

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM INDIA YEARBOOK-2020**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS TAKEN FROM INDIA YEARBOOK-2020  
AND IMPORTANT TERMS EXPLAINED, USEFULL FOR UPSC-  
PRELIMS 2020-2021**

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- ❖ **The Constitution (103rd Amendment Act), 2019 providing ten per cent reservation in government jobs and education to **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** in the general category comes into force.**

### Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)

- **Whether or not to provide reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society for appointment** in State Government jobs and for admission to State Government educational institutions, as per provisions of the newly inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) of the constitution, is **to be decided by the concerned State Government.**
- **The services under the State come under the List II of the Seventh Schedule** i.e. State List of the Constitution. The information on the state-wise provisions for reservation is not maintained by the Central Government.
- **The Act amends Article 15** to enable the government to take special measures.
- **The amendment adds Article 16(6)** which permits the government to reserve up to 10% of all posts for the “economically weaker sections” of citizens.
- **The central government will notify the “economically weaker sections”** of citizens on the basis of family income and other indicators of economic disadvantage.
- **Earlier a 9-judge bench of Supreme Court in Indira Sawhney case (1992)** had struck down a provision that earmarked 10% for the economically backward on the grounds that Constitution only provides for addressing social backwardness but for the first time Economic condition is considered as a criteria of EWS after the amendment.

**SOURCE: PIB and Newspapers**

- ❖ **Womaniya on Government e-Marketplace** initiative launched to enable women entrepreneurs to sell items online.

### Womaniya

- An initiative to **enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups** [WSHG] to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories, jute and coir products, home décor and office furnishings, directly to various Government ministries, departments and institutions.
- **The initiative aligns with Government’s initiatives for MSMEs**, especially to reserve 3 percent in government procurement from women entrepreneurs.
- **Womaniya on GeM will spur hyper-local economic opportunities** for women entrepreneurs and address goals and objectives under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

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**SOURCE: PIB and Newspaper**

### Government e-Marketplace

- **GeM was setup in 2016.**
- Government e Marketplace is a **100 percent government owned company** setup under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry for procurement of common use goods and services by Government ministries, departments and CPSEs.
- **GeM is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place** that enables procurement of common use goods and services with minimal human interface.

**SOURCE: PIB and GeM Website**

- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru **Port** Trust becomes the only Indian port to be listed among world's top 30 container ports.

### Major ports and non-major ports

- India has 12 major ports and approximately 200 non-major ports **administered by Central and State Governments respectively.**
- Major and non-major ports **do not have a strict association with traffic volumes.** The classification has more of an administrative significance
- **Under Project Unnati**, the global benchmarks were adopted to improve the efficiency and productivity for 12 major ports.
- India's 200 non-major ports are **strategically located on the world's shipping routes.**
- Among these 12 major ports, **6 is on the Eastern coast and 6 on the Western coast.**
- **Major ports are under the jurisdiction of the Government of India** and are governed by the Major Port Trusts Act 1963, **except Ennore port**, which is administered under the Companies Act 1956 because it is a corporatised one under the same Ministry.
- **Non-major ports come under the jurisdiction** of the respective state Governments' Maritime Boards (GMB).
- Non-major ports are gaining shares and a major chunk of traffic has shifted from major ports to non-major ports.
- Kolkata port is **Only riverine major port in India.**
- Paradip port **first major port on East Coast commissioned in independent India.**
- Jawahar Lal Nehru also called Nhava Sheva is **biggest container handling port in India.**
- **Chennai Port** is the **largest port in the Bay of Bengal and second largest port of India** after JNPT. It is largest port at east coast.
- Mormugao port in Goa is **leading iron ore exporting port of India.**
- The maritime transport **falls under the "concurrent list" of the constitution** and thus is to be administered by both the Central and the State governments.

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**SOURCE: Indian Brand Equity Foundation, CAG report and Newspaper**

- ❖ President presents the **Gandhi Peace Prize** for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

#### Gandhi Peace Prize

- Gandhi Peace Prize **for Social, Economic and Political transformation** through Non-violence was **instituted in the year 1995**.
- The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation.
- **Ministry of Culture, Government of India, invites nominations of persons/organizations.**
- The Award **may be divided between two persons / institutions** (this time jointly given to Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International for the year 2016).
- Work by a person since **deceased cannot be the subject of an Award**.
- If, however, his death occurred subsequent to a proposal having been submitted to the Jury in the manner stipulated in the **Code of Procedure, then a Posthumous Award may be made**.
- The jury of the prize is **headed by Prime Minister**.
- The Award is **open to all persons** regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender. Normally, contributions made during ten years immediately preceding the nomination are considered.
- Goodwill Ambassador of the World Health Organisation for Leprosy Elimination **Yohei Sasakawa** has been honoured with Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018 for his role in leprosy eradication.

**SOURCE: Min. of culture website**

- ❖ President presents the **Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony** for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

#### Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

- Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony was **instituted by the Government from 2012** recognizing the contributions made by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to humanity.
- It is **awarded annually and carries an amount of One Crore rupees**, a citation in a Scroll, a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft or handloom item.
- The award **may be divided between two persons/institutions**.
- Work by a person since deceased cannot be the subject of an Award.
- If, however, his death occurred subsequent to a proposal having been submitted to the Jury in the manner stipulated in the Code of Procedure, then a Posthumous Award may be made.

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- The Award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.

**SOURCE: Min. of Culture and Business Standard**

- ❖ Prime Minister launches the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN)** scheme from Gorakhpur.

#### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

- With a view **to augment the income of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)**, the Government has launched a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
- The SMFs landholder farmer family is **defined as "a family comprising of husband, wife and minor children who collectively own cultivable land upto 2 hectare as per land records of the concerned State/UT"**.
- The Scheme to be implemented as **Central Sector Scheme with 100% financial support by Government of India (GoI)**.
- For effective review and monitoring of the scheme, a **Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) at Central level will be set up in DAC&FW**. (Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmer Welfare)
- **The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is one of the three constituent Departments** of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, the other two being Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) and Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).

**SOURCE: Min. of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare and Economic Times**

- ❖ The scheme - '**Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan**' for farmers' welfare approved.

#### Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)

- Launch of Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan was **with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers**.
- The scheme **aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022**.
- The Indian farmer will effectively bear **only 10 percent of cost for solarising his** agricultural pump under a scheme unveiled in the Budget 2018-19.
- The government will spend Rs 48,000 crore over 10 years as central financial assistance (CFA) on the **Kusum scheme which aims to encourage the use of barren land for setting up solar power plants**. A similar amount will have to be given by the

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states and the financing institutions towards Kusum, which is to be put up to the cabinet for approval.

SOURCE: PIB and Financial Times

- ❖ Human Resources Development Ministry launches **SHREYAS** – ‘Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills’ for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates.

### SHREYAS

- SHREYAS for **providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates** exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- It is a programme basket comprising the **initiatives of three Central Ministries, namely the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour & Employment viz the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the National Career Service (NCS) and introduction of BA/BSc/BCom (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.**
- Department of Higher Education of HRD Ministry has finalized and released a five-year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (**EQUIP**). **SWAYAM 2.0, Deeksharambh and PARAMARSH** are some of the other major schemes of Department of Higher Education launched in 2019.

SOURCE: PIB and HRD Ministry website

- ❖ Tribal Affairs Ministry launches Van Dhan - the scheme for Minimum Support Price for **Minor Forest produce** and development of value chain.

### Minor Forest produce

- An important source of livelihoods for tribal people are non-wood forest products, generally termed '**Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**' means all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and will include bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, Honey, Lac, Tusser etc.
- The Government of India has launched a **central sector scheme for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain to ensure fair monetary returns to MFP gatherers.**
- The scheme envisages fixation and declaration of Minimum Support Price for the selected MFP based on the suggestions /inputs received from **Tribal Cooperative**

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**Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) which came into existence in 1987, and the States concerned.**

- **States have been given freedom for fixing MSP 10% above or below the MSP rate decided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
- (TRIFED), a government body under MoTA meant to facilitate socio-economic development of tribal people by marketing tribal products.
- The ministry added these items, raising the **total number of MFPs covered under the list to 49.**
- **PESA, 1996 and Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 conferred ownership of MFP to forest dwellers.**
- **ISRO Satellite imagery based** resource mapping commenced to further identify and pin point pan-India availability of MFPs.

**SOURCE: TRIFED Website, PIB, Down to Earth and newspapers**

- ❖ India conducts its first anti-satellite missile test '**Mission Shakti**' from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha successfully destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space.

### Mission Shakti

- **This was a technological mission carried out by DRDO.** DRDO's ballistic missile defence interceptor was used. **India used Kinetic Kill, a space technology** in which India has developed capability.
- The satellite used in the mission was one of India's existing satellites **operating in lower orbit.**
- The significance of the test is that India has tested and successfully demonstrated its capability to interdict and intercept a satellite in outer space based on **complete indigenous technology.**
- With this test, India joins an **exclusive group of space faring nations consisting of USA, Russia and China.**
- The **test was done in the lower atmosphere** to ensure that there is no space debris. Whatever debris that is generated will decay and fall back onto the earth within weeks.
- **The principal international Treaty on space is the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.** India is a signatory to this treaty, and ratified it in 1982. The Outer Space Treaty prohibits only weapons of mass destruction in outer space, not ordinary weapons.
- India has no intention of entering into an arms race in outer space.

**SOURCE: MEA Website and Newspapers**

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- ❖ ISRO launched a special programme for school children titled 'Young Scientist Programme' or '**Yuva Vigyani Karyakram**' from 2019.

### Yuva Vigyani Karyakram

- Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for School Children called "**Young Scientist Programme**" "**YUva Vigyani KARYakram**" from this year, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan".
- ISRO has chalked out this programme to "**Catch them young**".
- It is proposed to select 3 students each from each State/ Union Territory to participate in this programme covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.
- The Young Scientist programme (YUVIKA) was scheduled to be held during May 11-22, 2020. But was cancelled due to COVID19 pandemic.
- 3 students each from each State/ Union Territory and 5 additional seats are reserved for OCI candidates across the country.

**SOURCE: ISRO and Newspapers**

- ❖ World Consumer Rights Day, 2019 observed with the theme 'Trusted Smart Products' highlighting the security and privacy issues associated with smart products.
- ❖ Common smart card format for driving licences and registration certificates prescribed across the country.
  - Under the new norms notified by the ministry, **states would have an option to issue the two documents in the form of cards**, which would be either made of PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) or of **Poly Carbonate**.
  - Further, states can prescribe whether it should be a chip-based smart card or a card with contact-less features such as QR code.
  - A QR code has been prescribed on the cards. This would enable easy linking and access and validation of the information on the cards with the SARATHI or VAHAN database.

### Poly Carbonate

- **Polycarbonate is a high-performance tough, amorphous and transparent** thermoplastic polymer with organic functional groups linked together by carbonate groups
- PC is popularly used as an engineering plastic owing to its unique features that include:
  - High impact strength

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- High dimensional stability
  - Good electrical properties amongst others
  - polycarbonate is stronger, usable in a wider temperature range (Melting point: 155°C)
  - **Some of the common applications are** compact disc, safety helmets, bullet-proof glass, car headlamp lenses, baby feeding bottles, roofing and glazing etc.
  - As a naturally transparent amorphous thermoplastic, polycarbonate's usefulness is in its **ability to internally transmit light almost as effectively as glass.**
  - Its eco-friendly processing and recyclability make its **environment friendly.**
  - **Some important features are:** Toughness and High Impact Strength; Transmittance; Lightweight; Protection from ultraviolet Radiation; Optical Nature; Chemical Resistance; Heat Resistance;
  - **Limitations of Polycarbonates**
    - Low fatigue endurance
    - Mechanical properties degrade after prolonged exposure to water at over 60°C
    - Attacked by hydrocarbons and bases
    - Proper drying before processing is needed.
    - Yellows after long exposure to UV
- SOURCE: Newspapers and Commercial websites

❖ Pinaki Chandra Ghose appointed as India's first **Lokpal**.

### Lokpal

- A national anti-corruption ombudsman.
- **Under the 2013 Act**, the Lokpal should consist of a chairperson and such number of members, not exceeding eight, of whom 50% should be judicial members.
- The Chairperson will be, who is or has been a Chief Justice of India, or is or has been a judge of the Supreme Court, or an eminent person who fulfils eligibility criteria as specified.
- **The committee to choose lokpal was headed by Prime Minister.** The same selection committee will choose the Lokpal's other members.
- A search committee will prepare a panel of candidates, a selection committee will recommend names from among this panel, and the **President will appoint these as members.**
- The Act states that not less than 50% of the members of the Lokpal should be from among persons belonging to the SCs, the STs, OBCs, minorities and women.
- Salaries, allowances and service conditions of the **Lokpal chairperson will be the same as those for the Chief Justice of India**; those for other members will be the same as those for a judge of the Supreme Court.

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- It will have an “Inquiry Wing, headed by the Director of Inquiry, for the purpose of conducting preliminary inquiry into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988”.
- For a wide range of public servants — from the Prime Minister, ministers and MPs, to groups A, B, C and D employees of the central government — various rules are in place.
- ***The Act does not allow a Lokpal inquiry if the allegation against the Prime Minister relates to international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy and space.*** Also, complaints against the Prime Minister are not to be probed unless the full Lokpal bench considers the initiation of an inquiry and at least two-thirds of the members approve it.
- The Act also includes the Lokpal’s own members under the definition of “public servant”.
- ***These are the state equivalents of the central Lokpal. “Every State shall establish a body to be known as the Lokayukta*** for the State, if not so established, constituted or appointed, by a law made by the State Legislature, to deal with complaints relating to corruption against certain public functionaries, within a period of one year from the date of commencement of this Act,” states Section 63 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act.
- This means establishment of the institution of the Lokayukta including any ***appointment therein falls within the domain of the states.***
- In some states, Lokayuktas were already functioning when the 2013 Act was passed. Most states, however, are without a Lokayukta.

SOURCE: Business Standard and other Newspapers

- ❖ **PSLV-C45** successfully launches EMISAT and 28 international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR in Sriharikota.

### PSLV

- ***Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the third generation launch vehicle of India.*** It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages. Its ***first successful launch was in October 1994.***
- The vehicle successfully ***launched two spacecraft – Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 – that later traveled to Moon and Mars respectively.***
- PSLV earned its title '***the Workhorse of ISRO***' through consistently delivering various satellites to ***Low Earth Orbits***, particularly the IRS series of satellites.
- PSLV has also been ***used to launch various satellites into Geosynchronous and Geostationary orbits, like satellites from the IRNSS constellation.***

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- PSLV uses **an Earth storable liquid rocket engine for its second stage, known as the Vikas engine**, developed by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

- **Uniqueness of PSLV-C45-**

- **First**, it was the first time ISRO launched a rocket **that injected satellites in three different orbits**.
- **Second, the fourth and last stage of the rocket will function as a satellite itself for some time**, instead of being rendered junk after ejecting its payloads.
- **The fourth stage is what remains of the rocket after most of it is discarded** — in three stages — during the flight to reduce weight, after running out of the propellant they carry.
- It demonstrated its **capability to reuse the fourth-stage engines multiple times**, and also showed that the guidance and navigation systems aboard the launch vehicle could be used for much longer times than in earlier missions.

SOURCE: ISRO and Indian Express

- ❖ **PSLV-C46** successfully launches RISAT-2B, a radar imaging earth observation satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

#### PSLV-C46

- The satellite will **beef up India's surveillance capabilities in the sky**.
- PSLV-C46 is the **48th mission of PSLV and the 14th flight in 'core-alone' configuration** (without the use of solid strap-on motors). This is the 72nd launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota and 36th launch from the First Launch pad.
- The application would **help agriculture and forestry** and also support disaster management initiatives.
- They are useful in monitoring movements (**24X7 even in rain and cloud**) such as infiltration or gathering of militants, which will help the armed forces counter such enemy activity in real time.
- **Radar imaging satellites are also used** for crop estimation, because the main kharif crop growing season is in May-September, when it rains and gets cloudy. These satellites deliver data extensively for forestry, soil, land use and geology and are extremely useful during floods and cyclone as well.

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SOURCE: ISRO and Business Standard

### Q. Why Sriharikota is an ideal launchpad?

- It is the **only spaceport in India from where satellites are launched. (Though Thumba is also a spaceport but presently used to launch sounding rockets by ISRO)**
- The Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram is mainly used for launching sounding rockets **for conducting upper atmospheric experiments.** These rockets are small and go off to certain heights, which is less than 100 km; satellites on the other hand are launched into orbit.
- Several factors were taken into consideration while selecting Sriharikota as India's satellite launch pad, **These are:**
  - **Near the sea:** Once a rocket ignites and lifts off, there's not much control over it even if it deviates from its set path or does not follow its trajectory. If such a situation however occurs, a destruct command is given out. This **command destroys or completely disintegrates the rocket and makes it fall into the sea.**
  - **Near to the Equator:** If the **launch location is near to the Equator**, a lot of fuel can be saved. The Equator falls towards the south in India- along with the country also having a 7,500km long coast line- and so several places in the southern region of India could be convenient for setting up a launching centre
  - **Stable geographical platform:** The **landmass available should be solid enough** to withstand the intense vibrations produced during the launch. In Sriharikota soil is strong with hard rock below it.
  - The **French Guiana Space Centre is right across the Equator** and so they save up on fuel, whereas the space centre in **Russia, though in the north, has the advantage of massive deserts.**

SOURCE: Newspapers

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully test fires AKASH MK-1S surface-to-air missile from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ Human Resource Development Ministry launches **Samagra Shiksha scheme** for school education.

### Samagra Shiksha scheme

- The Union Budget, 2018-19, has proposed to treat school education holistically **without segmentation from pre-nursery to Class 12.**

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- It **subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).**
- The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage **in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education.**
- **The main outcomes of the Scheme** are envisaged as Universal Access, Equity and Quality, promoting Vocationalisation of Education and strengthening of Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs).
- The Scheme will be implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** by the Department through a single State Implementation Society (SIS) at the State/UT level.
- The fund sharing pattern for the scheme between **Centre and States is at present in the ratio of 90:10 for the 8 North-Eastern States** viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and 3 Himalayan States viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and **60:40 for all other States and Union Territories with Legislature.**
- It is **100% centrally sponsored for Union Territories without Legislature.**

**SOURCE: MHRD**

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme extended to all farmers in the country, irrespective of the size of their landholding.
- ❖ World's largest multi-purpose lift irrigation project - **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project** – inaugurated in Telangana.

#### Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project

- Till date, the **biggest lift schemes in the world** were the Colorado lift scheme in America and the Great Manmade River in Egypt. The capacities of these schemes are in horsepower and they took over three decades for completion.
- Now, the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project, an Indian lift scheme has become the **world's biggest in terms of capacities.**
- **Lift irrigation is a system through which water is lifted** with the help of mechanical equipment like pumps. It is used to irrigate areas that are located at a higher level than existing water sources.
- **Built across Godavari river.**
- Barrages have been constructed at **Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla, from which water will be moved to fill Yellampalli and Sriram Sagar Projects.** With this, the Godavari will be alive on a 199-km stretch in Telangana.

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- The **Kaleshwaram project** will support **Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha schemes** designed to provide drinking water to many villages and improve the capacities of tanks.
- **The project was originally conceptualised as the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi project.** In accordance with the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) report of October 1975, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh had agreed to share the river's waters for some projects at the appropriate time, one of which was the Pranahita-Chevella project.
- However, later, that project was divided into two parts — Dr B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita Project and Kaleshwaram Project. Also, the location of the latter was changed from Tummidihatti to Medigadda.

**SOURCE: Newspapers and Telangana Government Website**

- ❖ India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV MkIII-M1, successfully launches the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into the earth orbit.
- ❖ **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** for water conservation and water security launched.

#### Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched to accelerate progress on water conservation activities in water stressed districts of India.**
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) is a **time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign.**
- The JSA aims at making water conservation a Jan Andolan **through asset creation and extensive communication.**
- The Government of India **has created the Ministry of Jal Shakti by integrating the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Department of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**, with a goal of integrated water resources management under one umbrella, so that all the issues relating to water are dealt with in a holistic manner.
- **The JSA will run in two Phases: Phase 1** from 1st July to 15th September 2019 for all States and Union Territories;
- **Phase 2** from 1st October to 30th November 2019 for **States and UTs receiving the retreating monsoon** (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu).

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- ❖ **Indicate News taken from India Yearbook 2020**
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- **Intervention Areas:** Water conservation and rainwater harvesting; Renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks; Reuse and recharge structures; Watershed development and Intensive afforestation.

**SOURCE:** Jal SHakti Abhiyaan Website

- ❖ India jumped five places to 52nd position in the 2019 **Global Innovation Index**.

#### Global Innovation Index.

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) **aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation and provide** the tools that can assist in tailoring policies to promote long-term output growth, improved productivity, and job growth.
- The Global Innovation Index 2019 (GII), in **its 12th edition this year**, is **co-published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO, a specialized agency of the United Nations)**.
- **The GII relies on two sub-indices**—the Innovation Input Sub-Index and the Innovation Output Sub-Index—each built around key pillars.
- Five input pillars capture elements of the national economy that enable innovative activities: (1) Institutions, (2) Human capital and research, (3) Infrastructure, (4) Market sophistication, and (5) Business sophistication. Two output pillars capture actual evidence of innovation outputs: (6) Knowledge and technology outputs and (7) Creative outputs.
- Taken into consideration **129 economies in 2019**

**SOURCE:** GII Website

- ❖ Sprinter Dutee Chand becomes the first Indian to win gold in the 100m race at the World University Games held in Naples, Italy.

- ❖ **Floods** wreak havoc in many districts of Bihar and Assam.

#### Flood

- **Flooding is an overflowing of** water onto land that is normally dry. Floods can happen during heavy rains, when ocean waves come on shore, when snow melts quickly, or when dams or levees break.
- Floods are the most common **and widespread of all weather-related natural disasters**.
- **Flash floods are the most dangerous kind of floods**, because they combine the destructive power of a flood with incredible speed.

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- The increase in temperatures that accompanies global warming can contribute to hurricanes that move more slowly and drop more rain, ***funneling moisture into atmospheric rivers.***
- ***Atmospheric rivers are*** relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere – like rivers in the sky – that transport most of the water vapor outside of the tropics.
- Not all floods caused by nature, some are man made too.

**SOURCE: National Geographic and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), USA**

- ❖ Shuttler P. V. Sindhu becomes the first Indian to win gold at Badminton World Federation Championship after defeating Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.
- ❖ Para-badminton player Manasi Joshi created history by securing gold at the BWF Para-Badminton Championships in Basel, Switzerland.
- ❖ Human Resource Development Ministry launched school education portal '**Shagun**'.

### Shagun

- It is a bid to ***enhance the accessibility of information relating to schools and to ensure*** a holistic approach to transform the education sector.
- School Education ***Shagun is an over reaching initiative*** to improve the school education system. The initiative involves creating a junction in the form of a platform for all portals and websites of the Department of School Education in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories (UTs).
- The word '**Shagun**' is coined from two different words – '**Shala**', meaning Schools and '**Gunvatta**' meaning Quality.
- Keeping in tune with the spirit of convergence in policy intervention through introduction of the Samagra Shiksha, the SE Shagun platform ***provides single point access to all portals and websites of the Department.***
- The ***Performance Grading Index (PGI) is an automated system*** which grades the States and UTs on the basis of 70 indicators. Each government school will be graded on the basis of the infrastructure ***facilities through a programme called Shagunotsav.*** The grading will be done annually.

**SOURCE: HRD ministry website and Newspaper**

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- ❖ India became the first country in the world to issue facial biometric cards known as **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document** for seafarers.

### Biometrics

- Biometrics is the **most pertinent means of identifying and authenticating individuals** in a reliable and fast way through the use of unique biological characteristics.
- There are two categories of biometrics:
  - **Physiological measurements: They can be either morphological or biological.** These mainly consist of fingerprints, the shape of the hand, of the finger, vein pattern, the eye (iris and retina), and the shape of the face, for morphological analyses. **For biological analyses,** DNA, blood, saliva, or urine may be used by medical teams and police forensics.
  - **Behavioral Measurement: The most common are** voice recognition, signature dynamics (speed of movement of pen, accelerations, pressure exerted, inclination), keystroke dynamics, the way we use objects, gait, the sound of steps, gestures, etc.
- Physiological measurements are usually offering the benefit of remaining more stable throughout the life of an individual.

**SOURCE: Norton Website**

- ❖ One Nation, One Ration Card scheme implemented on pilot basis in four states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade launches website, mobile app for start-ups to protect their **Intellectual Property Rights**.

### Intellectual Property Rights

- Intellectual property **rights are the rights given to persons over the creations of their minds.** They usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.
- Intellectual property rights are customarily divided into two main areas:
  - **Copyright and rights related to copyright:** The **rights of authors of literary and artistic works** (such as books and other writings, musical compositions, paintings, sculpture, computer programs and films) are protected by copyright, for a minimum period of 50 years after the death of the author.
  - **Industrial property:** One area can be **characterized as the protection of distinctive signs, in particular trademarks** (which distinguish the goods or services of one undertaking from those of other undertakings) **and**

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**geographical indications** (which identify a good as originating in a place where a given characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin).

- **The protection is usually given for a finite term** (typically 20 years in the case of patents).
- A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention – a product or process that provides a new way of doing something, or that offers a new technical solution to a problem.

SOURCE: WIPO and WTO

- ❖ India climbed 14 places to 63rd position among 190 nations in the **World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking**.

World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking.

**The World Bank's Doing Business Report**

- The Doing Business project (**publication of World Bank**) provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement. It provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies on ten parameters affecting a business through its life cycle.
- The DBR ranks countries on the basis of **Distance to Frontier (DTF)**, a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice. This year, India's DTF score improved to 71.0 from 67.23 in the previous year.
- The first Doing Business study, published in 2003, covered 5 indicator sets and 133 economies. **This year's study covers 12 indicator** sets and 190 economies.

SOURCE: World Bank and PIB

- ❖ Mumbai and Hyderabad became members of UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the fields of film and gastronomy.
- ❖ The Parliament passes a bill to merge Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli – two separate UTs presently. The new union territory is to be called Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- ❖ Prepaid rechargeable tags for toll collection - **FASTags** - made mandatory for all vehicles.

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### Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology used in FASTags

- **RFID is an acronym for “radio-frequency identification”** and refers to a technology whereby **digital data encoded in RFID tags or smart label** are **captured by a reader via radio waves**.
- **RFID is similar to barcoding in that data from a tag or label are captured by a device that stores the data in a database.**
- RFID, however, **has several advantages over systems that use barcode** asset tracking software. The **most notable is that RFID** tag data can be read outside the line-of-sight, whereas barcodes must be aligned with an optical scanner.
- **RFID belongs to a group of technologies referred to as Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC).**
- **AIDC methods automatically identify objects, collect data about them, and enter those data directly into computer systems** with little or no human intervention.
- **RFID methods utilize radio waves** to accomplish this.
- At a simple level, **RFID systems consist of three components: an RFID tag or smart label, an RFID reader, and an antenna.**
- RFID tags contain an integrated circuit and an antenna, which are used to **transmit data** to the RFID reader (also called an interrogator). The reader then **converts the radio waves** to a more usable form of data. Information collected from the tags is **then transferred** through a communications interface to a host computer system, where the data can be stored in a database and analyzed at a later time.
  - **It can perform several tasks like:**
    - Inventory management
    - Asset tracking
    - Personnel tracking
    - Controlling access to restricted areas
    - ID Badging
    - Supply chain management
    - Counterfeit prevention (e.g. in the pharmaceutical industry)
- **RFID offers many advantages over the barcode**, particularly the fact that an RFID tag can hold much more data about an item than a barcode can. In addition, RFID tags are not susceptible to the damages that may be incurred by barcode labels, like ripping and smearing.
- **RFID tags are not sensors.** Tags only store information that’s been put in them. They don’t sense any physical parameters such as temperature or moisture.
- **The FASTag is an electronic toll collection system that employs Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) technology.**

**SOURCE: Commercial website of USA AB&R, Indian Express and other newspapers.**

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# MCQ CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM INDIA YEARBOOK-2020

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Q1. Consider the following statements in the context of reservation provided to Economically weaker section of the society

1. The constitution (102nd Amendment Act), 2019 made the provision for reservation in the constitution
2. The Act amended Article 15 to enable the government to take special measures.
3. The act is in consonance with article 46 of the constitution.

Which among following statements are correct?

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

Q2. *Womaniya* on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative launched by government to enable women entrepreneurs to sell items online. Consider the following statement in this regard

1. The initiative reserve 3 percent in government procurement from women entrepreneurs.
2. *Womaniya* on GeM will spur hyper-local economic opportunities for women and will address Goal 5 of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Government e-Market (GeM) place set up in 2016.

1. Government e Marketplace is a 100 percent government owned company setup under the aegis of Ministry of Finance
2. GeM is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place

Which among the following statement(s) is/are ***not correct***

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

Q4. Indian ports are divided into major and non-major. Consider the following statements in this context

1. Classification of Major and non-major ports have a major association with traffic volumes.
2. ***Under Project Unnati***, the global benchmarks were adopted to improve the efficiency and productivity for 12 major ports.
3. Major ports and Minor ports comes under the jurisdiction of central government and state government respectively.

Which among following statements are correct?

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

Q5. Which among the following port becomes the only Indian port to be listed among world's top 30 container ports.

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- B. Kolkata port
- C. Ennore Port
- D. Chennai port

## Q6. Consider the following statements regarding Gandhi Peace Prize

1. Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India, invites nominations of persons/organizations.
2. Yohei Sasakawa has been honoured in 2018 for his role in leprosy eradication.
3. The jury of the prize is headed by President.

Which among following statement(s) is/are correct?

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

## Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN)

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to augment the income of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)
2. SMFs landholder farmer family is defined as “a family comprising of husband, wife and minor children who collectively own cultivable land upto 1 hectare”

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (**KUSUM**) unveiled in Budget 2018-19.

1. It was launched with the objective of providing financial security to farmers.
2. The scheme aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2024.
3. The Indian farmer will effectively bear only 20 percent of cost for solarising his agricultural pump under the scheme

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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

Q9. Tribal Affairs Ministry launches Van Dhan scheme for Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest produce and development of value chain. Consider the following statements in this regard

1. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) means timber and non-timber forest produce of plant origin
2. PESA, 1996 and Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 conferred ownership of MFP to forest dwellers.

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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



Q10. Which among the following is India's first anti-satellite missile test destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space.

- A. Mission Shakti
- B. Mission Parakaram
- C. Mission Rudra
- D. Mission Prahari

# MCQ WITH ANSWERS OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM INDIA YEARBOOK-2020

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1. The constitution (102nd Amendment Act), 2019 made the provision for reservation in the constitution
2. The Act amended Article 15 to enable the government to take special measures.
3. The act is in consonance with article 46 of the constitution.

Which among following statements are correct?

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

## Answer. B)

The Constitution (103rd Amendment Act), 2019 providing ten per cent reservation in government jobs and education to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the general category comes into force.

Whether or not to provide reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society for appointment in State Government jobs and for admission to State Government educational institutions, as per provisions of the newly inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) of the constitution, is to be decided by the concerned State Government.

The bill for the act stated that it is drafted with a will to mandate article 46 of the constitution, DPSP

Q2. *Womaniya* on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative launched by government to enable women entrepreneurs to sell items online. Consider the following statement in this regard

1. The initiative reserve 3 percent in government procurement from women entrepreneurs.
2. *Womaniya* on GeM will spur hyper-local economic opportunities for women and will address Goal 5 of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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

Answer. C)

**The initiative aligns with Government's initiatives for MSMEs, especially to reserve 3 percent in government procurement from women entrepreneurs.**

**Womaniya on GeM will spur hyper-local economic opportunities for women entrepreneurs and address goals and objectives under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Government e-Market (GeM) place set up in 2016.

1. Government e Marketplace is a 100 percent government owned company setup under the aegis of Ministry of Finance
2. GeM is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place

Which among the following statement(s) is/are ***not correct***

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



Answer. A)

Government e Marketplace is a **100 percent government owned company** setup under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry for procurement of common use goods and services by Government ministries, departments and CPSEs.

**GeM is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place** that enables procurement of common use goods and services with minimal human interface.

Q4. Indian ports are divided into major and non-major. Consider the following statements in this context

1. Classification of Major and non-major ports have a major association with traffic volumes.
2. ***Under Project Unnati***, the global benchmarks were adopted to improve the efficiency and productivity for 12 major ports.
3. Major ports and Minor ports comes under the jurisdiction of central government and state government respectively.

Which among following statements are correct?

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

Answer. B)

India has 12 major ports and approximately 200 non-major ports ***administered by Central and State Governments respectively.***

Major and non-major ports ***do not have a strict association with traffic volumes.*** The classification has more of an administrative significance

***Major ports are under the jurisdiction of the Government of India*** and are governed by the Major Port Trusts Act 1963, ***except Ennore port,*** which is administered under the Companies Act 1956 because it is a corporatised one under the same Ministry.

***Non-major ports come under the jurisdiction*** of the respective state Governments' Maritime Boards (GMB).

Q5. Which among the following port becomes the only Indian port to be listed among world's top 30 container ports.

**A. Jawaharlal Nehru Port**

B. Kolkata port

C. Ennore Port

D. Chennai port

Answer. A)

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust becomes the only Indian port to be listed among world's top 30 container ports.

It is a direct news item given in India Year Book

## Q6. Consider the following statements regarding Gandhi Peace Prize

1. Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India, invites nominations of persons/organizations.
2. Yohei Sasakawa has been honoured in 2018 for his role in leprosy eradication.
3. The jury of the prize is headed by President.

Which among following statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer. B)

***Ministry of Culture, Government of India, invites nominations of persons/organizations.***

The jury of the prize is ***headed by Prime Minister.***

## Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN)

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to augment the income of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)
2. SMFs landholder farmer family is defined as “a family comprising of husband, wife and minor children who collectively own cultivable land upto 1 hectare”

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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



Answer. D)

With a view ***to augment the income of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)***, the Government has launched a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

The SMFs landholder farmer family is ***defined as “a family comprising of husband, wife and minor children who collectively own cultivable land upto 2 hectare as per land records of the concerned State/UT”***.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (**KUSUM**) unveiled in Budget 2018-19.

1. It was launched with the objective of providing financial security to farmers.
2. The scheme aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2024.
3. The Indian farmer will effectively bear only 20 percent of cost for solarising his agricultural pump under the scheme

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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

Answer. A)

Launch of Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan was ***with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers.***

The scheme ***aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.***

The Indian farmer will effectively bear ***only 10 percent of cost for solarising his*** agricultural pump under a scheme unveiled in the Budget 2018-19.

Q9. Tribal Affairs Ministry launches Van Dhan scheme for Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest produce and development of value chain. Consider the following statements in this regard

1. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) means timber and non-timber forest produce of plant origin
2. PESA, 1996 and Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 conferred ownership of MFP to forest dwellers.

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct

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

Answer. B)

An important source of livelihoods for tribal people are non-wood forest products, generally termed '**Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**' means all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and will include bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, Honey, Lac, Tusser etc.

Q10. Which among the following is India's first anti-satellite missile test destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space.

- A. Mission Shakti**
- B. Mission Parakaram
- C. Mission Rudra
- D. Mission Prahari

Answer. A)

India conducts its first anti-satellite missile test 'Mission Shakti' from Dr.

APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha successfully destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space.

***This was a technological mission carried out by DRDO.*** DRDO's ballistic missile defence interceptor was used. ***India used Kinetic Kill, a space technology*** in which India has developed capability.

The significance of the test is that India has tested and successfully demonstrated its capability to interdict and intercept a satellite in outer space based on ***complete indigenous technology.***

# MCQ (Q.No.11-20)OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM INDIA YEARBOOK-2020

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Q11. Recently Government of India launched SHREYAS scheme. This initiative comes under which ministry

1. Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
3. Ministry of Labour & Employment

Select the correct combination

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

Q12. Poly carbonate as a material is being used by government to issue common smart card for driving licenses and registration certificates. This material is used for which other purposes?

1. Bullet-proof glass
2. Baby feeding bottles
3. Nano-medicine
4. Blu-ray Discs

Choose the correct options

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

## Q13. Consider the following statements regarding Lokpal

1. Salaries, allowances and service conditions of the Lokpal chairperson will be the same as those for the Chief Justice of India.
2. The Prime Minister has been brought under the purview of the Lokpal.
3. A member of any panchayat or municipality cannot be a member of Lokpal.

Choose the correct option

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

## Q14. Consider the following statements regarding Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

1. PSLV is used to launch various satellites into Geosynchronous and Geostationary orbits
2. PSLV-C46 is the 50th mission of PSLV and the latest one

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q15. Consider the following statements regarding *Vikas Engine*

- A. This engine was developed by DRDO in collaboration with Indian Railways, which is used in high speed trains like Vande Bharat Express and Gatiman Express.
- B. An Earth storable liquid rocket engine developed by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- C. This is name given to Bharat stage VI engine being developed to reduce pollution from automobiles.
- D. None of the above

Q16. Which among the following reasons can be identified with Sriharikota as an ideal launchpad?

1. It is located near to the equator which help to save a lot of fuel in operation.
2. The landmass available is solid enough to withstand intense vibration produced during the launch.
3. It is possible to make rocket easily fall into the sea if it deviates, resulting in saving human lives.

Which among the following statements are correct?

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

Q17. Recently Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully test fires AKASH MK-1S. Akash is

- A. Surface to Surface missile
- B. Surface to Air missile
- C. Air to Air missile
- D. Air to surface missile

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding *Samagra Shiksha scheme* launched by Human Resource Development Ministry recently

1. The scheme removed any segmentation from pre-nursery to class 12
2. It subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
3. This scheme is a central sector scheme

Which of the following statements are correct

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



Q19. Recently, World's largest multi-purpose lift irrigation project - *Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project* is inaugurated in which state?

1. Telangana
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Odisha
4. Tamil Nadu

Q20. The Global Innovation Index (GII) is co-published by Cornell University, INSEAD and which among the following organisation

- A. World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- B. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- C. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- D. International Association of Innovation Professionals (IAOIP)

# MCQ WITH ANSWERS (Q.No.11-20) OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM INDIA YEARBOOK-2020

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4. Blu-ray Discs

Choose the correct options

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

## Q13. Consider the following statements regarding Lokpal

1. Salaries, allowances and service conditions of the Lokpal chairperson will be the same as those for the Chief Justice of India.
2. The Prime Minister has been brought under the purview of the Lokpal.
3. A member of any panchayat or municipality cannot be a member of Lokpal.

Choose the correct option

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

## Q14. Consider the following statements regarding Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

1. PSLV is used to launch various satellites into Geosynchronous and Geostationary orbits
2. PSLV-C46 is the 50th mission of PSLV and the latest one

Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q15. Consider the following statements regarding *Vikas Engine*

A. This engine was developed by DRDO in collaboration with Indian Railways, which is used in high speed trains like Vande Bharat Express and Gatiman Express.

**B. An Earth storable liquid rocket engine developed by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.**

C. This is name given to Bharat stage VI engine being developed to reduce pollution from automobiles.

D. None of the above



Q16. Which among the following reasons can be identified with Sriharikota as an ideal launchpad?

1. It is located near to the equator which help to save a lot of fuel in operation.
2. The landmass available is solid enough to withstand intense vibration produced during the launch.
3. It is possible to make rocket easily fall into the sea if it deviates, resulting in saving human lives.

Which among the following statements are correct?

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

Q17. Recently Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully test fires AKASH MK-1S. Akash is

A. Surface to Surface missile

**B. Surface to Air missile**

C. Air to Air missile

D. Air to surface missile

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding *Samagra Shiksha scheme* launched by Human Resource Development Ministry recently

1. The scheme removed any segmentation from pre-nursery to class 12
2. It subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
3. This scheme is a central sector scheme

Which of the following statements are correct

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

Q19. Recently, World's largest multi-purpose lift irrigation project - *Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project* is inaugurated in which state?

**1. Telangana**

2. Andhra Pradesh

3. Odisha

4. Tamil Nadu

Q20. The Global Innovation Index (GII) is co-published by Cornell University, INSEAD and which among the following organisation

- A. World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- B. **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**
- C. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- D. International Association of Innovation Professionals (IAOIP)

EXPLANATION:

**FOR EXPLANATION PLEASE REFER SUMMARY OF  
CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM INDIA YEARBOOK 2020  
PREPARED BY UPSCBASICFUNDA TEAM**

**IN Q.NO 18- MIND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME AND CENTRAL SPONSORED  
SCHEME.**

**WE ALREADY EXPLAINED THIS DIFFERENCE IN OUR PIB  
AND AIR NEWS SUMMARY PROVIDED DATE WISE.**