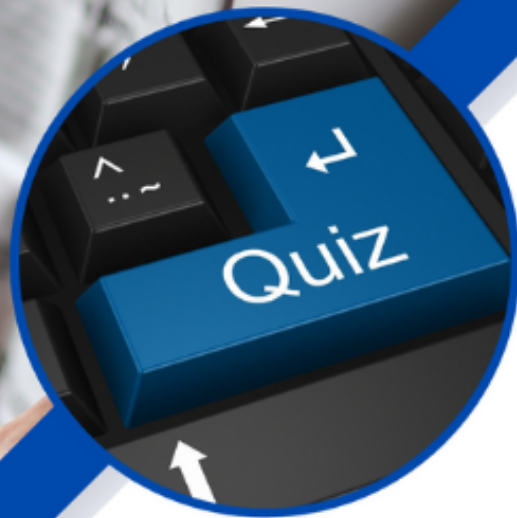




**Educrat IAS**  
ACADEMY



# **CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ**

**MCQs on important  
news of the day  
from Hindu &  
Indian Express.**

**FEBRUARY 2021**

## February C.A. Quiz compilation

### 1. Consider the following about the Andaman and Nicobar islands,

1. Little Andaman is the largest island of the archipelago.
2. Barren Island is the only active volcano in India which is located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
3. A Nine-degree channel separates Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### Which of the above 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: C

**Explanation:** Little Andaman Island is the fourth largest of the Andaman Nicobar Islands. Thus statement 1 is incorrect.

Some smaller islands are volcanic in origin. Barren island, the only active volcano in India is also situated in the Nicobar islands. Thus statement 2 is correct.

The Andaman is in the north and the Nicobar in the south. They are separated by a water body which is called the Ten degree channel. Thus statement 3 is incorrect.

### 2. Consider the following statements about Economic Survey of India:

It is an annual document released by the Department of Financial Services.

It is presented along with the Union Budget.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

#### Correct Answer: C

**Explanation:** The Economic Survey of India is an annual document released by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

The Economic Survey document is prepared by the Economics Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It contains the most authoritative and updated source of data on India's economy.

It is a report that the government presents on the state of the economy in the past one year, the key challenges it anticipates, and their possible solutions.

It is usually presented a day before the Union Budget is presented in the Parliament.

The first Economic Survey in India was presented in the year 1950-51. Up to 1964, it was presented along with the Union Budget. From 1964 onwards, it has been delinked from the Budget. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

### 3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act set the target to limit the fiscal deficit upto 3% of the GDP by 2021.
2. The NK Singh committee was formed to create a roadmap for fiscal consolidation for the Center and the States.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The government's fiscal deficit has increased to Rs. 11.58 lakh crore or 145.5% of the Budget Estimate (BE) at the end of December 2020 (accounting for the first nine months of the year 2020-21) mainly on account of lower revenue realisation.

A high fiscal deficit can also be good for the economy if the money spent goes into the creation of productive assets like highways, roads, ports and airports that boost economic growth and result in job creation.

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 provides that the Centre should take appropriate measures to limit the fiscal deficit upto 3% of the GDP by 31st March, 2021. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The NK Singh committee (set up in 2016) recommended that the government should target a fiscal deficit of 3% of the GDP in years up to 31st March, 2020, cut it to 2.8% in 2020-21 and to 2.5% by 2023.

The Finance Commission has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of NK Singh in order to create a roadmap for fiscal consolidation for the Center and the States. The Finance Commission submitted its first report to the Government of India in February 2020. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**4. With reference to the Union Budget 2021-22, consider the following statements:**

1. The forthcoming Census could be the first digital census in the history of India and has been allocated Rs. 3,768 crore in the year 2021-2022.
2. To have ease of doing business for those who deal with Government or CPSEs, and carry out contracts, it is proposed to set up a Conciliation Mechanism and mandate its use for quick resolution of contractual disputes.

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

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Presenting the Union Budget 2021-22 in Parliament today, the Union Minister for Finance outlined the plans for reforms in one of the six pillars of the budget i.e. of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.

The forthcoming Census could be the first digital census in the history of India and has been allocated Rs. 3,768 crore in the year 2021-2022.

To have ease of doing business for those who deal with Government or CPSEs, and carry out contracts, it is proposed to set up a Conciliation Mechanism and mandate its use for quick resolution of contractual disputes. This will instil confidence in private investors and contractors.

To bring about transparency, efficiency and governance reforms in the nursing profession, The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill will be introduced by the government for passing.

It is now proposed to take further measures to rationalize the functioning of Tribunals.

Centre will give a grant of Rs. 300 crore to the Government of Goa for celebrating the diamond jubilee year of the state's liberation from Portuguese rule.  
Hence both statements are correct.

**5. Which of the following sectors comes under the Strategic Sector to be disinvested?**

1. Atomic energy, Space and Defence
2. Transport and Telecommunications
3. Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals
4. Banking, Insurance and financial services

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Union Minister for Finance while presenting the Union Budget FY 2021-22 announced that government has approved a policy of strategic disinvestment of public sector enterprises that will provide a clear roadmap for disinvestment in all non-strategic and strategic sectors.

Existing CPSEs, Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Insurance Companies to be covered under it.

Two fold classification of Sectors to be disinvested :

Strategic Sector : Bare minimum presence of the public sector enterprises and remaining to be privatised or merged or subsidiarized with other CPSEs or closed. Following 4 sectors to come under it :

Atomic energy, Space and Defence

Transport and Telecommunications

Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals

Banking, Insurance and financial services

Non- Strategic Sector : In this sector, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**6. With reference to the Union Budget 2021-22, consider the following statements:**

1. It is proposed to set up a Higher Education Commission of India as an umbrella body having 4 separate vehicles for standard setting, accreditation, regulation, and funding.
2. It is also proposed to set up a Central University in Leh for accessible higher education in Ladakh.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Union Budget 2021-22 proposes Qualitative Strengthening of 15,000 Schools to include all components of National Education Policy.

Also, 100 new Sainik Schools will be setup in partnership with NGOs/private schools/states. It is proposed to set up a Higher Education Commission of India as an umbrella body having 4 separate vehicles for standard setting, accreditation, regulation, and funding.

It is also proposed to set up a Central University in Leh for accessible higher education in Ladakh.

Hence both statements are correct.

**7. Consider the following statements regarding the 15th Finance Commission's Report:**

1. It provided range for the fiscal deficit and debt path of both the Union and States.
2. It set the fiscal deficit target for the Centre at 4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021-22.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Recently, the 15th Finance Commission's Report was tabled in the Parliament. It provided range for the fiscal deficit and debt path of both the Union and States. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Fiscal deficit target for Centre: It recommended that the Centre brings down its fiscal deficit to 4% of Gross Domestic Product GDP by 2025-26 against 6.8% in FY22. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Fiscal deficit target for States: For states, it recommended fiscal deficit at 4% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2021-22, 3.5% in the following year and 3% for the next three years.

**8. With reference to recommendations of resource allocation by 15th Finance Commission, consider the following statements:**

1. It has recommended maintaining the vertical devolution as 50:50 between States and the Union.
2. For horizontal devolution of resources, the criteria 'income distance' has maximum weightage.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Recently, the government accepted the 15th Finance Commission's recommendation to maintain the States' share in the divisible pool of taxes to 41% for the five-year period starting 2021-22.

Vertical Devolution (Devolution of Taxes of the Union to States):

It has recommended maintaining the vertical devolution at 41% - the same as in its interim report for 2020-21. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It is at the same level of 42% of the divisible pool as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

It has made the required adjustment of about 1% due to the changed status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into the new Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Horizontal Devolution (Allocation Between the States):

For horizontal devolution, it has suggested 12.5% weightage to demographic performance, 45% to income distance, 15% each to population and area, 10% to forest and ecology and 2.5% to tax and fiscal efforts. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**9. The recently launched Mitra Scheme is related to which of the following?**

- A. Textile sector
- B. Education sector
- C. Electronic manufacturing
- D. Renewable energy sector

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Centre has proposed a Scheme of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) to enable the textile industry to become globally competitive, attract large investments, boost employment generation and exports. This will create world-class infrastructure with plug-and-play facilities to create global promoters in exports. Along with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, MITRA will lead to increased investments and enhanced employment opportunities. Hence, option A is correct.

**10. Which of the following port(s) is/are located in Indian Ocean?**

- 1. Port of Colombo
- 2. Port of Mtwara
- 3. Port of Antwerp

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** After strong opposition from trade unions across the country, Sri Lanka has unilaterally pulled out of a 2019 agreement with India and Japan for developing the strategic East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port.

In 2019, India and Sri Lanka signed a memorandum of understanding for “co-operation on economic projects”.

The MoU did not mention the Eastern Container Terminal, but India and Sri Lanka had already been in discussion for its development and operation.

The Port of Antwerp is in Belgium. It is one of the major ports of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Mtwara Port was built during the British Colonial times in the city of Mtwara in southern Tanzania. It is located in Indian Ocean.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**11. With reference to the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), consider the following statements:**

1. United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years.
2. The treaty, which first went into effect in 2011, limits the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads each and imposes restrictions on the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years.

President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin reportedly discussed it by phone a week ago, and subsequently Mr Putin signed it into law on Friday.

The treaty had been set to lapse on 5 February, as the Trump administration had refused to approve the extension. Now the pact has been extended to 5th February 2026.

The treaty, which first went into effect in 2011, limits the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads each and imposes restrictions on the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

Hence both statements are correct.

**12. With reference to Aero India 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Delhi.
2. It is organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Inaugural ceremony for Aero India 2021, Asia's largest Aerospace and Defence Exhibition is being held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru between February 03-05, 2021.

Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru, India at the Yelahanka Air Force Station.

It is organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence.

The first edition of the air show was held in 1996.

Aero India 2021 is the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Aero India. This year Aero India 2021 has been organised in hybrid mode with a concurrent virtual exhibition to encourage maximum participation.

The Yelahanka Air Force Station is an Indian Air Force airfield in Yelahanka, Bengaluru. The main role of this airfield is to train pilots to fly transport planes. Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**13. With reference to the ‘Per Drop More Crop’ scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. It is a component of ‘Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY-PDMC)’.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Per Drop More Crop’ component of ‘Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY-PDMC)’ from 2015-16 in all the States of the country.

It focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems.

Besides promoting Micro Irrigation, this component also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities to supplement source creation for Micro Irrigation.

Efforts are being made to converge ‘Per Drop More Crop’ Scheme with Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), Namami Gange Districts, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surakshaevem Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), Water Harvesting Structures through Watershed Development component of PMKSY to propagate micro irrigation intensively

With a view to provide impetus to the Micro Irrigation in the country, The Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with a corpus of Rs. 5000 Crore was created with NABARD during 2018-19.

The GoI provides 3% interest subvention on loans extended to State Govt. under MIF.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**14. With reference to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), consider the following statements:**

1. SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region is the theme of Indian Ocean Policy as outlined by Prime Minister of India in 2015.
2. India is having a coast line of 15500 Kms.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only



- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave began with a keynote address from Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on 4th February on the sidelines of Aero India 2021 in Bengaluru.

As the largest nation in the IOR region with a vast coast line of 7500 Kms, India has an active role to play for peaceful and prosperous co-existence of all countries.

SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region is the theme of Indian Ocean Policy as outlined by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2015.

India's approach and vision to tackle global challenges was highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dynamic five 'S' vision - Samman (Respect), Samvaad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace) and Samriddhi (Prosperity).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**15. With reference to the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. The budget allocation of the scheme RYSK for the year 2020-21 is Rs.10000 Crores.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports informed Lok Sabha about Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram.

The Scheme Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK) is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme.

The budget allocation of the scheme RYSK for the year 2020-21 is Rs.486.48 Crores.

It is an umbrella scheme. The 7 sub-schemes under scheme RYSK are:

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

National Youth Corps.

National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development.

International Cooperation.

Youth Hostels.

Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisations.

National Young Leaders Programme.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**16. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?**

1. It intends to keep the inflation in below 6% and above 2%.

2. It is a six-membered committee headed by the Governor of RBI.
3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The main function of MPC is to Control inflation. Current target is 4% plus/minus 2% of CPI.

MPC decides the changes to be made to the policy rate (repo rate) so as to contain the inflation within the target level specified to it by the Central Government.

Now, RBI governor can't unilaterally decide monetary policy.

If it fails to reach the specified inflation targets. It shall, in the report, give reasons for failure, remedial actions as well as estimated time within which the inflation target shall be achieved.

Constitution of MPC: IT has six members including RBI Governor (Chairperson)

It is not under the influence of Finance minister and is independent of the government. Thus only statement 3 is incorrect.

**17. With reference to the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) project, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a single telescope project.
2. India is not a participant in this project.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** A global collaboration for the world's largest radio telescope took formal shape with the constitution of an Intergovernmental Council.

The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) project, spanning two continents and involving the participation of 20 countries, is expected to be ready for carrying out observations towards the end of this decade.

Its goals are: studying the universe and its evolution, the origin and evolution of cosmic magnetism, and dark energy and evolution of galaxies.

It is proposed to be built in two phases, with an estimated 1.8 billion euros required for phase-I, planned over the next ten years.

Headquartered and controlled from the UK, the SKA is not a single telescope but will be an array of antennas strategically designed and set up in South Africa and Australia.

The telescope in South Africa will have 197 dishes, each 15 metres in diameter, and will be located in the Karoo region.

The telescope in Australia will have 1,31,072 antennas, each measuring 2 m high. They will be installed on the campus of the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory operated by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

India is also participating in SKAO through the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).  
Hence both statements are incorrect.

**18. Rohini Commission, recently seen in news, is related to:**

- A. Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
- B. Increase in Motor Vehicle Tax
- C. Security Analysis and Investment Management
- D. Pension Scheme for Unorganized Sector

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Centre has extended the tenure of The Commission to Examine Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) headed by Justice G Rohini, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The commission now has until July 31 to submit its report. OBCs are granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under the central government. In September last year, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court reopened the legal debate on sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for reservations. The debate arises out of the perception that only a few affluent communities among the over 2,600 included in the Central List of OBCs have secured a major part of this 27% reservation. The argument for sub-categorisation — or creating categories within OBCs for reservation — is that it would ensure “equitable distribution” of representation among all OBC communities.

To examine this, the Rohini Commission was constituted on October 2, 2017.

Before the Rohini Commission was set up, the Centre had granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**19. Jamtara, often mentioned in news, is located in:**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Gujarat
- D. Jharkhand

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** A library movement developed in a short span of time in Jharkhand’s Jamtara district is receiving a steady flow of students.

The district now has 45 functional public libraries. Unused government buildings have been renovated and converted into public libraries.

The district’s love for books assumes huge significance as it has the dubious distinction of being the “phishing capital of India”.

Many youth, mostly drop-outs in the 15-35 age group, have been turning to cybercrime to earn a few quick bucks.

Police personnel from 22 out of 28 Indian States have visited the tiny district in search of cyber fraudsters in the past few years. It is said that the majority of online fraud calls received by people across the country emanate from the district.

Netflix's 2020 crime drama, Jamtara, was based on this.

As many as 93 cyber criminals are languishing in Jamtara's jails, while 156 online fraudsters were arrested in 74 different cases in 2020.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**20. Recently seen in news, Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section, is part of which of the following scheme?**

- A. Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana
- B. Project "Sudoor Drishti"
- C. Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh Scheme
- D. Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The Prime Minister Modi visited Haldia, West Bengal and dedicated to the nation the LPG import terminal, 348 km Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section, which is part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.

He also laid the foundation stone of the second Catalytic-Isodewaxing unit of Haldia Refinery and dedicated to the nation the 4 Lane ROB-cum-Flyover at Ranichak, Haldia on NH 41.

These projects will also help Haldia to grow into a major hub of export-import.

350 km Dobhi-Durgapur Pipeline will directly benefit not only West Bengal but also 10 districts of Bihar and Jharkhand.

This second Catalytic Dewaxing Unit will reduce our dependence on import with regard to lube-based oils.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**21. Joshimath, recently seen in news, is located in which of the following state?**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Sikkim
- D. Nagaland

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Glacier breaks off at Joshimath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on 7 February 2021, causing flash flood in Dhauliganga River, devastating the Dhauliganga Dam and endangering people.

Joshimath is also known as Jyotirmath.

It is a city and a municipal board in Chamoli District in Uttarakhand.

Located at a height of 6150 feet, it is a gateway to several Himalayan mountain climbing expeditions, trekking trails and pilgrim centres like Badrinath.

Jyotirmath is the uttarāmnāya matha, or northern monastery, one of the four cardinal institutions established by Adi Shankara, the others being those at Shringeri, Puri and Dwarka.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**22. With reference to the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), consider the following statements:**

1. Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) has been approved for the period of next four years starting from 2021-22.
2. The Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) has been approved for the period of next four years starting from 2021-22.

It will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2021.

The Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.

Rs. 945 Crore corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

The scheme is expected to support about 3600 startups.

Hence both statements are correct.

**23. With reference to the “Nai Roshni”, consider the following statements:**

1. “Nai Roshni”, a scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women by Ministry of Women and Child Development is being implemented across India.
2. The scheme provides for six days training programme followed by handholding for a period of one year.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** “Nai Roshni”, a scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women by Ministry of Minority affairs is being implemented across India.

Its aims is to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. This includes empowerment of the trainee women so that they become independent and confident members of the society.

The scheme provides for six days training programme followed by handholding for a period of one year.

The training covers issues relating to women viz. Leadership of Women through participation in decision making, Educational Programmes for women, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behaviourial change.

The Scheme is being implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations empanelled under the NaiRoshni Scheme as per scheme guidelines in force.

Other schemes

While NaiRoshni scheme targets women beneficiaries specifically, other schemes of the Ministry also lay lot of emphasis on minority women.

In Seekho Aur Kamao (Learn & Earn) Scheme, 33% of the total beneficiaries are women. Similarly in Nai Manzil scheme , 30% of the total beneficiaries are women.

These schemes help in economic empowerment of the Minority women.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**24. With reference to the glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), consider the following statements:**

1. A GLOF refers to the flooding that occurs when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine is released suddenly.
2. Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the moraine dam leads to the abrupt failure of the dam on top of the glacial lake, which holds large volume of water.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** A glacier break is suspected to have caused the flash floods in Uttarakhand's Chamoli.

When glaciers melt, the water in glacial lakes accumulates behind loose, natural "glacial/moraine dams" made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue.

A GLOF refers to the flooding that occurs when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine is released suddenly.

Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the moraine dam leads to the abrupt failure of the dam on top of the glacial lake, which holds large volume of water.

A failure of the dam has the potential of releasing millions of cubic metres of water in a short period, causing catastrophic flooding downstream.

Reasons

Glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalaya has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

An “Inventory and Monitoring of Glacial Lakes / Water Bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins” found that there are 352, 283 and 1,393 glacial lakes and water bodies in the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra basins respectively.

Recommendation

NDMA has recommended use of Synthetic-Aperture Radar imagery to automatically detect changes in water bodies, including new lake formations, during the monsoon months.

Hence both statements are correct.

**25. With reference to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, consider the following statements:**

1. The pipeline entirely falls in France territory.
2. Currently, EU countries rely on Russia for 40% of their gas needs.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** In a development that could ratchet up tensions between the United States and Germany, the consortium building the Nord Stream 2 pipeline has said that it has resumed work on the controversial project.

In 2015, Gazprom and 5 other European energy firms decided to build Nord Stream 2, valued at around \$11 billion.

The 1,200 km pipeline will run from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany, and will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year.

The under-construction pipeline will run along the already-completed Nord Stream 1 system, and the two together will supply an aggregate of 110 billion cubic metres of gas to Germany per year.

The pipeline falls in German and Danish territory, and all but 150 km of pipes for the project have already been laid.

Nord Stream 2 has drawn criticism from the US, where it is believed that the project would increase Europe’s dependence on Russia for natural gas, thus boldening its President Vladimir Putin. Currently, EU countries already rely on Russia for 40% of their gas needs. Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**26. With reference to the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. The theme of the Summit is ‘Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all’.
2. It is the 20th edition of The Energy and Resources Institute’s (TERI) flagship event

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 on 10th February.

The theme of the Summit is 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'.

It is the 20th edition of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) flagship event. The Summit will bring together a wide number of governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth, and the civil society in the fight against climate change.

India's Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Earth Sciences are key partners of the Summit.

Hence both statements are correct.

**27. Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Vamsadhara river is a tributary of Mahanadi.
2. Baitarani river originates in Chhattisgarh.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Recently, a border dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh once again resurfaced when Andhra Pradesh announced panchayat polls in three villages of Kotia panchayat in Koraput district of Odisha.

In another dispute, in 2006 Odisha sent a complaint to the Central Government under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 regarding its water disputes with Andhra Pradesh pertaining to Inter-State River Vamsadhara.

Vamsadhara River is an east-flowing river which originates in Kalahandi district of Odisha, flows in Odisha, along its boundary with Andhra Pradesh and finally joins the Bay of Bengal (not into Mahanadi) at Kalingapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The border dispute between Odisha and Jharkhand arises due to change in course of river Baitarani. The Baitarani river originates from the hill ranges of Keonjhar district of Odisha. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

**28. Consider the following statements:**

1. Dhauliganga originates from Vasudhara Tal glacial lake in Uttarakhand.
2. Dhauliganga merges with the Alaknanda at Devprayag.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**



**Explanation:** Dhauliganga originates from Vasudhara Tal, perhaps the largest glacial lake in Uttarakhand. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Dhauliganga is one of the important tributaries of Alaknanda, the other being the Nandakini, Pindar, Mandakini and Bhagirathi.

Dhauliganga is joined by the Rishiganga river at Raini. It merges with the Alaknanda at Vishnuprayag. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

There it loses its identity and the Alaknanda flows southwest through Chamoli, Maithana, Nandaprayag, Karnaprayag until it meets the Mandakini river, coming from the north at Rudraprayag.

After subsuming Mandakini, the Alaknanda carries on past Srinagar, before joining the Ganga at Devprayag near.

Alaknanda then disappears and the mighty Ganga carries on its journey, first flowing south then west through important pilgrimage centres such as Rishikesh and finally descending into the Indo-Gangetic plains at Haridwar.

**29. Recently Glacial Lake Outbreak Flooding(GLOFs) have been in news. Consider the following statement regarding GLOFs**

1. Glacial lakes are formed when natural “glacial/moraine dams” made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue, block the channel of the river.
2. Due to climate change, the risk of GLOFs have been reducing.
3. Synthetic-Aperture Radar imagery can automatically detect changes in water bodies, including new lake formations.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) a possible reason for flash flood in Uttarakhand.

About Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs): When glaciers melt, the water in glacial lakes accumulates behind loose, natural “glacial/moraine dams” made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue. A GLOF refers to the flooding that occurs when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine is released suddenly.

Thus statement 1 is correct.

Causes: According to NDMA, glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalaya has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

Potential risks: Since glaciers in the Himalayas are in a retreating phase, glacial lakes are growing and pose a potentially large risk to downstream infrastructure and life.

Thus statement 2 is incorrect.

Reducing Risk of GLOFs:

Identification and mapping: Potentially dangerous lakes can be identified based on field observations, records of past events, geomorphologic and geotechnical characteristics of the lake/dam and surroundings, and other physical conditions. For example: Synthetic-Aperture Radar imagery can automatically detect changes in water bodies, including new lake formations.

Thus statement 3 is correct.

Taking structural measures to prevent sudden breaches.

Establishing mechanism to save lives and property in times of breach.

Warning system: Since GLOFs are small occurrences globally and are mostly found in Himalayan region, there are very little number of warning systems.

**30. Consider the following regarding Trans fatty acids**

1. Omega 3 fatty acid is a trans fatty acid.
2. Artificial Trans fat formed during food processing
3. Vanaspati Ghee, butter and margarine are one of their their main source.
4. It leads to an elevated High density Lipoprotein level can increase your risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

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

- A. 1,2 and 3 only
- B. 1,3 and 4 only
- C. 2,3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Types of Fatty acids:

Naturally formed(cis): produced in the gut of some grazing animals as also found in animal products like meat, milk, and milk products.

Ex: Omega 3. Thus statement 1 is false as Omega 3 is a cis acid, and not a trans acid.

Trans Fats: They generally increase the shelf life of the food and stabilize their flavours.

There are two sources of trans fat, also known as trans fatty acids:

Artificial Trans fat formed during food processing – They can be found in many of the same foods as saturated fat(during Hydrogenation).

These can include Coffee creamer, Crackers, cookies, cakes, frozen pies etc.

Vanaspati Ghee, butter and margarine are their main source.

Thus statement 2 and 3 are correct.

Natural Trans Fats: in some meat and dairy products.

Risks of Trans fatty acid

It leads to an elevated LDL (bad) blood cholesterol level can increase your risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Heart disease 23% rise with 2% intake of LDL.

It is main cause of Type-2 diabetes.

Thus statement 4 is INCORRECT, as HDL(High density Lipoprotein) is good blood cholesterol, LDL is bad.

REPLACE initiative: WHO urged developing nations to eliminate man-made trans fatty acids from their food supplies by 2023.

**31. Which of the following are the targets of National Monsoon Mission?**

1. Develop and implement system for climate applications having social impacts.
2. Advanced data assimilation system for preparing high quality data for model predictions.
3. Initiate and coordinate working partnership between Indian and foreign institutes to develop a system for prediction of extremes and climate applications.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Minister of Earth Science informed Rajya Sabha about National Monsoon Mission.

Under the Monsoon Mission, Ministry has developed the state-of-the-art weather and climate prediction models, which are now in operational use.

These models include models for short range to medium range (1-10 days), extended range (10days to 30 days) and seasonal (up to one season).

Following are the targets of Monsoon Mission:

Development of a seamless prediction system using monsoon mission model, on different time scales, like Seasonal (for whole Monsoon season), Extended range (up-to 4 weeks), Short range prediction (up-to 5days).

Initiate and coordinate working partnership between Indian and foreign institutes to develop a system for prediction of extremes and climate applications

Develop and implement system for climate applications having social impacts (such as agriculture, flood forecast, extreme events forecast, wind energy, etc.)

Advanced data assimilation system for preparing high quality data for model predictions.

Major achievements of NMM during the last three years are:

Setting up of an advanced prediction system for Seasonal prediction; Extended range prediction and Very high- resolution Short-range prediction.

Commissioning of a Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) for short and medium range prediction at 12km.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**32. Which of the following glaciers are located in India?**

1. Salmon
2. Milam
3. Gangotri
4. Nanda Devi

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

- A. 3 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Recent flash flood incident in Uttarakhand is another warning of the dangers that a Himalayan state like Uttarakhand faces from natural processes like landslides, snow avalanches cloudbursts or lake bursts.

Glaciers are the largest source of freshwater outside of the polar regions. Glaciers and snow melt in the Himalayan ecosystem are the source of water for several rivers across the subcontinent, and are responsible for maintaining the perennial supply of water in the river systems like the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra to over a billion people.

But these glaciers have reduced considerably in mass and surface area since the little ice age period.

Some models predict that an increase in global temperatures by 2°C from 1850 by 2070 would result in 45% of the medium and large glaciers (10 sq km or more) disappearing completely. Nearly 70% smaller glaciers are likely to melt away.

Shrinking glaciers have led to the formation of a large number of glacial lakes all across the Himalayas. Many of these high-altitude lakes are potentially dangerous, because of their potential to cause flash floods in the event of a breach.

A 2005 study by Kathmandu-based ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) had listed 127 such lakes in Uttarakhand. More recent studies put the number of such lakes in the state at around 400.

Nanda Devi glacier is in Uttarakhand.

Milam and Gangotri are the major glaciers in the state of Uttarakhand. Milam is situated in the Kumaon Himalayas, originating from the eastern slopes of the Trishuli. The river Gori Ganga has its source here. The 30-km long Gangotri glacier located in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand is the primary source for the holy Ganga. Gomukh is the snout of the Gangotri glacier and it is from here that the Bhagirathi, one of the important streams of the Ganges, flows down to the temple town of Gangotri and beyond. This Glacier has many tributaries — Raktavarn, Chaturangi, Satopant and Kirti glaciers to name a few.

The Salmon Glacier is the fifth largest in Canada.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**33. With reference to the privatisation of banks, consider the following statements:**

1. The Union Budget has announced the privatisation of two public sector banks (in addition to IDBI Bank) and one general insurance company in the upcoming fiscal.
2. In 2019, the government merged ten PSU banks into four.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Union Budget has announced the privatisation of two public sector banks (in addition to IDBI Bank) and one general insurance company in the upcoming fiscal. It also announced a strategic sale/disinvestment policy for four strategic sectors — including banking, insurance and financial services — in which it will have a “bare minimum presence”.

In 2015, the government had suggested privatisation but the then RBI Governor did not favour the idea.

Years of capital injections and governance reforms have not been able to improve the financial position of in public sector banks significantly.

Many of them have higher levels of stressed assets than private banks, and also lag the latter on profitability, market capitalisation and dividend payment record.

The government front-loaded Rs 70,000 crore into government-run banks in September 2019, Rs 80,000 crore in in FY18, and Rs 1.06 lakh crore in FY19 through recapitalisation bonds.

In 2019, the government merged ten PSU banks into four.

private banks’ market share in loans has risen to 36% in 2020 from 21.26% in 2015, while public sector banks’ share has fallen to 59.8% from 74.28%.

Hence both statements are correct.

**34. 'Hope Probe', recently seen in news, is an initiative of which of the following country?**

- A. United Arab Emirates
- B. U.S.A
- C. India
- D. Israel

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The United Arab Emirates' first mission to Mars entered the orbit of the red planet, seven months after the Emirati-built 'Hope Probe' was launched from Tanegashima in Japan.

With this, the UAE has become the fifth country after the US, Russia, China, the EU, and India, to reach the Martian orbit.

The unmanned spacecraft is called 'Al-Amal' — the Arabic word for hope. The historic event was timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the unification of the UAE's seven emirates.

First announced in July 2014, the Emirates Mars Mission was developed and operated by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre in collaboration with the University California, Berkeley, Arizona State University and the University of Colorado-Boulder in the United States.

In July 2020, it was launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan aboard a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' H-II A rocket.

Carrying three instruments, including a high-resolution camera and a spectrometer, the spacecraft is on an orbital mission to collect data on Martian climate dynamics and help scientists understand why Mars's atmosphere is decaying into space.

Hope is the UAE's fourth space mission and first interplanetary one. The previous three were all Earth-observation satellites.

Its overall mission life is one Martian year, which is about 687 days on Earth.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**35. With reference to the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, consider the following statements:**

1. Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 Act has now been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

2. The relevant provisions of the Code are applicable to every establishment in which 100 or more inter-state migrant workers are employed or were employed on any day of the preceding 12 months.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** NITI Aayog has constituted a sub-group to prepare a National Action Plan for Migrant Workers.

The sub-group comprises the members from various Ministries of Govt. of India, subject experts, NGOs and civil society organisations, to prepare a tangible action plan to address issues related to migrant workers.

In order to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, the Central Government had enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

This Act has now been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Code has been notified on 29.09.2020.

The above mentioned code, commonly known as OSH Code, provides for decent working conditions, minimum wages, grievances redressal mechanisms, protection from abuse and exploitation, enhancement of the skills and social security to all category of organised and unorganised workers including Migrant workers.

The relevant provisions of the Code are applicable to every establishment in which 10 or more inter-state migrant workers are employed or were employed on any day of the preceding 12 months.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**36. With reference to the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:**

1. The new Bill has proposed a simplified composition of the Board of Port Authority which will comprise of 11 to 13 Members from the present 17 to 19 Members representing various interests.

2. Port Authority has now been given powers to fix tariff which will act as a reference tariff for purposes of bidding for PPP projects.

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

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Parliament passed the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020. Now the Bill will go to the President of India for his assent.

The Bill is more compact in comparison to the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 as the number of sections has been reduced to 76 from 134 by eliminating overlapping and obsolete Sections. The new Bill has proposed a simplified composition of the Board of Port Authority which will comprise of 11 to 13 Members from the present 17 to 19 Members representing various interests.

The role of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) has been redefined. Port Authority has now been given powers to fix tariff which will act as a reference tariff for purposes of bidding for PPP projects. PPP operators will be free to fix tariff- based on market conditions.

The Board of Port Authority has been delegated the power to fix the scale of rates for other port services and assets including land.

An Adjudicatory Board has been proposed to be created to carry out the residual function of the erstwhile TAMP for Major Ports, to look into disputes between ports and PPP concessionaires

The Boards of Port Authority have been delegated full powers to enter into contracts, planning and development, fixing of tariff except in national interest, security and emergency arising out of inaction and default. In the present MPT Act, 1963 prior approval of the Central Government was required in 22 instances.

The Board of each Major Port shall be entitled to create specific master plan in respect of any development or infrastructure.

Provisions of CSR & development of infrastructure by Port Authority have been introduced.

Provision has been made for safeguarding the pay & allowances and service conditions including pensionary benefits of the employees of major ports

Hence both statements are correct.

**37. NTPC's Tapovan hydel project tunnel is located in:**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Sikkim
- D. Ladkah

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Rescue operations resumed at the NTPC's Tapovan hydel project tunnel in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, where about 35 workers were trapped after a snow avalanche triggered flash floods.

The Tapovan Vishnugad Hydropower Plant is a 520 MW run-of-river hydroelectric project being constructed on Dhauliganga River in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand.

The plant is expected to generate over 2.5 TWh of electricity annually.

Tapovan Vishnugad is NTPC's second hydro power project since its foray into the sector.

Currently, it is in advanced stage of construction. It was severely damaged on 7th February 2021 due to flash flood caused by Uttarakhand glacier burst.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**38. Consider the following regarding SHAKSHAM web portal**

1. It is a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of the job seekers in India vis-à-vis requirements of MSMEs.
2. It uses algorithm and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to compute the geo spatial information on demand and availability of Shramiks.
3. It has been launched and maintained by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch)- a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks vis-à-vis requirements of MSMEs to directly connect Shramiks with MSMEs and facilitate placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs. Thus, statement 1 is correct. The portal with the demand and supply data uses algorithm and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, for geo spatial information on demand and availability of Shramiks, and also provide analysis on skill training programmes of Shramiks. The pilot portal originally initiated with two districts is now being launched as an all India portal. Thus, statement 2 is correct. The portal is now live and can be accessed at [www.sakshamtifac.org](http://www.sakshamtifac.org). The data / information pertaining to the Shramiks and the industries (especially MSME) are being updated automatically through various whatsapp and other links. It has been launched by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). Thus, statement 3 is correct.

**39. Consider the following statements regarding Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA)**

1. It is done by MoEFCC using Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, issued under relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The various developmental projects have been categorised into category 'A' and category 'B' depending on their threshold capacity for the purpose of assessment.
3. The assessment of Category 'B' projects is done by concerned State Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs).

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA): MoEFCC uses Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, issued under relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, as a major tool for minimizing the adverse impact of rapid industrialization on environment and for reversing those trends which may lead to climate change in long run. Thus statement 1 is correct

Since EIA 2006, the various developmental projects have been re-categorised into category 'A' and category 'B' depending on their threshold capacity and likely pollution potential, requiring prior Environmental Clearance(EC) respectively from:

Category A: Impact Assessment Agency(IAA) and Expert Appraisal Committee(EAC); MoEFCC;

National Level.

No Screening process. Mandatory environmental clearance.

Category B: the concerned State Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs), State Expert Appraisal committee(SEAC). Where state level authorities have not been constituted, the clearance would be provided by the MoEFCC. Further subdivided:

B1: Mandatory EIA.

B2: Doesn't require EIA.

Thus statements 2 and 3 are correct

**40. With reference to the Seaweed Mission, consider the following statements:**



1. It aims to establish model demonstration farms over one hectare for cultivation of economically important seaweeds in nearshore and onshore along the Indian coast.
2. India is the largest producer of the Seaweed in the world.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has launched a Seaweed Mission for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting national economy.

The Mission envisages the following activities:

Establishing model demonstration farms over one hectare for cultivation of economically important seaweeds in nearshore and onshore along the Indian coast

Establishment of seaweed nurseries for supplying seed material for large scale farming of economically important seaweeds in the country

Onshore cultivation for (i) Seedling supply facility (ii) Seaweed cultivation for processing

Setting up of processing plant for integrated production of plant growth stimulants (sap)

along with industrially important cell wall polysaccharides (phycocolloids) such as agar, agarose, carrageenan and alginates from fresh seaweeds

Out of the global seaweed production of ~ 32 million tons fresh weight valued around 12 billion US dollars.

China produces ~57 %, Indonesia ~28% followed by South Korea, whereas India is having a mere share of ~0.01-0.02%.

Despite several advantages, commercial seaweeds cultivation has not been taken place in the country at an appropriate scale, as being practiced in South-East Asian countries.

By an estimate, if cultivation is done in ≈10 million hectares or 5% of the EEZ area of India, it can provide employment to ~ 50 million people; set up new seaweed industry; contribute to national GDP; ocean productivity; abates algal blooms, sequesters millions of tons CO<sub>2</sub>;

Healthier ocean; bio-ethanol of 6.6 billion litres

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**41. With reference to the Tholpavakoothu, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a traditional temple art in Kerala.
2. The theme is based on the Kamba Ramayana.
3. It is a shadow puppet play that represents the integration of Aryan and Dravidian cultures.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Recently, a shadow leather puppet in Kerala's famous temple art Tholpavakoothu has been animated by a robot.

It is a traditional temple art in Kerala having its roots in Palakkad and neighbouring regions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

This art is confined largely to Pulavar families from Shoranur region of Palakkad district. Among the ancient artforms of Kerala, tholpavakoothu or shadow puppet play occupies a prominent place. It is a fine example of the integration of Aryan and Dravidian cultures. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

It is a ritual art performed during the annual festivals in the Kaali temples of Palakkad district. It is also known as Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu.

The theme of the play is based on the Kamba Ramayana (the Tamil version of the epic). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**42. Consider the following statements about World Sustainable Development Summit:**

It is an annual flagship event of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

It aims to bring together global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development and energy sector on a common platform.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

TERI is a non-profit research institute, established in 1974. It conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development for India and the Global South.

It was earlier known as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

It has been conceptualized as a single platform to accelerate action towards sustainable development and climate change.

It aims to bring together global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment sectors on a common platform. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Recently, the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 was held.

The theme of the 2021 Summit was 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'.

**43. Consider the following pairs:**

- | <b>State:</b>   | <b>Shadow Puppetry</b> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Karnataka:   | Ravanachhaya           |
| 2. Maharashtra: | Charma Bahuli Natya    |
| 3. Tamil Nadu:  | Thol Bommalata         |
| 4. Odisha:      | Togalu Gombeyaata      |

**Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- A.1 and 4 only
- B.1 and 2 only
- C.2 and 3 only
- D.1, 2, 3 and 4

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Shadow puppetry is considered the oldest form of puppetry in the world. It began 1,000 years ago in China and India. Regional names of shadow puppetry in India are given below. Hence, option C is correct.

Regional Names of Shadow Puppetry in India	
State	Name
Andhra Pradesh	Tholu bommalata
Karnataka	Togalu gombeyaata
Maharashtra	Charma bahuli natya
Odisha	Ravanachhaya
Kerala	Tholapavakkoothu
Tamil Nadu	Thol bommalata

**44. With reference to the Arjun Main Battle Tank project, consider the following statements:**

1. It was initiated by DRDO in 1972 with the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) as its lead laboratory.
2. The latest version is 90 per cent indigenous content against the 41 per cent in the earlier model.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister Modi handed over the indigenously developed Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Indian Army at a ceremony in Chennai. The army will get 118 units of the Main Battle Tank, indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by CVRDE and DRDO along with 15 academic institutions, eight labs and several MSMEs. The Arjun Main Battle Tank project was initiated by DRDO in 1972 with the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) as its lead laboratory. Mass production began in 1996 at the Indian Ordnance Factory's production facility in Avadi, Tamil Nadu.

The Indian Army received the first batch of 16 tanks in 2004 and they were inducted as a squadron of the 43 Armoured Regiment. In 2009, the first Arjun regiment of the Indian Army had 45 tanks.

Features:

The Arjun tanks stand out for their 'Fin Stabilised Armour Piercing Discarding Sabot (FSAPDS)' ammunition and 120-mm calibre rifled gun.

It also has a computer-controlled integrated fire control system with stabilised sighting that works in all lighting conditions. The secondary weapons include a co-axial 7.62-mm machine gun for anti-personnel and a 12.7-mm machine gun for anti-aircraft and ground targets.

The Mk-1A version has 14 major upgrades on the earlier version. It is also supposed to have missile firing capability as per the design, but this feature will be added later as final testing of the capability is still on.

However, the biggest achievement with the latest version is 54.3 per cent indigenous content against the 41 per cent in the earlier model.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**45. Kotia cluster, recently seen in news, is a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and which of the following state?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Odisha

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Andhra Pradesh held panchayat elections in three villages in the Kotia cluster, which is at the centre of a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. This is the first time Andhra has held panchayat polls in any of these villages.

These villages, with a population of nearly 5,000, are located on a remote hilltop on the inter-state border and are inhabited by Kondh tribals.

The region is also rich in mineral resources like gold, platinum, manganese, bauxite, graphite and limestone.

In the early 1980s, Odisha filed a case in the Supreme Court demanding right and possession of jurisdiction over the 21 villages.

In 2006 however, the court ruled that since disputes belonging to the state boundaries are not within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the matter can only be resolved by Parliament and passed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**46. Which of the following best describes 'Dickinsonia'?**

- A. It is the rare species of frog endemic to Eastern Ghats.
- B. It is an asteroid that is seen revolving between the orbit of Earth and Moon.
- C. It is a rare herbal species found in lower himalayas used for the treatment of snake bite.
- D. It is a fossil of the earliest known living animal discovered from the Bhimbetka rock shelters

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Recently, researchers have discovered three fossils of the earliest known living animal, the 550-million-year-old 'Dickinsonia' on the roof of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters. Hence, option D is correct.

**47. Consider the following about the Arjun Mk 1 Tanks**

1. These are Indigenised version of Russian T-90 Tanks.
2. It is being developed by Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Indigenous Arjun Mk-1 Tanks:

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the indigenous main battle tank Arjun Mk-1A to the Army in a function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane received the model of the tank. It is designed and developed by Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), a unit of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). This statement 1 is incorrect but statement 2 is correct.

**48. Consider the following about the recently launched messaging App named 'Sandes'**

1. It is launched by National Informatics centre and its aim is to ensure secure communication between the employees of the government, under work from home environment.
2. It was formed after the Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) had flagged safety and privacy concerns around other platforms for peer-to-peer communications.
3. It is in line with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign

**Which of the following statement is/are incorrect?**

- A. 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes on the lines of WhatsApp. Like WhatsApp, the new NIC platform can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id.

This was after the Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) had also posted an advisory against Zoom over safety and privacy concerns.

The launch of the app is also a part of the government strategy to push for use of India-made software so as to build an ecosystem of indigenously developed products.

Thus all of the above are correct

**49. With reference to the Geo-spatial sector in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Geospatial data is data about objects, events, or phenomena that have a location on the surface of the earth.
2. The Ministry of Science and Technology recently released new guidelines for the Geo-spatial sector in India, which deregulates existing protocol and liberalises the sector to a more competitive field.

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

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Science and Technology recently released new guidelines for the Geo-spatial sector in India, which deregulates existing protocol and liberalises the sector to a more competitive field.

Geospatial data is data about objects, events, or phenomena that have a location on the surface of the earth.

The location may be static in the short-term, like the location of a road, an earthquake event, malnutrition among children, or dynamic like a moving vehicle or pedestrian, the spread of an infectious disease.

Geospatial data combines location information, attribute information (the characteristics of the object, event, or phenomena concerned), and often also temporal information or the time at which the location and attributes exist.

Geo-spatial data usually involves information of public interest such as roads, localities, rail lines, water bodies, and public amenities.

The past decade has seen an increase in the use of geo-spatial data in daily life with various apps such as food delivery apps like Swiggy or Zomato, e-commerce like Amazon or even weather apps.

Expected impact of new guidelines:

By liberalising the system, the government will ensure more players in the field, competitiveness of Indian companies in the global market, and more accurate data available to both the government to formulate plans and administer, but also for individual Indians.

Startups and businesses can now also use this data in setting up their concerns, especially in the sector of e-commerce or geo-spatial based apps – which in turn will increase employment in these sectors.

Indian companies will be able to develop indigenous apps, for example an Indian version of google maps.

Hence both statements are correct.

**50. With reference to the Diesel and petrol prices, consider the following statements:**

1. Retail petrol and diesel prices are linked to global crude oil prices.
2. The controlled production of crude by Saudi Arabia amid rising demand has been a key factor in boosting oil prices.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Diesel and petrol prices have hit record highs across the country, with petrol touching Rs 89 per litre in Delhi, and diesel reaching a new high of Rs 86.30 per litre in Mumbai.

The government reasons that global crude oil prices have risen by more than 50 per cent to over \$63.3 per barrel since October, forcing oil retailers to increase pump prices.

Retail petrol and diesel prices are in theory decontrolled — or linked to global crude oil prices. Which means that if crude prices fall, as has largely been the trend since February, retail prices should come down too, and vice versa.

But this does not happen in practice, largely because oil price decontrol is a one-way street in India. So, when global prices go up, the resultant increase is passed on to the consumer, who has to cough up more for every litre of fuel consumed.

But when the reverse happens and prices slide, the government, almost by default, slaps fresh taxes and levies to ensure that it rakes in extra revenues.

The main beneficiary in this subversion of price decontrol is the government. The consumer is a clear loser, as are the fuel retailing companies.

Brent crude, which was trading at about \$40 per barrel between June and October, started rising in November, and has gone past the \$60 per barrel mark as the global rollout of Covid-19 vaccines gathers pace.

The controlled production of crude amid rising demand has been another key factor in boosting oil prices, with Saudi Arabia voluntarily cutting its daily output by 1 million barrels per day to 8.125 million barrels per day through February and March.

Hence both statements are correct.

**51. With reference to the Leatherback sea turtle, consider the following statements:**

1. It is largest of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet.
2. They are listed in Schedule II of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Proposals for tourism and port development in the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands have conservationists worried over the fate of some of the most important nesting populations of the Giant Leatherback turtle in this part of the Indian Ocean.

Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is largest of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet and also the most long-ranging, being found in all oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Within the Indian Ocean, they nest only in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

It is the only living species in the genus *Dermochelys* and family *Dermochelyidae*.

It can easily be differentiated from other modern sea turtles by its lack of a bony shell, hence the name. Instead, its carapace is covered by skin and oily flesh.

They are listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, according to the highest legal protection.

Budget 2021:

The A&N Islands are prominent in the National Marine Turtle Action Plan released on February 1, 2021, by the Ministry of Environment.

The plan notes that “India has identified all its important sea turtle nesting habitats as ‘Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas’ and included them in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) – 1”.

South Bay and West Bay on Little Andaman and Galathea on Great Nicobar, along with other nesting beaches in the islands, find a specific mention here as “Important Marine Turtle Habitats in India” and the largest Leatherback nesting grounds in India.

There is concern that at least three key nesting beaches — two on Little Andaman Island and one on Great Nicobar Island — are under threat due to mega “development” plans announced in recent months.

These include NITI Aayog’s ambitious tourism vision for Little Andaman and the proposal for a mega-shipment port at Galathea Bay on Great Nicobar Island.

The Little Andaman plan, which proposes phased growth of tourism on this virtually untouched island, has sought the de-reservation of over 200 sq km of pristine rainforest and also of about 140 sq km of the Onge Tribal Reserve.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**52. Which of the following is a river island in the Brahmaputra River?**

- A. Majuli Island
- B. Shaheed Dweep
- C. Agatti Island
- D. Netrani Island

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister Modi will lay the foundation stone of Dhubri Phulbari Bridge and perform Bhumi Pujan for construction of Majuli Bridge Assam on 18th February 2021.

**Dhubri Phulbari Bridge**

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for the four lane bridge over the Brahmaputra between Dhubri (on North Bank) and Phulbari (on South Bank).

The proposed Bridge will be located on NH-127B, originating from Srirampur on NH-27 (East-West Corridor), and terminating at Nongstoin on NH-106 in the State of Meghalaya.

It will connect Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari, Tura, Rongram and Rongjeng in Meghalaya.

**Majuli Bridge**

Prime Minister will perform Bhumi Pujan for the two-lane Bridge on the Brahmaputra between Majuli (North Bank) and Jorhat (South Bank).

The bridge will be located on NH-715K and will connect Neematighat (on Jorhat side) and Kamalabari (on Majuli side).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**53. Consider the following statements regarding Sandes App?**

1. It is launched by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It is an instant messaging platform used only by Government employees.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2



D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes on the lines of WhatsApp. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. NIC is under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It provides network backbone and e-Governance support to the Central Government, State Governments and UT Administrations.

Sandes App is a Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS) that can be used for official or casual use by any Government employee or public user having a valid Mobile No./Email ID. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**54. Consider the following statements regarding landlord port model.**

1. In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body that carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities.
2. Here, the port authority maintains ownership of the port.
3. India has acceded to Hong Kong International Convention for Ship Recycling that is aimed at ensuring that ships recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives do not pose any risks to human health, safety and the environment.

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

- A. 1, 2
- B. 2, 3
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** What is landlord model?

In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities.

Here, the port authority maintains ownership of the port while the infrastructure is leased to private firms that provide and maintain their own superstructure and install own equipment to handle cargo.

In return, the landlord port gets a share of the revenue from the private entity.

The role of the landlord port authority would be to carry out all public sector services and operations such as the award of bids for cargo terminals and dredging.

India's has acceded to the Hong Kong Convention on Hong Kong International Convention for Ship Recycling, which will help in providing boost to the ship- recycling industry in India.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in 2009. This is aimed at ensuring that ships being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and the environment.

**55. Consider the following for the Hydrogen fuel**

1. Hydrogen fuel must be transformed into electricity by a device called a fuel cell stack before it can be used to power a car or truck.
2. Fuel cell-based vehicles most commonly combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity to power the electric motor on board.
3. Hydrogen fuel cell cars have a near zero carbon footprint.

4. However, Hydrogen fuel cell is not as efficient as burning petrol.

**Which of the above statements is incorrect?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 4 only

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Hydrogen is an energy carrier, not a source of energy. Hydrogen fuel must be transformed into electricity by a device called a fuel cell stack before it can be used to power a car or truck. A fuel cell converts chemical energy into electrical energy using oxidising agents through an oxidation-reduction reaction. **THUS STATEMENT 1 IS CORRECT**

Fuel cell-based vehicles most commonly combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity to power the electric motor on board. Since fuel cell vehicles use electricity to run, they are considered electric vehicles. **THUS STATEMENT 2 IS CORRECT**

Inside each individual fuel cell, hydrogen is drawn from an onboard pressurised tank and made to react with a catalyst, usually made from platinum.

As the hydrogen passes through the catalyst, it is stripped of its electrons, which are forced to move along an external circuit, producing an electrical current. This current is used by the electric motor to power the vehicle, with the only by product being water vapour.

Hydrogen fuel cell cars have a near zero carbon footprint. **THUS STATEMENT 3 IS CORRECT**

Hydrogen is about two to three times as efficient as burning petrol, because an electric chemical reaction is much more efficient than combustion. **THUS STATEMENT 4 IS INCORRECT**

**56. With reference to the National Hydrogen Mission, consider the following statements:**

1. Mumbai became the first Indian city to operate buses running on hydrogen spiked compressed natural gas (H-CNG) in a six-month pilot project.
2. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a notification proposing amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to include safety evaluation standards for hydrogen fuel cell-based vehicles.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** India has announced a National Hydrogen Mission. The proposal in the Budget will be followed up with a mission draft over the next couple of months.

And while proposed end-use sectors include steel and chemicals, the major industry that hydrogen has the potential of transforming is transportation — which contributes a third of all greenhouse gas emissions.

In October, Delhi became the first Indian city to operate buses running on hydrogen spiked compressed natural gas (H-CNG) in a six-month pilot project.

The buses will run on a new technology patented by Indian Oil Corp for producing H-CNG — 18 per cent hydrogen in CNG — directly from natural gas, without resorting to conventional blending.

IOC is also planning to set up a dedicated unit to produce hydrogen to run buses at its R&D centre in Faridabad.

As a supporting regulatory framework, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways late last year issued a notification proposing amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to include safety evaluation standards for hydrogen fuel cell-based vehicles.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**57. With reference to the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), consider the following statements:**

1. The India-South Africa CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa.
2. CECPA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius.

The India-Mauritius CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa.

The Agreement is a limited agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Financial services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas

CECPA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.

Both sides have also agreed to negotiate an Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) for a limited number of highly sensitive products within two years of the Signing of the Agreement.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**58. Which of the following city has won a green contest among cities in India, and emerged one of the ‘Tree Cities of the World’?**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai

D. Delhi

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Hyderabad has won a green contest among cities in India, and emerged one of the 'Tree Cities of the World'.

That title has been bestowed by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Hyderabad has been selected for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forestry under the State government's Haritha Haram programme and its Urban Forest Parks plan.

With the recognition, the city joins 120 others from 23 countries, including the U.S., the U.K., Canada, and Australia.

The city was evaluated on five metrics: 'Establish Responsibility', 'Set the Rules', 'Know What You Have', 'Allocate the Resources', and 'Celebrate the Achievements'.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**59. Which of the following organization has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020 awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?**

- A. World wide fund for nature
- B. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
- C. The Nature Conservancy
- D. None of the above

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020 awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

WCCB got the award twice in three years. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been awarded this year under the Innovation category.

Earlier, the Bureau had received the award in 2018 under the same category.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB):

Status: A statutory body constituted under the WildLife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Parent Agency: Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Mandate: To combat organized wildlife crime in the country.

Location: The Bureau has its headquarter in New Delhi and five regional offices at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur.

WCCB has developed an online Wildlife Crime Database Management System to get real time data to analyse trends in wildlife crimes across India.

This system has been successfully used for carrying out operations such as Operation Save Kurma, Thunderbird, Wildnet, Lesknow, Birbil, Thunderstorm, Lesknow-II etc resulting in huge seizures of Tiger/Leopard Skin/bones, Rhino Horn, Elephant Ivory etc.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**60. With reference to the PM-WANI, consider the following statements:**

1. The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the proposal of DoT for setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide public Wi-Fi service through Public Data Offices (PDOs) spread across the country.
2. Public Data Office (PDO) will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the proposal of DoT for setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide public Wi-Fi service through Public Data Offices (PDOs) spread across the country to accelerate proliferation of Broadband Internet services through Public Wi-Fi network.

This Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface will be known as PM-WANI.

PM-WANI eco-system will be operated by different players as described herein under:

**Public Data Office (PDO):** It will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.

**Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):** It will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.

**App Provider:** It will develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.

**Central Registry:** It will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. To begin with, the Central Registry will be maintained by C-DoT.

While no registration would be required for PDOs, PDOAs and App Providers will get themselves registered with DoT through online registration portal (SARALSANCHAR;) of DoT, without paying any registration fee.

There shall be no license fee for providing Broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks.

The proposal will promote the growth of Public Wi-Fi Networks in the country and, in turn, will help in proliferation of Broadband Internet, enhancement of income and employment and empowerment of people.

Hence both statements are correct.

**61. Dr JB Ekka committee, recently seen in news, is related to:**

- A. equal wages of small tea workers
- B. rebalancing defence expenditure.
- C. national security
- D. food labelling standards

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Assam government announced that the wage of tea garden workers will be increased from Rs 167 to Rs 217 per day. Although the tea garden managements pay the wages, the government fixes it.

Moreover, for equal wages of small tea workers, a one-man committee under Principal Secretary Dr JB Ekka will be formed.

Coming ahead of the state elections, the announcement is important because the tea tribe community — comprising 17% of the state's population — is a deciding factor in almost 40 Assam Assembly seats out of the 126.

The community is spread over in 800 tea gardens plus several unorganised small gardens of Assam. It is marked by exploitation, economic backwardness, poor health conditions and low literacy rates.

Last Sunday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a rally in the state that the party will ensure a Rs 365 per day wage to tea garden workers of Assam if elected to power.

In the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, Rs 1,000 crore was announced for the welfare of tea workers in Assam and West Bengal.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**62. With reference to India and Maldives relations, consider the following statements:**

1. The agreement in the field of broadcasting is for cooperation between Prasar Bharati and PSM, the official State Media of Maldives.
2. India has signed a 50 million dollar Line of Credit agreement in defence sector with the Maldives.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** India and Maldives signed agreements on wide range of domains including fish processing, public broadcasting, sustainable urban development, road infrastructure and housing.

The agreement in the field of broadcasting is for cooperation between Prasar Bharati and PSM, the official State Media of Maldives. The MoU intends to facilitate collaboration and capacity building in the field of public broadcasting.

Dr Jaishankar also handed over one lakh additional doses of COVID vaccine to Mr Shahid and Maldivian Health Minister Ahmed Naseem.

India has signed a 50 million dollar Line of Credit agreement in defence sector with the Maldives. The agreement will facilitate capability building in the maritime domain.

Dr Jaishankar also co-signed the UTF Harbour Project agreement with Maldives Defence Minister Mariya Didi. He said that the project agreement will strengthen Maldivian Coast Guard capability and facilitate regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief efforts. India also extended a new line of credit of US dollar 40 million for the development of new sports infrastructure in the Maldives.

Hence both statements are correct.

**63. Consider the following Mars missions of NASA**

<b>Mission</b>	<b>Year of launch</b>
1. Mars Pathfinder Mission:	1996
2. Exploration Rover Mission:	2004
3. Perseverance Rover Mission:	2020

**Which of the above are correctly matched?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

NASA's Past Mars missions: Perseverance is NASA's 4th generation Mars Rover — starting with:

Sojourner from the Mars Pathfinder Mission in 1996, followed by Spirit and Opportunity from the Mars Exploration Rover Mission in 2004, and Curiosity Rover from the Mars Science Laboratory in 2012. It identified regions that could have hosted life.

Thus all of the above are correct.

**64. Consider the following statements:**

1. The contribution of Livestock in terms of Gross Value Added (at constant prices) in total agriculture and allied sector has declined in 2018-19 when compared from 2014-15.
2. As per the latest Livestock Census, the total Livestock population in the country has declined compared to the Livestock Census-2012.

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

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** A large number of farmers depend upon animal husbandry for their livelihood. It supports the livelihood of almost 55% of the rural population. As per the Economic Survey-2021, the contribution of Livestock in total agriculture and allied sector Gross Value Added (at Constant Prices) has increased from 24.32% (2014-15) to 28.63% (2018-19). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

India is the highest livestock owner of the world. As per the 20th Livestock Census, the total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

**65. Consider the following statements about India and Maldives:**

1. India and Maldives are member nations of SAARC but not SASEC.
2. Operation Cactus was the assistance of the Indian Armed Forces to neutralize the coup attempt in Maldives.
3. Ekuverin is the joint military exercise of India and Maldives.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

- A.1 and 2 only
- B.2 and 3 only

C.1 only  
D.1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** India-Maldives Relations:

Recently, India and the Maldives have signed a defence Line of Credit agreement worth USD 50 million.

The agreement was signed during the visit by the External Affairs Minister of India to Maldives.

Besides, Maldives and India are the member nations of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

India has always rushed emergency assistance to the Maldives, whenever sought.

In 1988, when armed mercenaries attempted a coup against President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, India sent paratroopers and Navy vessels and restored the legitimate leadership under Operation Cactus. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

India and Maldives conduct the joint military exercise 'Ekuverin'. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

**66. Which of the following are the initiatives to promote MSME sector:**

1. SFURTI
2. Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme
3. Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum
4. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

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

- A.1 and 2 only  
B.1, 3 and 4  
C.2 and 4 only  
D.1, 2,3 and 4

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Initiatives to Promote MSME Sector:

Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM): It is a simple one-page registration form to promote ease of doing business for MSMEs in India.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP): It is a credit linked subsidy scheme, for setting up of new micro-enterprises and to generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country.

SFURTI: The Ministry of MSME is implementing a Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) to provide a boost to the MSME sector.

Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme: To facilitate easy flow of credit, guarantee cover is provided for collateral free credit extended to MSMEs.

Hence, option D is correct.

**67. With reference to the draft national migrant labour policy, consider the following statements:**

1. The policy rejects a handout approach, opting instead for a rights-based framework.
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs should address issues of night shelters, short-stay homes, and seasonal accommodation for migrants in cities.

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



- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** NITI Aayog has prepared a draft national migrant labour policy.

The draft describes two approaches to policy design:

one focussed on cash transfers, special quotas, and reservations;

the other which “enhances the agency and capability of the community and thereby remove aspects that come in the way of an individual’s own natural ability to thrive”.

The policy rejects a handout approach, opting instead for a rights-based framework.

The draft asks the Ministries of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Housing and Urban Affairs to use Tribal Affairs migration data to help create migration resource centres in high migration zones.

It asks the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to focus on skill-building at these centres.

The Ministry of Education should take measures under the Right to Education Act to mainstream migrant children’s education, to map migrant children, and to provide local-language teachers in migrant destinations.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs should address issues of night shelters, short-stay homes, and seasonal accommodation for migrants in cities.

The National Legal Services authority (NALSA) and Ministry of Labour should set up grievance handling cells and fast track legal responses for trafficking, minimum wage violations, and workplace abuses and accidents for migrant workers.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**68. With reference to Mission Indradhanush, which of the following statements are correct?**

1. It targets adolescents and pregnant women.
2. It provides vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases only.
3. Vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B is being provided in selected districts only.

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

- A.1 and 3 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 2 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Mission Indradhanush aims to fully immunize more than 89 lakh children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated under Universal Immunisation Programme. It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It provides vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i.e. diphtheria, Whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B infections, Japanese encephalitis (JE), rotavirus vaccine,

pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and measles-rubella (MR). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

However, Vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B is being provided in selected districts of the country. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

**69. With reference to Gahirmatha, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the world's largest nesting beach of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.
2. Gahirmatha is the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha.

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

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** It is the world's largest nesting beach of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Gahirmatha is the mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Gahirmatha was declared a turtle sanctuary in 1997 by the Odisha government after considering its ecological importance and as part of efforts to save the sea turtles.

Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is one of the three parts of the Bhitarkanika National Park. The other two includes the area of Bhitarkanika National Park and the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary.

**70. Which of the following species are included under recovery programme for critically endangered species in India by National Board for Wildlife?**

1. Caracal
2. Snow Leopard
3. Malabar Civet

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The National Board for Wildlife and Union Ministry of Environment included the caracal, a medium-sized wildcat found in parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, in the list of critically endangered species.

Though not under grave threat in its other habitats, the animal is on the verge of extinction in India, some experts believe. The recovery programme for critically endangered species in India now includes 22 wildlife species.

Besides India, the caracal is found in several dozen countries across Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia. While it flourishes in parts of Africa, its numbers in Asia are declining.

The wildcat has long legs, a short face, long canine teeth, and distinctive ears — long and pointy, with tufts of black hair at their tips.

The iconic ears are what give the animal its name — caracal comes from the Turkish *karakulak*, meaning ‘black ears’.

In India, it is called *siya gosh*, a Persian name that translates as ‘black Ear’. A Sanskrit fable exists about a small wild cat named *deergha-karn* or ‘long-eared’.

The other species are Snow Leopard, Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer and Jerdon’s Courser.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**71. With reference to the Bond yield, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the return an investor gets on that bond or on a particular government security.
2. A rise in bond yields means interest rates in the monetary system have fallen, and the returns for investors have declined.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Rising yields on government securities or bonds in the United States and India have triggered concern over the negative impact on other asset classes, especially stock markets, and even gold.

Bond yield is the return an investor gets on that bond or on a particular government security. The major factors affecting the yield is the monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India, especially the course of interest rates, the fiscal position of the government and its borrowing programme, global markets, economy, and inflation.

A fall in interest rates makes bond prices rise, and bond yields fall — and rising interest rates cause bond prices to fall, and bond yields to rise.

In short, a rise in bond yields means interest rates in the monetary system have fallen, and the returns for investors (those who invested in bonds and govt securities) have declined.

The yield on 10-year bonds in India moved up from the recent low of 5.76% to 6.20% in line with the rise in US yields, sending jitters through the stock market, where the benchmark Sensex fell 2,300 points last week.

Hence both statements are correct.

**72. Consider the following statements:**

1. Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
2. Chilika Lake is the largest salt-water lagoon of Asia.

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

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Migratory birds in and around Chilika lake and Bhitarkanika National Park have started leaving earlier (in February) than other years, as temperatures in Odisha (in and around Chilika lake) began to soar.

Every year in winter, migratory birds arrive at the water bodies around Chilika Lake, Asia's largest salt-water lagoon and Bhitarkanika, the second-largest mangrove forest in India (the largest being the Sunderbans, West Bengal). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Major attraction at Chilika is Irrawaddy dolphins which are often spotted off Satapada Island

**73. Consider the following statements:**

1. Channapatna toys are made of ivory wood and are coloured with vegetable dyes.
2. Channapatna toys have been given the Geographical Indication Tag under the World Trade Organization.
3. Channapatna is known as the Toy-City of Andhra Pradesh.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?**

1 and 3 only

2 only

1 only

3 only

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Channapattana is a city and taluk headquarter in Ramanagara District in Karnataka.

It is noted for its famous handmade lacquer wooden toys all over the world and hence popularly known as "Gombegala Ooru" or the "Toy-City" of Karnataka

Channapatna toys are made of ivory wood and are coloured with vegetable dyes.

Channapatna toys have been given the Geographical Indication Tag under the World Trade Organization.

**74. Under which of the following categories is the Snow Leopard listed in the IUCN Red List?**

- A. Near Threatened
- B. Vulnerable
- C. Endangered
- D. Critically Endangered

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** According to the latest assessment, Snow Leopard is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

**75. Channapatana is a city, famous for its wooden toys and lacquerware is located in:**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Andhra Pradesh

C. Odisha

D. Madhya Pradesh

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Channapattana toy makers thanked Prime Minister Modi for his support to the Indian toy makers.

Channapatana is a city and taluk headquarter in Ramanagara District, Karnataka, India.

Channapatana is also called as Channpatna by locals.

The city is famous for its wooden toys and lacquerware. Channapatna is also called Town of toys ("Gombegala nagara").

The origin of these toys is dated back to the reign of Tipu Sultan who invited the artisans from Persia in order to train the local artisans in the art of wooden toy making.

These toys have been given Geographical Indication tag by Government of India.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.