# **Forum** AS

# 10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

29th Aug to 3rd Sep, 2022

#### **PRELIMS**

#### Q.1) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Section 9A of the Representation of People's Act, 1951 deals with the disqualification of a legislator for a government contract.
- 2. Office of Profit is not mentioned in the Constitution of India.

### Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

#### Answer: A

**Statement 1:** Section 9A of the Representation of People's Act, 1951 deals with the disqualification of a legislator for a government contract.

**Statement 2:** The statement is incorrect. Office of Profit is mentioned in the Constitution but not defined in the Constitution of India.

Source: <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/explained-what-happens-if-a-cm-is-disqualified-as-mla/articleshow/93798559.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/explained-what-happens-if-a-cm-is-disqualified-as-mla/articleshow/93798559.cms</a>

### Q.2) Yu Shan Mountain is located in -

- a) Philippines
- b) China
- c) Taiwan
- d) South Korea

# Answer: C Explanation –

Yu Shan or Yushan, also known as Mount Jade, Jade Mountain, or Mount Yu is the highest mountain in Taiwan at 3,952 m (12,966 ft). It gives Taiwan the 4th-highest maximum elevation of any island in the world. It is the highest point in the western Pacific region outside of the Kamchatka Peninsula. Yushan and its surrounding mountains belong to the Yushan Range. Source: <a href="https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/in-a-first-india-refers-to-militarisation-of-taiwan-strait-by-china/article65821313.ece">https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/in-a-first-india-refers-to-militarisation-of-taiwan-strait-by-china/article65821313.ece</a>



# Q.3) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PM-JDY) consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a national mission for financial inclusion to ensure access to financial services.
- 2. It provides for financial literacy program to teach use of ATMs and using mobile phones for banking.

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

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

#### Answer: C

Statement 1: PMJDY is a national mission for financial inclusion to ensure access to financial services namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

Statement 2: It provides for financial literacy program to promote savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, and using basic mobile phones for banking. Source: <a href="https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/nirmala-sitharaman-says-financial-inclusion-major-step-towards-inclusive-growth/article65821744.ece">https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/nirmala-sitharaman-says-financial-inclusion-major-step-towards-inclusive-growth/article65821744.ece</a>

# Q.4) With reference to Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) seen in the news recently consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a viral brain infection that is spread through mosquitoes.
- 2. The virus is found in camels.
- 3. There is no cure for the disease.

### Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

# Answer: A

#### Explanation

Statement 1: Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) is a viral brain infection that is spread through mosquitoes.

Statement 2: The statement is incorrect. The virus is found in pigs and birds and it is passed to mosquitoes when they bite infected animals.

Statement 3: Currently there is no cure for this disease. Treatment involves supporting the function of the body as it tries to fight off the infection.

Source: <a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/assam/assam-japanese-encephalitis-deaths-8116555/">https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/assam/assam-japanese-encephalitis-deaths-8116555/</a>





# Q.5) With reference to the Constitution Bench in the Supreme Court, consider the following statements;

- 1. A Constitution Bench is a bench of the Supreme Court having five or more judges on it.
- 2. The minimum number of judges for the interpretation of the Constitution was mentioned in the Constitution.

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

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

#### Answer: C

**Statement 1 is correct**: A Constitution Bench is a bench of the Supreme Court having five or more judges on it.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 145(3) says that the minimum number of Judges who are to sit for the purpose of deciding any case involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of this Constitution or for the purpose of hearing any reference under Article 143 shall be five.

Source: The Hindu

# Q.6) With reference to James Webb Space Telescope(JWST), consider the following statements;

- 1. It is designed and developed by NASA.
- 2. The space telescope is designed to study the earliest stars in the universe and other cosmic mysteries.

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

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

# Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

Statement 2 is correct: The space telescope is designed to study the earliest stars in the universe and other cosmic mysteries.

Source: Indian Express

# Q.7) Bilateral Air Force Exercise Cope India is conducted between India and which of the following country?

- a) France
- b) Australia
- c) The USA
- d) South Africa

#### Answer: C

Exercises between India and the USA

**Yudh Abhyas:** Military exercise.

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**Tiger Triumph**: Tri-service military exercise. **Cope India:** Bilateral Air Force exercise.

Source: PIB

# Q.8) Which of the following activities can be considered as a Waste to Wealth generating activity?

- 1. Utilizing Fly Ash produced through the combustion for making bricks.
- 2. Converting used cooking oil into an alternative fuel.
- 3. Converting organic food waste into biogas.

#### Select the correct answer using the codes given below;

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

**Answer: D**Source: PIB

# Q.9) With reference to Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign, consider the following statements;

- 1. It is a citizen-led initiative aimed at improving the coastal and ocean health via community action.
- 2. The nodal ministry for this campaign is Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

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

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

#### Answer: A

**Statement 1 is correct**: It is a citizen-led initiative aimed at improving coastal and ocean health via community action.

**Statement 2 is incorrect**: The campaign is spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other institutions.

Source: PIB



# Q.10) Which of the following is/are the correct about the Postal Index Number(PIN) code in India?

- 1. It can only be used by the Postal department and not by couriers, e-commerce players and other service providers.
- 2. It helps in easy identification of the postal district and the addressee's delivery post office.
- 3. All the post offices sort the letters mechanically using postal codes.

# Select the correct answer using the codes given below;

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

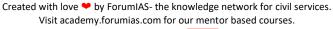
#### Answer: A

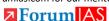
**Statement 1 is incorrect**: Though the code was originally designed to help postal operations, today it is used by couriers, e-commerce players and various other service providers as a means of locational identification of a person.

**Statement 2 is correct**: PGII has laid focus on climate action and clean energy while China has built large coal-fired plants under BRI along with solar, hydro, and wind energy projects.

**Statement 3 is incorrect**: The delivery jurisdiction of the post office is normally divided into beats and there is a postman assigned to each beat. At beat level, sorting at the post office is done manually in India.

Source: The Hindu





#### **PRELIMS**

# Q.1) Which of the following are the benefits provided under Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic (SEED) Tribes

- 1. Educational empowerment
- 2. Health Insurance
- 3. Facilitate livelihoods
- 4. Housing

#### Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

#### Ans) d

### Exp)

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.

The four components of the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs are:

- **1. Educational empowerment:** A component of free Coaching for DNT Students has been envisioned for the educational empowerment of these communities.
- **2. Health Insurance:** It is most likely that members of DNT/NT/SNT communities have little or no access to medical facilities and other benefits available under the mainstream health policies.
- **3. Facilitate livelihoods:** The decline of traditional occupations of DNT/NT/SNT communities has exacerbated their poverty. A focus to support livelihood generation for these communities is required.
- **4. Housing:** At present, a very large number of families belonging to the DNT/NT communities are without permanent shelters. In view of their changing socio-economic scenario, a large number of DNT communities are trying to settle themselves and take to alternative professions.

### Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding standalone 5G networks

- 1) It does not require the use of existing 4G network and runs parallel to it.
- 2) The initial cost of standalone 5G networks is significantly less than non-standalone networks.

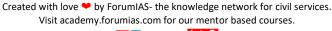
#### Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

#### Ans) a

#### Exp)

Statement 1 is correct. In the standalone mode, which Jio has chosen, the 5G network operates with dedicated equipment, and runs parallel to the existing 4G network, while in the non-standalone mode, the 5G network is supported by the 4G core infrastructure.





Statement 2 is incorrect. Non-standalone networks are built on existing infrastructure, the initial cost and the time taken to roll out services through this track is significantly less than standalone networks.

### Q.3) What is NASA's Artemis mission?

- a) Manned Moon mission
- b) Manned asteroid mission
- c) Manned mission to Mars
- d) Mission to find new habitable planets

#### Ans) a

## Exp)

With Artemis missions, NASA will land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon, using innovative technologies to explore more of the lunar surface than ever before.

# Q.4) With reference to climate change, which of the following statements correctly describes the term 'Zombie Ice', recently seen in news?

- a) The big block of ice that has broken away from glacier and is flowing away in the sea.
- b) The ice blocks that are still attached to the glaciers, but no longer getting new ice by parent glaciers
- c) The ice which is getting black due to black carbon and absorbing much more heat.
- d) The ice blocks which are not affected by the heat and continue to grow.

#### Ans)

#### Exp) b

Zombie ice is doomed ice that, while still attached to thicker areas of ice, is no longer getting replenished by parent glaciers now receiving less snow. Without replenishment, the doomed ice is melting from climate change and will inevitably raise seas.

# Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative

- 1) The initiative has replaced the past initiative of 'Districts as Export Hub' initiative.
- 2) It is a centrally sponsored scheme.

#### Select the correct answer using the codes given below

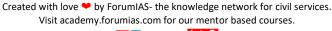
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Ans) b

#### Exp)

Statement 1 is incorrect. One District One Product (ODOP) initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub' initiative being implemented by DGFT.

Statement 2 is correct. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to be shared by the central government and states in 60:40 contributions.





#### Q.6) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The UN High Seas Treaty is concerned with the ocean existing within the Exclusive Economic Zones.
- 2. The warming of the ocean due to climate change has led to a rise in the sea level due to thermal expansion.

#### Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

#### Answer: B

#### Explanation -

Statement 1: The statement is incorrect. The UN High Seas Treaty concerns with the ocean existing beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones. Exclusive Economic Zones lie from the coast of a country to about 200 nautical miles or 370 km into the sea, till where the country has special rights for exploration.

Statement 2: There are many effects of warming of ocean due to climate change. The effects are – sea level rise due to thermal expansion, coral bleaching, accelerated melting of Earth's major ice sheets, intensified hurricanes, and changes in ocean health and biochemistry.

**Source:** <a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/explained-un-high-seas-treaty-countries-failed-agree-8119500/">https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/explained-un-high-seas-treaty-countries-failed-agree-8119500/</a>

# Q.7) With reference to Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV) seen in the news recently consider the following statements:

- 1. The virus is spread by the white-backed plant hopper.
- 2. The virus is found in the seeds of the infected plants and it is transmitted by seeds.

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

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

#### Answer: A

# Explanation -

Statement 1: The mysterious disease resulting in "dwarfing" of rice plants, reported mainly from Punjab and Haryana, has been caused by the Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV). The virus is spread by the white-backed plant hopper, an insect pest, which injects it while sucking the sap from mostly young plants.

Statement 2: The statement is incorrect. The virus is not found in the seeds collected from the infected plants. The virus is specific to the phloem (plant tissues that transport sugar and organic nutrients from the leaves to other parts) and is not transmitted by seed or grain.

Source: <a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/india/iari-new-virus-behind-mystery-dwarfing-of-rice-8117779/">https://indianexpress.com/article/india/iari-new-virus-behind-mystery-dwarfing-of-rice-8117779/</a>





#### Q.8) With reference to Poshan Tracker consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- 2. It is one of the important pillars of the Poshan Abhiyan and helps the government monitor services delivered at anganwadi centres and record nutritional indicators of beneficiaries.

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

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

#### Answer: B

Statement 1: The statement is incorrect. It has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Statement 2: It is one of the important pillars of the Poshan Abhiyan and helps the government monitor services delivered at anganwadi centres and record nutritional indicators of beneficiaries, including children in the age of six months to six years as well as pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Source: <a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/india/mann-ki-baat-pm-modi-citizens-fight-malnutrition-8117264/">https://indianexpress.com/article/india/mann-ki-baat-pm-modi-citizens-fight-malnutrition-8117264/</a>

# Q.9) With reference to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) consider the following statements:

- 1. The annual General Assembly session is held in the month of January every year.
- 2. Decisions on admission of new members in the Assembly require a two-thirds majority of the members of the General Assembly.

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

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

#### Answer: B

#### Explanation -

Statement 1: The statement is incorrect. The annual General Assembly session is held in the month of September every year in New York.

Statement 2: Decisions on admission of new members in the Assembly require a two-thirds majority of the members of the General Assembly.

Source: <a href="https://www.livemint.com/news/india/unga-praises-india-s-role-at-united-nations-11661788186119">https://www.livemint.com/news/india/unga-praises-india-s-role-at-united-nations-11661788186119</a>. https://www.livemint.com/news/india/unga-praises-india-s-role-at-united-nations-11661788186119. html





#### **PRELIMS**

## Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Special Marriage Act, 1954

- 1. It does not cover inter-caste marriages.
- 2. The act does not cover Indian nationals in foreign countries

#### Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

#### Ans) d

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under certain provisions of the SMA under which couples seek refuge for inter-faith and inter-caste marriages

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is an Act of the Parliament of India with provision for civil marriage for people of India and all Indian nationals in foreign countries, irrespective of religion or faith followed by either party.

# Q.2) Consider the following statements

- 1) India is the world's biggest producer of millets.
- 2) UN General Assembly declared 2023 the "International Year of the Millets"

## Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

#### Ans) c

Statement 1 is correct. India is the world leader in the production of millets with share of around 41% of total world production in 2020.

Statement 2 is correct

### Q.3) Consider the following statements

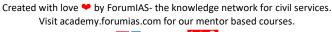
- 1) Afforestation is not possible in the areas affected by mines, due to negative effects of soot.
- 2) India has an INDC commitment to create additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

# Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

#### Ans) b

Statement 1 is incorrect. Afforestation is a proven way of restoration of lands damaged by anthropogenic activities and must for achieving satisfactory rehabilitation of a mined landscape.





Statement 2 is correct. Greening initiatives of the coal sector support India's NDC commitment to create additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

#### Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Banni Grasslands:

- 1. They extend to both states of Gujarat & Rajasthan
- 2. Maldhari community is normally associated with Banni Grasslands.
- 3. It has been demarcated as a reserve forest.

#### 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

#### Answer: B

## **Explanation:**

Banni Grassland is situated near the Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. It is considered to be the largest Grassland in Asia.

The grassland spreads over 2,618 kilometers and accounts for almost 45% of the pastures in Gujarat.

Formation: The word 'Banni' comes from the Hindi word 'banai', meaning made. The land here was formed from the sediments that were deposited by the Indus and other rivers over thousands of years.

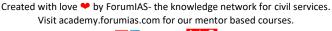
Ecosystem: Two ecosystems, wetlands and grasslands are juxtaposed in Banni.

Vegetation: The vegetation in Banni is sparse and highly dependent on rainfall. It is dominated by low-growing forbs and graminoids, many of which are halophiles (salt-tolerant), as well as scattered tree cover and scrub. The grasslands were traditionally managed by a system of rotational grazing.

Flora and Fauna: The area is rich in flora and fauna with 192 species of plants, 262 species of birds, several species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Reserve Forest: In 1955, the court notified the grassland will be a reserve forest. In, 2019, the NGT ordered to demarcate the boundaries of the Banni grassland and restricted non-forest activities.

Significance: Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has identified this grassland reserve as one of the last remaining habitats of the cheetah in India. Also, a possible reintroduction site for the species.





# Q.5) Operation Blue Freedom was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following statement explains it correctly?

- a) It is an Indian military operation carried out in Kargil which led to India's victory over Pakistan
- b) It is a mission undertaken by the Indian Air Force for airdropping supplies over the besieged town of Jaffna in Sri Lanka to support the Tamil Tigers during the Sri Lankan Civil War.
- c) It is a social impact venture aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.
- d) It is an operation carried out by Indian Navy in the Gulf Region to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

# Answer: C

# Explanation:

### **Operation Vijay**

It was launched by the Indian Army to recapture the Indian territories from Pakistani intruders in the Kargil-Drass sector in 1999.

#### **Operation Poomalai**

It is a mission undertaken by the Indian Air Force for airdropping supplies over the besieged town of Jaffna in Sri Lanka to support the Tamil Tigers during the Sri Lankan Civil War.

#### **Operation Blue Freedom**

Operation Blue Freedom is a social impact venture aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.

It aims to shatter the common perception of pity, charity and inability associated with people with disabilities and recreate it to one of dignity, freedom and ability. It was launched in 2019 by Team CLAW.

#### **Operation Sankalp**

In the backdrop of the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region, post attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named Op SANKALP, in the Gulf Region on 19 June 2019 to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

### **Q.6) With** reference to **cloud seeding**, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a weather modification technique that improves a cloud's ability to produce rain or snow by introducing tiny ice nuclei into certain types of subfreezing clouds.
- 2. Aluminum hydroxide is the most common chemical used for cloud seeding.

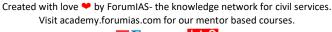
Select the correct statement using the code given below:

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

#### Answer: A

#### Explanation -

Statement 1: Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique that improves a cloud's ability to produce rain or snow by introducing tiny ice nuclei into certain types of subfreezing clouds. These nuclei provide a base for snowflakes to form.





**Statement 2:** The statement is incorrect. The most common chemicals used for cloud seeding include silver iodide, potassium iodide and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide).

**Source:** <a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/parched-uae-turns-to-science-to-squeeze-more-rainfall-from-clouds-8120965/">https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/parched-uae-turns-to-science-to-squeeze-more-rainfall-from-clouds-8120965/</a>

# Q.7) With reference to Group of Twenty (G20) consider the following statements:

- 1. Geneva is the permanent secretariat of G20.
- 2. It works to address major issues such as climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

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

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

## Answer: B

## Explanation -

Statement 1: The statement is incorrect. The G20 Presidency rotates annually according to a system that ensures a regional balance over time. Reflecting its nature as an informal political forum, the G20 does not have a permanent secretariat. Instead, the G20 president is responsible for bringing together the G20 agenda in consultation with other members and in response to developments in the global economy.

Statement 2: The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU). It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

Source: <a href="https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-showing-intent-as-problem-solver-environment-minister-at-g20-meet-122083100189\_1.html">https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-showing-intent-as-problem-solver-environment-minister-at-g20-meet-122083100189\_1.html</a>

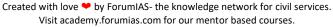
# Q.8) Which of the following is the positive impact of the Rupee depreciation on the Indian economy?

- a) Increase in the Current Account Deficit
- b) Higher franchise royalties
- c) Increase in the exports
- d) Increase in inflation

#### Answer: C

**Explanation** – when the rupee depreciates it helps in the export of India as the traders get more values of the product in the international market.

Source: <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/faqs/forex-faqs/rupee-dollar-exchange-rate-faqs-factors-responsible-current-rate-domestic-economy-and-more/articleshow/93903066.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/faqs/forex-faqs/rupee-dollar-exchange-rate-faqs-factors-responsible-current-rate-domestic-economy-and-more/articleshow/93903066.cms</a>





# Q.9) With reference to Indian economy, which of the following is not part of the eight core sectors?

- a) Coal
- b) Fertilizer
- c) Steel
- d) Automobile

# Answer: D Explanation –

The eight core sectors include – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity. These industries have a major impact on general economic activities and also industrial activities. The core sector represents the capital base of the economy. These eight industries have a combined share of above 40% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). Source: <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/core-sector-output-slows-down-to-4-5-in-july/articleshow/93905595.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/core-sector-output-slows-down-to-4-5-in-july/articleshow/93905595.cms</a>



#### **PRELIMS**

#### Q.1) With reference to PARAKH consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry that will set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country.
- 2. It will also guide standardized testing to monitor learning outcomes at the State and national levels.

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

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

# Answer: C

## Explanation -

Statement 1: PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is a National Assessment Centre. It is an autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry that will set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country.

Statement 2: It will also guide standardised testing to monitor learning outcomes at the State and national levels.

Source: <a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/education/specials/uniformity-across-all-boards-regulator-for-exam-assessment-parakh-8121746/">https://indianexpress.com/article/education/specials/uniformity-across-all-boards-regulator-for-exam-assessment-parakh-8121746/</a>

# Q.2) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PM-GKAY) consider the following statements:

- 1. It provides additional 5 kg grains for free in addition to the subsidized food grains.
- 2. It will provide grains only to those who are covered under the <u>National Food Security Act</u> 2013.
- 3. The expenditure of the distribution will be borne by Government of India and respective state governments.

### Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

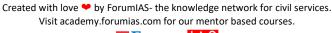
#### Answer: A

#### Explanation -

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) was announced by Government of India during covid pandemic to provide free food grains to the affected population.

The scheme is aimed at providing each person who is covered under the <u>National Food Security</u> <u>Act 2013</u> with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the <u>Public Distribution System (PDS)</u>.

Government of India will bear all expenditure of over Rs. 26,000 crore on account of food subsidy and Central assistance to states/UTs on account of intra-state transportation etc.





Source: <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/govt-yet-to-decide-on-extending-free-foodgrains-scheme-beyond-september-finance-secretary/articleshow/93911240.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/govt-yet-to-decide-on-extending-free-foodgrains-scheme-beyond-september-finance-secretary/articleshow/93911240.cms</a>

## Q.3) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India will receive more rainfall than normal leading to floods.
- 2. Australia and Indonesia will see droughts.

### Which of the above will be the impact of La Nina?

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

#### Answer: A

## Explanation -

Impacts of La Nina are:

- 1) abnormally heavy monsoons in India and Southeast Asia.
- 2) cool and wet winter weather in southeastern Africa, wet weather in eastern Australia.
- 3) cold winter in western Canada and northwestern United States.
- 4) winter drought in the southern United States.
- 5) It also leads to heavy floods in Australia.

Source: <a href="https://www.indiatoday.in/amp/environment/story/wmo-forecasts-first-triple-dip-la-nina-of-the-century-1994769-2022-08-31">https://www.indiatoday.in/amp/environment/story/wmo-forecasts-first-triple-dip-la-nina-of-the-century-1994769-2022-08-31</a>

# Q.4) With reference to the Financial Stability Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an institutional body established on the recommendations of the Raghuram Rajan Committee.
- 2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
- 3. Its function is to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability.

#### Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

#### Answer: A

# Explanation -

FSDC is a non-statutory apex council under the Ministry of Finance constituted by the Executive Order in 2010.

The Raghuram Rajan committee (2008) on financial sector reforms first proposed the creation of FSDC.

It is chaired by the finance minister.

Its function is to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.

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It monitors various macro-prudential activities of the Indian economy and is also responsible for the promotion of financial inclusion and literacy among the masses.

Source: <a href="https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/finance-minister-to-review-state-of-economy-at-fsdc-meeting-on-september-15/article65833520.ece">https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/finance-minister-to-review-state-of-economy-at-fsdc-meeting-on-september-15/article65833520.ece</a>

### Q.5 Which of the following is/are the correct about Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs)?

- 1. If the partnership fails, then creditors cannot go after a partner's personal assets or income.
- 2. Each partner is not responsible for another partner's misconduct or negligence.
- 3. LLPs are available for both formal and informal sectors.

# Select the correct answer using the codes given below;

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

#### Answer: D

Source: ForumIAS

#### Q.6) Consider the following statements;

- 1. It is one of the major west-flowing rivers in India.
- 2. It originates in the Aravalli Range of the Udaipur District of Rajasthan.
- 3. Atal Bridge, a foot-over bridge (FOB), is constructed on this river.

### Which of the following rivers is mentioned in the statements above?

- a) Narmada
- b) Sabarmati
- c) Pampa
- d) Mandovi

#### Answer: B

Source: ForumIAS

# Q.7) With reference to anti-radiation pills, consider the following statements;

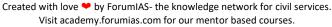
- 1. These consist of Potassium iodide (KI).
- 2. These pills can reverse any damage done by radiation to the thyroid gland.
- 3. They can help block absorption and subsequent concentration of radioactive iodine.

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

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

#### Answer: A

**Statement 1 is correct**: Potassium iodide (KI) tablets, or anti-radiation pills, are known to provide some protection in cases of radiation exposure.





**Statement 2 is incorrect**: KI pills are preventive only and cannot reverse any damage done by radiation to the thyroid gland.

**Statement 3 is correct**: They contain non-radioactive iodine and can help block absorption, and subsequent concentration, of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland.

Source: ForumIAS

### **Q.8)** With reference to **Bhang**, consider the following statements;

- 1. It is the edible preparation made from the leaves of the cannabis plant, often incorporated into drinks.
- 2. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act mention bhang as a prohibited drink or prohibited drug.

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

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

#### Answer: A

**Statement 1 is correct**: It is the edible preparation made from the leaves of the cannabis plant, often incorporated into drinks.

**Statement 2 is incorrect**: Nowhere in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances(NDPS) Act is bhang referred to as a prohibited drink or prohibited drug.

Source: Indian Express

# Q.9) With reference to Price Stabilization Fund(PSF), consider the following statements;

- 1. It is administered by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- 2. It helps to regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses.

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

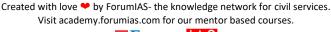
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### **Answer: B**

**Statement 1** is incorrect: It is administered by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

**Statement 2 is correct**: It helps to regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses.

Source: PIB





# Q.10) Exercise Synergy was recently seen in the news. The exercise is related to which of the following?

- a) It is a bilateral Navy exercise between India and Australia.
- b) It is a global collaboration exercise to monitor global progress in climate change.
- c) It is a new exercise to address the governance gaps in local panchayats and urban bodies.
- d) It is an international Cyber Security Exercise to build network resiliency against ransomware and cyber extortion attacks.

# Answer: D

Source: PIB

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team(CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India in collaboration with the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) has successfully designed and conducted the Cyber Security Exercise "Synergy" for 13 countries.



#### **PRELIMS**

# Q.1) With reference to "windfall tax" seen in the news recently consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a tax levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience above-average profits.
- 2. The imposition of the tax makes the product costlier.

#### Select the correct statement using the code given below:

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

# Answer: A Explanation -

Statement 1: A windfall tax is a tax levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience above-average profits. Windfall taxes are primarily levied on companies in the targeted industry that have benefited the most from the economic windfall, most often commodity-based businesses.

Statement 2: The statement is incorrect. The tax is imposed on the above average profit made by the industry. Therefore, the price of the commodity will not have any effect.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/explained-what-is-windfall-profit-and-why-has-it-been-imposed-on-oil-and-gas-companies/articleshow/93919507.cms

#### Q.2) With reference to cervical cancer consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a cancer that is found anywhere in the cervix.
- 2. It is cause by Epstein-Barr virus.

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

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

#### Answer: A

### Explanation -

Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix — the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.

Human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a role in causing most cervical cancer.

When exposed to HPV, the body's immune system typically prevents the virus from doing harm. In a small percentage of people, however, the virus survives for years, contributing to the process that causes some cervical cells to become cancer cells.

Source: <a href="https://indianexpress.com/article/india/cervical-cancer-vaccine-ready-likely-to-be-part-of-govts-immunisation-programme-8125737/">https://indianexpress.com/article/india/cervical-cancer-vaccine-ready-likely-to-be-part-of-govts-immunisation-programme-8125737/</a>





#### Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to anti-dumping duty:

- 1. It is a tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
- 2. It can reduce the international competition of domestic companies producing similar goods.
- 3. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) plays an important role in the regulation of antidumping measures.

# Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

#### Answer: B

## Explanation -

Statement 1: An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

Statement 2: In the long-term, anti-dumping duties can reduce the international competition of domestic companies producing similar goods.

Statement 3: The statement is incorrect. The World Trade Organization (WTO) plays an important role in the regulation of anti-dumping measures.

Source: <a href="https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-won-t-extend-anti-dumping-duty-on-ammonium-nitrate-from-3-nations-122090100579">https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-won-t-extend-anti-dumping-duty-on-ammonium-nitrate-from-3-nations-122090100579</a>\_1.html

# Q.4) With reference to the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2022 consider the following statements:

- 1. It prohibits the manufacture and sale of all plastic bags.
- 2. Non-woven plastic bags have been exempted under this rule.

#### Select the correct statement using the code given below:

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

#### Answer: D

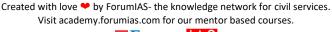
### Explanation -

Statement 1: The statement is incorrect. It prohibits the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags whose thickness is less than 75 microns.

Statement 2: The statement is incorrect. It mentions that plastic or PVC banners/hoardings should have more than 100 microns in thickness and non-woven plastic (polypropylene) must be more than 60 GSM.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/effecting-the-ban-on-single-use-

 $\frac{plastics/article65836277.ece\#:\sim:text=Since\%20July\%201\%2C\%202022\%2C\%20India,Nations\%20Environment\%20Assembly\%20(UNEA)}{}$ 





# Q.5) Hinnamnor was recently seen in the news. The term is related to which of the following?

- a) It is the new butterfly species found in Western Ghats.
- b) It is a phenomenon in which new species take over and dominate older species in the region.
- c) It is the strongest tropical storm of 2022 that occurred in the western Pacific Ocean.
- d) They are nomadic Turkic people native to China's Xinjiang province.

#### Answer: C

The strongest tropical storm of 2022, dubbed Super Typhoon 'Hinnamnor', has been barrelling across the western Pacific Ocean and is presently hurtling back towards the islands of Japan and South Korea, packing wind speeds of upto 241 kilometres per hour.

Source: <u>Indian Express</u>

# Q.6) Which of the following country is not participating in Exercise Vostok?

- a) India
- b) The UK
- c) China
- d) Mongolia

#### Answer: B

Exercise Vostok is a multilateral strategic and command exercise hosted by Russia.

**Participating countries**: India, China, Belarus, Mongolia, Tajikistan and other countries are participating in the exercise.

Source: The Hindu

#### Q.7) Which of the following statements is correct about Whale Shark?

- 1. The whale shark is the largest fish on Earth and a keystone species in marine ecosystems.
- 2. The whale sharks are ovoviviparous.
- 3. The largest whale shark aggregation in India is along the Tamil Nadu coast.

#### Select the correct answer using the codes given below;

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

### Answer: C

**Statement 1 is correct**: The whale shark (Rhincodon typus) is the largest fish on Earth and a keystone species in marine ecosystems.

**Statement 2 is correct**: They are ovoviviparous – meaning they give birth to live young rather than lay eggs – and can reach sexual maturity at around 10 years old.

**Statement 3 is incorrect**: The whale shark is distributed all along the Indian coast. However, the largest whale shark aggregation is along the Gujarat coast.

Source: <u>DTE</u>





Q.8) With reference to CERVAVAC Vaccine, consider the following statements;

- 1. The vaccine is based on VLP (virus-like particles), similar to the hepatitis B vaccine.
- 2. The vaccine can clear Cervical Cancer even after it has happened.

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

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

### Answer: A

**Statement 1 is correct**: The vaccine is based on VLP (virus-like particles), similar to the hepatitis B vaccine.

**Statement 2 is incorrect**: This vaccine can prevent an infection, but cannot clear it once it happens.

Source: PIB

Q.9) With reference to Naval Ensign, consider the following statements;

- 1. A country cannot declare their national flag as Naval Ensign.
- 2. India changed its Naval Ensign only once since Independence.

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

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

#### Answer: D

**Statement 1 is incorrect**: Every country's navy has its own ensign which can be the same as their country's flag or a distant one. For example, the US Navy's ensign is the same as its national flag.

#### Statement 2 is incorrect:

**1950-2001:** After 1950 when India became a Republic, the prefix 'Royal' was dropped from Royal Indian Navy(RIN) and it was rechristened as the Indian Navy.

- The ensign was also replaced with the Indian flag instead of Britain's flag over the St George's Cross. Now the naval ensign had an Indian flag at the top left corner of the St George's Cross over a white background.

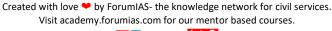
**2001-2004:** The naval ensign was again modified in the year 2001 where the St George's Cross was dropped and a blue crest of the Indian Navy was set upon the white background with the Indian flag retaining its position.

- This modification did not go well as many complained that the blue of the naval crest was indistinguishable from the sky and the ocean.

**2004-2014:** Changes were made to the naval ensign in 2004 where the blue crest was dropped and St George's Cross was restored, with a National Emblem at the intersection of the cross.

**2014-2022:** In 2014, the ensign which is in use to date was customized to add *Satyamev Jayate* written in Devanagari script under the State Emblem of India at the intersection of St George's Cross.

Source: Indian Express





Q.10) With reference to Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC) Portal, consider the following statements;

- 1. The portal is implemented by the National Investigation Agency.
- 2. The portal share information on crime and criminals 24x7 with various law enforcement agencies.

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

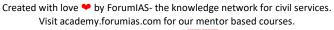
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

#### Answer: B

**Statement 1 is incorrect**: The portal is implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB).

**Statement 2 is correct**: The portal share information on crime and criminals 24x7 with various law enforcement agencies and ensure a seamless flow of information among them.

Source: The Hindu





#### **PRELIMS**

# Q.1) With reference to Group of Seven (G-7) countries consider the following statements:

- 1. India is one of the member countries.
- 2. Build Back Better World is an economic initiative taken by G7 countries to counter Belt and Road Initiative of China.

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

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

#### Answer: B

#### Explanation -

Statement 1: The statement is incorrect. Group of Seven include US, UK, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan.

Statement 2: Build Back Better World (B3W) is an intended economic initiative taken by <u>Group of Seven</u> (G7) in June 2021. It is designed to provide an alternative to <u>China</u>'s <u>Belt and Road Initiative</u> (BRI) for the infrastructure development of low- and middle-income countries.

Source: <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/g7-finance-chiefs-agree-on-russian-oil-price-cap-but-level-not-yet-set/articleshow/93956625.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/g7-finance-chiefs-agree-on-russian-oil-price-cap-but-level-not-yet-set/articleshow/93956625.cms</a>

# Q.2) With reference to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) consider the following statements:

- 1. Its objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology around the world.
- 2. India and Israel are the signatories to this treaty.

#### Select the correct statements using the code given below:

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

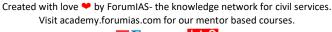
#### Answer: A

#### Explanation -

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

Statement 2: India, Pakistan, Israel, South Sudan and North Korea are not the signatories of this treaty.

Source: <a href="https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-npt-is-beginning-to-look-shaky/article65842423.ece">https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-npt-is-beginning-to-look-shaky/article65842423.ece</a>





#### Q.3) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The average temperature required for growing is between 20°C and 37°C.
- 2. It needs a hot and humid climate.
- 3. It requires around 150-300 cm of rainfall.

### Which of the following crops require the above climatic conditions?

- a) Millets
- b) Wheat
- c) Pulses
- d) Rice

# Answer: D Explanation –

Rice crop needs a hot and humid climate. It is best suited to regions which have high humidity, prolonged sunshine and an assured supply of water. The average temperature required throughout the life period of the crop ranges from 21 to 37° C. the Maximum temp which the crop can tolerate 40° C to 42° C. It requires more water than any other crop. As a result, paddy cultivation is done only in those areas where minimum rainfall is 115 cm. Although the regions are having average annual rainfall between 150—300 cm are the most suitable.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/paddy-cultivation-sees-decline/article65841782.ece

# Q.4) With reference to 'Nano Urea' seen in the news recently consider the followings statements:

- 1. It is an indigenous urea developed by Food Corporation of India.
- 2. It is a urea in the form of a nanoparticle.
- 3. It increases crop productivity and reduces soil pollution.

#### Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

#### Answer: B

#### Explanation -

Nano urea is an indigenous urea developed by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited.

It is urea in the form of a nanoparticle to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to the conventional urea.

#### Its benefits are:

- It provides a targeted supply of nutrients to crops.
- Reduces the use of conventional urea.
- It increases crop productivity and reduces soil, water, and air pollution.

Source: <a href="https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nano-urea-fast-tracked-for-approval-despite-incomplete-trials/article65844419.ece">https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nano-urea-fast-tracked-for-approval-despite-incomplete-trials/article65844419.ece</a>





# Q.5) With reference to Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), consider the following statements;

- 1. All signatories of this treaty are nuclear have-nots and parties to the NPT.
- 2. The treaty is created due to frustration with the absence of progress on nuclear disarmament **Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

# a) 1 only

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

#### Answer: D

**Statement 1 is correct**: All 86 signatories are nuclear have-nots and parties to the NPT. The TPNW creates a new legal instrument. But the nuclear-haves and their allies ignored the treaty. **Statement 2 is correct**: It is also called Ban Treaty. Frustrated by the absence of progress on nuclear disarmament, the nuclear have-nots successfully negotiated this Treaty in 2017.

Source: ForumIAS

# Q.6) Which of the following challenge/s is/are associated with aircraft carriers?

- 1. The near-seas defence can be easily ensured from airbases on island territories.
- 2. Aircraft carriers are susceptible to enemy attack.
- 3. Aircraft carriers are logistically unviable.

# Select the correct answer using the codes given below;

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

#### Answer: D

Critics were concerned about the relevance of aircraft carriers in the contemporary world. They say there is little point in spending billions for a carrier strike force to protect the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea. This is because a) The near-seas defence can be easily ensured from airbases on India's island territories, b) Aircraft carriers are logistically unviable and highly vulnerable to new hypersonic weapons and disruptive technologies, c) Susceptibility to enemy attack: The flattop of aircraft carriers is defenceless(a virtual sitting duck) against modern-day underwater attacks, long-range strategic airpower and ballistic missiles; d) Prized target for enemies: In a conflict scenario, the destruction of the opponent's aircraft carrier is a priority mission.

Source: ForumIAS



#### Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding nuclear non-proliferation.

- 1. Only four countries have gone on to test and develop nuclear arsenals after enforcement of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- 2. The only surviving arms control treaty between Russia and the U.S. is the New START Treaty.
- 3. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) entered into force 10 years ago.

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

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

#### Answer: C

**Statement 1 is correct**: In the last 50 years, only four more countries have gone on to test and develop nuclear arsenals. These are India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan.

**Statement 2 is correct**: The only surviving arms control treaty between Russia and the U.S. is the New START Treaty. It imposes a ceiling on operational strategic nuclear weapons of 700 launchers and 1,550 warheads each. It expires in 2026 and there are no signs of any follow-on discussions.

**Statement 3 is correct**: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was concluded in 1996 but has yet to formally enter into force because two major powers, the U.S. and China, have yet to ratify it.

Source: ForumIAS

# Q.8) State of the Climate Report is released by which of the following organisations?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b) Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- c) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

#### Answer: C

The State of the Climate Report has been compiled by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and published by the American Meteorological Society(AMS).

The report provides a comprehensive update on global climate and points out 2021 as a year of extremes and rapid swings bringing both record highs and lows.

Source: DTE



# Q.9) With reference to Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, consider the following statements;

- 1. The rules bars Government servant from making an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Central Government or a State Government.
- 2. Civil Service (Conduct) Rules supersede the right of free speech of government servants.

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

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

#### Answer: A

**Statement 1 is correct**: Rule 9 says that "No Government servant shall make any statement of fact or opinion, which has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Central Government or a State Government".

**Statement 2 is incorrect**: In Lipika Paul v. The State Of Tripura case, the court said that a civil servant(the petitioner) is not devoid of her right of free speech, a fundamental right which can be curtailed only by a valid law. However, this is subject to the civil servant not crossing the borders laid down in the Conduct Rules.

Source: The Hindu

# Q.10) With reference to Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment(MOXIE), consider the following statements;

- 1. It releases Earth's oxygen into Mars surface and conducts experiments on it.
- 2. MOXIE will help to demonstrate a way that future explorers produce oxygen on Mars.

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

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

#### Answer: B

**Statement 1 is incorrect**: MOXIE is a small box sent by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology(MIT) with NASA's Perseverence rover. It has produced oxygen on Mars with components from the planet's atmosphere.

**Statement 2 is correct**: MOXIE will help demonstrate a way that future explorers might produce oxygen from the Martian atmosphere for propellant and for breathing.

Source: DTE

