

## *10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation*

**15th to 21st March, 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 21st March, 2021

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Quad Vaccine Partnership**:

1. The COVAXIN production will be financed to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022.
2. Japan will assist vaccination programs of developing countries such as the purchase of vaccines and cold-chain support.

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 United States, through the DFC, will work with Biological E Ltd., to finance increased capacity to support **Biological E's** effort to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022 with Stringent Regulatory Authorization (SRA) and/or World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Listing (EUL), including the **Johnson & Johnson vaccine**.

Statement 2 is correct. Japan will assist vaccination programs of developing countries such as the purchase of vaccines and cold-chain support including through provision of grant aid of \$41 million and new concessional yen loans, ensuring alignment with and support of COVAX.

**Q.2)** Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Bay of Pigs invasion
2. Korean War
3. Persian Gulf War

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation: 1950–1953: Korean War** a proxy conflict in the Cold War between United States (as part of the United Nations) and South Korea vs. North Korea and Communist China.

**1961: Bay of Pigs** invasion: an unsuccessful attempt to invade Cuba by Cuban exiles, organised and financed by Washington.

**1990–91: The Gulf War** was a war waged by coalition forces from 35 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait arising from oil pricing and production disputes

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **SIPRI Arms Transfers Database 2021**:

1. India is the largest arms importer country between 2016–20.
2. Arms imports by India decreased by one-third between 2011–15 and 2016–20.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

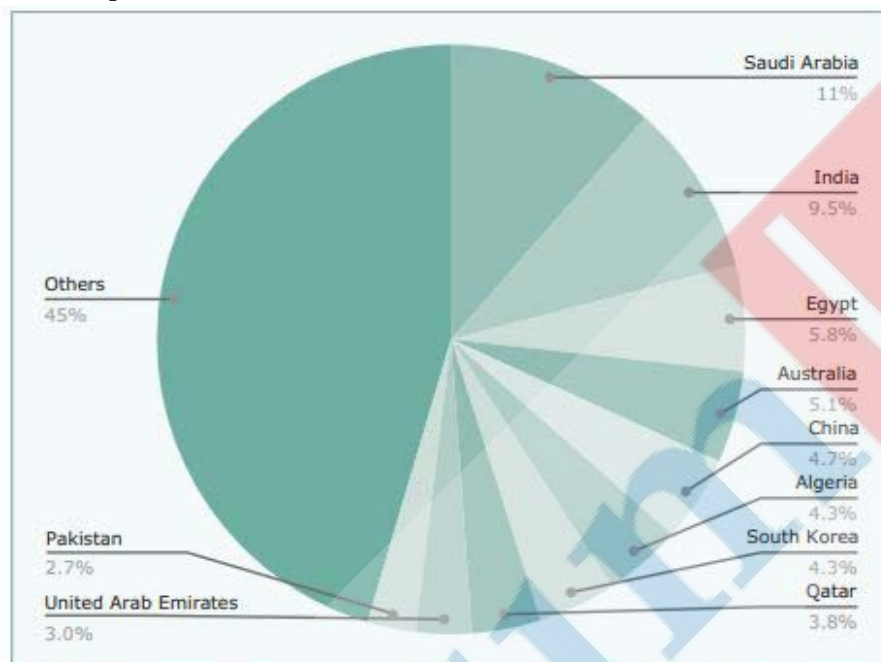
- a) 1 only

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** has identified 164 states as importers of major arms in 2016–20. **The top five arms importers—Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and China—**received 36 per cent of total arms imports in 2016–20.



**Figure 4.** Global share of major arms imports by the 10 largest importers, 2016–20

Source: SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, Mar. 2021.

Statement 2 is correct. **Arms imports by India decreased by 33 per cent between 2011–15 and 2016–20.** Russia was the most affected supplier, although India's imports of US arms also fell, by 46 per cent. The drop in Indian arms imports seems to have been mainly due to its complex procurement processes, combined with an attempt to reduce its dependence on Russian arms.

Indian arms exports have grown 228% in the 2016–20 period and was 24<sup>th</sup> largest exporter country.

**Q.4)** What is the objective of the **Counter MEASURE** initiative of the UN Environment Programme?

- a) Measure the Green House Gas impact on environment in last century
- b) Assess the feasibility of carbon capture and storage technologies
- c) Impact of vehicular pollution on human health
- d) Identify sources and pathways of plastic pollution in river systems

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**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Estimates show that rivers transport upwards of millions of tons of plastic into the oceans every year. Some 95% of that discharge comes from only 10 rivers, 8 of which are in Asia. Amongst those 8 are the Mekong and the Ganges rivers. The **CounterMEASURE project** works to identify sources and pathways of plastic pollution in river systems in Asia, particularly the Mekong and the Ganges.

CounterMEASURE is managed by the **UN Environment Programme's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific** and is funded through the generous support of the Government of Japan. In May 2020, Japan and UNEP announced their cooperation on Promotion of action against marine plastic litter in Asia and the Pacific (CounterMEASURE II). Japan and UNEP's cooperation through the initial CounterMEASURE efforts along the Mekong and Ganges rivers in 2019-2020 resulted in bespoke policy recommendations to governments to help stop plastic pollution where it is leaking into waterways.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**:

1. It is an organization of national and provincial/State parliaments.
2. India and Pakistan both are members of the IPU.

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 **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** is the global organization of national parliaments. This Organization, created by a small group of parliamentarians in 1889, has grown into a global entity committed to promoting democracy, equality, human rights, development and peace. Its Assembly, the only global forum of MPs, brings together parliamentarians to address and drive change on issues on the international agenda.

Statement 2 is correct. The IPU is inching ever closer to universal membership, with 179 Member Parliaments out of the 193 countries in the world – from huge nations like China, India and Indonesia, to the tiny States of Cabo Verde, San Marino and Palau.

All national parliaments can join IPU if they are lawfully established national bodies operating in States or aspirational States recognized by the United Nations. **India and Pakistan** both are members of the IPU.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**:

1. It is a global partnership that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.
2. It has been launched by the BRICS countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India announced a global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), at the **UN Climate Action Summit 2019** held in New York City, USA, on September 23, 2019.

# *The third edition of the annual conference of the Coalition for Disaster resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was held recently in in virtual format.*

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

1. India has committed to eliminating TB in the country by 2025.
2. India's Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been appointed Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board.

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 **UN Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO End TB Strategy** envisages elimination of TB by 2030.

India has committed to eliminating TB in the country by 2025, five years ahead of the global deadline of 2030. The Government of India's **National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination 2017-2025** outlines an ambitious agenda and targets which exceed even the aspirational ones set by the World Health Organization's (WHO) End TB Strategy for the world.

Statement 2 is correct. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been appointed Chairman of the **Stop TB Partnership Board**.

Established in the year 2000, the 'Stop TB Partnership' is mandated to eliminate Tuberculosis as a public health problem. The organization was conceived following the meeting of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Tuberculosis Epidemic held in London in March 1998.

**Q.8)** The report '**Direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and response in South Asia**' has been released by which of the following institution?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) SAARC Secretariat
- c) Asia Development Bank
- d) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The report 'Direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and response in South Asia' has been commissioned by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (**UNICEF**) and supported by the **World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**.

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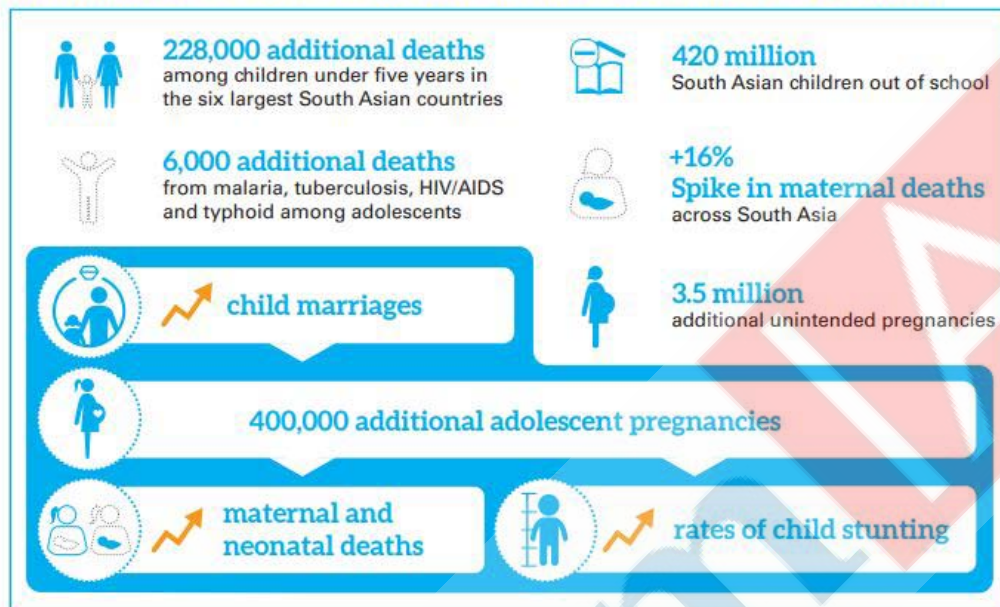


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-- Drastic cuts in the availability and use of essential public health services across South Asia due to COVID-19 may have contributed to an estimated 228,000 additional child deaths in 2020.

-- India could spend nearly USD 10 billion on COVID-19 testing and healthcare utilisation by September 2021.

### WIDER IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILDREN AND MOTHERS IN SOUTH ASIA<sup>1</sup>



**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)**:

1. The Department of Science & Technology, Governments of India and the U.S. Department of States are respective nodal departments for IUSSTF.
2. It has launched US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative to focus on AI cooperation in critical areas that are priorities for both countries.

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 **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** established under an agreement between the Governments of India and the United States of America in March 2000, is an autonomous **bilateral organization jointly funded by both the Governments** that promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation through substantive interaction among government, academia and industry.

The Department of Science & Technology, Governments of India and the U.S. Department of States are respective nodal departments.

Statement 2 is correct. IUSSTF's **US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI)** Initiative launched recently focuses on AI cooperation in critical areas that are priorities for both countries.

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USIAI will serve as a platform to discuss opportunities, challenges, and barriers for bilateral AI R&D collaboration, enable AI innovation, help share ideas for developing an AI workforce, and recommend modes and mechanisms for catalyzing partnerships.

**Q.10)** Which of the following institution publishes the **Trade and Development Report (TDR)**?

- a) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- b) World Trade Organization
- c) World Bank Group
- d) World Economic Forum

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Trade and Development Report (TDR)** is an annual report of **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** provides comprehensive and authoritative analysis of economic trends and policy issues of international concern.

# *Trade and Development Report 2020 Update (March 2021) states that developing countries have experienced some of the worst personal income drops relative to gross domestic product (GDP) because of the pandemic and government actions will at best lead to an uneven K-shaped recovery within and across countries.*

# *A Pew Research Centre report released recently says that the coronavirus pandemic may have shrunk India's middle-class population by 32 million and driven 75 million below the poverty line in 2020.*

**Q.11)** Which of the following institution has released the World Air Quality Report, 2020?

- a) Blue Air
- b) IQ Air
- c) World Health Organization
- d) Austin Air

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** IQ Air, a Swiss air quality technology company released a report titled "World Air Quality Report, 2020". The report is based on PM2.5 data from 106 countries based on data from ground-based monitoring stations. The report is handled by government agencies mostly.

-- Delhi has been listed as the 10th most polluted city and the top polluted capital city in the world in 2020.

-- India ranked as the world's 3rd most polluted country in 2020 after Bangladesh and Pakistan.

-- The topmost polluted city in the world is Xinjiang in China. It is followed by Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

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### HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Poona Pact**:

1. It was signed by B.R. Ambedkar and Jawahar Lal Nehru.
2. Separate electorates for Depressed Classes was agreed under the pact.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Poona Pact** was signed at 5pm on September 24 by 23 people. **Madan Mohan Malaviya** signed it on behalf of Hindus and Gandhi, and **Ambedkar** on behalf of depressed classes.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Separate electorates for Depressed Classes did not feature in the document**, instead, the Pact put forward a system of the joint electorates with reserved seats. It reserved 148 seats from the general electorate for Depressed Classes, 78 more than what the Communal Award had proposed.

**Q.2)** Which of the following ancient **folk culture(s)** is/are correctly matched?

1. Faguwa Nritya - Jharkhand
2. Poorakali - Kerala
3. Godana Painting - Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 and 2 are correctly matched. **Faguwa Nritya** is a traditional dance of **Jharkhand** performed during the Spring festivals in Falgun and Chaita's Sandhikal.

**Poorakkali** is a traditional dance ritual performed by men during the nine-day Pooram festival in Bhagavathy temples across North Malabar in **Kerala**.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Godana Painting** (Madhubani) is a traditional art form of **Bihar**.

--Ancient folk cultures being preserved in Jharkhand are Faguwa Nritya, Turi Nritya, Faguwa Nritya, Turi Nritya, Paika Nritya, Hodopathy, Tribal dance (Karam Nritya).

--Ancient folk cultures being preserved in Bihar are Lok Gatha "Reshma Chuharmal" (Begusarai), Lok Gatha "Bihula Bishari" (Purnia), Lok Gatha "Naradi" (Begusarai), Bidesia Lok Natya (Bhojpur region), Godana Painting (Madhubani), Lok Natya "Hirni-Birni" (Magadh region), Panwaria, Domkach & Sohar Khilona folk dance (All regions of Bihar State), Domkach folk dance (All regions of Bihar State), Jharni & Jhinjhia folk dance (Mithilanchal Area), Bidesia (Bhojpur Area), Bihar Ke Paramparik Natya (All regions of Bihar State), Drupad Dhamar, Godna Geet, Sikki Kala, Tikuli Art and Madhubani Painting.



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--Ancient folk cultures being preserved in Kerala are Poorakali, Malayankettu&Kannerpattu (Kannur), Daffumuttu (Malabar), Kanyarkali (Thrissur) and Arabanaumuttu (Kozhikode)

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the ancient site **Rakhigarhi**:

1. It is located on the right bank of now dried up Palaeo-channel of Drishadvati.
2. Five interconnected mounds spread in a huge area form the Rakhigarhi's unique site.

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

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The ancient site of **Rakhi-Khas and Rakhi-Shahpur are collectively known as Rakhigarhi**, located on the right bank of now dried up Palaeo-channel of Drishadvati.

The site of Rakhigarhi is one of the five known biggest townships of Harappan civilization on Indian sub-continent. Other four are Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Ganveriwala in Pakistan and Dholavira (Gujrat) in India. Five interconnected mounds spread in a huge area form the Rakhigarhi's unique site. Two mounds, out of five, were thickly populated. This site was excavated by Shri AmarendraNath of Archeological Survey of India.

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### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**Q.1)** Which of the following **COVID-19 vaccines** have been listed by the World Health Organization for emergency use?

1. Janssen Vaccine
2. Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine
3. Sputnik V

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 the COVID-19 vaccine Ad26.COV2.S, developed by **Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)**, for emergency use in all countries and for COVAX roll-out. The decision comes on the back of the recent European Medicines Agency (EMA) authorization to Janssen vaccine.

The vaccine from Janssen is the first to be listed by WHO as a single dose regimen, which should facilitate vaccination logistics in all countries.

WHO has already listed the **Pfizer/BioNTech, Astrazeneca-SK Bio and Serum Institute of India vaccines** for emergency use.

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

1. Trojan is a malicious program that pretends to be harmless in order to trick users into downloading it.
2. Trojans self-replicate by infecting other files or computers.

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. A **Trojan horse, or Trojan**, is a type of malicious code or software that looks legitimate but can take control of the computer. A Trojan is designed to damage, disrupt, steal, or in general inflict some other harmful action on data or network.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A Trojan seeks to deceive you into loading and executing the malware on the device. Once installed, a Trojan can perform the action it was designed for. **Unlike viruses, Trojans do not self-replicate by infecting other files or computers.**

*# Trojan malware takes its name from the classical story of the Trojan horse, because it imitates the technique to infect computers. A Trojan is the decoy horse, ushering in other malicious software (malware), giftwrapped to hide its nefarious intent.*

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding **Fly Ash**:

1. It is a byproduct of burning pulverized coal in electric generation power plants.
2. It can be used as prime material in cement-based products.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation: Fly ash** is a fine powder that is a byproduct of burning pulverized **coal** in electric generation power plants. Fly ash is a pozzolan, a substance containing aluminous and siliceous material that forms cement in the presence of water.

Fly ash can be used as prime material in many **cement-based products**, such as poured concrete, concrete block, and brick. One of the most common uses of fly ash is in Portland cement concrete pavement or PCC pavement.

**Q.4)** Which of the following is/are applications of the **artificial intelligence (AI)**?

- 1. Speech to text conversion
- 2. Natural language processing
- 3. Real-time recommendations on retail and entertainment web sites
- 4. Classifying objects or people within still or moving images

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are applications of the Artificial Intelligence.

In computer science, the term **artificial intelligence (AI)** refers to any human-like intelligence exhibited by a computer, robot, or other machine. Some Artificial intelligence applications:

-- **Speech recognition:** Also called speech to text (STT), speech recognition is AI technology that recognizes spoken words and converts them to digitized text.

-- **Natural language processing (NLP):** NLP enables a software application, computer, or machine to understand, interpret, and generate human text. NLP is the AI behind digital assistants (such as the aforementioned Siri and Alexa), chatbots, and other text-based virtual assistance.

-- **Image recognition (computer vision or machine vision):** AI technology that can identify and classify objects, people, writing, and even actions within still or moving images.

-- **Real-time recommendations:** Retail and entertainment web sites use neural networks to recommend additional purchases or media likely to appeal to a customer based on the customer's past activity, the past activity of other customers, and myriad other factors, including time of day and the weather.

**Q.5)** What is utility of the **Rule Curve** in Reservoir operations?

- a) It specifies maximum sediment load the reservoir can withstand
- b) It specifies the storage to be maintained in a reservoir during different seasons
- c) It regulates the fluctuating electricity production through the dam
- d) None of the above

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** A **rule curve** or rule level specifies the storage or empty space to be maintained in a reservoir during different times of the year. The rule curves are generally derived by operation studies using historic or generated flows.

The Supreme Court recently said the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary will be “personally responsible” and “appropriate action” will be taken on failure to give information on the ‘rule curve’ for the **Mullaperiyar** dam to the Supreme Court-appointed Supervisory Committee.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **BrahMos missile**:

1. These designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture of Indian and Russian defence manufacturers.
2. It can be fired from land, warships, submarines and fighter jets.
3. BRAHMOS uses two-stage liquid ramjet propulsion to achieve supersonic speed.

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. **BrahMos missiles** are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Mashinostroyeniya of Russia**.

Statement 2 is correct. Various versions of the BrahMos, including those which can be fired from **land, warships, submarines and Sukhoi-30 fighter jets** have already been developed and successfully tested in the past.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **BRAHMOS is a two-stage missile** with a solid propellant booster engine as its first stage which brings it to supersonic speed and then gets separated. The liquid ramjet or the second stage then takes the missile closer to 3 Mach speed in cruise phase.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**:

1. The volume of natural gas in its liquid state is less than half its volume in its gaseous state.
2. 100% Foreign Direct Investment through automatic route is allowed in establishment of LNG infrastructure in India.

Which of the statements give above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Liquefied natural gas (LNG)** is natural gas that has been cooled to a liquid state, at about  $-260^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit, for shipping and storage. The volume of natural gas in its liquid state is about **600 times smaller than its volume in its gaseous state**. This process makes it possible to transport natural gas to places pipelines do not reach. When LNG reaches its destination, it is turned back into a gas at regasification plants. It is then piped to homes, businesses and industries where it is burnt for heat or to generate electricity.

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Statement 2 is correct. To promote the usage and distribution of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the Government has put LNG imports under Open General Licensing (OGL) category and establishment of LNG infrastructure, including LNG terminals is also under **100% FDI (automatic route)**.

The government is also promoting usage of natural gas in gaseous/liquid (LNG) through expansion of gas infrastructure including City Gas Distribution, gas grid network and development/retro fitment of LNG based vehicles etc.

**Q.8)** Which of the following can be classified as **adverse event following immunization (AEFI)**?

1. Extensive limb swelling following DTP vaccination.
2. Failure by the manufacturer to completely inactivate a lot of inactivated polio vaccine
3. Transmission of infection by contaminated multidose vial.

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 **Adverse event following immunization (AEFI)** is any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine.

AEFIs are grouped into five categories:

-- **Vaccine product-related reaction:** An AEFI that is caused or precipitated by a vaccine due to one or more of the inherent properties of the vaccine product. Example: Extensive limb swelling following DTP vaccination.

-- **Vaccine quality defect-related reaction:** An AEFI that is caused or precipitated by a vaccine that is due to one or more quality defects of the vaccine product including its administration device as provided by the manufacturer. Example: Failure by the manufacturer to completely inactivate a lot of inactivated polio vaccine leads to cases of paralytic polio.

-- **Immunization error-related reaction:** An AEFI that is caused by inappropriate vaccine handling, prescribing or administration and thus by its nature is preventable. Example: Transmission of infection by contaminated multidose vial.

-- **Immunization anxiety-related reaction:** An AEFI arising from anxiety about the immunization. Example: Vasovagal syncope in an adolescent during/following vaccination.

-- **Coincidental event:** An AEFI that is caused by something other than the vaccine product, immunization error or immunization anxiety. Example: A fever occurs at the time of the vaccination (temporal association) but is in fact caused by malaria.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **S-400 Triumph missile system**:

1. It is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to intercept and shoot down ballistic missiles.
2. India and China both have signed contracts to purchase the S-400 missile system.

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. The **S-400 Triumph** is an air defence missile system developed by Almaz Central Design Bureau of **Russia**.

# *Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, formerly Theater High Altitude Area Defense, is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles.*

Statement 2 is correct. In October 2018, Rosoboronexport signed a contract with **India** to deliver S-400 missile system, while Russia has already supplied regiments of the S-400 Triumph system to the Armed Forces of **China**.

# *The first Indian military team has left for Russia to commence training on the S-400 air defence system, deliveries of which are expected to begin in end-2021.*

# *Sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) have been applied to Turkey for procurement of the same system.*

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Landing Craft Utility (LCU) L58**:

1. It has been indigenously designed and developed in India.
2. It is a Scorpene class submarine.

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:** Indian Naval **Landing Craft Utility (LCU) L58**, the eighth and last ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mark IV Class, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on March 18, 2021.

-- It has been **indigenously designed and built by GRSE, Kolkata**.

-- The LCU 58 is an **amphibious ship** which can carry 160 troops, in addition to its crew. With a displacement of 900 tons, the ship is capable of carrying various types of combat vehicles such as Main Battle Tanks (MBTs), BMPs, Armoured Vehicles, trucks, etc.

-- The ship is also fitted with an advanced Electronic Support Measure (ESM) suite to intercept enemy radar transmissions, an advanced Integrated Bridge System (IBS) and a sophisticated Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), which allow single station monitoring of the ship's navigational and machinery equipment respectively.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)**:

1. It is an autoimmune disease.
2. It is a chronic disease marked by symptoms of inflammation and pain in the joints in only one side of the 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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)** is an autoimmune disease that can cause joint pain and damage throughout the body.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The joint damage that RA causes usually happens on **both sides of the body**.

So, if a joint is affected in one of the arms or legs, the same joint in the other arm or leg will probably be affected, too. This is one way that doctors distinguish RA from other forms of arthritis, such as osteoarthritis (OA).

*# Dr. Sonu Gandhi, a Scientist at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad, who has recently developed a smart nanodevice for the detection of Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), cardiovascular disease (CVD), and Japanese encephalitis (JE), has been awarded the prestigious SERB Women Excellence Award.*

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Candida Auris**:

1. It is a multidrug-resistant bacterial species.
2. It can cause bloodstream infections in 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. **Candida Auris is a species of fungus** that grows as yeast. It is often multidrug-resistant, meaning that it is resistant to multiple antifungal drugs commonly used to treat Candida infections.

Statement 2 is correct. Candida Auris has been causing severe illness in hospitalized patients. In some patients, this yeast can enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body, causing serious invasive infections. It has caused **bloodstream infections, wound infections, and ear infections**.

**Q.13)** What is the objective of the **Diatom test**?

- a) To find out time of death of a person
- b) To check if the person died by drowning
- c) To check for traces of drugs in the blood
- d) To find the age of a person

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **diatom test** could be considered as an auxiliary evidence in determination of cause of death in body found in the water.

Diatom a siliceous walled **unicellular microorganism** which like plants can photosynthesize is found in all the open water bodies which have all the essential micro and macro nutrients essential for their growth besides sun's energy.

*# If the person is alive when he enters the water, the diatoms will enter the lungs when the person inhales water while drowning. These diatoms then get carried to various parts of the body, including the brain, kidneys, lungs and bone marrow by blood circulation. If a person is dead when is thrown in the water, then there is no circulation and there is no transport of diatom cells to various organs.*

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**Q.14)** Which of the following is/are **Anti-tank Guided Missiles**?

1. Nag
2. MILAN-2T
3. Prahaar

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:** **NAG** is a third Generation (Fire and Forget) mechanized infantry ATGM, with top attack capability to destroy armored vehicle equipped with Explosive Reactive Armour, moving and stationary targets.

The **Milan-2T** is a Tandem Warhead ATGM with the range of 1,850 metres, produced by BDL under license from MBDA Missile Systems, France. These missiles can be fired from ground as well as vehicle-based launchers and can be deployed in Anti-Tank Role for both offensive & defensive tasks.

**Prahaar** is an Indian solid-fuel road-mobile tactical ballistic missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

# Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) to Indian Army.

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

1. It is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to Low earth orbit (LEO).
2. GSLV Mk III launcher which is ISRO's heavy lift launcher is identified for Gaganyaan mission.
3. The training support for astronauts is being provided by Russia.

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:** The objective of Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to **Low earth orbit (LEO)** on board an Indian Launch vehicle and bring them back to earth safely.

**GSLV Mk III** launcher which is ISRO's heavy lift launcher is identified for Gaganyaan mission. It has requisite payload carrying capacity for Orbital module in desired elliptical orbit.

The four astronauts, who had been selected from a pool of Indian Air Force pilots, are currently undergoing basic training in GCTC (Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre) in **Russia**.

**Q.16)** Which of the following is/are potential benefits of **Seabuckthorn Plantation**?

1. The sea buckthorn extract contains essential fatty acids and antioxidants.
2. It is used to stimulate the digestive system and treat skin disorders.
3. It is a source of fodder and fuelwood.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation: Sea buckthorn (Hippophaerhamnoides)** is a medicinal plant long used in herbal medicine. In India, it is found above the tree line in the Himalayan region. It is generally in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti.

-- Available in supplement form, sea buckthorn extract contains a variety of **essential fatty acids and antioxidants** (including vitamin C, vitamin E, and anthocyanins).

-- In **herbal medicine**, sea buckthorn has long been used to stimulate the digestive system, enhance heart and liver health, and treat skin disorders.

-- It is an important source of **fuelwood and fodder**; and a soil-binding plant which prevents soil-erosion, checks siltation in rivers and helps preserve floral biodiversity.

# *The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to start SeaBuckthorn Plantation in the cold desert areas.*

**Q.17)** Which of the following **defence equipment(s) have been indigenously manufactured** in India?

- 1. Dhanush howitzer
- 2. Akash Missile
- 3. Hammer Missile

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 and 2 are correct. The **Akash** is a mid-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system built by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). **Dhanush** is a 155x45 Calibre indigenous gun developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for Indian Army.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Hammer** (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) is a precision-guided missile developed by French defence major Safran.

# *Many significant projects including 155mm Artillery Gun system 'Dhanush', Bridge Laying Tank, Thermal Imaging Sight Mark-II for T-72 tank, Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas', 'Akash' Surface to Air Missile system, Submarine 'INS Kalvari', 'INS Chennai', Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette (ASWC), Arjun Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle, Landing craft utility, etc. have been produced in the country in last few years.*



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### ECONOMICS

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding India's **Monetary Policy Framework**:

1. The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
2. The RBI Act provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation: Monetary policy** refers to the use of monetary instruments under the control of the central bank to regulate magnitudes such as interest rates, money supply and availability of credit with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of economic policy.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is vested with the responsibility of conducting monetary policy. This responsibility is explicitly mandated under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. Price stability is a necessary precondition to sustainable growth.

In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework. The amended RBI Act also provides for the **inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank**, once in every five years.

Accordingly, the Central Government has notified in the Official Gazette 4 per cent Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation as the target for the period from **August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021** with the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 per cent.

**Q.2)** Which of the following is/are direct or indirect instruments that are used for implementing **monetary policy**?

1. Repo Rate
2. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)
3. Open Market Operations (OMOs)

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: Monetary policy** refers to the policy of the central bank with regard to the use of monetary instruments under its control to the maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

There are several direct and indirect instruments that are used for implementing monetary policy:



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-- **Repo Rate:** The (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank provides overnight liquidity to banks against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).

-- **Reverse Repo Rate:** The (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank absorbs liquidity, on an overnight basis, from banks against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.

-- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** A facility under which scheduled commercial banks can borrow additional amount of overnight money from the Reserve Bank by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a limit at a penal rate of interest.

-- **Open Market Operations (OMOs):** These include both, outright purchase and sale of government securities, for injection and absorption of durable liquidity, respectively. Other instruments include Bank Rate, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS).

**Q.3)** What is the objective of the proposed **Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021**?

1. Allow Reserve Bank of India to regulate Insurance Companies.
2. Allow foreign investors to hold up to 49% of the capital in an Indian insurance company.

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. The **Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021** was passed in Rajya Sabha on March 18, 2021. The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938. The Act provides the framework for functioning of insurance businesses and regulates the relationship between an insurer, its policyholders, its shareholders, and the regulator (the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India). The Bill seeks to increase the maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company.

Statement 2 is correct. The Act allows foreign investors to hold up to 49% of the capital in an Indian insurance company, which must be owned and controlled by an Indian entity. The **Bill increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%**, and removes restrictions on ownership and control.

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

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act provides a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.
2. Each member of the Monetary Policy Committee has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.

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. In May 2016, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934** was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years. Accordingly, the Central Government has notified in the Official Gazette 4 per cent **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** as the target for the period from August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021 with the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 per cent.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934 also provides for an empowered six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) to be constituted by the Central Government. Governor of the Reserve Bank of India is the ex-officio Chairperson of the MPC having three government nominated members.

The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members. Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the **Governor has a second or casting vote.**

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### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Population Register (NPR)**:

1. National Population Register is a database of Indian citizens only.
2. The data for National Population Register was collected in 2010 alongwith Census 2011 and updated in 2015 through door-to-door survey.

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 **National Population Register (NPR)** is a Register of usual **residents of the country, not just citizens**. It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

Statement 2 is correct. The data for National Population Register was collected in 2010 alongwith the houselisting phase of Census of India 2011. The updation of this data was done during 2015 by conducting door to door survey. The digitisation of the updated information has been completed. Now it has been decided to update the National Population Register along with the Houselisting phase of Census 2021.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Scheme**:

1. Financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- per farm family over five seasons is provided to small and marginal farmers to purchase farm inputs.
2. It also provides financial assistance to landless Agricultural Household for Agricultural allied activities.

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:** Through the implementation of **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation - KALIA Scheme**, the Odisha State Government aims to lend farmers with an all-inclusive and flexible support system, ensuring accelerated agricultural prosperity.

Small and marginal farmers, landless Agricultural household, vulnerable Agricultural household, landless Agricultural labourers and sharecroppers (Actual cultivators) all growth are eligible under different components of scheme.

-- **Financial assistance of Rs.25,000/-** per farm family over five seasons will be provided to small and marginal farmers so that farmers can purchase inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and use assistance towards labour and other investments.

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- **Financial Assistance of Rs.12,500/-** will be provided to each landless Agricultural Household for Agricultural allied activities like for small goat rearing unit, mini-layer unit, duckery units, fishery kits for fisherman, mushroom cultivation and bee-keeping, etc.
- Vulnerable cultivators/landless agricultural laborers will get **financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/-** per family per year to enable them to take care of their sustenance.

**Q.3)** The **Agricultural Markets and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI)** is an initiative of which of the following institution?

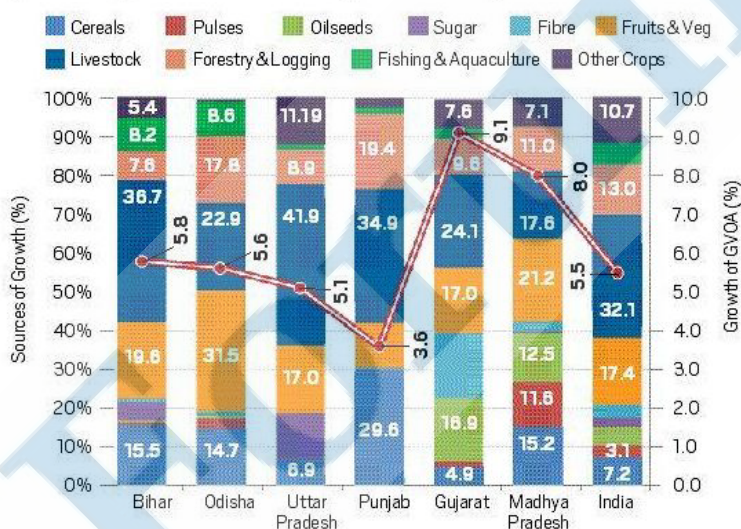
- a) Food & Agriculture Organization
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index** is an **initiative of the NITI Aayog** that evaluates Indian states on the extent to which each of them undertook required agri-reforms; a low AMFFRI rank implies the state is undertaking desired reforms.

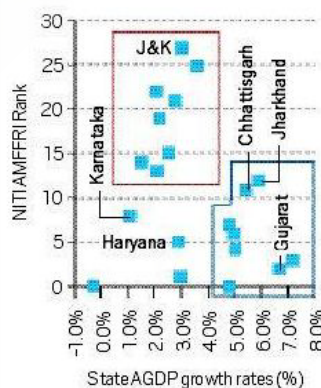
It ranks States and UTs based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act like joining e-NAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis.

**FIGURE 1 SOURCES OF GROWTH 2000-01 TO 2015-16**  
(Share in growth contributed by each sector)



Source: Gulati, Roy and Saini (2021)

**FIGURE 2 COMPARING STATE AGDP GROWTH RATES WITH AMFFRI RANK**



Source: Gulati, Roy and Saini (2021) Based on data from MOSPI and NITI Aayog. Data for AGDP is for 2000-01 to 2015-16 and NITI ranking is as on October 2016. Note: Because both Kerala and Bihar did not have APMC acts, they do not have AMFFRI ranks.

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

1. A three tier quasi-judicial machinery has been set up at the district, state, and national levels under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
2. Consumer can file complaint online from anywhere through the eDaakhil portal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only



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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) have been set up at the **district, state, and national levels**. A consumer can file a complaint with CDRCs in relation to: (i) unfair or restrictive trade practices; (ii) defective goods or services; (iii) overcharging or deceptive charging; and (iv) the offering of goods or services for sale which may be hazardous to life and safety.

Statement 2 is correct. Government of India through NIC has launched the **E-daakhil portal**. The portal simplifies filing of complaints by consumers. Consumer can file complaint online from anywhere for the redressal of their complaints. So far 17 States and NCDRC have adopted the e-daakhil portal and it is available at 449 locations.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**:

1. Ministry of Corporate Affairs is empowered to plan, decide, execute and monitor CSR activities of the companies.
2. The Government has instituted National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards (NCSRA) for recognizing outstanding contribution made through CSR activities.

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: Section 135 (5) of the Companies Act, 2013**, requires that the Board of every eligible company, "shall ensure that the company spends, in every financial year, at least 2% of the average net profits of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years, or where the company has not completed the period of three financial years since its incorporation, during such immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy".

Statement 1 is incorrect. CSR is a Board driven process and the **Board of the company is empowered** to plan, decide, execute and monitor CSR activities of the company based on the recommendation of its CSR Committee.

Statement 2 is correct. The Government has instituted **National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards (NCSRA)** as an official recognition at the highest level for outstanding contribution made by companies through their CSR activities.

The categories of the award, inter-alia, includes CSR in Aspirational Districts/Difficult Terrains and for contribution in National priority areas including Environment, Sustainable Development and Solar Energy.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Tele-Law programme**:

1. Under the Tele-law service, citizens can access legal advice through Para-Legal Volunteers (PLV) stationed at Common Services Center (CSC).
2. Tele Law service enables every citizen of India to seek legal advice free of cost.

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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Department of Justice has partnered with NALSA and CSC e-Governance Service India Limited** for mainstreaming legal aid to the marginalised communities through Common Services Center (CSC).

Under the Tele-law service, citizens can access legal advice through Para-Legal Volunteers (PLV) stationed at CSCs, who would connect them to a panel of lawyers through video conferencing facility.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Tele Law service enables anyone to seek legal advice without wasting precious time and money. The service is free for those are eligible for free legal Aid as mentioned under **Section 12 of Legal Services Authority Act, 1987**. For all others a nominal fee is charged.

The sections of the society as enlisted under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act are entitled for free legal services include among others members of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe; victims of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution; woman or a child; mentally ill or otherwise disabled person etc.

# *The Department of Justice issued the 2nd Edition of Voice of the Beneficiaries on Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached.*

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**:

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce.
2. It is an implementing agency for the Central Sector Scheme of "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)".

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. **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** is an Autonomous Society promoted by **Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare**.

The Society is governed by Board of Management which is chaired, ex-officio, by Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as the President and the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, is the ex-officio Vice-President.

Statement 2 is correct. Government of India recently launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled "**Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)**" with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs in the country with budgetary provision of Rs 6865 crore.

Under this Central Sector Scheme with funding from Government of India, formation & Promotion of FPOs are to be done through the Implementing Agencies (IAs) which includes

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**Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)**, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) among others.

**Q.8)** Which of the following institution is organizing the **India Chem-2021**?

- Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
- Confederation of Indian Industry

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **India Chem** is one of the largest composite events of the chemical and petrochemical sector in the Asia-Pacific Region. **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, in association with FICCI**, is organizing the 11th edition of India Chem-2021 during 17-19th March 2021 in New Delhi.

India Chem-2021 with the theme of “**India: Global Manufacturing Hub for Chemicals and Petrochemicals**” will showcase potential and supportive government policy for sustainable growth in the sector and provide a platform for domestic and international investors and other stakeholders to interact and forge alliances.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** scheme:

- It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the only new APMC mandis to create a unified market of agricultural commodities.
- Small Farmers’ Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is designated as Lead Agency, to roll out the eNAM.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Agriculture Market (eNAM)** is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the **existing** APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

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

*# Government of India through CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), an autonomous organization of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers’ Welfare, has carried out the assessment of the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme, with report titled Performance Evaluation of e-National Agriculture Market” (October, 2020).*

*As mentioned in the aforesaid report, as on 15th May, 2020, 1000 wholesale mandis of 18 States and 03 Union Territories (UTs) have been integrated with e-NAM platform.*

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**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** schemes announced in the Union Budget 2021-22:

1. Domestic as well as foreign owned entities are eligible to be beneficiaries of these PLI schemes.
2. The PLI schemes will be implemented by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce.

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:** An outlay of INR 1.97 lakh crore has been announced in Union Budget 2021-22 for **Production Linked Incentive (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.

Statement 1 is correct. **Domestic as well as foreign owned entities** are eligible to be beneficiaries of these PLI schemes.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The PLI schemes will be implemented by the **concerned Ministries/ Departments** and will be within the overall financial limits prescribed.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021**:

1. Opinion of two doctors will be required up to 20 weeks of gestation for termination of pregnancy.
2. It enhances the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for termination of pregnancy for special categories of women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Rajya Sabha has approved the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021** to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 on 16th March 2021. The Bill was approved in Lok Sabha on 17th March 2020.

Salient features of amendments:

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-- Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks. The Bill allows abortion to be done on the advice of **one doctor** up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks. (Statement 1 is incorrect)

--Enhancing the upper gestation limit from **20 to 24 weeks** for special categories of women which will be defined in the amendments to the MTP Rules and would include survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (like differently-abled women, minors) etc. (Statement 2 is correct)

--Upper gestation limit not to apply in cases of substantial **foetal abnormalities** diagnosed by Medical Board. The composition, functions and other details of Medical Board to be prescribed subsequently in Rules under the Act.

--Name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed except to a person authorized in any law for the time being in force.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Electoral Bond Scheme**:

1. The Electoral Bonds can be redeemed only by an eligible Political Party by depositing the in their Designated Bank Account.
2. Electoral Bonds can be purchased through foreign currency.

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: Electoral Bond** is a bearer Banking Instrument to be used for funding eligible Political Parties. An eligible Political Party is the one registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Statement 1 is correct. The Electoral Bonds can be redeemed only by an eligible Political Party by depositing the same in their **Designated Bank Account maintained with Authorised Bank**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. All payment for the issuance of the Electoral Bonds will be accepted in Indian Rupees only.



## Flow of funds

A look at what the petition filed by the NGO says:

■ The Finance Act of 2017 introduced the use of electoral bonds, which are exempt from disclosure under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, opening doors to unchecked, unknown funding to parties

■ The amendments have removed the existing cap of 7.5% of net profit in the past three years on campaign donations by companies and have legalised anonymous donations



The Election Commission vide letter dated May 26, 2017 and the RBI in letters on 31.01.2017, 14.09.2017, 27.09.2017 had objected to electoral bonds and advised against the issuance of electoral bonds as a mode for donation to political parties

**Q.13)** Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the proposed **Vehicle Scrapping Policy**?

1. The commercial vehicles be de-registered after 15 years in case of failure to get the fitness certificate.
2. All vehicles of the Central and State Governments may be de-registered and scrapped after 15 years from the date of registration.
3. The registration fees may be waived for purchase of new vehicle against the scrapping certificate.

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 Minister for Road Transport & Highways made a Suo Moto Statement in the Parliament on proposed “**Vehicle Scrapping Policy**”.

The Policy proposes the following—

--It is proposed that **commercial vehicles** be de-registered after 15 years in case of failure to get the fitness certificate.

--It is proposed that **private Vehicles** be de-registered after 20 years if found unfit or in case of a failure to renew registration certificate.

--It is being proposed that all vehicles of the **Central Government, State Government, Municipal Corporation, Panchayats, State Transport Undertakings, Public Sector Undertakings** and autonomous bodies with the Union and State Governments may be de-registered and scrapped after 15 years from the date of registration.

The scheme shall provide strong **incentives** to owners of old vehicles to scrap old and unfit vehicles:

--Scrap Value for the old vehicle given by the scrapping centre, which is approximately 4-6% of ex-showroom price of a new vehicle.



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--The vehicle manufacturers are also advised for providing a discount of 5% on purchase of new vehicle against the scrapping certificate.

--In addition, the registration fees may also be waived for purchase of new vehicle against the scrapping certificate.

# India has 51 lakh Light Motor Vehicles which are older than 20 years and 34 lakh Light Motor Vehicles which are older than 15 years. Around 17 lakh Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles are older than 15 years without valid fitness certificate. Older vehicles pollute the environment 10 to 12 times more than fit vehicles and pose a risk to road safety.

**Q.14)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**:

1. It aims for creation of water supply infrastructure so that every rural household has Functional Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024.
2. JJM has launched a campaign “Catch the Rain” to nudge stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS).

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. **Jal Jeevan Mission is to assist, empower and facilitate:**

--States/ UTs for creation of water supply infrastructure so that every rural household has Functional Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024 and water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality is made available on regular basis.

--GPs/ rural communities to plan, implement, manage, own, operate and maintain their own in-village water supply systems

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Ministry of Jal Shakti** is taking up a nation-wide campaign “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR) focusing on saving and conserving rainwater with the theme “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls” from 22 March 2021 to 30 November, 2021 in the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods of 2021, covering both urban and rural areas of all the districts in the country.

**National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti** launched a campaign “Catch the Rain” with the tag line “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls” in 2020 to nudge the states and all stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata, with people’s active participation.

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

1. Central Water Commission (CWC) issues flood forecasts based on ensemble forecasting.
2. CWC has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Google Inc. for collaboration in flood forecasting.

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. **Central Water Commission (CWC)** issues flood forecasts based on deterministic model (Conventional statistical correlation methodology as well as rainfall runoff / hydrodynamic modeling technology using digital models) as a non-structural measure of flood management to concerned State Governments depending on the requisition from them at identified locations.

At present, there are 1741 hydro-meteorological sites being operated by CWC across the country covering 20 river basins for gauge, discharge and sediment observations.

**The ensemble forecast which includes the associated probabilities with the flood warnings is not being used at present.**

Statement 2 is correct. CWC has signed an MoU with **Google Inc.** for using their vast repository of high-resolution Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) and the power of dissemination to send alerts regarding inundation through Google platform using the flood forecasts issued by CWC.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Nirbhaya Fund**:

1. It is a dedicated fund to be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women.
2. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Government has set up a dedicated fund **Nirbhaya Fund**, which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a **non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**, Ministry of Finance; it is the nodal Ministry for any accretion into and withdrawal from the corpus.

As per the guidelines, the responsibility of **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** includes (i) nodal Ministry to appraise/ recommend proposals and schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund and (ii) to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned schemes/ projects in conjunction with the line Ministries/Departments.

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements:

1. Sowa-Rigpa is an ancient medical system of the Trans-Himalayan region.
2. Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine has published the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards of AYUSH drugs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Sowa-Rigpa** is one of the oldest, living and well documented medical tradition popular in the world. The term 'Sowa Rigpa' is derived from Bhoti language which means 'Knowledge of Healing'. It is an ancient Indian medical system which was enriched in the entire Trans-Himalayan region.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Government is working on formulating standards for AYUSH products to increase its international trade.

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has taken the initiative to formulate International Standards in collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). At the behest of BIS, a **Working Group (WG-10) on 'Traditional Medicine' has been created in the ISO/TC-215 'Health Informatics'**.

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements regarding **flood forecasting**:

1. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the only agency responsible for flood forecasting in India.
2. IMD has launched the Flash Flood Guidance System with the technical help from World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

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 Meteorological Department (IMD)** has a shared mandate with **Central Water Commission (CWC)** for flood forecasting. River basin floods are dealt by the CWC.

--**Flood Meteorological Offices (FMOs)** operated by IMD provide meteorological support to the CWC for issuing flood warnings in respect of the 43 rivers of India covering 153 river basins.

--**CWC** issues flood forecasts for about 6 hrs. to 30 hrs. in advance for 176 stations using Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) received from FMOs of IMD and in-situ hydro-meteorological data.

Statement 2 is correct. **Flash Floods** are highly localized events of short duration with a very high peak and usually have less than six hours between the occurrence of the rainfall and peak flood.

In order to cater to the services of hydro-meteorological events occurring in short duration of time, IMD has implemented a **Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS)** with the technical help from World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements:

1. UchhatarAvishkarYojana (UAY) aims at academia and industry - within or outside India.
2. Impacting Research Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT) initiative aims at providing solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct. Steps taken by the Government for developing the linkage between educational institutions, Industries and R&D Institutions:

-- **Impacting Research Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT):** This initiative aims at providing solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges and translating knowledge into viable technology. It is a pan IITs and IISc Joint Initiative seeking to develop a roadmap for research.

-- **Research Park:** Research park at IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Chennai, have been established which provide an interface between entrepreneurship and Industry to establish their R&D units in collaboration with students & faculty members of the IITs.

--**UchhatarAvishkarYojana (UAY):** This initiative promotes innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing. The project envisages collaboration between the academia and industry - within or outside India.

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB):**

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is the authority to grant authorization to the entities to lay, build, operate or expand for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD).

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 Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006** provide for the establishment of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Further as enshrined in the act, the board has also been mandated to **regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas** excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country.

Statement 2 is correct. PNGRB is the authority to grant authorization to the entities to lay, build, operate or expand for the development of **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** or local natural gas distribution network in Geographical Areas (GAs) as per PNGRB Act, 2006.

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements:

1. The price of a generic version of a medicine is generally lower than the price of a corresponding branded medicine.
2. Generic Drugs are not required to comply with the standards as prescribed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

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:** There is no definition of generic or branded medicines under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made thereunder. However, generic medicines are generally those which contain same amount of same active ingredient(s) in same dosage form and are intended to be administered by the same route of administration as that of branded medicine.

Statement 1 is correct. The **price of an unbranded generic version of a medicine is generally lower** than the price of a corresponding branded medicine because in case of generic version, the pharmaceutical company does not spend money on research and development of the drug or promotion of its brand.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The drugs manufactured in the country, irrespective of whether they are generic or branded, are required to **comply with the same standards as prescribed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945** made thereunder for their quality. As such they are expected to have similar effects.

**Q.22)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP)**:

1. It is a sub scheme of ParamparagatKrishiVikasYojana (PKVY).
2. It emphasizes on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling.

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: Natural Farming** is a chemical-free alias traditional farming method. It is considered as agroecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity.

In India, Natural farming is promoted as **BharatiyaPrakritikKrishiPaddhatiProgramme (BPKP) under centrally sponsored scheme- ParamparagatKrishiVikasYojana (PKVY)** for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including natural farming.

The scheme mainly emphasises on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching; use of cow dung-urine formulations; plant-based preparations and time to time working of soil for aeration.

**Q.23)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. JalyuktShibar - Maharashtra
2. SujalamSufalamAbhiyan - West Bengal
3. Mission Kakatiya - Telangana

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: C**

**Explanation:** As per the **Central Water Commission (CWC)** report entitled “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs”, the average annual water resources potential in the country is assessed as 1999.20 BCM.

**Water being a State subject**, initiatives on water management including conservation and water harvesting in the Country is primarily States’ responsibility.

A number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting. Of these, mention can be made of ‘Mukhyamantri Jal SwavlambanAbhiyan’ in Rajasthan, ‘JalyuktShibar’ in Maharashtra, ‘SujalamSufalamAbhiyan’ in Gujarat, ‘Mission Kakatiya’ in Telangana, NeeruChettu’ in Andhra Pradesh, Jal JeevanHariyali in Bihar, ‘Jal Hi Jeevan’ in Haryana among others.

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### GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotisnigriceps)**:

1. Its population is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed under the Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

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. **Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotisnigriceps)** is one of the rarest birds in world. With 200 individuals left, almost exclusively in India, the species is listed as **Critically Endangered and Schedule I (Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972)**.

Their populations have steadily declined and are facing imminent extinction risk unless effective management interventions are urgently implemented. Excessive hunting in past and current levels of habitat loss, compounded with very slow life-history traits, has caused their decline.

The largest population of about 150 birds occurs in Thar Desert, Rajasthan. Other populations are less than 15 birds each, occurring in Kachchh (Gujarat), Solapur and Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh) and Bellary (Karnataka).

Statement 2 is correct. **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has two Appendices.** Appendix I comprises migratory species that have been assessed as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Appendix II covers migratory species that have an unfavorable conservation status and that require international agreements for their conservation

The Great Indian Bustard was added to Appendix I of CMS last year.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding **Steel sector in India**:

1. The demand of coking coal for Steel production is met mainly through imports.
2. Steel is a government regulated sector in India and decisions on setting up new steel plants/greenfield projects are taken by Ministry of Steel.

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 demand of raw material i.e., **iron ore for Indian Steel Industry is met from the domestic supply in the country while the demand of coking coal is met mainly through imports.**

The focus of the Government is on increasing domestic production of coal and to achieve these targets through allocation of more coal blocks, pursuing with State Governments for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways.

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In order to enhance domestic production, 25% of coal production has been allowed for sale of coal for newly allocated captive coal blocks. Commercial mining, with a provision for 100% foreign investment, has also been allowed by the Government.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Steel is a de-regulated sector.** Decisions regarding modernization, expansion or setting up new steel plants/greenfield projects are taken by the respective companies, based on commercial considerations and market dynamics keeping in view techno-economic viability of projects.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding **Comoros islands**:

1. These are located at the northern end of Mozambique Channel.
2. The Union of the Comoros, a sovereign nation formed by the islands of Mayotte, Anjouan, Moheli, and Grande Comore.

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. **Comoros islands** are located at Southern Africa, at the northern mouth of the Mozambique Channel, about two-thirds of the way between northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique.



Statement 2 is incorrect. The **archipelago of the Comoros** in the Indian Ocean, composed of the islands of Mayotte, Anjouan, Moheli, and Grande Comore declared independence from France on 6 July 1975. Residents of Mayotte voted to remain in France, and France now has classified it as a department of France.

Therefore, the **Union of the Comoros**, a sovereign nation formed by the three islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli.



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# As part of Mission Sagar-IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros on 14 March 2021 to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice.

**Q.4)** Where is the **Schirmacher Oasis** located?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Antarctica
- c) Alaska
- d) Siberia

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Schirmacher Oasis** is an emergent isolated landmass, surrounded on all sides by ice, occurring along the Princess Astrid Coast in central Dronning Maud Land, East **Antarctica**.

An Indo-Japanese project “**Schirmacher Oasis Nippon (Japan) India Coring (SONIC)**” was initiated during 2019 to reconstruct the past-climate. 15 sediment cores, ranging from 1 m to 8 m, were retrieved from various lakes of Schirmacher Oasis by the team for analysis.

India collaborates with Norway and Japan in Antarctic Research. A major Indo-Norwegian collaborative field campaign, near Indian Maitri station, was undertaken during 2016–2019 to understand the ice shelf dynamics, mass balance and reconstruct past changes in atmospheric and sea ice dynamics under the joint project “Mass balance, dynamics, and climate of the central Dronning Maud Land coast, East Antarctica (MADICE)”.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Pench National Park**:

- 1. It is spread across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- 2. This park has been included under Project Tiger and hence is also a tiger reserve.

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 **Pench National Park** is mostly located in the southern part of **Madhya Pradesh**, in the districts of Seoni and Chhindwara, which also shares a boundary with Maharashtra. An additional area of 257 sq.km of this park lies in **Maharashtra**.

The national park is named after the river- Pench, which while flowing from north to south, divides the national park in almost equal halves namely eastern and western halves.

Statement 2 is correct. Since the national park is also the abode of the national animal- Tigers, this park has been included under Project Tiger and hence is a tiger reserve since 1992.

**Q.6)** Where are **Senkaku Islands** located?

- a) East China Sea
- b) Northeast of Taiwan
- c) Sea of Japan
- d) Both (a) and (b)

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**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Diaoyu Islands/ Senkaku Islands** are a group of uninhabited islands located roughly due east of mainland China, northeast of Taiwan, west of Okinawa Island, and north of the southwestern end of the Ryukyu Islands. They are currently controlled by Japan, which calls them Senkaku Islands. Both China and Taiwan claim sovereignty over the islands.



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### **POLITY**

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Capital Territory of Delhi**:

1. The Chief Minister of Delhi is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.
2. The number of ministers cannot exceed ten percent of Delhi Legislative assembly seats.

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 case of NCT of Delhi, **Chief Minister is appointed by the President** and the other Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 239 AA of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers consisting of **not more than ten percent**, of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **State Election Commissions**:

1. It is vested with responsibility of Superintendence, direction and Control of the Conduct of all elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities.
2. The conditions of services and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner are determined by the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The State Election Commissions came into existence in 1993 as envisaged in **Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution of India**.

The above Articles 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 incorrect. The conditions of services and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may by rule determine:

Provided that the **State Election Commissioner** shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the High Court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

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**Q.3)** What is/are the provision(s) of the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021**?

1. The term “government” referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply the Delhi Government headed by the Chief Minister.
2. On certain matters specified by the Lieutenant Governor, his opinion must be obtained before taking any executive action.

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:** The **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021** was introduced in Lok Sabha on March 15, 2021. The Bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Bill provides that the term “government” referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply **Lieutenant Governor (LG)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Act specifies that all executive action by the government, whether taken on the advice of the Ministers or otherwise, must be taken in the name of the LG. The Bill adds that on certain matters, as specified by the LG, his **opinion must be obtained** before taking any executive action on the decisions of the Minister/ Council of Ministers.

**Q.4)** A **member nominated** to the House of Parliament faces **disqualification** under the Tenth Schedule if:

1. He is a member of any political party on the date of his nomination and does not resign from party within six months of such nomination.
2. He joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. A nominated member of a House is **deemed to belong to such political party** where he is a member of any political party on the date of his nomination.

Statement 2 is correct. A nominated member of a House shall be disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the **expiry of six months** from the date on which he takes his seat.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021**:

1. It provides that no mine will be reserved for particular end-use.
2. It mandates that the conduct the auction of mineral concessions is to be done by the Central Government only.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021** was passed in Lok Sabha on March 19, 2021. The Bill amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Statement 1 is correct. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers the central government to reserve any mine (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) to be leased through an auction for a particular end-use (such as iron ore mine for a steel plant). Such mines are known as captive mines. **The Bill provides that no mine will be reserved for particular end-use.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, states conduct the auction of mineral concessions (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals). Mineral concessions include mining lease and prospecting license-cum-mining lease.

The Bill empowers the central government to **specify a time period** for completion of the auction process in consultation with the state government. Only if the state government is unable to complete the auction process within this period, the auctions may be conducted by the central government.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding **resolutions** in Parliament/Legislative Assembly:

- 1. A resolution can be moved by a member or Minister on a matter of general public interest.
- 2. The Constitution bars State Legislative Assembly from passing a resolution against a law passed by Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Motions and resolutions** are procedural devices to raise a discussion in the House on a matter of general public interest. In its widest sense, the term 'motion' means any proposal submitted to the House for eliciting its decision.

Every matter is determined in the House by means of a question put from the Chair on a motion made by a member and resolved either in the affirmative or negative. The decision which has thus been elicited, turns the motion into a resolution or order of the house. In other words, by a motion, the House discusses a matter, by a resolution the House declares its own opinion.

Statement 1 is correct. A resolution can be moved by a **member or Minister** on a matter of general public interest.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. State Legislative Assemblies are not explicitly barred from passing resolutions against Central Laws. Further, Supreme Court on recently said that it finds prima facie no harm in State Legislative Assemblies passing resolutions against Central laws. A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India, said these resolutions are merely “opinions” of the majority members of a Legislative Assembly and do not have the force of law.

ForumIAS