

10 PM Compilation for the Week – January, 2021 (First week)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** is a privacy and security law of the European Union. Though it was drafted and passed by the **European Union (EU)**, it imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.

Some of the key privacy and data protection requirements of the GDPR include:

- Requiring the consent of subjects for data processing
- Anonymizing collected data to protect privacy
- Providing data breach notifications
- Safely handling the transfer of data across borders

Q.6) The '**CANZUK**' acronym includes which of the following country(s)?

1. United States of America
2. United Kingdom
3. Canada

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **CANZUK** is an acronym for the theoretical cultural, political, and economic community comprising **Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom** as part of an international body similar in scope to the former European Economic Community.

The idea of a trade bloc between Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand gained traction after the 2016 Brexit vote.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

1. The Declaration addresses both individual and collective rights of Indigenous people.
2. India voted against the declaration at United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** is a comprehensive statement addressing the human rights of indigenous peoples. It was drafted and formally debated for over twenty years prior to being adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007.

The document emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to live in dignity, to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their self-determined development, in keeping with their own needs and aspirations.

The Declaration addresses both **individual and collective rights**, cultural rights and identity, rights to education, health, employment, language, and others.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. India voted in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**:

1. It is a vaccination specialized body of the United Nations.
2. India is currently the chair of the GAVI Alliance Board.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance** is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization. It is not a United Nations body.

Gavi's impact draws on the strengths of its core partners, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and plays a critical role in strengthening primary health care (PHC), bringing us closer to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Statement 2 is incorrect. On the Gavi board, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation hold permanent seats; representatives of other Gavi partners serve on time-limited basis.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board. The Gavi Board is currently chaired by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a Nigerian-born economist.

Q.9) Which of the following country(s) is/are member of the **Arctic Council**?

1. Japan
2. Finland
3. Sweden

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

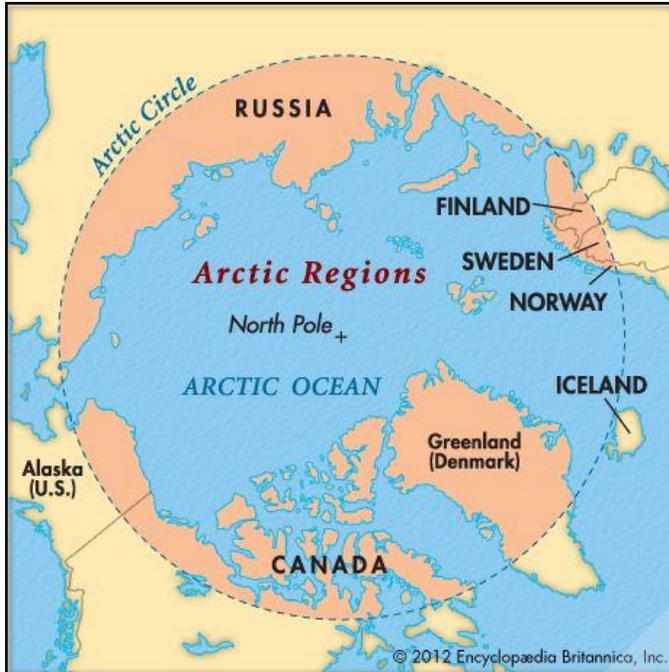
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Arctic Council consists of the **eight Arctic States**: Canada; Denmark; Finland; Iceland; Norway; Russia; Sweden; United States.

The Arctic states have territories within the Arctic and thus carry the role as stewards of the region. Their national jurisdictions and international law govern the lands surrounding the Arctic Ocean and its waters.

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International law identifies four global commons, namely the High Seas, the Atmosphere, the Antarctica and the Outer Space. Arctic is mostly governed by Arctic Council states.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Security Council (UNSC) membership**:

1. Every member country of the United Nation has at least once been a member of UNSC.
2. In 2020, India has been elected to the UNSC membership for the first time in 21st century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. More than 50 United Nations Member States have **never** been Members of the Security Council.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that country's interests are affected.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India has entered the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for the eighth time in 2021-22.

India was also elected for the **2011-12 of UNSC membership**.

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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Legislative powers of the President:**

1. Constitution mandates the circumstances, which rendered it necessary for an ordinance to be promulgated, to be made public through gazette notification.
2. An ordinance can be withdrawn by President.
3. The President can only promulgate ordinance on the subjects on which Parliament is competent to make laws.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. There is no provision under the constitution mandating the circumstances to be made public. **Article 123(1)** states that —

If at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinances as the circumstances appear to him to require.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 123(2)(b) states that an Ordinance promulgated under this article shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament, but every such Ordinance **may be withdrawn at any time by the President.**

Statement 3 is correct. Article 123(3) states that -

If and so far as an Ordinance under this article makes any provision which Parliament would not under this Constitution be competent to enact, it shall be void.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Constitutional provisions on the **sessions of Parliament:**

1. Six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session of a House of Parliament.
2. Each House of Parliament shall meet at least 50 times in a Financial 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 85(1)** states that the President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but **six months** shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Constitution **does not specify when or for how many days** Parliament should meet.

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HISTORY

Q.1) Which of the following architect and the city designed is/are correctly matched?

1. Otto Koenigsberger - Bhubaneshwar
2. Le Corbusier - Chandigarh
3. Louis Kahn - Shimla

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **German architect Otto Koenigsberger** worked for the Maharaja of Mysore in the late 1930s, when he was commissioned by Tata & Sons to develop the industrial township of Jamshedpur in the early 1940s. He would later design the masterplan for **Bhubhaneswar (1948) and Faridabad (1949)**.

Option 2 is correctly matched. With English architect Maxwell Fry and his wife Jane Drew, **Le Corbusier** with his cousin Pierre Jeanneret would design many of **Chandigarh's civic buildings**, from courts to housing. Corbusier's modernist approach, without decoration, gave India its brutalist, bare concrete buildings.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. The American Architect **Louis Kahn had designed the IIT Ahmedabad** campus. The design for IIM Ahmedabad (1962-1974) carried the essence of learning in the humility of its material, and the way spaces were managed — placing the dormitories, the library and classrooms at the same level, or the faculty residences across a waterbody.

Q.2) Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Haripura Session of Congress
2. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting tricolor at Port Blair
3. Cabinet Mission arriving in India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Indian National Congress met at **Haripura during 19 to 22 February 1938**, under the presidency of Subhas Chandra Bose.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose visited Port Blair during the last three days of December 1943 and hoisted the tricolor at Port Blair on **30th December 1943**.

Cabinet Mission arrived in New Delhi on 24 March 1946. The main objective of Cabinet Mission was to find out ways and means for the peaceful transfer of power in India, to suggest measures for the formation of a Constitution making machinery and also to set up the Interim Government.

The Havelock, Neil and Ross Island were renamed to Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep in 2018.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the ‘**Genomic Surveillance Consortium’ (INSACOG)**:

1. It has been launched by the World Health Organisation.
2. Its mandate is for epidemiological surveillance of circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Recently **National Task Force** discussed testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK.

Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the recommendation of the NTF, a genomic surveillance consortium, INSACOG, has been formed under the leadership of **National Center for Disease Control (NCDC)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The consortium is aimed at laboratory and epidemiological surveillance of circulating **strains of SARS-CoV-2** in the Country.

Q.2) The **Thoubal Multipurpose Project** is located in which of the following State?

- a) Manipur
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Sikkim

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Union Home Minister recently inaugurated several projects in Manipur including the **Thoubal Multipurpose project**. This is a project intended generate electricity and to supply water for irrigation and drinking.

The Thoubal Multipurpose Project, located in the Mapithel valley in the hill districts of Urkhul and Senapati, was approved by the Planning Commission in 1980. Construction started in 1989.

The project is aimed at irrigating an estimated 35,104 hectares of the region surrounding the project.

Q.3) Which of the following vaccines are provided under the **Universal Vaccination Programme** of Government of India?

1. Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine
2. Hepatitis-B vaccine
3. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are covered under the **Universal Vaccination Programme**.

Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization' (EPI) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. In 1985, the programme was modified as 'Universal Immunization Programme' (UIP) to be implemented in phased manner to cover all districts in the country by 1989-90 with the one of largest health programme in the world.

Vaccines provided under UIP: BCG vaccine; Pentavalent Vaccine (covering Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilis influenza type b infection and Hepatitis B), Rotavirus Vaccine, Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Measles vaccine, Japanese encephalitis, DPT booster (a combined vaccine; it protects children from Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis), Tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine.

Q.4) The **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)** is to pass through which of the following state(s)?

1. Punjab
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Jharkhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) of 1856 route km starts from Sahnewal near Ludhiana (Punjab) and will pass through the states of **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand** to terminate at Dankuni in **West Bengal**.

It is being constructed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), that has been set up as a special purpose vehicle to build and operate Dedicated Freight Corridors.

DFCCIL is also constructing the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (1504 route km) that connects Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai and will traverse through the states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **farming sector reforms** brought in by the Union Government:

1. State Governments are prohibited from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.
2. The process of price determination in a contract between a farmer and a buyer must be mentioned in the agreement.

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020** allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers’ produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts.

Such trade can be conducted in an ‘outside trade area’, i.e., any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers’ produce including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

The act prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers’ produce conducted in an ‘outside trade area’.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020** provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.

The price of farming produce should be mentioned in the agreement. For prices subjected to variation, a guaranteed price for the produce and a clear reference for any additional amount above the guaranteed price must be specified in the agreement. Further, the process of price determination must be mentioned in the agreement.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. Its mandate is to promote cultivation, trade and export growth of medicinal plants sector in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. In order to promote medicinal plants sector, Government of India set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in 2000. Currently the board is working under the **Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The primary mandate of NMPB is to develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination between various ministries/ departments/ organization and implementation of support policies/programs for overall **(conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants** sector both at the Central /State and International level.

NMPB has recently launched a Consortia for Medicinal Plants to address/deliberate (not limited to) on Quality Planting Material, Research & Development, Cultivation, Trade of medicinal plants/market linkage etc.

Q.7) Which of the following Institution/Ministry organizes the **National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare Systems** in India?

- a) Ministry of Health Affairs
- b) NITI Aayog

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- c) National Medical Commission (NMC)
- d) World Health Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare holds the National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare Systems in India. While the first one was held in 2013 at Srinagar to recognize, showcase and document various best practices and innovations in public healthcare system, the last was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare digitally inaugurated the 7th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices through a video conference recently.

The New Health Management Information System (HMIS) along with the Operational Guidelines for TB services at AB-HWCs and the Operational Guidelines 2020 on Active Case Detection and Regular Surveillance for Leprosy were also launched.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems**:

1. It is being implemented by the Department of Science & Technology.
2. The mission aims at developing Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH) to focus on generation of new knowledge through basic and applied research.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. To harness the potential of this new wave of technology and make India a leading player in CPS, the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** is being implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

Cyber-Physical System (CPS) combines digital/ cyber elements with physical objects (e.g. machines, autonomous vehicles) and data with capabilities of communication, data collection & processing, computing, decision making and action.

Statement 2 is correct. The Mission aims at establishment of 15 numbers of **Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH)**, six numbers of Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and four numbers of Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP).

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has sanctioned Rs. 135 crores to IIT Hyderabad under NM-ICPS to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, RoVs, etc.). 'TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad' is India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial).

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Digital Ocean platform** launched by the Ministry of Earth Science:

1. It has been developed by the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
2. It facilitates an online interactive data visualization to assess the evolution of oceanographic features.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Digital Ocean platform is a first of its kind platform for ocean data management. It has been developed by the **Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

It includes a set of applications developed to organize and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology. It facilitates an online interactive web-based environment for data integration, 3D and 4D (3D inspace with time animation) **data visualization, data analysis to assess the evolution of oceanographic features**, data fusion and multi-format download of disparate data from multiple sources viz., in-situ, remote sensing and model data, all of which is rendered on a georeferenced 3D Ocean.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Digital India Awards (DIA) 2020**:

1. National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) conducts the biennial Digital India Awards.
2. The DIA 2020 will also felicitate Government Entities that have developed innovative digital solutions to facilitate the citizens during pandemic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has been conducting the biennial Digital India Awards (DIA) to promote innovation in e-Governance and digital transformation of government service delivery mechanism.

The awards have been held for 5 seasons earlier, in 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016 & 2018. The Awards were initially known as Web Ratna Awards until 2014 and were re-named Digital India Awards from the 2016 season.

Statement 2 is correct. The **6th Digital India Awards 2020** includes 'Innovation in Pandemic' category to felicitate a Government Entity which has developed an outstanding, innovative digital solution to facilitate the citizens to undertake various activities with ease during the time of pandemic in areas like communication, health, education, travel etc. or to ensure continuity of government services.

Digital India Awards have been institutionalized under the ambit of National Portal of India to honor exemplary initiatives/practices in Digital-Governance. The National Portal of India is a Flagship Project to facilitate single window access to Government Information and Services in cyberspace.

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. SAROD-PORTS is a dispute resolution mechanism for PPP Projects in the Major Ports.

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2. The first Seaplane of India has started its operation from Statue of Unity, Kevadiya to Sabarmati River in Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **SAROD-Ports is established under Societies Registration Act, 1860** with the objective of affordable and timely resolution of disputes in fair manner Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism with the panel of technical experts as arbitrators.

SAROD-Ports consists members from Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).

SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours.

It will also cover disputes between granting authority and Licensee/Concessionaire /Contractor and also disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors arising out of and during the course of execution of various contracts.

Statement 2 is correct. India's **first seaplane Service operation** was inaugurated by Prime Minister in October, 2020, between **Kevadia and Sabarmati River front in Ahmedabad.**

Ports handle around 90% of EXIM Cargo by volume and 70% by value.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Akash Missile**:

- 1. It is a short-range air-to-air missile developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).
- 2. AKASH Weapon System can simultaneously engage Multiple Targets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **AKASH is a Short Range Surface to Air Missile** system to protect vulnerable areas and vulnerable points from air attacks. It has been developed indigenously by the Defence Research & Development Organisation.

Statement 2 is correct. AKASH Weapon System can simultaneously **engage Multiple Targets** in Group Mode or Autonomous Mode. It has built in Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) features. The entire weapon system has been configured on mobile platforms.

AKASH Weapon Systems has been inducted and is operational with the Indian Air Force (IAF) as well as the Indian Army (IA).

Union Cabinet has recently approved the export of Akash Missile system.

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Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. India's Sugar production does not completely fulfill the domestic consumption demand of Sugar in country.
2. Government has fixed target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. There has been **surplus production of sugar in the country since sugar season 2010-11 (except reduction due to drought in sugar season 2016-17)**; & sugar production is likely to remain surplus in the country in coming years due to introduction of improved varieties of sugarcane.

In the normal sugar season (October- September) about 320 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of sugar is produced whereas, our domestic consumption is about 260 LMT.

Statement 2 is correct. Government has fixed target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022, 15% blending by 2026 & 20% blending by 2030.

With a view to support sugar sector and in the interest of sugarcane farmers, the Government has also allowed production of ethanol from B-Heavy Molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and sugar.

Q.14) Which of the following is/are the **“Ease of Doing Business”** reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure for States to become eligible for additional borrowing?

1. Completion of first assessment of ‘District Level Business Reform Action Plan’
2. Elimination of the requirements of renewal of registration certificates/approvals obtained by businesses under various Acts.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

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

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

The **reforms stipulated in Ease of doing business reform** category are:

--Completion of first assessment of ‘District Level Business Reform Action Plan’

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

--Implementation of computerized central random inspection system under the Acts wherein allocation of inspectors is done centrally, the same inspector is not assigned to the same unit

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in subsequent years, prior inspection notice is provided to the business owner, and inspection report is uploaded within 48 hours of inspection.

So far 10 States have implemented the One Nation One Ration Card System, 7 States have done ease of doing business reforms, and 2 States have done local body reforms.

Q.15) Which of the following is/are **Kala-Azar endemic state(s)** of India?

1. Bihar
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. West Bengal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Visceral leishmaniasis, also known as kala-azar, is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anaemia.

Kala Azar is the 2nd largest parasitic killer in the world after Malaria and results in a 95% fatality rate if the patients are not treated. Additionally, up to 20% of the patients who are correctly treated and cured, develop a skin condition called Post-Kala-Azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL) which surfaces within months to years after treatment. These patients can contain large amounts of parasites in their skin lesions, making them an important source of transmission.

The disease is endemic in 54 districts in four states namely **Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal**. [PIB]

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG)**:

1. It is to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 and assist in developing potential vaccines in the future.
2. National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) is the coordinating Unit of Genome Sequencing Consortium.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The government has launched the **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG)**, comprising 10 labs namely DBT-NIBMG Kalyani, DBT-ILS Bhubaneswar, ICMR-NIV Pune, DBT-NCCS Pune, CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad, DBT-CDFD Hyderabad, DBT-InSTEM/ NCBS Bengaluru, NIMHANS Bengaluru, CSIR-IGIB Delhi, and NCDC Delhi.

The overall aim of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium is to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 on a regular basis through a multi-laboratory network. This vital research consortium will also assist in developing potential vaccines in the future.

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Statement 2 is correct. **DBT- National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG)** as the Co-ordinating Unit of Genome Sequencing Consortium and will closely work with a Nodal Unit of NCDC on activities like SOPs, data annotation, data analysis, data release etc.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**:

1. The act authorizes attachment and confiscation of any property involved in money-laundering.
2. The Enforcement Directorate is the specialized financial investigation agency enforcing PMLA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **PMLA deals with the confiscation** of the property in accordance with the chapter III of the said Act. The attachments are done by the Director or any person below the Deputy Director authorised to do so by him.

The property here in question relates to both movable and immovable property. In case of immovable property, the term shall include all persons claiming/entitled to claim any interest in the property.

Statement 2 is correct. **Directorate of Enforcement** is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, which enforces the following laws: -

Foreign Exchange Management Act,1999 (FEMA) - A Civil Law, with officers empowered to conduct investigations into suspected contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Laws and Regulations, adjudicate, contraventions, and impose penalties on those adjudged to have contravened the law.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) - A Criminal Law, with the officers empowered to conduct investigations to trace assets derived out of the proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach/ confiscate the same, and to arrest and prosecute the offenders found to be involved in Money Laundering.

Q.18) What is **SAHAYAK-NG**, which has been developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation?

- a) Air droppable container
- b) A target drone for missile tests
- c) A robot for testing minefields
- d) A bullet proof armored vehicle

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Indian Navy recently conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy).

The trial was conducted by Indian Navy to enhance its operational logistics capabilities and provide critical engineering stores to ships which are deployed more than 2000 km from the

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coast. It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.

SAHAYAK-NG is an advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I. The newly developed GPS aided air dropped container is having the capability to carry a payload that weighs upto 50 kg and can be dropped from heavy aircraft.

Q.19) Which of the following is/are the primary function(s) of the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**?

1. Regulation of sale and distribution of Drugs
2. Approval of licenses of Vaccines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. Under the **Drug and Cosmetics Act**, the regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs, coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations and providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Option 2 is correct. Drug Controller General of India is responsible for **approval of licenses** of specified categories of Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerator – India (ASHA India)**:

1. It is a component of the ‘Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC- India)’ challenge.
2. ASHA-India aims to identify proven foreign construction technologies and implement them in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Urban (PMAY-U) Mission to provide all weather pucca houses to eligible urban households/ beneficiaries by the year 2022.

Within the ambit of the overarching PMAY (U) Mission, a Technology Sub Mission (TSM) was set up to facilitate the adoption of innovative, sustainable, eco-friendly and disaster-resilient technologies and building materials for low cost, speedier and quality construction of houses.

In this regard, MoHUA launched ‘**Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India)**’ has been launched’ to identify emerging, disaster-resilient, environment friendly, cost effective and speedy construction technologies.

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Statement 1 is correct. The challenge has three components viz. i) Conduct of biennial Expo-Conference named Construction Technology India ii) Identifying Proven Demonstrable Technologies from across the globe to construct Light House projects iii) **Promoting Potential Future Technologies (domestic) through Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerator – India (ASHA India)**. (Statement 2 is incorrect)

Q.21) The ‘NAVARITIH’ - certificate Course has been launched recently in which of the following academic field?

- a) Innovative Construction Technologies
- b) Teacher Education
- c) Tribal Handicrafts Development
- d) India’s Traditional Medicinal System

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Prime Minister recently laid the foundation of six Light House Projects (LHPs) as part of Global Housing Technology Challenge – India (GHTC -India) initiative, in six States at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

As part of ‘Construction Technology Year 2019-20’, besides LHPs, a Certificate Course on Innovative Construction Technologies namely **NAVARITIH (New, Affordable, Validated, Research Innovation Technologies for Indian Housing)** was also launched. The objectives of this course are to familiarise the professionals with the latest materials and technologies being used worldwide for housing.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India)**:

- 1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog.
- 2. It aims to evaluate and shortlist proven technologies from across the globe and mainstream them in Indian construction sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. GHTC–India stands for **Global Housing Technology Challenge – India**, an initiative by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India.

Statement 2 is correct. It aims to identify, evaluate and shortlist a basket of proven & potential innovative technologies from across the globe and subsequently mainstream them in Indian construction sector that are sustainable, green, disaster resilient.

Such technologies would be cost effective, faster and ensure a higher quality of construction of houses, suiting to diverse geo-climatic conditions of India and desired structural & functional needs.

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of Light House Projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) at six sites across six States on 1st January 2021.