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# **PRE-Mix**

*(Compilations of the Multiple Choice Questions)*

*For the 3rd Week*

*Of*

# **November**

# **2020**

*(16th November to 21st November)*

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# 1. Geography

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following statements are correct about Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)?

1. It is a specialized agency of WTO.
2. It is elected for a period of 4 years.
3. Members serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: C**

## Explanation

- Advisory Committee is an expert Committee of sixteen Members elected by the General Assembly (UN) for a period of three years, on the basis of a broad geographical representation.
- Members serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States.
- The Committee holds three sessions a year with total meeting time between nine and ten months per year.
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee are elected by the Members of the Advisory Committee.
- Functions:
  - ✓ To examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.
  - ✓ To advise the General Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it.
  - ✓ Examines, on behalf of the General Assembly, the administrative budgets of the specialised agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies.
  - ✓ To consider and report to the General Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialised agencies.
- Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra recently got elected to U.N. ACABQ.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Food Coalition are correct?

1. It is launched by FAO- UN.
2. It was proposed by India.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Due to food crisis caused by Covid 19 Pandemic and the urgency to tackle it, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has launched a Food Coalition.
- It was Proposed by Italy and led by Food and Agriculture Organization.
- The alliance aims to increase resilience of agricultural food systems and ensure global food access.
- Italy and the Netherlands have already pledged and delivered financial resources and technical support to the coalition.
- The alliance would work as a network of networks and a multi-stakeholder coalition for a unified global action to ensure food access and increase the resilience of agricultural food systems in response to COVID-19.
- The alliance involves a devoted trust fund and a web-based hub allowing participants to access a basket of project-focused information and data, as well as the funding and types of assistance needed for many on-the-ground projects.
- Objectives of the alliance:
  - ✓ Mobilising resources, expertise and innovation
  - ✓ Advocating for a joint and coordinated COVID-19 response.
  - ✓ Promoting dialogue and exchange of knowledge and expertise among countries.
  - ✓ Working towards solution-oriented plans and programmes.
  - ✓ Expanding international cooperation and partnership for a longer term impact.
  - ✓ FAO recently released Food Price Index.

**3. Which of the following constitute OPEC+ countries?**

1. Azerbaijan
2. Bahrain
3. Brunei
4. Kazakhstan
5. Ecuador
6. Mexico
7. Qatar

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7
- B. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- C. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- OPEC+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.
- OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.
- It is a permanent, intergovernmental organization.
- Its objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- Its membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.
- After news of Pfizer vaccine against Covid-19 and Saudi Arabia’s assurance that an OPEC+ oil output deal could be adjusted to balance the market, Oil prices have risen.



4. Which of the following statements regarding Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWT&T) are correct?

1. India recently received its first shipment from Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka to Port of Chennai, under PIWT&T.
2. The Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWTT) was signed in 1972 first.
3. There is inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of Gumti River as a new route in the Protocol.

- A. 1 and 2 only  
 B. 2 and 3 only  
 C. 1 and 3 only  
 D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWTT) was signed between India and Bangladesh in 1972 to provide inland waterways connectivity between the two countries, particularly with the North Eastern Region of India and also to enhance bilateral trade.
- The scope of PIWTT has been further expanded by the signing of the 2nd Addendum to PIWTT on May 20, 2020 with the inclusion of additional routes and ports of calls.
- The inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of Gumti river (93 km) as a new route in the Protocol will improve the connectivity of Tripura and the adjoining States with Indian and Bangladesh's economic centers and will help the hinterland of both the countries.

**Connectivity with mainland India through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route**



**5. Which of the following statements are correct about WHO?**

1. WHO recently declared 2020 as International year of health care workers?
2. It began functioning on April 7, 1948 – a date now being celebrated every year as World Health Day.
3. Its headquarters are situated in Geneva, Switzerland.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- World Health Organization (WHO) is United Nations' specialized agency for Health was founded in 1948.
- It began functioning on April 7, 1948 which is now celebrated every year as World Health Day.
- Its headquarters are situated in Geneva, Switzerland.
- There are 194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices.
- It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
- The WHO provides leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- It acts as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.
- It establishes and maintains effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate.
- It provides assistance to the Governments, upon request, in strengthening health services.
- It promotes cooperation among scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of health.
- Member States at the resumed virtual, 73rd World Health Assembly, recognizing the dedication and sacrifice of the millions of health and care workers at the forefront of the Covid-19 pandemic, unanimously designated 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers (YHCW).



## 2. History

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which country has released a special pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi named - The Gandhi as I understood?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Russia
- C. South Africa
- D. Nepal

**Answer: D**

### Explanation

- An anthology is defined as a book that has a large collection of writings in similar form, from a similar time, or about a similar subject matter, but by various authors
- Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari has released a special pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This anthology is written in the Nepali language.
- This anthology on Gandhi is titled as “MaileBujheko Gandhi” or “the Gandhi as I understood”.
- The book has been released to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the culmination of the 2 year-long celebrations of ‘150 years of Mahatma’.
- This anthology has been published by the Indian Embassy together with the B P Koirala India-Nepal Foundation.
- The publishers hope that the teachings, ideas of Mahatma Gandhi will bring Nepalese youth closer to the global icon.
- The book aims to bring to youth of Nepal closer to Mahatma Gandhi.
- The book also brings together the perspectives of 25 eminent Nepali personalities about Mahatma Gandhi.

2. Local4Diwali campaign has been launched by which ministry

- A. Ministry of culture
- B. Ministry of Textiles
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of MSME

**Answer: B**

### Explanation



- The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched a campaign for Diwali- “Local4Diwali”.
- The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft.
- As per the available data, the handicrafts sector is a major sector of women empowerment as almost 55% of the workers and artisans are women.
- Ministry has urged to Gift Diyas, home décor or furnishings like curtains, bed sheets or other handcrafted goods to your dear ones on this Diwali.
- Encourage the sale of local handicrafts, share posts on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. with hashtag #Local4Diwali.
- Take a picture of your favorite handicraft product and post the picture tagging others.
- This campaign will help the handicraft artisans and workers in increasing their sales and promoting their business.
- After the promotion of idea of “Vocal for Local” by PM Modi, every sector is working towards promoting local businesses and strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

**3. Which of the following statements about HUNAR HAAT are correct?**

**1. These Haat aim to provide market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.**

**2. These are organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**

A. 1 Only

B. 2 Only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Hunar Haat has restarted from November 11 after a gap of around seven months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The theme of this Hunar Haat is “Vocal for Local”.
- As the name suggests, local products made from Metal, Maati (clay), and Machiya (wooden and jute products) are the major attractions of the event.
- Other than this, products made from cane-bamboo and pottery work can also be seen at the event. More than 100 stalls have been set up at the haat.
- Hunar Haat is an exhibition of traditional products and handicrafts launched by Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2017.
- It was launched under upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme.

4. Which of the following statements about 'Barnaparichay' a mid 19th century Bengali text are correct?

1. It was written by Raja Rammohan Roy.
2. It was the most widely used Bengali primer of the time.

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

**Answer: B**

#### **Explanation**

- Barnaparichay or BarnaParichay (1855) is a Bengali primer written by 19th century Indian social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.
- This is considered as "the most influential primer of Bengal".
- The primer had two parts (part I & part II) and was published.
- This reflected Vidyasagar's knowledge, expertise and background as a Sanskrit scholar.
- Year 2020 commemorates 200 years of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

5. Which of the following statements regarding Public Service Broadcasting Day are correct?

1. Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year as the remembrance of the only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi.
2. During his visit to the All-India Radio station, Gandhi addressed people who were displaced after Indo- Pak partition.

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

**Answer: C**

#### **Explanation**

- Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on November 12 as the remembrance of the first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.
- During his visit to the All-India Radio station, Gandhi addressed people who were displaced after partition of Haryana and were temporarily settled in Kurukshetra.
- Every year, a special event is organized to observe the Public Service Broadcasting Day in the premises of All India Radio, New Delhi.

- All India Radio:

- ✓ All India Radio is a public sector broadcaster of the country established in the year 1936.
- ✓ It is a division of broadcasting agency Prasar Bharati.
- ✓ All India Radio is the one of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast and the socio-economic spectrum and cultural diversity served by the broadcaster.
- ✓ AIR originates programming in 179 dialects and 23 languages.
- ✓ AIR has 470 Broadcasting centres across the country.
- ✓ Doordarshan is also a division of Prasar Bharati.

### 3. Polity & Governance

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1. Which of the following statements are correct regarding – Office Of Profit?

1. The expression “office of profit” has been defined in the Constitution under article 102 (1).
2. The Supreme Court in Pradyut Bordoloi vs Swapan Roy (2001) outlined broad principles for determining whether an office attracts the constitutional disqualification.

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

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation

- A parliamentary panel has sought the Centre’s response to a long-pending demand for amending the Constitution to clear ambiguity over definition of ‘office of profit’, which bars lawmakers from taking up any positions that offer remunerations. Parliamentarians and legislators can avoid disqualification if they join offices which figure in the exempted category outlined in the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959.
- The expression “office of profit” has not been defined in the Constitution or in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- It is for the courts to explain the significance and meaning of this concept.
- Over the years, courts have decided this issue in the context of specific factual situations.
- But, articles 102 (1) and 191(1) which give effect to the concept of office of profit prescribe restrictions at the central and state level on lawmakers accepting government positions.

2. Which of the following is not a member of SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?

- A. Kazakhstan  
B. Kyrgyzstan  
C. Tajakistan  
D. Azerbaijan

**Answer: D**



**What the law says**

**Article 102 (1)(a)** says a person shall be disqualified from being a member of either House of Parliament if he holds any office of profit, among other grounds

**Article 103** says if a question arises whether a member has incurred such disqualification, it will be referred to the President's decision. The President shall obtain the Election Commission's opinion and act accordingly

**Article 191(1)** contains a similar provision for MLAs and MLCs in the States. Legislators in Delhi are covered by corresponding provisions in the Government of National Capital Territory Act, 1991

### Explanation

- SCO is a major Eurasian organization that represents half of the world’s population.
- India joined SCO in 2017 at the insistence of Russia, and China balanced India’s entry with the entry of Pakistan.
- Significance: The organization comprises four major nuclear powers operating in the area India, Russia, China, and Pakistan.
- It has the capacity to counterbalance North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), therefore, it is sometimes considered as “alliance of the East”, i.e, the Eastern complementary of NATO.
- 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State was held on November 10, 2020.

### Member states



3. Which of the following pairs have been correctly matched?

1. Justice A.K Mathur Commission - 7th Pay Commission
2. Athreya Committee - Scheme for Unorganized Sector
3. Mckinsey Report- Assessing Of Income Tax Rebates
4. Dave Committee - Pension Scheme for Unorganized Sector

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 3 and 4
- D. 1 and 4

**Answer: D**

### Explanation

- Mckinsey Report - Merger Of seven Associate Banks with State Bank of India.

- Dave Committee - Pension Scheme for Unorganized Sector.
  - Athreya Committee - Restructuring of IDBI.
  - Justice A.K Mathur Commission - 7th Pay Commission.
4. **The distribution of powers between the Centre and the States in the Indian Constitution is based on the scheme provided in the (UPSC-2012):**
- A. Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
  - B. Montagu-Chelmsford Act, 1919
  - C. Government of India Act, 1935
  - D. Indian Independence Act, 1947

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Government of India Act 1935**

- The Constitution of 1950 was a by-product of the legacy started by the Government of India Act 1935.
  - This was the longest act passed by the British government with 321 sections and 10 schedules.
  - This act had drawn its content from four sources – Report of the Simon Commission, discussions and deliberations at the Third Round Table Conference, the White Paper of 1933 and the reports of the Joint select committees.
  - This act abolished the system of provincial dyarchy and suggested the establishment of dyarchy at the centre and a 'Federation of India' consisting of the provinces of British India and most of the princely states.
  - Most importantly, the act established the office of the Governor; all the executive powers and authority of the centre was vested in the Governor.
5. **Consider the following statements with respect to The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018.**
1. **It provides that a preliminary enquiry will be mandatory for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.**
  2. **The Act states that persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail.**

**Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

## Explanation

- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 3, 2018.
- It seeks to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- The Act prohibits the commission of offences against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and establishes special courts for the trial of such offences and the rehabilitation of victims.
- In 2015, the Supreme Court stated that for persons accused of committing an offence under the Act, approval of the Senior Superintendent of Police will be required before an arrest is made.
- Further, the Deputy Superintendent of Police may conduct a preliminary enquiry to find out whether there is a prima facie case under the Act.
- The Bill states that the investigating officer will not require the approval of any authority for the arrest of an accused. Further, it provides that a preliminary enquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
- The Act states that persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail. The Bill seeks to clarify that this provision will apply despite any judgments or orders of a court that provide otherwise.



## 4. Economy

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1. Which of the following statements are correct about IPO- Initial public offering?

1. IPO refers to the process of offering shares of a private corporation to the public in a new stock issuance.
2. A company offering its shares to the public is not obliged to repay the capital to public investors.
3. RBI regulates the entire process of IPO'S in India.

- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 2 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- SEBI regulates the entire process of investment via an IPO India.
- Initial public offering is the process by which a private company can go public by sale of its stocks to general public.
- It could be a new, young company or an old company which decides to be listed on an exchange and hence goes public.
- Companies can raise equity capital with the help of an IPO by issuing new shares to the public or the existing shareholders can sell their shares to the public without raising any fresh capital.
- A company offering its shares to the public is not obliged to repay the capital to public investors.
- The company which offers its shares, known as an 'issuer', does so with the help of investment banks.
- After IPO, the company's shares are traded in an open market.
- Those shares can be further sold by investors through secondary market trading.
- SEBI regulates the entire process of investment via an IPO India.
- Recently, Indore-based Enking International plans on becoming the world's first company that operates in the carbon markets space to go in for an IPO.
- These are market-tradeable instruments that are issued to entities whose projects reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

2. Kamath committee recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. To decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold  
B. Security Analysis and Investment Management.

- C. Restructuring of stressed accounts.
- D. Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The K.V. Kamath committee recommended a graded approach to restructuring of stressed accounts based on severity of the impact on the borrowers.
- The committee has allowed banks to classify the accounts into mild, moderate and severe as recommended by the committee.
- In line with the mandate given by the RBI, Kamath committee has identified four financial parameters including total outside liabilities to adjusted tangible networth, total debt to EBITDA, debt service coverage ratio (DSCR), average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR).



**3. Which of the following statements are correct about OMO – Open Market Operations?**

1. It is market operation conducted by RBI by way of sale/purchase of government securities to/from the market.
  2. If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to purchase of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.)
- Open Market Operations (OMOs) are market operations conducted by RBI by way of sale/purchase of government securities to/from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.
- If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.

- Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI buys securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.
- It is one of the quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools which is employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.



4. A situation when the price charged is more than or less than the equilibrium price determined by market forces of demand and supply is known as

- A. Price Gap
- B. Price Floor
- C. Price Ceiling
- D. Group Pricing

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Price floor is a situation when the price charged is more than or less than the equilibrium price determined by market forces of demand and supply.



- By observation, it has been found that lower price floors are ineffective.
- Price floor has been found to be of great importance in the labour-wage market.
- Minimum wage laws have been passed in various countries to determine the minimum wages to be paid to the worker.

- Minimum wages are formulated from the demand-supply curve of labour.
- This helps the government ensure higher wages and a good standard of living for the workers.

**5. Which of the following statements are correct about Jeevan Pramaan Patra?**

- 1. It is a digital life certificate for pensioners.**
- 2. India Post Payments Bank has launched the doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) service for pensioners.**
- 3. EPS pensioners can now submit DLC at any time during the year, as per their convenience.**

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Digital Life Certificate or Jeevan Pramaan is a biometric-enabled digital service for pensioners.
- This service can be availed without being physically present at the pension disbursing agency or have the Life Certificate issued by the authority.
- Pensioners have to submit Jeevan Pramaan Patra (JPP) / Digital Life certificate (DLC) each year to continue drawing pension.
- Owing to the current scenario, the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has facilitated multiple options for EPS pensioners to submit their DLC, close to their home or at their door step.
- Recently, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched the doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) service for pensioners.
- EPS pensioners can now submit online request for availing doorstep DLC service on payment of a nominal fee.
- A postman from the nearest Post Office will visit a pensioner and complete the process of generating DLC at the home of the pensioner only.
- EPS pensioners can now submit DLC at any time during the year, as per their convenience.
- The life certificate will remain valid for one year from date of submission of DLC.
- The pensioners who have been issued Pension Payment Order (PPO) in 2020 need not upload JPP till completion of one year.
- Earlier, all EPS pensioners were required to submit the DLC in the month of November.

## 5. Environment

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1. Based on the following statements identify the Wetland?

1. It is fed by the Ganga and Solani rivers.
  2. It is located within the boundaries of the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
  3. It is an important stopover destination for winter migratory birds like the Greylag goose and the Bar-headed goose.
  4. Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)-India is conducting a survey of river turtles here.
- A. Haiderpur wetland.  
B. Dhanauri wetland.  
C. Semrai wetland.  
D. Ekana wetland.

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- The forest department in Uttar Pradesh is working along with conservation organisations to make the Haiderpur wetland in Muzaffarnagar district a Ramsar site.
  - It came into existence in 1984 after the construction of the Madhya Ganga Barrage.
  - It is spread over 1,214 hectares.
  - It is located within the boundaries of the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - Many bird species inhabit the Haiderpur wetland and it is an important stopover destination for winter migratory birds like the Greylag goose and the Bar-headed goose.
  - It is situated at a strategic location on the banks of the Ganga where it meets the Solani, a small tributary.
  - After the barrage was constructed, the spill over water of these two rivers formed the marshy land, now an important bird habitat.
  - TSA is conducting a survey of river turtles in Haidepur to assess their habitat and population.
  - The Haidepur wetland has been identified under Namami Gange, a flagship programme of the Government of India launched in 2014, as a model wetland along the Ganga.
2. Which of the following statements are correct about Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA Act?
1. It was enacted by Government to cover the "Scheduled Areas", which are not covered in the 73rd Constitutional amendment.

2. Elected heads of the respective state are empowered to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution.

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

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- Chhattisgarh government has recently started the process to frame the rules to implement the PESA Act.
- Since the PESA Act was passed, six states – Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat – have made rules while Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand have yet to do so for implementation of the Act.
- PESA is a law enacted by Government to cover the “Scheduled Areas”, which are not covered in the 73rd Constitutional amendment.
- This particular act extends the provisions of Part IX to the Scheduled Areas of the country.
- PESA brought powers further down to the Gram Sabha level.
- The Gram Sabha in the Panchayat Act were entrusted with wide ranging powers starting from consultation on land acquisition to that of ownership over minor forest produces and leasing of minor minerals.
- Every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution.
- It has further provided that the Gram Sabha or Panchayats at appropriate level shall have the following powers:
  - ✓ To be consulted on matters of land acquisition and resettlement.
  - ✓ Grant prospecting license for mining lease for minor minerals and concessions for such activities.
  - ✓ Planning and management of minor water bodies.
  - ✓ The power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.
  - ✓ The ownership of minor forest produces.
  - ✓ The power to prevent alienation of land and to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a scheduled tribe.
  - ✓ The power to manage village markets.
  - ✓ The power to exercise control over money lending to scheduled tribes.



- ✓ While giving such wide-ranging powers to Gram Sabhas or Panchayats, PESA has further given an added responsibility to States that they may endow Panchayats with powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government.
- ✓ It also contains safeguards to ensure that Panchayats at higher level do not assume the powers and authority of any Panchayats at the lower level or the Gram Sabha.

**3. According to a recent notification issued by GOI which of the following statements are incorrect?**

- 1. Health certification has been made mandatory for all milk and milk product exports.**
- 2. The rules were passed by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- India under the Export of Milk and Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2020, made a health certification mandatory for all milk and milk product exports that will be subject to stringent quality control, inspection and monitoring.
- Export of milk and milk products that do not comply with the standards will be prohibited as per rules notified by the commerce and industry ministry.
- Under the Export of Milk and Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2020, the government setup a standing committee under Chairman, Export Inspection Council (EIC) to formulate standards for which none are available.
- The order supersedes the Export of Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2000.
- It has also mandated the consignment to be accompanied by a certificate of export worthiness
- The council will issue a certificate that would be valid for a period of three years.
- EIC would issue the health certificate declaring such consignment is fit for human consumption and export worthy but would also issue a veterinary certificate, if requested by the exporter, in the specified preformat as asked by the importing country.
- In case the importing country requires a health certificate, the same may be provided.
- India exported \$129.87 million worth dairy produce, birds' eggs, natural honey and edible products of animal origin in the April-August period.
- The order details various hygiene requirements and general conditions relating to the holding and acceptance of raw milk at treatment and processing establishments.



- The EIC also has to ensure that there is no residue of substances having a pharmacological or hormonal action, and of antibiotics, pesticides, detergents in excess of the permitted levels fixed so as to make them harmful or which might alter their organoleptic characteristics or make their consumption dangerous or harmful to human health.

**4. Which state has recently announced formation of 'Gau Cabinet' for cow protection?**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Madhya Pradesh Govt. has decided to constitute a Gau Cabinet (cow cabinet) for cattle conservation and promotion.
- It will comprise animal husbandry, farmers' welfare, forest, panchayat-rural development, home and revenue departments.
- The first meeting of the cow cabinet will be held at the cow sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district on Gopashthami festival on November 22.

**5. Which of the following statements regarding 'convergence project' are correct?**

1. These projects are planned to be set up all over the country to ramp up the brownfield projects.
2. The first convergence project will be set up in Goa.
3. Commerce ministry is the implementing agency for convergence projects.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1,2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in Goa.
- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, and Goa government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the same.
- Objective: It seeks to connect seemingly independent sectors like Solar Energy, Energy Storage and LED lights to provide solutions, which can enable in decarbonisation and affordable energy access.

- Mechanism:

- ✓ EESL is offering convergent interventions, which solve multiple gap areas in the energy ecosystem.
- ✓ Solutions such as solarised agriculture feeders, LED Street lights in local villages and battery energy storage systems.
- ✓ Leveraging the carbon financing mechanism to rapidly strengthen rural infrastructure in a clean and sustainable manner, and to create a resilient and sustainable rural community in India.
- ✓ EESL's climate financing interventions currently include Gram UJALA, Decentralised Solar and Gram Panchayat Street Lights programmes.

- Benefits:

- ✓ Promote Renewable Energy: It will accelerate the usage of renewable energy sources, especially for agricultural and rural power consumption in the State.
- ✓ Energy Efficient: Contribute to reduction of peak energy demand through deployment of energy efficient pumping and lighting thus contributing to overall sustainability.
- ✓ Improve Health of DISCOMs: Accrue savings of Rs 2,574 crores to the State over the period of 25 years, while improving the health of DISCOMs and providing cleaner power.
- ✓ Check Technical Losses: Provide clean day time electricity to farmers as well as energy efficient pump sets which would reduce the power consumption as well as T&D (Transmission and Distribution Losses) losses associated with transmitting power to agriculture and rural feeder networks.

## 6. Science & Technology

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. PARAM SIDDHI recently seen in news is:

- A. A gel that can protect farmers from toxic pesticides.
- B. World's thinnest material with novel technique.
- C. An AI super computer
- D. Faster diagnostic tests for tuberculosis.

**Answer: C**

### Explanation

- Param Siddhi is a supercomputer established under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- It has achieved 63rd rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world.
- Param Siddhi-AI will go a long way in empowering our national academic and R&D institutions as well as industries and start-ups spread over the country networked on the national supercomputer grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN)
- The AI system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry and astrophysics, and several packages being developed under the mission on platform for drug design and preventive health care system, flood forecasting package for flood-prone cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna and Guwahati.
- This will accelerate research and development in the fight against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing and forecasting and is a boon for Indian masses and for start-ups and MSMEs in particular.
- It will help in application developers and will help testing of weather forecasting packages by National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), geo-exploration packages for oil and gas recovery, packages for aero design studies, computational physics and mathematical applications and even online courses for Human Resource Development.
- The supercomputer with Rpeak of 5.267 Petaflops and 4.6 Petaflops Rmax (Sustained) was conceived by C-DAC and developed jointly with support of DST and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the NSM.
- Param Siddhi has got the recognition among non-distributed computer systems. A non-distributed computer system has all its components at a single location. In this case, Param Siddhi is in Pune.
- Param Siddhi Supercomputer is built on the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD reference architecture networking along with C-DAC's indigenously developed HPC-AI engine, software frameworks and cloud platform and will help deep learning, visual computing, virtual reality, accelerated computing, as well as graphics virtualisation.

2. Which of the following statements are ***incorrect*** about G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance?

1. It was formed by WEF – World Economic Forum.
  2. The aim of the alliance is to promote the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies by establishing global norms and policy standards for the use of connected devices in public spaces.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the formation of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance.
- The alliance includes 15 city networks and technology governance organisations from all over the world.
- The aim of the alliance is to promote the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies by establishing global norms and policy standards for the use of connected devices in public spaces.
- The decision to form such an alliance took place in June 2019 parallel to the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.
- The alliance committed to co-design and present a global policy framework on smart city technologies before the G20 Riyadh Summit in Saudi Arabia.
- It is currently accepting nominations from public and private entities, interested in contributing to global policy standards.
- Four Indian cities – Indore, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Faridabad – feature in a list of 36 cities across 22 countries and six continents selected by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to pioneer a new roadmap for smart cities as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.
- The list also includes Dubai, Belfast, Barcelona, London, Manila, Moscow, San Jose, Toronto, Melbourne, Lisbon, Istanbul and others.
- These 36 “pioneer cities” will adopt policies for privacy protection, better broadband coverage, accountability for cyber security, increased openness of city data, and better accessibility to digital city services for disabled and elderly people.
- The plan will come into motion with the launch of a new global policy roadmap for safe adoption of new technology by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic hardship it has brought on cities across the world.
- The policy is designed to give cities the procedures, laws and regulations they need to use new technology responsibly, the statement said.
- City governments are on the frontline of a global crisis and need to be able to act quickly and decisively to curtail this pandemic and set course for their economic recovery.

- Technology is an essential tool in this fight but governments cannot risk falling into the usual traps related to privacy, security and vendor lock-in.
- The initiative originated in Japan from the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

**3. Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) recently heard in news is signed between which of the following countries?**

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Japan and Australia have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.
- The RCA is a defence pact which is expected to intensify military cooperation between the two countries.
- The agreement is expected to streamline activities such as joint military training exercises, natural disaster and humanitarian support of the two countries.
- Japan has a similar agreement with only one other country, the US. The agreement was six years in negotiation and will provide a legal and administrative framework for both forces visiting the other country.
- The pact does not need to be approved by the Australian Parliament, but it will need to be approved by Japan's parliament.
- Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) comes weeks after foreign ministers of the Quad alliance, which includes the US and India, met in Tokyo.
- The pact allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other's countries and conduct training and joint operations.
- The two sides also agreed on the need for a framework to allow Japanese military to protect Australian forces if needed.

**4. Which of the following statements regarding Team Halo are correct?**

- 1. It is an initiative undertaken by the United Nations (UN) in collaboration with The Vaccine Confidence Project at the University of London.**

2. It is to provide vaccination to children in the remotest areas of Africa.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Over 100 scientists from different countries have joined hands to tackle the issue of misinformation surrounding Covid-19 vaccines
- These scientists have come together under Team Halo, an initiative undertaken by the United Nations (UN) in collaboration with The Vaccine Confidence Project at the University of London
- The initiative aims to tackle misinformation by sharing information on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines via social media.
- These scientists are producing creative, social media-friendly videos on Covid-19 vaccine science, personal experiences and reactions to information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

5. Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) is related to which of the following?

- A. Suicide prevention
- B. HIV prevention
- C. Drug deaddiction
- D. Cardiovascular disease prevention

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC)

- It is a global coalition of United Nations Member States, donors, civil society organizations which was established in the year 2017 to support global efforts to accelerate HIV prevention.
- Membership: It includes the 25 highest HIV burden countries, UNAIDS Cosponsors, donors, civil society and private sector organizations.
- Goal: To strengthen and sustain political commitment for primary prevention by setting a common agenda among key policy-makers, funders and programme implementers.
- Union Health Minister addressed the Ministerial meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) for HIV Prevention
- The programme is aimed at providing outreach, service delivery, counselling and testing and ensuring linkages to HIV care.
- Indian model is centered on the concept of 'Social Contracting' through which the Targeted Interventions (TI) programme is implemented.

- Under the Test and Treat Policy, about 50 thousand people living with HIV who were lost to follow-up were linked back to AntiRetroviral Treatment services through 'Mission SAMPARK', while Viral Load Testing facilities have been scaled up from the existing ten public sector labs to 64 labs across the country.

