

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

12th to 18th April, 2021

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

POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution under Article 324 mandates the Election Commission, to conduct elections to the Parliament, State Legislatures and Local Bodies.
2. Election Commission has mandated the election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution

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 Constitution under **Article 324** mandates the Election Commission, to conduct elections inter alia to the Parliament and the State Legislatures.

Local Body elections are conducted by the State Election Commissions.

Statement 2 is correct. The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 5th July 2013 in **S. Subramaniam Balaji Vs Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Others** directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines with regard to the contents of election manifestos in consultation with all the recognized political parties.

After consultation with the Political Parties, the Commission, in the interest of free and fair elections, hereby directs that Political Parties and Candidates while releasing election manifestos for any election to the Parliament or State Legislatures, shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.
- The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution enjoin upon the State to frame various welfare measures for the citizens and therefore there can be no objection to the promise of such welfare measures in election manifestos. However, political parties should avoid making those promises which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters in exercising their franchise.
- In the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019**:

1. The central government may direct data fiduciaries to provide it with any anonymized personal data for better targeting of services.
2. Under no circumstances can the Sensitive personal data may be transferred outside India for processing.

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: The **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019**, now under scrutiny by a Joint Parliamentary Committee governs the processing of personal data by government, companies incorporated in India, and foreign companies dealing with personal data of individuals in India. Statement 1 is correct. The central government may direct data fiduciaries to provide it with any non-personal data and anonymised personal data (where it is not possible to identify data principal) for better targeting of services.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Sensitive personal data may be transferred outside India for processing if explicitly consented to by the individual, and subject to certain additional conditions. However, such sensitive personal data should continue to be stored in India. Certain personal data notified as critical personal data by the government can only be processed in India.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreigners Act, 1946**:

1. It is not applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
2. The onus of proving whether a person is a foreigner or not, lies upon such person in question.

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 **Foreigners Act, 1946** is applicable to whole of India and states that a "foreigner" means a person who is not a citizen of India.

Statement 2 is correct. Under Section 9 of the act, whether any person is or is not a foreigner or is or is not a foreigner of a particular class or description the onus of proving that such person is not a foreigner or is not a foreigner of such particular class, shall notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 **lie upon such person**.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)**:

1. Grounds for removal of the CEC are same as for a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. Any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the CEC.

Which of the statements given above s/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: As per **article 324 of the Constitution**; subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election

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Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine:

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

Provided further that any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The President appointed Shri Sushil Chandra the senior-most Election Commissioner, as the Chief Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the recently amended **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act**:

1. Approval of two registered medical practitioners will be required for termination of pregnancies between 20 to 24 weeks.
2. The upper limit of termination of pregnancy will not apply in cases where it is necessary due to substantial foetal abnormalities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020** was recently passed in Parliament to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 which provides for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners.

--A pregnancy may be terminated within 20 weeks, with the opinion of a registered medical practitioner. Approval of two registered medical practitioners will be required for termination of pregnancies between 20 to 24 weeks.

--The upper limit of termination of pregnancy will not apply in cases where such termination is necessary due to the diagnosis of substantial foetal abnormalities. These abnormalities will be diagnosed by a Medical Board. Under the Bill, every state government is required to constitute a Medical Board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Right to higher education to students above fourteen years is a fundamental right under the Constitution.
2. Providing early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years is a Directive Principle under the Constitution.

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. Article 21A added by the e Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 provides that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 45 provides for provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years; the State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976:

1. It defines Exclusive Economic Zone as an area two hundred nautical miles from the baseline adjacent to the territorial waters.
2. All foreign ships other than warships including sub-marines and other underwater vehicles enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial waters.

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: As per Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976, the Exclusive Economic Zone of India is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial waters, and the limit of such zone is two hundred nautical miles from the baseline.

India's limit of the territorial waters is the line every point of which is at a distance of twelve nautical miles from the nearest point of the appropriate baseline.

As per the Act, all foreign ships (other than warships including sub-marines and other underwater vehicles) shall enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial waters, innocent passage being one that is not prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of India.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the Places of Worship Act, 1991:

1. It was enacted to freeze the status of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.
2. It kept the disputed structure at Ayodhya out of its purview.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 was enacted to freeze the status of places of worship as they were on August 15, 1947. It says no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section.

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Anyone who defies the bar on conversion of the status of a place of worship is liable to be prosecuted. The Act provides for imprisonment up to three years and a fine for anyone contravening the prohibition.

The law kept the disputed structure at Ayodhya out of its purview, mainly because it was the subject of prolonged litigation. It was also aimed at providing scope for a possible negotiated settlement.

Q.9) Which of the following is/are eligibility conditions provided under the Constitution to be appointed as a **Judge in Supreme Court**?

1. Must have born in India
2. One who has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court
3. A distinguished jurist in opinion of the President

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the age of 65 years. In order to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a **citizen of India** and must have been, for atleast five years, a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or an Advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession for at least 10 years or he must be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

Provisions also exist for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court as an Ad-hoc Judge of the Supreme Court and for retired Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts to sit and act as Judges of that Court.

ECONOMY

Q.1) Which of the following is/are potential impacts of the **Universal Basic Income**?

1. Support to unpaid care workers
2. Enable workers to wait for a better job or negotiate better wages
3. It may not incentivize people to get jobs, and could make work seem optional

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Universal basic income** is a program where every citizen receives a periodic payment, regardless of whether they're working and earning an income or not. It has several pros and cons to it:

Pros:

- Workers could afford to wait for a better job or better wages and people would have the freedom to return to school or stay home to care for a relative
- May help remove the "poverty trap" from traditional welfare programs
- Citizens could have simple, straightforward financial assistance that minimizes bureaucracy

Cons:

- Inflation could be triggered because of the increase in demand for goods and services
- Free income may not incentivize people to get jobs, and could make work seem optional
- Free income could perpetuate the falling labor force participation rate

Q.2) What Are the Effects of Inflation on the Economy?

1. Erodes Purchasing Power
2. Beneficiary for debtors

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: Inflation is an economic term describing the sustained increase in prices of goods and services within a period.

- Inflation is a decrease in the purchasing power of currency due to a rise in prices across the economy. The effect of inflation on savers and investors is that they lose purchasing power.
- The effect of inflation on debtors is positive because debtors can pay their debts with money that is less valuable.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Managed floating Exchange rate System**:

1. The country's central bank may occasionally intervene in order to direct the country's currency value into a certain direction.
2. India is having this type of exchange rate system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **managed or dirty float** is a flexible exchange rate system in which the government or the country's central bank may occasionally intervene in order to direct the country's currency value into a certain direction. This is generally done in order to act as a buffer against economic shocks and hence soften its effect in the economy.

A managed float is halfway between a fixed exchange rate and a flexible one as a country can obtain the benefits of a free-floating system but still has the option to intervene and minimize the risks associated with a free-floating currency.

Statement 2 is correct. India is having this type of exchange rate system. In this **hybrid exchange rate** system, the exchange rate is generally determined in the foreign exchange market through the operation of market forces.

But during extreme fluctuations, the central bank under a managed floating exchange rate system (like the RBI) intervenes in the foreign exchange market.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the recently announced **Lilavati Awards 2020**:

1. It is an initiative of the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
2. It aims to recognise efforts by all government institutions to treat women with 'equality and fairness'.

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 **Lilavati Award** is an initiative of the technical education regulator, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and it aims to recognise efforts by **AICTE-approved institutions** to treat women with 'equality and fairness'.

Based on the theme 'Women Empowerment', AICTE finalized the winners from a total of 456 entries who competed across 6 sub themes, which include, Women's Health, Self-Defense, Sanitation and Hygiene, Literacy, Women Entrepreneurship, and Legal Awareness.

Q.2) What is the mandate of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**?

1. Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
2. Serving as a link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has the unique distinction of being the only grant-giving agency in the country which has been vested with two responsibilities: that of providing funds and that of coordination, determination and maintenance of standards in institutions of higher education.

The UGC's mandate includes:

- Promoting and coordinating university education.
- Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
- Framing regulations on minimum standards of education.
- Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
- Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.

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--Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university education.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **DIKSHA Platform**:

1. It aims to aid teachers to learn and train themselves.
2. States, government bodies and even private organisations, can integrate DIKSHA into their respective initiatives.

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: **DIKSHA** is a unique initiative which leverages existing highly scalable and flexible digital infrastructures, while keeping teachers at the center. It is built considering the whole teacher's life cycle - from the time student teachers enroll in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to after they retire as teachers.

It can be accessed after scanning the QR code provided in their NCERT books. Students having access to DIKSHA app will be able to understand concepts in easy and interactive manner.

There are features through which lessons can be revised. Parents having access to DIKSHA app in their mobiles can follow classroom activities and clear doubts outside school hours. It is a comprehensive platform for hassle free interaction of all the stakeholders involved.

States, government bodies and even private organisations, can integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives based on their goals, needs and capabilities.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**:

1. It is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act.
2. It is empowered to regulate exports of marine products and take all measures required for ensuring sustained, quality seafood exports from the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** was set up by an act of Parliament during 1972.

MPEDA is given the mandate to promote the marine products industry with special reference to exports from the country. It is envisaged that this organization would take all actions to develop and augment the resources required for promoting the exports of "all varieties of fishery products known commercially as shrimp, prawn, lobster, crab, fish, shell-fish, other aquatic animals or plants or part thereof."

Statement 2 is correct. The Act empowers MPEDA to **regulate exports of marine products** and take all measures required for ensuring sustained, quality seafood exports from the country.

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Q.5) What was the mandate of the **Justice BN Srikrishna committee**?

- a) Data Protection
- b) Inflation Targeting
- c) Right to Privacy
- d) Criminal Law Reforms

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In 2017, the Government of India appointed a 10-member Committee of Experts headed by **Justice B.N. Srikrishna**, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India "to identify key data protection issues in India and recommend methods of addressing them".

The terms of reference of the Committee were to "to study various issues relating to data protection in India", and "to make specific suggestions for consideration of the Central Government on principles to be considered for data protection in India and suggest a draft data protection bill".

The Committee submitted its report, along with a **Draft Personal Data Protection Bill** to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in July 2018.

Q.6) What was the mandate of the **M.P. Bezbaruah Committee**?

- a) Concerns of people from the north eastern states
- b) Data localization norms in India
- c) Child rights legal reforms
- d) Insider trading legal framework

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In order to deal with the **concerns of persons hailing from the northeastern states and residing in different parts of the country**, particularly in the metropolitan cities, the Union Government (MHA) constituted the **Bezbaruah Committee** on 05 February, 2014. The Committee submitted its report on 11 July, 2014.

It 4 recommended amendments to the IPC by creating new offences under Section 153C and 509A to deal with comments, gestures and acts intended to insult a member of a particular racial group. "It also suggested to make such offences as 'gender-neutral', 'cognizable' and 'non-bailable' with imprisonment extendable up to three years or five years with fine, respectively.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Currency Chests**:

1. These are branches of selected banks authorised by the RBI to stock rupee notes and coins.
2. The money present in the currency chest belongs to the respective banks.

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. **Currency chests** are branches of selected banks authorised by the RBI to stock rupee notes and coins. The responsibility for managing the currency in circulation is vested in the RBI. The central bank advises the Centre on the number of notes to be printed, the currency denominations, security features and so on.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. These chests are usually situated on the premises of different banks but administrated by the RBI. Representatives of the RBI inspect currency chests time-to-time, and update their senior officers about it. The money present in the currency chest belongs to the RBI and the money, kept in the strong room outside the currency chest belongs to the bank.

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

1. In India, at present two precious metals namely gold and silver have been brought under the purview of Hallmarking.
2. Government has announced implement mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts from June 1, 2021.

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: **Hallmarking** is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles. Hallmarks are thus official marks used in India as a guarantee of purity or fineness of precious metal articles.

In India, at present two precious metals namely **gold and silver** have been brought under the purview of Hallmarking.

It is being operated by Bureau of Indian Standards through its network of Regional/ Branch Offices all over the country.

The government recently said it is fully prepared to implement mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts from **June 1, 2021** after the deadline was extended from January 15, 2021 after the jewellers sought more time to implement in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

1. It implements and enforces the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
2. It monitors the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and takes remedial steps.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority was set up as an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (now Department of Pharmaceuticals since July, 2008) on 1997. It has been entrusted inter-alia, with the following functions:

--To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995/2013 in accordance with the powers delegated to it.

--To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/formulations.

--To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.

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--To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the recently released Regulatory Pathways for foreign produced COVID-19 Vaccines:

1. Vaccine shall be used as per the guidelines prescribed under National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.
2. First 100 beneficiaries of such vaccines shall be assessed for 7 days for safety outcomes before it is rolled out for further Vaccination program.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The Union Government on 13th April 2021 had approved a significant streamlining and fast tracking of regulatory system for **COVID-19 vaccines approved for restricted use by US FDA, EMA, UK MHRA, PMDA Japan** or which are listed in WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL). DCGI will issue permission for Restricted Use in Emergency situation with, inter-alia, the following conditions:

--Vaccine shall be used as per the guidelines prescribed under National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.

--First 100 beneficiaries of such vaccines shall be assessed for 7 days for safety outcomes before it is rolled out for further Vaccination program.

--Applicant shall initiate conduct of post approval bridging clinical trials within 30 days of such approval.

Q.11) Who among the following chairs the **National Startup Advisory Council**?

- a) Minister for Commerce & Industry
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- d) Cabinet Secretary

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Central Government had notified the structure of the **National Startup Advisory Council** to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

It is chaired by Minister for Commerce & Industry. The Council consists of the non-official members, to be nominated by Central Government, from various categories.

Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal recently chaired the first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC).

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**:

1. It is a statutory authority.
2. It manages and operates the .IN country code domain for India.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is a not-for-profit organization (section 8 of the Companies Act 2013).

Statement 2 is correct. It is working since 2003 for spreading the internet infrastructure to the citizens of India through the following activities:

-- Internet Exchanges through which the internet data is exchanged amongst ISP's, Data Centers and CDNs.

-- .IN Registry, managing and operation of .IN country code domain and .भारत IDN domain for India.

-- IRINN, managing and operating Internet protocol (IPv4/IPv6).

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **EatSmart Cities Challenge**:

- 1. It aims to motivate Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment.
- 2. It has been initiated by the NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The EatSmart Cities Challenge aims to motivate Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment supported by institutional, physical, social, and economic infrastructure along with the application of 'smart' solutions to combat food related issues.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS (I/C), Housing and Urban Affairs launched the EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge at an online event recently.

The 'Eat Right India' movement initiated by FSSAI under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has gone a long way in creating awareness amongst the people about eating safe, healthy and sustainably. The launch event of EatSmart Cities Challenge today was organized in association with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Q.14) Which of the following is/are **online educational platforms(s)**?

- 1. Swayam
- 2. SwayamPrabha
- 3. NPTEL

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. **SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)** is an Indian Massive open online course platform. It is a platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to any learner.

Option 2 is incorrect. The **SWAYAM PRABHA** is a group of 34 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

Option 3 is correct. The **National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)** was initiated by seven Indian Institutes of Technology (Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Guwahati and Roorkee) along with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 2003. It is one of the largest online repositories in the world of courses in engineering, basic sciences and selected humanities and social sciences subjects.

Q.15) The **Women and Men in India Report, 2020** has been released by which of the following institution?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) National Statistical Office
- c) Ministry of Labour & Employment
- d) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **National Statistical Office** produces the Women and Men in India Report annually. This is the 22nd issue in its series. The report consolidates the crucial socio-economic indicators that portray gender situations in the country.

--India's projected population in 2021 is 136.13 Crore with a 48.65% female population.

--The projected average annual exponential growth rate of the population declined from 1.63 in 2011 to 1.27 in 2016. It is likely to further decline to 1.07 in 2021.

--The projected sex ratio is likely to increase from 943 in 2011 to 948 in 2021.

--A notable increase in the sex ratio recorded in Delhi (5.7%), Chandigarh (5.3%), and Arunachal Pradesh (5.0%). Contrary to this, Daman & Diu recorded a decline of 13% in the sex ratio.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Mission 'AahaarKranti'**:

- 1. It is aimed to spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet
- 2. It has been launched by the World Health Organization in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Mission 'AahaarKranti'** is aimed to spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet and to understand the importance of accessible to all local fruits and vegetables.

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It is designed to address the peculiar problem being faced by India and the world called 'hunger and diseases in abundance'. Studies estimate that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories that it consumes. However, many in the country are still malnourished. The root cause of this strange phenomenon is a lack of nutritional awareness in all sections of our society.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **VijnanaBharati (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST)** have come together to launch the mission with the motto of UttamAahaarUttamVichaar or 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'.

The United Nations has also declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **India Energy Dashboard**:

1. It has been launched by the NITI Aayog.
 2. It facilitates the trade of energy bonds.
- 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 **India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0** was launched recently by the NITI Aayog. India Energy Dashboards (IED) is an endeavour to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country. Energy data published/provided by Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller's Organisation, and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is compiled in the Dashboards. NITI Aayog launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017.

The key features of the enhanced version, India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0:

--The IED provides time series data from FY 2005-06 until FY 2019-20;

--It enables easy downloading of data into convenient spreadsheet formats in a cleaner, more intuitive way;

--IED provides data at sub-yearly frequencies as well. This includes monthly data and API linked data from some portals maintained by the government agencies.

The monthly data is sourced from the monthly reports that are regularly published for the electricity, petroleum and natural gas sectors. API linked data from Saubhagya, UJALA, PRAAPTI, and Vidyut PRAVAH has been incorporated in the portal.

Q.18) The **MANAS Application** was launched recently for what purpose?

- a) Pollution monitoring in Brahmaputra river
- b) Glacier monitoring in western Himalaya
- c) Promote the mental well-being
- d) Last mile online educational connectivity

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India recently launched the "MANAS" App. MANAS stands for Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System. It is a comprehensive, scalable and national digital wellbeing platform developed to promote the mental well-being of Indian citizens.

--The platform integrates the health and wellness efforts of various government ministries.

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--The application can be used for a person's overall wellbeing and is supported by teleconsultation, especially for mental health-related problems.

--There will also be health tracking and all data records will be maintained. It will help users during future consultations.

Q.19) Which of the following institution is organising the **Hydrogen Economy – New Delhi Dialogue 2021**?

- a) The Energy Forum
- b) The Energy and Resources Institute
- c) Centre for Science and Environment
- d) Indian Green Building Council

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Hydrogen Economy – New Delhi Dialogue 2021** is being organized by The Energy Forum (TEF), an independent think tank in India in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI). FIPI is under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The dialogue aims to discuss emerging hydrogen ecosystems and exploring opportunities for collaboration, cooperation and coalition.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) Which of the following has been created through the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**?

1. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
2. International Seabed Authority
3. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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 **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982. It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.

It replaced the four Geneva Conventions of April, 1958, which respectively concerned the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, the continental shelf, the high seas, fishing and conservation of living resources on the high seas.

The Convention has created three new institutions on the international scene:

- the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,
- the International Seabed Authority,
- the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are among the country(s) that originally signed the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**?

1. Germany
2. China
3. Saudi Arabia

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 **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** is a detailed agreement with five annexes reached by Iran and the P5+1 (China France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) on July 14, 2015. The nuclear deal was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, adopted on July 20, 2015. Iran's compliance with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA is verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) according to certain requirements set forth in the agreement.

Former US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. in May 2018.

The Vienna talks between the remaining members of the Iran nuclear deal — China, Russia, the U.K., France, Germany and Iran are being held.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**:

1. In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State has the exclusive right to construct artificial islands.
2. It explicitly provides for freedom of navigation to military vessels and warships of other States in the exclusive economic zone of a country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 60** of the convention states that in the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State shall have the exclusive right to construct and to authorize and regulate the construction, operation and use of:

- artificial islands;
- installations and structures for the purposes provided for in article 56 and other economic purposes;
- installations and structures which may interfere with the exercise of the rights of the coastal State in the zone.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It does not explicitly provide for the military vessels and warships movement in EEZs. Article 58 providing for the **Rights and duties of other States in the exclusive economic zone** provide that;

- In the exclusive economic zone, all States, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy, subject to the relevant provisions of this Convention, the freedoms of navigation and overflight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms, such as those associated with the operation of ships, aircraft and submarine cables and pipelines, and compatible with the other provisions of this Convention.

When India ratified the convention in 1995, New Delhi stated, "India understands that the provisions of the Convention do not authorize other States to carry out in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving the use of weapons or explosives without the consent of the coastal State."

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **1951 Refugee Convention**:

1. Its core principle is that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.
2. The UN Human Rights Council serves as the 'guardian' of the 1951 Convention.
3. India is not a signatory to this 1951 UN Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **1951 Refugee Convention** is the key legal document governing international standards for refugee work. The convention defines the term “refugee” and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of nations and states to protect them.

Statement 1 is correct. The core principle is **non-refoulement**, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. This is now considered a rule of customary international law.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is administered by the **United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR)**, established in 1950 to handle the millions of people displaced in the aftermath of World War II. UNHCR serves as the ‘guardian’ of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol and works with States to ensure that the rights of refugees are respected and protected.

Statement 3 is correct. **India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention or the 1967 Protocol.**

Q.5) Which of the following is/are defense exercise(s) involving **India and Bangladesh**?

1. Sampriti
2. Ajeya Warrior
3. ShantirOgroshena

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR with United Kingdom** is an important exercise in terms of the security challenges faced by both the nations in the realm of changing facets of global terrorism. The exercise is conducted alternatively in United Kingdom and India.

SAMPRITI is a series of the joint exercise between India and Bangladesh, it is a very important military & diplomatic initiative between both countries.

Multinational Military Exercise **SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021** (Front Runner of the Peace) was recently held at Bangladesh to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangladesh ‘Father of the Nation’ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mark glorious 50 years of liberation. India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were the participating countries along with observers from the U.S., the U.K., Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **RECOVERY Trials**:

1. It aims to identify treatments that may be beneficial for people hospitalized with COVID-19.
2. It is being conducted globally by the World Health Organization.

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. **Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY) trials** aims to identify treatments that may be beneficial for people hospitalised with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. The RECOVERY Trial is currently testing some of these suggested treatments:

--Regeneron's antibody cocktail (a combination of monoclonal antibodies directed against coronavirus)

--Baricitinib (an immunomodulatory drug used in rheumatoid arthritis)

--Dimethyl fumarate (an immunomodulatory drug used in psoriasis and multiple sclerosis).

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a national trial being held in United Kingdom sponsored by the University of Oxford.

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

1. The organisation came into being in 1997 through the 'Bangkok Declaration' by Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
2. Permanent Secretariat of BIMSTEC is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
3. Thailand is the only country in BIMSTEC that is not a member of SAARC.

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. The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional organization comprising seven Member States around the Bay of Bengal region.

Statement 2 is correct. The organisation came into being on 6 June 1997 through the 'Bangkok Declaration'. Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).

Statement 3 is incorrect. BIMSTEC is a grouping of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Myanmar and Thailand are not part of SAARC grouping.

Q.8) Which of the following country is set to host the **Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021**?

- a) United Kingdom
- b) United States of America
- c) France
- d) Germany

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **United States will convene a Leaders' Climate Summit on Earth Day** to bring together leaders of major economies.

The summit will be held on 22 April 2021, which is the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Paris Agreement on climate change for signature. The Leaders' Summit on Climate will underscore the urgency – and the economic benefits – of stronger climate action. It will be a key milestone on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) this November in Glasgow.

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Q.9) Which of the following institution has published the **Global Wind Report, 2021**?

- a) International Energy Agency
- b) Global Wind Energy Council
- c) International Renewable Energy Agency
- d) International Energy Forum is

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)** has recently released the report Global Wind Report, 2021.

-- The world's capacity to generate electricity from wind jumped 53% in 2020.

-- China and the United States accounted for 75% of the new installations and over half the world's wind power capacity.

-- The world currently has a total wind energy capacity of 743 GW. This has helped avoid an annual CO2 emission of over 1.1 billion tonnes which is equivalent to the volume of carbon South America emits in a year.

-- India's total installed wind power capacity was 38GW, the fourth largest installed wind power capacity in the world.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Food Systems Summit 2021**:

- 1. It is being organized by the United Nations.
- 2. It is the first ever Food Systems Summit to be organized.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **United Nations Secretary General** has called for the first ever UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September 2021 to strategize the actions for positive change in Agri-food systems in the World to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit will focus on levers and pathways to shape food systems nationally and globally to accelerate progress in the SDGs.

The term "food system" refers to the constellation of activities involved in producing, processing, transporting and consuming food.

Q.11) Which of the following institution has published the '**State of World Population Report 2021**'?

- a) United Nations Population Fund
- b) World Health Organization
- c) UN-Habitat
- d) United Nations Development Programme

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **UNFPA's 2021 flagship State of World Population report** has been released recently. The report shows that in countries where data are available:

--Only 55 per cent of women are fully empowered to make choices over health care, contraception and the ability to say yes or no to sex.

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- Only 71 per cent of countries guarantee access to overall maternity care.
- Only 75 per cent of countries legally ensure full, equal access to contraception.
- Only about 80 per cent of countries have laws supporting sexual health and well-being.
- Only about 56 per cent of countries have laws and policies supporting comprehensive sexuality education.

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. India and United Kingdom have signed extradition treaty with each other.
2. There have been no successful extradition from UK to India so far.

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. **Extradition** is an action wherein one jurisdiction delivers a person accused or convicted of committing a crime in another jurisdiction, over to the other's law enforcement. India and the UK signed an **extradition treaty in 1992**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. There have been successful extraditions from UK to India. Kishan Singh, accused of operating an international drugs cartel, has been extradited to India recently to face charges of supplying illegal drugs.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAX Facility**:

1. It is the diagnosis pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT).
2. It is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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. **COVAX is the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator**.

The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Statement 2 is correct. **COVAX is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi and the World Health Organization (WHO)**, alongside key delivery partner UNICEF. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

Q.14) Arrange the following event(s) in chronological order:

1. Bandung Conference
2. North Atlantic Treaty signed
3. The Suez Crisis

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Washington Treaty – or North Atlantic Treaty** – forms the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – or NATO. The Treaty was signed in Washington D.C. on 4 April 1949 by 12 founding members.

In April, 1955, representatives from twenty-nine governments of **Asian and African nations** gathered in Bandung, Indonesia to discuss peace and the role of the Third World in the Cold War, economic development, and decolonization.

The **Suez Crisis** began on July 26, 1956, when Egyptian president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, nationalized the Suez Canal.

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

1. The Rohingya people are an ethnic group from Myanmar.
2. The United Nations has described the Rohingya “as the most persecuted minority in the world.”

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Rohingya** are mostly Muslim minority who have traditionally lived in **Myanmar**. Hundreds of thousands were forced to flee their homes in August 2017 when violence broke out in Myanmar’s Rakhine State, including the burning of entire Rohingya villages.

The United Nations has described the Rohingya “as the most persecuted minority in the world.” Eighty percent of Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh are women and children, including newborns.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**:

1. It extends no more than 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline.
2. In EEZ all States, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy the freedoms of navigation and overflight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines.

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. As per United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) the **exclusive economic zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles** from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

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In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State has:

- **sovereign rights** for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds;
- jurisdiction as provided for in the relevant provisions of this Convention with regard to:
- the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures; marine scientific research;
- the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

Statement 2 is correct. In the exclusive economic zone, **all States, whether coastal or land-locked**, enjoy, subject to the relevant provisions of this Convention, the freedoms of navigation and overflight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms, such as those associated with the operation of ships, aircraft and submarine cables and pipelines, and compatible with the other provisions of this Convention.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) What is Remdesivir?

- a) Antiviral Medication
- b) RNA based vaccine
- c) Anti-inflammatory drug
- d) Antihistamine drug

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Veklury (remdesivir) is a nucleotide analog invented by Gilead, building on more than a decade of the company's antiviral research. Veklury has broad-spectrum antiviral activity both in vitro and in vivo in animal models against multiple emerging viral pathogens, including Ebola, SARS, Marburg, MERS and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seven Indian companies are producing Injection **Remdesivir** under voluntary licensing agreement with M/s. Gilead Sciences, USA. Government of India has prohibited the exports of Injection Remdesivir and Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) till the COVID-19 situation improves.

#Veklury is the brand name.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are issues considered under the One Health approach?

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

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

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

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare chaired ICMR's International Symposium titled 'One Health in India: Research informing biosafety, preparedness and response' recently.

Q.3) What is Pharmacovigilance?

- 1. Assessment of drugs
- 2. Assessment of vaccines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Pharmacovigilance** is the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other medicine/vaccine related problem.

All medicines and vaccines undergo rigorous testing for safety and efficacy through clinical trials before they are authorized for use. However, the clinical trial process involves studying these products in a relatively small number of selected individuals for a short period of time. Certain side effects may only emerge once these products have been used by a heterogeneous population, including people with other concurrent diseases, and over a long period of time.

Q.4) Which of the following vaccine(s) have been provided with **Emergency Use Listing (EULs)** by the World Health Organization?

1. AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine
2. Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) 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: Sputnik V has not been provided with Emergency Use Listing (EULs) by the World Health Organization yet.

WHO issued an Emergency Use Listing (EULs) for the **Pfizer** COVID-19 vaccine (BNT162b2) on 31 December 2020. On 15 February 2021, WHO issued EULs for two versions of the **AstraZeneca/Oxford** COVID-19 vaccine, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India and SKBio. On 12 March 2021, WHO issued an EUL for the COVID-19 vaccine Ad26.COV2.S, developed by **Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)**. WHO is on track to EUL other vaccine products through June.

Q.5) The term 'B.1.617' has been in news recently, what is it?

- a) A mutated strain of SARS-COV-2
- b) A newly discovered exoplanet
- c) An asteroid in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter
- d) A genetically modified variant of rice

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The 'double mutant' virus that scientists had flagged last month as having a bearing on the spread of the pandemic in India, has a formal scientific classification: B.1.617. Sixty-one per cent of the COVID-19 samples, collected by the Pune-based National Institute of Virology from the state by the premier virology institute between January and March had the double mutation, now classified as the B.1.617 lineage.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **RT-PCR test**:

1. It is a type of antibody test.
2. The sample for the COVID-19 RT PCR test is collected from suspected person's nose or throat.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It is not an antibody test. The RT-PCR test detects the genetic material of the virus. **RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction)** is the most sensitive technique for mRNA detection and quantitation currently available.

Statement 2 is correct. A sample is collected from the parts of the body where the COVID-19 virus gathers, such as a person's nose or throat. The sample is treated with several chemical solutions that remove substances such as proteins and fats and that extract only the RNA present in the sample. This extracted RNA is a mix of the person's own genetic material and, if present, the virus's RNA.

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

- 1. A virus is a microscopic package of genetic material surrounded by a molecular envelope.
- 2. DNA is a two-strand molecule that is found in all organisms, such as animals, plants and viruses.
- 3. RNA is generally a one-strand molecule that copies, transcribes and transmits parts of the genetic code to proteins.

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: A **virus** is a microscopic package of genetic material surrounded by a molecular envelope. This genetic material can be either deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or ribonucleic acid (RNA).

DNA is a two-strand molecule that is found in all organisms, such as animals, plants and viruses, and which holds the genetic code, or blueprint, for how these organisms are made and develop.

RNA is generally a one-strand molecule that copies, transcribes and transmits parts of the genetic code to proteins so that they can synthesize and carry out functions that keep organisms alive and developing. Different variations of RNA are responsible for copying, transcribing and transmitting.

Q.8) The **Pterosaurs** have been in news recently, what are they?

- a) Extinct flying reptiles
- b) Subspecies of archaic humans
- c) Extinct species of marine Mammals
- d) None of the above

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Pterosaurs are reptiles that are close cousins of dinosaurs, the first animals after insects to evolve powered flight. Pterosaurs disappeared 66 million years ago in the asteroid collision that also doomed the dinosaurs. While starting relatively small, pterosaurs eventually achieved huge dimensions, with wingspans reaching 35 feet (10.7 meters).

Azhdarchid pterosaurs, the giant reptiles that flew in the skies nearly 65 million years ago, had necks longer than that of a giraffe (on average a giraffe's neck is about 6 feet long). Now, researchers have reported a new finding about their long necks — that the thin neck vertebrae were supported by an intricate internal structure that is unlike anything seen before.

The results of their study were published in the journal iScience recently.

Q.9) What is Heparin?

- a) An RNA virus
- b) Blood thinner
- c) An COVID-19 vaccine
- d) B cell antigen receptor

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Heparin is an anticoagulant (blood thinner) that prevents the formation of blood clots. Heparin is used to treat and prevent blood clots caused by certain medical conditions or medical procedures. It is also used before surgery to reduce the risk of blood clots.

It is a medication and naturally occurring glycosaminoglycan. As a medication it is used as an anticoagulant.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Oxygen:

1. The most abundant element in the Earth's crust is oxygen.
2. One of the major commercial use of oxygen gas is in the steel industry.

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: Oxygen is the third most abundant element in the universe after hydrogen and helium (by mass) and it's the most abundant element (by mass) in the Earth's crust, making up almost half of the crust's mass. Oxygen is a gas at room temperature that glows a lovely pale blue colour when exposed to an electrical current.

The greatest commercial use of oxygen gas is in the steel industry. Large quantities are also used in the manufacture of a wide range of chemicals including nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide. It is also used to make epoxyethane (ethylene oxide), used as antifreeze and to make polyester, and chloroethene, the precursor to PVC.

Oxygen gas is used for oxy-acetylene welding and cutting of metals. A growing use is in the treatment of sewage and of effluent from industry.

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Q.11) The **Hydrogen sulfide** is produced in which of the following industries?

1. Oil and gas refining
2. Tanning
3. Pulp and paper processing

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Hydrogen sulfide** is a chemical with the formula H_2S . Hydrogen sulfide is a dangerous, colorless gas that occurs naturally in many petroleum products. Hydrogen sulfide is used or produced in a number of industries, such as Oil and gas refining, Mining, Tanning, Pulp and paper processing and Rayon manufacturing.

Hydrogen sulfide also occurs naturally in sewers, manure pits, well water, oil and gas wells, and volcanoes.

Scientists from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences(CeNS), Bangalore have developed Electronic Nose to detect Hydrogen Sulphide from swamps and sewers.

Q.12) The '**Monkeydactyl**' have been discovered recently, what is it?

- a) Fossil of a flying dinosaur
- b) A new discovered species of Monkey
- c) A comet to flyby Earth in 2029
- d) An exoplanet

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Paleontologists have discovered the first-known fossil of a flying dinosaur with opposable thumbs. Nicknamed "**Monkeydactyl**", the 160-million-year-old pterosaur likely used its dexterity to climb trees and hunt for insects and other prey. A team of international researchers unearthed the Jurassic remains in Liaoning, northeastern China.

The monkeydactyl is the earliest known animal with the ability to touch the inside of its thumbs to the inside of its index fingers, according to the paleontologists behind the discovery.

ART/CULTURE

Q.1) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| 1. Ugadi | - | Odisha |
| 2. SajibuCheiraoba | - | Manipur |
| 3. Vishu | - | Kerala |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Ugadi** also known as Samvatsarādi, is the New Year's Day for the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in India.

Cheiraoba, the great ritual festival of Meiteis is observed on the first day of Manipur lunar month Shajibu, which falls in April every year.

Vishu is a Hindu festival celebrated in the Indian state of Kerala, Tulu Nadu region in Karnataka, Mahé district of Union Territory of Pondicherry, neighbouring areas of Tamil Nadu.

GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Which of the following state of India *does not* share border with **Nepal**?

1. Jharkhand
2. West Bengal
3. Bihar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: With an area of 147,181 sq. km and a population of 29 million, Nepal shares a border of about 1850 km with five Indian States - **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim**. An estimated 6 million Nepalese live and work in India. As close neighbours, India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation characterized by open borders and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture.



Q.2) The **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following State?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary covers an area of around 70.13 sq km and lies on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River. It forms an integral part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system and is a notified buffer of the Kazairanga Tiger reserve.

The sanctuary is home to the great Indian-one horned rhinoceros, elephants, royal Bengal tigers, Asiatic water buffaloes and more than 225 species of birds.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Greater One-horned Rhino is listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN Red List.
2. The Indian Rhino Vision 2020 aimed to move rhinos from densely populated parks to less densely populated parks.

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. **Greater One-horned Rhino** is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Statement 2 is correct. The goal of **Indian Rhino Vision 2020** was to increase the rhino population in Assam to 3,000 by establishing populations in new areas. Rhinos are now found in four Protected Areas in Assam: Pabitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and Manas National Park.

Wild-to-wild translocations were an essential part of IRV2020 – moving rhinos from densely populated parks like Kaziranga NP, to ones in need of more rhinos, like Manas NP. IRV2020 was established in 2005.

Q.4) Which of the following state/Union Territory shares the longest border with China?

- a) Ladakh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

Correct answer: A

Explanation: India shares 3488 Km of border with China that runs along the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and UT of Ladakh.

STATE/UT	LENGTH (km)
Ladakh	1597
Himachal Pradesh	200
Uttarakhand	345
Sikkim	220
Arunachal Pradesh	1126
	3488

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the Chenab River:

1. It is formed after the two streams the Chandra and the Bhaga merge with each other.
2. It meets with Sutlej River in Punjab, 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 river Chenab (or Chandra Bhaga) is formed after the two streams the Chandra and the Bhaga merge with each other. The Chandra and the Bhaga originate from the south-west and north-west faces of Barelacha pass respectively in the Himalayan canton of Lahul and Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Chenab does not meet Sutlej in India. It meets with Jhelum and Ravi in Pakistan.



Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the Bogibeel Bridge:

1. It is a rail/road bridge.
2. It is built across the River Brahmaputra in the state of Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The Bogibeel rail / road bridge is built across the River Brahmaputra in the Dibrugarh district, in the state of Assam in north-east India. The 4.94km bridge is one of the longest river bridges in the country. It will connect Dibrugarh in the south to Lakhimpur in the north. The River Brahmaputra runs to the north of Dibrugarh and spans 10km.

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The rail-road bridge was undertaken by the Northeast Frontier Railway, which is a part of Indian Railways. It was inaugurated in 2018.

Q.7) The **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following State?

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Odisha

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, situated in the flood plains of River Brahmaputra in the district of Morigaon, Assam. It is nestled in the grasslands of Assam which is the dwelling place of the Greater Indian One-Horned Rhinoceroses with its highest population in the whole world.

The ambitious Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV2020) came to a close recently with the release of two rhinos — an adult male and a female — in Assam's Manas National Park transported from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary about 185 km to the east.

Q.8) Which of the following State does not border **Odisha**?

- 1. Bihar
- 2. Telangana
- 3. Andhra Pradesh

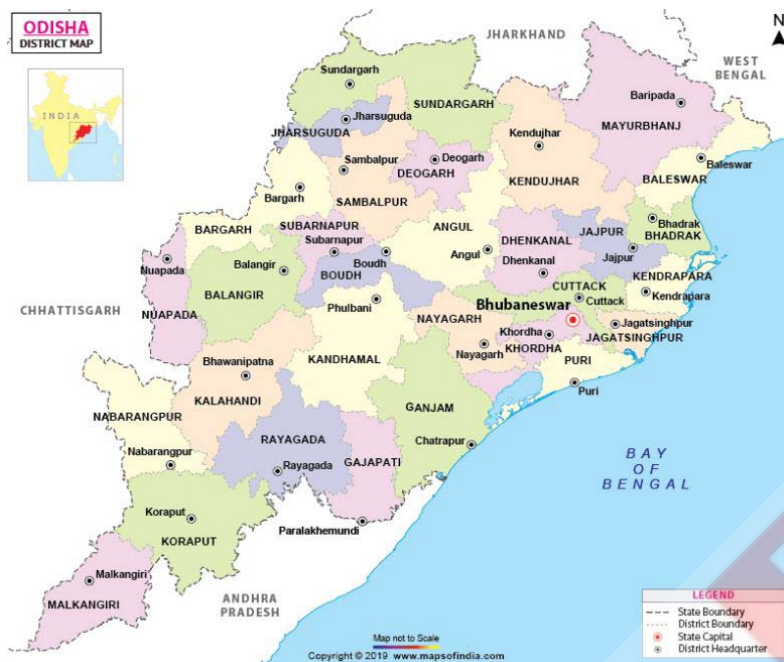
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Odisha borders the states of West Bengal and Jharkhand to the north, Chhattisgarh to the west, and Andhra Pradesh to the south. It also has a coastline of 485 kilometres along the Bay of Bengal.

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Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has accorded administrative approval for sanction of Rs 50.30 crore for developing all-weather ROPAX (Roll-on/Roll-off Passenger) Jetty and allied infrastructure connecting Kaninali in Bhadrak district & Talachua in Kendrapara district, Odisha under the Sagarmala initiative.

Q.9) The **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following State?

- a) Bihar
- b) Assam
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **KatarniyaGhat Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated in the Upper Gangetic plain falling in the Terai of Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh. The KatarniyaGhat Forest provides strategic connectivity between tiger habitats of Dudhwa and Kishanpur in India and Nepal. The sanctuary has a mosaic of Sal and Teak forests, lush grasslands, numerous swamps and wetlands. It is home to a number of endangered species including gharial, tiger, rhino, Gangetic dolphin, Swamp deer, Hispid hare, Bengal florican, the White-backed and Long-billed vultures.

Q.10) Where is the **Thwaites Glacier** located?

- a) Antarctica
- b) Greenland
- c) Norway
- d) Finland

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Thwaites Glacier**, sometimes referred to as the Doomsday Glacier, is an unusually broad and vast Antarctic glacier flowing into the Pine Island Bay.

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Researchers at Sweden's University of Gothenburg releases a new finding related to the melting of the Thwaites Glacier. They found that the melting was worse than previously thought.

