# **Forum** AS

# 10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

26th to 31st July, 2021

#### **Economy**

Q.1) Which of the following factors can increase unemployment in India?

- 1. Low Labour mobility in India
- 2. Rush for government jobs
- 3. Increase in small scale industries

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

#### Causes of unemployment in India:

- The decline of Small Scale and Cottage Industries
- Low Labour mobility in India
- Rush for government jobs (This will lead to a situation where many remain unemployed due to students preparing for government jobs.)
- · Lack of skills and education

Read more: Periodic Labour Force Survey and Unemployment in India

**Q.2) Periodic Labour Force Survey** was seen in news recently. Which of the following organisation conducts the survey?

- a) National Statistical Office (NSO)
- b) National Sample Survey Organisation
- c) Ministry of Labour
- d) NITI Aayog

#### **Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The government released the latest annual report of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**. The data was for the 12 months (or four quarters) between July 2019 and June 2020. The PLFS report shows unemployment rates are falling in a year when **GDP growth hit a low**.

The PLFS is an annual survey conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO). It was started in 2017, and it essentially maps the state of employment. In doing so, it collects data on variables such as the level of unemployment, the types of employment and their respective shares, etc.

Earlier, this job was done by Employment-Unemployment Surveys, but these were conducted once every five years.

Source: The Indian Express

## Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Pre-Pack Insolvency Resolution Process (PIRP):

- 1. It involves a public-bidding process to ensure fairness of proceedings.
- 2. Debtors remain in control of their distressed firm during PIRP.
- 3. PIRP allows for a Swiss challenge to the resolution plan submitted by a corporate debtor.

Created with love ♥ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services. Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.



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

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

#### Correct Answer: b

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**: **A pre-pack** is an agreement for the resolution of the debt of a distressed company through an agreement between secured creditors and investors, instead of a public bidding process.
- Statement 2 is correct: Unlike in the case of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP), debtors remain in control of their distressed firm during the Pre-Pack Resolution Process (PIRP).
- **Statement 3 is correct**: The pre-pack insolvency resolution process (PIRP) also allows for a Swiss challenge to the resolution plan submitted by a CD, in case operational creditors are not paid 100% of their outstanding dues.

Source: Indian Express

- **Q.4)** Malegam Committee Report was sometime seen in the news. Which of the following sector does the report caters to?
- a) Defence sector
- b) Microfinance
- c) Online Banking
- d) Digital Currency

#### Correct Answer: B

**Explanation:** The **Malegam Committee Report** of 2011 helped establish micro-finance as a legitimate asset class.

After 10 years then, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had released its Consultative Document on Regulation of Microfinance in June 2021.

#### **About the committee:**

The Reserve Bank of India formed a sub-committee in order to study the Microfinance sector regulated by the bank. The Sub-Committee was under the chairmanship of Y.H. Malegam.

The committee recommended certain conditions to be satisfied for NBFCs to be classified as <a href="NBFC-MFI">NBFC-MFI</a>:

- Not less than 90% of NBFCs total assets (other than cash, money market instruments and bank balances) are in the nature of "qualifying assets."
- The income NBFC derives from other services is in accordance with the regulation specified on that behalf.

Read more: A framework for microfinance regulation that would suit India

#### Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Gharib Nawaz Employment Scheme

- 1. The scheme provides short term job-oriented skill development courses to minorities' youth in order to enable them for skill-based employment.
- 2. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

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

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

#### Correct Answer: A

**Explanation:** Recently, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs replied in the Parliament that a total number of 371 training centres under the Gharib Nawaz Employment Scheme were opened across the country.

#### **Gharib Nawaz Employment Scheme:**

It is a scheme to provide **short term job oriented skill development courses to minorities' youth** in order to enable them for **skill-based employment.** It was launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2017.

• **Implementing agency:** Maulana Azad Education Foundation, an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, implements the scheme.

Source: PIB



#### Geography - NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

#### Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Polymetallic nodules

- 1. These are rocks that are rich in cobalt, copper, manganese, nickel
- 2. Polymetallic nodules do not contain rare earth minerals

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

#### Correct Answer: A

#### **Explanation:**

- These are rocks that are rich in cobalt, copper, manganese, nickel, rare-earth elements and titanium.
- The Pacific basin is thought to contain more than 30 billion tonnes of polymetallic nodules
- Scientists and entrepreneurs have been researching methods of extracting them since the 1960s.
- In 1994, the International Seabed Authority was established to regulate mining efforts and protect the seabed environment.

Read more: Digging up the ocean floor for metals could prove disastrous



#### **Environment**

## Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding CBAM [carbon border adjustment mechanism]

- 1. It will impose a border fee on imports in carbon-intensive sectors from nations with lower environmental standards
- 2. Recently the European Commission's Fit To 55 Package introduces this CBAM Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

#### Correct Answer: C

#### **Explanation:**

- **Fit To 55** Recently, The European Commission adopted the Fit for 55 Package of proposals. It aims to make the EU's climate, energy, land use, transportation, and taxation policies fit for lowering greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 (relative to 1990 levels).
- The Fit for package opens new markets for the Indian industry, for example, electric vehicles. However, it also introduces a globally unprecedented carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) for pricing imported carbon.

CBAM will impose a border fee on imports in carbon-intensive sectors like steel, cement, and fertilizers from nations with lower environmental standards than the EU. The scheme would start in 2023 with a transition period until 2025.

Read more: Implication of EU's new GHG emissions law for Indian industry

#### Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign

- 1. It is a campaign of the Indian Army.
- 2. The entire area of Cherrapunji is going to be adopted for plantation.

Which of the above statements 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 Home Minister has launched the Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign at Sohra (Cherrapunji).

#### About Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign:

- Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign is a campaign of the Assam Rifles.
- **Under the campaign,** the entire area of Cherrapunji is going to be adopted by Assam Rifles for plantation.
- So when the trees are cut for fuel and other uses, 80% of the total land will be planted with traditional and long lifespan trees. The remaining 20% will be used for animal feed, ornamental plants, and nursery which will meet all the requirements and help reduce the feeling of long lifespan trees.

• **With this technique,** multi-level farming is done, and the forest grows 30 times faster and after 3 years it becomes free of maintenance.

Read more: Union Home Minister launches the Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign

#### Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Agar wood

- 1. The agarwood tree oil is also known as liquid gold.
- 2. IUCN has listed Agarwood under the critically endangered category.

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

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

#### Correct Answer: C

**Explanation:** Tripura government has come up with Tripura Agar Wood Policy 2021', which proposed to double agar wood plantation by 2025.

#### **About Agarwood:**

- The agarwood tree (Aquilaria malaccensis) oil is also known as liquid gold.
- A litre of agar oil costs Rs 5 lakh in the global market. Agar is used in perfumeries and other industries
- IUCN has listed it under the critically endangered category.
- The agarwood tree is native to Northeast India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and parts of Southeast Asia.
- It is an evergreen tree that can grow to 40 metres.

Source: The Economic Times

#### Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Indian leopard

- 1. It is under Vulnerable category in IUCN Red list
- 2. Except desert and mangroves of Sundarbans leopards are present in all type of forests

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

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

#### Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The environment minister has recently released the report 'Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018'. The report points out that India's official leopard count increased 63 percent from 2014-2018.

#### About Indian Leopard or Common Leopard:

- The Indian leopard (Panthera pardus fusca) is a leopard subspecies widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent. These are the smallest of the big cats, known for their ability to adapt to a variety of habitats.
- **Vegetation:** In India, the leopard is found in all forest types, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests. It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, the only exception being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans.

- **Distribution:** Its range stretches from the Indus river in the west, the Himalayas in the north, and all the way to the lower course of the Brahmaputra in the east.
- Conservation Status:

o IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

o Wildlife (Protection)Act,1972: Schedule I

o **CITES:** Appendix I

Source: Down To Earth

#### Q.5) Parambikulam Tiger Reserve sometimes seen in news is located in?

- a) Telangana
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

## Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

India's 14 tiger reserves that have received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA | TS) are:

- Manas, Kaziranga and Orang Tiger Reserve in Assam
- Satpura, Kanha, and Panna in Madhya Pradesh
- Pench in Maharashtra
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar
- Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh
- Sunderbans in West Bengal
- Parambikulam in Kerala,
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu

Source: Article

#### Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Living root bridges:

- 1. Secondary root systems of the trees are weaved together to form these bridges.
- 2. They are built by Khasi and Jaintia comunities.

#### Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

#### Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

• Meghalaya region has some of the highest rainfall in the world. When the monsoon comes, the rivers rushing by take out all the bridges, except for the living root bridges grown by the Khasi and Jaintia people.

• These are built out of rubber fig trees planted near rivers by the community. They train the trees to grow across rivers and then, using bamboo scaffolding, they weave their secondary root systems together — after some years, you get a living root bridge. There are about 30 such bridges today and these were the most structurally efficient system possible



#### Government Schemes and Initiatives - COMMITTEES, INDEXES AND SURVEYS

#### Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Socio-Economic Caste Census

- 1. It was conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in rural areas and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation in urban areas.
- 2. The SECC does not collect Caste data

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation: Recently, on Caste Based Census,** the Ministry of Home Affairs has said that the Government of India has decided not to enumerate caste-wise population other than SCs and STs in Census 2021.

#### **About SECC:**

- Socio-Economic Caste Census(SECC) was conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in rural areas and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation in urban areas.
- **The SECC data** excluding caste data was finalized and published by the two ministries in 2016.
- The raw caste data was handed over to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which formed an Expert Group under former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairperson Arvind Pangaria for classification and categorisation of data. However, the report has not been made public.

Read more: The caste census debate

#### Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Food Corporation of India (FCI)

- 1. It is a neither a statutory body nor a constitutional body
- 2. The primary purpose of the FCI is the purchase, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of food grains and other foodstuffs.

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

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

#### Correct Answer: B

#### Explanation:

- Food Corporation of India is a statutory body constituted under the Food Corporations Act, 1964, to implement the food policy of the Government of India.
- The primary purpose of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) includes the purchase, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of food grains and other foodstuffs.

Read more: Food Corporation of India (FCI)

Source: Food security in India and its challenges

#### Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding I-STEM Portal:

- 1. It is a national web portal for sharing research and development facilities.
- 2. This initiative is a brainchild of NITI Aayog

#### Which of the above statements 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**: **I-STEM** was launched in 2020. It is a National Web portal for sharing R&D (Research and Development) facilities.
  - o **Purpose**: The portal is the gateway for researchers to locate the specific facility(ies) they need for their R&D work and identify the one that is either located closest to them or available the soonest.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Portal Is an initiative of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under the aegis of Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.

Source: PIB

#### Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding NISHTHA Programme:

- 1. It is a capacity building programme for improving quality of manufacturing in MSME industry.
- 2. Training is being organized by constituting National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs) at the National and the State level.

#### Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

#### Correct Answer: A

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** NISHTHA stands for National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement. It is a capacity building programme for Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This training is being organized by constituting National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs) at the National and the State level who will be training 42 lakhs teachers subsequently

Source: PIB

#### Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Agristack:

- 1. The database will create a unified platform for farmers to provide them end-to-end services across the agriculture food value chain.
- 2. Each farmer will have a unique digital identification (farmers' ID) which will be linked to their Aadhaar number.

#### Which of the above statements 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.

- AgriStack is a proposed collection of technologies and digital databases focusing on farmers and the agricultural sector.
- The database will create a unified platform for farmers to provide them end-to-end services across the agriculture food value chain.
- **Under the program,** each farmer will have a unique digital identification (farmers' ID) which will be linked to their Aadhaar number.
- Data to be collected by AgriStack may include personal details, the profile of land held, production details, and financial details.

Source: Article

## Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP):

- 1. Programme will organize a system of organ and tissue procurement & distribution for transplantation.
- 2. One of its aims is to protect vulnerable poor from organ trafficking.

#### Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

#### Correct Answer: D

#### **Explanation:**

#### Both statements are correct

#### About National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP):

- NOTP aims to promote organ donation and transplantation across all States/Union Territories (UTs).
- Implementing Agency: Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the National Organ Transplant Programme.

#### Objectives of the Programme:

- To organize a system of organ and tissue procurement & distribution for transplantation.
- To promote deceased organ and Tissue donation.
- Furthermore, to train required manpower.
- Also, to protect vulnerable poor from organ trafficking.
- Lastly, to monitor organ and tissue transplant services and bring about policy and programme corrections/ changes whenever needed.

Source: Article

#### Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the FIST program:

- 1. It is considered as complimentary support for enabling Schools/ Colleges to pursue research activities more effectively and efficiently.
- 2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

#### **Explanation:**

- The FIST program was launched by the Department of Science & Technology in 2000.
- The program aims to provide basic infrastructure and enabling facilities for promoting R&D activities in new and emerging areas and attract fresh talents in universities & other educational institutions.
- **Duration**: The duration of support for each project will be for a period not exceeding 5 years.
- It is a program run by Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- Read more <u>here</u>

Source: Article

## Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC):

- 1. It is a subsidiary of RBI.
- 2. The Governor of RBI acts as the Chairman of DICGC.
- 3. All commercial banks including the branches of foreign banks functioning in India are covered under deposit insurance scheme of DICGC

#### Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

#### Correct Answer: C

- Statement 1 is correct: DICGC is a subsidiary of RBI
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Deputy Governor is the Chairman of DICGC
- **Statement 3 is correct**: All commercial banks including the branches of foreign banks functioning in India, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks are covered under the deposit insurance scheme of DICGC.

Source: Article

#### Q.9) Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer committee sometimes seen in news is associated with?

- a) Fast track courts to reduce pendency of cases
- b) Improving functioning of National Company Law Tribunal
- c) Reforming the condition of women prisoners

Created with love ♥ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.

Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

d) Evaluation of the implications of digital surveillance

## Correct Answer: C Explanation:

• The **Expert Committee on 'Women Prisoners'** constituted by the Government in 1986-87 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer made a number of very useful recommendations for women prisoners and suggested a National Policy for Custodial Justice for Women.

Source: Article

Q.10) Which of the following reasons is/are responsible for heavy rains in recent years?

- 1. Increasing temperatures at the poles
- 2. More CO2 emission into the atmosphere
- 3. Faster movement of storms in mid latitudes

#### Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

#### **Correct Answer: B**

#### Explanation: How Climate change can cause floods?

- Experts say the more CO2 the world emits into the atmosphere, the warmer will be the air temperature. Warmer air holds more moisture and results in excess rainfall, which leads to flooding.
- Additionally, increasing temperatures at the poles result in slower movement of storms in the mid-latitudes. As a result, storms linger longer at a specific place.
- The combination of a slow-moving storm and the presence of surplus moisture in the atmosphere results in intense rainfall in one location within a short period of time.
- In 2018, Kerala, for example, witnessed 414 mm of rain in just three days. Rainfall for the period of August 1 to 19, 2018, in Kerala was **164% more than normal**.

Read more: Floods in Europe and lessons for India - Explained, Pointwise

#### Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme

- 1. It provides for domicile-free merit-based opportunities to students from any State to aspire to study in a good medical college located in another State.
- 2. Only the central list of OBCs shall be used for this Quota reservation.
  - 3. The AIQ seats for State medical and dental colleges also covered under the scheme

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Central Government has announced that it will provide 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for the economically weaker section(EWS). It will be provided

under the All India Quota (AIQ) scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate medical/dental courses in state medical and dental colleges from 2021-22.

#### About All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme:

- **The All-India Quota (AIQ)** Scheme was introduced in 1986 under the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- **Purpose**: It provides for domicile-free merit-based opportunities to students from any State to aspire to study in a good medical college located in another State.
- **All India Quota** consisted of 15% of total available UG seats and 50% of total available PG seats in government medical colleges.
- **However**, this was not extended to the AIQ seats of State medical and dental colleges. This has been done now.
- The central list of OBCs shall be used for this reservation.

Read more: Landmark decision taken by Government of India in Medical Education

#### **International Relations**

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding International Seabed Authority (ISA)

- 1. It was established by the United Nations Convention on the 'Law of the Sea' (UNCLOS)
- 2. The main activity of ISA is to regulate the exploration of poly-metallic nodules.
- 3. India is not a member of ISA

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

### **Explanation:**

- The ISA was established in 1982 by UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the 'Law of the Sea') and is an autonomous intergovernmental body with 167 members.
- ISA is the institution through which Parties to UNCLOS design and control all the mineral-related resources activities in the area.
- The main activity of ISA is to regulate the exploration of poly-metallic nodules.

India actively participates in the work of the International Seabed Authority. India was reelected as a member of ISA in 2020.

Read more: International Seabed Authority (ISA)

#### Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Emigration Act

- 1. The Act sets up a mechanism for hiring Indians seeking employment in abroad
- 2. The Act establishes a government review of workers travel and employment documents to all countries.

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

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

#### Correct Answer: A

**Explanation:** Labour migration is governed by the **Emigration Act, 1983**.

- The Act **sets up a mechanism for hiring** through government-certified recruiting agents individuals or public or private agencies.
- The Act outlines obligations for agents to conduct due diligence of prospective employers.
- It also sets up a **cap on service fees** and **establishes** a government review of worker travel and employment documents (known as **emigration clearances**) to 18 countries. These include mainly in West Asian states and South-East Asian countries.

Source: The Hindu

## Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

- 1. It acts as an advisory body of the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
- 2. It was established by UNESCO for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places.

#### Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

#### **Correct Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** ICOMOS is an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO. As such, it reviews the nominations of cultural world **heritage** and ensures the conservation status of properties.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: ICOMOS works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places. It is the only global non-government organisation of this kind, which is dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage.

Source: Indian Express

#### Q.4) CRIMARIO project sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) Improving security and safety in the wider Indian Ocean
- b) Detecting criminal activities on military bases.
- c) Using AI for the exploration of India's maritime zone.
- d) Anti-drone safety system being developed by DRDO

#### **Correct Answer: A**

#### **Explanation:**

- The CRIMARIO Project was launched by the European Union (EU) in 2015.
- The project aims to improve maritime security and safety in the wider Indian Ocean, with a particular focus on selected countries and archipelagos in East Africa.

Source: PIB

## Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- 1. The convention is legally binding.
- 2. India has not ratified the convention so far.

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

#### **Explanation:**

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2007 as the first major instrument of human rights in the 21st century.

- It defines persons with disabilities as those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- The convention is legally binding
- India ratified the convention and enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Read more: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

#### Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Exercise Cutlass Express 2021

- 1. It is an annual maritime exercise, conducted to promote national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.
- 2. India did not participate in the exercise

#### Which of the above statements 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 Ship Talwar is participating in a multinational training Exercise named "Cutlass Express 2021". It is being conducted along the East Coast of Africa.

#### **About Exercise Cutlass Express:**

- Exercise Cutlass Express is an annual maritime exercise, conducted to promote national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.
- The exercise is designed to assess and improve combined maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security and increase interoperability between the regional navies.

**Read more:** <u>Indian Naval Ship Talwar in Mombasa to Participate in Exercise Cutlass Express</u> 2021

Q.7) Consider the following pair of military exercises with India

Military exercise - Participating country

- 1. Indra Russia
  - 2. Shakti Nepal
  - 3. Ekuverin Maldives

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA will be held at Volgograd, Russia in August 2021.

Military exercise - Participating country

- 1. Indra Russia
- 2. Shakti France
- 3. Ekuverin Maldives
- 4. Surya Kiran Nepal

Source: PIB

#### **Ancient and Medieval history**

#### Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Ramappa Temple

- 1. The temple was constructed during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire
- 2. The presiding deity of the temple is Lord Vishnu
- 3. The temple is known as the Ramappa temple after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

#### Correct Answer: C

**Explanation:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has inscribed the Ramappa Temple as a UNESCO 'World Heritage Site'.

#### **About Ramappa Temple:**

- Ramappa (Rudreswara) Temple is also known as the Ramalingeswara (Lord Siva) temple.
- **Location**: The temple is located in the Palampet village of Venkatapur Mandal in Telangana's Mulugu (old Warangal) district.
- **Built by:** The temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recherla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.
- **Presiding Deity**: The presiding deity of the temple is Ramalingeswara Swamy. The temple is known as the Ramappa temple after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.

Read more: Telangana's Ramappa temple inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site

#### **Q.2)** Consider the following statements

- 1. The site was discovered by Jagat Pati Joshi
- 2. It is the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the World Heritage tag.
- 3. Harappan antecedent towns normally located near to rivers but the location of this town was in the island

Which of the following place is described in the statements above?

- a) Lothal
- b) Kalibangan
  - c) Dholavira
  - d) Rakhigarhi

#### Correct Answer: C

**Explanation:** The Harappan city of Dholavira, in present-day Gujarat, has been named the 40th Indian site on UNESCO's World Heritage list

#### About Dholavira:

• **Dholavira** is an archaeological site of a Harappan-era city. It is located in the Kutch district, Gujarat.

- The site is one of the very few well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia, dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.
- The site is the 6th largest of more than 1,000 Harappan sites discovered so far.
- The site was discovered in 1968 by archaeologist Jagat Pati Joshi.
- **The site** was a commercial and manufacturing hub for about 1,500 years before its decline and eventual ruin in 1500 BC.
- **The site is an exceptional example** of a proto-historic Bronze Age urban settlement pertaining to the Harappan Civilization (early, mature, and late Harappan phases).
- **Dholavira was located** on the island of Khadir when compared to other Harappan towns normally located near rivers and perennial sources of water.

Read more: Dholavira in Gujarat on UNESCO World Heritage list

## Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Chola Dynasty. Which of the above statement is true?

- a) Rajaraja Chola was the first to venture to the banks of the Ganges.
- b) Kailasanatha Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site was built by the Cholas
- c) Rajendra I conducted a naval expedition to Kadaram or Sri Vijaya (Malay peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands)
- d) The Chola Empire was founded by Aditya Chola

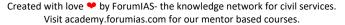
#### Which of the above statement is true?

#### Correct Answer: C

**Explanation:** Recently The National Gallery of Australia (NGA) has announced that it would return 14 works of art from its Asian art collection to India. The art collection includes the dancing child-saint Sambandar of the 12th century, belonging to the Chola dynasty.

- Rajendra I was the first to venture to the banks of the Ganges.
- Kailasanatha Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site was built by the Pallavas
- Rajendra I conducted a naval expedition to Kadaram or Sri Vijaya (Malay peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands)
- The Chola Empire was founded by Vijayala Chola

Read more: National Gallery of Australia returns 14 artworks including Chola idols



#### **Agriculture**

#### Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Nano Urea Liquid

- 1. Nano Urea Liquid was first developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- 2. India is the first country globally to start commercial production of Nano Urea

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Recently, National Fertilisers Limited (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) for 'transfer of technology' of a revolutionary and game changer fertiliser Nano Urea Liquid.

- Nano Urea Liquid is a nutrient to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea.
- Developed by: Nano Urea Liquid has been developed indigenously through proprietary technology at IFFCO's Nano Biotechnology Research Centre(NBRC) in Gujarat.
- India has become the first country globally to start commercial production of Nano Urea

Source: PIB

## Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Project Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD)

- 1. It seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones of the country
- 2. It is the initiative of National Bamboo Mission

#### Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

#### Correct Answer: B

**Explanation:** Recently, In the first of its kind efforts to develop green cover in the Indian deserts of Rajasthan, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on Tuesday planted 1000 bamboo saplings at Tanot village in Jaisalmer, in collaboration with the Border Security Force (BSF).

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) has launched a project named Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought(BOLD)
- **Project BOLD** seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones of the country. It aims at reducing land degradation and preventing desertification in the country.

• **As part of the project,** 5000 saplings of bamboo species – Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 16 acres of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land in Rajasthan.

Source: PIB

#### Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Raja Mircha

- 1. This chilli belongs to the genus Capsicum
- 2. It is a Geographical Indication(GI) certified chilli from Nagaland

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

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

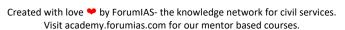
#### Correct Answer: C

**Explanation:** The consignment of 'Raja Mircha' also referred as king chilli from Nagaland was exported to London via Guwahati by air for the first time.

#### About Raja Mircha:

- Raja Mircha is a chilli from Nagaland. It is also referred to as king chilli or Bhoot Jolokia and Ghost pepper.
- **Genus:** This chilli belongs to the genus Capsicum of the family Solanaceae.
- **GI Tag:** It got the Geographical Indication(GI) certification in 2008.
- **Significance:** It has been considered as the world's hottest chilli and is constantly on the top five in the list of the world's hottest chilles based on the Scoville Heat Units (SHUs).

Read more: King Chilli 'Raja Mircha' from Nagaland exported to London for the first time



#### **GEOGRPAHY**

#### Q.1) Which of the following is/are the tributaries of Godavari River?

- 1. Manjra
- 2. Bhima
- 3. Musi

#### Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

- **Tributaries of Godavari**: Pravara, Purna, **Manjra,** Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), Indravati, Maner and the Sabri.
- **Tributaries of Krishna**: The principal tributaries joining Krishna are the Ghataprabha, the Malaprabha, the Bhima, the Tungabhadra and the Musi.

Source: Business Standard

#### Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Gold Ore Reserves

- 1. The largest reserves of gold ores in India is located in Bihar
- 2. Globally the largest reserves of gold ores located in South Africa

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

#### **Explanation:**

Recently, the Union Minister of Mines has informed Rajya Sabha about the Gold Ore Reserves present in India.

#### About Gold reserves in India:

- **According to** National Mineral Inventory data, India has 501.83 million tonnes of gold ore reserves as of April 1, 2015.
- Out of these, 22 million tonnes were placed under reserves category and the rest under remaining resources category.
- The largest reserves of gold ores are located in Bihar (44%), followed by Rajasthan (25%), Karnataka (21%), West Bengal (3%), Andhra Pradesh (3%) and Jharkhand (2%).
- **The remaining 2% reserves** are in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

#### Global Reserves:

• U.S has the highest gold reserves with 8,133.5 tonnes of total gold reserves, followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes

Read More: India has 500 million tonnes of gold ore reserves: Govt

## Q.3) Which of the following conditions is/are favorable for the formation & intensification of Tropical Cyclones?

- 1. Upper divergence above the sea level system
- 2. Consistent source of heat
- 3. High-level cyclonic circulation

#### Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

#### **Explanation:**

#### The conditions favorable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:

- A consistent source of heat as tropical cyclones are thermally induced low-pressure systems.
- **Large sea surface** with a temperature higher than 27° C which is possible only during the late summers i.e. September, October, and November
- Presence of the **Coriolis force**.
- Small variations in the **vertical wind speed**.
- A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation;
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Source: Article

#### Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Phosphorus rocks or phosphate rocks

- 1. Phosphate rocks are majorly produced from Jharkhand and Odisha in India
- 2. More than 85% of the phosphate rock mined is used to manufacture phosphate fertilizers.

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

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

#### Correct Answer: B

**Explanation:** Recently Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers informed Parliament that India will explore indigenous deposits of phosphatic rock, a step towards becoming Aatma Nirbhar in fertilizer production.

#### **About Phospate rock:**

- Phosphorus rocks or phosphate rocks are unprocessed ores.
- Phosphate rock deposits can be sedimentary (formed from sediment deposited by water or air) or igneous (having solidified from lava or magma).
- Worldwide, more than 85% of the phosphate rock mined is used to manufacture phosphate fertilizers.

#### Phosphorus in India

- Phosphate rocks are majorly produced only from two States in India, namely Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- Currently, there exists 30 lakh MT of phosphorite deposits in the country

Created with love ♥ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services. Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

• These deposits are available in Rajasthan, central part of peninsular India, Hirapur (Madhya Pradesh), Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh), Mussoorie syncline, and Cuddapah basin (Andhra Pradesh).

Source: All India Radio



#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Q.1) James Webb telescope is often called as a successor to Hubble telescope. In this respect, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an international collaboration between NASA, JAXA and ROSCOSMOS
- 2. It will be positioned at the second Lagrange point.
- 3. It will primarily look at the universe in the infrared wavelength.

#### Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

## Correct Answer: B

## Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**: It is an international collaboration between NASA, European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Hubble is in a very close orbit around the earth, while Webb will be 1.5 million kilometers (km) away at the second Lagrange (L2) point.
- **Statement 3 is correct**: Webb will primarily look at the Universe in the infrared, while Hubble studies it primarily at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths (though it has some infrared capability)

Source: Article

#### Q.2) The terms Pirs, Zvezda & Nauka are related to which of the following?

- a) International Space Station
- b) CHIME Telescope
- c) Interstellar black hole
- d) Soyuz mission

#### Correct Answer: A

#### **Explanation:**

#### **About Nauka Module:**

- **Nauka** is the Russian word for 'Science'. It will serve as Russia's main research facility on the International Space Station (ISS).
- **The module will replace** Pirs, a Russian module on the ISS used as a docking port for spacecraft and as a door for cosmonauts to go out on spacewalks.
- **The module will bring** to the ISS another oxygen generator, a spare bed, another toilet, and a robotic cargo crane built by the European Space Agency (ESA).
- On the ISS, Nauka will be attached to the critical Zvezda module, which provides all the space station's life support systems and serves as the structural and functional center of the Russian Orbital Segment (ROS) the Russian part of ISS.
- **Significance:** The Nauka Module is the biggest space laboratory Russia has launched to date.

Source: Article

#### Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Gamma Rays

- 1. They are the highest-energy light in the universe.
- 2. On Earth, gamma rays are generated by nuclear explosions, lightning and radioactive decay.
- 3. Gamma rays are not harmful to life on Earth.

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: B**

Recently, a group of astronomers have detected a very short, powerful burst of high-energy radiation also known as Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) that lasted for about a second. It was detected by National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.

#### **About Gamma Rays**

- They are the highest-energy light in the universe. They can have over a billion times the energy of the type of light visible to our eyes.
- They are produced by the hottest and most energetic objects in the universe, such as neutron stars and pulsars, supernova explosions, and regions around black holes.
- On Earth, gamma rays are generated by nuclear explosions, lightning, and the less dramatic activity of radioactive decay.
- Gamma rays are so energetic that they are harmful to life on Earth.

Source: PIB

#### Q.4) Scoville scale sometimes seen in news is associated with?

- a) Estimation of wet bulb temperature in arid regions
- b) Evaluate purity of a gold sample
- c) Emission of Gamma radiation by Neutron stars
- d) Measurement of the capsaicin

#### Correct Answer: D

#### Explanation:

• The Scoville scale is a tool for measuring the spiciness or pungency of hot peppers. The scale measures the amount of capsaicin (the chemical compound that causes spicy heat) in a pepper and assigns it a number rating in Scoville Heat Units (SHUs).

Source: Article

## Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Khagolshala Asteroid Search Campaign (KASC)

- 1. It is an initiative of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- 2. The high-quality astronomical data sets are distributed to students for analysis and identification of asteroids.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

#### Correct Answer: B

**Explanation:** Recently Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya students have detected Eight Asteroids as part of the Khagolshala Asteroid Search Campaign 2021.

#### About Khagolshala Asteroid Search Campaign:

- **Khagolshala Asteroid Search Campaign(KASC)** is an initiative of the <u>Office of Principal Scientific Adviser</u>, Government of India, and SPACE Foundation.
- **The campaign** is the India chapter of an international student research program that has got students involved in the search for asteroids.
- **Under the campaign,** high-quality astronomical data sets are distributed to students through the **PANSTARRS** telescope for analysis and identification of asteroids.
- The students then analyze the data using software, which then leads to potential discoveries.
- **These observations** feed into the <u>Near-Earth Object(NEO)</u> data being compiled by NASA and the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL).

Read more: <u>Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya students detect asteroids under Khagolshala</u>
Asteroid Search Campaign 2021

#### Q.6) Consider the following statements about Lithium-Sulphur Batteries:

- 1. It is a type of rechargeable battery with lithium or lithium alloys as cathodic material and sulphur as anodic material.
- 2. Lithium-ion batteries are commonly used for portable electronics, electric vehicles and in aerospace applications.

#### Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

#### **Correct Answer: B**

#### **Explanation:**

#### Statement 1 is incorrect

• It is a type of rechargeable battery with lithium or lithium alloys as anodic material and sulphur as cathodic material.

#### Advantages:

- o lower cost of production due to use of sulphur,
- o capable of storing up to 10 times more energy than lithium-ion ones
- o energy efficient
- improved safety

**Disadvantages:** battery physically breaks apart under the stress from repeated charging and discharging of the battery

#### Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

- 1. They are cost-effective, three-stage, all-solid launch vehicles
- 2. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

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

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

#### **Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch a geo-imaging satellite named "EOS-03" in the third quarter of 2021.

#### About Small Satellite Launch Vehicle(SSLV):

- **SSLV** is a small-lift launch vehicle being developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Features**: They are cost-effective, three-stage, all-solid launch vehicles with a payload capability of 500 kg to 500 km planar orbit or 300 kg to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit.
- **Benefits:** SSLV is ideal for the on-demand, quick turn-around launch of small satellites.
- **Launch Date:** The first developmental flight of SSLV is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2021 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Read more: Geo-imaging satellite "EOS-03" is scheduled for launch in third quarter of 2021

**Q.8) Near-Surface Shear Layer (NSSL)** was sometimes seen in the news. It is related to which of the following in solar system?

- a) Earth
- b) Sun
- c) Jupiter
- d) Saturn

#### **Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Indian astronomers have found a theoretical explanation for an intriguing layer named Near-Surface Shear Layer(NSSL).

#### What is a Near-Surface Shear Layer(NSSL)?

- It has long been known that the sun's equator spins faster than the poles.
- **However, a peek into the internal rotation** of the sun using sound waves revealed the existence of an intriguing layer where its rotation profile changes sharply.
- This layer is called the near-surface shear layer(NSSL) and exists very close to the solar surface, within which the angular velocity decreases rapidly with radius.
- **Significance:** Understanding NSSL is crucial for the study of several solar phenomena like sunspot formation and solar cycle.

Read more: <u>Intriguing layer where internal rotation profile of Sun changes theoretically explained</u>

#### **POLITY**

#### Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021:

- 1. The Bill applies to territorial waters, continental shelf, and exclusive economic zone.
- 2. State governments will be able to designate any aid to navigation as a heritage lighthouse.

#### Which of the above statements 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 Bill applies to the whole of India including various maritime zones including territorial waters, continental shelf, and exclusive economic zone.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: The Central Government, not state govt, can designate any aid to navigation under its control as a "heritage lighthouse". In addition to their function as aids to navigation, such lighthouses will be developed for educational, cultural, and tourism purposes

Source: Article

## Q.2) Shibulal task force was sometimes seen in news. It is related to which of the following?

- a) Smart Cities Mission
- b) Digital India
- c) Mission Karmayogi
- d) Atal Innovation Mission

## Correct Answer: C

#### **Explanation:**

Former Infosys CEO SD Shibu Lal was recently appointed as chairperson of a three-member task force which will assist in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through "Mission Karmayogi".

Source: Article