

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

16th to 21th Aug, 2021

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

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ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Great Hornbill:

1. They are the cultural symbols of the Nyishi community of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is listed as endangered in the IUCN red list.

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
- Statement 2 is incorrect: It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN red list.

About Great Hornbill

- **The great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)** is also known as the concave-casqued hornbill, great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill.
- **It is one of the larger members** of the hornbill family. It is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- **The most prominent feature** of the Great Hornbill is the bright yellow and black casque (hard structure on the head of some birds) on top of its massive bill.
- **Festival:** The [Hornbill Festival](#) celebrated in **Nagaland** is named after the bird – Hornbill, which is the most revered and admired bird for the Nagas.
- **Cultural Symbol:** They are the cultural symbols of some ethnic communities in the northeast, specifically the **Nyishi** of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **State Bird:** Great Hornbill is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
- **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Eagle's Nest Wildlife Sanctuary recently in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Sikkim
- d) Arunachal

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

About Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Eaglenest or Eagle's Nest Wildlife Sanctuary** is a protected area of India in the Himalayan foothills of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **It conjoins** Sessa Orchid Sanctuary to the northeast and Pakhui Tiger Reserve across the Kameng river to the east. It is also a part of the Kameng Elephant Reserve.

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- **The sanctuary derives** its name from the Red Eagle Division of the Indian army which was posted in the area in the 1950s.
- **The sanctuary is notable** as a prime birding site due to the extraordinary variety, numbers and accessibility of species.
- **Eaglenest** is the site where Bugun liocichla (a passerine bird species) was first discovered in 1995 and again observed and described in 2006.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian leopard:

1. Indian leopards are known for their ability to adapt to a variety of habitats
2. It is listed as vulnerable under IUCN red list
3. Jhalana in Rajasthan became India's first leopard reserve in 2016

Which of the above statements 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:

All the statements are correct.

About Indian Leopard or Common Leopard:

- The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard subspecies widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent. These are 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:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I
 - **CITES:** Appendix I

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is recently seen in news. The sanctuary is located in which of the following state?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Himachal Pradesh

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Four more wetlands from India – two from Haryana and two from Gujarat – have been recognised as Ramsar sites of international importance. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46.

The wetlands that have received the Ramsar Site tag are Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary and Sultanpur National Park from Haryana; and Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana Wetland from Gujarat.

About Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated in Gujarat. The sanctuary lies on the Central Asian Flyway.
- **Built in:** Thol Lake was initially built in 1912 as a tank by the Gaekwad regime to provide irrigation facilities to farmers.
- **Wildlife Sanctuary:** In 1988, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary by the state government to protect the birdlife found in this open-water wetland site.
- **Bird species:** The lake supports more than 320 bird species, including more than 30 threatened waterbird species such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing; and the vulnerable Sarus Crane and Common Pochard.

Read more: [Four new Ramsar wetland sites recognised in India](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements with regard to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):

1. It was first adopted to monitor outdoor air quality by CPCB
2. It monitors level of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 2 is incorrect- It monitors 8 major pollutants - Particulate matters (PM2.5 and PM10), sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, benzene, ammonia and ozone. It does not include carbon dioxide.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Slender loris:

1. It is nocturnal in nature and comes under “endangered” category of IUCN red list
2. It is believed that these animals have medicinal properties.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About Slender loris:

- Slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*) is secretive and has **nocturnal** habits. It usually travels from the canopy of one tree to another
- It has been listed as '**Endangered**' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- It is under **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, to provide the highest level of legal protection
- They are usually solitary but sometimes found in pairs
- It is believed that these animals have some **medicinal properties**, they are captured and sold.
- Habitat loss, electrocution of live wires and road accidents are other threats that have caused its populations to dwindle.

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

Q.7) Ratchet mechanism was seen in news recently. The mechanism is related to which of the following?

- a) Afghan peace process
- b) International Finance
- c) Plastic Pollution
- d) Climate change

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Ratchet Mechanism:

- **Under the Paris Agreement**, countries have submitted Intended nationally determined contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to a "business as usual" scenario.
- **The framework also expects** each country to **submit enhanced nationally determined contributions every five** years to ratchet up the ambition to mitigate climate change. This process is informally known as the ratchet mechanism.
- **COP 26** is expected to be the first time that Parties are expected to commit to enhanced ambition since COP21.

Read more: [India, UK plan world bank for green energy](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Cheetah:

1. The cheetah is world's fastest "land mammal"
2. While Asian cheetah is under "endangered" category, African cheetah is under "vulnerable" category of IUCN

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: Asian Cheetah are Critically endangered under IUCN red list. Only 40-50 are left in Iran and it is declared as extinct in India

Source: [Article](#)

Also read: [About Cheetah](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Compostable plastic:

1. Compostable plastic can only be composted in industrial composting facilities
2. Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2021 completely exempt compostable plastic under the rule

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Also read: [Single Use plastic Ban](#)

Q.10) Which of the following is true about Neelakurinji flowers:

1. It is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Eastern Ghats in South India.
2. It blossoms once every 12 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is wrong: is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Source: [HT](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding HFCs (HydroFluoroCarbons):

1. They are man-made and also occur naturally.
2. HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases but weak Ozone depleting substances.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**
- **Statement 2 is correct**

About HFCs

- **HFCs** are entirely man-made. They are primarily produced for use in refrigeration, air-conditioning, insulating foams and aerosol propellants, with minor uses as solvents and for fire protection.
- **HFCs were developed** to replace stratospheric ozone-depleting substances (ODS) that are currently being phased out under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- **Though HFCs** do not impact the ozone layer, many HFCs are very powerful greenhouse gases and a substantial number are short-lived climate pollutants with a lifetime of between 15 and 29 years in the atmosphere.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) Which of the following is/are causes behind declining population of pollinators?

1. Excessive use of fertilizer and pesticides
2. Practice of crop diversification
3. Improper land use practices

Select the correct answer using the codes 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:

Causes behind declining population of pollinators:

- Destruction of habitat through natural as well as manmade causes
- Improper land-use such as excessive grazing
- Excessive use of fertilizer and **increased trend of monoculture farming**
- High pesticide uses to increase the yield of crops
- Climate change is considered as fourth leading cause behind declining population of pollinators

Also read: [Why the Global South needs birds and bees more than the North?](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding Kigali Amendment:

1. It is a legally binding agreement between the signatories
2. It upholds the principle of Common but Differential Responsibility

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

About Kigali amendment:

It is a legally binding agreement between the signatories. And, there are non-compliance measures to ensure its implementation.

It sets different targets for countries depending upon the states of development, different socio-economic constraints, and varying technological and scientific capacities.

The Kigali Agreement upholds the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

The agreement classifies the signatory parties into three as per the phase-down schedules to freeze and reduce the production of HFCs.

- The first group consists of developed countries, led by the US and the European Union countries, that would have started the phase-down of HFCs by 2019, and reduce the level to 15% of 2012 level by the year 2036.
- The second group consists of developing economies such as China, Brazil, and also some African States that will start the phase-down by 2024 and decrease it to 20% of 2021 levels by the year 2045.
- The third group (in which India is placed) consists of developing economies and also some of the hottest nations, that will start the phase-down by 2028 and reduce the level to 15% of 2024-26 levels by the year 2047. Examples: Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Fishing cats:

1. It is the state animal of West Bengal
2. It is listed as 'vulnerable' under IUCN red list
3. Shrinking of tropical forest due to Palm oil cultivation in tropical areas has emerged as biggest threat to fishing cats in South and Southeast Asia

Which of the above statements 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:

About Fishing cats:

- The fishing cat is one of only two animals among the 40 odd members of the cat family which can survive in wet landscape
- It is the top predator of the wetland ecosystem
- Fishing cat has double layered coat which keeps its skin from getting wet
- The fishing cat is the **state animal of West Bengal**
- It is protected under **Schedule 1** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- **IUCN status:** It is listed as "vulnerable" under IUCN red list
- **CITES status:** The fishing cat is included on CITES Appendix II

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- **Habitat**- It prefers wetland ecosystem and traditionally found in the South and Southeast Asia's rivers such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna, Irrawaddy and Chao Phraya
- **Threat**- Shrinking of wetland ecosystem, marshes, mangrove, and grassland has emerged as biggest threat

Source: [Article](#)

ForumIAS

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Government schemes and Initiatives

Q.1) SonChiraiya was recently seen in news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- It is a new form of handicraft art getting popular in Maharashtra
- It is a brand and logo for the marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- It is a new scheme to popularize solar energy products in India
- It is a traditional wood-crafting style popular in the Deccan

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched 'SonChiraiya'.

About SonChiraiya:

- SonChiraiya** is a brand and logo for the marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- This will help in** improving visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.

Read more: [MoHUA launches one brand -'SonChiraiya' – for Urban SHG products](#)

Q.2) With reference to "Aseem Portal", which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is launched by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- It is an artificial intelligence-based platform that aims to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

About Aseem Portal

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched 'Atma Nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping' (ASEEM) portal.

Facts:

- ASEEM Portal:** It is an artificial intelligence-based platform that aims to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities by providing employers a platform to assess the availability of skilled workforce and formulate their hiring plans.
- Developed by:** The portal has been developed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with Better Place.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding National Monuments Authority (NMA):

- It is a statutory body.
- Its major function is the management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments.

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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 Monuments Authority (NMA):

National Monuments Authority (NMA) has been set up under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

It has been set up as per provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.

Functions: To protect and preserve monuments and sites through management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments.

- **One of the important** responsibilities of NMA is also to consider grant of permissions to applicants for construction related activity in the prohibited and regulated area.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding TAPAS portal:

1. It has been launched by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It shall maintain a database of impoverished artisans in all the aspirational districts.

Which of the above statements is/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**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**

About TAPAS Portal:

Developed by: National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

What is it? It is a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform that offers various courses in the field of social defence.

Objective: The main objective of introducing courses on social defence is to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants

Courses: It will provide five basic courses

- a. Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention,
- b. Geriatric/Elderly Care,
- c. Care and Management of Dementia,
- d. Transgender Issues
- e. Comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.

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Eligibility: The courses can be taken up by anyone who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics and there is no fee for joining.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding SAMVAD Programme

1. It is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in protection of women.
2. The programme is led by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)

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 Minister of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd phase of SAMVAD programme.

About SAMVAD Programme:

- **SAMVAD** stands for **S**upport, **A**dvocacy & **M**ental health interventions for children in **V**ulnerable circumstances **A**nd **D**istress.
- **Mandate:** It is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care.
- **Aim:** To provide mental health outreach for children who are abandoned and orphaned, child survivors of trafficking, or in conflict with law.
- **Implementation:** The programme is led by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences(NIMHANS). It is funded by Ministry of of Women and Child Development.

Read more: [Union WCD Minister launches 2nd Phase of SAMVAD](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Food & Public Distribution.
2. Children belonging to age group of 6-14 years are covered under it.
3. All government & Government aided schools including Madrasas under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are covered under it.

Which of the above statements 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 wrong

Statement 2 & 3 are correct

About MDMS

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Education
- **Under the Scheme**, cooked meals are provided to every child within the age group of six to fourteen years and studying in classes I to VIII.

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- **Cooked meal having nutritional standards** of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary (I-V class) and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for upper primary (VI-VIII class).
- **If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school** on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason. Then the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.
- **Coverage:** All children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.

Source [Live Mint](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Vriksharopan Abhiyan

1. It is a tree plantation campaign. Seedlings will also be distributed under the campaign
2. The Campaign is organized by the Ministry of Coal.

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 Ministry of Coal will be launching Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.

About Vriksharopan Abhiyan:

- **Organized by:** It is a tree plantation campaign to be organized by the Ministry of Coal.
- **Under the initiative,** large scale plantations will be carried out in colonies, offices, and mines and in other suitable areas of coal and Ignite PSUs. Seedlings will also be distributed in the nearby areas for promoting plantation by society.
- **Target:** It is expected that more than 300 plantation sites in and around coalfields across the country will be connected during the *Abhiyan*.

Read more: [Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021 of Coal Ministry to be Launched as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM):

1. It works as an attached office of Ministry of Earth Sciences
2. It provides scientific and technical inputs to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.

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:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) is a research institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

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- **Statement 2 is correct**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO):

1. It works under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It's one of the functions is to help in increasing speed and efficiency in the field of mapping with the help of installation of Automated Mapping System.

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:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**
- **Statement 2 is correct**

About National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO):

- **NATMO** is a subordinate office under the Department of Science & Technology.
- **Mandate:** It is involved in the compilation of the National Atlas of India. Apart from that, it also makes National Atlas in regional languages. NATMO also helps in increasing speed and efficiency in the field of mapping with the help of installation of Automated Mapping System. It also offers training to geologists who want to venture into this field.
- **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Meira Paibi sometimes in news is associated with?

- a) Community policing
- b) Traditional handicrafts
- c) Medieval architecture
- d) Biodiversity conservation

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Meira Paibi (Torch-bearers) in Assam: The women of the Manipuri Basti in Guwahati help with improving the law and order problem in their area, by tackling drug abuse among the youth. They light their torches and go around the basti guarding the entry and exit points, to prevent the youth of the area from going out after sunset.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme:

1. It involves a market-based compliance mechanism that aims to accelerate improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries.
2. It is a flagship scheme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect

About Perform, Achieve and Trade(PAT) Scheme:

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Power
- **Aim:** PAT is a market-based compliance mechanism that aims to accelerate improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries.
- **Nodal Agency:** It is a flagship programme of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).

Key Features of the Scheme:

- **The scheme** seeks to enhance cost-effectiveness through certification of excess energy savings in energy-intensive industries.
- **Under the scheme**, an Energy Audit is done to verify the baseline data (current level of efficiency) and thereafter energy saving targets are given.
- **Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts)** are issued to those plants that have achieved excess energy savings over their targets.
- **Units that are unable to meet the targets** either through their own actions or through the purchase of ESCerts are liable to financial penalty under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding Desertification and Land degradation Atlas of India:

1. It has been released by Space Application Centre under ISRO
2. According to atlas India is on track to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 and 2

Answer: a

Statement 2 is incorrect: Against the claim made by government, the report highlights that degradation and desertification has rather increased

About Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India:

- **ISRO** (Space Application Centre) released the **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India** which highlighted that India is **not on track** to achieve its national commitment of land degradation neutrality against the claim made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Findings of the report:

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- 97.85 million hectares (mha) of India's total geographical area underwent land degradation during 2018-19, which is 29.7 per cent of the country's overall land area
- In 2003-05, the degraded land area was 94.53 mha, which increased to 96.40 mha in 2011-13
- Besides land degradation, desertification has also increased. 83.69 mha underwent desertification in 2018-19, compared to 81.48 mha in 2003-2005 and 82.64 mha in 2011-13
- Most of the degradation and desertification is contributed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana
- India witnessed an increase in the level of desertification in 28 of 31 states and Union territories between 2011-13 and 2018-19
- However, land degradation and desertification were declining in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana in 2018-2019

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding Mid-day Meal Scheme

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Education
2. Scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About MDMS : It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 1995 by the Ministry of HRD.

Features of the Scheme:

- **Under the Scheme**, cooked meals are provided to every child within the age group of six to fourteen years and studying in classes I to VIII.
- **Cooked meal having nutritional standards** of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary (I-V class) and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for upper primary (VI-VIII class).
- **If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school** on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason. Then the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.

Coverage: All children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

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Agriculture - AGRI ALLIED SECTOR

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **IndiGau**

1. It is India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of all the cattle species
2. These chips are launched by the Ministry of Science & Technology

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 Science & Technology has launched "IndiGau".

- **IndiGau** is India's first **Cattle Genomic Chip** for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- **Developed by:** National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad, an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.

Source: [Union Minister releases 'IndiGau' SNP based chip for conservation of cattle breeds](#)

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Science & Technology

Q.1) Consider the following statements about rare disease

1. It is also known as Orphan Disease, affects only a small number of people
2. Most of the rare diseases are genetic in origin and so disproportionately impact children.

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:

All the statements are correct

Source [PIB](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Gravity bends the light in the process of attracting it.
2. GPS on our phones is an example of the application of special theory of relativity.

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

Special theory of relativity

Einstein's theory establishes that time moves slower within a moving body when measured from a point at rest (but moves normally within the moving body itself) and the length of the moving body contracts when measured from an outside point at rest.

When a moving body emits light, the length contraction and time slowdown of the moving body are just exactly what are needed to restore the speed of light to its constant value.

An example of the application of the special theory of relativity is the **use of GPS on our phones**

- Satellites account for time differences in their clocks due to their high speed and their positions away from earth's gravity, and then calculate the geolocation.

General theory of relativity

- It tries to **explain how does gravitational force act instantaneously between massive stars and planets** that are millions of miles away
- Einstein took help of geometry of curved spaces and multi-dimensional geometry to understand the effect of gravitational force.
- As per this theory, space and time form a continuum, like a fabric, and every object in the universe distorts this fabric, like a large ball distorts a tight trampoline sheet. **This distortion is gravity.**
- It produces two effects.

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- One, the fabric causes any other object in the vicinity to move towards the heavier object and this is why gravity causes an object to pull things towards it
- Two, it bends light in the process of attracting it which is recently captured by LIGO observatory
- This theory applies to all forms of motion, including those where gravity does not appear.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statement regarding Advanced Chaff Technology

1. It is used by militaries worldwide to protect their assets from radar and radio frequency(RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missile.
2. India so far did not have this technology indigenously

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats.

What is Advanced Chaff Technology?

- **Chaff is an electronic countermeasure technology.** It is used by militaries worldwide to protect their assets like naval vessels and aircraft **from radar and radio frequency (RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missile.**
- A very little quantity of chaff material deployed in the air acts as a decoy.
- **The chaff** deployed in the air reflects multiple targets for the missile guidance systems, thus misleading the enemy radars or deflecting adversary missiles.

Read more: [DRDO develops Advanced Chaff Technology for Indian Air Force](#)

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ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY: PRE-HISTORIC INDIA & INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Indus Valley civilization:

1. Evidences of temples have been found in this civilization.
2. Harappan knew the art of writing but their script has not been deciphered yet.
3. Chanhudaro was the only town without a citadel.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is wrong: No evidence of temples has been found in this civilization.

Statement 2 & 3 are correct

Source [Live Mint](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to city of Dholavira:

1. It lies on the island of Khadir Bet in Great Rann of Kutch
2. It has been recently included in UNESCO's world heritage list

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Both the statements are correct.

Source: [Article](#)

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Geography - Climatology

Q.1) Consider the following statement with respect to solar geo-engineering:

1. It is specific form of albedo modification to reduce incoming solar radiation
2. Placing of huge mirrors in the orbit, brightening of natural clouds are some of the methods of solar geo-engineering

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

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GEOGRAPHY: MAP BASED QUESTIONS

Q.1) Which of the following group of countries share border with Afghanistan

- a) Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Russia
- b) Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan
- c) Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- d) China, Iran, Russia

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

It is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast

Source: India.com

Q.2) With which following group of countries Israel share its border with:

- a) Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt
- b) Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Jordan
- c) Cyprus, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt
- d) Turkey Syria, Iraq, Yemen

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Israel, a country in the Middle East bordering the eastern end of Mediterranean Sea Israel borders Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestinian territories of West bank and Gaza Strip it shares maritime borders with Cyprus

Source: The Hindu

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Economy: Major crops and cropping pattern and associate technologies

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Palm oil production and consumption in India:

1. India is the largest consumer of palm oil in the world
2. Palm oil production is leading to environmental issues such as deforestation and peat land conversion
3. Despite being second largest producer of palm oil, India is a net importer

Which of the above statements 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

Statement 3 is incorrect- Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil, followed by Malaysia

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Bullion

1. Bullion refers to physical gold and silver of high purity
2. It is often held as reserves by central banks
3. Bullion is always considered as a legal tender

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, 3

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has launched the pilot run for the International Bullion Exchange.

What is Bullion?

- Bullion refers to **physical gold and silver of high purity** that is often kept in the form of bars or coins.
- Bullion can sometimes be considered legal tender and is often held as reserves by central banks or held by institutional investors.
- **Investors can buy** or sell bullion through dealers who are active on one of several global bullion markets.

Read more: [Pilot Launch of International Bullion Exchange – The Gateway for Bullion Imports](#)

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POLITY & GOVERNANCE: BASICS OF CONSTITUTION

Q.1) The 52nd Constitution Amendment deals with which of the following?

- Reservation of 30 % posts for women in government recruitments
- Free and compulsory education for all children between age of 6-14 years
- Continuation of reservation for backward classes in government employment
- Provides provisions related to Anti defection law in India

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

About Anti defection

- The 10th schedule was added to the constitution by the **52nd amendment in 1985**. This deals with the Anti defection process.
- The objective behind such a law was to prevent **political defections and provide stability** to the ruling government.
- As per the 10th schedule, a member can be disqualified if he/she votes contrary to his party directions. The **speaker/chairman** is the final deciding authority in this regard.
- The law is applicable to Parliament as well as state legislatures. Further, any person disqualified for defecting cannot get a ministerial position unless he/she gets re-elected.

Source [TOI](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements about National Human Right Commission (NHRC)

- It has the power of civil court and can grant interim relief.
- It cannot investigate the complaint registered after one year of incident.
- Its recommendations are binding in nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 & 2 only
- 2 & 3 only
- 1 & 3 only
- 1, 2, 3

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1& 2 are right

Statement 3 is wrong

About NHRC

- NHRC investigates grievances regarding the violation of human rights either suo moto or after receiving a petition.
- It has the powers of a civil court and can grant interim relief.
- It has the power to interfere in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights.
- It can visit any jail or any other institution under the control of the State Government to see the living conditions of the inmates and to make recommendations thereon.
- NHRC can only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions.
- A large number of grievances go unaddressed because NHRC cannot investigate the complaint registered after one year of incident.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statements about Speaker

1. He/ She holds the office during the pleasure of the President
2. Speaker has the authority to decide whether the bill is money bill or not and his decision is final
3. Speaker continues in office even after the dissolution of the House & until immediately before the first meeting of the house

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

About Speaker: Speaker is the constitutional and ceremonial head of the House.

- Speaker holds Office from the date of his/her election till immediately before the first meeting of the next Lok Sabha (for 5 years).
- Once elected is eligible for re-election.
- Whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets.

Source [Indian Express](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Social Audit:

1. It is legally mandated under section 17 of the MGNREG Act for all works in gram panchayat
2. Social audit is one of the key parameter to judge efficiency of states under Financial Management Index

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

About social audit:

- Section 17 of the MGNREG Act mandates social audit of all works in gram panchayats
- The Audit of Scheme Rules were notified in 2011, and The Auditing Standards for Social Audit were notified in 2016
- Social audit is a key parameter to judge the efficiency of states in management of finances under, Financial Management Index released by Rural Development Ministry
- The 2011 Rules say the state government will facilitate the social audit of work done under MGNREGA in every GP once every six months.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.5) Which of the following Fundamental Rights have been provided only to citizens of India and not to the foreigners living in India?

- a) Equality before law
- b) Freedom of Speech and expression
- c) Protection of life and personal liberty
- d) Freedom of religious practice

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Source [The Hindu](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Chairman of Rajya Sabha house:

- 1. The vice president of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- 2. He has the authority to decide whether a bill is money bill or not
- 3. Like the speaker, he is also the member of the house

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- 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 correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: The speaker decides whether the bill is money bill or not & his decision on this question is final

Statement 3 is incorrect: Unlike the Speaker (who is the member of the house), the chairman of Rajya Sabha is not the member of the house

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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International Relations and Organizations- Organizations, Initiatives and Campaigns

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):

1. It is specialised agency of UN focusing on biodiversity and ecosystem services
2. Secretariat of IPBES is provided by the UNEP

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is not a United Nations body

Statement 2 is correct

About IPBES:

- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States
- Objective- to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development
- It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments.
- It is not a United Nations body. However, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements UNITE AWARE Platform

1. It is the platform for funding startups selected through Defence India Startup Challenge
2. India in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations has launched this platform.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

India's External Affairs Minister has announced the launch of the UNITE AWARE platform.

About UNITE AWARE Platform:

- **Launched by:** India in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- **Purpose:** UNITE Aware is a technology platform that **utilises modern surveillance technology for real-time threat assessments** to UN peacekeepers and helps them enhance their security.

Read more: [Foreign Minister announces rollout of tech to help protect U.N. peacekeepers](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Global Cities Index:

1. It has been released by World Economic Forum
2. While Delhi's ranking witnessed fall, both Mumbai and Bangalore improved their performance

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both the statements are incorrect

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) “Zayed Talwar “naval exercise held between India & which of the following countries

- a) Audi Arabia
- b) Iran
- c) Israel
- d) UAE

Correct Answer D

Source : [The Hindu](#)

Q.5) Which of the following gives the ‘Human Development Report’ ranking to the countries of the world?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) UN Development Programme
- d) World Health Organization

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

India ranked 131 among 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) for 2019, slipping two places from the previous year, according to the Human Development Report (HDR) 2020 released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The other indices that form the part of the Report are:

1. Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI),
2. Gender Development Index (GDI),
3. Gender Inequality Index (GII) and
4. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.6) The Future of Jobs report was recently seen in news. Which of the following organization has released the report?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Labour Organization
- c) UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

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d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

In 2020, World Economic Forum (WEF) came out with its report titled – *The Future of Jobs*.

Significance

The report tries to answer this question – will Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology take over our jobs?

Findings

- **Double-disruption:** Automation, in tandem with the COVID-19 recession, is creating a ‘double-disruption’ scenario for workers. While some businesses surveyed indicated that they are set to reduce their workforce due to technology integration, some have plans to expand their workforce. Some businesses also plan to expand their use of contractors for task-specialized work.
- **By 2025, the time spent on current tasks at work by humans and machines will be equal.** In 2020, humans did 2/3rd of work and machines the rest; just five years hence, the human-machine split will be nearly equal.

Read more: [Data science and digital coding could soon be the new English](#)