

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

19th to 24th July, 2021

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **dependency ratio** in population

1. It is the ratio of people not working/earning to the working/earning population.
2. A lower dependency ratio should ideally result in lower economic growth

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The dependency ratio is the ratio of people not working/earning to the working/earning population.

For instance, A **dropping TFR** in India over the years has been **reducing the dependency ratio**, as there are fewer children below working age dependent on the working population.

So, A **lower dependency ratio should ideally result in higher economic growth**, as there is a large section of people consuming and saving.

On the other hand, improving living standards and medical advances over the past 40-50 years have prolonged life spans, thereby **skew the dependency ratio** at the other end of the age spectrum.

Source: [Live Mint](#)

Q.2) Which of the following is/are probable reasons for variation in India's forex reserves?

1. Movement in gold prices
2. Inflow of aid receipts
3. Interest earnings from foreign currency assets

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All are reasons for variation in India's forex reserves

Reasons for Variation in Forex Reserves: Variation in India's forex reserves is primarily due to:

- RBI's intervention in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility
- Valuation changes due to the movement of the US dollar against other international currencies in the reserve basket
- Movement in gold prices
- Interest earnings from the deployment of foreign currency assets and
- The inflow of aid receipts.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Integrated Ratings for State Power Distribution Utilities:

1. The rating exercise is carried out annually in all the states.
2. It covers State Power/ Energy Departments and private sector distribution utilities too.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both statements are incorrect

- **The Ministry of Power** had formulated an Integrated Rating exercise in 2012. It evaluates the performance of State Power Distribution utilities on a range of parameters covering operational, financial, regulatory and reform parameters.
- **The rating exercise** is carried out on an annual basis and presently covers 41 state distribution utilities spread across **22 states. (not all states)**
- **State Power/ Energy Departments** and private sector distribution utilities are however **not covered** under the integrated rating exercise
- **Nodal Agencies:** ICRA and CARE are the designated credit rating agencies that carry out this exercise.
- **Co-ordinations agency:** Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has been mandated to coordinate with the utilities, rating agencies & Ministry of Power (MoP) during the rating exercise.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Social protection floor (SPF)

1. It is a basic set of social rights derived from human rights treaties, including access to essential services and social transfers
2. International Labour Organization so far did not recognise social protection floor

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- The United Nations mooted a **social protection floor (SPF) initiative** after the global financial crisis.
 - The social protection floor (SPF) is the first level of social protection in a national social protection system. It is a **basic set of social rights derived from human rights treaties, including access to essential services** (such as health, education, water and sanitation, etc) **and social transfers**, in cash or in-kind, **to guarantee income security, food security, adequate nutrition security.**

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

- The report of the Advisory Committee of the ILO, in which India was also represented provides a strong rationale for **instituting a universal SPF during economic crises**.
- As a result, all constituents of the ILO adopted **Recommendation 202 on social protection floors at the International Labour Conference in 2012**.

Read more: [Migrant workers and their Social protection in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

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10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Government schemes/Initiatives

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding ‘Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records’ (FASTER) Scheme.

1. The scheme aims to ensure the timely release of prisoners from jail and uphold their dignity
2. The Government will instantly, directly, securely, and electronically transmit the bail orders to officials.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Chief Justice of India (CJI) announced the rollout of a new scheme called FASTER. It will ensure the timely release of prisoners from jail and uphold their dignity.

About FASTER:

- It stands for ‘Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records’.
- It would enable the Supreme Court (SC) to instantly, directly, securely, and electronically transmit bail and other orders to jail authorities, district courts, and High Courts.

Read more: [Bail orders will be sent instantly to jail authorities: SC](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Clinical Establishments Act, 2010:

1. Laboratories offering diagnostic services are not covered under the definition of Clinical establishment.
2. Under the act, the central government shall establish a National Council of Clinical Establishments to maintain a national register of clinical establishments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Clinical establishment” is defined as hospitals and clinics and similar facilities that offer treatment for illness in any recognised system of medicine (allopathy, yoga, naturopathy, Ayurveda, homoeopathy, Siddha and Unani). The definition also includes any laboratory which offers pathological, chemical and other diagnostic services.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The central government shall establish a National Council of Clinical Establishments to
 - Determine the minimum standards of health care by a clinical establishment;
 - Classify them into categories;
 - Maintain a national register of clinical establishments.

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Justice Amitava Roy panel was seen in news recently. The committee has been formed towards which of the following objective?

- Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes
- Digital payments
- Prison reforms
- Co-operative societies

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Justice Amitava Roy panel on prison reforms:

In 2018, the Supreme Court-appointed this panel. The committee submitted its report on February 2020 with major recommendations includes

- For overcrowding
 - Special fast-track courts** should be set up to deal with petty offences.
 - Lawyers – prisoners ratio:** there should be **at least one lawyer for every 30 prisoners**.
- For Understaffing
 - The Supreme Court should pass directions to start the recruitment process against vacancies
 - There should be the use of video-conferencing for trial.
- For Prisoners
 - Every new prisoner should be allowed a **free phone call a day to his family members** to see him through his first week in jail.
 - Alternative punishments should be explored.

Read more: [State of Prisons in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **UMANG app**

- It brings major government services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies on a single mobile app.
- The app is developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently, The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY) has enabled map services in UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) App through an MOU with MapmyIndia.

About UMANG app:

- UMANG mobile app** was launched in 2017. It is a Government of India single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app.

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 19th July to 24th July, 2021

- **Purpose:** It brings major government services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies on a single mobile app. It is with a larger goal to make the government accessible on the mobile phones of citizens.
- **Developed by:** UMANG is developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive Mobile Governance in India.

Read more: [Ministry of Electronics & IT enables map services in “UMANG App”](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **SMILE – Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise scheme**.

1. It is a merged scheme of Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the Act of begging scheme and the Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons Scheme
2. The scheme is formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Recently, The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme “SMILE – Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”.

About SMILE Scheme:

- Two Central Sector Schemes namely **Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the Act of begging** and **Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons** have been merged in a single scheme named SMILE.
- **Focus areas:** Rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on.
- The scheme would be implemented with the support of State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), institutions and others.

Read more: [SMILE – Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise formulated](#)

Q.6) “**Inequality Report 2021: India’s Unequal Healthcare Story**” report was released recently. Which of the following organisation has released the report?

- a) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- b) Oxfam India
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) World Health Organization (WHO)

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, [Oxfam](#) India released “**Inequality Report 2021: India’s Unequal Healthcare Story**”. Oxfam India’s inequality report draws attention to the country’s unequal healthcare story hit further by Covid-19.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

The report shows that the constant underfunding of the public healthcare system in the last decade have worsened health infrastructure.

Read more: [India's health inequality made worse by reduced health budget: Oxfam report](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Swadesh Darshan Scheme

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It aims to generate livelihood by promoting culture and heritage in identified regions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2014-2015
- **Aim:** It is a Central Sector Scheme with the objective of integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- **Objectives:**
 - **position tourism** as a major engine of economic growth and job creation
 - **Develop circuits** having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner;
 - **Promote cultural** and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods in the identified regions.
- **Thematic Circuits under Scheme:** North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Sufi Circuit, and Tirthankar Circuit.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Udyam portal:

1. Registration under Udyam portal is based on self-declaration.
2. It is integrated with Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) as well as the government e-marketplace (GeM).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

- **Udyam registration portal** was launched in 2020. It is an online self-declaration process for MSMEs.
- **It simplifies** the process of registering for any enterprise under the MSME category for them to avail benefits under various government schemes.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

- **Also, it is already integrated with** the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Goods and Services Tax Network(GSTN) as well as the government e-marketplace(GeM).
- **As of July 2021**, over 3.8 million MSMEs have registered on the Udyam portal.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Stand up India scheme:

1. Loans under the scheme are available only for brownfield projects.
2. Sectors for which loans can be given under the scheme include manufacturing, services and agri-allied activities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Loans under the scheme are available only for greenfield projects
- **Statement 2 is correct**

About Stand Up India Scheme:

- **The Stand Up India Scheme** was launched in 2016 by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- **Objective:** The scheme facilitates bank loans for setting up a new enterprise in manufacturing, services, agri-allied activities, or the trading sector by SC/ST/Women entrepreneurs.
- **Bank Loan:** It provides bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and up to 1 crore.
 - The government does not allocate funds for loans under the Scheme. They are extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks(SCBs).
- **Repayable of Loan:** The loan is repayable in 7 years, with a maximum moratorium period of 18 months.

Eligibility Condition for Loans under Stand Up India Scheme:

- **Beneficiaries** should be SC/ST and/or woman entrepreneurs above 18 years of age.
- **Loans under the scheme** are available only for **greenfield projects**. Greenfield signifies the first-time venture of the beneficiary in the manufacturing, services, agri-allied activities, or the trading sector.
- In the case of **non-individual enterprises**, 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either SC/ST and/or Women Entrepreneur.
- Borrowers should **not be in default** to any bank/financial institution.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Kaman aman setu was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following statement describes it correctly?

- a) It is an initiative to boost connectivity between North-Eastern States
- b) It is a friendship Bridge between India and Pakistan
- c) It is a new initiative to enhance government-people connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir
- d) It is a new Eco-bridge built in Western Ghats to reduce Human wildlife conflict

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- India and Pakistan Armies recently held a Flag meeting and exchanged sweets at Kaman Aman Setu.
- Kaman aman setu is located at Uri in North Kashmir.
- Kaman Aman Setu – Friendship Bridge between India and Pakistan, is also the last point of the India-Pak border in the Uri district.

Source: [All India Radio](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding I4C scheme:

1. It entails coordination of all activities related to implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with other countries related to cybercrimes
2. National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit is a sub-component of the scheme

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About I4C Scheme

- I4C – Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre
- To act as a nodal point in the fight against cybercrime
- Identify the research problems/needs of LEAs and take up R&D activities in developing new technologies and forensic tools in collaboration with academia / research institutes within India and abroad
- To prevent misuse of cyber space for furthering the cause of extremist and terrorist groups
- Suggest amendments, if required, in cyber laws to keep pace with fast changing technologies and International cooperation
- To coordinate all activities related to implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with other countries related to cybercrimes in consultation with the concerned nodal authority in MHA

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding Adopt a heritage scheme:

1. Trusts & NGOs can also adopt a heritage site under this scheme.
2. The corporate sector is expected to use corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the upkeep of the heritage site.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- **Adopt a Heritage Project:** It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India. It was launched in September 2017 on World Tourism Day.
- **Eligibility:** Private and Public Sector Companies, Trusts, NGOs and Individuals are eligible for adopting heritage site (s)/ monument (s) under this project.
- **Key Features of the Project:**
 - The sites/monuments are selected on the basis of tourist footfall and visibility and can be adopted by private and public sector companies and individuals known as Monument Mitras for an initial period of five years.
 - The Monument Mitras are selected by the 'oversight and vision committee,' co-chaired by the Tourism Secretary and the Culture Secretary on the basis of the bidder's 'vision' for development of all amenities at the heritage site.
 - There is no financial bid involved. The corporate sector is expected to use **corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the upkeep of the site**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Justice Mulla Committee sometimes in news is related to?

- Prison reforms
- Welfare of senior citizens
- NPA resolution
- Ease of doing business

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Justice Mulla Committee, 1983:

- All India cadre for prison staff and Bringing prison under the concurrent list
- Government should form a National Policy on Prisons
- Government to use alternatives to imprisonment such as community service, etc.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is released by which of the following?

- UNCTAD
- UNDP
- UNESCAP
- WTO

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by UNESCAP. The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement. The Survey is keenly awaited globally as it evidences whether or not the trade facilitation measures being taken have the desired impact and helps draw comparison amongst countries. A higher score for a country also helps businesses in their investment decisions.

Source: [PIB](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Re-wilding** of wild animals.

1. It is the process of releasing abandoned or injured wild animals into the wild after a certain time
2. There is no Standard Operating Guidelines for re-wilding animals in India.
3. Rewilding is so far limited to Tigers alone in India.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) is trying to reintroduce an abandoned nine-month-old cub into the wild, after rearing it in ‘captivity’ for two years. This issue has once again brought the controversial concept of ‘re-wilding’ of abandoned or injured animals under the lens.

What is ‘Re-wilding’?

- The Standard Operating Guidelines laid down by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under Section 38(O) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provide three ways to deal with orphaned or abandoned tiger cubs:
 - **The first** is to make an effort to reunite the abandoned cubs with their mother.
 - **Second**, if a reunion of the cub with its mother is not possible, then shift the cub to a suitable zoo.
 - **Third**, reintroduction of the cub into the wild after a certain time when it appears that the cub is capable of surviving in the wild independently. This is what is known as ‘Re-wilding’.

Rewilding in India:

- **Rewilding** is not limited to cats. There have been efforts to reintroduce other endangered species into the wild after rearing them in captivity.
- **For Example:** Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in collaboration with the Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department has been running a vulture conservation centre named ‘**Jatayu**’.
 - **Under this**, several pairs of endangered gyps species, including the white-backed, the long-billed, and the slender-billed have been successfully introduced into the wild.

Read more: [Explained: The ‘re-wilding’ of wild animals, and the challenges it involves](#)

Q.2) Rajaji national park sometimes in news is located in which of the following states?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Uttarakhand

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Correct Answer: d

Explanation: Rajaji National Park is a national park and tiger reserve that encompasses the Shivaliks, near the foothills of the Himalayas.

- It was declared as a tiger reserve in 2015 and is the second tiger reserve in the Uttarakhand and 48th Tiger Reserve of India.
- The park extends over the Shivalik Range in the northwest to the Rawasari River in the southeast, with the Ganges dividing it into two parts.
- Some of the basic features of the Shivalik formations are to be seen in the park and is rightly known as a **veritable storehouse of Shivalik biodiversity** and ecosystems.
- The western part of the Park consists of the Ramgarh, Kansrao, Motichur, Hardwar, Dholkhand and Chillawali Ranges.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding geckos:

1. Most geckos are nocturnal.
2. Indian gold gecko is listed as vulnerable under IUCN red list of species.
3. They are found on all continents except Antarctic.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Most geckos are nocturnal, which means they are active at night but day geckos are active during the day and nibble on insects, fruits and flower nectar.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is listed as Least Concern under IUCN red list of species.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** They are found on all the continents except Antarctica.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. One of its functions is to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as per the pollution levels.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: a

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: EPCA is not a statutory body. It is Supreme-Court mandated body

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

- Statement 2 is correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Microplastics**

1. Microplastics are plastics that are less than 5 millimetres in size
2. These are bio-degradable plastics

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Recently a Delhi-based non-profit Toxic Link stated that the Ganga is heavily polluted with microplastics at Varanasi, Haridwar and Kanpur.

Microplastics are plastics that are less than 5 millimetres in size but are a major source of marine pollution. They are non-degradable plastics.

Some examples are,

- Polyacetylene is used as a doping agent in the electronics industry.
- Polypropylene is also used in packaging, plastic sheets, fibre, fabrics, rope, etc.
- PIP is mainly used in footwear and baby bottle nipples.
- Polyamide, commonly known as nylon, is used as a natural fibre and as metal wires in clothing and industry.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Great Indian Bustard**

1. They are present in Indian subcontinent and Africa
2. They are critically Endangered species
3. They lack frontal vision, due to this, they cannot detect powerlines ahead of them, from far.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds (weighing up to 15kgs). They inhabit dry grasslands and scrublands on the Indian subcontinent
- **Habitat:** It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent. It is found in Rajasthan (Desert National park), Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in India and parts of Pakistan.
- **IUCN Red List:** It is a critically Endangered species with less than 150 birds left in the wild.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

The Ministry of Power, in an affidavit, has said: “The Great Indian Bustard (“GIB”) lacks frontal vision. Due to this, they cannot detect powerlines ahead of them, from far. As they are heavy birds, they are unable to manoeuvre across power lines within close distances. Thus, they are vulnerable to collision with power lines.”

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

History/Art and Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Radiocarbon Dating**

1. It is a method for determining the age of an object containing organic material by using the properties of radiocarbon.
2. After death, all living things absorb carbon from the atmosphere and food sources around them. Scientists will use that to calculate the age.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Radiocarbon Dating:

- **Radiocarbon dating** is a method for determining the age of an object containing organic material by using the properties of radiocarbon, a radioactive isotope of carbon.
- **Method:**
 - **The basis of radiocarbon dating is simple:** all living things absorb carbon from the atmosphere and food sources around them, including a certain amount of natural, radioactive carbon-14.
 - **When the plant or animal dies,** they stop absorbing, but the radioactive carbon that they've accumulated continues to decay.
 - **Hence,** measuring the amount leftover gives an estimate as to how long something has been dead.

Read more: [Prehistoric site in Faridabad could be a lakh year old, say archeologists](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian History Congress (IHC):**

1. It was established during British Colonial rule.
2. It is the largest association of professional historians in South Asia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

Indian History Congress (IHC):

- **IHC was founded** in 1935. It is the largest association of professional historians in South Asia.
- **Origin:** The lead to establish IHC was taken by Poona historians during the period of British colonial rule. The first session took place in Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Poona in 1935.

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

- **Mandate:** Its main objective is to promote secular and scientific writing of history. It also has been holding its sessions very regularly.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Tipu Sultan**

1. He signed Treaty of Gajendragad during Maratha–Mysore War
2. He introduced a new coinage system, a calendar and a new land revenue system
3. He established a modern armory in Dindigul

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Recently, naming a garden on Tipu Sultan in Mumbai sparked a controversy.

- Born in November 1750, Tipu Sultan was Haidar Ali's son and a great warrior, also known as the Tiger of Mysore.
- He was a well educated man fluent in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu.
- Tipu introduced a number of administrative innovations during his rule, including his coinage, a new Mauludi lunisolar calendar, and a new land revenue system which initiated the growth of Mysore silk industry.
- He organised his army on the European model with Persian words of command.
- He established three dockyards at Mangalore, Wajedabad and Molidabad. However, his plans did not fructify.
- Tipu's conflicts with his neighbours included the Maratha–Mysore War which ended with the signing of the Treaty of Gajendragad.

Hyder Ali established a modern armory in Dindigul

Source : [Indian Express](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Polity

Q.1) Conjugal Rights was sometimes seen in news. Which of the following correctly explains this right?

- This is the right granted to undertrial persons.
- This is the right granted to a vaccine manufacturer to provide immunity from vaccine impacts.
- This is the right created by marriage such as right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse.
- This is the right granted to persons arrested under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Supreme Court (SC) is going to hear a fresh challenge to the provision allowing restitution (recovery) of conjugal rights under Hindu personal laws (Hindu Marriage act 1955).

Conjugal Rights:

- Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, i.e. right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse.
- Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act recognises one aspect of conjugal rights — the right to consortium and protects it by allowing a spouse to move court to enforce the right.
- Similar provisions exist in Muslim personal law as well as the Divorce Act, 1869, which governs Christian family law.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.2) Brandenburg Test often in news is related to?

- Right to diplomatic immunity
- Right to free speech
- Right to free legal aid
- Right against self-incrimination

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Brandenburg test was established in *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, **to determine when inflammatory speech intending to advocate illegal action can be restricted.**
- Detail:** In *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969), the ‘clear and present danger’ test was expanded, and the ‘imminent lawless action’ test was laid down by the U.S. Supreme Court, which the court has followed since. This test states, **“The constitutional guarantees of free speech and free press do not permit the state to forbid or proscribe advocacy of the use of force or of law violation, except where such advocacy is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action”.**
- The word ‘imminent’ used in the judgment is very important. Imminent means ‘likely to happen very soon,’ ‘at hand,’ or ‘fast approaching.’

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **various types of diversity**

1. Melting pot diversity is a metaphor for the way a multicultural society can integrate different cultures while maintaining their separate identities
2. Salad bowl diversity is defined as a place where people of different ethnic origins and cultures all come together to mix and merge, creating a new culture

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Salad Bowl: A salad bowl or tossed salad is a metaphor for the way a multicultural society can integrate different cultures while maintaining their separate identities, contrasting with a melting pot, which emphasizes the combination of the parts into a single whole. ([Article](#))

Melting pot: The term melting pot is defined as a place where people of different ethnic origins and cultures all come together to mix and merge, creating a new culture — not necessarily a monolithic or homogeneous one, but one that is reflective of some sort of shared template for society. For example, America. ([Article](#))

Read more: [Accepting radical otherness](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

STATUTORY, REGULATORY AND QUASI-JUDICIAL BODIES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Its primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):** It is a statutory body established in 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- **Objective:** To assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.
- **Role of BEE:** BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies and other organizations and recognizes, identifies and utilizes the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the Energy Conservation Act.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 19th July to 24th July, 2021

MISC

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the concept of state immunity as recognized in the international law:

1. It safeguards a state's property against the jurisdiction of another country's domestic courts.
2. There is no international legal instrument in force administering its implementation.
3. India has ratified the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property (UNSCI).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

Only Statement 3 is incorrect.

State immunity is a well-recognized doctrine in international law which safeguards a state and its property against the jurisdiction of another country's domestic courts.

- This covers immunity from both **jurisdiction** and **execution**.
- Despite the universal acceptance of this doctrine, there is **no international legal instrument in force administering its implementation** in municipal legal systems of different countries.
- Attempts are underway to create binding international law on the application of the rules of state immunity, such as the **United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property (UNSCI)**. However, this convention is **yet to be ratified by 30 countries** — the minimum number required to bring it in force, as per Article 30 (1) of UNSCI.
- India has **signed** the convention, but **not ratified** it.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Which of the following statements correctly define B3W?

- a) Proposal by G7 to address infrastructure investment deficit in developing & lower income countries.
- b) Anti-money laundering initiative by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.
- c) Global coalition to build back a resilient environment by limiting global warming under 1.5°C.
- d) A manufacturing and distribution initiative by WHO to provide COVID vaccines to low-income countries.

Correct Answer: a

Explanation: G-7 leaders have proposed Build Back Better World (B3W) to counter China's rising influence across 100-plus countries through [Belt and Road Initiative](#) (BRI) projects. BRI projects are perceived as debt traps laid by China for its **strategic dominance** in trade, foreign policy and geopolitics in the world. The proposal, though at an early stage, aims to

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

address the **infrastructure investment deficit** in developing and lower income countries. China has capitalized on this gap through its 2,600 BRI projects with trillions of dollars of investment.

Source: [Article](#)

ForumIAS

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Agriculture - AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIONS AND VARIOUS INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK):

1. They are agricultural extension centres created by ICAR and its affiliated institutions at district level.
2. The KVK scheme is 100% financed by the Government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

- Krsihi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) are agricultural extension centres created by ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research) and its affiliated institutions at district level.
- The mandate of KVK is technology assessment, refinement and demonstration by providing critical inputs to the farmers which enable them to sustain their productivity.
- The KVK scheme is 100% financed by the Government of India. The first KVK was established during 1974 (Pondicherry) and currently around 645 KVKs have been established.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Sahi Fasal Campaign.

1. It nudges farmers to favor agricultural crops which consume less water
2. The campaign will be launched by Ministry of Agriculture

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The campaign was launched by the National Water Mission. It nudges farmers to favor agricultural crops which consume less water and to use water more efficiently in agriculture as a part of demand side management

Read more: [District facing Water Crisis](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Science and Technology

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

1. These are modified images, text, audio, and video or synthetic media, created with the help of Artificial Intelligence.
2. The existence of deep fakes causes much distrust among the public that any true evidence of a crime can easily be dismissed as fake.
3. The existing legal framework in India criminalize deep fakes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Deepfakes are modified** images, text, audio, and video or synthetic media, created with the help of Artificial Intelligence.
- It **generates a fake version** from an original or real audio-visual content by **superimposing** new audio or image on an existing media file.
 - **For example;** with the use of AI, the face of a person in an original video can be replaced with the face of another person (Morphing). Now the modified face will mimic the head movements, vocal patterns, and facial expressions of the original one.
- **Potential harms of deep fakes:**
 - Deep fakes can be used to disrupt the democratic processes like elections in any country.
 - Deep Fakes are used to stain the reputations of individuals and spread propaganda against them.
 - The existence of deep fakes causes that much distrust among the public that any true evidence of a crime can easily be dismissed as fake.
- The existing legal framework of many countries including **India does not criminalize deep fakes.**

Source: [AI's dark side](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **serological survey conducted by ICMR** (Indian Council of Medical Research)

1. The survey is used to detect active infections at present.
2. The survey was conducted using IgG Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The ICMR has conducted the fourth round of the national blood serum survey which tests for antibodies, known as a serosurvey, for Covid-19. The aim of the survey was to estimate the sero-prevalence of SARS-COV-2 antibodies. Few important points to consider,

- The survey only indicates past infections (which triggered an immune response) and is not used to detect active infections.
- The survey was conducted using IgG Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay(ELISA) test which has been approved by ICMR.

Read more: [Explained: ICMR's fourth serosurvey and its findings](#)

Q.3) NEA Scout sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following missions?

- a) Cassini-Huygens
- b) Shukrayaan
- c) Artemis I
- d) Akatsuki

Correct Answer: c

Explanation: NEA Scout is one of several payloads that will launch on Artemis I which is expected to be launched in November 2021.

Artemis I: It is a planned uncrewed test flight for NASA's Artemis program. Under the Artemis program, NASA has aimed to land the **first woman on the Moon in 2024** and also establish **sustainable lunar exploration** programs by 2030.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Monkey B virus:

1. It is the only identified old-world-monkey herpesvirus.
2. It does not affect humans.
3. No vaccine is available against this virus.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The virus was first identified in 1932. It is also the only identified old-world-monkey herpesvirus that displays severe pathogenicity in humans.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Human infections occur** when an infected monkey bites or scratches them; they get fluid or tissue from an infected monkey on broken skin, in the eyes, nose, or mouth. Exposure to an infected monkey's brain, spinal cord, or skull. Till date, only one case has been documented of an infected person spreading B virus to another person.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Currently, there are no vaccines that can protect against Monkey B virus infection.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG)**

1. Akash-NG uses ramjet engines
2. The weight of the rocket is reduced to increase its range and to carry more missiles.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Defence Research & Development Organisation(DRDO) has successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG).

About Akash-NG missile:

- **Rocket Motor:** Akash-NG uses a two-pulse solid rocket motor that replaces the old ramjet on the legacy Akash missile.
 - **The new motor** not just reaches out to 30 kilometres (km), but also generates a high terminal velocity to strike even the fastest and most agile enemy fighters.
- **Lighter Weight:** The weight of the rocket has been brought down from 700 kg to 350 kg. This not just increases range, but also lets the vehicle carry more missiles.
- **New Seeker Head:** Akash-NG has a new seeker head. The seeker locks onto the enemy aircraft and continuously guides the missile to impact the target.

Read more: [DRDO successfully flight-tests surface-to-air missile Akash-NG](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **thermoelectric materials**

1. This type of material can generate electricity by using a temperature difference between its two sides.
2. The thermoelectric device can also function as a small heat pump, moving heat from one side of the device to the other.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, Researchers from the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, have developed a new low-cost electrical contact material for thermoelectric devices that is stable at high temperature.

- The thermoelectric material can generate electricity by using a temperature difference between its two sides. The thermoelectric device can also function as a small heat pump, moving heat from one side of the device to the other.
- Thermoelectric materials convert thermal energy directly into electricity through a process that involves a solid-state electron and phonon diffusion process.

Source : [All India Radio](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Bird Flu**

1. It is a disease caused by avian influenza Type A viruses found naturally in wild birds worldwide.
2. The virus can infect domestic poultry, wild pigs, cats and tigers
3. The Bird flu infections has so far not identified in humans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Recently, an 11-year-old boy died of H5N1 avian influenza in Delhi. This is the first recorded death due to the bird flu in India this year.

- It is a disease caused by avian influenza Type A viruses found naturally in wild birds worldwide.
- The virus can infect domestic poultry and there have been reports of H5N1 infection among pigs, cats, and even tigers in Thailand zoos.
- Symptoms have ranged from mild to severe influenza-like illness.
- There have been reports of avian and swine influenza infections in humans.
- The infection is deadly as it has a high mortality rate of about 60%.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding **Zero-Click attack**

1. In this, a hacker will send a fraudulent message which is designed to trick a victim into revealing confidential information or infect their device.
2. These types of attacks are hard to detect and prevent than Phishing.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Pegasus spyware has evolved from its earlier spear-phishing methods using text links or messages to 'zero-click' attacks

About Zero-click Attack:

- **A Zero-Click attack** helps spyware like Pegasus gain control over a device without human interaction or human error.
- **Zero-click attacks** occur only when an attacker is able to take over a device remotely after successfully exploiting vulnerabilities in the software and hardware of the phone.
- **So all awareness** about how to avoid a phishing attack or which links not to click is pointless if the target is the system itself.
- **Zero-click attacks are hard** to detect given their nature and hence even harder to prevent. Detection becomes even harder in encrypted environments, where there is no visibility on the data packets being sent or received.

Read more: [What are zero-click attacks, and how do you get the better of them?](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Geography and Agriculture

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the potential **application of copper**

1. Copper is an excellent conductor of thermal and electrical energy
2. Copper can be recycled completely many times over without any loss in performance.
3. Copper cannot be used in renewable energy systems to generate power

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Copper is an **excellent conductor of thermal and electrical energy**; the power systems that utilise copper generate and transmit energy with high efficiency and with minimum environmental impacts. The use of copper in energy systems helps reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- It can also be **recycled completely many times over without any loss in performance**.
- Copper is a highly efficient mineral used in renewable energy systems to generate power from solar, hydroelectric, thermal and wind energy.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Week – 19th July to 24th July, 2021

International Organizations

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding International Energy Agency (IEA):

1. It was established within the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
2. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is a part of the IEA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: a

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect: IRENA is a separate organization.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Which of the following countries are a part of China-led South Asian initiative?

1. Maldives
2. Bangladesh
3. Nepal

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

About China-led South Asian initiative

Initiative includes **China-South Asian Countries Emergency Supplies Reserve**, and a **Poverty Alleviation and Cooperative Development Centre**. They were set up in China on July 8.

• **Member countries:**

- China
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Sri Lanka
- **India, Bhutan** and the **Maldives** are the only SAARC countries not a part of the China-led initiative

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

Q.3) Which of the following military exercise(s) is/are correctly matched to the participant country(s)?

1. Konkan – UK
2. Khanjar – Kazakhstan
3. Desert Knight – France

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

- Khanjar is between India & Kyrgyzstan

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Historic Urban Landscape Project:

1. Project is based on the entire human environment with all of its tangible and intangible qualities.
2. Indian cities of Ajmer, Varanasi and Gwalior have been selected under this project.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c

Explanation:

- **The Historic Urban Landscape Project** was adopted in 2011 by UNESCO's General Conference.
- **The project aims** for the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving the culture and heritage.

Gwalior and Orchha Cities under Historic Urban Landscape Project:

- **As part of the project**, these places will be jointly developed by UNESCO, the Government of India, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **The development and management plan** of these cities will be prepared by UNESCO.
- **All aspects including** history, culture, lifestyle, economic development, community development will be included in it.

Note: The six cities of South Asia, including Ajmer and Varanasi in India, are already involved in this project. Orchha and Gwalior have been included as the 7th and 8th cities.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Exercise Ajeya Warrior is a joint military exercise between India and which of the following country?

- a) The United States of America
- b) The United Kingdom
- c) Japan

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 19th July to 24th July, 2021

d) Australia

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently The Indian Navy took part in a bilateral Passage Exercise(PASSEX) with the UK Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group(CSG)-21 in the Bay of Bengal.

Other Exercises between India and UK:

- Exercise Indradhanush: It is a joint bilateral air exercise between India and the UK started in 2006.
- Exercise Konkan: It is an annual maritime bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain.
- Exercise Ajeya Warrior: It is a joint military exercise between India and the UK. It was held for the first time in 2013.

Read more: [Indian Navy exercise with UK's Royal Navy carrier strike group](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Nord Stream 2 Pipeline**

1. The pipeline is intended to provide Europe with a sustainable gas supply while providing Russia with more direct access to the European gas market
2. It is a 1200 km pipeline that runs from Russia to Portugal
3. The pipeline will run along with the already-completed Nord Stream 1 system

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently, the US has approved the Germany-Russia Nord Stream 2 Pipeline (NS2P) project - which significantly increases Europe's energy dependence on Russia.

Nord Stream 2 Pipeline:

- It is a 1,200km-long offshore natural gas pipeline being constructed from Russia to Germany across the Baltic Sea.
- The pipeline will run along with the already-completed Nord Stream 1 system, and the two together will supply an aggregate of 110 billion cubic metres of gas to Germany per year.
- The pipeline is intended to provide Europe with a sustainable gas supply while providing Russia with more direct access to the European gas market.

Read more: [Nord Stream 2 pipeline between Germany and Russia](#)

Source: [Indian Express](#)