

## *10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation*

March, 2021

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

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Operation Greens Scheme**:

1. It aims to promote Farmer Producers Organizations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
2. Union Budget for 2021-22 announced the extension of operation green scheme to cover paddy and wheat.

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. In the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19, a new Scheme “Operation Greens” was announced on the line of “Operation Flood”, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to promote **Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management**.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) extended the Operation Greens Scheme from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits & vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months on pilot basis as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Statement 2 is incorrect. While presenting the Union budget for the FY 2021-22, Finance Minister announced that Operation Green (OG) will be expanded beyond tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP) to 22 **perishable commodities**.

Perishable foods are those that spoil the most quickly and require refrigeration such as fruits and vegetables, dairy, fish, and meat products.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **One District One Focus Product** initiative:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has identified the products for One District One Focus Product (ODOFP) for districts across the country.
2. The identified products will be supported under the PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** in consultation with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has finalized the products for One District One Focus Product (ODOFP). The products have been identified from agricultural, horticultural, animal, poultry, milk, fisheries and aquaculture, marine sectors for 728 districts across the country. The list of products has been finalized after taking inputs from the States/UTs and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These products will be promoted in a cluster approach

through convergence of the Government of India schemes, to increase the value of the products and with the ultimate aim of increasing the income of the farmers.

These identified products will be supported under the **PM-FME scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries** which provides incentives to promoter and micro-enterprises.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009**:

1. In a case of emergency nature, interim blocking directions may be issued by the Cabinet Secretary.
2. The requests and complaints received and actions taken are to be kept confidential.

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:** In exercise of the powers conferred by **section 87 and section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000**, the Central Government promulgated Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Section 9 of the said rules empower the **Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT** to issue interim directions for blocking of content.

Under the rules issued on 25th February, 2021, this provision has only been replaced with **Secretary, Ministry of I&B** because Part III of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** would be administered by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Statement 2 is correct. Rule 16 of the IT Blocking Rules provide that strict confidentiality shall be maintained regarding all the requests and complaints received and actions taken thereof.

**Q.4)** What is the mandate of **NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL)**?

1. Owning satellites for Earth Observation and Communication applications and providing space-based services.
2. Building launch vehicles through Indian Industry and launch as per satellite customer requirement.
3. Technology Transfer to Indian Industry.

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:** In order to commercially exploit the products and services emanating from Indian Space Programme, the "**NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**" incorporated in March 2019, as a wholly-owned Government of India under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS).

**NSIL mandate:**

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- Owning satellites for Earth Observation and Communication applications and providing space-based services
- Building satellites and launching them as per demand
- Providing Launch Services for satellite belonging to customer
- Building launch vehicles through Indian Industry and launch as per satellite customer requirement
- Space based Services related to Earth Observation and Communication satellites on commercial basis
- Satellite building through Indian Industry
- Technology Transfer to Indian Industry

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**:

1. It aims to provide generic medicines at affordable prices to the masses through dedicated outlets.
  2. It is being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. '**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through dedicated outlets called 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra'.

These provide generic medicines at much lesser price. The potency of these medicines is same as compared to expensive branded medicines available in the open market.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)**, the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is celebrating 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas on 7th March, 2021 with the theme of "Seva bhi – Rozgar bhi".

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)**:

1. It is a statutory authority.
2. It manages the facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders 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: C**

**Explanation:** India has an over 15000 KM long international land border with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. There are several designated entries and exit points for cross border movement of persons, goods and vehicles.

Statement 1 is correct. LPAI is a statutory body established under **Land Ports Authority of India Act**, 2010. The provisions of the Act came into force in 2012.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 11 of the Act gives powers to LPAI to develop, sanitize and manage the facilities for **cross-border movement of passengers and goods** at designated points along the international borders of India.

LPAI endeavors to provide safe, secure and systematic facilities for movement of cargo as well passengers at its Integrated Check Posts. It recently celebrated its 9th Foundation Day.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **“Waste to Wealth” Mission**:

1. The mission is being implemented under the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
2. It aims to identify, develop and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials, and extract resources of value.
3. ‘Swachhta Saarthi’ is a Fellowship under the mission to recognize people engaged in tackling waste management, scientifically and sustainably.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Waste to Wealth Mission** is one of the nine national missions of the **Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The ‘Waste to Wealth Mission’ of the PMSTIAC aims to identify, develop and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials, and extract resources of value. The mission will also work to identify and support the development of new technologies that promise to create a clean and green environment.

Statement 3 is correct. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its “Waste to Wealth” Mission recently launched the **“Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship”** to recognize students, community workers/self-help groups, and municipal/sanitary workers who are engaged in tackling the enormous challenge of waste management, scientifically and sustainably.

**Q.8)** What was the mandate of the **Surya Praksh Committee** that have been in news recently?

- a) Merger of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV
- b) Regulation of content on OTT platforms
- c) Review of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act
- d) Framework for certification and censorship of films

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** A committee headed by former **Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash** constituted in November 2019 was mandated “to work out the modalities and prepare the guidelines for pooling resources, manpower and technology for the merger of the two channels”. After nearly two years of work, the merger of the Lok Sabha TV (LSTV) and the Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV) has been finalised and will be replaced by Sansad TV.



**Q.9)** Which of the following were the recommendations of the **Justice JS Verma Committee**?

1. Death penalty for the sexual assault of extreme nature
2. All marriages in India should mandatorily be registered in the presence of a magistrate
3. A separate Bill of Rights for women that entitles a woman a life of dignity and security

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: Justice Verma Committee** was constituted in 2012 to look into possible amendments in criminal laws to provide quicker trials and enhanced punishments for sexual assaults of extreme nature.

-- The panel **did not recommend the death penalty** for rapists. It suggests that the punishment for rape should be rigorous imprisonment for seven years to life. It recommends that punishment for causing death or a "persistent vegetative state" should be RI for a term not be less than 20 years, but may be for life also, which shall mean the rest of the person's life.

-- As a primary recommendation, all marriages in India should mandatorily be registered in the presence of a magistrate. The magistrate will ensure that the marriage has been solemnised without any demand for dowry having been made and that it has taken place with the full and free consent of both partners.

-- A separate Bill of Rights for women that entitles a woman a life of dignity and security and will ensure that a woman shall have the right to have complete sexual autonomy including with respect to her relationships.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **Digital Media Ethics Code Relating to Digital Media and OTT Platforms**:

1. It provides for three-level grievance redressal mechanism at publisher, State and Central Government level.
2. It mandates the content to be self-classified by the publishers into age based categories.

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 Union Government recently published the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** in which Digital Media Ethics Code Relating to Digital Media and OTT Platforms are to Be Administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Statement 1 is incorrect. A three-level grievance redressal mechanism has been established under the rules with different levels of self-regulation.

Level-I: Self-regulation by the publishers;

Level-II: Self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the publishers;

Level-III: Oversight mechanism.

Statement 2 is correct. The OTT platforms, called as the publishers of online curated content in the rules, would self-classify the content into five age based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult).

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme**:

1. It aims to promote India's exports on a sustained basis.
2. Organisations of Central as well as State Governments are eligible for assistance under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme** is an Export Promotion Scheme envisaged to act as a catalyst to promote India's exports on a sustained basis.

Activities eligible for financial assistance under the Scheme: Marketing Projects Abroad, Capacity Building, Support for Statutory Compliances, Studies, Project Development, Developing Foreign Trade Facilitation Web Portal and to support Cottage and handicrafts units. Eligible Agencies: Departments of Central Government and Organisation of Central/State Governments including Indian Missions abroad; Export Promotion Councils; Commodity Boards; Individual Exporters (only for statutory compliance etc.); National Level Institutions etc.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Van Dhan Vikas Scheme**:

1. It seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal forest produce.
2. TRIFED is the nodal agency at the national level for implementation of the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Van Dhan Yojana** or Van Dhan Scheme, a component of the 'The Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' was launched to address the formidable problems that the Tribals face such as possession of land/house with no rights; restrictions in the collection of minor forest produce; exploitation by middlemen; displacement from national parks and wild sanctuaries, lack of development in forest villages etc.

Implemented by TRIFED as the nodal agency at the national level, the Van Dhan startups is a well thought master plan for the socio-economic development of the tribal population of the country.

The idea is to set-up tribal community-owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in predominantly forested tribal districts.

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A Kendra shall constitute of 15 tribal SHGs, each comprising of up to 20 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Van Dhan Kendra.

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Education Policy 2020**:

1. It calls for permitting credits acquired in foreign countries to be counted for the award of a degree.
2. High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other 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:** **National Education Policy 2020** recommendations on internationalization of education:

-- An International Students Office at each HEI hosting foreign students will be set up to coordinate all matters relating to welcoming and supporting students arriving from abroad.

--High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries, and similarly, selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.

--A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India.

--Credits acquired in foreign universities will be permitted, where appropriate as per the requirements of each HEI, to be counted for the award of a degree.

# UGC has placed the draft Regulations on Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Education Institutions to offer Joint Degree, Dual Degree and Twinning Programmes, in the public domain and invited suggestions from all the stakeholders.

**Q.14)** Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **Ease of Living Index 2020**:

1. It has been compiled and released by the UN-Habitat.
2. Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** have released of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020. The framework for these assessments were prepared by MoHUA with the Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner.

The EoLI 2020 strengthens its scope by consolidating the framework with the addition of a Citizen Perception Survey in the index, holding a weightage of 30%.



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Statement 2 is correct. The rankings under Ease of Living Index 2020 were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people. 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted in 2020.

**Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category**, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai. In the Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhuvaneshwar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

**Q.15)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Municipal Performance Index 2020**:

1. It has been released by the NITI Aayog.
  2. Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality in Million+ category.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** announced the release of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 and the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 recently.

The framework for these assessments were prepared by MoHUA with the Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner.

Whereas, the Ease of Living Index measures an outcome of the indicator, Municipal Performance Index focuses on the factors that produce those outcomes. The latter serves in determining elements that prevent efficient local governance in service delivery mechanisms, planning, financial systems, and governance practice.

Statement 2 is correct. The assessment framework under MPI 2020 has classified municipalities based on their population- Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population. **In the Million+ category, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality**, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**:

1. BIS has formulated various Indian Standards comparable with emerging International Standards including the Electric vehicles.
2. Minister for Commerce is the ex-officio president of the Governing Council of the BIS.

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:** **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016 for the harmonious development of the activities of

standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Statement 1 is correct. BIS has already formulated various Indian Standards comparable with the International Standards such as the Electric vehicles, Fuel blends, Smart City Digital Infrastructure, Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Manufacturing, Technical Textiles, Aerial Ropeways, etc.

Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has published standard IS:17017 that covers general requirements and safety norms for Electric vehicles supply equipment.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** is the ex-officio president of the Governing Council of the BIS.

The minister recently presided over the 3rd Governing Council Meeting of the Bureau of Indian Standard.

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

1. The environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India are three pillars of the Accessible India Campaign.
2. Sugamya Bharat crowdsourcing mobile application aims at sensitizing and enhancing accessibility in India by inviting complaints and feedback.

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: Sugamya Bharat APP — a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application** is a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.

The app provides for five main features, 4 of which are directly related to enhancing accessibility, while the fifth is a special feature meant only for Divyangjan for COVID related issues.

The accessibility related features are: the registration of complaints of inaccessibility across the 3 broad pillars of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan; positive feedback of examples and best practices worth emulating being shared by people as jan-bhagidhari; Departmental updates; and guidelines and circulars related to accessibility.

**Q.18)** Which of the following institution is organising the **India Telecom 2021 exhibition?**

- a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- b) Cellular Operators Association of India
- c) India Cellular and Electronics Association
- d) Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation: TEPC (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council)** has organized India Telecom 2021' - an Exclusive International Business Expo being held virtually on March 3 & 4, 2021 under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce and with support of Department of Telecommunications & Ministry of External Affairs.

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The event is being attended by potential buyers from countries across the globe. More than 1,000 delegates, out of which more than 200 are foreign delegates from more than 45 countries, are attending India Telecom 2021. More than 40 Indian telecom companies are showcasing their state-of-the-art products and capabilities at the exhibition which is organized by TEPC as a part of this event.

# TEPC has been set up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Communications to promote and develop of Export of Telecom Equipment and Services.

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Press Council of India**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Press Council of India was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission with the object of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of press in India.

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

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

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

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

Statement 1 is incorrect. Every patient who wishes to have their health records available digitally must start by creating a **Health ID**. Each Health ID will be linked to a health data consent manager (such as NDHM) which will be used to seek the patient's consent and allow for seamless flow of health information from the Personal Health Records module.

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

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

**Q.22)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only



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

**Correct answer: C**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.23)** The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index** is an initiative of which of the following institution?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

**Q.24)** Which of the following is/are the components under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



**Correct answer: C**

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

--Development of **in-village piped water supply infrastructure** to provide tap water connection to every rural household

--Development of reliable drinking water sources and/ or augmentation of existing sources to provide long-term sustainability of water supply system

--Wherever necessary, bulk water transfer, treatment plants and distribution network to cater to every rural household

--Technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue

--Retrofitting of completed and ongoing schemes to provide FHTCs at minimum service level of 55 lpcd;

--**Greywater management**

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

**Q.25)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**:

1. It aims to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year.

2. 122 non-attainment cities have been identified under the initiative for preparing city specific action plans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

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

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

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

**Q.26)** Which of the following is/are the component(s) of the **National Social Assistance Programme?**

1. Annapurna Scheme

2. PM AwasYojana

3. National Family Benefit Scheme

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

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

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

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

**Q.27)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

**Q.28)** Which of the following institution has recently published the report '**Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India**'?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

**Q.29)** Union Government has launched the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme** for which of the following sector(s)?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

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

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

**Q.30)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

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

**Q.31)** Which of the following is/are the feature(s) of the **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

--No licence required for import;

--Manufacturing or service activities allowed;

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

--SEZ units will have freedom for subcontracting;

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

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

**Q.32)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are correctly matched.

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

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

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

**Q.33)** The **AzadiKaAmrutMahotsav** is a series of events to be organised by the Government of India to commemorate which of the following event?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

**Q.34)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' scheme:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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



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

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

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

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

**Q.35)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **One Nation One Ration Card** allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through existing ration card in a seamless manner.

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

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

**Q.36)** 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.37)** 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.

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

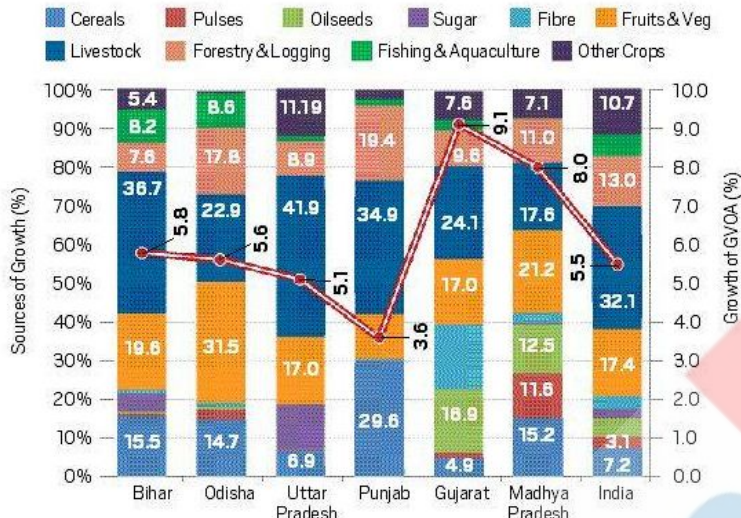
- a) Food & Agriculture Organization
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

**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.

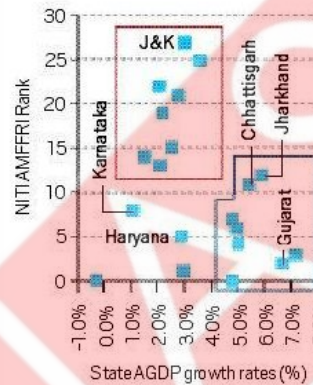
It ranks States and UTs based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act like joining e-NAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis.

**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.39)** 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
- 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.40)** 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.41)** 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?

- 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.42)** 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 **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.43)** Which of the following institution is organizing the **India Chem-2021**?

- a) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- b) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board
- c) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
- d) 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.44)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** scheme:

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

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 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.*

**Q.45)** 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.46)** 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:

-- 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.47)** 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

■ Contribution received by any eligible political party in the form of electoral bonds will be exempt from income tax

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.48)** 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.

--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.49)** 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.50)** 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

**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.51)** 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.52)** 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

**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.53)** 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.54)** 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

**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.55)** 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.56)** 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
- 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.57)** 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.58)** 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
- 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.

**Q.59)** Consider the following statements regarding the ‘**Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain**’ campaign:

- 1. The Campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban area.
- 2. It will be implemented in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only



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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” Campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban areas, with the theme “catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It will be implemented from 22nd March 2021 to 30th November, 2021 - the **pre-monsoon and monsoon period** in the country.

It will be launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at grass-root level through people’s participation. It is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.

After the event, **Gram Sabhas** will be held in all Gram Panchayats of each district (except in the poll bound states) to discuss issues related to water and water conservation. Gram Sabhas will also take ‘Jal Shapath’ for water conservation.

**Q.60)** What is the mandate of the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**?

1. To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
2. To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
3. To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/formulations.

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 **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority** was set up as an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on 29th August 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.

--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.

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

--To render advice to the Central Government on changes/revisions in the drug policy and in the parliamentary matters relating to the drug pricing.

*# NPPA recently fixed the price of 81 medicines including off-patent anti-diabetic drugs allowing due benefits of patent expiry to the patients.*

**Q.61)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Study in India Programme**:

1. It aims to attract international students to higher education institutions in India.
2. Admissions are merit based and only IITs and IIMs are partnered under the programme for student intake.

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. **Study in India is a programme** of the Govt of India that aims to attract international students to higher education institutions in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It caters to NIRF Top 100 institutes in any category except medical institutes, along with a NAAC accreditation of 3.26 or above and those which have been empaneled by UGC, be it government or private. All institutes fulfilling these criteria, partner with Study in India, including Institutes of Eminence and Institutes of National Importance.

Select 117 institutions are partners under the programme that was launched in 2018. Admissions are merit based and done through a common portal.

*# In a review meeting of the Education Ministry's Study in India Programme with partner institutions yesterday, Secretary Higher Education said that the criteria for institutions partnering under the programme will soon be revised so that more institutions that have the necessary infrastructure and academic quality can join the programme.*

**Q.62)** Which of the following are the **Ease of Doing Business reforms** for States to complete to become eligible for enhanced borrowing of 0.25 percent of Gross State Domestic Product?

1. Completion of first assessment of 'District Level Business Reform Action Plan'
2. Implementation of computerized central random inspection system
3. Implementation of the Model Land Leasing Act, 2016.

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:** Improvements in the ease of doing business will enable faster future growth of the state economy. Therefore, the government of India had in May 2020, decided to link grant of additional borrowing permissions to States who undertake the reforms to facilitate ease of doing business. The **reforms stipulated in this category are:**

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

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

--Implementation of computerized central random inspection system under the Acts wherein allocation of inspectors is done centrally

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

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

**Q.63)** Consider the following statements regarding **National Film Awards**:

1. These are administered by the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
2. Gujarat has won the award for being Most Film Friendly State in National Film Awards 2019.

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 **Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF)** was set up under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in 1973 with the objective of promotion of India films and cultural exchange. DFF organizes and implements the various events and programmes to promote Indian cinema including the National Film Awards and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The 67th National Film Awards winners for the year 2019 have been announced recently. **Sikkim** has bagged the award for being Most Film Friendly State.

**Q.64)** Who among the following have been awarded the **Gandhi Peace Prize**?

1. Mohammed bin Salman
2. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
3. Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said

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:** **Gandhi Peace Prize Awards** are for Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence was instituted in the year 1995. The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation. The Award may be divided between two persons / institutions who are considered by the Jury to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year.

The **Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; while for the year 2019 it is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman** in recognition of his vision to strengthen relations with India, and his efforts to promote peace and non-violence in the Gulf region.

**Q.65)** What is the objective of the recently launched **Operation Thiruvallur**?

- a) Safe disposal of of unexploded ordnance
- b) Bringing back migrants from foreign countries
- c) Mock Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations
- d) None of the above

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Troops of Southern Command, Pune have launched “**Operation Thiruvallur**” under the aegis of “Aid to Civil Authorities”, involving the safe disposal of nearly 10 tonnes of **unexploded ordnance** which had possibly been collected inadvertently by some factories over a number of years located in the general area of SIPCOT Industrial Estate in Gummidipoondi in Thiruvallur district of TamilNadu.

The operation involves segregation & disposal of unexploded ordnance from a metal scrap dump, now covered with undergrowth. The dump had been unattended after a violent blast & consequent death of a factory worker a few years back.

**Q.66)** Consider the following statements:

1. The India Medical Association (IMA) is a private organisation of registered medical practitioners.
2. The National Medical Commission (NMC) is the statutory body to regulate medical education in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **India Medical Association (IMA)** is a private organisation of registered medical practitioners and is not authorised to conduct inspection of medical colleges.

The statutory body constituted under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 to regulate medical education in the country was Medical Council of India (MCI) that has now been replaced with the National Medical Commission, constituted with effect from 25th September, 2020.

The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has been constituted by an act of Parliament known as National Medical Commission Act, 2019. The Aim of the National Medical Commission are to:

- improve access to quality and affordable medical education
- ensure availability of adequate and high-quality medical professionals in all parts of the country;
- encourages medical professionals to adopt latest medical research in their work and to contribute to research;
- objectively assess medical institutions periodically in a transparent manner and enforce high ethical standards in all aspects of medical services.

**Q.67)** Consider the following statements regarding the proposed scheme of ‘**Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly**’:

1. It aims to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition.
2. The Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities are the implementing agencies of the Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only



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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** According to the 'Report of Government of India's Technical Group on Population Projection for India and States' by the year 2036, population of senior citizens would be 22.74 crore (14.9%).

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims to launch a Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly**, to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition, by focusing on procuring locally available healthy food material and serving hot-cooked mid-day meals.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities** are the implementing agencies of the Scheme. The funding for the Scheme is from the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund.

**Q.68)** Which of the following is/are objectives of the **National Biopharma Mission**?

1. Development of products that are at advanced stages in the product development lifecycle and relevant to the public health.
2. Developing human capital by providing specific training to address the critical skills gaps in nascent biotech companies.
3. Enhancing technology transfer and intellectual property management capabilities in private sector.

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:** **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, has initiated the Cabinet approved National Biopharma Mission entitled: "**Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission** for Accelerating Discovery Research to Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals – Innovate in India Empowering biotech entrepreneurs & accelerating inclusive innovation".

The approved objectives of the Mission are:

- Development of products from leads that are at advanced stages in the product development lifecycle and relevant to the public health.
- Strengthening and establishing shared infrastructure facilities for both product discovery validation and manufacturing
- Developing human capital by providing specific training to address the critical skills gaps in researchers, nascent biotech companies across the product development value chain, including in business plan development and market penetration.
- Creating and enhancing technology transfer and intellectual property management capacities and capabilities in public and private sector.

**Q.69)** Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG) is an Empowered Group of Ministers (eGoM) for monitoring virus mutations in India.
2. A double mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2 have been identified by INSACOG in 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. The **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG)** is a grouping of 10 National Laboratories that was established by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India in December 2020. INSACOG is since then carrying out genomic sequencing and analysis of circulating COVID-19 viruses, and correlating epidemiological trends with genomic variants.

Statement 2 is correct. A **novel variant of the Sars-Cov-2 with double mutation** has been detected in India. The variant carries mutations that include those denoted by the letters E484Q and L452R, which have separately been linked to characteristics that make the virus spread more readily and defeat, to some extent, immunity from a vaccine or past infection.

**Q.70)** Consider the following statements regarding the **CBSE Competency Based Education Project**:

1. It aims to replace the existing rote learning model with a competency-based framework as directed in the National Education Policy 2020.
2. The Assessment Framework for Science, Maths and English has been developed 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. **CBSE Competency Based Education Project** that aims to replace the existing rote learning model with a competency-based framework as directed in the NEP 2020 over the next 2-3 years.

The NEP 2020 calls for a 'shift from [an assessment system] that is summative and primarily tests rote memorisation skills to one that is more regular and formative, is more competency-based, promotes learning development for our students, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking and conceptual clarity' and 'encouraging and helping school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skills requirements of the 21st century.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **CBSE Assessment Framework for Science, Maths and English** classes as part of CBSE Competency Based Education Project has been launched recently. It is to strengthen India's existing school education system for secondary level (classes 6-10) and improve the overall learning outcomes of students across India, mainly covering three subjects: English (reading), Science, and Maths.

**British Council along with AlphaPlus** as the UK knowledge partner, designed and developed this framework after extensive research and analysis of the current learning and assessment model in Indian schools.

**Q.71)** Consider the following Statements:

1. For ensuring availability of quality products to consumers, Quality Control Orders are issued by various Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
2. Bureau of Indian Standards grants license to manufacturers to use the Standard mark on the product conforming to the relevant Indian Standards.

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. **Quality Control Orders (QCOs):** For ensuring availability of quality products to consumers, Quality Control Orders (QCOs) are issued by various Ministries/Departments of Government of India in exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 stipulating conformity of the products to Indian Standards.

Statement 2 is correct. **Standard mark (ISI mark):** BIS grants license to manufacturers to use the Standard mark (ISI mark) on the product conforming to the relevant Indian Standards.

**Q.72)** Consider the following statements:

1. The National Investigation Agency has the mandate to investigate human trafficking cases, including those having international ramifications.
2. Emergency Response Support System provides a pan-India, single internationally recognized number (112) system for all emergencies.
3. Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC) facilitates dissemination of information about significant crimes on real time basis and enables inter-State coordination.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Government of India amended the **National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 in 2019** to inter-alia include Section 370 and 370A (relate to trafficking) of the Indian Penal Code in the Schedule of the Act. The NIA has been given the mandate to investigate cases of human trafficking, including those having inter-state, national and international ramifications.

Statement 2 is correct. **Emergency Response Support System** provides a pan-India, single internationally recognized number (112) system for all emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.

Statement 3 is correct. A national level communication platform - **Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC)** was launched by MHA in 2020 to facilitates dissemination of information about significant crimes, including human trafficking cases, across the country on real time basis and enables inter-State coordination.

**Q.73)** Consider the following statements:

1. DigitalSky is a Ministry of Civil Aviation initiative for enabling flights permission digitally and managing Unmanned Aircraft operations and traffic efficiently.
2. 'No Permission – No Take-off' is a software program that enables Unmanned Aircrafts to obtain a valid permission through DigitalSky platform before operating 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: C**

**Explanation:** DigitalSky is a Ministry of Civil Aviation initiative, a highly secure and scalable platform which supports technology framework such as NPNT (No permission no take-off) designed for enabling flights permission digitally and managing Unmanned Aircraft operations and traffic efficiently.

**Every UAS / RPAS sold in India** under the regulations published by DGCA for UAS / RPAS, must have a secure mechanism built on to the equipment to self-authenticate its permission to take-off. It is made possible through a digitally signed document called a Permission Artefact (machine-readable) which when read by the equipment establishes its authenticity and permission to fly.

This technology framework is referred to as **NPNT (No Permission No Take-off)**. NPNT or 'No Permission – No Take-off' is a software program that enables every RPA (except Nano) to obtain a valid permission through DigitalSky platform before operating in India.

**Q.74)** Consider the following statements:

1. Regulation and control of manufacture, supply and distribution is listed under the Union List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.
2. India is the largest producer of Salt 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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Salt is a Central Subject** in the Constitution of India and appears as Item No. 58 in the Union List of the 7th Schedule, which reads:

--Manufacture, supply and Distribution of Salt by Union Agencies and Regulation and control of manufacture, supply and distribution of salt by other agencies.

The Central Government is responsible for controlling and regulating all aspects of Salt Industry. The **Salt Commissioners's Organization** under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion), Government of India has been entrusted with the task of Manufacture, Supply and Distribution of Salt by Union Agencies and by other Agencies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India is the **third largest Salt producing Country** in the World after China and USA. The Salt production has reached 30 million Tonnes (from less than 2 million



Tonnes in pre-independence era), meeting all human and industrial requirements and then exporting surplus to the tune of 5 million Tonnes to foreign countries worldwide.

**Q.75)** Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Electoral Bonds Scheme**?

1. The electoral bonds can only be purchased by a Person, who is a Citizen of India or Incorporated or Established in India.
2. There are no Know-Your-Customer (KYC) norms for purchase of Electoral Bonds.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Electoral Bonds under this Scheme may be purchased by a Person, who is a **Citizen of India or Incorporated or Established in India**. The definition of “Person” includes- an Individual; a Hindu Undivided Family; a Company; an Association of Persons or a Body of Individuals, whether incorporated or not.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The extant instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India regarding **Know Your Customer norms of a Bank’s customer are applicable for all Applicants** of the Electoral Bonds.

<b>Bond matters</b> Some charges against electoral bonds and the SC's response	
<b>Anonymity of buyers</b>	The scheme provides anonymity, but ensures that everything happens only through banking channels
<b>Corporate houses can finance political parties</b>	Anyone buying bonds will have to fulfil KYC norms. The money spent will reflect in the expense sheets of a company
<b>Foreign corporate houses can buy bonds and influence electoral politics</b>	Bonds can be purchased only by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India
<b>Bonds bought with white money can be re-purchased with black money</b>	Bonds are not tradeable

# The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the sale of electoral bonds.

**Q.76)** Which of the following is/are objective(s) under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**?

1. Achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year.
2. To achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

# A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed recently by representatives of State Pollution Control Boards, Urban Local Bodies and Institutes of Repute for 132 identified cities for implementation of city specific action plans under NCAP.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India has so far **not declared its emissions peaking year** nor has it declared the target year for net-zero emissions.

# The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) released a report 'Peaking And Net-Zero For India's Energy Sector CO2 Emissions: An Analytical Exposition' stating that earliest scenario would see India's emissions peaking in 2030 and reaching net zero in 2050.

**Q.77)** Which of the following State(s) have withdrawn **General Consent granted to Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI)**?

- 1. Mizoram
- 2. Madhya Pradesh
- 3. Jharkhand

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:** Investigation can be initiated by CBI into FIRs registered/filed with local Police with the **consent of the State Government** concerned and after due notification by the Central Government extending powers and jurisdiction of the officers of CBI to areas in the State concerned. Further, Investigation may be initiated by CBI on the specific directions of a Constitutional Court.

The following States have withdrawn General Consent under section 6 of **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE Act), 1946**, previously granted to DSPE (CBI):

Mizoram (2015), West Bengal (2018), Chhattisgarh (2019), Rajasthan (2020), Maharashtra (2020), Kerala (2020), Jharkhand (2020), Punjab (2020).

**Q.78)** What is the objective of recently launched **SAAMAR campaign of Jharkhand**?

- a) To tackle malnutrition in the state
- b) Social security benefits for labors employed in mining sector
- c) Promotion of local arts and crafts
- d) Conservation of water resources

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Jharkhand government recently announced the launch of **SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction) campaign** to tackle malnutrition in the state.

The campaign aims to identify anemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem.

It has been launched with a 1000 days target. Under this annual survey will be conducted to track the progress.

Every Anganwadi Centres will be engaged to identify malnourished children. Subsequently, they will be treated at the Malnutrition Treatment Centres.

**Q.79)** The Ministry of Defence (MoD) recently signed a contract for purchase **Light Specialist Vehicles** to the Indian Army with which of the following organisation/company?

- a) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- b) Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd
- c) Bharat Forge
- d) Reliance Defence

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd (MDSL)** for supply of 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles to the Indian Army, at a cost of Rs 1,056 crore, on March 22, 2021. The induction of vehicles is planned to be completed in four years.

The **Light Specialist Vehicle** is a modern fighting vehicle and will be authorised to various fighting units for carriage of Medium Machine Guns, Automatic Grenade Launchers as well as Anti-tank Guided Missiles.

The Light Specialist Vehicle is indigenously designed and developed by MDSL. These combat vehicles are extremely agile with all round protection against small arms fire and will assist small independent detachments which are required to operate this weapon platform in the operational area.

*# The defence ministry placed an emergency order for Kalyani M4 armoured vehicles earlier this year. The M4 is built in partnership with a South African defence equipment manufacturer – Paramount Group.*

**Q.80)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Safe City Projects**:

- 1. These have been sanctioned under the Nirbhaya Fund scheme.
  - 2. These projects involve identification of hot spots for crimes against 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: C**

**Explanation:** **Safe City Projects** have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the **Nirbhaya Fund scheme** in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow & Mumbai).

These projects involve identification of hot spots for crimes against women and deployment of various components including infrastructure, technology adoption, and capacity building in

community through awareness programmes. The project implementation is regularly reviewed by the State Level Apex Committee.

**Q.81)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**Buldhana Pattern**' for Water Conservation:

1. It eliminates the need of desiltation/ deepening of water bodies.
  2. The pattern envisages convergence of infrastructure creation with water conservation works.
- 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:** **Buldhana pattern** relates to synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation. (Statement 2 is correct)

NITI Aayog has prepared draft guidelines for convergence of the activities of **(i) sourcing earth for improvement/construction of national highways, state roads and railways and (ii) water conservation works through desiltation/ deepening of water bodies** (Statement 1 is incorrect). This two-fold activity has already been successfully implemented as a pilot project in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra state. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India has also issued a letter to all States/UTs and project/construction agencies in 2017 conveying that contractors/construction agencies responsible for construction of National Highways should excavate the earth as per their project requirements from such identified water bodies/areas at no cost to the village panchayats/ rural development departments/water conservation departments and transport the same to their project sites.



**ART/CULTURE/HISTORY**

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

1. Nirmal toys - Telangana
2. Channapatna toys - Karnataka
3. Kondapalli toys - 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: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. **Nirmal toys** are world famous traditional wooden toys that are exclusively made in the town of Nirmal in **Adilabad district of Telangana**. Nirmal Art is 400-year-old rich tradition that encompasses soft wood toys and attractive paintings as well as furniture.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Channapatna in Karnataka** is known as the 'Land of Toys'. This 200-year-old art form, has a GI tag and are made from wood and natural colors.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Kondapalli toys are made in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh**. These toys are made of soft wood called Tella Poniki that's procured from the adjacent hills of Kondapally.

*# India's first Toy Fair is being held virtually from February 27 to March 2, 2021.*

**Q.2)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Basilica of Bom Jesus - Kerala
2. Vivekananda Rock Memorial - Tamil Nadu
3. Jamali Kamali - Delhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Basilica of Bom Jesus (Goa)** is a UNESCO World Heritage Monument. Renowned throughout the Catholic world, the 16th century cathedral is India's first Minor Basilica, and is considered as one of the best examples of baroque architecture in India.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** is a popular tourist monument in **Kanyakumari**. It was constructed by Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee to commemorate his visit to Sripada Parai in 1892. The construction of this monument spanned over six years and was finally inaugurated on 2nd September 1970 by the then President of India V.V. Giri.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Jamali Kamali Mosque and Tomb**, located in the Archaeological Village complex in Mehrauli, **Delhi** comprise two monuments adjacent to each other; one is the mosque and the other is the tomb of Jamali and Kamali.

# The centuries-old St. George's Orthodox Church at Cheppad is now set to become a Centrally-protected monument of national importance with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recognition.

**Q.3)** Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding the **Wood's Dispatch of 1854**?

1. It recommended for the creation of Department of Education in provinces.
2. It rejected the suggestion of imparting education in Indian Languages.
3. It supported women education.

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:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Wood's Despatch** recommended for the first time, the creation of Department of Education in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Punjab and the North Western Provinces.

Statement 2 is incorrect. - The Wood's Despatch gave importance to teaching of English, but at the same time, it also stressed on the teaching of **Indian languages**. The Despatch realised that any acquaintance of European knowledge could be communicated to the common people and that could be conveyed to them only through learning their own mother tongue.

Vernacular languages was to be promoted at primary level and English was made the medium of instruction for higher studies.

Statement 3 is correct. The Wood's Despatch stated, "The importance of female education in India cannot be over rated; and we have observed with pleasure the evidence which is now afforded of an increased desire on the part of many of the natives of India to give a good education to their daughters."

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Sympathising with the plight of widows in India, Savitribai opened a **shelter for them in 1854**. After years of continuous reform, she paved the way to build a large shelter in 1864 for destitute women, widows and child brides cast aside by their families. She educated them all. She also adopted Yashwantrao, the son of a widow sheltered in this institution.

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

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

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

**Q.5)** Which of the following is/are recognized as the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

**Q.6)** Which of the following place(s) were on the route of the historic **Dandi march of 1930**?

1. Navagam
2. Ankleshwar
3. Kanakpura

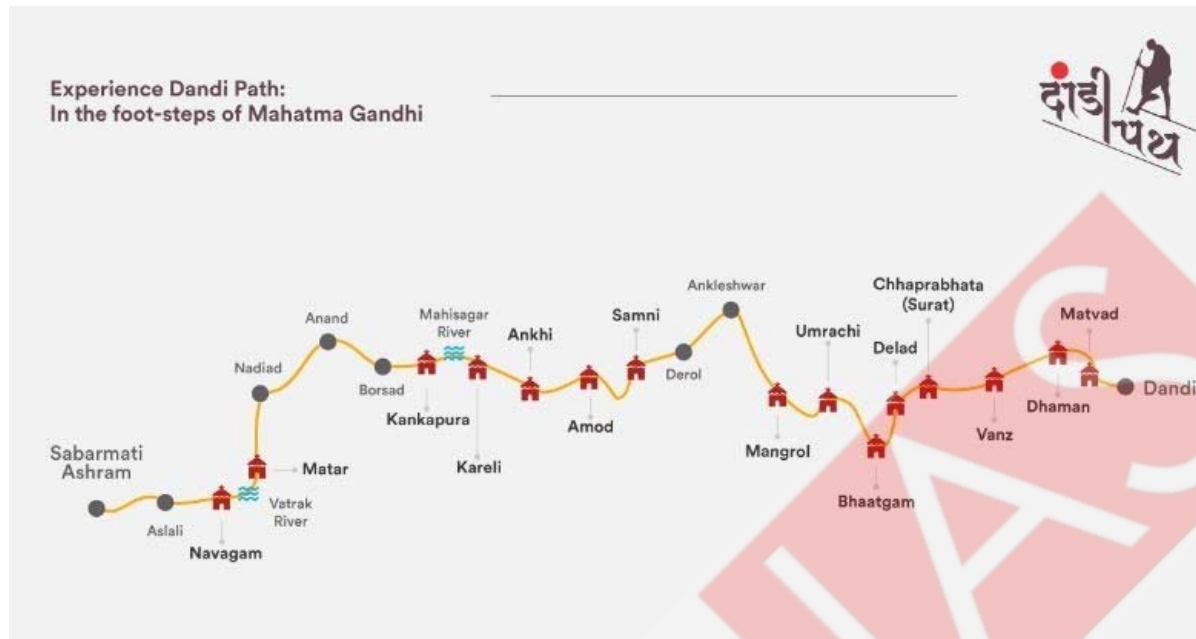
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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



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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

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

**Q.8)** 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.9)** Which of the following ancient **folk culture(s)** is/are correctly matched?

- 1. FaguwaNritya - 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. **FaguwaNritya** 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 FaguwaNritya, TuriNritya, FaguwaNritya, TuriNritya, PaikaNritya, Hodopathy, Tribal dance (KaramNritya).

--Ancient folk cultures being preserved in Bihar are Lok Gatha "ReshmaChuharmal" (Begusarai), Lok Gatha "BihulaBishari" (Purnia), Lok Gatha "Naradi" (Begusarai), BidesiaLokNatya (Bhojpur region), Godana Painting (Madhubani), LokNatya "Hirni-Birni" (Magadh region), Panwaria, Domkach&SoharKhilona 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 KeParamparikNatya (All regions of Bihar State), DrupadDhamar, GodnaGeet, Sikki Kala, Tikuli Art and Madhubani Painting.

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

**Q.10)** 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/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 Amarendra Nath of Archeological Survey of India.

**Q.11)** The **Shigmo Festival** is celebrated in which of the following State?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Odisha
- d) Haryana

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Shigmo** is one of the most celebrated festivals in the Indian state of **Goa**. It is a festival of colors, dance, music, and well-lit colorful float parades. The festival is the celebration of a rich, golden harvest of paddy by the tribal communities of Goa.

There are two variants to Shigmo festival; DhaktoShigmo (small Shigmo) and VhadloShigmo (big Shigmo). The small Shigmo or the DhaktoShigmo is generally celebrated by the farmers, labour class and the rural population; whereas the VhadloShigmo is celebrated on a major scale and everyone takes part in the same.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

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**Q.1)** The **COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program** is an initiative of which of the following institution/organization?

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) New Development Bank
- d) World Bank Group

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES)** program, under the Countercyclical Support Facility COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option (CPRO) of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, provides critically needed support to help the Government of the Philippines mitigate the severe health, social, and economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# *India Mobile App for price monitoring for 22 essential commodities has been launched by Department of Consumer Affairs starts providing effective real time information about retail and whole sale prices from 127 locations across the country. The Department has also proposed to DEA for Technical Assistance Fund under CARES Programme of Asian Development Bank (ADB) for improving price monitoring and analysis.*

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India - Bangladesh Relations**:

- 1. India was the first country to recognize Bangladesh as a separate and independent nation state.
- 2. The Ganges Waters Treaty 1996 was signed by India-Bangladesh to share the dry season flow of the Ganges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **India was the first country** to recognize Bangladesh as a separate and independent state and established diplomatic relations with the country immediately after its independence in December 1971.

Statement 2 is correct. India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers. A bilateral Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) has been functioning since June 1972 to maintain liaison between the two countries to maximize benefits from common river systems. **The Ganges Waters Treaty was signed in 1996 for the sharing of waters of the River Ganges during the lean season (January 1-May 31).**

# *The 19th Home Secretary Level Talks (HSLT) between India and Bangladesh were held recently in the backdrop of 'MujibBarsho' and 50 years of Bangladesh Liberation War and establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.*

**Q.3)** Which of the following countries originally agreed to the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**?

1. China
2. Japan
3. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** is a detailed agreement reached by Iran and the P5+1 (**China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**) on July 14, 2015.

Iran's compliance with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA will be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) according to certain requirements set forth in the agreement. The United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, and subsequently re-imposed all U.S. sanctions on Iran lifted by the accord.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**High-risk and other monitored jurisdictions**' classification by **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**:

1. 'High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action' are working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering.
2. 'Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring' are with serious strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation.

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:** The criteria is interchanged in the statements.

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** identifies jurisdictions with weak measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT) in two FATF public documents that are issued three times a year.

The statement "**High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action**" often referred to as the "black list", identifies countries or jurisdictions with serious strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation.

The statement "**Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring**" often referred to as the 'grey list' identifies countries that are actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**:

1. The principle of GSP was agreed at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).



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2. It is a reciprocal facility of preferential trading between developing countries and developed 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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**, instituted in 1971 under the aegis of UNCTAD, has contributed over the years to creating an enabling trading environment for developing countries.

The following 13 countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a facility granted to developing countries ("beneficiary countries") by certain developed countries ("donor countries"). **It is not negotiated with them: the preferential treatment is non-reciprocal.**

**Q.6)** Recently **Sri Lanka** has decided to develop which of the following port facility with **Japan & India**?

- a) West Container Terminal at the Colombo Port
- b) East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port
- c) Hambantota Port Facility
- d) East Container Terminal (ECT) at Port of Galle

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Sri Lanka government has said that it will develop the **West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Colombo Port**, along with India and Japan. High Commission of India had "approved" Adani Ports, which was to invest in the ECT project earlier, Japan is yet to name an investor.

Recently Sri Lanka had opted out of the 2019 tripartite agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT), citing resistance to "foreign involvement".

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**:

- 1. UNMOGIP was mandated to supervise the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC).
- 2. It is party to the Shimla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan.

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:** In January 1948, the Security Council adopted resolution 39, establishing the **United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP)** to investigate and mediate the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

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Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Karachi Agreement on 27 July 1949** established a ceasefire line (**not LoC**) to be supervised by UN military observers. On 30 March 1951, following the termination of UNCIP, the Security Council, by its resolution 91 decided that UNMOGIP should continue to supervise the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir.

In July 1972, India and Pakistan signed an agreement defining a Line of Control in Kashmir which, with minor deviations, followed the same course as the ceasefire line established by the Karachi Agreement in 1949. India took the position that the mandate of UNMOGIP had lapsed, since it related specifically to the ceasefire line under the Karachi Agreement.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **UNMOGIP is not party to the Simla Agreement of 1972** and India has since adopted a non-recognition policy towards third parties in their bilateral exchanges with Pakistan over the question regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Better Than Cash Alliance**:

1. It is hosted by the World Bank.
2. India is a member of the alliance.
3. It works towards accelerating the transition from cash to responsible digital payments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. It is based at United Nations and the **United Nations Capital Development Fund serves as the secretariat**.

Statement 2 is correct. India became a member of the Better Than Cash Alliance in 2015 to digitize payments to achieve financial inclusion and to share success stories from Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the world's largest financial inclusion program.

Statement 3 is correct. The Better Than Cash Alliance is a partnership of governments, companies, and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to responsible digital payments to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

*# The Government of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and UN-based Better Than Cash Alliance today hosted Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat with special focus on Himalayan Regions, North East Regions and Aspirational Districts of India.*

**Q.9)** Which of the following country is hosting the **Exercise Desert Flag**?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Ex Desert Flag is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the **United Arab Emirates Air Force**.

The Indian Air Force is participating for the first time in Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with air forces of United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea

and Bahrain. The exercise is scheduled from 03 Mar 21 to 27 Mar 21 at Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **World Customs Organization (WCO)**:

1. It is a United Nations specialized agency for maintaining efficiency of Customs administrations across the world.
2. It has recognized Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL), New Delhi as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) for Asia-Pacific Region.

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 **World Customs Organization (WCO)**, established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an **independent intergovernmental body** whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations. Statement 2 is correct. **Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL)**, New Delhi, under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, was today recognized as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for Asia-Pacific Region. With its recognition as RCL, CRCL joins a select group of Customs Laboratories in the region like those in Japan & Korea.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**:

1. It provides for international arbitrations involving various combinations of states, international organizations and private parties.
2. India is a member of the PCA.
3. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

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 **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** provides administrative support in international arbitrations involving various combinations of states, state entities, international organizations and private parties.

Statement 2 is correct. The PCA is an intergovernmental organization with 122 contracting parties. **India became a member of the PCA in 1950.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations.

The PCA was established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference.

**Q.12)** Which of the following country have signed an agreement with India to conduct **Marine Spatial Planning** in Lakshadweep and Puducherry?

- a) United States of America
- b) Sweden
- c) Finland
- d) Norway

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** India and Norway recently agreed to conduct marine spatial planning in Lakshadweep and Puducherry. This is a part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries in 2019. Lakshadweep and Puducherry have been identified as pilot sites for the project.

The two countries have decided to extend support for sustainable ocean resources utilisation to advance economic and social development in coastal areas. The initiative known as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) for India.

Notably, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have expressed interest in supporting MoES in conducting MSP, a societal-beneficial initiative for India's coastal regions.

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements regarding the **UN World Wildlife Day**:

- 1. It commemorates the day on which Kyoto Protocol was adopted.
- 2. The 2021 World Wildlife Day theme is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

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. On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March – the **day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973** – as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

The UNGA resolution also designated the CITES Secretariat as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the UN calendar.

Statement 2 is correct. **World Wildlife Day** was celebrated in 2021 under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally.

**Q.14)** Which of the following institution have published the **Freedom in the World 2021** report?

- a) Transparency International
- b) Freedom House
- c) Reporters Without Borders



d) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Freedom in the World report of Freedom House** is composed of numerical ratings and supporting descriptive texts for 195 countries and 15 territories.

For each country and territory, Freedom in the World analyzes the electoral process, political pluralism and participation, the functioning of the government, freedom of expression and of belief, associational and organizational rights, the rule of law, and personal autonomy and individual rights.

India's score in the 2021 report is 67/100 with Political Rights 34/40 and Civil Liberties 33/60.

**Q.15)** The **Quacquarelli Symonds Ranking** relates to which of the following field?

- a) Educational Institutions
- b) Medicinal Facilities
- c) Carbon Footprint of a country
- d) Freedom of Speech

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** is a British company specialising in the analysis of higher education institutions around the world. QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by it.

The recently released **QS World University Rankings by subject** calculate performance based on four parameters — academic reputation, employer reputation, research impact (citations per paper) and the productivity of an institution's research faculty.

MIT, USA has retained its top position. Three Indian Institutes of Technology have entered the prestigious group of the top 100 engineering institutes with IIT-Bombay grabbing the best-ever 49th position in the engineering and technology category followed by IIT Delhi (54) and IIT Madras (94). MIT, USA has retained its top position.

In the life sciences and medicine category, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) bagged 248th spot. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has been ranked 159th for arts and humanities, followed by the University of Delhi (252).

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements

- 1. United Arab Emirates Air Force hosts this exercise.
  - 2. 10 countries from all over the world will participate in this exercise
  - 3. India will participate in this exercise for the first time.
- Which one of the following exercises is described in the statements above?

- a) Al Nagah
- b) Tiger Triumph
- c) Khanjar
- d) Desert Flag

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation: Exercise Desert Flag** is an annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise. United Arab Emirates Air Force hosts this exercise.

**Participating Countries:** Ten countries including India, the United Arab Emirates, the USA, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Bahrain are participating in the exercise.

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This is the **first time India will participate** in Exercise Desert Flag. Further, It is also the first time India is taking part in a multinational air combat exercise in the strategically located Persian Gulf region.

Read more - [IAF will participate in Multinational "Exercise Desert Flag" | ForumIAS Blog](#)

**Q.17)** Which of the following institution organizes the **Asia Economic Dialogue**?

- a) Ministry of External Affairs, India
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) New Development Bank
- d) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Korea

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)** jointly convened by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and **Pune International Centre (PIC)**, is the flagship geoeconomics conference of the MEA.

The fifth edition of the AED, and the second one organised by PIC was held from Friday, 26th February to Sunday, 28th February 2021. The theme for this year's conference was "Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics".

The dialogue focuses on the pandemic's impact on trade and finance, on the world, and on Asia in particular. It also discusses strategies to deal with this impact.

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Generation Equality campaign of UN Women** demands equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and girls, health-care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and decision-making in all areas of life.

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

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

**Q.20)** Which of the following organization has published the **Food Waste Index 2021**?

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

**Correct answer: C**

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

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

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Quad group** of countries:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **India and Japan** signed logistics support agreement is known as Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) in 2020.

**India and Australia** in 2020 signed a historic agreement, called 'Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA)'.

Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was the first 'foundational agreement' signed by **India and the US** in 2016.

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

**Q.22)** The study '**Enabling the Business of Agriculture**' has been published by which of the following organisation?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

Statement 3 is correct. India and Japan recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Government of India and Government of Japan on a **Basic Framework for**



**Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to "Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)".**

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

**Q.24)** Recently, Indian Council of Agricultural Research won the **King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award**, it is conferred by which of the following institution?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, has been recently conferred with the prestigious International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, Rome, for its commitment to raising awareness of the importance of healthy soils.

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

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

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

**Q.25)** The **DUSTLIK** is a military exercise of India with which of the following country?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

**Q.26)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. India's Prime Minister participated, along with Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison and Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga and President of U.S.A. Joseph R. Biden, in the **first Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework**, held virtually on 12th March 2021.

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

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

**Q.27)** Which of the following country(s) were part of the **Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF)**?

- 1. India
- 2. China
- 3. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

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

**Q.28)** Consider the following statements regarding the **"The Spirit of the Quad"** released at First Quad Leaders' Virtual Summit:

- 1. The Quad countries have professed a shared vision for the free and open Indo-Pacific.
- 2. It has called for results-oriented reforms at the World Health Organization.

3. The Foreign Ministers of the group will meet at least once a year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

**The Quad Leaders' Joint Statement: "The Spirit of the Quad"** was released following the summit:

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

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

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

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

**Q.29)** Which of the following institution is organising the **Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) 2021**?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

**Q.30)** Which of the following organization has recently published the **World Report on Hearing**?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

**Q.31)** Consider the following statements regarding **BRICS 2021**:

- 1. India has assumed the Chairmanship of BRICS for 2021 and will be hosting this year's summit.
  - 2. This year's BRICS Summit is 'Global Stability, Shared Security, and Innovative Growth'.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **India has assumed the Chairmanship of BRICS for 2021** and will be hosting this year's summit.

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

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

**Q.32)** 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.33)** 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.34)** Consider the following statements regarding the **SIPRI Arms Transfers Database 2021**:

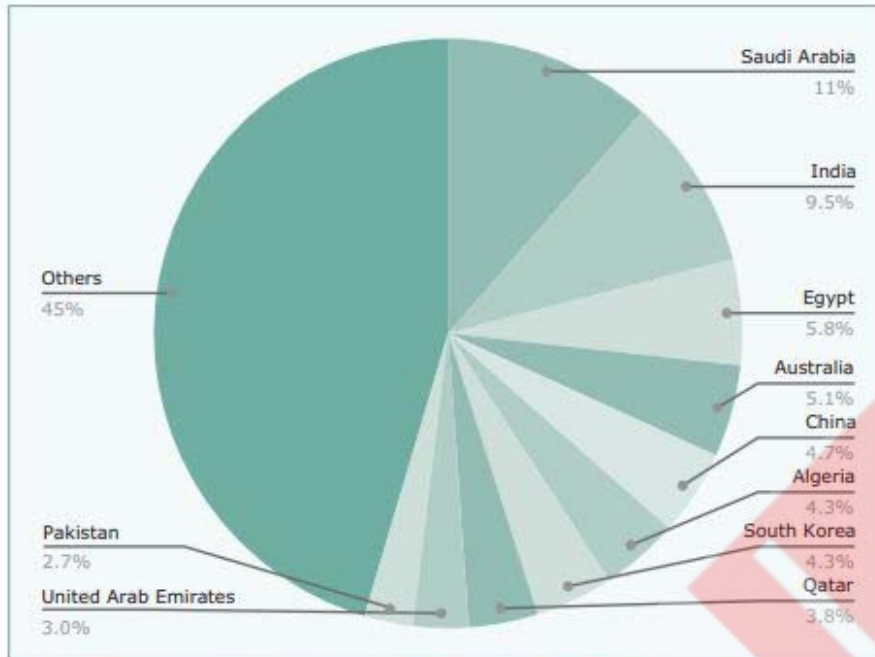
1. India is the largest arms importer country between 2016–20.
2. Arms imports by India decreased by one-third between 2011–15 and 2016–20.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- 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.35)** 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

**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.36)** 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.37)** 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

**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.38)** 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.39)** 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**

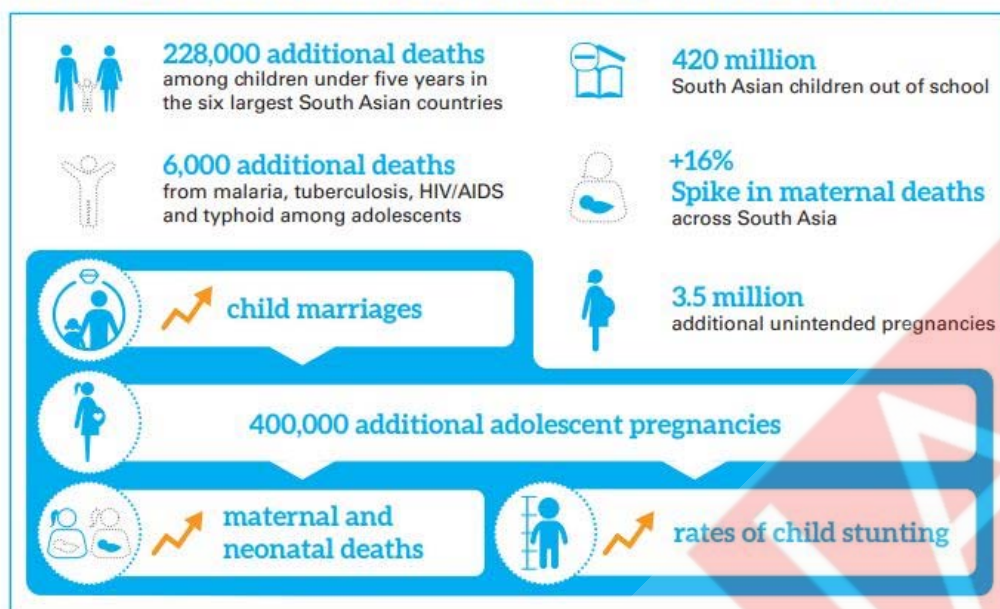
**Explanation:** The report 'Direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and response in South Asia' has been commissioned by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (**UNICEF**) and supported by the **World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**.

-- 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.40)** 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.

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.41)** 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.42)** 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 PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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.

**Q.43)** Consider the following statements:

1. Indo-Nepal border is open border with visa free regime.
2. Indo-Myanmar border is an open border with free movement regime (FMR) within 200 kms on both sides of the border.

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. **Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan** borders are open borders with visa free regime.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India and Myanmar** have an arrangement called Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows locals on both sides to go upto **16 km across the other side** and stay up to 14 days.

# *India sealed all entry points along the border with following the February 1 coup when the Myanmar military overthrew the democratically elected government.*

**Q.44)** The **PovcalNet database** is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) United Nations Population Fund
- d) World Food Programme

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **PovcalNet** was developed by staff of the World Bank's Development Research Group to allow users to replicate the calculations made by the **World Bank's** researchers.

PovcalNet also allows you to calculate the poverty measures under different assumptions and to assemble the estimates using alternative economy groupings or for any set of individual economies of the user's choosing.

# *A new study by the Pew Research Center based on an analysis of the World Bank's PovcalNet database estimates that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionately deleterious impact on living standards in India and China in 2020, with the sharp economic contraction in the former pushing as many as 7.5 crore people into the ranks of the poor.*

**Q.45)** Consider the following statements:

- 1. The UN General Assembly proclaimed the 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development".
- 2. The theme of World Water Day 2021 is 'Valuing Water'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. In order to accelerate initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges related to water resources, the General Assembly proclaimed the **2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development"**.

Statement 2 is correct. World Water Day, held on **22 March** every year since 1993, focuses on the importance of freshwater. The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.

The theme of World Water Day 2021 is **valuing water**.

**Q.46)** What is the **Kafala system**?

- a) A framework defining the relationship between migrant workers and their employers
- b) A system of granting citizenship to refugees
- c) An agricultural system exclusive to middle east countries

d) An intergovernmental extradition arrangement

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **kafala, or sponsorship, system** defines the relationship between foreign workers and their local sponsor, or kafeel, which is usually their employer. It is found in the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** countries—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates—as well as Jordan and Lebanon.

Under this system, the state gives local individuals or companies sponsorship permits to employ foreign laborers. It was created to supply cheap, plentiful labor in an era of booming economic growth, and its defenders argue that it benefits local businesses and helps drive development.

The system has become increasingly controversial, and there is growing recognition that it is rife with exploitation. The lack of regulations and protections for migrant workers' rights often results in low wages, poor working conditions, and employee abuse.

**Q.47)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Indus Waters Treaty**:

1. It was signed after the Simla Agreement on Bilateral Relations between India and Pakistan, 1972.
2. Under the treaty the waters of Sutlej, Ravi and Beas were allocated to India for use.

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 **Indus Waters Treaty** was signed between India and Pakistan in September 1960 in Karachi by the then Indian Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** and Pakistan President **Ayub Khan**.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the three eastern rivers- Sutlej, Ravi and Beas, averaging around 33 million acre-feet (MAF), were allocated to India for exclusive use.

The waters of the **western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab** - averaging to around 135 MAF, were allocated to Pakistan except for 'specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India'.

**Q.48)** The **World Water Development Report (WWDR)** is a flagship report of which of the following institution?

- a) World Health Organization
- b) UN-Water
- c) Global Water Challenge
- d) Stockholm International Water Institute

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR)** is UN-Water's **flagship report** on water and sanitation issues, focusing on a different theme each year. Launched in conjunction with World Water Day, the report is published by UNESCO, on behalf



of UN-Water and its production is coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme.

The 2021 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR 2021) entitled 'Valuing Water' has been released recently.

**Q.49)** Which of the following agreements have been signed between **India and USA**?

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
2. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement
3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement

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 three agreements — **Logistics Support Agreement (LSA)**, **Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)** and **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)** are referred to as the foundational agreements which the U.S. signs with countries with which it has close military ties.

-- **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**, is a tweaked India-specific version of the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA) and gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refuelling and replenishment. It was signed in 2016.

-- **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** is an India-specific version of the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) that allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. It was signed in 2018.

-- **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** signed in 2020 will help India get real-time access to American geospatial intelligence that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. Through the sharing of information on maps and satellite images, it will help India access topographical and aeronautical data, and advanced products that will aid in navigation and targeting.

**Q.50)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Indus Commission**:

1. It has members from India, China and Pakistan.
2. It is mandated to meet regularly at least once a year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the **Indus Water Treaty**, India and Pakistan shall each create a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters, and shall appoint to

this post, as often as a vacancy occurs, a person who should ordinarily be a high-ranking engineer competent in the field of hydrology and water-use.

The two Commissioners shall together form the Permanent Indus Commission.

Statement 2 is correct. The treaty mandates that the Commission shall **meet regularly at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan**. The Commission shall also meet when requested by either Commissioner.

The meeting was last held in Lahore, Pakistan, in August 2018. Since then, relations between the two neighbours have witnessed a series of setbacks — Pulwama attack (February 14, 2019), Balakot air strike (February 26, 2019) and the abrogation of the special status to J&K.

The Commission recently met in New Delhi to resolve a host of outstanding issues under the Indus Waters Treaty, including Pakistan's objections to the design of Indian hydropower projects on the Chenab river.

**Q.51)** Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**:

1. The Council is made of all the Member States of the United Nations.
2. The Universal Periodic Review under the auspices of the UNHRC is a State-driven process to review of the human rights records of all UN Member States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Human Rights Council** is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Council is made of **47 Member States**, which are **elected by the majority of members of the General Assembly** of the United Nations through direct and secret ballot.

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

**Q.52)** Which of the following intellectual property(s) is/are covered under the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**?

1. Geographical indications
2. Industrial designs
3. Integrated circuit layout-designs

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 **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** is the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property (IP). It plays a central role in facilitating trade in knowledge and creativity, in resolving trade disputes over IP, and in assuring WTO members the latitude to achieve their domestic policy objectives.

The TRIPS Agreement sets minimum standards of protection for copyrights and related rights, trademarks, geographical indications (GIs), industrial designs, patents, integrated circuit layout designs, and undisclosed information.

The **TRIPS Council** monitors implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, provides a forum in which WTO Members can consult on intellectual property matters, and carries out the specific responsibilities assigned to the Council in the TRIPS Agreement.

*# India and South Africa have submitted a proposal for waiver from certain provisions of the Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement for the prevention, treatment and containment of COVID-19, to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) TRIPS Council.*

**Q.53)** Consider the following statements:

1. India shares its longest land border with Bangladesh.
2. Feni Bridge connects India to Bangladesh.
3. Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. India has 15,106 kilometers of land borders and a coastline of about 7,516 kilometers of which **maximum of 4,096.7km is along Bangladesh border**. Only 5 out of 29 Indian states have no international border or coastal line. Those long borders are shared with seven countries — China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Statement 2 is correct. **Feni Bridge (Maitree Setu)** connecting Subroom (Tripura) and Ramgarh (Bangladesh) was jointly inaugurated on virtual platform by both the Prime Ministers on 09 March 2021.

Statement 3 is correct. **Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia**. Bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh has grown steadily over the last decade and the exports of Bangladesh have tripled over the last decade to cross \$1 bn in 2018-19. In the FY 2019-20, India's exports to Bangladesh were \$8.2 bn and imports were \$1.26 bn.

**Q.54)** Which of the following event(s) led to the **Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971**?

1. Pak Army launched 'Operation Searchlight'
2. The Awami League wins an overwhelming election victory in East Pakistan.
3. Assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

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:** Events leading upto the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war:

--In 1970 the Awami League wins an overwhelming election victory in East Pakistan. The government in West Pakistan refuses to recognise the results, leading to rioting.

--Awami League launched non-cooperation and civil disobedience movement after **General Elections of December 1970**

--On 25 March 1971 Pak Army launched '**Operation Searchlight**' to quell the autonomy movement committing atrocities against unarmed Bengalis

--Millions of refugees from East Pakistan took shelter in India and Mukti Bahini stepped up guerilla warfare.

--Pakistan Air Force carried out pre-emptive air strikes on five Indian airfields on 03 December 1971 starting a full-scale war.

# *Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in a military coup in August, 1975.*

**Q.55)** Consider the following statements regarding **India-USA trade relations**:

1. India has been removed from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) of USA.
2. India has an overall goods and services trade deficit with USA.

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 **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** provides nonreciprocal, duty-free tariff treatment to certain products imported from qualifying developing countries. Effective June 2019, President Donald Trump removed India from GSP, a U.S. trade and development program, for failure to provide "equitable and reasonable" market access.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The USA is one of the few countries with which **India has a trade surplus**. U.S. goods and services trade with India totaled an estimated \$146.1 billion in 2019. Exports were \$58.6 billion; imports were \$87.4 billion. The U.S. goods and services trade deficit with India was \$28.8 billion in 2019.

# *India-USA have agreed to strengthen the India- U.S. Trade Policy Forum (TPF) and to convene the next Ministerial-level meeting of the forum in 2021.*

**Q.56)** Which of the following institution has published the **International Intellectual Property Index 2021**?

- a) US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre
- b) World Intellectual Property Organization
- c) Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
- d) European Union Intellectual Property Office



**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **International Intellectual Property Index** is released annually by the **US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)**. This is the ninth IP index released by the GIPC.

The Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialization of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.

The overall global IP environment improved in 2020, with positive score increasing in 32 of the 53 economies measured by the IP Index. India ranked 40th in 2020, scoring 38.4 out of 100 on a set of 50 intellectual property-related indicators.

**Q.57)** Which of the following institution(s) is/are organizers of the **World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2021**?

1. International Telecommunications Union
2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
3. United Nations Development Programme

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 **World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2021** is being co-organized by **ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD**, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators.

The WSIS has proven to be an efficient mechanism for coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and continues to provide assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public/private partnerships to advance development goals.

*# MOS Telecom Shri Sanjay Dhotre represented India at the World Summit on Information Society Forum 2021.*

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

1. Raman effect refers to change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules.
2. National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by C. V. Raman.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Raman Effect** is a phenomenon in spectroscopy discovered by the eminent physicist while working in the laboratory of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.

Raman Effect, **change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules**. When a beam of light traverses a dust-free, transparent sample of a chemical compound, a small fraction of the light emerges in directions other than that of the incident (incoming) beam. Most of this scattered light is of unchanged wavelength. A small part, however, has wavelengths different from that of the incident light; its presence is a result of the Raman Effect.

Statement 2 is correct. The **28th February** is celebrated as National Science Day in India, on this day in 1928, C.V Raman discovered a phenomenon of scattering of photons which was later known as 'Raman Effect'.

In 1986, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) asked the Government of India to designate 28 February as National Science Day which the then Govt. of India accepted and declared the day as National Science Day in 1986.

**Q.2)** The **Amazonia-1 satellite** in news recently has been launched by which of the following organisation?

- a) Indian Space Research Organisation
- b) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- c) SpaceX
- d) Blue Origin

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** India's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51** successfully launched Amazonia-1 along with 18 co-passenger satellites on February 28, 2021) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

**Amazonia-1 of Brazil** is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE). This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

# *PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 is the first dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under Department of Space.*

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

1. Ethanol is a clear, colorless liquid.
2. It contains more energy per gallon than gasoline.
3. Ethanol can be produced by breaking down cellulose in plant fibers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Ethanol is a clear, colorless alcohol** made from a variety of biomass materials called feedstocks. Fuel ethanol feedstocks include grains and crops with high starch and sugar content such as corn, sorghum, barley, sugar cane, and sugar beets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Ethanol contains **less energy per gallon than gasoline**, to varying degrees, depending on the volume percentage of ethanol in the blend. Denatured ethanol (98% ethanol) contains about 30% less energy than gasoline per gallon.

Statement 3 is correct. Ethanol can also be produced by breaking down **cellulose** in plant fibers. This cellulosic ethanol is considered an advanced biofuel and involves a more complicated production process than fermentation. Trees, grasses, and agricultural residues are potential feedstocks for cellulosic ethanol production.

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

1. It has been developed on the verocell platform.
2. It is an inactivated vaccine.
3. It has been given emergency use authorization by the World Health Organisation.

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:** Statement 1 and 2 are correct. **COVAXIN (BBV152)** contains a whole virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, which is produced in Vero cells. It is stable at 2 to 8°C (refrigerated) and is shipped in a ready-to-use liquid formulation that permits distribution using existing vaccine supply chain channels.

COVAXIN has been developed on the WHO prequalified **verocell platform**, which is globally recognized with a well-established track record of safety. COVAXIN's ability to neutralize UK variant strain of SARS-CoV-2 has also recently been established.

Statement 3 is incorrect. COVAXIN have not been given **WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL)**. So far Pfizer and AstraZeneca have received the WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements:

1. The wider the frequency bands and channels, the more information that can be passed through them.
2. The visible light waves operate at much lower frequency than Radio spectrum.

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**

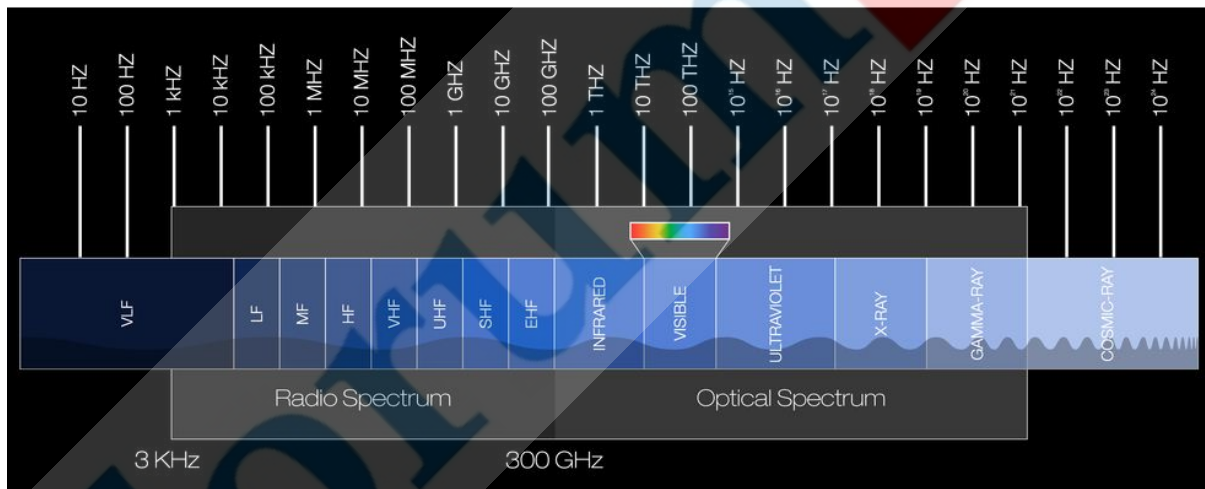
**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Radio spectrum** is divided into frequency bands, which are then allocated to certain services. The wider the frequency bands and channels, the more information that can be passed through them.

**Narrowband signals have a smaller bandwidth (kilohertz) and are used for limited services such as paging and low-speed data transmission.** Broadband signals have a large bandwidth (megahertz) and can support many advanced telecommunications services such as high-speed data and video transmission.

Statement 2 is incorrect. RF bands spread in the range between 30 kHz and 300 GHz (alternative point of view offers coverage 3 KHz – 300 GHz). In terms of wavelength, the low frequencies are about 30 km long and the high frequencies are about 3 mm.

This contrasts with **visible light waves that operate at such high frequencies** that they are measured in terahertz (trillions of waves per second) and are therefore nanometres in length.

Electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength between 380 nm and 760 nm (400–790 terahertz) is detected by the human eye and perceived as visible light.



**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Immunoglobulins (Ig)**:

- 1. These are proteins made by the immune system to fight foreign antigens.
- 2. Immunoglobulin G (IgG) is the most abundant type of antibody in human 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: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The immune system develops a defense against antigens, which are substances that can stimulate the immune system. This defense is known as the immune response and usually involves the production of:

–**Protein molecules (immunoglobulins)** or antibodies, the major component of humoral immunity by B-lymphocytes (B-cells)

–Specific cells, including T-lymphocytes (also known as cell-mediated immunity).

Statement 2 is correct. There are **five immunoglobulin classes** (isotypes) of antibody molecules: IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE, and IgD.

–**Immunoglobulin A (IgA)**, which is found in high concentrations in the mucous membranes, particularly those lining the respiratory passages and gastrointestinal tract, as well as in saliva and tears.

–**Immunoglobulin G (IgG)**, the most abundant type of antibody, is found in all body fluids and protects against bacterial and viral infections.

–**Immunoglobulin M (IgM)**, which is found mainly in the blood and lymph fluid, is the first antibody to be made by the body to fight a new infection.

–**Immunoglobulin E (IgE)**, which is associated mainly with allergic reactions. It is found in the lungs, skin, and mucous membranes.

–**Immunoglobulin D (IgD)** exists in small amounts in the blood.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **CRISPR technology**:

1 It is used to alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

2 The Tata CRISPR test is the world's first diagnostic test to deploy a Cas9 protein to successfully detect the SARS-COV-2.

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. **CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)** technology is a tool for editing genomes. It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

CRISPRs are specialized stretches of DNA. The protein **Cas9 (CRISPR-associated-9)** is an enzyme that acts like a pair of **molecular scissors**, capable of cutting strands of DNA.

Its many potential applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases and improving crops.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Tata CRISPR test**, powered by CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) FELUDA, received regulatory approvals recently from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for commercial launch.

The Tata CRISPR test is the **world's first diagnostic test** to deploy a specially adapted Cas9 protein to successfully detect the virus causing Covid-19.

The Tata CRISPR test achieves accuracy levels of traditional RT-PCR tests, with quicker turnaround time, less expensive equipment, and better ease of use.

*# CRISPR technology was adapted from the natural defense mechanisms of bacteria and archaea (the domain of single-celled microorganisms). These organisms use CRISPR-derived RNA and various Cas proteins, including Cas9, to foil attacks by viruses and other foreign bodies. They do*

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*so primarily by chopping up and destroying the DNA of a foreign invader. When these components are transferred into other, more complex, organisms, it allows for the manipulation of genes, or “editing*

**Q.8)** Which of the following statements is correct regarding Spectrograph?

1. A spectrograph is an instrument that separates incoming light by its wavelength
2. India does not have an indigenous Spectrograph.
3. It is not useful for detecting light from Cosmic explosions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Spectrograph is an instrument that obtains and records an astronomical spectrum. It separates incoming light by its wavelength or frequency. It records the resulting spectrum in multichannel detectors like a photographic plate for analysis. Statement 2 is incorrect. Indian scientists indigenously designed and developed a low-cost optical spectrograph named “Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC)”. Statement 3 is incorrect. The spectrograph can locate sources of faint light from:

- Distant galaxies in a very young universe
- Regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies
- Cosmic explosions like supernovae, young and massive stars and faint dwarf galaxies.

Read more - [India develops Low Cost "Indigenous Spectrograph" | ForumIAS Blog](#)

**Q.9)** What type of satellite is the recently launched **Amazonia-1 Satellite**?

- a) Communication Satellite
- b) Earth Observation Satellite
- c) Navigation Satellite
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation: Amazonia-1 Satellite is an earth observation satellite of Brazil.** It will provide remote sensing data for users monitoring deforestation in the Amazon forests. Furthermore, it will analyze diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

The satellite injected into its precise orbit of 758 km in a sun-synchronous polar orbit. It is the first commercial venture for New Space India Limited (NSIL) launched through **ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C51)** rocket.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Apophis asteroid**:

1. Its March 2021 flyby of Earth is closer than Moon's distance from Earth.
2. It is expected to enter the Earth's atmosphere in 2029.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Asteroid (99942) Apophis** made a close flyby of Earth on March 5-6, 2021. While there's no chance Apophis will strike Earth at this flyby (when closest, it was about 44 times the moon's distance), the asteroid was within range of earthly telescopes and radar.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It gained fame in 2004 when early observations suggested it might strike Earth in 2029. Though it will come breathtakingly close to Earth in 2029, **a strike that year was subsequently ruled out.**

After the 2029 pass, asteroid Apophis will also make noteworthy passes near Earth in 2036 and again in 2068. Earth strikes in 2029 and 2036 have been ruled out.

**Q.11)** Which of the following is/are potential health effects of **alcohol abuse**?

1. Pancreatitis
2. Fatty Liver
3. Cardiomyopathy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Diesel-Electric submarines** run on diesel and electricity. They have a large network of batteries which are charged by the diesel generator. They snorkel, which means, travelling just below the surface of the water with the periscope and the diesel generator exhaust pipe above the water surface. Once they charge their batteries, they dive into the ocean and run silently on battery power with the diesel generators shut down.

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

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

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

**Q.13)** What is measured by the **Glycemic Index (GI)**?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

**Q.14)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Gaganyaan mission**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

**Q.15)** Consider the following statements regarding the **INS Karanj**:

1. It is a nuclear submarine.
  2. It has been built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

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

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) Mission**:

1. It is a lunar rover and lander mission of India and France.
  2. The mission aims to explore the south pole region of the moon.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

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

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

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

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

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Bulk drugs** are the active chemical substances in powder form, the main ingredient in pharmaceuticals – chemicals having therapeutic value, used for the production of pharmaceutical formulations.

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

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

*#The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest in the world by volume. However, the country is significantly dependent on the import of basic raw materials, viz., Bulk Drugs that are used to produce medicines. In some specific bulk drugs, the import dependence is 80 to 100%. With an objective to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in these critical Bulk Drugs - Key Starting Materials (KSMS)/ Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in the country, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had launched a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of their domestic manufacturing.*

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Water Technology Initiative (WTI)**:

1. It aims to promote Research & Development activities aimed at providing safe drinking water at affordable cost.
  2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Benzene**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Asteroid 2001 FO32**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **2001 FO32** is the **largest asteroid predicted to pass by our planet in 2021** will be at its closest on March 21, providing astronomers a rare opportunity to get a good look at a rocky relic that formed at the dawn of our solar system.

This near-Earth asteroid will make its closest approach at a distance of about 1.25 million miles (2 million kilometers) – or 5 1/4 times the distance from Earth to the Moon.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **There is no threat of a collision with our planet now or for centuries to come.**

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

**Q.22)** What is a **Quasar**?

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



**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. A **ramjet is a form of air-breathing jet engine** that uses the vehicle’s forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without a rotating compressor. Fuel is injected in the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot compressed air and ignites. A ramjet-powered vehicle requires an assisted take-off like a rocket assist to accelerate it to a speed where it begins to produce thrust.

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

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

**Q.24)** 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.25)** 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.26)** 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.

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.27)** 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.28)** 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

**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.29)** 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.30)** 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° 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.

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.31)** 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.32)** 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
- 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.33)** 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.34)** 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

**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.35)** 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.36)** 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 silicaceous 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.*

**Q.37)** 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.

**Prahaari** 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.38)** 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.39)** 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.

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 (Hippophae rhamnoides)** 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.40)** 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.*

**Q.41)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)**:

1. It works by transmitting millions of polarized photons over a fiber optic cable.
2. It relies on complex mathematical algorithms for secure encryption of transmitted data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** works by transmitting millions of polarized light particles (photons) over a fiber optic cable from one entity to another. Each photon has a random quantum state, and collectively all the photons create a bit stream of ones and zeros.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology underpins Quantum Communication technology that ensures unconditional data security by virtue of the principles

of quantum mechanics, which is not possible with the conventional encryption systems. The **conventional cryptosystems used for data-encryption rely on the complexity of mathematical algorithms**, whereas the security offered by quantum communication is based on the laws of Physics.

# *For the first time in the country, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully demonstrated free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300 m.*

**Q.42)** Which of the following defence equipment is/are manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**?

1. Sukhoi-30MKI
2. Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)
3. Pilatus PC-7

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 list of defence equipment manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:**

- Fighters: Su-30MKI, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, MiG-21/Bison, Jaguar
- Trainers: Kiran MK I/II, Hawk
- Transport Aircraft: Do-228, HS-748
- Helicopters: Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Chetak, Cheetah, Cheetal

HAL is also manufacturing Engines, Communication equipment, Navigation equipment, Display systems, Hydraulic systems, Electric equipment etc., required for aircraft/helicopters.

# *The Pilatus PC-7 Turbo Trainer is a low-wing tandem-seat training aircraft designed and manufactured by Pilatus Aircraft of Switzerland.*

**Q.43)** Consider the following statements regarding **Reverse Osmosis (RO)**:

1. RO membrane allows the passage of water molecules but not the majority of dissolved salts, organics, bacteria and pyrogens.
2. Reverse Osmosis occurs naturally without energy required to push water through membrane.

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

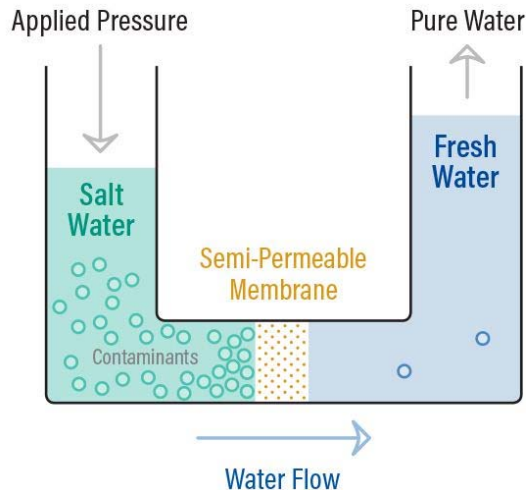
**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. A **reverse osmosis membrane** is a semi-permeable membrane that allows the passage of water molecules but not the majority of dissolved salts, organics, bacteria and pyrogens.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Osmosis** is a naturally occurring phenomenon and one of the most important processes in nature. It is a process where a weaker saline solution will tend to

migrate to a strong saline solution. Whereas Osmosis occurs naturally without energy required, to reverse the process of osmosis one needs to apply energy to the more saline solution.

### Reverse Osmosis



**Q.44)** Which of the **SARS-COV-2 mutant variation** have been found in **India** so far?

1. 501Y.V1
2. 501Y.V3
3. CAL.20C

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:** Multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants are circulating globally. Several new variants emerged in the fall of 2020, of which **UK, South Africa and Brazil variants have been found in India so far.**

## MUTANT MENACE

Variants of concern

Variant name	Detected in India	Samples*	Status
501Y.V1 (UK)	✓	6.82%	Emerged in Britain in December and possibly 50% more transmissible
501Y.V2 (SA)	✓	0.32%	Emerged in South Africa in December. Shown to reduce efficacy in vaccines.
501Y.V3 (Brazil)	✓	0.01%	Emerged in Brazil in late 2020. Mutations similar to 501Y.V2 and can escape immunity
CAL.20C (US)	✗		Common in California and about 20% more infectious. Carries the L452R mutation.

\*Among 10,787 samples from covid-19 positive international travellers tested over the past 6-8 months.

Source: NYT coronavirus variant tracker, PIB

mint

**Q.45)** Consider the following statements regarding the **NISAR mission**:

1. It is a joint collaboration mission between NASA and ISRO.
2. It is designed to observe and take measurements of Earth's most complex processes like ecosystem disturbances, ice-sheet collapse, and natural hazards.

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 **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) Mission** will measure Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater, and will support a host of other applications.

The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit. NISAR will observe Earth's land and ice-covered surfaces globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes, sampling Earth on average every 6 days for a baseline 3-year mission.

**Q.46)** What is **Parosmia**?

- a) Loss of taste
- b) Loss of Skin sensation
- c) Loss of three-dimensional vision
- d) Distortions in the sense of smell



**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation: Parosmia** is a medical term. It describes a condition in which affected individuals experience distortions in the sense of smell. A person with parosmia is able to detect certain odours. But they might experience the smell of certain things as different and often unpleasant. People who are recovering their sense of smell following a loss from a virus or an injury typically experience parosmia.

# Ageusia is a condition, characterized by a complete loss of taste function of the tongue.

# Anosmia is the partial or complete loss of the sense of smell. This loss may be temporary or permanent.

**GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT**

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

1. Carbon sequestration refers to the process of reducing 'carbon intensity', lowering the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced.
2. Decarbonization is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

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: D**

**Explanation:** Definitions have been interchanged.

**Carbon sequestration** is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is one method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change.

**Decarbonization** tends to refer to the process of reducing 'carbon intensity', lowering the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels. Generally, this involves decreasing CO<sub>2</sub> output per unit of electricity generated. Reducing the amount of carbon dioxide occurring as a result of transport and power generation is essential to meet global temperature standards set by the Paris Agreement.

**Q.2)** The **Aos tribal people** belong to which of the following State?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Odisha
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Ao** are one of the major Naga tribes of Nagaland, Northeast India. The AO Nagas are divided into six major sub-tribes namely Jamir, Longkumer, Pongen, Imchen, walling and Longcherthe Ao region and the distancing of the region is bounded by the Tzula river.

Some villages in Nagaland are trying to revive a traditional form of punishment in which offenders of Naga customary laws are put in triangular cage made from the logs of an indigenous tree that irritates the skin. The Aos call it **Shi-ki** that means flesh-house.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding **La Nina**:

1. During La Nina events, trade winds are stronger than usual making the water in the Pacific Ocean near the equator a few degrees colder.
2. La Niña results in weak and below normal monsoon rains 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. In a normal year, winds along the equator push warm water westward in Pacific. Warm water at the surface of the ocean blows from South America to Indonesia. As the warm water moves west, cold water from the deep rises up to the surface. This cold water ends up on the coast of South America.

**During La Nina events**, trade winds are even stronger than usual, pushing more warm water toward Asia. Off the west coast of the Americas, upwelling increases, bringing cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface.

Statement 2 is incorrect. La Nina causes drought in the South American countries of Peru and Ecuador, heavy floods in Australia, high temperatures in Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, off the Somalian coast and a comparatively **better monsoon rains in India**.

# IMD in its Seasonal Outlook for the Temperatures has reported moderate La Niña conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific and sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below normal over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

**Q.4)** Which of the following **Geographical Indications** tagged products is/are correctly matched to their State?

1. Araku valley coffee - Kerala
2. Shaphee Lanphee - Manipur
3. Chanderi Saree - Madhya 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: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Araku Valley Arabica coffee** can be described as coffee from the hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of **Andhra Pradesh and Odisha** region at an elevation of 900-1100 Mt MSL. The coffee produce of Araku, by the tribals, follows an organic approach in which they emphasise management practices involving substantial use of organic manures, green manuring and organic pest management practices.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Shaphee Lanphee** is a traditional textile fabric woven and embroidered, usually as a shawl, with embroidered motifs with cotton threads generally by Meitei women of **Manipur**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Chanderi Fabric** is a traditional sari made in Chanderi, **Madhya Pradesh**, India. It is produced by weaving in silk and golden Zari in the traditional cotton yarn.

**Q.5)** 'Bao dhaan' have been in news recently, what is it?

- a) Red rice variety grown in Assam
- b) Biofortified rice
- c) Genetically Modified (GM) variety of rice
- d) Integrated rice and fish farming

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Bao-dhaan**, a deep-water paddy that produces a particular type of iron-rich red rice is grown in **Brahmaputra valley in Assam**. It is an integral part of the Assamese food.

In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off recently to the USA. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.

APEDA has promoting rice exports through collaborations with various stakeholders in the value chains. The government had set up the Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF), under the aegis of the APEDA.

**Q.6)** Which of the following **Geographical Indications** is/are correctly matched to the respective State?

1. Bagh print - Maharashtra
2. Phulkari - Punjab
3. Uppada Jamdani - 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: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Bagh printing in Madhya Pradesh** is a specialised form of wooden hand-block printing, originally practised across the regions in the Indus Valley.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Phulkari** which literally means Flower work is a most beautiful embroidery work from **Punjab**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Uppada Jamdani Saree** is a saree style woven in Uppada of East Godavari district in **Andhra Pradesh**.

*# The Ministry of Culture is a partner Ministry at the two-day Geographical Indication (GI) Mahotsav being held in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.*

*A mini exhibition of GI Textiles is on showcase covering a wide range of saris connected to GI textile such as Patan Patola, Benaras Brocades, Uppada Jamdani, Kalamkari, Paithani, Kota Doria, Pochampally Ikat etc. and brings alive the exquisite weaving and design traditions of India.*

**Q.7)** Which of the following country does not border **Yemen**?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Oman
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Yemen, country situated at the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula is bordered by **Saudi Arabia and Oman**.

It has in recent been devastated by a civil war. Yemen's government has been backed militarily since March 2015 by a coalition of Arab states assembled by neighbouring Saudi Arabia to oust the Houthis, who are aligned to its arch-rival Iran.





**Q.8)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kibithoo – Assam
2. Sumdorong Chu – Ladakh
3. Pasighat – Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Kibithu** or Kibithoo is a town in **Arunachal Pradesh** in Anjaw district. It is one of the easternmost permanently populated towns of India.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Sumdorong Chu** is a tributary of the Nyamjang Chu River that flows along the India-China border between the Tibet and the Tawang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Pasighat** is in the East Siang district in the Indian state of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding Simlipal Biosphere reserve:

1. Reserve is located on Western Ghat.
2. It is vulnerable to forest fires.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Simlipal Biosphere reserve is situated in the northern part of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Reserve lies in the eastern end of the eastern ghat. Statement 2 is correct. Summer season coincides with the shedding of deciduous forests in the forest areas. The fallen leaves are more vulnerable to catching fire and facilitate the spreading of these forest fires quickly over the entire forest area.

**Read More** - ["Simlipal Biosphere reserve" Catches Forest Fire](#)

**Q.10)** Which of the following is/are the reasons behind the forest fires in deciduous forests?

1. Presence of Poachers and travelers
2. Presence of Dried leaves
3. Dry winters

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 is correct. Poachers set a small patch of forest on fire to divert the wild animals can lead to such fires. They do not douse the fire after hunting leading to forest fires.

Option 2 is correct. The fallen leaves are more vulnerable to catching fire and facilitate the spreading of these forest fires quickly over the entire forest area.

Option 3 is incorrect. Dry leaves and high temperature are requirements for forest fire. In Winters high temperature and dry leaves on the forest floor are not available.

**Q.11)** Which of the following countries is not a part of the International North-South Transport Corridor?

- a) Iran
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Pakistan
- d) Azerbaijan

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** INSTC is a 7,200-km-long multi-modal connectivity project to establish transport networks (ship, rail, and road route). It will be used for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe, and Central Asia. It will cut costs and time in moving cargo.

It includes 13 countries namely India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Oman, Syria, and Ukraine.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding 'Black Browed Babbler'

1. It is a songbird species.
2. The bird is known for the longest known missing period (170 years) for any Asian species.
3. In IUCN red list, it is listed as Threatened species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1 and 3 only

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Black Browed Babbler is a songbird species in the family of Pellorneidae.

Statement 2 is correct. The single specimen of the bird was first found between 1843 through 1848 during an expedition. However, after that, the species was never seen in the wild again. Significance: The bird is known for the longest known missing period (170 years) for any Asian species. It is also often called 'the biggest enigma in Indonesian ornithology'.

Statement 3 is incorrect. It is Classified as Data Deficient in the IUCN Red List (BirdLife International 2020).

Read more - "[Black-Browed Babbler](https://forumias.com/black-browed-babbler)" rediscovered after 170 years ([forumias.com](https://forumias.com))

**Q.13)** Which of the following country(s) border the **Baltic Sea**?

1. Russia
2. Sweden
3. Estonia

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:** Baltic Sea, arm of the North Atlantic Ocean, is surrounded by nine countries: **Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden.**



**Q.14)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary**:

1. It spans the Manas river and is bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. The Pygmy hog and Himalayan serow can be spotted in the sanctuary.

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:** **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the State of Assam. It spans the Manas river and is bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan. The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the core zone of Manas Tiger Reserve, and lies alongside the shifting river channels of the Manas River.

Manas national park is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a Biosphere reserve.

The site provides critical and viable habitats for rare and endangered species, including tiger, greater one-horned rhino, swamp deer, pygmy hog and Bengal florican.

**Himalayan serow** has been spotted for the first time recently in the Manas tiger reserve. Himalayan serow is a subspecies of the mainland serow.

**Q.15)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Fishing Cat**:

1. In India, fishing cats are only found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans.
2. Fishing cats are nocturnal species.
3. It is listed as a Critically Endangered species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Wetlands are the favorite habitats** of the fishing cat. In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.

Statement 2 is correct. The **fishing cat is nocturnal** and apart from fish also preys on frogs, crustaceans, snakes, birds, and scavenges on carcasses of larger animals.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is listed as a Vulnerable species** with decreasing population trend in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

# *Chilika Development Authority (CDA) is conducting a survey at the Chilika Lake in collaboration with the Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance (FCCA).*



**Q.16)** Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Miyawaki Method** of planting:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

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

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

During early period, the plantings compete with each other for space and access to light and water—a battle that encourages much faster growth. In conventional afforestation techniques, 1 meter of growth per year is considered the norm. In the Miyawaki method, trees grow about

10 times faster. Once stabilized, the forest is left to flourish, forevermore, on its own without further interference.

**Q.18)** The '**MaitriSetu**' has been built on which of the following river?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

**Q.19)** Which of the following country *does not* share border with **Afghanistan**?

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

**Correct answer: D**

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



**Q.20)** The **Toda tribe** belongs to which of the following State/UT?

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

**Correct answer: A**

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

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

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

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Feni River**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Feni river**, which forms part of the India-Bangladesh border, originates in the South Tripura district, passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh. Statement 2 is incorrect. The Prime Minister recently inaugurated '**Maitri Setu**' between India and Bangladesh on the Feni River. It connects Tripura with Chittagong port in Bangladesh, which is only 70 km away from the Indo-Bangla border.

**Q.22)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Similipal Tiger Reserve / Biosphere Reserve**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

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

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Brahmaputra River**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

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

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**The North Bank Tributaries:**

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

**The South bank Tributaries:**

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

**Q.24)** Which of the following Shark species is/are protected under the **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

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

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

**Q.25)** Which of the following state(s) of India share border with **Myanmar**?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Tripura
3. Manipur

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

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



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

**Q.26)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Strait of Hormuz**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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



**Q.27)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

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

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

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

**Q.28)** Which of the following is/are not bordered by **El Salvador**?

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

**Correct answer: D**

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

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

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



**Q.29)** Which of the following river(s) is/are tributaries of the **Brahmaputra River**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

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



## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2021

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

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

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

**Q.30)** 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.31)** 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.

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.32)** Consider the following statements regarding **Comoros islands**:

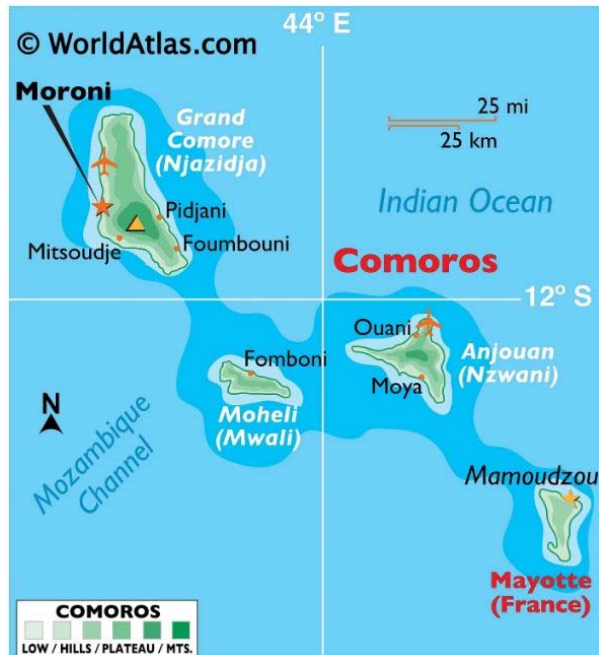
1. These are located at the northern end of Mozambique Channel.
2. The Union of the Comoros, a sovereign nation formed by the islands of Mayotte, Anjouan, Moheli, and Grande Comore.

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.

# 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.33)** 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.34)** 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.35)** Where are **Senkaku Islands** located?

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

**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.





**Q.36)** Consider the following statements regarding **House Sparrow**:

1. It is known to specifically avoid staying close to human habitations.
2. It is listed as a Vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **house sparrow** is widespread across the world, inhabiting every continent, except Antarctica, China and Japan. It is native to Eurasia and North Africa, and was introduced to South Africa, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, Middle East, India and Central Asia, where its population thrived under a variety of environmental and climatic conditions.

It is known to stay close to human habitations, and is therefore among the most commonly found bird species in urban cities.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is listed as species but with decreasing population trend in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Q.37)** The **Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project** is on which of the following River?

- a) Jhelum River
- b) Ravi River
- c) Sutlej River
- d) Marusudar River

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (1000 MW)** is proposed on river **Marusudar, a tributary of Chenab river**, located in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The project is envisaged as a storage scheme.

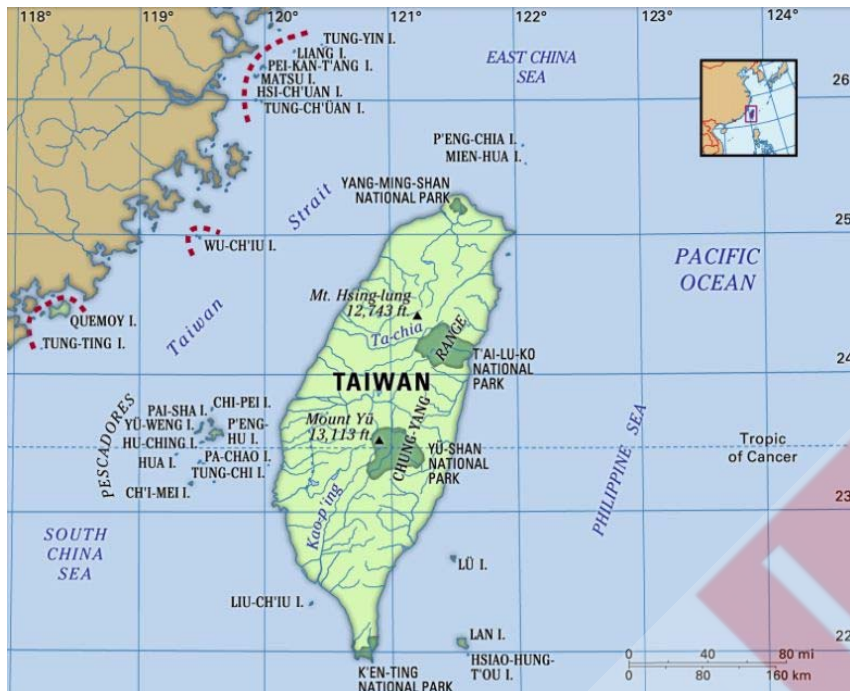
Pakistan has in past objected to the construction of this project and is expected to be discussed in the ongoing Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) meeting in New Delhi.

**Q.38)** The **Formosa Strait** is between:

- a) Taiwan and Philippines
- b) Japan and China
- c) Taiwan and Continental Asia
- d) Iberian Peninsula and Morocco

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Taiwan Strait, also known as the Formosa Strait**, arm of the Pacific Ocean, 100 miles (160 km) wide at its narrowest point, lies between the coast of China's Fukien province and the island of Taiwan (Formosa). The strait extends from southwest to northeast between the South and East China seas.



# The Luzon Strait is the strait between Taiwan and Luzon island of the Philippines.

**Q.39)** Consider the following statements regarding **Madagascar**:

1. It is second largest island in the world.
2. The Rainforests of the Atsinanana is a World Heritage Site in Madagascar.

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. **Madagascar** is a large island nation located in the Indian Ocean east of Africa and the country Mozambique. It is the fourth largest island in the world after Greenland, New Guinea and Borneo; and it is an African country.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Rainforests of the Atsinanana** comprise six national parks distributed along the eastern part of the island. These relict forests are critically important for maintaining ongoing ecological processes necessary for the survival of Madagascar's unique biodiversity, which reflects the island's geological history.

# As part of Mission Sagar - IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa arrived at Port Ehoala, Madagascar on 22 March 2021 to deliver a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tonne of rice and 100,000 Hydroxychloroquine tablets in response to an appeal made by Madagascar for assistance to deal with natural calamities.

**Q.40)** Where is/are the **Cyclone Warning Centres (CWC)** established in India?

1. Thiruvananthapuram
2. Visakhapatnam
3. Ahmedabad

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:** Cyclone warnings are provided by the **India Meteorological Department** from the seven Cyclone Warning Centers covering the east & west coasts of our country. Three **Area Cyclone Warning Centres (ACWCs)** are located at Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata and four **Cyclone Warning Centres (CWCs)** at Thiruvananthapuram, Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar. The responsibility for operational cyclone warning work for the respective area rests with the ACWCs and CWCs.

All the 13 coastal States and Union Territories are benefitted from the services provided by these warning centers.

**Q.41)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Suez Canal**:

- 1. It connects the Mediterranean and Red Seas.
  - 2. It divides Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula.
  - 2. It has never been closed since it was built.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 and 2 are correct. The **Suez Canal** crosses the Suez isthmus in Egypt. It is about 193km (120 miles) long and incorporates three natural lakes. The Isthmus of Suez is the only land bridge between the African and Asian continents which used to form a single continental mass.

The canal connects the **Mediterranean and Red Seas and divides Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula.**



Statement 3 is incorrect. It was opened for navigation in 1869. Egypt nationalized the canal in July 1956. The Canal was closed few times; the last time was the most serious one when Egypt

closed down the Suez Canal which trapped fifteen international ships in the canal for more or less eight years. The Canal was then reopened for navigation in June 1975.

# Egypt's Suez Canal has been blocked by a large container ship that ran aground while turning in the narrow channel on March 23, 2021.

**Q.42)** The Carmichael coal mine is located in which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) Germany
- c) France
- d) Australia

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The Carmichael coal project, owned and operated by Indian conglomerate Adani, is currently under construction in the Queensland's Galilee Basin- one of the world's largest untouched coal reserves.

The project has been highly controversial, with disputes over its claimed economic benefits, financial viability and environmental damage.



**Q.43)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Teesta River**:

- 1. It originates in Nepal and enters India through Sikkim Himalayas.
- 2. Rangit River is major right bank tributary of the Teesta River.
- 3. Teesta river ultimately drains into Brahmaputra in Bangladesh.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

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



**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Teesta river** originates as Chhombo Chhu from a glacial lake Khangchung Chho at an elevation of 5,280 m in the northeastern corner of the **Sikkim**. The glacial lake lies at the snout of the Teesta Khangse glacier descending from Pauhunri peak (7,056 m) in north western direction.

Statement 2 is correct. Major Left bank tributaries: Lachung Chhu, Chakung Chhu, Dik Chhu, Rani Khola, Rangpo Chhu.

Major Right bank tributaries: Zemu Chhu, Rangyong Chhu, **Rangit River**.

Statement 3 is correct. Teesta river ultimately drains into **Brahmaputra** at Teestamukh Ghat in Kamarjani- Bahadurabad in Rangpur district of Bangladesh. Teesta and most of its tributaries are flashy mountain rivers and carry boulders and considerable quantity of sediment.

The flow of the river is highly variable and the reduction in its flow during lean season causes friction between India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh, being the lower riparian, is dependent on upper riparian India for keeping minimum flows in the Teesta river.

**Q.44)** Consider the following statements:

1. Coal can be imported in India by the consumers themselves considering their needs based on their commercial prudence.
  2. India's coking coal import has consistently reduced in last 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: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. As per the present Import policy, **coal can be freely imported (under Open General Licence)** by the consumers themselves considering their needs based on their commercial prudence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Coking Coal** is being imported by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and other Steel manufacturing units mainly to bridge the gap between the requirement and indigenous availability and to improve the quality. Coke is imported mainly by Pig-Iron manufacturers and Iron & Steel sector consumers using mini-blast furnace. Details of import of coal during the last six years (in Million Tonnes):

Coal	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20(Prov.)*	2020-21(Prov.)*
Coking Coal	44.56	41.64	47.00	51.84	51.83	35.16
Non-Coking Coal	159.39	149.31	161.27	183.40	196.71	121.24
Total Coal Import	203.95	190.95	208.27	235.24	248.54	156.40
Coke	3.07	4.35	4.58	4.93	2.91	NA

\*Import upto December, 2020 (Source: DGCI&S and CBIS's website)

**Q.45)** Where are **Garo Hills** located?

1. Western margin of Mizoram State
2. West of Shillong Plateau
3. East of Jaintia Hills

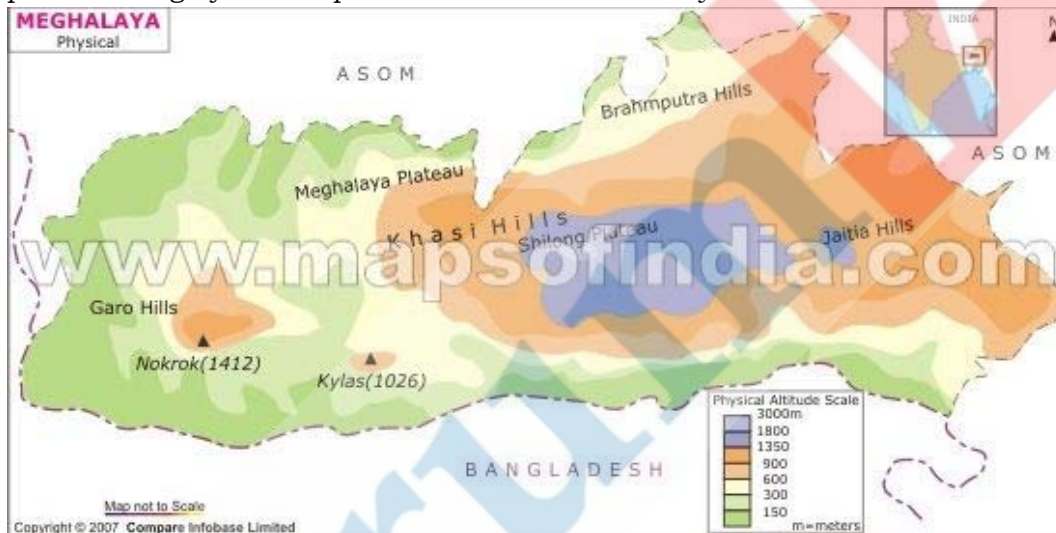
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Garo Hills, in western **Meghalaya state**, comprises the western margin of the Shillong Plateau and rises to a top elevation of about 4,600 feet (1,400 metres). It is much west of the Jaintia Hills, which are in eastern Meghalaya.

The population is mainly Garo. Nokrek National Park, in the western part of the region, protects a highly diverse plant and animal community.



**Q.46)** The **Matua Community** people are resident of which of the following State in India?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Matuas are Namasudras**, a Scheduled Caste group with a large presence in **West Bengal**. Matuas trace their ancestry to East Bengal, and many of them entered West Bengal after Partition and after the formation of Bangladesh. The Matua Mahasangha, a religious reforms movement and a sect, was formed by Harichand Thakur in East Bengal in the mid-1800s.

*# Prime Minister on his visit to Bangladesh is to meet the descendents of Harichandra Thakur and other Matua community representatives at Orakandi, Bangladesh.*

**Q.47)** The **Zabarwan Range** is in which of the following State/Union Territory?

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Sikkim
- d) West Bengal

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Zabarwan Range** is a short sub-mountain range between Pir Panjal and Great Himalayan Range in the central part of the **Kashmir** Valley.

-- On the northern slopes of the central part of the Zabarwan Range there are three Mughal gardens built by Emperor Shah Jahan. These include Chashma Shahi, Nishat Bagh, and Shalimar Garden alongside the Pari Mahal.

-- The Zabarwan mountain range possesses great Himalayan features with rich wildlife. The Dachigam National Park is the main feature of the range.

-- The highest peak of this range is Mahadev Peak at 13,013 feet.

-- The **tulip garden** is located at the foothills of Zabarwan range with an overview of Dal Lake and is the largest tulip garden in Asia. It was recently opened for visitors at the onset of spring season.

**Q.48)** The **Tigray region** has been in news recently, where is it?

- a) Sudan
- b) Lebanon
- c) Turkey
- d) Ethiopia

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Tigray is Ethiopia's northernmost region.** Bordering Eritrea, it is home to most of the country's estimated 7 million ethnic Tigrayans. The ethnic group, which accounts for about 6% of Ethiopia's population, have had a major influence in national affairs. In November 2020, the regional government — controlled by the Tigray People's Liberation Front, a leftist political party — launched a full-scale siege of a key Ethiopian military base at Sero, using tanks, heavy guns and mortars.



## POLITY

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**Q.1)** Who is/are '**Master of the Roster**' of the Supreme Court of India?

- a) Registrar
- b) Chief Justice of India (CJI)
- c) Collegium of CJI and two senior most Judges in Supreme Court
- d) President of India

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** '**Master of Roster**' refers to the privilege of the Chief Justice of the court to constitute benches to hear different cases. The Chief Justice of India or Chief Justice of any high court as the case may be heads the administrative side of the court. This includes allocation of matters before a judge as well.

In **Asok Pande v. Supreme Court of India (2018)**, a three-judge bench of the Court held that Master of the Roster is the CJI's exclusive power. Thereafter, a two-judge bench in **Shanti Bhushan v. Supreme Court of India (2018)** rejected the plea that the Master of the Roster should be interpreted as the collegium.

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

- 1. The candidates set up by registered political party gets preference over independent candidates in the matter of allotment of free symbols.
- 2. If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in three or more States, it becomes a National Party.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of **section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

Statement 1 is correct. The candidates set up by a political party registered with the Election Commission of India will get **preference in the matter of allotment of free symbols** vis-à-vis purely independent candidates.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in four or more States, it shall be known as a 'National Party'** throughout the whole of India, but only so long as that political party continues to fulfill thereafter the conditions for recognition in four or more States on the results of any subsequent general election either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of any State.

*# A party seeking registration under the said section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation, due to the prevailing pandemic this rule has been relaxed by the ECI and has reduced the notice period from 30 days to 7 days for the parties who have published their public notice on or before 26.02.2021.*



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

1. Cautions conveyed to one person against another in good faith are not defamation.
2. Defamation is a ground for reasonable restriction on freedom of speech and expression under the constitution.
3. Publication of true reports of the proceedings of the Courts or the result of the proceedings is not defamation.
4. Defamation is not a criminal offense in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1 and 4 only

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 and 3 are correct. Persons who make defamatory statements are exempted from punishments if they fall in the exceptions provided in **Section 499**. The exceptions include:

--Attribution of any truth made for public good. Truth is seldom defense unless made for a public good.

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

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

Statement 2 is correct. **Grounds for reasonable restriction** on freedom of speech and expressions as given under article 19(2) of the Constitution: interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, **defamation** or incitement to an offence. Statement 4 is incorrect. In India, defamation is both civil and criminal offence. Under the Criminal law, Defamation is a bailable, non-cognizable offence and compoundable offence. Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 defines what is defamation and its exceptions.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021**:

1. Powers relating to the publishers of digital news and current affairs have been delegated to the States.
2. The self-regulatory body of the OTT platforms will have representatives appointed by the central government.

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. **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has written a letter to Chief Secretaries of all States and Administrators of all Union Territories (UTs) clarifying that the powers under Part III of the rules which relate to publishers of digital

news and current affairs and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) are administered by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The letter has also underlined that these powers have **not been delegated** to the State Governments or District Magistrates or Police Commissioners.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting recently held an interaction with representatives of various OTT platforms and clarified that in the self-regulating body, no member will be appointed by the Government.

### Under watch

On February 25, the government announced the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, which introduced a 3-tier grievance redressal mechanism for OTT platforms

**TIER 1** A grievance cell

**TIER 2** A self-regulatory body of the OTT platforms

**TIER 3** An inter-ministerial panel to look into complaints if they are not resolved at the first two levels



The OTT platforms will have to self-classify content into five age-based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+ and A (Adult). Platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as "A".

**Q.5)** Which of the following is explicitly provided for under the **Constitution of India**?

1. Reservation of posts in favour of backward class of citizens which is not adequately represented in the services under the State or private sector.
2. Power of State to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any economically weaker sections of citizens.

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. **Article 16(4) of the Constitution** states that right to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment does not prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the **services under the State**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 16(6)** states that right to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment does not prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any **economically weaker sections** of citizens other than

the classes mentioned in clause (4), in addition to the existing reservation and subject to a maximum of ten per cent. of the posts in each category.

**Q.6)** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the ruling by Supreme Court of India in the **Indra Sawhney & Others Vs. Union of India case**:

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

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

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

**Q.7)** Which of the following is/are the benefits of being a **recognized political party** over unrecognized political parties in India?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of March, 2021

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

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

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 further amended in 2019, the central government may **designate an individuals and organizations as terrorists and terrorist organizations** if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism.

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

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

**Q.9)** Which of the following category of persons are ineligible to avail benefits of reservation for the **Economically Weaker Section (EWS)**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

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

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **State Election Commissions in India**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution of India** provide that the Superintendence, direction and Control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the Conduct of all elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities shall vest in the State Election Commission consisting of the State Election Commissioner.

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

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

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

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

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

**Q.12)** 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.13)** 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.

**Q.14)** 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.15)** 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.16)** 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.

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.17)** 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.

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.

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements regarding the Constitutional provisions on **Election Commission of India**:

1. It consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, as the President may from time-to-time fix.
2. The procedure for removal of the Chief Election Commissioner is same as for 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. **Article 324(2)** states that the Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Article 32(5) states 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.

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

1. Constitution mandates that an arrested person shall not be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice.
2. Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) provides that an accused is entitled to be accompanied by an advocate of his choice throughout interrogation.

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 22(1) of the Constitution** provides that no person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Section 41D of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)** states that an accused is entitled to “meet an advocate of his choice during interrogation, though not throughout interrogation”.

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements:

1. Parliament is empowered to prescribe the number of Judges constituting the Supreme Court of India.
  2. Judges of the Supreme Court hold office until they attain the age of sixty-five year.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Article 124 of the Constitution** states that there shall be a *Supreme Court of India* consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

Parliament last year passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill to increase the **number of judges in Supreme Court number from 30 to 33**.

The Judges remain in office until they reach the retirement age — **65 for Supreme Court judges and 62 for high court judges**.

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Model Code of Conduct** during elections:

1. The Ministers can combine their official visit with electioneering work.
2. There is a ban on the transfer of all officials connected with the conduct of the election without prior approval of Election Commission.

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 **Model Code of Conduct** states that the Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work. No transport including official air-crafts, vehicles etc. shall be used for furtherance of the interest of any party or a candidate. Statement 2 is correct. There shall be a total **ban on the transfer and posting of all officers/officials** directly or indirectly connected with the conduct of the election. If any

transfer or posting of an officer is considered necessary, prior approval of the Commission shall be obtained.

**Q.22)** Who among the following can be appointed as the **Judge of the Supreme Court**?

1. One who has been for three years a Judge of a High Court
2. One who has been for ten years an advocate of a High Court
3. Who is a distinguished jurist in the 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: Article 124(3) of the Constitution** provide for eligibility to be appointed as a Judge of Supreme Court, it states that: A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and

-- has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

-- has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

-- is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021**:

1. It empowers the Parliament to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
2. It requires the Lieutenant Governor to reserve those Bills for the President which incidentally cover any of the matters outside the purview of the Legislative Assembly.

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 **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021** have been passed in both houses of the Parliament recently.

Statement 1 is incorrect. While the original Act allows the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly. The Bill provides that such **Rules must be consistent with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Act requires the LG to reserve certain Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the President. These Bills are those: (i) which may diminish the powers of the High Court of Delhi, (ii) which the President may direct to be reserved, (iii) dealing with the salaries and allowances of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and members of the Assembly and the Ministers, or (iv) relating to official languages of the Assembly or the NCT of Delhi.

The Amendment Bill requires the LG to also **reserve those Bills for the President** which incidentally cover any of the matters outside the purview of the powers of the Legislative Assembly.

**Q.24)** Consider the following statements:

1. Adjournment sine die means termination of the sitting of the House without fixing any definite date for its next sitting.
2. The power to adjourn the House sine die vests exclusively with the President.

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 **adjournment of the House** means the suspension of the sitting of the House till the following or some later day or hour of time. **Adjournment sine die** means termination of the sitting of the House without specifying or fixing any definite date for its next sitting.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The power to adjourn the House from time to time or sine die vests in the **Presiding Officer**.

A session is terminated only by prorogation and not by adjournment. The session of the House is terminated by an order called the "Prorogation Order" made by the President under article 85(2) of the Constitution. Usually, prorogation follows the adjournment of the House sine die.

**Q.25)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Electoral Bonds Scheme**:

1. All Political Parties registered under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 are eligible for benefits under the scheme.
2. The bond is issued to the buyer on non-refundable basis and no interest is payable on these 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: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Only Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 **and secured not less than one per cent of the votes** polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly are eligible to open Current Account for Redemption of Electoral Bonds.

Statement 2 is correct. Once the Electoral Bond is purchased it cannot be cancelled and no amount will be refunded to the Purchaser. Further, **no interest** is given by the banks on these bonds.



**Q.26)** Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution provides for appointment of additional judges to the High Courts to look after any temporary increase in the business of a High Court.
2. A retired Judge appointed as ad-hoc Judge has all jurisdiction, powers and privileges and is deemed to be a Judge of that High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 224 (1) of the Constitution** provides that if by reason of any temporary increase in the business of a High Court or by reason of arrears of work therein, it appears to the President that the number of the Judges of that Court should be for the time being increased, the President may appoint duly qualified persons to be additional Judges of the Court for such period not exceeding two years as he may specify.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Article 224A of the Constitution** provides for appointment of retired Judges to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court for that State, and every such person so requested shall, while so sitting and acting, be entitled to such allowances as the President may by order determine and have all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of, **but shall not otherwise be deemed to be, a Judge of that High Court.**

**Q.27)** Which of the following is/are ground(s) for **exemption from disclosure** of information provided under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**?

1. Information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property
2. If the disclosure of information would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament
3. Information received in confidence from foreign Government

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005** provides for exemption from disclosure of information on certain grounds, which include:

- information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence;
- information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law
- information, the disclosure of which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;
- information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property
- information received in confidence from foreign Government;
- information, the disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person
- information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;

- cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries and other officers
- information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest

**Q.28)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) Bill, 2021**:

1. The shares of NBFID will only be held by Central and State Governments.
2. NBFID will fulfill developmental objectives like facilitating the development of the market for bonds, loans, and derivatives for infrastructure financing.

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 **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill, 2021** was passed in Parliament recently to establish the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) as the principal development financial institution (DFIs) for infrastructure financing.

Statement 1 is incorrect. NBFID will be set up as a corporate body with authorised share capital of one lakh crore rupees. **Shares of NBFID** may be held by central government, multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, insurers, financial institutions, banks, and any other institution prescribed by the central government.

Statement 2 is correct. NBFID will have both **financial as well as developmental** objectives.

-- Financial objectives will be to directly or indirectly lend, invest, or attract investments for infrastructure projects located entirely or partly in India.

-- Developmental objectives include facilitating the development of the market for bonds, loans, and derivatives for infrastructure financing.

**Q.29)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**:

1. No person can convene any public meeting in connection with an election within forty-eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll.
2. Election Commission can ban the publication of exit polls for period of polling.

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. **Article 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** explicitly prohibits the public meetings during period of **forty-eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll**. No person shall:

-- convene, hold or attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election; or

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-- display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus; or

-- propagate any election matter to the public by holding, or by arranging the holding of, any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public thereto,

in any polling area during the period of **forty-eight hours ending with the fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in the polling area.**

Statement 2 is correct. Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowers the Election Commission to put restriction on publication and dissemination of result of exit polls;

Further, it states that in case of a general election, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the poll in all the States and Union territories.

## ECONOMICS

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are **non-tariff barriers**?

1. Import licensing
2. Quotas
3. Countervailing Duties

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:** **Non-tariff barriers** are trade barriers that restrict the import or export of goods through means other than tariffs. Nontariff barriers include **quotas, embargoes, sanctions, and levies**.

-- Countries may use licenses to limit imported goods to specific businesses.

-- Countries often issue quotas for importing and exporting both goods and services. With quotas, countries agree on specified limits for products and services allowed for importation to a country.

-- Embargoes are when a country—or several countries—officially ban the trade of specified goods and services with another country.

# *Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.*

**Q.2)** What changes were introduced in the **FDI policy of India** for curbing opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

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

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



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

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

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

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Prompt corrective action (PCA) Framework**:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

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

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