

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

1st to 7th March, 2021

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

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Operation Greens Scheme**:

1. It aims to promote Farmer Producers Organizations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
2. Union Budget for 2021-22 announced the extension of operation green scheme to cover paddy and wheat.

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. In the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19, a new Scheme “Operation Greens” was announced on the line of “Operation Flood”, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to promote **Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.**

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) extended the Operation Greens Scheme from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits & vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months on pilot basis as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Statement 2 is incorrect. While presenting the Union budget for the FY 2021-22, Finance Minister announced that Operation Green (OG) will be expanded beyond tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP) to 22 **perishable commodities.**

Perishable foods are those that spoil the most quickly and require refrigeration such as fruits and vegetables, dairy, fish, and meat products.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **One District One Focus Product** initiative:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has identified the products for One District One Focus Product (ODOFP) for districts across the country.
2. The identified products will be supported under the PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme.

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 Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** in consultation with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has finalized the products for One District One Focus Product (ODOFP). The products have been identified from agricultural, horticultural, animal, poultry, milk, fisheries and aquaculture, marine sectors for 728 districts across the country. The list of products has been finalized after taking inputs from the States/UTs and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These products will be promoted in a cluster approach

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through convergence of the Government of India schemes, to increase the value of the products and with the ultimate aim of increasing the income of the farmers.

These identified products will be supported under the **PM-FME scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries** which provides incentives to promoter and micro-enterprises.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009**:

1. In a case of emergency nature, interim blocking directions may be issued by the Cabinet Secretary.
2. The requests and complaints received and actions taken are to be kept confidential.

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 exercise of the powers conferred by **section 87 and section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000**, the Central Government promulgated Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Section 9 of the said rules empower the **Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT** to issue interim directions for blocking of content.

Under the rules issued on 25th February, 2021, this provision has only been replaced with **Secretary, Ministry of I&B** because Part III of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** would be administered by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Statement 2 is correct. Rule 16 of the IT Blocking Rules provide that strict confidentiality shall be maintained regarding all the requests and complaints received and actions taken thereof.

Q.4) What is the mandate of **NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL)**?

1. Owning satellites for Earth Observation and Communication applications and providing space-based services.
2. Building launch vehicles through Indian Industry and launch as per satellite customer requirement.
3. Technology Transfer to Indian Industry.

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: In order to commercially exploit the products and services emanating from Indian Space Programme, the "**NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**" incorporated in March 2019, as a wholly-owned Government of India under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS).

NSIL mandate:

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- Owning satellites for Earth Observation and Communication applications and providing space-based services
- Building satellites and launching them as per demand
- Providing Launch Services for satellite belonging to customer
- Building launch vehicles through Indian Industry and launch as per satellite customer requirement
- Space based Services related to Earth Observation and Communication satellites on commercial basis
- Satellite building through Indian Industry
- Technology Transfer to Indian Industry

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**:

1. It aims to provide generic medicines at affordable prices to the masses through dedicated outlets.
 2. It is being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA).
- 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. ‘**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**’ is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through dedicated outlets called 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra'. These provide generic medicines at much lesser price. The potency of these medicines is same as compared to expensive branded medicines available in the open market. Statement 2 is incorrect. **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)**, the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is celebrating 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas on 7th March, 2021 with the theme of “Seva bhi – Rozgar bhi”.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)**:

1. It is a statutory authority.
 2. It manages the facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of 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: C

Explanation: India has an over 15000 KM long international land border with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. There are several designated entries and exit points for cross border movement of persons, goods and vehicles.

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Statement 1 is correct. LPAI is a statutory body established under **Land Ports Authority of India Act**, 2010. The provisions of the Act came into force in 2012.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 11 of the Act gives powers to LPAI to develop, sanitize and manage the facilities for **cross-border movement of passengers and goods** at designated points along the international borders of India.

LPAI endeavors to provide safe, secure and systematic facilities for movement of cargo as well passengers at its Integrated Check Posts. It recently celebrated its 9th Foundation Day.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **“Waste to Wealth” Mission**:

1. The mission is being implemented under the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
2. It aims to identify, develop and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials, and extract resources of value.
3. ‘Swachhta Saarthi’ is a Fellowship under the mission to recognize people engaged in tackling waste management, scientifically and sustainably.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Waste to Wealth Mission** is one of the nine national missions of the **Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)**.

Statement 2 is correct. The ‘Waste to Wealth Mission’ of the PMSTIAC aims to identify, develop and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials, and extract resources of value. The mission will also work to identify and support the development of new technologies that promise to create a clean and green environment.

Statement 3 is correct. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its “Waste to Wealth” Mission recently launched the **“Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship”** to recognize students, community workers/self-help groups, and municipal/sanitary workers who are engaged in tackling the enormous challenge of waste management, scientifically and sustainably.

Q.8) What was the mandate of the **Surya Praksh Committee** that have been in news recently?

- a) Merger of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV
- b) Regulation of content on OTT platforms
- c) Review of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act
- d) Framework for certification and censorship of films

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A committee headed by former **Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash** constituted in November 2019 was mandated “to work out the modalities and prepare the guidelines for pooling resources, manpower and technology for the merger of the two channels”. After nearly two years of work, the merger of the Lok Sabha TV (LSTV) and the Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV) has been finalised and will be replaced by Sansad TV.

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Q.9) Which of the following were the recommendations of the **Justice JS Verma Committee**?

1. Death penalty for the sexual assault of extreme nature
2. All marriages in India should mandatorily be registered in the presence of a magistrate
3. A separate Bill of Rights for women that entitles a woman a life of dignity and security

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: Justice Verma Committee was constituted in 2012 to look into possible amendments in criminal laws to provide quicker trials and enhanced punishments for sexual assaults of extreme nature.

-- The panel **did not recommend the death penalty** for rapists. It suggests that the punishment for rape should be rigorous imprisonment for seven years to life. It recommends that punishment for causing death or a "persistent vegetative state" should be RI for a term not be less than 20 years, but may be for life also, which shall mean the rest of the person's life.

-- As a primary recommendation, all marriages in India should mandatorily be registered in the presence of a magistrate. The magistrate will ensure that the marriage has been solemnised without any demand for dowry having been made and that it has taken place with the full and free consent of both partners.

-- A separate Bill of Rights for women that entitles a woman a life of dignity and security and will ensure that a woman shall have the right to have complete sexual autonomy including with respect to her relationships.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **Digital Media Ethics Code Relating to Digital Media and OTT Platforms**:

1. It provides for three-level grievance redressal mechanism at publisher, State and Central Government level.
2. It mandates the content to be self-classified by the publishers into age based categories.

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 Government recently published the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** in which Digital Media Ethics Code Relating to Digital Media and OTT Platforms are to Be Administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Statement 1 is incorrect. A three-level grievance redressal mechanism has been established under the rules with different levels of self-regulation.

Level-I: Self-regulation by the publishers;

Level-II: Self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the publishers;

Level-III: Oversight mechanism.

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Statement 2 is correct. The OTT platforms, called as the publishers of online curated content in the rules, would self-classify the content into five age based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult).

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme**:

1. It aims to promote India's exports on a sustained basis.
2. Organisations of Central as well as State Governments are eligible for assistance under the scheme.

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: Both statements are correct.

Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme is an Export Promotion Scheme envisaged to act as a catalyst to promote India's exports on a sustained basis.

Activities eligible for financial assistance under the Scheme: Marketing Projects Abroad, Capacity Building, Support for Statutory Compliances, Studies, Project Development, Developing Foreign Trade Facilitation Web Portal and to support Cottage and handicrafts units. Eligible Agencies: Departments of Central Government and Organisation of Central/State Governments including Indian Missions abroad; Export Promotion Councils; Commodity Boards; Individual Exporters (only for statutory compliance etc.); National Level Institutions etc.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **Van Dhan Vikas Scheme**:

1. It seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal forest produce.
2. TRIFED is the nodal agency at the national level for implementation of the scheme.

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 **Van Dhan Yojana** or Van Dhan Scheme, a component of the 'The Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' was launched to address the formidable problems that the Tribals face such as possession of land/house with no rights; restrictions in the collection of minor forest produce; exploitation by middlemen; displacement from national parks and wild sanctuaries, lack of development in forest villages etc.

Implemented by TRIFED as the nodal agency at the national level, the Van Dhan startups is a well thought master plan for the socio-economic development of the tribal population of the country.

The idea is to set-up tribal community-owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in predominantly forested tribal districts.

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A Kendra shall constitute of 15 tribal SHGs, each comprising of up to 20 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Van Dhan Kendra.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Education Policy 2020**:

1. It calls for permitting credits acquired in foreign countries to be counted for the award of a degree.
2. High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other 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: C

Explanation: National Education Policy 2020 recommendations on internationalization of education:

-- An International Students Office at each HEI hosting foreign students will be set up to coordinate all matters relating to welcoming and supporting students arriving from abroad.

--High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries, and similarly, selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.

--A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India.

--Credits acquired in foreign universities will be permitted, where appropriate as per the requirements of each HEI, to be counted for the award of a degree.

UGC has placed the draft Regulations on Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Education Institutions to offer Joint Degree, Dual Degree and Twinning Programmes, in the public domain and invited suggestions from all the stakeholders.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the recently released **Ease of Living Index 2020**:

1. It has been compiled and released by the UN-Habitat.
2. Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category.

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. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** have released of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020. The framework for these assessments were prepared by MoHUA with the Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner.

The EoLI 2020 strengthens its scope by consolidating the framework with the addition of a Citizen Perception Survey in the index, holding a weightage of 30%.

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Statement 2 is correct. The rankings under Ease of Living Index 2020 were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people. 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted in 2020.

Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai. In the Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhubaneshwar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **Municipal Performance Index 2020**:

1. It has been released by the NITI Aayog.
2. Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality in Million+ category.

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. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** announced the release of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 and the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 recently.

The framework for these assessments were prepared by MoHUA with the Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner.

Whereas, the Ease of Living Index measures an outcome of the indicator, Municipal Performance Index focuses on the factors that produce those outcomes. The latter serves in determining elements that prevent efficient local governance in service delivery mechanisms, planning, financial systems, and governance practice.

Statement 2 is correct. The assessment framework under MPI 2020 has classified municipalities based on their population- Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population. **In the Million+ category, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality**, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**:

1. BIS has formulated various Indian Standards comparable with emerging International Standards including the Electric vehicles.
2. Minister for Commerce is the ex-officio president of the Governing Council of the BIS.

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: **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016 for the harmonious development of the activities of

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standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Statement 1 is correct. BIS has already formulated various Indian Standards comparable with the International Standards such as the Electric vehicles, Fuel blends, Smart City Digital Infrastructure, Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Manufacturing, Technical Textiles, Aerial Ropeways, etc.

Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has published standard IS:17017 that covers general requirements and safety norms for Electric vehicles supply equipment.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** is the ex-officio president of the Governing Council of the BIS.

The minister recently presided over the 3rd Governing Council Meeting of the Bureau of Indian Standard.

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. The environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India are three pillars of the Accessible India Campaign.
2. Sugamya Bharat crowdsourcing mobile application aims at sensitizing and enhancing accessibility in India by inviting complaints and feedback.

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: Sugamya Bharat APP — a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application is a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.

The app provides for five main features, 4 of which are directly related to enhancing accessibility, while the fifth is a special feature meant only for Divyangjan for COVID related issues.

The accessibility related features are: the registration of complaints of inaccessibility across the 3 broad pillars of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan; positive feedback of examples and best practices worth emulating being shared by people as jan-bhagidhari; Departmental updates; and guidelines and circulars related to accessibility.

Q.18) Which of the following institution is organising the **India Telecom 2021 exhibition**?

- a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- b) Cellular Operators Association of India
- c) India Cellular and Electronics Association
- d) Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council

Correct answer: D

Explanation: TEPC (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council) has organized India Telecom 2021' - an Exclusive International Business Expo being held virtually on March 3 & 4, 2021 under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce and with support of Department of Telecommunications & Ministry of External Affairs.

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The event is being attended by potential buyers from countries across the globe. More than 1,000 delegates, out of which more than 200 are foreign delegates from more than 45 countries, are attending India Telecom 2021. More than 40 Indian telecom companies are showcasing their state-of-the-art products and capabilities at the exhibition which is organized by TEPC as a part of this event.

TEPC has been set up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Communications to promote and develop of Export of Telecom Equipment and Services.

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ART/CULTURE/HISTORY

Q.1) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Nirmal toys - Telangana
2. Channapatna toys - Karnataka
3. Kondapalli toys - Kerala

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. **Nirmal toys** are world famous traditional wooden toys that are exclusively made in the town of Nirmal in **Adilabad district of Telangana**. Nirmal Art is 400-year-old rich tradition that encompasses soft wood toys and attractive paintings as well as furniture.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Channapatna in Karnataka** is known as the 'Land of Toys'. This 200-year-old art form, has a GI tag and are made from wood and natural colors.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Kondapalli toys are made in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh**. These toys are made of soft wood called Tella Poniki that's procured from the adjacent hills of Kondapally.

India's first Toy Fair is being held virtually from February 27 to March 2, 2021.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Basilica of Bom Jesus - Kerala
2. Vivekananda Rock Memorial - Tamil Nadu
3. Jamali Kamali - Delhi

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: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Basilica of Bom Jesus (Goa)** is a UNESCO World Heritage Monument. Renowned throughout the Catholic world, the 16th century cathedral is India's first Minor Basilica, and is considered as one of the best examples of baroque architecture in India.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** is a popular tourist monument in **Kanyakumari**. It was constructed by Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee to commemorate his visit to Sripada Parai in 1892. The construction of this monument spanned over six years and was finally inaugurated on 2nd September 1970 by the then President of India V.V. Giri.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Jamali Kamali Mosque and Tomb**, located in the Archaeological Village complex in Mehrauli, **Delhi** comprise two monuments adjacent to each other; one is the mosque and the other is the tomb of Jamali and Kamali.

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The centuries-old St. George's Orthodox Church at Cheppad is now set to become a Centrally-protected monument of national importance with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recognition.

Q.3) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding the **Wood's Dispatch of 1854**?

1. It recommended for the creation of Department of Education in provinces.
2. It rejected the suggestion of imparting education in Indian Languages.
3. It supported women education.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Wood's Despatch** recommended for the first time, the creation of Department of Education in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Punjab and the North Western Provinces.

Statement 2 is incorrect. - The Wood's Despatch gave importance to teaching of English, but at the same time, it also stressed on the teaching of **Indian languages**. The Despatch realised that any acquaintance of European knowledge could be communicated to the common people and that could be conveyed to them only through learning their own mother tongue.

Vernacular languages was to be promoted at primary level and English was made the medium of instruction for higher studies.

Statement 3 is correct. The Wood's Despatch stated, "The importance of female education in India cannot be over rated; and we have observed with pleasure the evidence which is now afforded of an increased desire on the part of many of the natives of India to give a good education to their daughters."

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

Q.1) The **COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program** is an initiative of which of the following institution/organization?

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) New Development Bank
- d) World Bank Group

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES)** program, under the Countercyclical Support Facility COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option (CPRO) of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, provides critically needed support to help the Government of the Philippines mitigate the severe health, social, and economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

India Mobile App for price monitoring for 22 essential commodities has been launched by Department of Consumer Affairs starts providing effective real time information about retail and whole sale prices from 127 locations across the country. The Department has also proposed to DEA for Technical Assistance Fund under CARES Programme of Asian Development Bank (ADB) for improving price monitoring and analysis.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **India - Bangladesh Relations:**

1. India was the first country to recognize Bangladesh as a separate and independent nation state.
2. The Ganges Waters Treaty 1996 was signed by India-Bangladesh to share the dry season flow of the Ganges.

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. **India was the first country** to recognize Bangladesh as a separate and independent state and established diplomatic relations with the country immediately after its independence in December 1971.

Statement 2 is correct. India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers. A bilateral Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) has been functioning since June 1972 to maintain liaison between the two countries to maximize benefits from common river systems. **The Ganges Waters Treaty was signed in 1996 for the sharing of waters of the River Ganges during the lean season (January 1-May 31).**

The 19th Home Secretary Level Talks (HSLT) between India and Bangladesh were held recently in the backdrop of 'MujibBarsho' and 50 years of Bangladesh Liberation War and establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

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Q.3) Which of the following countries originally agreed to the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**?

1. China
2. Japan
3. Germany

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: C

Explanation: The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** is a detailed agreement reached by Iran and the P5+1 (**China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**) on July 14, 2015.

Iran's compliance with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA will be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) according to certain requirements set forth in the agreement. The United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, and subsequently re-imposed all U.S. sanctions on Iran lifted by the accord.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the '**High-risk and other monitored jurisdictions**' classification by **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**:

1. 'High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action' are working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering.
2. 'Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring' are with serious strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation.

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: The criteria is interchanged in the statements.

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** identifies jurisdictions with weak measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT) in two FATF public documents that are issued three times a year.

The statement "**High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action**" often referred to as the "black list", identifies countries or jurisdictions with serious strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation.

The statement "**Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring**" often referred to as the 'grey list' identifies countries that are actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**:

1. The principle of GSP was agreed at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

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2. It is a reciprocal facility of preferential trading between developing countries and developed 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**, instituted in 1971 under the aegis of UNCTAD, has contributed over the years to creating an enabling trading environment for developing countries.

The following 13 countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a facility granted to developing countries ("beneficiary countries") by certain developed countries ("donor countries"). **It is not negotiated with them: the preferential treatment is non-reciprocal.**

Q.6) Recently **Sri Lanka** has decided to develop which of the following port facility with **Japan & India**?

- a) West Container Terminal at the Colombo Port
- b) East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port
- c) Hambantota Port Facility
- d) East Container Terminal (ECT) at Port of Galle

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Sri Lanka government has said that it will develop the **West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Colombo Port**, along with India and Japan. High Commission of India had "approved" Adani Ports, which was to invest in the ECT project earlier, Japan is yet to name an investor.

Recently Sri Lanka had opted out of the 2019 tripartite agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT), citing resistance to "foreign involvement".

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**:

- 1. UNMOGIP was mandated to supervise the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC).
- 2. It is party to the Shimla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan.

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: In January 1948, the Security Council adopted resolution 39, establishing the **United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP)** to investigate and mediate the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

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Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Karachi Agreement on 27 July 1949** established a ceasefire line (**not LoC**) to be supervised by UN military observers. On 30 March 1951, following the termination of UNCIP, the Security Council, by its resolution 91 decided that UNMOGIP should continue to supervise the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir.

In July 1972, India and Pakistan signed an agreement defining a Line of Control in Kashmir which, with minor deviations, followed the same course as the ceasefire line established by the Karachi Agreement in 1949. India took the position that the mandate of UNMOGIP had lapsed, since it related specifically to the ceasefire line under the Karachi Agreement.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **UNMOGIP is not party to the Simla Agreement of 1972** and India has since adopted a non-recognition policy towards third parties in their bilateral exchanges with Pakistan over the question regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Better Than Cash Alliance**:

1. It is hosted by the World Bank.
2. India is a member of the alliance.
3. It works towards accelerating the transition from cash to responsible digital payments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It is based at United Nations and the **United Nations Capital Development Fund serves as the secretariat.**

Statement 2 is correct. India became a member of the Better Than Cash Alliance in 2015 to digitize payments to achieve financial inclusion and to share success stories from Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the world's largest financial inclusion program.

Statement 3 is correct. The Better Than Cash Alliance is a partnership of governments, companies, and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to responsible digital payments to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Government of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and UN-based Better Than Cash Alliance today hosted Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat with special focus on Himalayan Regions, North East Regions and Aspirational Districts of India.

Q.9) Which of the following country is hosting the **Exercise Desert Flag**?

- a) India
- b) United Arab Emirates
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Oman

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Ex Desert Flag is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the **United Arab Emirates Air Force.**

The Indian Air Force is participating for the first time in Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with air forces of United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea

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and Bahrain. The exercise is scheduled from 03 Mar 21 to 27 Mar 21 at Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Customs Organization (WCO)**:

1. It is a United Nations specialized agency for maintaining efficiency of Customs administrations across the world.
2. It has recognized Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL), New Delhi as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) for Asia-Pacific Region.

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. The **World Customs Organization (WCO)**, established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an **independent intergovernmental body** whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations. Statement 2 is correct. **Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL)**, New Delhi, under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, was today recognized as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for Asia-Pacific Region. With its recognition as RCL, CRCL joins a select group of Customs Laboratories in the region like those in Japan & Korea.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**:

1. It provides for international arbitrations involving various combinations of states, international organizations and private parties.
2. India is a member of the PCA.
3. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** provides administrative support in international arbitrations involving various combinations of states, state entities, international organizations and private parties.

Statement 2 is correct. The PCA is an intergovernmental organization with 122 contracting parties. **India became a member of the PCA in 1950.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations.

The PCA was established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference.

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Q.12) Which of the following country have signed an agreement with India to conduct **Marine Spatial Planning** in Lakshadweep and Puducherry?

- a) United States of America
- b) Sweden
- c) Finland
- d) Norway

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **India and Norway** recently agreed to conduct marine spatial planning in Lakshadweep and Puducherry. This is a part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries in 2019. Lakshadweep and Puducherry have been identified as pilot sites for the project.

The two countries have decided to extend support for sustainable ocean resources utilisation to advance economic and social development in coastal areas. The initiative known as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) for India.

Notably, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have expressed interest in supporting MoES in conducting MSP, a societal-beneficial initiative for India's coastal regions.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN World Wildlife Day**:

- 1. It commemorates the day on which Kyoto Protocol was adopted.
- 2. The 2021 World Wildlife Day theme is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

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. On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March – the **day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973** – as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

The UNGA resolution also designated the CITES Secretariat as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the UN calendar.

Statement 2 is correct. **World Wildlife Day** was celebrated in 2021 under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally.

Q.14) Which of the following institution have published the **Freedom in the World 2021** report?

- a) Transparency International
- b) Freedom House
- c) Reporters Without Borders

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d) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Freedom in the World report of Freedom House** is composed of numerical ratings and supporting descriptive texts for 195 countries and 15 territories.

For each country and territory, Freedom in the World analyzes the electoral process, political pluralism and participation, the functioning of the government, freedom of expression and of belief, associational and organizational rights, the rule of law, and personal autonomy and individual rights.

India's score in the 2021 report is 67/100 with Political Rights 34/40 and Civil Liberties 33/60.

Q.15) The **Quacquarelli Symonds Ranking** relates to which of the following field?

- a) Educational Institutions
- b) Medicinal Facilities
- c) Carbon Footprint of a country
- d) Freedom of Speech

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is a British company specialising in the analysis of higher education institutions around the world. QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by it.

The recently released **QS World University Rankings by subject** calculate performance based on four parameters — academic reputation, employer reputation, research impact (citations per paper) and the productivity of an institution's research faculty.

MIT, USA has retained its top position. Three Indian Institutes of Technology have entered the prestigious group of the top 100 engineering institutes with IIT-Bombay grabbing the best-ever 49th position in the engineering and technology category followed by IIT Delhi (54) and IIT Madras (94). MIT, USA has retained its top position.

In the life sciences and medicine category, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) bagged 248th spot. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has been ranked 159th for arts and humanities, followed by the University of Delhi (252).

Q.16) Consider the following statements

1. United Arab Emirates Air Force hosts this exercise.
2. 10 countries from all over the world will participate in this exercise
3. India will participate in this exercise for the first time.

Which one of the following exercises is described in the statements above?

- a) Al Nagah
- b) Tiger Triumph
- c) Khanjar
- d) Desert Flag

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Exercise Desert Flag is an annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise. United Arab Emirates Air Force hosts this exercise.

Participating Countries: Ten countries including India, the United Arab Emirates, the USA, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Bahrain are participating in the exercise.

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This is the **first time India will participate** in Exercise Desert Flag. Further, It is also the first time India is taking part in a multinational air combat exercise in the strategically located Persian Gulf region.

Read more - [IAF will participate in Multinational "Exercise Desert Flag" | ForumIAS Blog](#)

Q.17) Which of the following institution organizes the **Asia Economic Dialogue**?

- a) Ministry of External Affairs, India
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) New Development Bank
- d) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Korea

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)** jointly convened by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and **Pune International Centre (PIC)**, is the flagship geoeconomics conference of the MEA.

The fifth edition of the AED, and the second one organised by PIC was held from Friday, 26th February to Sunday, 28th February 2021. The theme for this year's conference was "Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics".

The dialogue focuses on the pandemic's impact on trade and finance, on the world, and on Asia in particular. It also discusses strategies to deal with this impact.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. Raman effect refers to change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules.
2. National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by C. V. Raman.

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: Statement 1 is correct. **Raman Effect** is a phenomenon in spectroscopy discovered by the eminent physicist while working in the laboratory of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.

Raman Effect, **change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules.** When a beam of light traverses a dust-free, transparent sample of a chemical compound, a small fraction of the light emerges in directions other than that of the incident (incoming) beam. Most of this scattered light is of unchanged wavelength. A small part, however, has wavelengths different from that of the incident light; its presence is a result of the Raman Effect.

Statement 2 is correct. The **28th February** is celebrated as National Science Day in India, on this day in 1928, C.V Raman discovered a phenomenon of scattering of photons which was later known as 'Raman Effect'.

In 1986, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) asked the Government of India to designate 28 February as National Science Day which the then Govt. of India accepted and declared the day as National Science Day in 1986.

Q.2) The **Amazonia-1 satellite** in news recently has been launched by which of the following organisation?

- a) Indian Space Research Organisation
- b) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- c) SpaceX
- d) Blue Origin

Correct answer: A

Explanation: India's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51** successfully launched Amazonia-1 along with 18 co-passenger satellites on February 28, 2021) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

Amazonia-1 of Brazil is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE). This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 is the first dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under Department of Space.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Ethanol**:

1. Ethanol is a clear, colorless liquid.
2. It contains more energy per gallon than gasoline.
3. Ethanol can be produced by breaking down cellulose in plant fibers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Ethanol is a clear, colorless alcohol** made from a variety of biomass materials called feedstocks. Fuel ethanol feedstocks include grains and crops with high starch and sugar content such as corn, sorghum, barley, sugar cane, and sugar beets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Ethanol contains **less energy per gallon than gasoline**, to varying degrees, depending on the volume percentage of ethanol in the blend. Denatured ethanol (98% ethanol) contains about 30% less energy than gasoline per gallon.

Statement 3 is correct. Ethanol can also be produced by breaking down **cellulose** in plant fibers. This cellulosic ethanol is considered an advanced biofuel and involves a more complicated production process than fermentation. Trees, grasses, and agricultural residues are potential feedstocks for cellulosic ethanol production.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAXIN**:

1. It has been developed on the verocell platform.
2. It is an inactivated vaccine.
3. It has been given emergency use authorization by the World Health Organisation.

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: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. **COVAXIN (BBV152)** contains a whole virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, which is produced in Vero cells. It is stable at 2 to 8°C (refrigerated) and is shipped in a ready-to-use liquid formulation that permits distribution using existing vaccine supply chain channels.

COVAXIN has been developed on the WHO prequalified **verocell platform**, which is globally recognized with a well-established track record of safety. COVAXIN's ability to neutralize UK variant strain of SARS-CoV-2 has also recently been established.

Statement 3 is incorrect. COVAXIN have not been given **WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL)**. So far Pfizer and AstraZeneca have received the WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The wider the frequency bands and channels, the more information that can be passed through them.
2. The visible light waves operate at much lower frequency than Radio spectrum.

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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

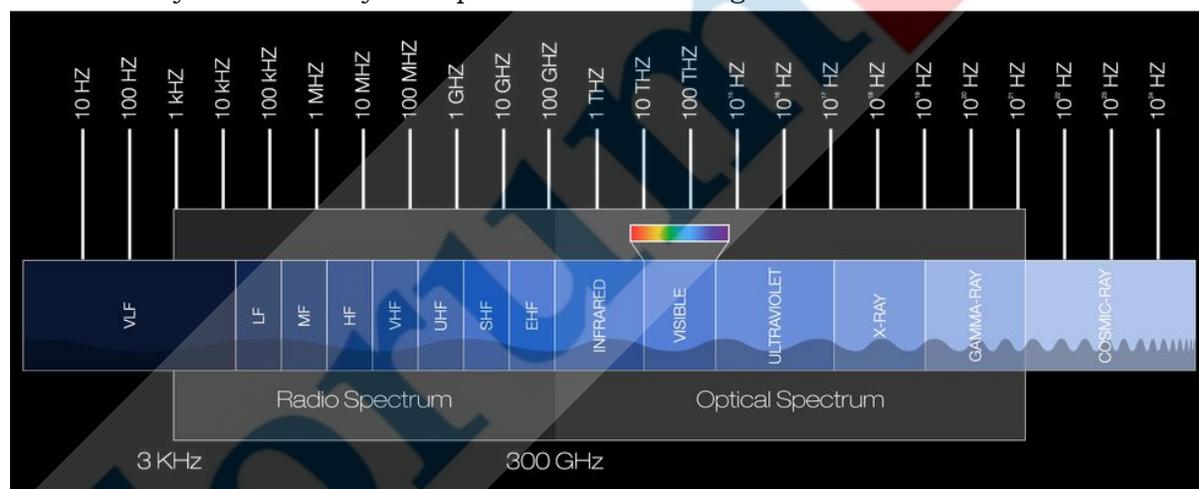
Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Radio spectrum** is divided into frequency bands, which are then allocated to certain services. The wider the frequency bands and channels, the more information that can be passed through them.

Narrowband signals have a smaller bandwidth (kilohertz) and are used for limited services such as paging and low-speed data transmission. Broadband signals have a large bandwidth (megahertz) and can support many advanced telecommunications services such as high-speed data and video transmission.

Statement 2 is incorrect. RF bands spread in the range between 30 kHz and 300 GHz (alternative point of view offers coverage 3 KHz – 300 GHz). In terms of wavelength, the low frequencies are about 30 km long and the high frequencies are about 3 mm.

This contrasts with **visible light waves that operate at such high frequencies** that they are measured in terahertz (trillions of waves per second) and are therefore nanometres in length.

Electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength between 380 nm and 760 nm (400–790 terahertz) is detected by the human eye and perceived as visible light.



Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Immunoglobulins (Ig)**:

1. These are proteins made by the immune system to fight foreign antigens.
2. Immunoglobulin G (IgG) is the most abundant type of antibody in human body.

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 immune system develops a defense against antigens, which are substances that can stimulate the immune system. This defense is known as the immune response and usually involves the production of:

–**Protein molecules (immunoglobulins)** or antibodies, the major component of humoral immunity by B-lymphocytes (B-cells)

–Specific cells, including T-lymphocytes (also known as cell-mediated immunity).

Statement 2 is correct. There are **five immunoglobulin classes** (isotypes) of antibody molecules: IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE, and IgD.

–**Immunoglobulin A** (IgA), which is found in high concentrations in the mucous membranes, particularly those lining the respiratory passages and gastrointestinal tract, as well as in saliva and tears.

–**Immunoglobulin G** (IgG), the most abundant type of antibody, is found in all body fluids and protects against bacterial and viral infections.

–**Immunoglobulin M** (IgM), which is found mainly in the blood and lymph fluid, is the first antibody to be made by the body to fight a new infection.

–**Immunoglobulin E** (IgE), which is associated mainly with allergic reactions. It is found in the lungs, skin, and mucous membranes.

–**Immunoglobulin D** (IgD) exists in small amounts in the blood.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **CRISPR technology**:

1 It is used to alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

2 The Tata CRISPR test is the world's first diagnostic test to deploy a Cas9 protein to successfully detect the 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)** technology is a tool for editing genomes. It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

CRISPRs are specialized stretches of DNA. The protein **Cas9 (CRISPR-associated-9)** is an enzyme that acts like a pair of **molecular scissors**, capable of cutting strands of DNA.

Its many potential applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases and improving crops.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Tata CRISPR test**, powered by CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) FELUDA, received regulatory approvals recently from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for commercial launch.

The Tata CRISPR test is the **world's first diagnostic test** to deploy a specially adapted Cas9 protein to successfully detect the virus causing Covid-19.

The Tata CRISPR test achieves accuracy levels of traditional RT-PCR tests, with quicker turnaround time, less expensive equipment, and better ease of use.

CRISPR technology was adapted from the natural defense mechanisms of bacteria and archaea (the domain of single-celled microorganisms). These organisms use CRISPR-derived RNA and various Cas proteins, including Cas9, to foil attacks by viruses and other foreign bodies. They do

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so primarily by chopping up and destroying the DNA of a foreign invader. When these components are transferred into other, more complex, organisms, it allows for the manipulation of genes, or “editing

Q.8) Which of the following statements is correct regarding Spectrograph?

1. A spectrograph is an instrument that separates incoming light by its wavelength
2. India does not have an indigenous Spectrograph.
3. It is not useful for detecting light from Cosmic explosions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Spectrograph is an instrument that obtains and records an astronomical spectrum. It separates incoming light by its wavelength or frequency. It records the resulting spectrum in multichannel detectors like a photographic plate for analysis. Statement 2 is incorrect. Indian scientists indigenously designed and developed a low-cost optical spectrograph named “Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC)”. Statement 3 is incorrect. The spectrograph can locate sources of faint light from:

- Distant galaxies in a very young universe
- Regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies
- Cosmic explosions like supernovae, young and massive stars and faint dwarf galaxies.

Read more - [India develops Low Cost "Indigenous Spectrograph" | ForumIAS Blog](#)

Q.9) What type of satellite is the recently launched **Amazonia-1 Satellite**?

- a) Communication Satellite
- b) Earth Observation Satellite
- c) Navigation Satellite
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Amazonia-1 Satellite is an earth observation satellite of Brazil. It will provide remote sensing data for users monitoring deforestation in the Amazon forests. Furthermore, it will analyze diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

The satellite injected into its precise orbit of 758 km in a sun-synchronous polar orbit. It is the first commercial venture for New Space India Limited (NSIL) launched through **ISRO’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C51)** rocket.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Apophis asteroid**:

1. Its March 2021 flyby of Earth is closer than Moon’s distance from Earth.
2. It is expected to enter the Earth's atmosphere in 2029.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Asteroid (99942) Apophis** made a close flyby of Earth on March 5-6, 2021. While there's no chance Apophis will strike Earth at this flyby (when closest, it was about 44 times the moon's distance), the asteroid was within range of earthly telescopes and radar.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It gained fame in 2004 when early observations suggested it might strike Earth in 2029. Though it will come breathtakingly close to Earth in 2029, **a strike that year was subsequently ruled out.**

After the 2029 pass, asteroid Apophis will also make noteworthy passes near Earth in 2036 and again in 2068. Earth strikes in 2029 and 2036 have been ruled out.

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GEOGRAPHY/ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. Carbon sequestration refers to the process of reducing 'carbon intensity', lowering the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced.
2. Decarbonization is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

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: Definitions have been interchanged.

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is one method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change.

Decarbonization tends to refer to the process of reducing 'carbon intensity', lowering the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels. Generally, this involves decreasing CO₂ output per unit of electricity generated. Reducing the amount of carbon dioxide occurring as a result of transport and power generation is essential to meet global temperature standards set by the Paris Agreement.

Q.2) The **Aos tribal people** belong to which of the following State?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Odisha
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Ao are one of the major Naga tribes** of Nagaland, Northeast India. The AO Nagas are divided into six major sub-tribes namely Jamir, Longkumer, Pongen, Imchen, walling and Longcherthe Ao region and the distancing of the region is bounded by the Tzula river.

Some villages in Nagaland are trying to revive a traditional form of punishment in which offenders of Naga customary laws are put in triangular cage made from the logs of an indigenous tree that irritates the skin. The Aos call it **Shi-ki** that means flesh-house.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **La Nina**:

1. During La Nina events, trade winds are stronger than usual making the water in the Pacific Ocean near the equator a few degrees colder.
2. La Niña results in weak and below normal monsoon rains 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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In a normal year, winds along the equator push warm water westward in Pacific. Warm water at the surface of the ocean blows from South America to Indonesia. As the warm water moves west, cold water from the deep rises up to the surface. This cold water ends up on the coast of South America.

During La Nina events, trade winds are even stronger than usual, pushing more warm water toward Asia. Off the west coast of the Americas, upwelling increases, bringing cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface.

Statement 2 is incorrect. La Nina causes drought in the South American countries of Peru and Ecuador, heavy floods in Australia, high temperatures in Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, off the Somalian coast and a comparatively **better monsoon rains in India**.

IMD in its Seasonal Outlook for the Temperatures has reported moderate La Niña conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific and sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below normal over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Q.4) Which of the following **Geographical Indications** tagged products is/are correctly matched to their State?

1. Araku valley coffee - Kerala
2. Shaphee Lanphee - Manipur
3. Chanderi Saree - Madhya Pradesh

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: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Araku Valley Arabica coffee** can be described as coffee from the hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of **Andhra Pradesh and Odisha** region at an elevation of 900-1100 Mt MSL. The coffee produce of Araku, by the tribals, follows an organic approach in which they emphasise management practices involving substantial use of organic manures, green manuring and organic pest management practices.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Shaphee Lanphee** is a traditional textile fabric woven and embroidered, usually as a shawl, with embroidered motifs with cotton threads generally by Meitei women of **Manipur**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Chanderi Fabric** is a traditional sari made in Chanderi, **Madhya Pradesh**, India. It is produced by weaving in silk and golden Zari in the traditional cotton yarn.

Q.5) 'Bao dhaan' have been in news recently, what is it?

- a) Red rice variety grown in Assam
- b) Biofortified rice
- c) Genetically Modified (GM) variety of rice
- d) Integrated rice and fish farming

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Bao-dhaan**, a deep-water paddy that produces a particular type of iron-rich red rice is grown in **Brahmaputra valley in Assam**. It is an integral part of the Assamese food.

In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off recently to the USA. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.

APEDA has promoting rice exports through collaborations with various stakeholders in the value chains. The government had set up the Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF), under the aegis of the APEDA.

Q.6) Which of the following **Geographical Indications** is/are correctly matched to the respective State?

1. Bagh print - Maharashtra
2. Phulkari - Punjab
3. Uppada Jamdani - Andhra Pradesh

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: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Bagh printing in Madhya Pradesh** is a specialised form of wooden hand-block printing, originally practised across the regions in the Indus Valley.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Phulkari** which literally means Flower work is a most beautiful embroidery work from **Punjab**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Uppada Jamdani Saree** is a saree style woven in Uppada of East Godavari district in **Andhra Pradesh**.

The Ministry of Culture is a partner Ministry at the two-day Geographical Indication (GI) Mahotsav being held in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

A mini exhibition of GI Textiles is on showcase covering a wide range of saris connected to GI textile such as PatanPatola, Benaras Brocades, Uppada Jamdani, Kalamkari, Paithani, Kota Doria, Pochampallylkat etc. and brings alive the exquisite weaving and design traditions of India.

Q.7) Which of the following country *does not* border **Yemen**?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Oman
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Yemen, country situated at the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula is bordered by **Saudi Arabia and Oman**.

It has in recent been devastated by a civil war. Yemen's government has been backed militarily since March 2015 by a coalition of Arab states assembled by neighbouring Saudi Arabia to oust the Houthis, who are aligned to its arch-rival Iran.

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Q.8) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Kibithoo – Assam
2. Sumdorong Chu – Ladakh
3. Pasighat – Arunachal Pradesh

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: D

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Kibithu** or Kibithoo is a town in **Arunachal Pradesh** in Anjaw district. It is one of the easternmost permanently populated towns of India.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Sumdorong Chu** is a tributary of the Nyamjang Chu River that flows along the India-China border between the Tibet and the Tawang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Pasighat** is in the East Siang district in the Indian state of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Simlipal Biosphere reserve:

1. Reserve is located on Western Ghat.
2. It is vulnerable to forest fires.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Simlipal Biosphere reserve is situated in the northern part of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Reserve lies in the eastern end of the eastern ghat. Statement 2 is correct. Summer season coincides with the shedding of deciduous forests in the forest areas. The fallen leaves are more vulnerable to catching fire and facilitate the spreading of these forest fires quickly over the entire forest area.

Read More - [“Simlipal Biosphere reserve” Catches Forest Fire](#)

Q.10) Which of the following is/are the reasons behind the forest fires in deciduous forests?

1. Presence of Poachers and travelers
2. Presence of Dried leaves
3. Dry winters

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 correct. Poachers set a small patch of forest on fire to divert the wild animals can lead to such fires. They do not douse the fire after hunting leading to forest fires.

Option 2 is correct. The fallen leaves are more vulnerable to catching fire and facilitate the spreading of these forest fires quickly over the entire forest area.

Option 3 is incorrect. Dry leaves and high temperature are requirements for forest fire. In Winters high temperature and dry leaves on the forest floor are not available.

Q.11) Which of the following countries is not a part of the International North-South Transport Corridor?

- a) Iran
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Pakistan
- d) Azerbaijan

Correct answer: C

Explanation: INSTC is a 7,200-km-long multi-modal connectivity project to establish transport networks (ship, rail, and road route). It will be used for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe, and Central Asia. It will cut costs and time in moving cargo.

It includes 13 countries namely India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Oman, Syria, and Ukraine.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding 'Black Browed Babbler'

1. It is a songbird species.
2. The bird is known for the longest known missing period (170 years) for any Asian species.
3. In IUCN red list, it is listed as Threatened species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) 1 and 3 only

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Black Browed Babbler is a songbird species in the family of Pellorneidae.

Statement 2 is correct. The single specimen of the bird was first found between 1843 through 1848 during an expedition. However, after that, the species was never seen in the wild again.

Significance: The bird is known for the longest known missing period (170 years) for any Asian species. It is also often called 'the biggest enigma in Indonesian ornithology'.

Statement 3 is incorrect. It is Classified as Data Deficient in the IUCN Red List (BirdLife International 2020).

Read more - "["Black-Browed Babbler" rediscovered after 170 years \(forumias.com\)](https://forumias.com)

Q.13) Which of the following country(s) border the **Baltic Sea**?

1. Russia
2. Sweden
3. Estonia

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: Baltic Sea, arm of the North Atlantic Ocean, is surrounded by nine countries: **Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden.**



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Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary**:

1. It spans the Manas river and is bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. The Pygmy hog and Himalayan serow can be spotted in the sanctuary.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the State of Assam. It spans the Manas river and is bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan. The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the core zone of Manas Tiger Reserve, and lies alongside the shifting river channels of the Manas River.

Manas national park is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a Biosphere reserve.

The site provides critical and viable habitats for rare and endangered species, including tiger, greater one-horned rhino, swamp deer, pygmy hog and Bengal florican.

Himalayan serow has been spotted for the first time recently in the Manas tiger reserve. Himalayan serow is a subspecies of the mainland serow.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fishing Cat**:

1. In India, fishing cats are only found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans.
2. Fishing cats are nocturnal species.
3. It is listed as a Critically Endangered species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Wetlands are the favorite habitats** of the fishing cat. In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.

Statement 2 is correct. The **fishing cat is nocturnal** and apart from fish also preys on frogs, crustaceans, snakes, birds, and scavenges on carcasses of larger animals.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is listed as a Vulnerable species** with decreasing population trend in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Chilika Development Authority (CDA) is conducting a survey at the Chilika Lake in collaboration with the Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance (FCCA).

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POLITY

Q.1) Who is/are '**Master of the Roster**' of the Supreme Court of India?

- a) Registrar
- b) Chief Justice of India (CJI)
- c) Collegium of CJI and two senior most Judges in Supreme Court
- d) President of India

Correct answer: B

Explanation: '**Master of Roster**' refers to the privilege of the Chief Justice of the court to constitute benches to hear different cases. The Chief Justice of India or Chief Justice of any high court as the case may be heads the administrative side of the court. This includes allocation of matters before a judge as well.

In **Asok Pande v. Supreme Court of India (2018)**, a three-judge bench of the Court held that Master of the Roster is the CJI's exclusive power. Thereafter, a two-judge bench in **Shanti Bhushan v. Supreme Court of India (2018)** rejected the plea that the Master of the Roster should be interpreted as the collegium.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The candidates set up by registered political party gets preference over independent candidates in the matter of allotment of free symbols.
- 2. If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in three or more States, it becomes a National Party.

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: Registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of **section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

Statement 1 is correct. The candidates set up by a political party registered with the Election Commission of India will get **preference in the matter of allotment of free symbols** vis-à-vis purely independent candidates.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in four or more States, it shall be known as a 'National Party'** throughout the whole of India, but only so long as that political party continues to fulfill thereafter the conditions for recognition in four or more States on the results of any subsequent general election either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of any State.

A party seeking registration under the said section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation, due to the prevailing pandemic this rule has been relaxed by the ECI and has reduced the notice period from 30 days to 7 days for the parties who have published their public notice on or before 26.02.2021.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **defamation laws in India**:

1. Cautions conveyed to one person against another in good faith are not defamation.
2. Defamation is a ground for reasonable restriction on freedom of speech and expression under the constitution.
3. Publication of true reports of the proceedings of the Courts or the result of the proceedings is not defamation.
4. Defamation is not a criminal offense in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1 and 4 only

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 and 3 are correct. Persons who make defamatory statements are exempted from punishments if they fall in the exceptions provided in **Section 499**. The exceptions include:

--Attribution of any truth made for public good. Truth is seldom defense unless made for a public good.

--Cautions conveyed to one person against another are not defamation if it is intended for the good of the conveyed person, or any other, or for public good.

--Publication of true reports of the proceedings of the Courts or the result of the proceedings is not defamation.

Statement 2 is correct. **Grounds for reasonable restriction** on freedom of speech and expressions as given under article 19(2) of the Constitution: interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, **defamation** or incitement to an offence. Statement 4 is incorrect. In India, defamation is both civil and criminal offence. Under the Criminal law, Defamation is a bailable, non-cognizable offence and compoundable offence. Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 defines what is defamation and its exceptions.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021**:

1. Powers relating to the publishers of digital news and current affairs have been delegated to the States.
2. The self-regulatory body of the OTT platforms will have representatives appointed by the central government.

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. **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has written a letter to Chief Secretaries of all States and Administrators of all Union Territories (UTs) clarifying that the powers under Part III of the rules which relate to publishers of digital

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news and current affairs and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) are administered by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The letter has also underlined that these powers have **not been delegated** to the State Governments or District Magistrates or Police Commissioners.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting recently held an interaction with representatives of various OTT platforms and clarified that in the self-regulating body, no member will be appointed by the Government.

Under watch

On February 25, the government announced the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, which introduced a 3-tier grievance redressal mechanism for OTT platforms

TIER 1 A grievance cell

TIER 2 A self-regulatory body of the OTT platforms

TIER 3 An inter-ministerial panel to look into complaints if they are not resolved at the first two levels



The OTT platforms will have to self-classify content into five age-based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+ and A (Adult). Platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as "A".

Q.5) Which of the following is explicitly provided for under the **Constitution of India**?

1. Reservation of posts in favour of backward class of citizens which is not adequately represented in the services under the State or private sector.
2. Power of State to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any economically weaker sections of citizens.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Article 16(4) of the Constitution** states that right to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment does not prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the **services under the State**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 16(6)** states that right to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment does not prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any **economically weaker sections** of citizens other than

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the classes mentioned in clause (4), in addition to the existing reservation and subject to a maximum of ten per cent. of the posts in each category.

ForumIAS

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ECONOMICS

Q.1) Which of the following is/are **non-tariff barriers**?

1. Import licensing
2. Quotas
3. Countervailing Duties

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: Non-tariff barriers are trade barriers that restrict the import or export of goods through means other than tariffs. Nontariff barriers include **quotas, embargoes, sanctions, and levies.**

-- Countries may use licenses to limit imported goods to specific businesses.

-- Countries often issue quotas for importing and exporting both goods and services. With quotas, countries agree on specified limits for products and services allowed for importation to a country.

-- Embargoes are when a country—or several countries—officially ban the trade of specified goods and services with another country.

Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.