from the World Health Organization (WHO).



Q.14) Which of the following river(s) is/are tributaries of the **Brahmaputra River**?

1. Teesta River
2. Manas River
3. Manipur 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: A

Explanation: **Brahmaputra river** originates from Kailash ranges of Himalayas at an elevation of about 5150 m and flows for about 2900 km through Tibet (China), India and Bangladesh and joins the Ganga. The river Brahmaputra receives a number of tributaries at its north and south banks, in the catchment area in India.

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Tributaries from North bank	Tributaries from South bank
The Jadhah	The Noa Dehing
The Subansiri	The Buridehing
The Siang	The Debang
The Kameng (Jiabharali in Assam)	The Dikhow
The Dhansiri(North)	The Dhansiri(S)
The Puthimari	The Kopili
The Pagladiya	The Digaru
The Manas	The Dudhnai
The Champamati	The Krishnai
The Saralbhanga	
The Aie	
The Sankosh	

In addition, six tributaries namely the Tista, the Sankosh, the Raidak-I, the Raidak-II, the Torsa and the Jaldhaka flowing through the northern West Bengal also join the main stream of Brahmaputra but, in the plains of Bangladesh.

Manipur River in Manipur state flows into Myanmar, where it merges with the Myittha River, a tributary of the Chindwin river.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Which of the following is/are potential health effects of **alcohol abuse**?

1. Pancreatitis
2. Fatty Liver
3. Cardiomyopathy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Alcohol when over-consumed for the first time causes severe effects.

--It can cause **heart** related issues like Cardiomyopathy – Stretching and drooping of heart muscle; Arrhythmias – Irregular heart beat; Stroke and High blood pressure.

--**Liver** inflammations including Steatosis, or fatty liver; Alcoholic hepatitis; Fibrosis and Cirrhosis.

-- Alcohol causes the **pancreas** to produce toxic substances that can eventually lead to pancreatitis, a dangerous inflammation and swelling of the blood vessels in the pancreas that prevents proper digestion.

Scientists from Raman Research Institute (RRI) have developed high-resolution platform to detect the effect of prolonged alcohol exposure on Red Blood Cells.

Q.2). Consider the following statements:

1. Traditional diesel-electric submarines do not need to surface frequently to charge their batteries.
2. A diesel electric submarine with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) allows a submarine to be submerged for longer periods.

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. **Diesel-Electric submarines** run on diesel and electricity. They have a large network of batteries which are charged by the diesel generator. They snorkel, which means, travelling just below the surface of the water with the periscope and the diesel generator exhaust pipe above the water surface. Once they charge their batteries, they dive into the ocean and run silently on battery power with the diesel generators shut down.

Statement 2 is correct. **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** allows a submarine to be submerged for longer periods under water. The AIP or marine propulsion technology allows non-nuclear submarines to operate without access to atmospheric oxygen (through snorkel or surfacing) and augments the diesel-electric propulsion system of attack submarines.

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This means that the AIP fitted submarine does not have to surface for charging its batteries and remains underwater for long periods. The AIP is retrofitted into existing submarine hulls by adding an additional hull section.

#The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) recently conducted the final development test of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP).

Q.3) What is measured by the **Glycemic Index (GI)**?

- a) Increase in blood glucose levels by food
- b) Amount of glucose artificially added in food
- c) Productivity of food crop per seed sowed
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **glycemic index** is a value assigned to foods based on how slowly or how quickly those foods cause increases in **blood glucose levels**. Foods low on the glycemic index (GI) scale tend to release glucose slowly and steadily. Foods high on the glycemic index release glucose rapidly.

Low GI foods tend to foster weight loss, while foods high on the GI scale help with energy recovery after exercise, or to offset hypo- (or insufficient) glycemia.

Indigenous varieties of rice are being promoted through various programmes in India. Five rice varieties viz., Lalat and Improved Lalat (GI value: 54) as low GI and Swarna, SambhaMahsuri and Shaktiman (GI value <60) as intermediate GI have been identified and all these varieties are in seed chain and are being cultivated by the farmers.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gaganyaan mission**:

- 1. It aims to demonstrate human space flight capability to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- 2. The mission will be launched through the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Gaganyaan project** has the objective of demonstrating human space flight capability to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** with three crew members in orbit and safely recovering them after the mission.

Statement 2 is incorrect. ISRO's heavy lift launcher, **GSLV MkIII** is identified for the Gaganyaan Mission and the process for human rating of GSLV MkIII is in progress. The high thrust solid propellant strap-on boosters S200 play an important role in the Human Rated GSLV MkIII.

Four Indian astronaut candidates are currently undergoing generic space flight training in Russia as part of Gaganyaan Programme.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **INS Karanj**:

- 1. It is a nuclear submarine.
- 2. It has been built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **INS Karanj is the third diesel-electric submarine of the Kalvari class** -- a class based on the Scorpène-class submarine -- commissioned into the Indian Navy recently.

Statement 2 is correct. The submarine is completely made in India. Unlike other submarines which were made under the supervision of France, INS Karanj has been constructed completely under the supervision of **MDL (Mazgaon Dock Limited), Naval Engineers**.

Six Scorpene-class submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

This year is being celebrated as the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' which marks 50 years of 1971 Indo – Pak war. Old INS Karanj, commissioned on 04 Sep 1969 at Riga in the erstwhile USSR, also took active part in the conflict.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) Mission:**

1. It is a lunar rover and lander mission of India and France.
2. The mission aims to explore the south pole region of the moon.

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: To assess the abundance and distribution of water in the lunar polar region, the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, have planned the lunar polar exploration mission (LUPEX).

Both agencies are already working on a joint lunar polar exploration (LUPEX) mission and the two space agencies have been working on the mission that aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's south pole around 2024.

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

1. The dwarf planets orbiting the Sun in Kuiper belt are called exoplanets.
2. Pluto is an exoplanet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

Pluto is a dwarf planet that lies in the Kuiper Belt, an area full of icy bodies and other dwarf planets out past Neptune; but not an exoplanet.

An exoplanet is any planet beyond our solar system. Most orbit other stars, but free-floating exoplanets, called rogue planets, orbit the galactic center and are untethered to any star.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, investigated the host star properties for the directly imaged exo-planets to understand various formation scenarios for these wide orbit celestial objects.

They found that while a metal-rich environment of host stars is vital for the formation of Jupiter-type light, but giant planets; it is not necessary for the long orbit heavy giant planets.

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Bulk drugs are the chemicals having therapeutic value, used for the production of pharmaceutical formulations.
2. Generic drugs are innovated drugs patented by pharmaceutical companies to prevent them from being copied or reverse engineered by other companies.

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. **Bulk drugs** are the active chemical substances in powder form, the main ingredient in pharmaceuticals – chemicals having therapeutic value, used for the production of pharmaceutical formulations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Brand name drugs** are the innovator drugs patented by MNC pharmaceutical companies to prevent them from being copied or reverse engineered by other companies.

Generic drugs are the copies of off-patent brand-name drugs that come in the same dosage, safety, strength, and quality and for the same intended use. These drugs are then sold under their chemical names as both over the counter and prescription forms.

#The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest in the world by volume. However, the country is significantly dependent on the import of basic raw materials, viz., Bulk Drugs that are used to produce medicines. In some specific bulk drugs, the import dependence is 80 to 100%.

With an objective to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in these critical Bulk Drugs - Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in the country, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had launched a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of their domestic manufacturing.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Water Technology Initiative (WTI)**:

1. It aims to promote Research & Development activities aimed at providing safe drinking water at affordable cost.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Water Technology Initiative (WTI)** aims to promote R&D activities aimed at providing **safe drinking water at affordable cost and in adequate quantity** using appropriate Science and Technology interventions evolved through indigenous efforts.

Since quality is the main consideration of safe drinking water, processes which imply nano-material and filtration technologies have been focused. The initiative also includes the pilot testing of credible number of products and referencing of selected technologies to the social context of the application region.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Water Technology Initiative is under the **Department of Science & Technology**.

An efficient, low-cost, nano-filtration-based technology by The Centre for Technological Excellence in Water Purification (CTEWP) housed in IIT Kharagpur has ensured access to safe and clean drinking water free of heavy metals for 25,000 people in three different locations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The prototype of the highly compact vertical modular nanofiltration membrane system designed for removal of heavy metals from the groundwater was developed by the Membrane Separations Laboratory, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), with support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Water Technology Initiative (WTI).

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Benzene**:

1. Its vapor is heavier than air and may sink into low-lying areas.
2. Natural sources of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires.
3. Benzene causes harmful effects on the bone marrow and can cause a decrease in red blood cells, leading to anemia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Benzene** is a chemical that is a colorless or light-yellow liquid at room temperature. It has a sweet odor and is highly flammable. Benzene evaporates into the air very quickly. Its vapor is **heavier than air** and may sink into low-lying areas.

Statement 2 is correct. Benzene is formed from both natural processes and human activities.

Natural sources of benzene include **volcanoes and forest fires**. Benzene is also a natural part of crude oil, gasoline, and cigarette smoke.

Statement 3 is correct. The major effect of benzene from long-term exposure is on the blood. (Long-term exposure means exposure of a year or more.) Benzene causes harmful effects on the bone marrow and can cause a decrease in **red blood cells**, leading to anemia. It can also cause excessive bleeding and can affect the immune system, increasing the chance for infection.

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A joint committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to study air pollution in Kerala has recommended the installation of vapour recovery system at fuelling stations and retrofitting of diesel vehicles with particulate filters to improve air quality.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asteroid 2001 FO32**:

1. It is the largest asteroid predicted to pass by Earth in 2021.
2. This Near-Earth asteroid is expected to enter and burn out in the Earth's atmosphere in 2029.

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. **2001 FO32** is the **largest asteroid predicted to pass by our planet in 2021** will be at its closest on March 21, providing astronomers a rare opportunity to get a good look at a rocky relic that formed at the dawn of our solar system. This near-Earth asteroid will make its closest approach at a distance of about 1.25 million miles (2 million kilometers) – or 5 1/4 times the distance from Earth to the Moon. Statement 2 is incorrect. **There is no threat of a collision with our planet now or for centuries to come.**

Asteroid 2001 FO32 was discovered in March 2001 by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) program in Socorro, New Mexico, and had been estimated, based on optical measurements, to be roughly 3,000 feet (1 kilometer) wide. In more recent follow-up observations by NEOWISE, 2001 FO32 appears to be faint when observed in infrared wavelengths, which suggests the object is likely less than 1 kilometer in diameter.

Q.12) What is a **Quasar**?

- a) Bright objects in the Universe powered by supermassive black holes
- b) Binary systems containing neutron stars emitting X-rays
- c) Neutron star believed to have an extremely powerful magnetic field
- d) Giant cloud of dust and gas in space

Correct answer: A

Explanation: With the exception of the short-lived, powerful explosions responsible for supernovae and gamma-ray bursts, **quasars (or QSOs) are the brightest objects in the Universe.**

They are thought to be powered by supermassive black holes which lie at the center of massive galaxies. However, the black holes themselves do not emit visible or radio light (i.e. they are “black”) – the light we see from quasars comes from a disk of gas and stars called an accretion disk, which surrounds the black hole.

International team of astronomers have discovered the most distant ‘Radio-Loud’ Quasar. It is named P172+18 and has been discovered with the help of the European Southern Observatory’s Very Large Telescope (ESO’s VLT).

A nebula is a giant cloud of dust and gas in space.

Amagnetar is a type of neutron star believed to have an extremely powerful magnetic field.

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Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. A ramjet is a form of air-breathing jet engine that uses the vehicle's forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion.
2. A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it allows supersonic combustion.

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. A **ramjet is a form of air-breathing jet engine** that uses the vehicle's forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without a rotating compressor. Fuel is injected in the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot compressed air and ignites. A ramjet-powered vehicle requires an assisted take-off like a rocket assist to accelerate it to a speed where it begins to produce thrust.

Statement 2 is correct. A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at **hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion**. Thus, it is known as Supersonic Combustion Ramjet, or Scramjet.

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) recently successfully flight-tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Generation Equality is an initiative of the UN Women.
2. The International Women’s Day 2021 theme recognises the role of women in shaping recovery from a COVID-19 world.

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 **Generation Equality campaign of UN Women** demands equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and girls, health-care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and decision-making in all areas of life.

Statement 2 is correct. This year, the theme for **International Women’s Day (8 March), “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world,”** celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the gaps that remain.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF)**:

1. Researchers from the BRICS countries are eligible for the ISRF.
2. The fellowship provides opportunity to work in advanced research areas at premier research laboratories in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. As a part of India’s initiatives to engage with neighbouring countries to develop S&T partnerships, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India has launched ISRF Programme for **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand** researchers to work in Indian Universities and Research Institutions.

Statement 2 is correct. The programme provides opportunity to work in advanced research areas in all major disciplines of science and technology including engineering and medical sciences at premier research laboratories in India.

Forty scholars from six countries have been awarded with the opportunity to carry out their research in Indian Institutes under ISRF 2021.

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Q.3) Which of the following organization has published the **Food Waste Index 2021**?

- a) World Food Programme
- b) World Health Organization
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) Food & Agriculture Organization

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **UNEP Food Waste Index Report** aims at supporting the goals of SDG 12.3; it aims to halve global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses, including post-harvest losses, along supply chains by 2030. The food waste amounted to a whopping 931 million tonnes of food sold to households, retailers and restaurants.

The fact that substantial amounts of food are produced but not eaten by humans has substantial negative impacts: environmentally, socially and economically. Estimates suggest that 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions are associated with food that is not consumed.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Quad group** of countries:

1. India has logistics support agreement with all the other Quad members.
2. All Quad countries have been participating in Malabar exercise since 2015.

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. **India and Japan** signed logistics support agreement is known as Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) in 2020.

India and Australia in 2020 signed a historic agreement, called 'Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA)'.
Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was the first 'foundational agreement' signed by **India and the US** in 2016.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Malabar Exercise** is a multilateral naval exercise among Indian, US and Japanese naval forces. It started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the Indian and US navies. Japan joined in 2015. Australia participated in 2007 and 2020 Malabar exercise editions.

Q.5) The study '**Enabling the Business of Agriculture**' has been published by which of the following organisation?

- a) World Bank Group
- b) Food & Agriculture Organization
- c) World Food Programme
- d) World Trade Organization

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Enabling the Business of Agriculture is a World Bank Group study collecting unique data on the regulations that affect farmers.

Based on eight indicators, the EBA measures the extent to which government regulatory systems in 101 countries worldwide make it easier for their farmers to operate agricultural

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activities. The indicators are supplying seed, registering fertilizer, securing water, registering machinery, sustaining livestock, protecting plant health, trading food, and accessing finance. According to Enabling the Business of Agriculture 2019, the business climate for agriculture worldwide is improving. 47 out of 101 countries measured implemented 67 regulatory reforms over two years making it easier for farmers to manage pest outbreaks, get quality seeds and access credit to invest in production. Among 101 countries covered, India ranked 49 on the EBA aggregate score. France, Croatia, and the Czech Republic are the three top-ranking countries.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Bodhisena was an Indian Buddhist scholar and monk who travelled to Japan in eighth century.
2. Japan is a member of International Solar Alliance.
3. India and Japana have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to promote the movement of skilled workers from India to Japan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Bodhisena**, a scholar and monk from India voyaged to Japan via Cambodia and Champa (central and southern Vietnam) in eighth century. He taught Sanskrit and helped establish the **Kegon school of Buddhism**, a variant of the Chinese Huayanschool.

Statement 2 is correct. Japan is among the countries that have signed and ratified the **ISA Framework Agreement**.

Statement 3 is correct. India and Japan recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Government of India and Government of Japan on a **Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to "Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)"**.

The MoC will help to promote the movement of skilled workers from India to Japan. The MoC covers 14 categories of specified skills under which skilled workers from India who meet the skills requirement and Japanese language tests would be eligible for employment in Japan on a contractual basis.

Q.7) Recently, Indian Council of Agricultural Research won the **King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award**, it is conferred by which of the following institution?

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) World Food Programme
- c) International Union of Soil Sciences
- d) International Union of Geological Sciences

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, has been recently conferred with the prestigious International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award by the **Food**

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and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, for its commitment to raising awareness of the importance of healthy soils.

World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. An international day to celebrate Soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.

The award, sponsored by the Kingdom of Thailand, is named after King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand for his lifelong commitment to raising awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management and rehabilitation for food security, poverty alleviation and more.

The date of 5 December is birthday of the late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, who was one of the main proponents of this initiative.

Q.8) The DUSTLIK is a military exercise of India with which of the following country?

- a) United Arab Emirates
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Oman
- d) Saudi Arabia

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **India – Uzbekistan joint military exercise “DUSTLIK II”** commenced on 10th March in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand). This is the Second Edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies. The first edition of the exercise was held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan in Nov 2019.

Both contingents will be sharing their expertise and skills in the field of counter terrorist operations in mountainous/rural/urban scenario under UN mandate.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Leaders’ Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework is annual summit being organized since 2015.
- 2 .India is the only Quad country having a territorial dispute with China.

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. India’s Prime Minister participated, along with Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison and Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga and President of U.S.A. Joseph R. Biden, in the **first Leaders’ Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework**, held virtually on 12th March 2021.

The Leaders will discussed regional and global issues of shared interest, and exchange views on practical areas of cooperation towards maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Japan also has territorial disputes with China.** The Senkaku Islands dispute, or Diaoyu Islands dispute, concerns a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands in East China sea.

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Q.10) Which of the following country(s) were part of the **Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF)**?

1. India
2. China
3. Turkey

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 **Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate** was intended to facilitate a candid dialogue among major developed and developing economies, help generate the political leadership necessary to achieve a successful outcome at the **2009 December UN climate change conference in Copenhagen**, and advance the exploration of concrete initiatives and joint ventures that increase the supply of clean energy while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The MEF ran nearly a decade under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, but languished during the Trump administration.

The 17 major economies participating in the Major Economies Forum are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

US President Joe Biden announced in a Jan. 27 executive order that he was resurrecting the forum to pursue a “green” economic recovery and more clean energy, as well as progress on “sectoral decarbonization.”

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **“The Spirit of the Quad”** released at First Quad Leaders’ Virtual Summit:

1. The Quad countries have professed a shared vision for the free and open Indo-Pacific.
2. It has called for results-oriented reforms at the World Health Organization.
3. The Foreign Ministers of the group will meet at least once a year.

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: D

Explanation: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated, along with Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison and Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga and President of U.S.A. Joseph R. Biden, in the first Leaders’ Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework, held virtually on 12th March 2021.

The Quad Leaders’ Joint Statement: “The Spirit of the Quad” was released following the summit:

--Cooperation on the critical technologies of the future to ensure that innovation is consistent with a **free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific**.

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--Quad will continue to prioritize the role of international law in the maritime domain, particularly as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and facilitate collaboration, including in maritime security, to meet challenges to the **rules-based maritime order** in the East and South China Seas.

--Quad experts and senior officials will continue to meet regularly; Foreign Ministers will converse often and meet **at least once a year**. At the leader level, Quad will hold an in-person summit by the end of 2021.

-- Quad will collaborate to strengthen equitable vaccine access for the Indo-Pacific, with close coordination with multilateral organizations including the World Health Organization and COVAX. **It called for transparent and results-oriented reform at the World Health Organization.**

Q.12) Which of the following institution is organising the **Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) 2021**?

- a) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- b) Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action
- c) National Institute of Ayurveda
- d) World Health Organization

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA), in association with the Governmental and Non-Governmental bodies, is organizing this Global Ayurveda Festival. The Fourth Edition of GAF is being organized in a high end virtual space from 12th to 19th March 2021.

The event showcases Ayurveda as a global treatment programme and serves as a meeting place for those working towards this goal around the world.

100 Days countdown to 7th International Day of Yoga, 2021 was also launched recently. IDY 2021 is the 7th edition of International Day of Yoga This year will mark the 7th edition of International Day of Yoga (IDY) on the 21st of June, which was recognized as the IDY by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 by a unanimous vote.

Q.13) Which of the following organization has recently published the **World Report on Hearing**?

- a) World Health Organization
- b) Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
- c) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- d) Rockefeller Foundation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) releases its first-ever World Report on Hearing. This report released on World Hearing Day (observed on 3rd March).

It has been developed in response to the World Health Assembly resolution, adopted in 2017 as a means of providing guidance for Member States to integrate ear and hearing care into their national health plans.

This report presents epidemiological and financial data on hearing loss; outlines available cost-effective solutions and sets the way forward through 'Integrated people-centered ear and hearing care' (IPC-EHC).

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Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **BRICS 2021**:

1. India has assumed the Chairmanship of BRICS for 2021 and will be hosting this year's summit.

2. This year's BRICS Summit is 'Global Stability, Shared Security, and Innovative Growth'.

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. **India has assumed the Chairmanship of BRICS for 2021** and will be hosting this year's summit.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The theme of BRICS this year is -"**BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus**".

The BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) leads held their first meeting under India's Chairship from 9-11 March 2021. India, under its Chairship in 2021, presented the calendar of events for BRICS CGETI 2021, which included the priority areas for deliverables, schedule and scope of the MSME roundtable conference workshop on Services Statistics, and the BRICS Trade Fair.

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POLITY

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the ruling by Supreme Court of India in the **IndraSawhney& Others Vs. Union of India case**:

1. The horizontal reservation shall not exceed fifty percent.
2. Creamy layer must be excluded from the reservation benefits to the backward classes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: In 1990, when the V P Singh led-government set out to implement the **Mandal report**, it was challenged in court amidst widespread protests against the move. The case came up before a nine-judge Bench and a 6:3 verdict was delivered in 1992.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constitution bench verdict put a limit of maximum **fifty percent on the vertical reservation.**

Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as vertical reservation. It applies separately for each of the groups specified under the law.

Horizontal reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.

Statement 2 is correct. The court upheld the office memorandums that essentially implemented the Mandal report recommendation of 27% reservation to backward castes but it ruled that the **creamy layer must be excluded from the backward classes.**

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the benefits of being a **recognized political party** over unrecognized political parties in India?

1. The recognized political parties are entitled to nominate “Star Campaigners”, while unrecognized parties are not given this facility.
2. Recognized political parties get broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Political parties** are entitled to nominate “Star Campaigners” during General Elections. A recognized National or State party can have a maximum of 40 “Star campaigners” and a registered un-recognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 “Star Campaigners”. The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.

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Statement 2 is correct. **Recognised 'State' and 'National' parties** need only one proposer for filing the nomination and are also entitled for two sets of electoral rolls free of cost and broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.

Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Election Commission of India, in consultation with Prasar Bharti Corporation has decided to double the broadcast/telecast time allotted to each National Party and recognized State Party of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal on Doordarshan and All India Radio during the ongoing General Election to the Legislative Assemblies.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**:

1. It empowers the government to designate individuals and organizations as terrorists and terrorist organizations respectively.
2. An investigating officer can seize properties that may be connected with terrorism without any prior approval.

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 further amended in 2019, the central government may **designate an individuals and organizations as terrorists and terrorist organizations** if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism.

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 to act adds 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.

There has been over 72% increase in the number of persons arrested under the anti-terror law UAPA (Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act) in 2019 compared to 2015, data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Lok Sabha shows.

Q.4) Which of the following category of persons are ineligible to avail benefits of reservation for the **Economically Weaker Section (EWS)**?

1. Persons whose family has gross annual income above Rupees Five Lakh
2. Persons whose family owns five acres of agricultural land and above

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Reservation for **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** is being implemented in respect of recruitment for Civil posts and services in government and admission in educational institutions.

Criteria for EWS: Persons who are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs and whose family has **gross annual income below Rupees Eight Lakh** are to be identified as EWSs for benefit of reservation. Income shall also include income from all sources: i.e., salary, agriculture, business, profession, etc. for the financial year prior to the year of application.

Further, persons whose family owns or possesses any of the following assets shall be excluded from being identified as EWS, irrespective of the family income:

- Five acres of agricultural land and above;
- Residential flat of 1000 sq. ft. and above;
- Residential plot of 100 sq. yards and above in notified municipalities;
- Residential plot of 200 sq. yards and above in areas other than notified municipalities.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **State Election Commissions in India:**

1. It is mandated with the responsibility of Superintendence, direction and Control of the Conduct of all elections to the Legislative Assembly of State.
2. The State Election Commissioner cannot be removed from office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.

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. **Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution of India** provide that the Superintendence, direction and Control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the Conduct of all elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities shall vest in the State Election Commission consisting of the State Election Commissioner.

Statement 2 is correct. The State Election Commissioner has the status, salary and allowance of a **Judge of a High Court** and cannot be removed from office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.

Supreme Court has ruled that the Central and State governments should not appoint persons holding government office as Election Commissioners and entrusting additional charge of State Election Commissioner to a government official is a mockery of the Constitution.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) has a fixed tenure of five years at center as well as state level.
2. The CIC shall not hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the original RTI Act, 2005 the CIC and ICs (at the central and state level) held office for a term of five years.

The **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019** removed these provisions and stated that the central government will notify the term and quantum of salary through rules.

The RTI Rules, 2019 provide that the CIC and ICs (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of **three years**.

Statement 2 is correct. CIC/IC shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory. He shall not hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

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ECONOMICS

Q.1) What changes were introduced in the **FDI policy of India** for curbing opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic?

1. An entity situated in the countries sharing border with India can invest only under the Government route.
2. Any transfer of ownership of any FDI in an entity in India to any entity in the countries sharing border with India will require Government approval.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The Government of India reviewed the extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for curbing **opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions** of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020. Following changes were made:

--A non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited. However, an entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the **Government route**.

--Further, a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, only under the Government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space, atomic energy and sectors/activities prohibited for foreign investment.

--In the event of the **transfer of ownership** of any existing or future FDI in an entity in India, directly or indirectly, resulting in the beneficial ownership falling within the country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, such subsequent change in beneficial ownership will also require Government approval.

Recent media reports suggest that India may partially relax its position on foreign direct investments.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prompt corrective action (PCA)**

Framework:

1. It has been developed by the Securities & Exchange Board of India.
2. A company put under PCA is barred from trading on exchanges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

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The **Reserve Bank of India** has specified certain regulatory trigger points, as a part of prompt corrective action (PCA) Framework, in terms of three parameters, i.e. capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net non-performing assets (NPA) and Return on Assets (RoA), for initiation of certain structured and discretionary actions in respect of banks hitting such trigger points.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently taken out IDBI Bank from the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework. But it is still subject to certain conditions and continuous monitoring.

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