

# APSC Prelims

## FREE MOCK TEST

### Answer Key & Solutions



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### APSC Prelims FREE Mock Test – GS1/Current Affairs

#### Answer Key & Solutions

Q1. The historical fort cities of Orchha have been included in the list of UNESCOs world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme. The Orchha fort city is located in which state?

1. Rajasthan
2. Odisha
- 3. Madhya Pradesh**
4. Karnataka

The historical fort cities of Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of UNESCO's world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme, according to the state government.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/gwalior-orchha-in-unesco-world-heritage-cities-list-mp-govt/article33269733.ece>

***Clarification from <https://en.unesco.org/news/note-clarification-0>***

We wish to refer to recent news reports published in the Indian media, which created a great deal of confusion by claiming that the historical fort cities of Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh (India), "have been included in the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Cities programme."

First and foremost, we wish to clarify that the two cities, Orchha and Gwalior, have not been inscribed on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites, which currently includes 38 Indian sites.

We are pleased to note however that **Orchha and Gwalior have been selected by the state Government of Madhya Pradesh as pilot cities for the Historic Urban Landscape programme and survey that UNESCO New Delhi will undertake jointly with the Tourism Department of Madhya Pradesh.** This programme will serve as a tool for a heritage-based urban development for both cities by the state Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Q2. Recently, domestic carrier Indigo started another flight from Dibrugarh to Imphal, under the RCS - UDAN programme of the Govt of India. UDAN scheme is related to

- 1. It is a regional connectivity scheme with the objective of "letting the common citizen of the country fly", aimed at making air travel affordable and widespread.**
2. It is a national connectivity scheme with the objective of connecting every district of India by air connectivity.
3. It's a scheme to restructure NH roadways, waterways and air connectivity systems in India.
4. None of the above

**UDAN-RCS, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)**

- UDAN-RCS, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is a regional airport development and "Regional Connectivity Scheme" (RCS) of Government of India, with the objective of "letting the common citizen of the country fly", aimed at making air travel affordable and widespread, to boost inclusive national economic development, job growth and air transport infrastructure development of all regions and states of India.

- At the beginning of the scheme, out of total 486 airports, 406 were participating unserved airports, 27 were well served airports out of 97 non-RCS airports and 12 were operational airports out of 18 participating underserved regional operational airports with regular fixed-wing scheduled flights.
- UDAN scheme will add to this number by expediting the development and operationalisation of India's potential-target of nearly 425 unserved, underserved, and mostly underdeveloped regional airports with regular scheduled flights.

Q3. Which organisations/institution/personality was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2020?

1. The International Court of Justice in The Hague
2. Greta Thunberg
3. World Health Organization
- 4. UN World Food Programme**

The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 was awarded to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for feeding millions of people amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The WFP was founded in 1961. The UN organisation had helped 97 million people last year and distributed over 15 billion rations to people in 88 countries last year. The award consists of a gold medal, a diploma and a cheque for 10 million Swedish kronor.

### **UN World Food Programme**

The World Food Programme is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization, the largest one focused on hunger and food security, and the largest provider of school meals. Founded in 1961, it is headquartered in Rome and has offices in 80 countries. As of 2019, it served 97 million people in 88 countries, the largest since 2012, with two-thirds of its activities conducted in conflict zones.

In addition to emergency food relief, WFP offers technical assistance and development aid, such as building capacity for emergency preparedness and response, managing supply chains and logistics, promoting social safety programs, and strengthening resilience against climate change. The agency is also a major provider of direct cash assistance and medical supplies, and provides passenger services for humanitarian workers.

WFP is an executive member of the United Nations Development Group, a consortium of UN entities that aims to fulfil the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with a priority on achieving SDG 2 for "zero hunger" by 2030.

The World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to provide food assistance in areas of conflict, and to prevent the use of food as a weapon of war and conflict.

Q4. Which Tennis player won the 2020 French Open Singles title, making it his thirteenth French Open Men's Singles title?

1. Roger Federer
- 2. Rafael Nadal**
3. Novak Djokovic
4. Dominic Thiem

Tennis Star Rafael Nadal defeated Novak Djokovic to win his 13th French Open and 20th Grand Slam title. Nadal also equalled Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles. This is also the 100th match win at Roland Garros of Nadal against just two defeats since his 2005 debut. Young Polish player Iga Swiatek became the lowest-ranked woman to win the French Open.

Q5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Dhubri - Phulbari bridge on 18 February 2021. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the Dhubri - Phulbari bridge?

1. It is to be built over Brahmaputra river
2. With a span of more than 19 km, it would be India's longest bridge over water.
3. It is being funded by World Bank

Select the correct answer

- 1. I and II only**
2. I and III only
3. II and III only
4. I, II and III

The Dhubri - Phulbari bridge, to be completed by 2026–27, would be India's longest bridge over water and would span more than 19 km. This proposed bridge, close to the Bangladesh border, will connect Assam's Dhubri with Meghalaya's Phulbari which is also a missing link of National Highway 127B. Civil works will start in 2019–2020. This is being funded by the Japan



International Cooperation Agency and it would be executed by NHIDCL. This is one of 6 proposed bridges on the Brahmaputra.

It is a 19 km long 4-lane bridge to be laid from Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya. The bridge will improve transport connectivity in the Barak valley. It also reduces the distance between the four North eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Assam.

Q6. India nominated Ajay Mathur was elected as the next Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Primary objective of International Solar Alliance (ISA) is

1. To work for establishment of peace and settlement among the SOLAR countries
2. To work for reducing global warming effects by setting emission cuts in greenhouse gases
- 3. To work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels**
4. To promote launch of common satellites for use by different countries

India nominated Ajay Mathur was elected as the next Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). He succeeds Upendra Tripathy, who has serving as DG since 2017. The Director-General has a four-year term, which can also be renewed for an additional term. Mathur is the chief of the New Delhi-based The Energy and Research Institute, at present.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 124 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. This initiative was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium, United Kingdom. The alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization. Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, with the exception of voting rights. After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states world-wide.

The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Africa Summit, and a meeting of member countries ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015. The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016, and 200 countries have joined.

Q7. Which state has recently become the first to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools?

1. Assam
- 2. Kerala**
3. Punjab
4. Telangana

Kerala has recently become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools. Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan has declared that the state public education sector has become completely digital. He also said that over 5 lakh students joined in Government schools during the last five years.

Q8. Which of the following variety of tea touched the record heights set by Assam tea selling for Rs 75000 per kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC)?

1. Orthodox tea from Pabhojan Tea Estate
- 2. Manohari Gold Tea from Manohari Tea Estate**
3. Speciality green tea from Diroibam Tea Estate
4. CTC (crush, tear and curl) tea from Hookhmol Tea Estate

Rarest luxury poured in a cup, this is what defines the specialty Assam tea - Manohari Gold Tea which was sold at a record price of Rs 75,000 per Kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC).

This auction brings a ray of hope for the Assamese Tea industry. Produced by the Manohari Tea Estate in upper Assam's Dibrugarh district, this rare Assam Tea was sold at an auction. According to the Secretary of Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association (GTABA), Dinesh Bihani, "This is a great achievement amidst global pandemic when the entire world is affected. Manohari Tea Estate has made extra effort to produce this speciality tea in the month of September and sent it to GTAC for sale."

Q9. When is International Day of Non-Violence observed annually?

1. September 8
2. July 4
3. June 5
- 4. October 2**

October 2 is observed as the International Day of Non-Violence every year by the United Nations, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The UN General Assembly in a resolution on 15 June 2007 declared this day. The objective of this day is to spread the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. Gandhi is known across the world for his non-violence movement 'Satyagraha'.

Q10. The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) has recently submitted its Report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President of India Ram Nath Kovind. Which of the following statement(s) is/are not correct about the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC)?

1. Nand Kishore Singh is the Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission
2. Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri and Anoop Singh are the members of the Fifteenth Finance Commission
3. **The commission was set up to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 1 April 2019.**
4. The Finance Commission is constituted under article 280 of the Constitution.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) led by Chairman N K Singh has recently submitted its Report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

Last year, the Commission submitted its report with recommendations for the year 2020-21 and it was accepted and tabled in the Parliament. Now, the Commission has submitted recommendations for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC or 15-FC) is an Indian Finance Commission constituted in November 2017 and is to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 2020-04-01. The commission's chairman is Nand Kishore Singh, with its full-time members being Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri and Anoop Singh. In addition, the commission also has a part-time member in Ramesh Chand. Shaktikanta Das served as a member of the commission from November 2017 to December 2018.

The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves. Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.

Q11. Which of the following films is India's official entry for the Academy Awards 2021?

- 1. Jallikattu**
2. Bulbul Can Sing
3. Shakuntala Devi
4. Ronuwa: Who Never Surrender

Malayalam film Jallikattu, directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards, 2021.

It is also the third Malayalam film to be shortlisted for the Oscar Award. This film is based on writer S. Hareesh's acclaimed story titled 'Maoist'. As of now, only three Indian films - Lagaan, Mother India and Salaam Bombay! have won the coveted award.

Q12. What is the rank of India in the Doing Business Report 2020 published by The World Bank to 'Compare Business Regulation in 190 Economies'?

1. 17
- 2. 63**
3. 67
4. 80

The World Bank has recently released the corrected Doing Business rankings after review of data irregularities. The World Bank corrected the rankings of China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan. China's rank in 2018 would have been 85, a drop of 7 places. India holds the same place of 63 in the Doing Business 2020 report.

### **Ease of Doing Business 2020: India's improvement**

India has ascended 17 notches, ranking at 63rd position in the report published by The World Bank. The 'Make in India' campaign started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi focused on attracting foreign investment, boosted the private sector (especially manufacturing) and enhanced India's overall competitiveness.

In the year 2015, the Government of India aimed at joining the 50 top economies on the 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking by 2020. Prime Minister Modi led administration targeted all the areas measured by Doing Business, with a focus on paying taxes, trading across borders, and resolving insolvency making a substantial leap upward. The reform measures by the Central Government raised India's Ease of Doing Business ranking from 130 in 2016 to 63 in 2020.

Q13. The 'Brahmaputra Aamantran Abhiyaan', which was seen in the news recently, is to be held in which two states?

1. Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya
- 2. Assam and Arunachal Pradesh**
3. Assam and Meghalaya
4. Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram

Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has flagged off the "Brahmaputra Aamantran Abhiyaan", a river rafting expedition.

The 917 km long expedition cum public outreach programme is to be held in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The month-long expedition is organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & NDRF.

Q14. When is the statehood day of the three states of Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura celebrated?

1. January 01
2. January 19
- 3. January 21**
4. January 29

Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura celebrated their 49th statehood day on January 21, 2021.

On January 21, 1972, these three states became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act of 1971. It also led to the formation of the Union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, which were declared as states on February 21, 1987.

Q15. Which of the following is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal traffic of a targeted server, service or network by overwhelming the target or its surrounding infrastructure with a flood of Internet traffic?

1. Supply chain attack
2. Spoofing
3. Data scraping
- 4. DDoS attack**

A Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack is an attempt to make an online service unavailable by overwhelming it with traffic from multiple sources.

A massive DDoS attack affected the websites of over 200 organisations across Belgium, including government, parliament, universities and research institutes. The DDoS attack started on 4 May and targeted Belnet, the government-funded ISP provider for the country's educational institutions and government services.

A distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal traffic of a targeted server, service or network by overwhelming the target or its surrounding infrastructure with a flood of Internet traffic.

DDoS attacks achieve effectiveness by utilizing multiple compromised computer systems as sources of attack traffic. Exploited machines can include computers and other networked resources such as IoT devices.

From a high level, a DDoS attack is like an unexpected traffic jam clogging up the highway, preventing regular traffic from arriving at its destination.

Q16. Which of the following statement(s) is/are **incorrect** about the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?

1. The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.
2. It consists of fifteen member countries.
3. Five permanent member countries are the People's Republic of China, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the USA.
4. Any of the fifteen members can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states to the United Nations or nominees for the office of Secretary-General.

Select the correct option

1. I and II only
2. I, II and III only
3. II, III and IV only
- 4. III and IV only**

The United Nations Security Council is a 15 member body. Five veto-wielding permanent members of the council are the United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France.



Recently, five countries namely Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Albania, Ghana and Gabon have been selected for to join the U.N. Security Council. They replace another 5 members whose terms end and will start their terms on January 1.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter. Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action. The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

The Security Council was created after World War II to address the failings of the League of Nations in maintaining world peace. It held its first session on 17 January 1946, and in the ensuing decades was largely paralyzed by the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent: the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. These were the great powers, or their successor states, that were the victors of World War II. Permanent members can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states to the United Nations or nominees for the office of Secretary-General. The remaining ten members are elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

Q17. The Ministry of Culture (MoC) and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in Development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), which is to be developed in which state?

1. Maharashtra
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Andhra Pradesh
- 4. Gujarat**

### National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- NMHC to be developed as an international tourist destination, dedicated to the legacy of maritime heritage of India, at Lothal: Shri G. Kishan Reddy
- NMHC, a world-class facility is to be developed near the ASI site of Lothal, located about 80 kms away from Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The complex would be developed as an international tourist destination, where the maritime heritage of India would be showcased.
- National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is conceptualized as an international tourist destination, dedicated to the legacy of maritime heritage of India, at Lothal, Gujarat with various tourist facilities/amenities such as National Maritime Heritage Museum, Heritage Theme Park, Maritime Research Institute, landscaping and recreational venues, to attract tourists besides pavilion for each coastal states and union territories to showcase the maritime heritage of India.

### Lothal

- Lothal was one of the southernmost cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization located in Gujarat.
- Construction of the city began around 2400 BCE.
- According to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Lothal had the world's earliest known dock, which connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river on the trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra.
- Lothal was a vital and thriving trade Centre in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems, and valuable ornaments reaching the far corners of West Asia and Africa.
- The techniques and tools they pioneered for bead-making and in metallurgy have stood the test of time for over 4000 years.
- The Lothal site has been nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and its application is pending on the tentative list of UNESCO.

Q18. What is the turnover limit of Small and Medium-Sized Companies, as per the definition issued by the Corporate Affairs Ministry?

1. Rs 100 crore
- 2. Rs 250 crore**
3. Rs 500 crore
4. Rs 750 crore

The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has enlarged and expanded the definition of small and medium companies (SMC).

As per the new definition, small and medium companies are unlisted entities which are not banks, financial institutions or insurance firms. They should have a turnover of up to Rs 250 crore and borrowings up to Rs 50 crore in the immediately preceding accounting year.

Q19. Which of the following countries has recently announced the “International Climate Finance Plan”, to double climate finance to developing countries?

1. India
2. France
3. Germany
- 4. USA**

The United States President Joe Biden unveiled the “US International Climate Finance Plan”. HE announced that the country would double public climate finance to help poor countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The new climate finance plan has been released in lines with a new goal to cut emissions by 50%-52% from 2005 levels.

Q20. Who authored the book titled “The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform”?

1. Rajiv Mehrishi
- 2. Ram Sewak Sharma**
3. Nandan Nilekani
4. Kris Gopalakrishnan

Ram Sewak Sharma, the first Director-General of the Unique Identification Development Authority of India (UIDAI), has authored a book titled “The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform”.

The book comprises technical details regarding the legal, governance and social aspects of the Aadhar system. He also explains his experience during various bureaucratic positions and interactions with the team of Aadhar.

Q21. Which of the following satellite launch vehicles recently created a new world record for the highest number of satellites sent to space on a single launch, by carrying 143 satellites into orbit?

1. PSLV-C37
2. GSLV Mk.II
3. Long March 2C
- 4. SpaceX Falcon 9**

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carried 143 satellites into orbit on a jam-packed rideshare mission Sunday, setting a new world record for the most satellites launched by a single rocket.

The mission, dubbed Transporter-1, carried 10 satellites for SpaceX's Starlink internet network, and more than 130 satellites for a variety of customers including Planet, which operates a constellation of Earth-imaging satellites, and ICEYE, which develops small radar satellites for monitoring ice and tracking floods.

The previous record for the most satellites sent to space in one trip was held by PSLV, an Indian rocket, that carried 104 satellites in a 2017 launch.

Q22. In northern India, especially Delhi suffers from photochemical fog especially at the time of stubble burning in neighbouring states like Punjab and Haryana. is responsible for severe deterioration of air quality in New Delhi. What are primary constituents of Photochemical smog?

1. Nitric Oxide
2. Peroxyacetyl Nitrate (PAN)
3. Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)

Select the CORRECT answer

1. I and II only
2. II only
3. II and III only
- 4. I, II and III**

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The common components of photochemical smog are ozone, nitric oxide, acrolein, formaldehyde and peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN).

Photochemical smog causes serious health problems. Both ozone and PAN act as powerful eye irritants. Ozone and nitric oxide irritate the nose and throat and their high concentration causes headache, chest pain, dryness of the throat, cough and difficulty in breathing.

Photochemical smog leads to cracking of rubber and extensive damage to plant life. It also causes corrosion of metals, stones, building materials, rubber and painted surfaces.

Q23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Asom Mala' programme in the state of Assam. The programme is primarily aimed to

1. Improve waterways in the state of Assam
2. Connect Guwahati with all the capital cities of North-east states, via improved six-lane roadways
- 3. Improve state highways and major district roads in Assam**
4. Improve basic infrastructure in the higher educational institutions in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a programme in the state of Assam named 'Asom Mala'. It aims to improve state highways and major district roads.

The programme also aims to provide quality inter-linking roads between the National Highways and the Rural roads. Another objective of the scheme is to promote 'Multi-modal transportation' in the state.

Q24. Which country has recently launched the world's first exclusive 'Green rating system for High Speed Rail'?

- 1. India**
2. China
3. Japan
4. France

India has launched the world's first exclusive Green rating system for High Speed Rail. CII-Indian Green Building Council has launched the IGBC Green High-Speed Rail Rating System. IGBC has collaborated with the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL). This rating system will enable new High-Speed Rail (HSR) stations to apply energy efficient concepts during operations.

Q25. Special Drawing Rights (SDR) is an international reserve asset, used to supplement countries' foreign exchange reserves. SDR is associated with which institution?

1. Central Banks of different countries
2. United Nations
- 3. International Monetary Fund**
4. World Bank

The Special Drawing Rights (SDR) is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves.

Recently, the IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva announced that the IMF will distribute a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to member countries by mid-August. IMF members had agreed to support a new SDR allocation of \$650 billion, the largest in the history of the IMF.

Q26. 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko', the first indigenous knowledge system school, has been inaugurated in which state?

1. Nagaland
2. Mizoram
- 3. Arunachal Pradesh**
4. Himachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has inaugurated the state's first formal indigenous language and knowledge system school.

Named as 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko', the school will help in promoting and preserving indigenous traditions, culture and language. Rs 3 crore has been allocated for the development and maintenance of the school.

Q27. Which state has recently proposed to control microfinance, by way of a state legislation?

1. Kerala
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Tripura
- 4. Assam**

The Government of Assam has enacted "The Assam Microfinance Institutions (Regulation of Moneylending) Act, 2020", through which it proposes to control microfinance and related



institutions. Under this act, micro finance institutions require separate registrations for working in a selected village or city.

In this regard, the Reserve Bank of India has expressed firm reservations and has stated that implementation of the Act would lead to dual regulation of the microfinance market.

Q28. Which Indian state assembly played the National Anthem after almost 60 years?

1. **Nagaland**
2. Jammu & Kashmir
3. Sikkim
4. Meghalaya

The national anthem was played inside the Nagaland state assembly for the first time, almost 60 years after Nagaland attained statehood.

Nagaland was accorded statehood on December 1, 1963, and it was the 16th state of the Indian Union. Though playing the national anthem is not mandatory in state assemblies, the practice is usually followed in many states.

Q29. The Government of India implemented the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) for a period of four years, with effect from April 1, 2021. What does 'Seed Funding' refer to?

1. Funding in seeds development companies
2. Funding in micro, small and medium enterprises
3. It is a form of funding offered by govt for smaller companies engaged in agricultural and crop development activities.
4. **A form of securities offering in which an investor invests capital in a startup company in exchange for an equity stake or convertible note stake in the company.**

The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation.

On February 5, 2021, the Government of India made an official announcement about the approval of SISFS. It has been approved for a period of four years and was implemented with effect from April 1, 2021.

### About the SISF Scheme

- The Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups at the very initial stage of their project
- It has been approved for a time period of four years, starting from 2021-22
- Rs. 945 Crore corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India
- It is expected that the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme shall help over 3600 startups in the country
- This scheme is in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Campaign launched in May 2020
- Seed Fund to an eligible startup by the incubator shall be disbursed as follows:
- Up to Rs. 20 Lakhs as a grant for validation of Proof of Concept, or prototype development, or product trials
- Up to Rs. 50 Lakhs of investment for market entry, commercialisation, or scaling up through convertible debentures or debt or debt-linked instruments
- Candidates can know all about the Startup India Scheme initiated to help the startup sector of the country at the linked article.

### Seed Funding

- Seed funding or seed-stage funding is a very initial investment. Generally, investors often get an equity stake in exchange for the capital invested. In case the founders use their savings to start up a business, it is called bootstrapping.

Q30. Which organisation uses the Trade Policy Review (TPR) mechanism to examine trade and related policies of members, to improve compliance with its rules?

1. IMF
2. USFDA
3. World Bank
4. **WTO**

Trade Policy Review (TPR) is a mechanism under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in which trade and related policies of members are examined, to improve compliance to its rules. Recently, India's seventh Trade Policy Review (TPR) at the WTO concluded in Geneva. India's previous TPR was conducted in 2015. India backed a set of measures to increase manufacturing capacity and timely availability of new diagnostics and vaccines for Covid-19.

Q31. Govt of India has notified to set up a Coastal Zone Management Authority in which state?

1. Andhra Pradesh
- 2. Karnataka**
3. Gujarat
4. Tamil Nadu

The Union government has issued a gazette notification to set up the Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority. under provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

This 15-member body would protect and improve the quality of the coastal environment. Its target is preventing and controlling environmental pollution in the Coastal Regulation Zone in Karnataka.

Q32. Which institution releases the annual flagship report “World Economic Outlook”?

- 1. International Monetary Fund**
2. World Trade Organisation
3. World Bank
4. Asian Development Bank

“World Economic Outlook” is the annual flagship report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This year, the report is to be released on April 6. The International Monetary Fund has announced that India’s economy is on the path of gradual recovery. It highlighted the return to positive territory in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Q33. The theme of National Technology Day 2021 is ‘Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future’. Which of the following statement(s) is incorrect about the National Technology Day observed in India?

1. National Technology Day is celebrated on May 11 every year to commemorate the technological advancements made by the country.
2. The day was first observed on May 11, 1999.
3. On the same date in 1998, India successfully conducted three nuclear tests at the Indian Army’s Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan.
- 4. It is celebrated each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman.**

National Technology Day is celebrated on May 11 every year to commemorate the technological advancements made by the country. The theme this year is “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”.

The day was first observed on May 11, 1999, as on the same date in 1998, India successfully conducted three nuclear tests at Indian Army’s Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. On 11th May 1998, India also tested its first indigenous aircraft Hansa-3 and surface-to-air missile Trishul.

National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman on 28 February 1928. For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

Q34. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index which shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time. Which Union Ministry announces the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

1. Ministry of Finance
2. NITI Aayog
- 3. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**
4. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

As per the recent edition of the data, the IIP measure grew 1 per cent for December 2020. The Consumer Price Index inflation (CPI) decreased to 4.06 per cent in January 2021, due to the decline in vegetable prices.

Q35. Which molecule is the genetic material of the Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus?

- 1. RNA**
2. DNA
3. Both the above
4. None of the above

Viruses have either RNA or DNA as their genetic material. The nucleic acid may be single- or double-stranded. The SARS-CoV-2 virus has RNA as its genetic material.

Recently, Scientists in Taiwan have developed a new DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine that successfully induced antibodies against novel coronavirus in mice and hamsters. Currently available COVID-19 vaccines use messenger RNA (mRNA) to teach human immune system to recognise the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Q36. Padma Vibhushan awardee Sunderlal Bahuguna, who passed away recently, was a famous

1. Economist
2. Innovator
3. Sportsperson
- 4. Environmentalist**

Veteran environmentalist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Sunderlal Bahuguna, recently passed away at the age of 94.

He was regarded as the **pioneer of the Chipko movement** which was a Gandhian form of protest against deforestation by locals in the Himalayan region. The first action of the movement took place in April 1973 in a village in Uttarakhand.

Q37. Under which of the following schemes, the Govt of India would support children who have lost both parents due to COVID 19?

1. PM Sishu Suraksha Yojana
2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
3. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- 4. Pradhan Mantri CARES for Children**

#### **PM CARES for Children**

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that, children who have lost both parents due to COVID-19 would be taken care and supported by the Government of India, under the PM CARES for Children scheme.
- Such children would be entitled to receive a monthly stipend once they attain 18 years of age and would receive a corpus of Rs.10 lakh on attainment of 23 years, out of the funds available in PM CARES.

Q38. Which institution releases the 'India Innovation Index'?

1. Department of Science & Technology
- 2. NITI Aayog**
3. RBI
4. CSIR

India's think tank NITI Aayog released the second edition of its India Innovation Index, which ranks different states and UTs based on the basis of their support to innovation.

The first edition of the index was launched in October 2019. The states and UTs have been divided into 17 'Major States', 10 'North-East and Hill States', and 9 'City-States and UTs'. Karnataka retained the first spot in this year's index followed by Maharashtra.

Q39. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently inaugurated the Thoubal Multipurpose Project. The project is located in which Indian state?

1. Mizoram
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
- 4. Manipur**

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently inaugurated Thoubal Multipurpose Project (Thoubal Dam) in Imphal, Manipur through virtual mode.

The project was originally launched in the year 2014. The 462-crore project aims to irrigate 35,104 hectares in the state. The Minister also laid foundation stone for projects including an Integrated Command and Control Center.

Q40. Antrix Corporation, which was seen in the news recently, is the commercial arm of which organisation?

1. SpaceX
2. DRDO
- 3. ISRO**
4. HAL

Antrix Corporation is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It functions under the administrative control of the Department of Space.

Recently, a United States court has asked Antrix Corporation to pay compensation of USD 1.2 billion to a Bengaluru-based startup, Devas Multimedia, for cancelling a satellite deal in 2005.



Q41. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the Deepor Beel?

1. It is the only Ramsar site of Assam
2. It is a permanent freshwater lake.
3. In 2002, it was listed as a Ramsar Site for undertaking conservation measures on the basis of its biological and environmental importance.

Select the correct answer

1. I and II only
2. I and III only
3. II and III only
- 4. I, II and III**

Dipor Bil, also spelt Deepor Beel, is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Kamrup Metropolitan district of Assam, India. It is a permanent freshwater lake, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river. It is also called a wetland under the Ramsar Convention which has listed the lake in November 2002, as a Ramsar Site for undertaking conservation measures on the basis of its biological and environmental importance. Considered one of the largest beels in the Brahmaputra valley of Lower Assam, it is categorised as representative of the wetland type under the Burma monsoon forest biogeographic region.

Deepor Beel is the only Ramsar site of the state of Assam. It is located in the south-western edge of Guwahati.

The site, which houses a variety of aquatic life forms along with 219 species of birds, was designated a Ramsar site in the year 2002. The District officials have banned Community fishing at the site.

Q42. Which is the first country in the world to adopt 'Bitcoin' as legal tender?

- 1. El Salvador**
2. Switzerland
3. Venezuela
4. Ireland

El Salvador has become the first country in the world to formally adopt 'Bitcoin' as legal tender after the Congress approved President Nayib Bukele's proposal to adopt the cryptocurrency.

The use of Bitcoin as legal tender will go into law in 90 days. The government will guarantee the convertibility to the exact value in dollars at the moment of each transaction.

El Salvador's Congress on June 9 approved Bukele's proposal to embrace the cryptocurrency, making El Salvador the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender.

In August 2021, Cuba recognized cryptocurrency as legal tender, becoming the second nation to do so.

Q43. A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as?

1. Nationalised Bank
2. Foreign Bank operating in India
- 3. Scheduled Commercial Bank**
4. Small Finance Bank

#### **Scheduled Commercial Bank**

- A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as 'Scheduled Commercial Bank'.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has excluded Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act after it was merged with DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) last year.

Q44. The Great Barrier Reef, which was seen in the news recently, is a famous coral reef situated in which country?

1. Indonesia
2. USA
- 3. Australia**
4. Japan

Great Barrier Reef spans for 2,300km off Australia's north-east coast. It gained World Heritage ranking in 1981 due to its scientific and intrinsic importance.

Recently, UNESCO recently said the Great Barrier Reef should be put on a list of World Heritage Sites that are "in danger" due to the damage it has suffered. Several bleaching events on the reef in the past five years caused significant loss of coral.

Q45. What is the name of the medical device which concentrates oxygen from ambient air?

1. Oxygen Generator
2. Oximeter
3. Oxygen Ventilator
- 4. Oxygen Concentrator**

Oxygen Concentrator

An oxygen concentrator is a medical device which concentrates oxygen from ambient air. During the Covid pandemic, it is highly needed for treating patients.

The oxygen concentrator takes in the atmospheric air, which has 78 % Nitrogen and 21 % oxygen, filters it through a sieve, releases the nitrogen back into the air, and works on the remaining oxygen.

Q46. In a recent research performed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), four strains of bacteria have been discovered at the International Space Station (ISS). These new bacteria has been named after which Indian scientist?

1. Satyendra Nath Bose
- 2. Ajmal Khan**
3. Jagdish Chandra Bose
4. CV Raman

In a recent research performed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), under a contract with NASA and University of Southern California, four strains of bacteria have been discovered at the ISS.

The team of Scientists also included a team from India's University of Hyderabad. One of the strains – *Methylobacterium ajmalii*, is named after Ajmal Khan, a renowned Indian scientist specialised in biodiversity.

Q47. India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management has been set up in which city?

1. Guwahati
2. Kavaratti
3. Chidambaram
- 4. Chennai**

India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management has been set up in Chennai. It aims to strengthen research for conservation and management of the wetlands.

This has been set up as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai. The Centre would also serve as a knowledge hub and facilitate exchanges between state wetland authorities.

Q48. Which country rolled out the first COVID-19 vaccine in the world?

1. India
2. United States
3. Russia
- 4. United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom became the first country in the world to start using the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was approved by the regulators.

Several hubs across the country are vaccinating the people. The vaccine is given as two injections with 21 days apart. The complete immunity is said to be reached seven days after the second dose.

Q49. India has recently successfully test fired a new version of the BrahMos missile with Indigenous Booster. The BrahMos missile is a

1. Long-range subsonic cruise missile
- 2. Medium-range surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile**
3. Intercontinental submarine-launched ballistic missile
4. Short-range ballistic missile

### **BrahMos**

- India has successfully test fired a new version of the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos.
- The missile with a number of indigenously developed sub-systems including a Booster was flight-tested from the integrated test range at Balasore in Odisha. It has an extended range of about 400 km from the earlier 290 km range.

Q50. India recently announced establishing a 'Green Strategic Partnership' with which country?

1. Denmark
2. France
3. USA
4. Germany

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a first virtual summit with his counterpart of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen. As per the joint statement, the new 'Green strategic partnership' will be based on existing Joint Commission for Cooperation for cooperation in various fields including politics, energy, environment and education.

Q51. The Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme 'DHRUV' is an initiative of the Government of India, with the assistance of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. Which of the following is/are correct about the scheme?

1. It was launched to allow students to realize their complete potential and contribute to society.
2. It was launched to develop a online platform for conducting online classes
3. It was launched to facilitate students to learn android applications
4. It was launched to promote scientific thinking in students

#### **'DHRUV' – PM Innovative Learning Programme**

- 'DHRUV' has been launched to enrich the skills and knowledge of a gifted child, and to encourage them achieve excellence as per their potential and help in the development of the society.
- It was launched on October 10, 2019 by the Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
- This Innovative Program was launched at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) headquarters in Bengaluru in the presence of the Union HRD Minister; Dr K Sivan, ISRO Chairman; Wing Cdr. Rakesh Sharma; and Professor K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India
- The programme shall focus on encouraging young and talented students in the field of their interest be it science, performing arts, creative writing, etc.

Objectives of DHRUV Innovative Programme

- Through this programme, the Indian Government shall encourage talented and gifted children to enrich their skills and knowledge
- In centres of excellence across the country, children will be mentored and nurtured by renowned experts in different areas, so that they can reach their full potential
- Two areas will be the main focus: Arts and Science
- Around 60 students will be selected from all over the country, studying between classes 9 to 12
- This Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme (PMILP) will boost the confidence of young students and encourage them to learn new and innovative things as per their potential. This will help them grow and work for the betterment of the society and the country.

Q52. Indian Railways has firmed up an action plan to increase the train speed up to 160 km per hour on the total 9,000-km main trunk routes across the country under which of the following projects?

1. Mission Janshathabdi
2. Dedicated Freight Corridor project
3. Mission Dhrutrail
4. **Mission Raftaar**

After the successful launch of Gatimaan Express, Railways has undertaken a mammoth exercise of reducing journey time on the Delhi-Howrah and Delhi-Mumbai routes by increasing speed of trains to up to 160 km per hour at an estimated cost of about Rs. 10,000 crore.

Railways have firmed up an action plan to increase the train speed to up to 160 km per hour on the total 9000-km main trunk routes across the country as part of the Mission Raftaar project. To begin with we have started the work on two major busy routes of Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah

Several key routes on the Indian Railway are about to get a long-awaited upgrade to top speeds. Indian Railways is about to rev up works to increase maximum permissible speeds (MPS) on these routes.

Mission Raftaar, as the project is called, was conceived in 2016 to increase the maximum and average speeds of both passenger and freight trains.



On most routes, speeds for mail/express trains have a ceiling of 110 km/h or lower. Premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto are allowed to operate at 120 km/h on significant parts of the Golden Quadrilateral and Diagonals. The rakes for such trains are fit to operate at 130 km/h or above.

Over the past few years, coach manufacturing units like Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Rail Coach Factory (RCF) and Modern Coach Factory (MCF) have switched to production of LHB coaches. These new and safer designs are fit for operations at speeds of 130 km/h and above.

Many important trains previously using the legacy ICF design coaches have now LHB rolling stock and 130 km/h capable locomotives. Once the line is declared fit for the upgraded speeds, it should be possible in theory to increase MPS of such trains from 110 km/h to 130 km/h.

Q53. Which of the following is/are true regarding India's Double Tax Avoidance Agreements (DTAA)?

1. A DTAA is a tax treaty signed between two or more countries with the objective that taxpayers in these countries can avoid being taxed twice for the same
2. Countries with which India has DTAA include only the USA, Mauritius and Canada.

Select the CORRECT option

1. I Only
2. II Only
3. Both I and II
4. Neither I nor II

The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement or DTAA is a tax treaty signed between India and another country ( or any two/multiple countries) so that taxpayers can avoid paying double taxes on their income earned from the source country as well as the residence country. At present, India has double tax avoidance treaties with more than 80 countries around the world.

#### **List of Countries having Double Taxation Treaty with India**

Armenia  
Australia

Austria  
Bangladesh  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Botswana  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
China  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Egypt  
Estonia  
Ethiopia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Indonesia  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Kazakastan  
Kenya  
Korea  
Kuwait  
Kyrgyz Republic  
Libya  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malaysia

Malta  
Mauritius  
Mongolia  
Montenegro  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Myanmar  
Namibia  
Nepal  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Oman  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portuguese Republic  
Qatar  
Romania  
Russia  
Saudi Arabia  
Serbia  
Singapore  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Spain  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Sweden  
Swiss Confederation  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Tajikistan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Turkey  
Turkemistan  
UAE

UAR (Egypt)  
UGANDA  
United Kingdom  
Ukraine  
United Mexican States  
United States of America  
Uzbekistan  
Vietnam  
Zambia

Q54. The Central Govt has recently extended Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 in the 3 districts of which of the following northeast states ?

1. Mizoram
2. Assam
- 3. Nagaland**
4. Arunachal Pradesh

Q55. Recently, the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was approved by the Rajya Sabha, to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector. Which of the following is/are correct about the FDI limits in different sectors?

1. As per the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021, the new FDI limit in the insurance sector is 74 %
2. As per FDI Policy 2020, 100% FDI Permitted through Automatic route in Agriculture & Animal Husbandry.
3. As per FDI Policy 2020, upto 20% FDI permitted under Government route in Public sector Banking
4. List of prohibited sectors are Lottery Business, Chit Funds, Nidhi Company etc.

Select the CORRECT option

1. I only
2. I II and III only
3. II and III only
- 4. All are correct.**

The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was approved by the Rajya Sabha recently. It seeks to increase foreign direct investment limit in the insurance sector to 74 per cent from the current 49 per cent.

As per the bill, majority of those in board of directors and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50 per cent of directors being independent directors.

### FDI Limits In Different Sectors In India 2020

The FDI policy in India has witnessed tons of changes and alterations in the past few years. Further, FDI is also allowed to get into different routes, Automatic and the Government route. In the automatic route, the foreign entities are not required to obtain an approval before proceeding further. In the Government route, prior approval is mandatory.

#### Sector wise FDI Limits

Sector	FDI Entry Route & Limit	Remarks
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#### Agriculture & Animal Husbandry

- Floriculture, Horticulture, Apiculture and Cultivation of Vegetables & Mushrooms under controlled conditions
- Development and Production of seeds and planting material 100% Automatic
- Animal Husbandry (including breeding of dogs), Pisciculture, Aquaculture
- Services related to agro and allied sectors

Plantation Sector	100% Automatic
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- Tea sector including tea plantations
- Coffee plantations
- Rubber plantations

- Cardamom plantations
- Palm oil tree plantations
- Olive oil tree plantations

## Mining

Mining and Exploration of metal and non-metal ores including diamond, 100% Automatic gold, silver and precious ores but excluding titanium bearing minerals and its ores

Mining (Coal & Lignite) 100% Automatic

## Mining

Mining and mineral separation of titanium bearing minerals and ores, 100% Government its value addition and integrated activities

## Petroleum & Natural Gas

Exploration activities of oil and natural gas fields, infrastructure related to marketing of petroleum 100% Automatic products and natural gas, marketing of natural gas and petroleum products etc

## Petroleum & Natural Gas

Petroleum refining by the Public Sector Undertakings (PSU), without 49% Automatic any disinvestment or dilution of domestic equity in the existing PSUs.

Defence Manufacturing 100% Automatic up to 49%

Above 49% under Government route

in cases resulting  
in access to  
modern  
technology in the  
country

#### Broadcasting

- Teleports(setting up of up-linking HUBs/Teleports)
- Direct to Home (DTH)
- Cable Networks (Multi System operators (MSOs) operating at National or State or District level and 100%Automatic undertaking upgradation of networks towards digitalization and addressability
- Mobile TV
- Head end-in-the Sky Broadcasting Service(HITS)

#### Broadcasting

Cable Networks (Other MSOs not undertaking up gradation of networks 100%Automatic towards digitalization and addressability and Local Cable Operators (LCOs))

#### Broadcasting Content Services

- Terrestrial Broadcasting FM(FM Radio) 49% Government
- Up-linking of 'News & Current Affairs' TV Channels

Up-linking of Non-'News & Current 100%Automatic Affairs' TV Channels/ Down-linking of



## TV Channels

### Print Media

- Publishing of newspaper and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs 26% Government

- Publication of Indian editions of foreign magazines dealing with news and current affairs

Publishing/printing of scientific and technical magazines/specialty journals/ periodicals, subject to compliance with the legal framework as applicable and guidelines issued in this regard from time to time by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. 100% Government

Publication of facsimile edition of foreign newspapers 100% Government

### Civil Aviation – Airports

Green Field Projects & Existing Projects 100% Automatic

### Civil Aviation – Air Transport Services

Automatic up to 49%

- Scheduled Air Transport Service/ Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline 100% Above 49% under Government route

- Regional Air Transport Service 100% Automatic for NRIs

(Foreign Airlines are barred from Investing in Air India)

Civil Aviation 100% Automatic

- Non-Scheduled Air Transport

## Service

- Helicopter services/seaplane services requiring DGCA approval

- Ground Handling Services subject to sectoral regulations and security clearance

- Maintenance and Repair organizations; flying training institutes; and technical training institutions

## Construction Development:

Townships, Housing, Built-up 100% Automatic Infrastructure

Industrial Parks (new & existing) 100% Automatic

Satellites- establishment and operation, subject to the sectoral guidelines of Department of Space/ISRO 100% Government

Automatic up to 49%

Private Security Agencies 74% Above 49% & up to 74% under Government route

Automatic up to 49%

Telecom Services 100% Above 49% under Government route

Cash & Carry Wholesale Trading 100% Automatic

E-commerce activities (e-commerce entities would engage only in Business to Business (B2B) e-commerce and not in Business to

Consumer (B2C) e-commerce.)

Single Brand retail trading

Local sourcing norms will be relaxed up to three years and a relaxed sourcing regime for another five years for entities undertaking Single Brand Retail Trading of products having 'state-of-art' and 'cutting edge' technology.

Automatic up to 49%
100%
Above 49% under Government route

Multi Brand Retail Trading                      51% Government

Duty Free Shops                                      100% Automatic

Railway Infrastructure

Construction, operation and maintenance of the following

- Suburban corridor projects through PPP
- High speed train projects
- Dedicated freight lines
- Rolling stock including train sets, and locomotives/coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities
- Railway Electrification
- Signaling systems
- Freight terminals
- Passenger terminals
- Infrastructure in industrial park pertaining to railway line/sidings including electrified railway lines and

connectivities to main railway line

- Mass Rapid Transport Systems.

Asset Reconstruction Companies	100%Automatic
	Automatic up to 49%

Banking- Private Sector	74%	Above 49% & up to 74% under Government route
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Banking- Public Sector	20%	Government
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Credit Information Companies (CIC)	100%Automatic
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Infrastructure Company in the Securities Market	49%	Automatic
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Insurance

- Insurance Company

- Insurance Brokers

49% Automatic

- Third Party Administrators

- Surveyors and Loss Assessors

- Other Insurance Intermediaries

Pension Sector	49%	Automatic
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Power Exchanges	49%	Automatic
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White Label ATM Operations	100%Automatic
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Financial services activities

regulated by RBI, SEBI, IRDA or any other regulator 100%Automatic

Pharmaceuticals(Green Field)	100%Automatic
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Pharmaceuticals(Brown Field)	100%Automatic up to 74%
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Above 74% under

Government route

Food products manufactured or produced in India

Trading, including through e-100% Government commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India.

### Prohibited Sectors

You must know that FDI in India is prohibited and not allowed to function in the following sectors:

- Lottery Business, which includes Government/private lottery, online lotteries, etc.
- Gambling, Betting as well as casinos etc.
- Chit funds
- Nidhi company
- Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs)
- Real Estate Business
- Construction of Farm Houses (Real estate business does not include development of townships, construction of residential /commercial premises, roads or bridges )
- Manufacturing of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes

Activities/sectors **not open to private sector investment e.g. Atomic Energy and Railway operations** (other than permitted activities)

Q56. Consider the following statements regarding the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

1. NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
2. It was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.



Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT about NTCA?

1. I only
2. II only
- 3. Both I and II**
4. Neither I nor II

### National Tiger Conservation Authority

- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- It was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

### Project Tiger

- Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.
- India now has as many as 2,967 tigers in the wild, with more than half of them in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, according to the latest tiger estimation report for 2018.
- The population of tigers have increased by 33% since the last census in 2014 when the total estimate was 2,226.

Q57. As per The World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Which of the following is/are true?

1. India receives \$64billion in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020
  1. India is the fifth largest recipient of inflows in the world, according to a UN report
2. FDI inflow in India increased 27 per cent in 2020 from \$51 billion in 2019

Select the CORRECT answer

1. I and II only
2. II and III only
3. I and III only
- 4. I, II and III**

India received \$64 billion in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020, the fifth largest recipient of inflows in the world, according to a UN report which said the COVID-19 second wave in the country weighs heavily on the country's overall economic activities but its strong fundamentals provide optimism for the medium term.

The World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), released Monday, said global FDI flows have been severely hit by the pandemic and they plunged by 35 per cent in 2020 to \$1 trillion from \$1.5 trillion the previous year.

Lockdowns caused by COVID-19 around the world slowed down existing investment projects, and prospects of a recession led multinational enterprises (MNEs) to reassess new projects.

The report said in India, FDI increased 27 per cent to \$64 billion in 2020 from \$51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry, making the country the fifth largest FDI recipient in the world.

The pandemic boosted demand for digital infrastructure and services globally. This led to higher values of greenfield FDI project announcements targeting the ICT industry, rising by more than 22 per cent to \$81 billion.

Major project announcements in the ICT industry included a \$2.8 billion investment by online retail giant Amazon in ICT infrastructure in India.

Q58. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the renewable energy scenario in India?

1. India is the world's 3rd largest renewable energy producer.
2. India's 38% of total installed energy capacity in 2020 from renewable and hydro sources.
3. India has set a target of producing 100 GW renewable energy by 2022

Select the CORRECT option

1. I and II only
2. II and III only
3. I and III only
4. I, II and III



India is world's 3rd largest consumer of electricity and world's 3rd largest renewable energy producer with 38% (136 GW out of 373 GW) of total installed energy capacity in 2020 from renewable sources. EY's 2021 Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) ranked India 3rd behind USA and China.

The Government of India has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.

**Break up of renewable energy sources (RES) in India:**

- Solar power (42,335.49 MW)
- Wind power (39,486.65 MW)
- Biomass (10,170.92 MW)
- Small hydro (4,793.81 MW)
- Waste-to-energy (168.64 MW)

Q59. Consider the following statements

1. Bharat QR code is the world's first interoperable payment acceptance solution.
2. Payment networks such as MasterCard and Visa have joined hands with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch Bharat QR.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?

1. I Only
2. II Only
- 3. Both I and II**
4. None of the above

Q60. Consider the following statements

1. MUDRA Bank is a public sector financial institution that provides loans at low rates to micro-finance institutions and non-banking financial institutions which then provide credit to MSMEs.
2. The bank will classify its clients into three categories viz. Shishu, Kishor and Tarun

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?

1. I Only
2. II Only
- 3. Both I and II**
4. None of the above

Q61. Consider the following statements about the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojan:

1. The scheme is a government-backed savings scheme targeted at the parents of girl children.
2. The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child.
3. The scheme was launched in 2015 as a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

Which of the following option(s) is/are CORRECT ?

1. I and II only
2. II and III only
3. III only
- 4. I, II and III**

Sukanya Samriddhi Account (Girl Child Prosperity Account) is a Government of India backed saving scheme targeted at the parents of girl children. The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child.

The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 January 2015 as a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

Q62. Which of the following is NOT an example of cryptocurrency?

1. Ethereum (ETH)
2. Bitcoin
3. Binance Coin (BNB)
- 4. e-RUPI**

A cryptocurrency, crypto-currency, or crypto is a binary data designed to work as a medium of exchange wherein individual coin ownership records are stored in a ledger existing in a form of a computerized database using strong cryptography to secure transaction records, to control the creation of additional coins, and to verify the transfer of coin ownership. Some crypto schemes use validators to maintain the cryptocurrency. In a proof-of-stake model, owners put up their tokens as collateral. In return, they get authority over the token in proportion to the amount they stake. Generally, these token stakers get additional ownership in the token over time via network fees, newly minted tokens or other such reward mechanisms. Cryptocurrency does not exist in physical form (like paper money) and is typically not issued by a central authority. Cryptocurrencies typically use decentralized control as opposed to a central bank digital currency (CBDC). When a cryptocurrency is minted or created prior to issuance or

issued by a single issuer, it is generally considered centralized. When implemented with decentralized control, each cryptocurrency works through distributed ledger technology, typically a blockchain, that serves as a public financial transaction database.

Bitcoin, first released as open-source software in 2009, is the first decentralized cryptocurrency. Since the release of bitcoin, many other cryptocurrencies have been created.

Q63. Which of the following statement(s) is/are CORRECT?

1. Deep Tech is described as “technology that is based on tangible engineering innovation or scientific advances and discoveries”.
2. Distributed cloud is the distribution of public cloud services to different physical locations, while the operation, governance, updates and evolution of the services are the responsibility of the originating public cloud provider.
3. Extended reality refers to all real-and-virtual combined environments and human-machine interactions generated by computer technology and wearables, where the 'X' represents a variable for any current or future spatial computing technologies.

**4. All the above statements are correct**

Q64. Which of the following statements about the Kaziranga National Park?

1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT ?

1. I Only
2. II Only
- 3. Both I and II**
4. None of the above

Q65. Consider the following statement:

1. Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme plans to issue a 14 digit identification number to every plot of land in the country.
2. It's a part of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme that began in 2008.
3. It is being implemented by the national informatics centre and National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT).

Which of the above statements are CORRECT ?

1. I and II only
2. I and III only
3. II and III only
4. I, II and III

The Government of India recently launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme in ten states. The system is to be rolled out in the country by March 2022. Land parcel is a portion of large area of land.

### ULPIN

- The ULPIN is described as “Aadhaar for land”.
- The ULPIN is a fourteen-digit Alpha Numeric ID.
- The number will be used to identify every surveyed parcel of land.
- The identification number is to be launched based on latitude and longitude coordinates of the land parcel.
- The pilot testing of ULPIN has been successfully carried out in the states of Haryana, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Sikkim, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
- The ULPIN has been included in Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). The DILRMP was begun in 2008 and has been extended several times. The current launch of ULPIN is also under DILRMP. While the programme is to end soon, it has been extended till 2023-24.

### Benefits of ULPIN

- The ULPIN will help to develop a land bank.
- The ULPIN system will lead India towards Integrated Land Information Management System.
- The system will always help to keep the land records up to date.
- All the property transactions shall be linked and will get established through the system.
- The number will help in preventing land fraud especially in rural areas. This is because, the land records are outdated in rural areas.
- Delivery of citizen services of land records through a single window shall be achieved through the system.
- The system will make sharing of land record data across the departments easier. This will standardize land data and will eventually bring in effective integration and interoperability across departments.

### Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme

The DILRMP has three main components as follows:

- Computerisation of land record
- Survey or Re-survey
- Computerisation of registration

The basic requirement of computerisation of Land records, that is, Record of Rights has been completed in more than 90% of the country.

The Cadastral Maps have been digitised in more than 90% of the country. Cadastral maps are maps that show the extent, value and ownership of land.

Computerisation of registration and integration of SROs with Land Records have been completed in more than 90% of the country.

Q66. Which of the following statements is true with respect to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

1. It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India.
2. It was made a statutory body in 1992.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT ?

1. I Only
2. II Only
- 3. Both I and II**
4. None of the above

Q67. Consider the following statement(s) about Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)

1. SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold, they are substitutes for holding physical gold.
2. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.
3. The Bond is issued by SBI and other Public Sector Banks on behalf of the Government of India.
4. In SGB, there may be a risk of capital loss if the market price of gold declines. However, the investor does not lose in terms of the units of gold which he has paid for.

Which of the above statements are CORRECT ?

1. I and II only
2. I, II and III only
- 3. I, II and IV only**
4. All of the statements are correct

### **Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)**

- SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. The Bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.
- There may be a risk of capital loss if the market price of gold declines. However, the investor does not lose in terms of the units of gold which he has paid for.

<https://m.rbi.org.in/scripts/FAQView.aspx?Id=109>

Q68. Consider the following statement(s) about Dehing Patkai National Park

1. Dehing Patkai National Park is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam
2. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 200. On 9 June 2021 Forest Department of Assam officially notified it as a national park.
3. The Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as Dehing-Patkai Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant.

Which of the above statements are CORRECT?

1. I and II only
2. I and III only
3. II and III only
- 4. All of the statements are correct**

### **Assam Forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya inaugurates Dehing Patkai National Park**

- Assam Forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya inaugurated the Dehing Patkai National Park in Dibrugarh district. Inaugurating the seventh National Park, Assam Minister Suklabaidya said it is a red letter day for Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts including the state of Assam as a whole that Dehing Patkai National Park has come up.

- The rich floral and faunal diversity of the park well known for its rainforest will soon attain the stature of one of the best national parks in the country. Assam is blessed with nature's bounty and lauded the people of the state for taking steps towards the conservation of nature.
- The Minister said that the state government would take necessary steps for infrastructure development of the park to attract tourists.

#### **FACTFILE - Dehing Patkai National Park**

- Dehing Patkai National Park is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam.
- It covers an area of 231.65 km<sup>2</sup> (89.44 sq mi) rainforest.
- It was declared a wildlife sanctuary on 13 June 2004, and on 13 December 2020 Government of Assam upgraded it into a national park. On 9 June 2021 Forest Department of Assam officially notified it as a national park.
- The Dehing Patkai forms the largest stretch of lowland rainforests in India.
- The Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as Dehing-Patkai Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant.
- It is home to elephants, hoolock gibbons, golden cat, clouded leopard and other animals.

Q69. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?

1. Ransomware generally blocks victim's access to their own data and deletes the same if a ransom is not paid.
2. Phishing Attack is a Social Engineering attack that is used to steal precious data such as login credentials or credit card details as attackers pretend to be trusted individuals and trick victims into opening malicious links.
3. **Phishing Attack is a type of cyber crime that effectively employs malicious codes and manipulates backend databases to access information that is not intended to be displayed.**
4. Cross-Site is a type of injection breach where attackers inject malicious codes into trusted websites and applications and when a user visits such an infected web page, the malicious JavaScript code is executed on the user's browser.

#### **RANSOMWARE**

Ransomware generally blocks victim's access to their own data and deletes the same if a ransom is not paid.



## PHISHING ATTACKS

The Phishing Attack is a Social Engineering attack that is used to steal precious data such as login credentials or credit card details as attackers pretend to be trusted individuals and trick victims into opening malicious links.

## SQL INJECTIONS

SQL injection is a type of cyber crime that effectively employs malicious codes and manipulates backend databases to access information that is not intended to be displayed. These mostly involve private and sensitive data items including the likes of user lists and customer details, among others. SQLI can have long-term devastating effects such as deletion of tables, unauthorized viewing of any user list, and even administrative access to databases.

## CROSS-SITE SCRIPTING

Cross-Site is another type of injection breach where attackers send malicious scripts from websites that are deemed responsible or reputed. Attackers inject malicious codes into trusted websites and applications and when a user visits such infected web page, the malicious JavaScript code is executed on the user's browser. This code can be used to steal important information like username and password.

Q70. Consider the following statements about the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme?

1. The scheme has 10% blending target for mixing ethanol with petrol by 2022 & 20% blending target by 2030
2. Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was launched in January, 2003

Which of the above statements are CORRECT?

1. I only
2. II only
3. Neither I nor and II
4. **Both I and II**

## Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

- Ethanol, an anhydrous ethyl alcohol having chemical formula of  $C_2H_5OH$ , can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc which are having high starch content. In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.

Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form different blends. 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.

- Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was launched in January, 2003. The programme sought to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels and to reduce import dependency for energy requirements.

### Implementation of EBP programme

- During 2001, pilot projects on Ethanol Blended Petrol started at 3 locations i.e. at Miraj, Manmad (Maharashtra) and Aonla/Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India decided to launch Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme in January, 2003 for supply of 5% ethanol blended Petrol. Subsequent to this, Ethanol Blended Petrol programme was launched in January, 2003 in 9 States i.e. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and 4 Union Territories.
- The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) directed the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol subject to commercial viability as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications in notified 20 States and 4 UTs with effect from 1st November, 2006.
- The additional 10 States included Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, Kerala, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand. However, North - Eastern States, J&K, Andaman & Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep Islands have not been covered under the programme.
- This programme has been extended to whole of India except Union Territories of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands with effect from 01st April, 2019 wherein OMCs sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%.
- During the ethanol supply year 2018-19 about 189 crore ltrs of ethanol was supplied by sugar mills and grain based distilleries to OMCs thereby achieving 5% blending target and in the ethanol supply year 2019-20, efforts are being made to supply 190-200 crore ltrs of ethanol for blending with petrol to achieve 5.6% blending.
- In current ethanol supply year (ESY) 2020-21 (December to November) to achieve 8.5% blending target, about 325 Cr ltrs ethanol is required to be supplied to OMCs. As on 26.04.2021, about 349 cr ltrs ethanol have been allocated by OMCs to sugar mills/distilleries.

The Government has 10% blending target for mixing ethanol with petrol by 2022 & 20% blending target by 2030.

Q71. Consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) is an effort to complement the government's vision to transform one from each household as digitally literate.
2. The Government through PMGDISHA under the Digital India programme targeted to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31-03 March 2022.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT ?

1. I Only
2. II Only
- 3. Both I and II**
4. None of the above

Q72. If you travel by road from Digha Town in West Bengal to Kailashahar in Tripuri, what is the minimum number of states that you will have to pass through including the source and destination states?

- 1. Three**
2. Four
3. Five
4. Six

Three states, namely West Bengal – Assam – Tripura

Q73. As per the Geological Survey of India (GSI), which Indian state could contain Vanadium Deposits?

- 1. Arunachal Pradesh**
2. Assam
3. Chattisgarh
4. Jharkhand

Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been exploring the state of Arunachal Pradesh and said that it could be India's prime producer of vanadium.

Vanadium is a high-value metal used for strengthening steel and titanium. The Geologists assured that a deposit will be soon identified. It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected during the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores.

Q74. As per the new Information Technology Rules, digital platforms will have to provide required information within a duration of

1. 7 days
2. 5 days
- 3. 72 hours**
4. 48 hours

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 has been framed recently, which was released by the Electronics and IT Ministry.

Under the rules, platforms such as WhatsApp will have to provide information on identity verification to the authorised agencies within 72 hours. The originator of unlawful messages would be zeroed on and the platforms will have to set up grievance redressal mechanism.

Q75. Which of the following best describes NewSpace India Limited?

- 1. A commercial arm of ISRO with the objective of scaling up industry participation in Indian space programmes by manufacturing Satellite Launch Vehicles.**
2. It is a branch of the DRDO to establish missiles and space-based weapon capabilities.
3. It is a start-up led by SpaceX to venture into space exploration.
4. None of the above

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Government of India and commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was established on 6 March 2019 under the administrative control of Department of Space (DoS) and the Company Act 2013. The main objective of NSIL is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.

The Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, in her budget speech on 5 July 2019, mentioned the establishment of NSIL.

NSIL was set up with the following objectives:

- Transfer of Small Satellite technology to industry: NSIL will obtain license from DoS/ISRO and sub-license the same to industry
- Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with private sector
- Production of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) through Indian industry
- Production and marketing of Space based products and services, including launch and application
- Transfer of technology developed by ISRO Centres and constituent units of DoS
- Marketing of spin-off technologies and products/services, both in India and abroad

Q76. Consider the following statement about India's forex reserves:

1. Recently, India's foreign exchange reserves touched a record high of \$612.73 billion.
2. India's forex reserves cover Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), Gold Reserves and the country's reserve position with the IMF.
3. Gold Reserves constitutes the maximum share in India's Foreign exchange reserve.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT ?

1. I Only
- 2. I and II only**
3. II and III only
4. All the given statements

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$835 million to touch a record high of \$612.73 billion in the week ended July 16, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed on Friday. According to weekly data from the RBI, forex reserves rose to a record \$612.73 billion in the reporting week, helped by a rise in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.

India's forex reserves cover Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), Gold Reserves and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The growth in foreign exchange reserves was largely due to an increase in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA). According to RBI's weekly data, FCAs rose by \$463 million to \$568.748 billion.

Gold reserves were up by \$377 million to \$37.333 billion. The Special Drawing Rights (SDR) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were up by \$1 million at \$1.548 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF declined by \$7 million to \$5.1 billion during the reporting week, the data showed

Q77. Consider the statements about Assam govt's Chief Minister Sishu Seva Scheme:

1. Chief Minister Sishu Seva Scheme was launched to provide financial assistance to children who lost both their parents due to COVID.
2. Under the scheme, monthly financial assistance of Rs. 3500 will be given to the beneficiaries till they attain 24 years of age.
3. On completion of 24 years of age, the principal amount parked as a fixed deposit against each beneficiary would be credited to their bank accounts.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT ?

1. I Only
2. I and II only
3. II and III only
4. All the statements are correct

#### **Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches Sishu Seva Achoni for COVID-19 Orphans**

- Assam CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has dedicated Chief Minister Sishu Seva Scheme to the service of the beneficiaries and handed over the cheques of financial assistance to few beneficiaries who lost both their parents due to COVID.
- As per the scheme, an amount to the tune of Rs. 7,81,200 would be parked in the bank as fixed deposit in the name of each beneficiary.
- Monthly financial assistance of Rs. 3500 which will be realised from the fixed deposit will be given to the beneficiaries till they attain 24 years of age.
- On completion of 24 years of age, the principal amount parked as a fixed deposit against each beneficiary would be credited to their bank accounts.
- Orphaned adolescent girls will be given accommodation in suitable and reputed institutions like Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya residential schools, to ensure their sensitive care and proper protection.

Q78. Consider the statements about the Raimona National Park:

1. It is declared as the sixth national park in Assam
2. The 422 sq ft wildlife habitat in Kokrajhar district adjoins western-most buffer to Manas Tiger Reserve
3. It is famous for Golden Langur.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT ?

1. I Only
2. I and II only
3. II and III only
4. **All the statements are correct**

#### **Raimona National Park becomes Assam's sixth National Park**

- Raimona National Park in Kokrajhar district within the Bodoland Territorial Region has become Assam's sixth national park. The 422 sq ft wildlife habitat in Kokrajhar district adjoins western-most buffer to Manas Tiger Reserve.
- Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, under stress for unregulated coal mining in the vicinity is also in the process of being declared as the seventh national park.
- Assam already has the five national parks which are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.
- Upgrading Dehing Patkai has been a long-felt need for the conservation of rainforest and elephant habitats. The area of the park includes the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest (508.62 sq. km), which forms the western-most buffer to the Manas National Park that straddles the India-Bhutan border.
- Raimona also shares contiguous forest patches of the Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and the Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park in Bhutan (total area of 1,999 sq. km) creating a transboundary conservation landscape of more than 2,400 sq. km.

Q79. Which of the following has been recently awarded with 'Legion of Merit' 2020 by the US ?

1. Kim Sung-Eun
2. Senussi Letaiwish
3. Kenan Evren
4. **Narendra Modi**



Recently, the USA has awarded the 'Legion of Merit' to the Prime Ministers of India, Japan and Australia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded with 'Legion of Merit' 2020 for his leadership in elevating the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison was presented the award for "addressing global challenges and promoting collective security". Japanese PM Shinzo Abe for his "leadership and vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific".

The Legion of Merit is a decoration of the United States of America and is awarded to foreign military personnel in four grades and to U.S. military personnel without distinction of degree.

Q80. Who among the following has been recently appointed as the Chairman National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)?

1. **Vijay Sampla**
2. Matam Venkata Rao
3. Arun Haldar
4. Vikram Pandit

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is an Indian constitutional body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India established with a view to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes and Anglo Indian communities to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests, special provisions were made in the Constitution. Article 338 of the Indian constitution deals with National Commission for Scheduled Castes. Article 338 A deals with National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.



**APSC Prelims 2020 Test Series**

The banner features a background image of an open book and a stack of books. Overlaid on this are several colored circles and rectangles containing text:

- A blue circle on the left contains the text "10 GS".
- A light blue rectangle in the center contains the number "6" and the text "Sectional Tests".
- An orange rectangle below the light blue one contains the number "4" and the text "Full Syllabus Tests".
- A red circle on the right contains the text "4 CSAT".
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