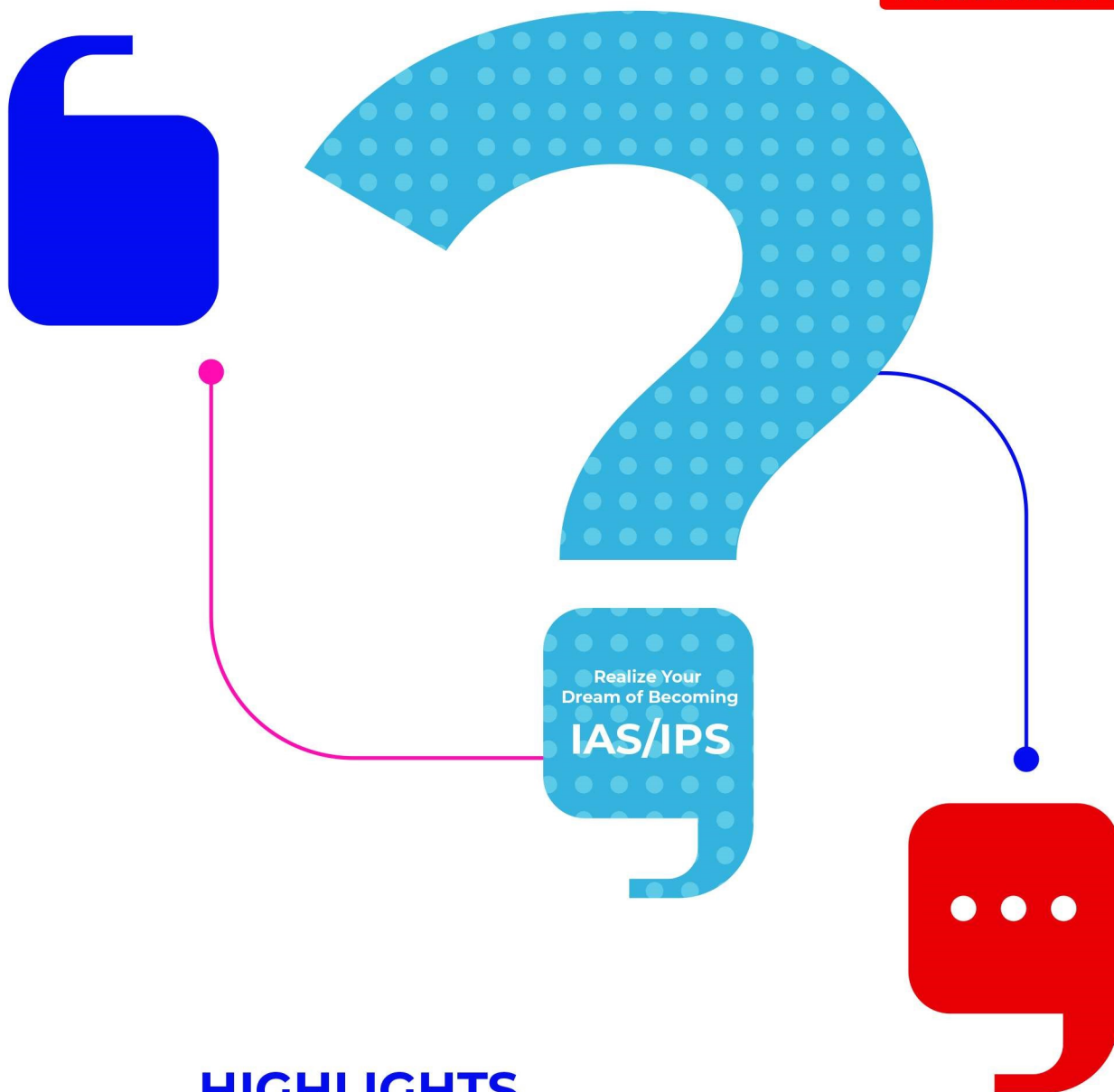


**NOVEMBER 2020**



## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**UPSC Prelims GS-1 Practice Paper-2**

**UPSC Mains GS Practice Paper-35**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO****T.B.C.: P-PFC-L-AKAK****20****TEST BOOKLET SERIES****Serial No. 145333****TEST BOOKLET****E****GENERAL STUDIES (PAPER – I)****Time Allowed: Two Hours****Maximum Marks: 200****INSTRUCTIONS**

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES A, B, C OR D AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **DO NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This test Booklet contains **100** items (questions). Each item is printed both in Hindi and English. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should handover to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. **USE ONLY BALL BLACK OR BLUE PEN TO MARK IN THE ANSWER SHEET.**
10. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
11. **Penalty for wrong answers:**  
THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.
  - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third (0.333)** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
  - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
  - (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO**



1. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Finance Commission'?

1. The Constitution of India provides for the constitution of 'Finance Commission by the Union Cabinet every fifth year or at such earlier time as the government may consider necessary.
2. The recommendations of the Finance Commission are binding in nature.
3. Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial body.

Select the correct codes from below –

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

2. Which of the following area/region is called as the 'Saffron Bowl of India'?

- a) Sikkim              b) Himachal Pradesh  
c) Jammu & Kashmir d) UT of Ladakh

3. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'saffron' production in India?

1. India is self-reliant in the production of saffron with more than 100 tons of production each year and 7 tons of domestic demand.
2. Saffron is only produced in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with major focus on the Pampore region.

Select the correct codes from below –

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

4. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Other Service Providers' in terms of India's service industry?

1. Other Service Providers (OSPs) provide secondary or tertiary services such as telemarketing, telbanking or telemedicine for various companies, banks or hospital chains, respectively.
2. Recently, the Department of Telecom has introduced stringent regulations to prevent misuse of OSPs against the national security interests of India, after conducting the Telecom Security Audit.

Select the correct codes from below –

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

5. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Energy Conservation Act, 2001'?

1. It empowers the Central Government to specify energy consumption standards for notified equipment and appliances.
2. It also empowers the State Governments to direct any designated consumer to get energy audit conducted by an accredited energy auditor in such a manner and at such intervals of time as may be specified.
3. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency is established as a statutory authority under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Select the correct codes from below –

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

6. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Shanghai Cooperation Organisation'?

1. It was founded in the year 1996 and was initially known as 'Shanghai Five'.
2. It was essentially formed as a regional security organisation with a particular focus on 'conflict resolution'.
3. The establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order is one of the main objectives of the SCO.

Select the correct codes from below –

- a) 1 and 2 only      b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 only              d) None of the above

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

1. While India enjoyed an observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation since the 2005, Pakistan joined the SCO directly as a full member along with India in the year 2015.
2. Due to the conflict at the borders after the Balakot strike in February 2019, Pakistan decided to boycott the SCO Council meeting in the year 2019.

Select the correct codes from below –

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

8. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?
1. 'Study in India' programme was launched in the year 2015 by the Ministry of Education (then the Ministry of Human Resources Development) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.
  2. It targets all the countries of the world to attract foreign students in India thereby increasing India's market share of global education exports.
- Select the correct codes from below -
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Competition Commission of India'?
1. It is an executive body formed by the President of India on the recommendation of Union Cabinet in the year 2003.
  2. It prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant positions by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A).
  3. It can also give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law.
- Select the correct codes from below -
- a) 1 and 2 only
  - b) 2 and 3 only
  - c) 1 and 3 only
  - d) All of the above
10. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Competition Commission of India'?
1. It consists of a Chairperson and not more than 10 members appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal.
  2. The Commission is entrusted with the enforcement of the Competition Act, 2002.
- Select the correct codes from below -
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
11. Consider the following statements about the Academic Freedom Index (AFI)?
1. The AFI is published by the Global Public Policy Institute.
  2. Australia and Brazil are the top performers in the index.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
12. With reference to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), consider the following statements:
1. The Indian government has a 100% stake in NIIF.
  2. Strategic Opportunities Fund is one of its components.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
13. With reference to the Hyperloop Transportation System, consider the following statements:
1. In this system a pod-like vehicle is propelled through a near-vacuum tube.
  2. The low air pressure allows the pod to travel substantially free of air friction.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
14. With reference to First Committee of UN General Assembly, consider the following statements:
1. The First Committee of the UN General Assembly deals with the Disarmament and International security.
  2. India's resolution on 'Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction' failed as parties could not reach a consensus.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
15. With reference to E-YUVA Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It aims to promote a culture of applied research.
  2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Education.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 and 2
16. Consider the following statements about Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs):
1. In the Milky Way, the Fast Radio Burst was spotted for the first time in 2007.
  2. In the recently spotted FRB, the radio component was detected by NASA's Wind Mission.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2

17. Consider the following statements:

1. The Kepler mission was launched by European Space Agency (ESA).
2. Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is the new planet exploration satellite of NASA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Which of the following Protected Areas is/are not located in Arunachal Pradesh?

1. Talle Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Orang National Park
3. Mouling National Park.
4. Sessa Orchid Sanctuary

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

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

19. Consider the following statements:

1. It was in Kartarpur where the foundations of Sikhism was laid.
2. The Kartarpur corridor connects the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in India with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only                      b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2            d) Neither 1 and 2

20. With reference to National Payments Corporation of India, consider the following statements:

1. It manages all retail payments systems in India.
2. Indian Banks' Association (IBA) provides the guidance and support to NCPI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme'?

1. The scheme originally intended to promote the large scale manufacturing of electronics with 4% to 6% incentives on incremental sales (over base year).
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

22. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Viability Gap Funding' scheme for PPP in India?

1. It aims to grant support to projects which are economically justified but financially unviable.
2. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Road Transports and Highways.
3. A grant under VGF is provided as a capital subsidy to attract the private sector players to participate in PPP projects.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

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

1. Section 294 of the IPC lays down the punishment for obscene acts or words in public.
2. The term 'obscenity' is not defined in Section 294 of the IPC.
3. There is no objective mechanism to define 'obscenity', hence, a subjective test is used to look at the cases related to obscenity.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

24. Recently, a lady, also is known as the 'mother of feminism'?

- a) Kate Millett  
b) Simone de Beauvoir  
c) Mary Wollstonecraft  
d) None of the above

25. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'OTT Platforms in India'?

1. OTT platforms are audio and video hosting and streaming services which started out as content hosting platforms but later ventured into production and release of short movies, feature films, documentaries and web-series themselves.
2. These OTT platforms were not regulated by any government body until the recent announcement of their regulation by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Select the correct codes from below -

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



26. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'contempt of court'?

1. The contempt of court in any sense whatsoever is treated as criminal in nature.
2. Before starting the proceedings of the 'contempt of court', the consent of Attorney General of India has to be mandatorily obtained.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

27. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'contempt of court'?

1. Criminal contempt of court is defined as the wilful disobedience to any judgement, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
2. Civil contempt of court is defined as the publication of any matter that scandalises, interferes and/or obstructs the administration of justice in any manner.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

28. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about 'INS Kalavari' class of attack submarine?

1. They are built under Project 75 and is based on the design of Scorpene class of the submarines.
2. With the recent launch of INS Vagir, all the six Kalvari-class submarines have been launched with five of them commissioned in the Indian Navy.
3. They are capable of operating a wide range of naval combat including anti-warship and anti-submarine operations, intelligence gathering and surveillance and naval mine laying.

Select the correct codes from below -

- a) 1 and 2 only              b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only              d) None of the above

29. Recently, a first unique maritime cluster was launched in India. It is located in -

- a) Tamil Nadu  
b) Goa  
c) Maharashtra  
d) Gujarat

30. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about 'Swami Vivekananda ji'?

1. He gave the philosophy of 'Vedanta' which aimed to enquire about 'Brahman' (ultimate reality) which was the central concept of Upanishads.
2. In his later years of life, he joined the Brahmo Samaj movement due to the influence of his western education.
3. He believed in selflessness in consciously trying to serve the larger humanity based upon the Karma Marga of the Bhagvad Gita.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

31. Consider the following statements regarding the asteroid 16 Psyche:

1. It orbits in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
2. It is a metallic asteroid comprised mostly of metallic iron and nickel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. The Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) is mostly associated with which profession?

- a) Astronauts                  b) Contact sports  
c) Radio operators          d) Sanitation workers

33. Consider the following statements regarding Visceral Leishmaniasis:

1. It is caused by protozoan parasites.
2. It is never a fatal disease and may remain undetected in asymptomatic person throughout lifespan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. The Mansar Lake is located in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Himachal Pradesh      b) Ladakh  
c) Manipur                      d) Jammu and Kashmir

35. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Kaziranga National Park?

1. The Brahmaputra River flows north of the park.
2. Kaziranga National Park is prescribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

36. Which of the following subject(s) is/are not under the purview of Goods and Services Tax in India?

1. Alcohol for human consumptions
2. Petroleum Products
3. Electricity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding the Competition Commission of India (CCI):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Commission functions as a market regulator by preventing and regulating anticompetitive practices in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements regarding the GST e-Invoice System:

1. Presently, Invoice Reference Number (IRN) can be generated only by tax payers whose turnover is more than Rs. 500 Crores.
2. Invoice Reference Number (IRN).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. Consider the following statements regarding the Base Effect?

1. It can result from abnormally high or low levels of inflation in a period.
2. It is the result of a consistent and constant growth in an economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following statements regarding GST collection trend in current Financial Year [2020-21]:

1. The monthly GST collection has consistently been below one lakh core rupees.
2. The GST collection has not crossed the previous year's monthly collection in any of the month so far.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Which of the following pollutants is/are monitored under the National Air Quality Index?

1. SO<sub>2</sub>
2. NO<sub>2</sub>
3. NH<sub>3</sub>

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

42. Consider the following statements regarding the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL):

1. The ISRO chairperson is the ex-officio chairman of the NSIL.
2. NSIL will be the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following statements regarding The Code On Social Security, 2020:

1. It defines 'platform work' as a work arrangement within the traditional employeremployee relationship in which individuals use an online platform.
2. It provides for a social security funds for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

44. Consider the following statements regarding the AYUSH Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB):

1. It is being set up by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Invest India.
2. The bureau will act as drug regulator for AYUSH sector in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Which of the following statement is correct regarding the recently concluded VAIBHAV Summit?

- a) It aimed to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation
- b) It was a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians
- c) It proposed a model for equitable distribution of COVID-9 vaccines
- d) It was an intergovernmental summit of International Solar Alliance members

46. What was the objective of the Indian Navy's Mission Sagar in past few months?

- a) Providing food aid and medicines to countries in Indian Ocean
- b) Strategic deployment of destroyers at Strait of Malacca
- c) Bilateral exercises with countries in South China Sea
- d) Naval deployment for anti-piracy operations

47. Consider the following statements regarding Aero India:

- 1. It is an aerospace and defence industries exhibition organised every year.
- 2. Foreign exhibitors are not allowed at the Aero India exhibition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Consider the following statements regarding the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):

- 1. It provides fully guaranteed and collateral free credit to borrowers.
- 2. The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) borrowers are also covered under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. Which of the following initiatives have been proposed in the National Education Policy 2020?

- 1. National Research Foundation (NRF)
- 2. A Vedic Education Board
- 3. National Assessment Centre (PARAKH)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

50. Which of the following institution is organizing the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
- c) National Informatics Centre
- d) Invest India

51. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India's renewable energy target is 650 GW by 2030 and to take its gas refining capacity to 600 MMT pa by 2025.
- 2. The theme of 2020's Fourth India Energy Forum was "India's Energy Future in a world of Change".

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

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

52. With reference to the NASA's exploration of asteroid Bennu, consider the following statements:

- 1. Study of asteroid Bennu can help to understand the beginning of life processes in a celestial body.
- 2. Asteroid Bennu got its name from a third grade school kid.
- 3. OSIRIS-REx mission is related to asteroid mining for commercial usage and attempts to explore asteroids mineral resources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. With reference to the ship recycling in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Directorate General of Shipping is renamed as National Authority for Recycling of Ships.
- 2. India is currently not the signatory of Hong Kong Convention of IMO. Though India's existing Shipbreaking Code (revised), 2013 are being reformed to ratify this convention.
- 3. Asia is the largest ship-recycling place, where India leads the ship-recycling industry closely followed by Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



54. With reference to the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, consider the following statements:

1. Jammu and Kashmir didn't have Panchayati Raj system in "pre-370 period". But now it'll have three tier system.
2. There will be no limitation to the powers of MLAs in interfering with local bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Bundi Architecture':

1. Bundi is also known as City of stepwalls Green city and also as Chhotti Kashi.
2. Kund and Chhatri are the features of Bundi Architecture.
3. Temples constructed in early phase of Bundi's growth were classical Nagara style.

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

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

56. With reference to the World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:

1. World Food Prize, 2020 has been awarded to WFP for combating hunger.
2. WFP is one of the major UN institutions which are working to meet SDG-6 (zero hunger by 2030).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. Consider the following statements:

1. Oruc Reis is the name of a ship belonging to Greece which is meant to conduct seismic surveys in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Oruc Reis is the only Turkish ship to conduct surveys in the contested waters which are contested between Turkey and Greece.

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

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

58. With reference to the India-Maldives relations, consider the following statements:

1. Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) will be one of the largest projects in the island nation undertaken by India for which USD400 million Line of Credit (LoC) has been given.
2. GMCP is the first infrastructure project being carried out by India in Maldives.
3. Maldives, like India is also a founding member of SAARC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

59. Consider the following statements:

1. India is also a member of Codex Alimentarius Commission.
2. World Food Day is celebrated across the globe to commemorate the founding of FAO.
3. Food Code issue by Codex Alimentarius Commission is mandatory for its signatories and is binding in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only              b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only              d) None of the Above

60. With reference to the Kamdhenu Deepavali Campaign, consider the following statements:

1. Kamdhenu Deepavali Campaign will be implemented by Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)
2. Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) will promote dhoop, diyas, candles, agarbatti, idols etc made of cow dung under Kamdhenu Deepavali Campaign

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

61. Consider the following statements with reference to the Time Use Survey (TUS):

1. As per the survey there is a marginal difference between male and female employment in the country in terms of paid labour.
2. It is an important source of information about the activities that are performed by the population and the time duration for which such activities are performed.
3. Overall, 53.2 per cent of participants in the survey were engaged in unpaid domestic services for household members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**62. Consider the following statements with reference to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Electronic Manufacturers:**

1. Under this scheme the eligible companies will get financial incentives of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of manufactured goods.
2. This scheme is meant for the companies who are registered in India and their production for Indian markets is also being done in India.
3. This scheme is applicable to all kinds of mobile phones above Rs. 10,000 in terms of their invoice value.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the Above

**63. Consider the following statements:**

1. Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) – 2020 has removed the clause for offsets for all defence contracts.
2. DAP 2020, has provided for time bound procurement and has given categories of procurements with mandatory purchase of Indian made components.

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

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

**64. With reference to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, consider the following statements:**

1. It mandates that 70% of the affected landowners should consent to the acquisition of land for a publicprivate participation project and 80% for private projects.
2. If a developer fails to take the possession of the acquired land then, he is subjected to hefty penalty and acquired land will be pooled into land bank.

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

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

**65. Recently, Maharashtra government has notified the Forest Right Act, 2006. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Forest Rights Act provides rights to tribals on forest resource and land.
2. After the notification, a tribal person whose individual or community forest rights have been rejected by district-level committees constituted under special Act could appeal against the decision.

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

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

**66. Consider the following statements with reference to the recent order by FSSAI to mention 'best before date' on Sweets:**

1. From October 1, 2020 it's compulsory for sweet sellers to display the "Best Before Date" on the container or tray of non-packaged or loose sweets.
2. Also it is mandatory to mention the date of making on the sweets.
3. No mixture of any other edible oil to mustard oil.

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

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

**67. Consider the following statements with reference to HCNG in India:**

1. HCNG is more efficient and less polluting than CNG.
2. Compact Reforming Process, directly produces a hydrogen-CNG mixture from natural gas, using a single step.
3. HCNG trials will be expanded to cars and autos along with the trials in buses in Delhi.

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

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

**68. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Group of 4 (G4) comprises Israel, Germany, India, and Japan.
2. G4 is a part of a larger group called Intergovernmental Negotiations framework (IGN).

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

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

**69. Consider the following statements with reference to media regulation in India :-**

1. News Broadcasters Association (NBA) is a statutory but a self-regulatory body which issues guidelines and punishes the news channels which do not follow those guidelines.
2. NBA is a media self-regulatory body which issues guidelines, but they are not binding in nature, additionally they are applicable to members only.
3. In a recent case, NBA has requested the Supreme Court to grant it statutory status so that its "Code of Conducts" are binding on all the news channels.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None of the Above

**70. Consider the following statements:**

1. Due to the shortage in GST collection and compensation to the states, the central government has increased the borrowing limits for the states from 5% to 8%.
2. One of the conditions for the limit increase is implementation of 'One Nation-One Ration Card'.
3. Under One Nation -One Ration card scheme the subsidized food grains are distributed and the ration cards will have nation-wide portability.

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

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

**71. With reference to the clause of 'Act of God' cited by Finance Minister for COVID-19, consider the following statements:**

1. Act of God is basically another term for 'Force Majeure Clause (FMC)', where something unexpected happens and can derails a legal commitment.
2. Act of God clause is mostly used by private business or commercial institutions.

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

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

**72. Consider the following statements:**

1. Greece - Turkey dispute is over naval exercises being held in eastern Mediterranean sea near Cyprus.
2. Both countries are part of the 30-member NATO alliance.
3. NATO is a military alliance established on April 4, 1949.

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

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

**73. Consider the following statements:**

1. The theory of 'General Relativity' states that, massive objects cause distortion in space-time, which is felt as gravity
2. Recently LIGO and Virgo discovered gravitational waves from a binary black hole merger which upheld the theory of 'General Relativity'.
3. LIGO and Virgo studied the black holes where the merger was led by the black holes of equal masses.

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

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

**74. Consider the following statements with reference to the COVID-19 spread amongst 'Great Andamanese' tribe:**

1. Anthropologically, Great Andamanese are a part of the Negrito tribes.
2. Great Andamanese has been given the "Scheduled Tribe", status to protect their distinct language, culture and society.
3. Great Andamanese contracted COVID-19, as the ones who visit other cities within Andamans and are in contact with the outer world.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the Above

**75. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Indian economy saw its worst contraction in decades, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrinking by a record 23.9% in the April to June quarter 2020.
2. Agriculture was the only sector which recorded modest growth of 3.4% in year on year terms.

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

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

**76. With reference to the reforms in Qatar's labour laws, consider the following statements:**

1. After Saudi Arabia and UAE, Qatar is the third country to abolish 'Kafala sponsorship system' to ease working for migrant labour in Arab world.
2. Qatar has also increased the minimum wage by 25 per cent to \$300 (1100 Qatari Riyals).

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

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

**77. Consider the following statements with reference to one time loan restructuring scheme by RBI :**

1. One time loan restructuring scheme by RBI is basically for those whose loan is between 500 to 1,000 crores.
2. The Kamath committee noted that 72% of the banking sector debt to industry effectively means (Rs 37.72 crore) remains under stress.

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

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

**78. With reference to the Indian Brain Templates, consider the following statements:**

1. Recently developed Indian Brain Templates is based on Montreal Neurological Index (MNI).
2. The MNI template that we currently use is based on Caucasian brains and Asian brains.

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

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

**79. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Five Star Village Scheme':**

1. It has been launched jointly by NITI Aayog and India Post Payment Bank.
2. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and financial inclusion services, especially in interior villages

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

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

**80. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Union Territory of J&K is the first UT to have its grievance redressal mechanism to be integrated to national grievance mechanism.
2. Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS) will have District Collectors and Deputy Commissioners as nodal officers.

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

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

**81. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Tick Borne Virus':**

1. The disease caused by the tick-borne virus is called Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (SFTS).
2. Ticks are micro-organisms which infect the cellular structure of cytokines and thus disable the detection of antigens by immune system.

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

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

**82. With reference to the demand of Sixth Schedule for Arunachal Pradesh, consider the following statements:**

1. The frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh borders Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar is under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. Sixth Schedule allows constitution of Autonomous District Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram to safeguard the rights of tribal population.
3. The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.

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

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

**83. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Digital Quality of Life Index 2020':**

1. India's overall rank in the index is low at 57 out of 85 nations.
2. While, in terms of e-government, India occupied 15th place globally.

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

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

**84. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'National Recruitment Agency':**

1. National Recruitment Agency will organize a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to shortlist candidates for all government posts.
2. The CET score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result.
3. NRA will subsume the functions of SSC, IBPS and RRB and these organisations will be abolished.

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

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

**85. With reference to the Bhadbhut project consider the following statements:**

1. Bhadbhut project is a part of the larger Kalpasar Project, which entails construction of a 30-km dam across the Gulf of Khambhat.
2. The project majorly aims to prevent flooding and salinity ingress.
3. The project is expected to interfere with the migration and breeding cycle of hilsa fish.

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

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

**86. Consider the following statements:**

1. The government has set targets of 10 per cent bioethanol blending of petrol by 2022 and to raise it to 20 per cent by 2030.
2. Ethanol is a carbon compound whose lower calorific values and hydrogen content makes it an ideal fuel since it can burn completely and leaves fewer residues.
3. India's biofuel policy has allowed the use of sugarcane juice in ethanol production, in addition to molasses.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only      b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only      d) None of the Above

**87. Consider the following statements:**

1. Currently, the Indian law prescribes a minimum age of marriage is 21 years for men and 18 years for women.
2. The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority which is gender-neutral.

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

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

**88. Consider the following statements:**

1. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a host of factors like weak dollar, low-interest rates and stimulus programmes have increased the appetite for gold.
2. Gold prices in India are dictated by Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

**89. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Business Responsibility Report':**

1. It has been released by Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog.
2. It recommended a new reporting framework called as the 'Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)'.
3. The committee also recommended that the BRSR be integrated with the MCA21 portal.

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

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

**90. Consider the following statements:**

1. TRIFED has entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' to boost livelihood opportunities and income generation for tribal communities
2. 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' connects higher education institutions with villages for the economic and social betterment of rural communities.

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

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

**91. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. The Bru-Reang quadrilateral agreement was signed in the year 2020 to end the 23 year old Bru-Reang refugee crisis.
2. The agreement was signed between Government of India, Government of Tripura and Mizoram and the Bru-Reang refugees.
3. In 1997, about 30,000 Bru-Reang tribals fled from Mizoram to Tripura due to ethnic violence.

**Select the correct codes from below -**

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



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

1. The right to constitutional remedies is a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution.
2. The right to approach the High Court in case of infringement of fundamental rights is itself a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

93. Gullian Barre Syndrome is a -

- a) Neurological disorder  
b) Autoimmune disorder  
c) Dysmorphic disorder  
d) None of the above

94. 'Mahajan Commission Report (1966)' relates to the -

- a) The distribution of Sutlej river waters between Haryana and Punjab  
b) Bru and Reang refugee resettlement  
c) Border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka  
d) None of the above

95. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the 'Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) Scheme'?

1. It is a central sector scheme which aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganised segment of the food processing industry.
2. It aims to provide credit-linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs 1 crore per unit.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

96. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the appointment of judges?

1. As per the provisions of Article 217, the judges of the High Court are appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
2. While there is a collegium system for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court,

there is no such system for the appointment of High Court judges.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

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

1. The Second Judges Case in 1993 ushered in the 'collegium system' for the appointment of judges.
2. In the Second Judges Case (1993) itself, the term 'consultation' was held to be meant as 'concurrence' of the Chief Justice of India.

Select the correct codes from below -

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

98. The dates of a Parliament session are decided by the -

- a) President of India  
b) Speaker of Lok Sabha  
c) Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs  
d) Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs

99. Which of the following countries do(es) not share a boundary with Ethiopia?

1. Djibouti                      2. Somalia  
3. Eritrea                      4. Sudan  
5. South Sudan

Select the correct codes from below -

- a) 1 and 5 only              b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 5 only              d) None of the above

100. Which of the following statement(s) is/are incorrect about the 'Gupkar Declaration'?

1. It is a joint resolution signed by many of the mainstream political parties of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir to oppose the Centre's decision on abrogation of Article 370.
2. It seeks to hold a constitutional as well as extra-constitutional battle to resolve the political problems of Jammu and Kashmir albeit in a peaceful manner through dialogue.
3. The term 'Gupkar' is taken out of the first dialogue held at the Gupkar Mahal between Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah in the year 1953.

Select the correct codes from below -

- a) 1 and 2 only              b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only              d) None of the above

# PRELIMS PRACTICE PAPER KEY

## 1. Answer: (d)

**Explanation:** Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a quasi-judicial body, the Finance Commission. It is constituted by the President of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary. The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are only advisory in nature and hence, not binding on the government.

## 2. Answer: (c)

**Explanation:** Saffron production has long been restricted to a limited geographical area in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Pampore region, in India, commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir, is the main contributor to saffron production, followed by Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtwar districts. Saffron has traditionally been associated with the famous Kashmiri cuisine. Its medicinal values were considered as part of the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. As saffron growing was confined to very specific areas in Kashmir, its production remained limited. Though the National Mission on Saffron focused on several measures to improve its farming, the measures were still limited to the specified areas of Kashmir.

## 3. Answer: (d)

**Explanation:** In India, the annual demand for Saffron spice is 100 tons per year but its average production is about 6-7 tons per year. Hence a large amount of Saffron is imported. At present, about 2825 hectares of land is under cultivation of Saffron in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, the Kashmir saffron got Geographical Indication (GI) tag status. Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir is one of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS) recognised sites in India. GIAHS recognised sites are traditional agricultural systems that represent models of sustainable agricultural production. The other two sites in India are Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming of Kerala and Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha. Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has also introduced its cultivation in non-traditional

areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Institute has also developed tissue-culture protocol for the production of disease-free corms.

## 4. Answer: (a)

**Explanation:** OSPs or other service providers are companies or firms which provide secondary or tertiary services such as telemarketing, tele-banking or telemedicine for various companies, banks or hospital chains, respectively. Nearly a year-and-a half after the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had suggested relaxations of registration, submission of bank guarantee and other norms for other service providers (OSP) in the business process outsourcing (BPO) and information technology-enabled services (ITes), the Department of Telecom has eased these rules. The new rules do away with the registration requirement for OSPs, with such BPOs that are engaged only in data work have been taken out of the category of OSPs altogether.

## 5. Answer: (d)

**Explanation:** The Act empowers the Central Government and, in some instances, State Governments to -

- specify energy consumption standards for notified equipment and appliances;
- direct mandatory display of label on notified equipment and appliances;
- prohibit manufacture, sale, purchase and import of notified equipment and appliances not conforming to energy consumption standards;
- notify energy intensive industries, other establishments, and commercial buildings as designated consumers;
- establish and prescribe energy consumption norms and standards for designated consumers;
- prescribe energy conservation building codes for efficient use of energy and its conservation in new commercial buildings having a connected load of 500 kW or a contract demand of 600 kVA and above;

**State Governments may –**

- amend the energy conservation building codes prepared by the Central Government to suit regional and local climatic conditions;
- direct every owners or occupier of a new commercial building or building complex being a designated consumer to comply with the provisions of energy conservation building codes;
- direct, if considered necessary for efficient use of energy and its conservation, any designated consumer to get energy audit conducted by an accredited energy auditor in such manner and at such intervals of time as may be specified; Under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been established with effect from 1st March, 2002 by merging the erstwhile Energy Management Centre, a society under the Ministry of Power. The Bureau would be responsible for spearheading the improvement of energy efficiency of the economy through various regulatory and promotional instruments.

**6. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**The SCO was founded in June 2001, built on the 'Shanghai Five' grouping of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyz Republic) and Tajikistan, which had come together in the post-Soviet era in 1996, in order to work on regional security, reduction of border troops, and terrorism. A particular goal all these years has been "conflict resolution", given its early successes between China and Russia, and then within the Central Asian Republics. The 1996 meeting of the Shanghai Five, for example, resulted in an 'Agreement on Confidence-Building in the Military Field Along the Border Areas' between China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which led to an agreement on the mutual reduction of military forces on their common borders in 1997. Subsequently, it helped push the Central Asian countries to resolve some of their boundary disputes as well. In 2001, the Shanghai Five inducted Uzbekistan into the group and named it the SCO, outlining its principles in a charter that promoted what was called the "Shanghai spirit" of cooperation.

The SCO describes its main goals, part of its Charter that was adopted in St. Petersburg in 2002, as –

- strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states;
- promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, economy, research and technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas;
- making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.

**7. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**India and Pakistan joined the SCO as observers in 2005, and were admitted as full members in 2015. Since 2014, India and Pakistan have cut all ties, talks and trade with each other, and India has refused to attend the SAARC summit due to tensions with Pakistan, but both their leaderships have consistently attended all meetings of the SCO's three councils: the Heads of State, Heads of Government, Council of Foreign Ministers, as well as other meetings.

**8. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**In 2018, the Union Ministry of Education (then Ministry of Human Resources Development) launched an ambitious "Study in India" programme to project India as a higher education designation by attracting and facilitating inward mobility of foreign students from 34 target countries (representing Africa, Middle East, and SAARC regions), thereby increasing India's market share of global education exports.

**9. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India. The objectives of the Act are sought to be achieved through

the Competition Commission of India, which has been established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003. The Commission is also required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

**10. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government (not less than 2 members). It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India. The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

**11. Answer : (a)**

**Explanation:** Academic freedom, in general, refers to a scholar's freedom to express ideas without risk of official interference or professional disadvantage. It has been published by Global Public Policy Institute as a part of a global time-series dataset (1900-2019) in close cooperation with Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Scholars at Risk and the V?Dem Institute. Hence, statement 1 is correct. Top Performers: Uruguay and Portugal top the AFI, with scores of 0.971 each, followed closely by Latvia (0.964) and Germany (0.960). The index did not report data for 35 countries - including the United States and Australia. Hence, statement 2 is not correct. India has scored considerably low in the international Academic Freedom Index (AFI) with a score of 0.352 and is closely followed by Saudi Arabia (0.278) and Libya (0.238).

**12. Answer : (b)**

**Explanation:** National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is a government-backed

entity established to provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector. The Indian government has a 49% stake in NIIF with the rest held by foreign and domestic investors. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. With the Centre's significant stake, NIIF is considered India's quasi-sovereign wealth fund. It was set up in 2015 as a Category-II Alternate Investment Fund. Across its three funds viz. Master Fund, Fund of Funds, and Strategic Opportunities Fund, it manages over USD 4.3 billion of capital. Its registered office is in New Delhi. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**13. Answer : (c)**

**Explanation:** Hyperloop Transportation System is a transportation system where a pod-like vehicle is propelled through a near-vacuum tube connecting cities at speeds matching that of an aircraft. Hence, statement 1 is correct. The hyperloop concept is a brainchild of Tesla founder Elon Musk. The hyperloop system is being designed to transport passengers and freight. Hyperloop is a sealed tube or system of tubes with low air pressure through which a pod may travel substantially free of air resistance or friction. The Hyperloop could convey people or objects at airline or hypersonic speeds while being very energy efficient. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**14. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** The First Committee of the UN General Assembly deals with the Disarmament and International security. It deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. Hence, statement 1 is correct. The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage. India's resolution 'Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction' was co-sponsored by more than 75 countries and adopted by consensus without a vote. Hence, statement 2 is not correct. India, a victim of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism, has been at the forefront in highlight-

ing the serious threat to international peace and security emanating from acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by terrorist groups.

**15. Answer : (a)**

**Explanation:** Encouraging Youth for Undertaking Innovative Research through Vibrant Acceleration (E-YUVA) Scheme aims to promote a culture of applied research and need-oriented (societal or industry) entrepreneurial innovation among young students and researchers. It will engage a number of universities and technology institutes to serve as mentors, which will help to create a pan-India network to encourage a larger number of student entrepreneurs. Hence, statement 1 is correct. The scheme is implemented through E-YUVA Centres (EYCs) to inculcate entrepreneurial culture through fellowship, pre-incubation and mentoring support. EYCs are housed within the University/Institute set up and mentored by a Biologically-inspired Resilient Autonomic Cloud (BIRAC). Hence, statement 2 is not correct. BIRAC helps more and more students who try to set up start-ups and help India become Atmanirbhar (self-reliant)

**16. Answer : (d)**

**Explanation:** FRB are bright bursts of radio waves (radio waves can be produced by astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields) whose durations lie in the millisecond-scale, because of which it is difficult to detect them and determine their position in the sky. It was first discovered in 2007. 1/5 Recently, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has spotted fast Radio Burst for the first time in the Milky Way. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. NASA observed a mix of X-ray and radio signals never observed before in the Milky Way. The X-ray portion of the simultaneous bursts was detected by several satellites, including NASA's Wind mission. The radio component was discovered by the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME), a radio telescope located at Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

**17. Answer : (b)**

**Explanation:** The Kepler mission was named in honor of 17 -century German astronomer Johannes Kepler, who discovered the laws of planetary motion. The Kepler Mission was launched in 2009 on a three-and-a-half year mission to monitor 1,50,000 stars in a patch of sky in the Milky Way. It was NASA's first planet-hunting mission, it discovered more than 2,600 of around 3,800 exoplanets. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. It looked for tiny dips in starlight caused by an exoplanet passing in front of its home star. Kepler's formal goal was to measure a number called eta-Earth: the fraction of sunlike stars that have an Earth-size object orbiting them in the "goldilocks" or habitable zone, where it is warm enough for the surface to retain liquid water. Kepler is succeeded by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, which was launched in April 2018. TESS is the new planet hunter for NASA. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**18. Answer : (c)**

**Explanation:** The Protected Areas in Arunachal Pradesh are: Pakke Tiger Reserve Talle Wildlife Sanctuary Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary Namdapha Tiger Reserve Mouling National Park Sessa Orchid Sanctuary The Orang National Park is a national park in India located on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Udalguri and Sonitpur districts of Assam. Hence, option C is correct.

**19. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** According to historians, the first Sikh Guru (Guru Nanak Dev) had arrived in Kartarpur between 1520 and 1522, and spent the last 18 years of his life there. It was in Kartarpur where he laid the foundations of a Sikh religion. Hence, statement 1 is correct. The Kartarpur corridor connects the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in Narowal district of Pakistan with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district Punjab, India. Hence, statement 2 is not correct. The corridor was built in 2019 to commemorate the 550 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism



20. Answer : (c)

**Explanation:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organisation for all retail payments systems in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct. It was set up with the guidance and support of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Hence, statement 2 is correct. Objectives: To consolidate and integrate the existing multiple systems into a nation-wide uniform and standard business process for all retail payment systems. To facilitate an affordable payment mechanism to benefit the common man across the country and propel financial inclusion.

21. Answer: (a)

**Explanation:** Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing was notified on 1st April, 2020. It extends an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year (FY2019-20). Now, the scheme has been extended to 10 other key sectors. The scheme is being implemented by the relevant ministries/departments under which the key sector falls, for example, in the case of food products, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries will implement the scheme.

22. Answer: (c)

**Explanation:** For the successful completion of PPP projects, the government has designed Viability Gap Funding (VGF). Viability Gap Finance means a grant to support projects that are economically justified but not financially viable. The scheme is designed as a Plan Scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Finance and amount in the budget are made on a year-to-year basis. Such a grant under VGF is provided as a capital subsidy to attract the private sector players to participate in PPP projects that are otherwise financially unviable. Projects may not be commercially viable because of long gestation period and small revenue flows in future. The VGF scheme was launched in 2004 to support projects that comes under Public Private Partnerships. VGF grants will be available only

for infrastructure projects where private sector sponsors are selected through a process of competitive bidding. The VGF grant will be disbursed at the construction stage itself but only after the private sector developer makes the equity contribution required for the project.

23. Answer: (d)

**Explanation:** Section 294 of the IPC deals with obscenity, along with Section 292 and 293. The expression 'obscenity', or what is 'obscene' is not clearly defined in the IPC. It's not defined in Section 294, but in 292, which provides for "*Sale, etc of obscene books, etc*". The form in which we find the provision was the result of amendments to the IPC in 1925. This was a time when substantial print publication was being circulated in Europe, also much of this had started to find its way into India. In fact, there is good authority to suggest that by the 1880s India was one of the largest markets for British books. The courts have adopted tests to determine whether a certain material is obscene or not. It started with the Hicklin test (adopted from the 1868 English case - Regina v. Hicklin), which allows for scenes to be looked at sans context. In other words, the test permits one to look at the allegedly obscene material in a vacuum, which isn't ideal. For example, if a rape scene in a cinematograph film has the tendency to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to 'immoral' influences - the material would qualify as obscene, i.e. regardless of context or artistic or literary merit.

24. Answer: (c)

**Explanation:** After a decade-long campaign, Mary Wollstonecraft, the 18th century British feminist writer and philosopher often regarded as the 'mother of feminism' was honoured with a memorial statue at Newington Green in north London, where she spent a considerable part of her life. Mary Wollstonecraft is best known as the writer of the pathbreaking '*A Vindication of the Rights of Women*' (1792), an early treatise on gender equality.

25. Answer: (a)

**Explanation:** OTT, or over-the-top platforms, are audio and video hosting and streaming services which started out as content hosting plat-

forms, but soon branched out into the production and release of short movies, feature films, documentaries and web-series themselves. These platforms offer a range of content and use artificial intelligence to suggest users the content they are likely to view based on their past viewership on the platform. Most OTT platforms generally offer some content for free and charge a monthly subscription fee for premium content which is generally unavailable elsewhere. The government has brought video streaming over-the-top (OTT) platforms such as Netflix, Amazon's Prime Video, Hotstar, and others under the ambit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. These platforms were so far under the purview of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**26. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Contempt of court, often referred to simply as “contempt”, is the offence of being disobedient to or disrespectful toward a court of law and its officers in the form of behaviour that opposes or defies the authority, justice and dignity of the court.

In India contempt of court is of two types –

- **Civil contempt** – Under Section 2(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, civil contempt has been defined as wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- **Criminal contempt** – Under Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, criminal contempt has been defined as the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which –
  - Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court, or
  - Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding, or
  - Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

**Subsection 1 of Section 15** (Cognisance of criminal contempt in other cases) of **The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** reads: “*In the case of a criminal contempt, other than a contempt referred to in Section 14 (“Procedure where contempt is in the face of the Supreme Court or a High Court”), the Supreme Court or the High Court may take action on its own motion or on a motion made by (a) the Advocate-General, or (b) any other person, with the consent in writing of the Advocate-General...*”.

**27. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** In India contempt of court is of two types –

- **Civil contempt** – Under Section 2(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, civil contempt has been defined as wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- **Criminal contempt** – Under Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, criminal contempt has been defined as the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which –
  - Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court, or
  - Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding, or
  - Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

**28. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Indian Navy's fifth **Kalvari-class Diesel Electric attack submarine INS Vagir** was launched at Mazgaon Dock in Mumbai. A look at this modern and stealthy class of submarines having been built under Project 75 and whose design is based on the Scorpene class of the submarines. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vagir is the **fifth among the six Kalvari-class submarines** being constructed by the public sector shipbuilder Mazgaon Dock Ltd (MDL) in Mumbai. The other vessels in the class are **INS Kalvari, INS**

**Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela and INS Vagsheer.** Of these **Kalvari and Khanderi** have been commissioned in 2017 and 2019, **Vela and Karanj** and **undergoing sea trials**, **Vagir** has now been launched and **Vagsheer** is **under construction**. The design of Kalvari class of submarines is **based on Scorpene class of submarines** designed and developed by **French defence major Naval Group formerly DCNS and Spanish state owned entity Navantia**. This class of submarines have **Diesel Electric transmission systems** and these are primarily attack **submarines or 'hunter-killer' type** which means they are designed to target and sink adversary naval vessels. The Kalvari-class submarines have capability of operating in a **wide range of Naval combat including anti-warship and anti-submarine operations, intelligence gathering and surveillance and naval mine laying**. These submarines are around 220 feet long and have a height of 40 feet. It can reach the highest speeds of 11 knots when surfaced and 20 knots when submerged.

29. Answer: (d)

**Explanation:** Simply put, a maritime cluster is **an agglomeration of firms, institutions, and businesses in the maritime sector that are geographically located close to each other**. The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), a nodal agency of the Gujarat government, has been trying to develop such a cluster at GIFT City in the state capital Gandhinagar through its subsidiary Gujarat Ports Infrastructure and Development Company Ltd (GPIDCL). This cluster will initially **consist of Gujarat-based shipping lines, freight forwarders, shipping agents, bunker suppliers, stevedores, and ship brokers** with chartering requirements. In the second stage, the cluster would attempt to **bring Indian ship owners, ship operators, Indian charterers and technical consultants** scattered in cities like Mumbai, Chennai, and Delhi to Gujarat. Thereafter it would **target to attract global players** in the maritime sphere.

30. Answer: (c)

**Explanation:** Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of Vedanta aimed to enquire about **'Brahman' (ultimate reality)** which was the central concept of Upanishads. It saw **Veda as the ultimate source**

**of information** and whose authority could not be questioned. He was initially a western educated **Brahmo Samajist** in his young age. But the Brahmo movement failed to provide solutions to his spiritual quests. He became the disciple of Sri Ramakrishna whose Bhakti appealed to him more than the high intellectualism of Brahmos. He was a proponent of **Practical Vedanta** which he considered as a religion most suited to the needs of modern man. He believed in the **essential unity** of man and **god (Advaita)**. He believed that it was only in **selflessness** and in consciously trying to serve the larger humanity that one truly gained a perspective on religion and God. This thought laid emphasis on the **Karma Marga of Bhagavad-Gita**.

31. Answer: (c)

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct. 16 Psyche is a giant metal asteroid, about three times farther away from the sun than is the Earth. Its average diameter is about 140 miles (226 kilometers) — about one-sixteenth the diameter of Earth's Moon. Psyche orbits the Sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Unlike most other asteroids that are rocky or icy bodies, scientists think the M-type (metallic) asteroid 16 Psyche is comprised mostly of metallic iron and nickel similar to Earth's core. Scientists wonder whether Psyche could be an exposed core of an early planet that lost its rocky outer layers due to a number of violent collisions billions of years ago. NASA's Psyche mission is targeted to launch in August of 2022, the Psyche spacecraft would arrive at the asteroid in early 2026, following a Mars gravity assist in 2023.....

32. Answer: (b)

**Explanation:** Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) is a progressive brain condition that's thought to be caused by repeated blows to the head and repeated episodes of concussion. It's particularly associated with contact sports, such as boxing or American football. CTE was previously known as "punch drunk" syndrome and dementia pugilistica. But these terms are no longer used because it's now known that the condition is not limited to exboxers. The symptoms of CTE vary between individuals, but tend to be similar to those of other types of degenerative

brain conditions, particularly Alzheimer's disease.

**33. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The leishmaniasis are a group of diseases caused by protozoan parasites from more than 20 Leishmania species. These parasites are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected female phlebotomine sandfly, a tiny - 2-3 mm long - insect vector. The most common forms are cutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin sores, and visceral leishmaniasis, which affects several internal organs (usually spleen, liver, and bone marrow). Some people have a silent infection, without any symptoms or signs. People who develop clinical evidence of infection usually have fever, weight loss, enlargement (swelling) of the spleen and liver, and abnormal blood tests. Statement 2 is incorrect. If not treated, severe (advanced) cases of visceral leishmaniasis typically are fatal.

**34. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Mansar Lake is situated 37 km from Jammu, Mansar is a lake fringed by forest-covered hills, over a mile in length by half-a-mile in width. Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005. # Comprehensive Mansar Lake Rejuvenation/Development Plan was launched recently to increase the tourism potential of the historic lake.

**35. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct. Kaziranga national park is located fairly in the Golaghat and Nagaon regions of Assam in India. It is also placed beside the Brahmaputra River on the North and the Karbi Anglong mountains on the South. It is famous for the Great Indian one horned rhinoceros; the landscape of Kaziranga is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes & shallow pools. It has been declared as National Park in 1974. The Kaziranga National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985.

**36. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Alcohol for human consumption has been kept outside the purview of GST in India at present. These goods are subject to existing

State levies. Petroleum Products such as petroleum crude, motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel etc. are also kept outside the purview of GST in India. At present, electricity is not subject to GST and power companies pay multiple taxes on capital goods and other inputs like excise duty, customs duty etc.

**37. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Post liberalization in the early nineties there was a paradigm shift from a regime of command and control to a facilitating regime with increased reliance on market forces. It also led to the enactment of the Competition Act 2002 and establishment of the Competition Commission of India to lay the foundation of a competition ecosystem in the country. It replaced its predecessor the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969. Statement 2 is correct. The Commission functions as a market regulator by preventing and regulating anti-competitive practices in the country. It also carries out advisory and advocacy functions. The objectives of the Commission as given under Section 18 of the Act are: —to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, —to promote and sustain competition in markets, —to protect the interests of consumers, and —to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets in India.

**38. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The GST e-invoice system was launched on 1st October, 2020 for the businesses with aggregate turnover of more than Rs. 500 Crores in the financial year. Note: The Government is planning to reduce the aggregate turnover cut off to Rs 100 Crores for generation of IRN by the tax payers in coming days. Statement 2 is correct. Each Invoice uploaded by the tax payer will get the unique number called as Invoice Reference Number (IRN). IRN is of 64 Characters length. This IRN is unique number in the GST system, irrespective of tax payer, financial year and document type. It is hash of Supplier GSTIN + Fin. Year + Doc Type + Doc Number.

**39. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Base effect is often a term used in relation to economic indicators such as inflation and GDP data which are primarily based on the base effect of last year. For inflation, Base effect refers to the distortion in monthly inflation figures from a sudden spike or decline in them during a short period of time. They are caused by seasonal or monthly variations. Statement 2 is incorrect. It is usually a result of volatility rather than consistency in an economy.

**40. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

**41. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Air Quality Index is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. It transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour. There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts (known as health breakpoints). AQ sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved for eight pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb).

**42. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** In order to commercially exploit the products and services emanating from Indian Space Programme, the "NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)" was incorporated in March 2019, as a wholly-owned Government of India under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS). Statement 1 is incorrect. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is a Central Public Sector Enterprise of Government of India and commercial arm of ISRO. ISRO chairperson is not NSIL head, the current NSIL's Chairman and Managing Director, G. Narayanan, was earlier a Deputy Director at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Thiruvananthapuram. Statement 2 is correct. NSIL will be the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route. The Industry consor-

tium will be responsible for producing, assembling and integrating the launch vehicle. NSIL will be responsible for providing launch services to global satellite customers, onboard SSLV, PSLV, GSLV and GSLV-MkIII launchers.

**43. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The Code On Social Security, 2020 defines that "platform work" means a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment. Statement 2 is correct. The code mandates that there shall be established by the Central Government a Social Security Fund for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

**44. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau is being set up by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Invest India, a National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency that helps those looking for investment opportunities and options in India. Statement 2 is incorrect. As a partner in the project, Invest India would collaborate extensively with the Ministry to frame the work plan of the Bureau and define its short-and long-term targets. Invest India would deploy highly trained and expert resources to implement and execute the plans of the Ministry of AYUSH. The activities to be undertaken by the SPFB would include: — Knowledge Creation and Management, —State Policy Bench marking: Undertaking State Policy bench marking to formulate uniform guidelines/regulations regarding AYUSH sector in India, —Investment Facilitation: Follow up and facilitation of investment cases and MoUs, and coordination among different Department, organisations and States. —Issue Resolution: Invest India would work with companies and other institutions on issue resolution across States and among various sub-sectors



**45. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit was a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians on Gandhi Jayanti. The deliberations started on 3rd of October and concluded on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti, 31st October 2020. Among panelists, 45% were overseas Indians and 55% were resident Indian academicians and scientists. The Summit intended to “create an ideal research ecosystem, merging tradition with modernity to create prosperity”. The discussions were held on computational sciences, electronics & communication, quantum technologies, photonics, aerospace technologies, health and medical sciences, pharma and biotechnology, agro-economy and food security, material & processing technologies, advanced manufacturing, earth sciences, energy, environmental sciences, management and social sciences.

**46. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** As part of the Government of India outreach amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams embarked, on 10 May 20. This deployment as ‘Mission Sagar’, is in line with India’s role as the first responder in the region and builds on the excellent relations existing between these countries to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant difficulties. Mission Sagar-II, follows the first ‘Mission Sagar’ undertaken in May-June 2020, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

**47. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Aero India exhibition is organized every alternate year. It is one of the major exhibitions for aerospace and defence industries with a public air show. It enables industry professional to gain market insights, announce new developments and gain media coverage. Aero India offers a unique platform to international aviation sector to bolster business. Aero India 2021 is the 13th edition of

Aero India being organised at Bengaluru, Karnataka from 03-07 February 2021. Statement 2 is incorrect. Foreign Exhibitors are allowed at Aero India exhibition. The 2019 edition had 165 Foreign Exhibitors.

**48. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct. The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was announced as part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package (ANBP). A 100% guarantee would be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), and which will be extended in the form of additional working capital term loan facility in case of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Financial Institutions (FIs), and additional term loan facility in case of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), to eligible MSMEs/ Business Enterprises, individual borrowers in case of the original loan having been for own business and interested Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) borrowers. # The Union Government has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by one month till November 30th, 2020, or till such time that an amount of Rs. 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the Scheme, whichever is earlier.

**49. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. To build on these various elements in a synergistic manner, and to thereby truly grow and catalyze quality research in the nation, the NEP envisions the establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF). The overarching goal of the NRF will be to enable a culture of research to permeate through our universities. In particular, the NRF will provide a reliable base of merit-based but equitable peer-reviewed research funding, helping to develop a culture of research in the country through suitable incentives for and recognition of outstanding research, and by undertaking major initiatives to seed and grow research at State Universities and other public institutions where research capability is currently limited. Option 2 is incorrect. No such proposal in the NEP 2020 document. The policy does state that traditional Indian values and all basic human and

Constitutional values (such as seva, ahimsa, swachchhata, satya, nishkam karma, shanti, etc.) will be developed in all students. Children will have the opportunity to read and learn from the original stories of the Panchatantra, Jataka, Hitopadesh, and other fun fables and inspiring tales from the Indian tradition and learn about their influences on global literature. Option 3 is correct. It is proposed to set up a National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), as a standard-setting body under Education Ministry that fulfils the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards of India.

**50. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister will chair the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) on 5th November, 2020. The VGIR is being organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. It is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision makers from the Government of India and Financial Market Regulators. The Roundtable will witness participation from twenty of the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds with a total Assets Under Management of about US\$6 trillion. These global institutional investors represent key regions including the US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, Middle East, Australia, and Singapore. VGIR 2020 will focus on discussions around India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and the government's vision for the path to a USD 5 trillion economy.

**51. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** India is planning to grow its refining capacities from about 250 to 400 Million Metric tonnes Per Annum by 2025. Increasing domestic gas production has been a key government priority. Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the 4th India Energy Forum CERAWEEK. The theme of this edition was "India's Energy Future in a world of Change". The theme of this edition is "India's Energy Future in a world of Change". Achieving the renewables target of 450

GW by 2030 and having a gas based economy are one of the key principles of India's energy strategy.

**52. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Bennu has also not undergone any significant changes since it was formed billions of years ago. It contains rocks as well as chemicals dating back to when the solar system was formed. According to NASA, the organic material which scientists are hoping to find in the sample from Bennu does not come from Biology necessarily, but it could help them in further understanding how asteroids rich in organic material helped catalyse life on Earth. Statement 3 is incorrect. OSIRIS-REx marks the first mission by NASA to collect and deliver to Earth samples from an ancient asteroid. The US space agency aims to collect at least 60 grams of dust and rocks from the asteroid and bring them back. This, NASA claims, would be the largest amount of celestial material brought back to Earth since the Apollo era. OSIRISREx was launched back in 2016, and it started orbiting asteroid Bennu in December 2018.

**53. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Central Government has notified the Directorate General of Shipping as National Authority for Recycling of Ships under the section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019. As an apex body, DG Shipping is authorized to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to Ship Recycling. Statement 2 is incorrect. Under Ship Recycling Act, 2019, India has acceded to Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling under International Maritime Organization (IMO). With the enactment of the legislation, India has set global standards for safe and sound environment-friendly recycling of ships, as well as ensure adequate safety of the yard workers. Statement 3 is correct. Currently, India recycles 70 lakh gross tonnage of ships per annum, while Bangladesh's contribution is 68 lakh gross tonnage. Pakistan scraps ships worth 37 lakh gross tonnage, while China accounts for 34 lakh gross tonnage of recycling. These four countries account for 90 per cent of the ships recycled globally. Post enactment of Recycle Act, India eyes 50 per cent of the global share as

many countries will be sending ships here after India ratified the global convention.

**54. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** The three-tier system was not available in Jammu and Kashmir in the “pre-370 period”, but now it will be established in the Union Territory like in other parts of the country. The article 370 gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The home ministry had issued the executive order under which district development councils (DDCs) will be set up. The DDC along with the other two bodies, the Halqa Panchayats and the block development councils (BDCs) will complete the three-tier structure in Jammu and Kashmir. All DDC members, whether or not elected by direct election from the territorial constituencies in the district, shall have the right to vote in the meeting of the District Development Council,” reads the amendment. MLAs will have no voting rights in the case of election or removal of the chairman and vicechairman. Only the directly elected members shall have the right to vote.

**55. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Bundi is also known as City of step-walls blue city and also as Chotti Kashi. The name Chotti Kashi, owing to presence of over hundred temples within and around the hada capital. Six typologies in Bundi Architecture are: Garh (Fort); Garh Mahal (Royal Palaces); Baori (Step wells); Kund (Stepped tanks); Sagar mahal (Lake Palaces); and Chhatri (Cenotaphs). Temples constructed in early phase of Bundi’s growth were in classical Nagara style, while in later phases new temple typologies emerged from amalgamation of architectural form of traditional haveli with the classical Nagara style

**56. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Nobel Peace Prize for 2020 has been awarded to the World Food Programme (WFP), of the UN system, for its contribution to combating hunger in conflict and disaster-struck sites. In 2015, eradication of world hunger became one of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WFP is the UN’s primary instrument in achieving that goal. WFP runs entirely on public donations and was able to raise over \$8 billion last year. Its donors include governments, corpo-

rations and individuals.

**57. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Turkey’s navy has issued an advisory saying that the Turkish ship Oruc Reis will carry out a seismic survey in the eastern Mediterranean over the next ten days. Oruc Reis research ship is also to carry out a drilling survey in waters close to the Greek island of Kastellorizo, a short distance from the coast of south-west Turkey.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Two other vessels, the Ataman and Cengiz Han along with Oruc Reis exploration ship will continue works in an area including the south of Greek island of Kastellorizo. Turkey and Greece have overlapping claims to areas of gas-rich waters in the Eastern Mediterranean. Greece’s position is that each of its islands—and there are thousands of them—is entitled to its own continental shelf with exclusive drilling rights.

**58. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. India and Maldives on Monday concluded USD400 million Line of Credit (LoC) agreement for the implementation of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), which is the single-largest connectivity and infrastructure project in the island nation. Statement 2 is incorrect. India has engaged in 7 major infrastructure projects in the country under 800 million USD Line of Credit. Statement 3 is correct. India and Maldives both, are founding members of SAARC. As India has ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy, Maldives has ‘India First Policy’

**59. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Codex Alimentarius Commission has 189 Codex Members made up of 188 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization (The European Union). India became the member of Codex Alimentarius in 1964. World Food Day is an annual celebration in the honour of the founding date of the Food and Agriculture Organization launched by the United Nations in the year 1945. World Food Day 2020 is also marking the 75th anniversary of FAO. The Codex Alimentarius, or “Food Code” is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice

adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Voluntary in nature, Codex standards can be general or specific and are recognised by WTO Agreements as reference standards.

**60. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Both the statements are correct. Encouraged by the response to Gaumaya Ganesha Campaign which encouraged usage of eco-friendly material in manufacture of idols for the Ganesha Festival based on the appeal made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has started a nationwide campaign to celebrate “Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan” this year on the occasion of Deepawali festival. Through this campaign, the RKA is promoting extensive use of cow-dung/ Panchgavya products during this Diwali Festival. Manufacture of Cow dung based Diyas, Candles, Dhoop, Agarbatti, Shubh-Labh, Swastik, Samrani, Hardboard, Wall-piece, Paper-weight, Havan samagri, Idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi for this year’s Diwali festival has already started.

**61. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. As much as 38.2 per cent of persons who were of the age of six years or above were engaged in employment and related activities in the country in 2019. 57.3 per cent males were engaged in employment and related activities while the proportion was 18.4 per cent for females in the country. Statement 2 and 3 are correct. Time Use Survey (TUS) provides a framework for measuring time dispositions by the population on different activities. TUS is an important source of information on the time spent in unpaid caregiving activities, volunteer work, unpaid domestic service producing activities of the household members. Overall, 53.2 per cent of participants in the survey were engaged in unpaid domestic services for household members. The proportion of females in the category was higher at 81.2 per cent compared to 26.1 per cent for males.

**62. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 and 2 are correct. The Scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% to eligible companies on incremental sales (over base year i.e. 2019-20) of manufactured goods including mobile phones and specified electronic

components for a period of five years subsequent to the base year. All electronic manufacturing companies which are either Indian or have a registered unit in India will be eligible to apply for the scheme. Statement 3 is incorrect. For category Mobile Phones (Invoice Value INR 15,000 and above); Consolidated Global Manufacturing Revenue of the applicant (including its Group Companies), in the target segment, should be more than INR 10,000 Crore in the base year.

**63. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. New Defence Acquisition Procedure removes the clause for offsets for certain kinds of defence contracts. Only government-to-government agreements (G2G), ab initio single vendor contracts or intergovernmental agreements (IGA) will not have offset clauses anymore. Statement 2 is correct. A Project Management Unit (PMU) has been mandated to support contract management. It will facilitate obtaining advisory and consultancy support in specified areas to streamline the acquisition process

**64. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. It mandates that 70% of the affected landowners should consent to the acquisition of land for a public-private participation project and 80% for private projects. Statement 2 is incorrect. Section 24(2) states that in case of land acquisition proceedings, if a developer fail to take possession of the land acquired under the old laws for five years, or if compensation is not paid to the owner, the land acquisition act process would lapse. The process would then have to be re-initiated under LAAR, which would allow the owner to get better compensation

**65. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both the statements are correct: The law concerns the rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other resources, denied to them over decades as a result of the continuance of colonial forest laws in India. Recently, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari issued a notification modifying the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 that will enable forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other traditional forest-dwelling families to build houses in the

neighbourhood of forest areas. According to this notification, a tribal person whose individual or community forest rights have been rejected by district-level committees constituted under special Act could appeal against the decision.

**66. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has directed mithai shops and traditional Indian sweet outlets to mandatorily display the “Best Before Date” on the container or tray of non-packaged or loose sweets from October 1. Statement 2 is incorrect. The FSSAI has also ordered to mention the date of making the sweets on its labelling while selling them. But, the order is not mandatory leaving it at the discretion of the shopkeepers divulge the aforementioned piece of information about the date of manufacture. Statement 3 is correct. The food regulator has also asked the manufacturers of edible oils not to blend any other vegetable oil with mustard oil to keep its purity intact. While earlier an admixture of two vegetable oils in which one component has to be a minimum of 20% by weight was allowed.

**67. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 and 2 are correct. Use of H-CNG can reduce emission of carbon monoxide up to 70%, besides enabling up to 5% savings in fuel, tests by the Automotive Research Association of India and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) have found. IOCL’s research & development wing has developed a technology that does away with the need for physical blending. Its ‘Compact Reforming Process’ directly produces a hydrogen-CNG mixture from natural gas, using a single step. The cost of production is significantly lower than physical blending, the EPCA report says. Statement 3 is incorrect. Cars and autos would not be able to use H-CNG with the prevailing technology, mainly because hydrogen is “highly volatile” and the possibility of a rise in combustion temperature.

**68. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The G4 nations comprising Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan are four countries which support each other’s bids for permanent seats on the United

Nations Security Council. Statement 2 is correct. The Intergovernmental Negotiations framework (IGN) is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform of the UNSC. The IGN is composed of several different international organizations, namely: The African Union; The G4 nations; The Uniting for Consensus Group (UfC), also known as the “Coffee Club”; The L.69 Group of Developing Countries; The Arab League; and The Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

**69. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) said its code of ethics should be given a statutory recognition by making it a part of the Programme Code under the Cable TV Rules so that these codes become binding on all news channels. NBA is currently not a statutory body. Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) represents the private television news & current affairs broadcasters. It is the collective voice of the news & current affairs broadcasters in India. It is an organization funded entirely by its members. The News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), of the NBA, is empowered to warn, admonish, censure, express disapproval and fine the broadcaster a sum up to Rs. 1 lakh for violation of the Code. But, the NBA is only for members.

**70. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** In May, the government had raised the borrowing limits of states from 3% of gross state domestic product (GSDP) to 5%, with riders. Of the two percentage points extra borrowing limit, states can raise 0.25% each for reforms linked to PDS, ease of doing business, to aid urban local bodies and utilities, and the power sector. Under the ‘One Nation-One Ration Card’ initiative, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled foodgrains under National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any fair price shop in the country using the same ration card.

**71. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. “Act of God” is understood to include only natural unforeseen circumstances, whereas force



majeure is wider in its ambit and includes both naturally occurring events and events that occur due to human intervention. However, both concepts elicit the same consequences in law. Statement 2 is correct. The 'Act of God' is a clause used in private contracts to indemnify one or both parties from carrying out the terms of the contract due to events beyond their control. FMC is a clause that is present in most commercial contracts and is a carefully drafted legal arrangement in the event of a crisis

**72. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Turkey is prospecting eastern Mediterranean sea for gas and hydrocarbons. The area which Turkey is exploring is claimed by Greece. Turkey rejects the claims, saying islands are not entitled to what is known as an exclusive economic zone. Ankara instead believes it has the right to explore the oil- and mineral-rich eastern Mediterranean seabed after a recent maritime agreement it concluded with Libya. Statement 2 and 3 are correct. NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) on April 4, 1949, which sought to create a counterweight to Soviet armies stationed in central and eastern Europe after World War II. Neighbours and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Greece and Turkey have been locked for weeks in a tense standoff in the eastern Mediterranean.

**73. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 and 2 are correct. Albert Einstein published his theory of general relativity in 1915. In it, he determined that massive objects cause a distortion in space-time, which is felt as gravity. The central idea is that space and time are two aspects of spacetime. Spacetime is curved when there is gravity, matter, energy, and momentum. On April 18, 2020, the (LIGO) Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Interferometer Collaboration announced the discovery of gravitational waves from a binary black hole merger, labelled GW190412. Statement 3 is incorrect. GW190412

is unique in that it is the first black hole merger where the masses of the two black holes are definitively unequal — one black hole in the system is more than 3 times heavier than the other.

**74. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Anthropologists classify the Great Andamanese as part of the Negrito tribes that inhabit isolated parts of Southeast Asia and the Andaman Islands. Recent studies by geneticists indicate that the Andamanese are possibly related to the Negritos of the Malay peninsula and in the Philippines. Originally, the Great Andamanese were ten distinct tribes, including the Jeru, Bea, Bo, Khorá, and Pockiwar, each with its own separate language. Statement 2 is incorrect. Great Andamanese are given Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) status. The PVTGs are communities that are more vulnerable among tribal groups, and are put under a special category by the government of India. Statement 3 is correct. The five PVTGs residing in Andamans are Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese. Among the five, the Great Andamanese are the only ones who visit and live in the capital city of Port Blair frequently.

**75. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct. The Indian economy saw its worst contraction in decades, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrinking by a record 23.9% in the April to June quarter in comparison to the same period last year, according to data released by the National Statistical Office. Agriculture was the only sector which recorded modest growth of 3.4% in year on year terms. All other sectors saw contraction, with the steepest fall coming from the 50% in construction, and 47% fall in trade, hotels, transport and communication. Manufacturing shrank more than 39%, while mining and quarrying dropped 23%.

**76. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect. Qatar is the first country in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to announce permanent minimum wage for non-citizens and offer them flexibility in changing jobs. Kafala system

is common in the Gulf region and requires workers to have a sponsor in the country they are working, who then becomes responsible for their visa and legal status. The second reform involves increasing the minimum wage by 25 per cent to \$274 (1000 Qatari Riyals). The new minimum wage, which comes into effect in six months, is nondiscriminatory and applies to all workers.

**77. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. While the RBI provided the broad contours of the one-time loan restructuring plan, the KV Kamath committee recommended the sector-specific benchmark ranges for financial parameters to be factored into each resolution plan for borrowers with an aggregate exposure of Rs 1,500 crore or above at the time of invocation. Statement 2 is correct. The Kamath committee noted that corporate sector debt worth Rs 15.52 lakh crore has come under stress after COVID-19 hit India, while another Rs 22.20 lakh crore was already under stress before the pandemic. This effectively means Rs 37.72 crore (72% of the banking sector debt to industry) remains under stress. This is almost 37% of the total non-food bank credit.

**78. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect. The neuroscientists have studied over 500 brain scans of Indian patients to develop five sets of IBT and a brain atlas for five age groups covering late childhood to late adulthood (six to 60 years). Therefore, recently developed IBT is based on the Indian brains. The Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template that we currently use is based on Caucasian brains. The MNI template was made by averaging 152 healthy brain scans from just a small slice of the city's population in North America. But Caucasian brains are different from Asian brains.

**79. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect. The Department of Posts has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages', to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages. The

schemes covered under the 'Five Star' scheme include Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates; Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts; Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts; Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy; and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.

**80. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both the statements are correct. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha has launched the Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS) in early September 2020, in a bid to create an interface with the public and focus on governance issues in the Union Territory. District Collectors and Deputy Commissioners will be the primary nodes for receiving, disposing and monitoring grievances. JK-IGRAMS will be linked with Union Government's CPGRAMS. This will make J&K the first union territory to have its grievance redressal mechanism linked with center's CPGRAMS.

**81. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. A disease called Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, caused by the tick-borne virus, and the virus has been identified as the novel bunyavirus. Statement 2 is incorrect. Ticks are blood-sucking bugs (insects), living by feeding on the blood of mammals, birds, and sometimes reptiles and amphibians. They are mostly found in bushes, grass and shrubs.

**82. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is incorrect. The frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Bhutan, China and Myanmar is under the Fifth Schedule. Arunachal Pradesh does not share border with Nepal. Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution. Passed by the Constituent

Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC). ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.

**83. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct. India scored a mid-level 57 rank, but did well on two indicators. India makes it into the top 10 in terms of Internet affordability. With a ranking of nine, it outperforms countries such as the U.K., the U.S. and China. Additionally, when it comes to e-government, India occupies the 15th place globally, just below countries like New Zealand and Italy.

**84. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 and 3 are incorrect. NRA will organize a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non -technical, non-gazetted) posts, which are now being conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railways Recruitment Board (SSC) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). However, the present recruitment agencies- IBPS, RRB and SCC — will remain in place. Statement 2 is correct. The CET score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result. The best of the valid scores shall be deemed to be the current score of the candidate

**85. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** All statements are correct. The project is part of the larger Kalpasar Project, which entails construction of a 30-km dam across the Gulf of Khambhat between Bharuch and Bhavnagar districts. The reservoir is meant to tap the waters of the Narmada, Mahisagar and Sabarmati. The main purpose of the project is to prevent salinity ingress. The project also aims to prevent flooding in years when rainfall is higher than normal. Embankments 22 km long will be made and will extend upstream towards Bharuch, from either side of the river. The barrage is expected to interfere with the migration and breeding cycle of hilsa. A marine fish, hilsa migrate upstream and arrives in the brackish

water of the Narmada estuary near Bharuch for spawning usually during the monsoon months of July and August, and continue doing so till November. Once the barrage is built, it is expected to block their natural entry

**86. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The new National Policy on Biofuels had a target of 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol and 5 per cent blending of biodiesel in diesel by 2030 under the ethanol blending programme to curb carbon emissions. Statement 2 is incorrect. As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution. Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the Sun, ethanol is also considered as renewable fuel. Statement 3 is correct. India's biofuel policy has allowed the use of sugarcane juice in ethanol production, in addition to molasses

**87. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct. Currently, the law prescribes a minimum age of marriage is 21 years for men and 18 years for women. The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority which is gender-neutral. An individual attains the age of majority at 18 as per the Indian Majority Act, 1875.

**88. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. After over nine years, gold prices hit more than Rs. 50,000 per 10 grams in India – the world's second-largest gold consumer after China – as a host of factors like global uncertainties triggered by Covid pandemic, weak dollar, low-interest rates and stimulus programmes have increased the appetite for gold. Statement 2 is incorrect. Gold prices in India are dictated by international prices not by Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India bought 40.45 tonnes of gold in the financial year 2019-20, taking its total holdings of the yellow metal to 653.01 tonnes.

**89. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Recently, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has

released the 'Report of the Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR)'. Statement 2 and 3 are correct. A new reporting framework called as the 'Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)' to better reflect the intent and scope of reporting on non-financial parameters. The committee also recommended that the BRSR be integrated with the MCA21 portal. MCA 21 is used for submitting requisite filings to the ministry under the companies law.

**90. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Both the statements are correct. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the Ministry of Human Resource Development's flagship 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' (UBA) to boost livelihood opportunities and income generation for tribal communities. 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' connects higher education institutions with villages for the economic and social betterment of rural communities.

**91. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** In 1997, about 30,000 Bru-Reang tribals fled from Mizoram and took shelter in Tripura's refugee camps. These refugees were said to have fled from Mizoram due to ethnic tension. Before the agreement, these people were living in temporary shelters at Kanchanpur, in North Tripura. To end the 23-year old Bru-Reang refugee crisis, an agreement was signed in January 2020 which is known as Bru-Reang agreement. The Bru-Reang agreement was signed between the Government of India, presided by the Union Home Minister, Governments of Tripura and Mizoram and Bru-Reang representatives on 17 January, 2020.

**92. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Article 32 deals with the 'Right to Constitutional Remedies', or affirms the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution. It states that the Supreme Court "shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever

may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part". The right guaranteed by this Article "shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution". In civil or criminal matters, the first remedy available to an aggrieved person is that of trial courts, followed by an appeal in the High Court and then the Supreme Court. When it comes to violation of fundamental rights, an individual can approach the High Court under Article 226 or the Supreme Court directly under Article 32. Article 226, however, is not a fundamental right like Article 32.

**93. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Do not confuse it with the neurological disorder because the primary acting mechanism is our immune system. Guillain Barre Syndrome is a very rare autoimmune disorder. The immune system, in an attempt to kill a virus (such as coronavirus), accidentally starts attacking the peripheral nervous system. The peripheral nervous system is a network of nerves that lead from the brain and spinal cord to different parts of the body. Attacking them can affect limb functions.

**94. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** While demarcating borders between Maharashtra and Mysore state (later called Karnataka), the Reorganisation of States Commission sought to include talukas with a Kannada-speaking population of more than 50 per cent in Mysore. Opponents of the region's inclusion in Mysore argued, and continue to argue, that Marathi-speakers outnumbered Kannadigas who lived there in 1956. In September 1957, the Bombay government echoed their demand and lodged a protest with the Centre, leading to the formation of the Mahajan Commission under former Chief Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan in October 1966. The Commission, which submitted its report in August 1967, recommended that 264 villages be transferred to Maharashtra (which formed in 1960) and that Belgaum and 247 villages remain with Karnataka. Maharashtra rejected the report, calling it biased and illogical, and demanded another review. Karnataka welcomed the report,

and has ever since continued to press for implementation, although this has not been formally done by the Centre.

**95. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM-FME) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganised segment of the food processing industry and promote formalisation of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organisations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain. With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises. The States would identify food products for districts keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material. The One District One Product (ODOP) could be a perishable produce based or cereal based or a food item widely produced in an area. E.g. mango, potato, pickle, millet based products, fisheries, poultry, etc. Existing individual micro food processing units desirous of upgrading their units can avail credit-linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.

**96. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** As per article 217, the Chief Justice of the high court is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief justice of India as well as the Governor of the state in question. A collegium system has evolved over the years in which a Collegium headed by the CJI (along with two senior most Supreme Court Judges) makes recommendation to the government for appointment of judges. The Collegium recommends the names to the law ministry which after scrutinising send the paper to the President. The President either approves the names or returns the names for reconsideration of the Supreme

Court. If still the Supreme Court sends the same names, the President appoints the persons recommended.

**97. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** On October 6, 1993, came a nine-judge bench decision in the Supreme Court Advocates-on Record Association vs Union of India case — the “Second Judges Case”. This was what ushered in the collegium system. The majority verdict written by Justice J S Verma said “justiciability” and “primacy” required that the CJI be given the “primal” role in such appointments. It overturned the S P Gupta judgment, saying “the role of the CJI is primal in nature because this being a topic within the judicial family, the executive cannot have an equal say in the matter”. Here the word ‘consultation’ would shrink in a mini form. It now held that “consultation” meant “concurrence”, and that the CJI’s view enjoys primacy. This is with the rationale that CJI could be best equipped to know and assess the “worth” of candidates. But, the CJI was to formulate the opinion only through a body of senior judges that the court described as the ‘collegium’.

**98. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs meets to decide the dates of the session and an announcement has to be made giving the members at least two weeks’ notice.

**99. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** All of these countries share border with Ethiopia. Check map for clarity.

**100. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** Gupkar Declaration was a joint resolution signed on August 4, 2019, at Gupkar Residence by the major political parties in Jammu and Kashmir to oppose the Centre’s decision on abrogation of Article 370 which granted a special status to the erstwhile state (now a Union Territory). Gupkar Residence is the house of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah at Gupkar Road in Srinagar. Members of the Gupkar Declaration have said that it is a constitutional battle to resolve the political problem of Jammu and Kashmir in a peaceful manner through dialogue.



## **UPSC CIVILS MAIN TEST**

### **TOPIC: GENERAL STUDIES**

**Time allowed: 180 Minutes Maximum Marks: 250**

#### **Question Paper Specific Instructions**

***Please read the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:***

- ★ There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
- ★ All the questions are compulsory.
- ★ The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- ★ Answer must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answer written in medium other than the authorized one.
- ★ Answers to Questions No.1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions No.11 to 20 should be in 250 words.
- ★ Each question carries 12.5 marks.
- ★ Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer booklet must be clearly struck off.

# MAINS QUESTION PAPER

1. Discuss the relevance of Guru Nanak Dev's teachings in the modern world.
2. Discuss the reasons behind the increasing world-wide protest against capitalism.
3. Critically discuss the significance of Supreme Court's order on Ayodhya issue.
4. "Based on the experience of the last seven decade of our partiamentary democracy, we need to evolve a new normal to enable effective functioning of the Parliament and state hegislatures." Discuss.
5. Critically discuss the key highlights of '2017 Crime in India Report.'
6. Both India and Saudi Arabia are re-defining their foreign policy priorities at a time of global and regional turmoil. Discuss it in the context of present geo-politics situation.
7. India needs to engage with the Tamil equations and Chinese interest in Sri Lanka with an open mind. Discuss it in the context of recently elected new regime in Sri Lanka.
8. "India stands to gain from Germany as Germany is an economic powerhouse just as Germany stands to gain from India's growing market. Discuss
9. What is 'RCEP'? Discuss the reasons behind the decision of India to opt out from the RCEP.
10. Critically discuss the performance of India in World Bank's Doing Business Report 2020.
11. Why real estate sector is ailing in India. Discuss the government's imitiatives which are taken to boost the sector.
12. What are 'Green Bonds'? Can green bonds be a viable alternative for financing of green projects in India.
13. Critically discuss why patients' rights charter is neccessary for India.
14. What is 'Pegasus'? Discuss its modus operandi. <
15. A warming planet is an environmental challenge and a threat to humanity. Discuss it in the context of 'Brown to Green Report' on G20 countries performance on climate action.
16. How has the change in climate affected the cropping pattern in recent times? Elaborate on the potential and challenges of climate-resilient crops in the context of climate change
17. What do you understand by cognitive dissonance? Give some examples of situations where a civil servant may experience cognitive dissonance
18. Socrates' model of the just state was that of a healthy organism, where all the parts function for the benefit of the whole, and the whole benefits the parts. Examine
19. Public utilities and spaces in India are in a bad shape. Roads, water supply, street lighting, market cleanliness, railway stations, parks, community centres, public toilets, rivers and ponds are considered sole responsibility of the government to maintain without charging anything. People consider that they have rights to better public utilities and public spaces solely on the basis of government's ability to provide them.
  - (a) What should be the ideal way to manage the quality of public utilities and public spaces in a populous country like India?
  - (b) Identify limitations of each competing options.
20. In a given scenario, a military team locates a terrorist cell preparing an attack expected to kill hundreds. They command a drone that can drop a bomb on the terrorists, preventing their attack. As the team readies the bomb, their cameras spy a little girl selling bread within the blast radius. Should they go through with their mission - killing the girl in order to prevent the deaths of many others?
  - (1) Examine the options available to the military team, along with their pros and cons.
  - (2) In this scenario, as the head of the military team, what course of action would you adopt?

# MAINS KEY PAPER

## 1. Discuss the relevance of Guru Nanak Dev's teachings in the modern world.

**A:** The 550th birth anniversary of the first sikh guru and founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak Dev was celebrated as Prakash Parv on November, 12. He is the greatest thinker, philosopher, poet, traveller, political rebel, social leveller, mass communicator and spiritual master the land of Punjab has produced.

In a world that is increasingly fragmented with a narrow, tunnel vision, bigotry and dogmatism, we have to walk on the path shown to us by Nanak and other illustrious gurus to dispel the darkness that constantly threatens to envelop individuals, communities and nations. Our worldview has been continually broadened by the timeless messages of enlightened pathfinders like Guru Nanak.

He even created awareness related to the conservation of water, and the importance of a clean environment. His teachings related to selfless service were very practical and adaptable for the common man: He never preached anything which he did not practice.

On environment, Guru Nanak Dev guides that Earth has to be treated like Mother, water like Father, and Air like Guru. This message in closing Salok of Japji is recited many times daily during meditation, individually and collectively. Therefore, one has to guard against any type of pollution to the environment.

On economics and commerce, Guru Nanak Dev emphasized on literacy, gaining knowledge, healthy living, increased workforce, and encouraging investment. Again, emphasis was on ethics and truthful behavior.

## 2. Discuss the reasons behind the increasing world-wide protest against capitalism.

**A:** Critics of capitalism associate the economic system with social inequality; unfair distribution of wealth and power; materialism; repression of workers and trade unionists; social alienation; economic inequality; unemployment; and economic instability. Many socialists consider capi-

talism to be irrational in that production and the direction of the economy are unplanned, creating many inconsistencies and internal contradictions.

Despite the idea of a "level playing field," capitalism does not promote equality of opportunity. Those without good nutrition, support, and education may never make it to the playing field. Society will never benefit from their valuable skills.

Capitalism ignores external costs, such as pollution and climate change. This makes goods cheaper and more accessible in the short run. But over time, it depletes natural resources, lowers the quality of life in the affected areas, and increases costs for everyone. The government should impose Pigovian taxes to monetize these external costs and improve the general welfare.

Capitalism only works if it works for everyone, which makes it our obligation to push it to be better. The present issues of capitalism need to be reimagined. For this leaders, thinkers and workers from around the world should come up with new ways for the better functioning of economic system.

## 3. Critically discuss the significance of Supreme Court's order on Ayodhya issue.

**A:** A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on November 9 has delivered its judgment in the cross-appeals filed by the Hindu and Muslim sides challenging the three-way partition of the disputed 2.77 acres of Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land among Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and the Sunni Waqf Board in September 2010.

In a unanimous judgment, the Bench has ordered that a temple must be constructed at the disputed site and the Muslims must be compensated with five acres of land at a prominent place in Ayodhya. The court also ordered the Central government to formulate a scheme within three months to implement this order.

The Bench ordered that a temple will be constructed on the disputed land. It orders the Centre to

formulate a scheme within three months under the Ayodhya Act, 1993. The scheme will have a Trust for management and construction of temple. Both the inner courtyard and the outer courtyard will be handed over to this Trust. The Centre will give the rest of the land to the Trust. Muslims will be awarded five acre of alternative land in a suitable, prominent place. Till the Trust is formed, the ownership of the site will rest with the Centre. The suit filed by Nirmohi Akhara for sherbaiti rights has been time barred and hence dismissed.

The judgment has found general acceptance and approval in large sections of society though there are some prominent voices including those of Muslim leaders that are finding fault with an argument that it is 'Solomonic' verdict in which 'faith has won over facts'.

Whether the judgment leads to a closure and the minority community shows the will to move on is going to largely depend upon the good and positive intentions of Hindu leaders that they are not going to reopen other issues of similar nature like that of Krishna Janmbhoomi temple in Mathura and KashiVishwanath temple in Varanasi

4. "Based on the experience of the last seven decade of our parliamentary democracy, we need to evolve a new normal to enable effective functioning of the Parliament and state legislatures." Discuss.

**A:** After seven decades of parliamentary democracies, the present pitfalls of our parliamentary democracy are too well known to be elaborated. Briefly, these include the declining number of sittings of legislatures, persistent disruptions, declining quality of debates, growing number of legislatures with criminal record, high degree of absenteeism, inadequate representation of women, rising money and muscle power in elections, lack of inner democracy in functioning of the political parties.

Poor knowledge, low argumentative power of the masses, negative influences of poverty and economic disparities, faulty 'First Past The Post (FPTP)' election system and society's perpetual habit of accepting all permeable State to control

public and private affairs are the sources of some concerns about the efficacy of our democracy.

*The four fundamentals on which any democracy thrives are;*

1. majority rule,
2. recognition of minority rights,
3. constitutional government and
4. governance by discussion.

While democracy has taken deep roots in our country, there is still a large set of concerns that need to be addressed. At last, Parliamentary democracy thrives only when the electorate is mature, informed, intelligent and vigilant, and that can be done only by intensive and continuous education of the public of their obligations and rights as citizens of a democratic republic.

5. Critically discuss the key highlights of '2017 Crime in India Report.'

**A:** The recent NCRB report, published after a delay of two years, included 88 new categories including sexual harassment of women at the workplace/public transport, offences relating to elections, obscene acts at public places, circulation of fake news, chit funds, cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act and Mental Health Act, noise pollution and defacement of public property.

According to the latest NCRB report, there has been a 30 per cent rise in incidents of offences against the state as compared to 2016. This category includes offences such as sedition, waging war against the country and damage to public property among others.

The total number of crimes committed against women country-wide increased by 6% since 2016, while those against Scheduled Castes went up by 13%. Uttar Pradesh (UP) recorded the highest numbers in highest number of dowry deaths and murders categories and Bihar in the second place in both categories in the country after UP. Madhya Pradesh, which has come third in dowry deaths. In murder cases, Maharashtra holds the third position.

The number of crimes against Scheduled Castes also registered a marginal increase from 40,801 in 2016 to 4,3203 in 2017 with Uttar Pradesh (11,444) recording maximum number of cases.

The new category of offences committed by vari-

ous categories of "Anti-National Elements" showed that the maximum offences were committed by Left Wing Extremist (LWE) operatives (652), followed by North East insurgents (421) and Terrorists (Jihadi and other elements) (371). NCRB report provides much relevant, information and useful for the parliamentarians, policy makers, States/ UTs, researchers, academicians and other various stakeholders. The scope and coverage of the report has significantly improved as NCRB has attempted to capture the emerging trends and patterns of crime.

**6. Both India and Saudi Arabia are re-defining their foreign policy priorities at a time of global and regional turmoil. Discuss it in the context of present geo-politics situation.**

**A:** Today's Indo-Saudi cooperation is no longer restricted to the traditional sphere of oil-energy trade. Instead, the relationship has become multifaceted thanks to the impetus given by the leaderships of both countries to other areas, including defense, maritime security, counterterrorism, science and technology, strategic oil reserves, investments, tourism, and so on.

Politically, New Delhi and Riyadh acknowledged each other's core interests and accommodated them. Saudi Arabia showed an "understanding" of recent Indian actions in Jammu and Kashmir. Unlike Turkey and Malaysia, it has cautioned Pakistan against escalating the crisis. Similarly India has "strongly condemned" the various attacks on Saudi civilian facilities. Their bilateral defence, security and anti-terror cooperation has intensified and the first naval exercise is to be held soon.

India's strategic collaboration with Saudi Arabia and the UAE has been possible because of convergence of interests across a wide template. The success of India's foreign policy in the West Asian region is underscored by successful strategic partnerships with all countries regardless of regional rivalries and conflicts.

Both India and Saudi Arabia are re-defining their foreign policy priorities at a time of global and regional turmoil. For New Delhi, Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states are becoming key interlocutors in the Middle East. For Riyadh, India is one

of the eight major powers with which it wants to forge strategic partnerships as part of its 'Vision 2030'.

**7. India needs to engage with the Tamil equations and Chinese interest in Sri Lanka with an open mind. Discuss it in the context of recently elected new regime in Sri Lanka.**

**A:** India's concerns in Sri Lanka, again as in the case of other neighbours, is security-centric. On the external front, India is concerned about China and Pakistan. On the internal, it is Islamic militancy, spreading out from traditional regional centres, to the neighbourhood. Despite, pro-china policy of Sri Lanka, India have to reset bilateral relations between the two strong governments in Delhi and Colombo.

India is acutely aware that China's economic and strategic salience in the Subcontinent will continue to grow and is not tied to the regime leadership in its neighbourhood.

Delhi can't expect its neighbours to shut down economic and commercial engagement with Beijing, notwithstanding the many questions about the terms of China's assistance on projects, including those under the BRI. But Delhi will be right to ask Colombo not to take steps with Beijing that threaten India's security.

Current Indian policy is focused on dealing directly with the mainstream parties in the country and its primary goal is to ensure that Chinese influence in Sri Lanka is limited. This is easier said than done.

However, there is no reason to assume that whether it is Gotbaya or Sajith, that they will ignore Indian interests. The Nepal experience has shown that geography still remains an important factor in contemporary geopolitics.

**8. "India stands to gain from Germany as Germany is an economic powerhouse just as Germany stands to gain from India's growing market. Discuss"**

**A:** Today, Germany is amongst India's most important partners both bilaterally and in the global context. India and Germany have a 'Strategic Partnership' since 2001, which has been further strengthened with the Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) at the level of Head of



Governments which allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of fresh areas of engagement. India is amongst a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism.

India stands to gain from Germany as Germany is an economic powerhouse just as Germany stands to gain from India because she is a promising market that is growing and developing. Thus, this makes it a win-win for both countries. But, coming in the way of this is the 'Bilateral investment treaty' which needs to be handled judiciously, maturely and without any adverse impact on this growing relationship.

Potentially, India can learn a lot from the way how coalition governments are setup in Germany as in Germany even if the political ideology of the parties are different, or at times even dramatically divergent from each other, they make the effort in the national interest to put their ideology and party interests lower than the national interest. This is also one lesson that we can learn from Germany.

Surrounding the issue of the permanent seat at the UN Security Council, both Germany and India are a part of the G-4, and both are vying for a permanent seat at the UNSC, how do Germany and India really move forward knowing that the present P5 members do have certain reservations about India and Germany's entry into the permanent security council?

**9. What is 'RCEP'? Discuss the reasons behind the decision of India to opt out from the RCEP.**

**A:** The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a trade deal that was being negotiated between 16 countries. They include the 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and the six countries with which the bloc has free trade agreements (FTAs) - India, Australia, China, Korea, Japan, and New Zealand.

After seven long years of negotiations, India has decided not to join the RCEP. India believes that the RCEP trade deal doesn't provide adequate protection against possible surges of imported goods.

We are losing out to our neighbouring countries due to higher logistics costs and lack of proper port facilities that lead to higher turnaround time for ships. Indian companies' labour costs are high because India is not resorting to sweatshop wages.

On the whole, in terms of quality and price, we seem to be lagging behind our neighbours and that is why foreign firms leaving Chinese shores due to the US-China trade war and an increase in tariffs are not coming to India. India is not able to compete with China on many items and New Zealand in dairy; it is this lack of competitiveness which has led to greater unpreparedness for India.

India has an advantage in services exports and has demanded freer movement of its service personnel within the RCEP. This will give a boost to our services exports despite the language barrier. This demand has not been accepted by the RCEP deal.

**10. Critically discuss the performance of India in World Bank's Doing Business Report 2020.**

**A:** For the fifth year in a row, India has improved its rankings, going up from 77 last year to 63 this year. India also figures in the top ten most improved countries in the world for the third consecutive year. From being ranked 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2020, it has been a significant upward journey for the country in a rank list that is an important input in the plans of global investors. The country performed better in six of the ten parameters used for ranking including starting a business, dealing with construction permits, trading across borders, resolving insolvency, paying taxes and getting electricity. In the three areas of getting credit, protecting minor investors and enforcing contracts, India fared the same as last year while its performance fell for registration of properties.

While the improvements are impressive and the rise in overall rankings in the last few years is noteworthy, the fact is that India is still below its competitors for global capital, particularly China, which at rank 31 is one level above France. The country lags in key metrics such as "Starting a business", "Enforcing contracts" and "Registering

property".

Although India's rank improved from 142 in 2014 to 77 in the report for 2019, and 63 for 2020. However, this has done little for private investment, which, when measured as share of GDP, has remained unchanged since 2014. Right now the government needs to be pro-active rather than adopt a hands-off approach. Business cannot go it alone.

**11. Why real estate sector is ailing in India. Discuss the government's initiatives which are taken to boost the sector.**

**A:** The real estate industry has failed to recover from the twin shocks of the ban on high-value currency notes in November 2016 and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) that was introduced in July the following year. This has resulted in piling inventory, stagnant-to-falling property prices and dwindling funding for developers.

The liquidity crunch due to the collapse of IL&FS had a devastating effect on the real estate sector as builders lacked the capital to complete stalled projects. Experts said the real estate crisis, if not addressed in time, could have a contagion effect on NBFCs and banks.

The government has announced a much-needed bailout fund for stalled real estate or housing projects across the country. The move has been cheered by the ailing real estate sector, which has been struggling with projects due to an acute crunch in liquidity. The focus of this "special window" of funding from the government is those projects that are stalled for lack of construction funding.

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was passed by the Parliament in March, 2016 heralding a new era of transformation in the real estate sector. The core objective of this transformative legislation is to ensure regulation and promotion of real estate sector in an efficient manner and to protect the interest of home buyers. The Act is applicable to all the States / UTs, except the State of Jammu & Kashmir

Post the revival of the Indian real estate sector through a series of initiatives by the government,

the confidence of the homebuyers has increased with a clear understanding of the market. The developers have also witnessed a smooth regulatory business process. This development is expected to help increase the cash flow in Indian real estate sector after government Investment. Single window approvals by central and various state governments will further accelerate growth of the industry.

**12. What are 'Green Bonds'? Can green bonds be a viable alternative for financing of green projects in India.**

**A:** According to the accepted global definition, green bonds are "fixed-income financial instruments, where the proceeds are earmarked for financing green projects." They have the potential to attract capital that can generate a positive investment cycle for green projects.

In the Indian market, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced certain guidelines for green bonds. It has allocated eight high-level categories as "green projects"-renewable energy, clean transportation, sustainable water management, climate-change adaptation, energy efficiency, sustainable waste management, sustainable land use, and biodiversity conservation.

Various studies have indicated a need for innovative solutions to boost domestic and international investment through green bonds. A sound policy framework for green bonds can be a viable alternative for financing of green projects in India. In this context, India can learn from the global experience.

India has the potential to become a leader in the green bonds market. However, it must first formulate a comprehensive national policy framework, which can identify areas to promote issuance and investment of green bonds as well as minimise the possibilities of "greenwashing." Greenwashing is the intersection of "poor environmental performance and positive communication about environmental performance."

The impact of climate change poses a significant threat to the everyday lives of people, at both local and global levels. To prevent the loss of human and economic capital, mitigation and

adaptation measures require urgent financing. This can be achieved by channelling corporate, government and retail funding to the green sector.

**13. Critically discuss why patients' rights charter is necessary for India.**

**A:** The commercialisation of India's health sector in the last two decades has exacerbated the traditional power asymmetry between healthcare providers and patients. Health activists and doctors have pointed out that the existing codes of medical ethics are insufficient to protect patients from excessive misuse of medical power.

Based on the concept of fundamental dignity and equality of all human being, Human Rights (1948) emphasizes the notion of 'Patient Rights' has been developed across the globe in the last few decades. There is a growing consensus at international level that all patients must enjoy certain basic rights.

One of the big health debates that continue in 2019 is the the protection of patients in India's poorly regulated medical sector. One move that can help strengthen such protections is the adoption and implementation of the Charter for Patient's Rights.

Patient autonomy is affected by a number of factors, including severity of illness, socio-economic status and dependence. Many patients find that they are not treated with due consideration and compassion, and also have no control over their own care.

This is especially important and an urgent need at the present juncture because India does not have a dedicated regulator like other countries and the existing regulations in the interest of patients, governing the healthcare delivery system is on the anvil, some States have adopted the national Clinical Establishments Act, 2010, certain other States have enacted their own State level legislations like the Nursing Homes Act to regulate hospitals, while a few other States are in the process of adopting / developing such regulation.

This charter would also enable various kinds of health care providers to actively engage with this framework of patients' rights to ensure their

observance, while also benefiting from the formal codification of patients responsibilities.

**14. What is 'Pegasus'? Discuss its modus operandi.**

**A:** Israel-based "Cyber Warfare" vendor NSO Group produces and sells a mobile phone spyware suite called 'Pegasus'.

To monitor a target, a Pegasus operator of Pegasus must convince the target to click on a specially crafted exploit link, which, when clicked, delivers a chain of 'zero-day exploits' to penetrate security features on the phone and installs Pegasus without the user's knowledge or permission.

A "zero-day exploit" is a completely unknown vulnerability, about which even the software manufactures is not aware, and there is, thus, no patch or fix available for it.

Once the phone is exploited and 'Pegasus' is installed, it begins contacting the operator's command and control (C&C) servers to receive and execute operators' commands, and send back the target's private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls from popular mobile messaging apps. The operator can even turn on the phone's camera and microphone to capture activity in the phone's vicinity.

Israeli firm NSO has in the past said that it sells its software only to government authorities and that it always requests them not to misuse it.

**15. A warming planet is an environmental challenge and a threat to humanity. Discuss it in the context of 'Brown to Green Report' on G20 countries performance on climate action.**

**A:** Carbon emissions from the world's 20 biggest economies are rising. None of the G20 countries have plans that will put them on track to limit global warming to 1.5°C, despite the fact that most are technically capable and have economic incentives. To keep the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal within reach, G20 countries will have to increase their 2030 emission targets by 2020 and significantly scale up mitigation, adaptation and finance over the next decade.

Energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in G20 countries shot up by 1.8% in 2018 due to rising energy demand. Energy supply is not getting cleaner:

despite a more than 5% rise in G20 total renewable energy supply in 2018, the share of fossil fuels in the G20 energy mix remains at 82%.

G20 countries still provided more than US\$ 127 billion in fossil fuel subsidies in 2017. Subsidies have shown a decrease in nine G20 countries (partly due to falling fuel prices), but subsidies for natural gas infrastructure and production have remained stable or increased in many countries (despite lower prices).

Overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions go up in all sectors, but we're seeing some frontrunners emerging that others can learn from, like China's policies for promoting electric vehicles and public transport. In order for the Paris Agreement to succeed, it is clear that the G20 countries need to be climate leaders and pave the way for solutions that developing countries can benefit from. A warming planet is an environmental challenge and a threat to humanity. Negative effects of climate change are numerous and severe, in particular climate migration is poised to become an issue of unprecedented scale.

**16. How has the change in climate affected the cropping pattern in recent times? Elaborate on the potential and challenges of climate-resilient crops in the context of climate change**

**A:** India, with its diverse agro-climatic settings, is one of the most vulnerable countries. Its agriculture ecosystem, distinguished by high monsoon dependence, and with 85% small and marginal landholdings, is highly sensitive to weather abnormalities.

Economic Survey 2017-18 had estimated that climate change could reduce farm incomes by 15-18% on average, and by as much as 20-25% in unirrigated areas without any policy intervention.

**Impact of Climate Change on Cropping Pattern**

- ❑ Higher temperatures and changing precipitation patterns due to climate change will severely affect the production patterns of different crops.
- ❑ India's grain production is vulnerable to climate change. Major crops such as wheat, rice, oilseeds, pulses, fruits and vegetables will see reduced yields over the years.

- ❑ Studies have found that the yields from grains such as millet, sorghum, and maize are more resilient to extreme weather. Their yields vary significantly less due to year-to-year changes in climate and generally experience smaller declines during droughts. However, yields from rice, India's main crop, experience larger declines during extreme weather conditions.

"Though most crops will see reduced production, but climate change may also help improve yields of soybean, chickpea, groundnut, coconut (western coast) and potato (in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh).

**Potential of Climate Resilient Crops**

- ★ Climate resilient crops would help negate the threats of climate change by adapting to extreme conditions.
- ★ Climate exposure can be reduced through agronomic management practices such as:
  - ❑ inter and multiple cropping and crop-rotation
  - ❑ shift to non-farm activities
  - ❑ insurance covers
  - ❑ up-scaling techniques such as solar pumps, drip irrigation and sprinklers.
- ★ They are pest-resistant and thus save loss to crop yields by pest attacks.
- ★ Climate resilient crops increase productivity and efficiency of inputs (fertilizer and water use), and even have co-benefits for mitigation by reducing carbon emissions.

**Challenges in Adapting Climate Resilient Crops**

- ★ Subsistence Farming with traditional methods slows down the adoption of new climate-smart agro-practices among Indian farmers.
- ★ Knowledge gap among agriculture scientists, policy makers and farmers is too wide to change the cropping pattern immediately.
- ★ Lack of timely institutional initiatives to direct and guide farmers for crop diversification.
- ★ Lack of research and academic interventions in motivating farmers to adopt climate-resilient crops.

**Conclusion**

Increasing the production of alternative grains in India can offer benefits for improving nutrition, for saving water, and for reducing energy demand

and greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. The Sixth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on "Global Warming at 1.5°C" distinctly propagates the need to strengthen and enhance existing coping capacity and to remain committed to the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

There is an urgent need to educate farmers, reorient Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other grass-roots organisations with specific and more funds about climate change and risk-coping measures. With climate change being a phenomenon with such multiple levels of impact, a more comprehensive strategy to deal with its myriad effects needs to be developed.

**17. What do you understand by cognitive dissonance? Give some examples of situations where a civil servant may experience cognitive dissonance**

**A:** The theory of cognitive dissonance was first presented by Festinger in 1957. Cognitive dissonance is a sense of internal anxiety that is experienced when a person holds two inconsistent cognitions.

In other words, it is the mental stress or discomfort experienced by an individual who holds two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas or values at the same time, performs an action that is contradictory to one or more beliefs, ideas, or values, or is confronted by new information that conflicts with existing beliefs, ideas or values

No individual can completely avoid dissonance. So people have to cope with dissonance. According to Festinger, the desire to reduce dissonance would be determined by the importance of the elements creating the dissonance; the degree of influence the individual believes he or she has over the elements and the rewards that may be involved in dissonance.

Some instances where a civil servant may experience cognitive dissonance

- ★ An IPS officer who believes in non violence or doing no harm to anyone has to take decision of lathi charge or using pellet guns to disperse crowd faces such cognitive dissonance.
- ★ Strict adherence to ethical conduct may cause problems in carrying out certain aims both in

public and private life causing disaffection arising out of inability to reach goals. Being upright also pits the person against powerful vested interest, endangering his and his family's life, which may create inconsistency (dissonance) in civil servants' mind.

- ★ Development v/s Environment: A public servant faces dissonance when she has to take decision on displacement of tribal population for any development project.

**Conclusion**

A civil servant should always follow the constitutional moral values, code of conduct of services and act within ethical framework of public service in any case of cognitive dissonance. Emotional intelligence can be a tool for the public servants to deal whenever such situation arises.

**18. Socrates' model of the just state was that of a healthy organism, where all the parts function for the benefit of the whole, and the whole benefits the parts. Examine**

**A:** In the second book of Plato's, Republic, Socrates believed that the justice of a human being will best be understood after one has considered the justice of a city or state. He introduces the city-soul analogy to explain the just or ideal state.

- ★ Socrates says that a society, like a human body is composed of parts/ organs, which are connected in similar ways.
- ★ He says that the parts of a state are its citizens and in case of any pain or pleasure to any of the citizens, the state endures same feeling. That is, the "whole" feels the pain or pleasure along with the part that experiences it. The health of all the parts together constitute the health of the organism.
- ★ By this analogy, it is clear that the well-being of all the citizens- including the marginalised and vulnerable sections such as children, women, elderly, disabled, downtrodden, minorities- determines the well being of the state. i.e. is, parts (Citizens) function for the benefit of the whole (State).
- ★ On the other hand, any opportunity or threat for the state is an opportunity or threat to its parts i.e., its citizens. The well-being of the organism



works for the well-being of all its parts. The society with an efficient government is like a healthy organism. Thus, the overall progress and development of the state works towards the betterment of its citizens. The fair and just nature of the state works for the overall benefit of its people. That is, the whole benefits the parts.

- ★ Since a complete account of the health of the body is a complete account of the health of all of its parts, and vice versa: thus, any state will be called ideal or just, if its people are well. The prevalence of justice, fairness, transparency, compassion and empathy towards weaker sections determines the justness of the state. While the integrity, honesty, law-abiding, tolerance, and sense of duty among citizens determines the overall goodness of the state.

### Conclusion

Modern nation-states can gain the administrative lessons from Socrates city-soul analogy to work towards the best interests of its people. Individuals can also learn to work for the best of their respective nation by performing their civic duties in a virtuous manner

19. Public utilities and spaces in India are in a bad shape. Roads, water supply, street lighting, market cleanliness, railway stations, parks, community centres, public toilets, rivers and ponds are considered sole responsibility of the government to maintain without charging anything. People consider that they have rights to better public utilities and public spaces solely on the basis of government's ability to provide them.

(a) What should be the ideal way to manage the quality of public utilities and public spaces in a populous country like India?

(b) Identify limitations of each competing options.

A: The management of the public resources is considered the sole responsibility of the government.

However, in a populous country the government alone cannot perform its duty efficiently.

Active support from people is also needed. An ideal way to manage the quality of public utilities and public space should depend on both government initiatives as well as people's participation.

Community and cooperative efforts should support government programmes and initiatives through physical, mental and financial involvement in the management of these things. Awareness must be created among the people about their civil responsibilities.

There is certainly an urgent need for attitudinal change. The government has taken a number of initiatives but the main problem lies only with the implementation which is due to lack of positive attitude. The government can only take initiatives. Active support from people is also equally important. This can be said to be the broader issue as the government has taken initiatives for no open defecation but there is a need of change in the attitude of the people.

As long as the feeling of "Mera Ghar, Mera Gaon, and Mera Desh" (a slogan of Swachh Bharat) will not come among the people, no amount of government initiatives would help improve the things.

User charges, apart from generating required resources for maintenance of public utilities and spaces also instil a sense of belonging and responsibility and act as a disincentive for irresponsible or wasteful use of the public utilities and spaces. As far as justification of user charges is concerned it must not be viewed by generation of resources only, but also other advantages that it brings. It will make people use them with a sense of responsibility and will act as a negative enforcement in case the responsibility is not taken care of. At the same time, there are many people whose paying capacity may be limited, but they cannot be denied the use of public utilities and public space in a democratic and welfare state. The government has the responsibility to take into consideration the status of all the people.

There may be sections of society who may not be able to afford such levying of the charges.

In such a circumstance the pricing of public utilities and public space should be affordable.

It should be such that it fulfils both the objectives. Inclusive growth should be the sole purpose of all the government initiatives.

20. In a given scenario, a military team locates a terrorist cell preparing an attack expected to kill hundreds. They command a drone that can drop a bomb on the terrorists, preventing their attack. As the team readies the bomb, their cameras spy a little girl selling bread within the blast radius. Should they go through with their mission - killing the girl in order to prevent the deaths of many others?

(1) Examine the options available to the military team, along with their pros and cons.

(2) In this scenario, as the head of the military team, what course of action would you adopt?

A: The given case highlights on moral dilemma before a military team operating a drone that would drop a bomb to kill a terrorist cell, but with a collateral damage of killing a little girl selling bread. The dilemma is between the:

- ★ Utilitarian perspective of providing " Greatest good to the greatest number of people" and thus choosing to drop the bomb to save hundreds of lives over the cost of the life of one little innocent girl.
- ★ Deontological perspective of not launching the bomb that would kill the innocent Girl because " it is simply immoral to kill" even if the killing is done for good consequence of saving hundreds of lives.

**Stakeholders are as follows:**

- ★ Terrorist cell preparing for an attack
- ★ Little Girl within the blast radius
- ★ Military Team which is operating the drone.
- ★ Hundreds of people whose lives are under threat.
- ★ Nation/Society

(a) Available options to the military team are:

★ **Go ahead with the mission and drop the Bomb:**

- ❑ Pros- Save hundreds of people by killing terrorists and stopping them to launch any attack. This will fulfill their military duty of saving the nation from any terrorist attack. This will also bring appreciation to the military team from the community as well as from their organisation that would possibly bring them some rewards and promotions.

- ❑ Cons- This will kill an innocent little Girl as a collateral damage. It may remain a lifelong guilt for the teammembers who could not justify their inner conscience of killing the girl.

★ **Abort the mission**

- ❑ Pros: It will save the innocent little girl.
- ❑ Cons: It will leave the terrorist cell who have the potential to kill hundreds of lives by launching attacks. Along with this, the military team may be levelled with the tag of failure and in every terrorist attack by these terrorists in the future, if any, will fill them with huge regret.

(b) As the head of the military team, I would have a moral dilemma between the Positive duty of potentially saving hundreds of lives by ordering to drop the bomb and the negative duty of killing an innocent little girl. My possible actions would be:

- ❑ I would prefer to hold the mission on standby until the girl is out of the blast radius since my conscience would not allow me to order to kill any innocent life. This decision may have disastrous consequences for the nation of potentially putting hundreds of lives at risk by letting go a terrorist cell. It would also bring an enquiry from my team to explain our actions.
- ❑ I would make every attempt to first move the girl out of the blast radius, if possible, as quick as possible and then drop the bomb. For this, if possible, I would contact the ground based local intelligence or police authority to detain the girl quickly and safely move her out of the blast radius. Or create any other distractions around the girl's location to drive her out of blast radius.
- ❑ If it is not possible by any means to move the girl out of the blast radius, I still would not order the dropping of the bomb since there still would be a chance to kill those terrorists in the future, but if the girl is killed, she could not be brought back. Further, any attack launched by those terrorists could be effectively neutralised by proper strategies to save those hundreds of lives. Thus, it still may be a win-win situation.