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**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr 2020 (Set 5)**

## BASIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Bonn Convention:

1. It is an environment treaty in force since 1983 under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. Under this convention, migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix II

Which of the above statements is / are correct?

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

Answer-A

Explanation-Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)/ Bonn Convention is an environmental treaty in force since 1983 under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Under this convention, migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I.

Migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention.

India has signed a non legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) recently held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Q2. Which of the following statements is not correct about Long Term Repo Operation (LTRO)?

- (a) Under LTRO, RBI will conduct term repos of one-year and three-year
- (b) LTRO scheme will be in addition to the existing LAF (Liquidity adjustment facility) and MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) operations
- (c) LTRO will lead to increase in short term lending rates of banks
- (d) None of the above

Answer- C

Explanation-RBI has announced a new liquidity facility under Long Term Repo Operations (LTRO) to inject liquidity in the banking system .

Under LTRO, RBI will conduct term repos of one-year and three-year tenors of appropriate sizes for up to a total amount of Rs 1 lakh crore at the policy repo rate.

LTRO scheme will be in addition to the existing LAF and MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) operations.

LTRO will lead to decline in short term lending rates of banks.

Q3. Agartala- Akhaura Rail link Project is associated with which of the following countries?

- (a) India-Nepal
- (b) India-Bhutan
- (c) India- Bangladesh
- (d) India- Myanmar

Answer- C



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Explanation-Agartala-Akhaura Rail link Project is the India-Bangladesh rail link. The rail link will connect the northeastern region with Bangladesh and will be ready by the end of 2021. It will connect Agartala in Tripura and Akhaura in Bangladesh.

Q4. Consider the following statements about Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS):

1. Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a European Space Agency mission that will look for planets orbiting the brightest stars in Earth's sky.
2. TESS will monitor at least 200,000 stars for signs of exoplanets, ranging from Earth-sized rocky worlds to huge gas giant planets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer-B

Explanation-The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a NASA mission that will look for planets orbiting the brightest stars in Earth's sky.

The mission will monitor at least 200,000 stars for signs of exoplanets, ranging from Earth-sized rocky worlds to huge gas giant planets.

Q5. With reference to PM-KISAN Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme covers all land holding eligible farmer families.
2. It is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
3. The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
4. The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the Central government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Answer-A

Explanation-Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. Under the Scheme an income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided to all farmer families across the country in three equal installments of Rs.2000/- each every four months. The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments. The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.1. Which among the following is/are the initiatives recently started by NITI Aayog?

1. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH)
2. Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat
3. Composite Water Management Index
4. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only



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(c) 1, 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans.(b)**

**Explanation;**

SATH is aimed at initiating transformation in two key social sectors—education and health, by hand-holding States towards improving their social sector indicators and providing technical support over three years. It was launched with selection of states through unique challenge method.

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, it was conceptualized to make our country united, strong and promote excellence in all walks of life by means of long-term inter-state engagements through cultural exchanges and education.

**Q.2.** Which among the following International agencies publishes the Global Investment Trend Monitor Report?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- (c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (d) World Bank

**Ans.(b)**

**Explanation;**

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has published the "Global Investment Trend Monitor" Report. This report focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and measures to improve its contribution to development. The United States remained the largest recipient of FDI, attracting \$251 billion in inflows, followed by China with flows of \$140 billion and Singapore with \$110 billion. India has been placed at 8th Position with total FDI inflows of \$ 49 billion.

**Q.3.** Which among the following Energy Efficiency Initiatives is/are implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)?

- 1. Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC)
- 2. Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA)
- 3. UJALA Scheme
- 4. Atal Jyoti Yojana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans.(c)**

**Explanation;**

UJALA SCHEME: UNNAT JYOTI BY AFFORDABLE LEDS FOR ALL: It involves distribution of the energy efficient LED bulbs to the consumers.

Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY): To illuminate dark regions through establishment of solar streetlights.

**Q.4.** With reference to Off-Budget Financing, consider the following statements:

- 1. It refers to the loans borrowed by the PSUs based on the Government's guarantee of repayment.



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2. The Off-budget Financing is undertaken only for capital expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. (a)**

**Explanation;**

The Off-Budget Financing refers to the expenditure undertaken by the Public sector undertakings (PSUs) through the market borrowings based upon guarantee of repayment of loans given by Government. For example, let's say the government needs to invest in the Railways. It may ask the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to borrow money from the market and finance railway projects. However, the Government guarantees the repayment of principal and interest for the money borrowed by Indian Railway Finance Corporation in case it fails to repay the borrowed money. Such kind of expenditure undertaken by Indian Railway Finance Corporation can be considered to be "Off Budget" financing. It is to be noted that this guarantee of the government could become a liability in future, however it is not accounted under the Government Budget.

**Q.5.** Which among the following is/are part of Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BITs) put forth by the Government?

1. Enterprise based Definition of Investment
2. Exclusion of MFN treatment
3. Freedom to the investors to initiate international arbitrations without any conditions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans.(a)**

**Explanation;**

Enterprise based definition of investment: The asset-based definition of the investment under the earlier BITs has been replaced by Enterprise based definition under the model BIT. Asset based definition considers every kind of asset – both movable and immovable including the IPRs as investment and gives protection under treaties. Moving away from an asset-based approach to an enterprise-based approach aims at narrowing the scope of investments to be protected and thus seeks to reduce the number of BIT claims that can be brought against India.

- Exclusion of MFN treatment: In recent years, some foreign investors have sued India arguing that they have to get the same beneficial treatment given to companies from other countries. Accordingly, India has dropped MFN Clause from the Model BIT.
- Conditions for initiating arbitrations at international arbitrations: The Model BIT stipulate that the aggrieved investor should use all local remedies as well as negotiations and consultations before initiating arbitrations against the host State. Investor can use outside remedies only five years after resorting to all domestic arrangements.
- Corporate Social Responsibility: The Model BIT mandates foreign investors to voluntarily adopt internationally recognized standards of corporate social responsibility.



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## ECONOMY

**Q.1.** Consider the following benefits of change in the Accounting year by RBI from July-June to April-March,

1. Reduce the need for Interim Dividend
2. Improving profitability of RBI

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans. ( a )**

**Explanation;**

Earlier, RBI used to take around 3 months to prepare its annual report based upon the analysis of the consolidated reports of the Banks due to lack of computerization. However, in the age of Internet and growing technological solutions such as Big data, the RBI gets access to data related to banks on a real time basis and thus, the RBI can easily align its accounting year with the April-March as followed by the banks and Government. Further, the Bimal Jalan Committee had also recommended for the change in the accounting year of the RBI. Some of the benefits in the change of accounting year as highlighted by the Bimal Jalan Committee include: 1. Reduce the need for Interim Dividend: After accounting for the operating expenses and various reserves which it maintains, the RBI transfers the remaining profits to the central government in the form of dividend. Presently, the dividend is transferred twice from the RBI to Government. First dividend transfer is in the form of the Interim dividend which usually takes place at the time of Union Budget and the second dividend transfer is after the end of accounting year (July-June) of the RBI. Once the accounting year of the RBI is aligned with that of Government, the need for the interim dividend would be done away with. 2. Better Estimates and Projections: The RBI would be able to provide better estimates of the projected surplus transfers to the Government for the financial year for budgeting purposes 3. More Cohesiveness: It would also bring about better cohesiveness in monetary policy projections, reports published by the RBI, etc., many of which are using the fiscal year as the base.

**Q.2.** Consider the following statements regarding Kisan Credit Card scheme,

1. it was launched in 1988
2. only commercial banks can implement

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans.(d)**

**Explanation;**

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998 for issue of Kisan Credit Cards to farmers so that farmers may use them to readily purchase agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs. The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in the year 2004. • The Kisan Credit Card Scheme is implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives. The farmers eligible under the KCC scheme include small farmers, marginal farmers, share croppers, oral lessee and tenant farmers. The Self Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) are also eligible for availing benefits under the scheme.

**Q.3.** Which one of the following is newly approved major port of the country,

- a. Mormugao
- b. Ennore
- c. Vadhavan
- d. None of these

**Ans. c.**



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## Explanation;

The Union Cabinet has given its 'in-principle' approval for setting up a Major Port at VadHAVAN near Dahanu in Maharashtra. The new major port would be set up on "Landlord Model" in order to expand the port capacity in India and give fillip to Sagarmala programme.

Points to be remembered;

- India has 12 Major ports and about 200 non-major ports. The Major Ports are under the Union List while the Non-Major Ports are under the Concurrent List. Hence, the Major Ports are under the administrative control of Government of India while the Non-major ports are governed by the respective State Governments. Approximately 95% of the country's trade by volume and 68% by value is moved through Maritime Transport.
- Major Ports are defined in Section 3(8) of the Indian Ports act, 1908 to mean any port which the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette declare. These major ports are Kolkata (including Haldia), Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai, Kandla and Ennore.
- Further, in 2010, the Government has declared Port Blair as major port. However, the Government has so far not taken any action (The Annual Report 2018-19 of Ministry of Shipping mentions only about 12 Major Ports in India)

**Q.4.** With reference to the PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY), consider the following statements regarding accidental death insurance –

1. Available to people in age group of 18 to 40 years
  2. Premium is Rs.10 per annum
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2              (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans.(d)**

## Explanation;

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH INSURANCE** • Eligibility: Available to people in age group 18 to 70 years with bank account. • Premium: Rs.12 per annum. • Payment Mode: The premium is auto-debited by the bank from the subscribers account. • Risk Coverage: For accidental death and full disability - Rs.2 Lakh and for partial disability – Rs.1 Lakh. • Terms of Risk Coverage: A person has to opt for the scheme every year. He can also prefer to give a long-term option of continuing in which case his account will be autodebited every year by the bank. • Who implements this Scheme? The scheme is offered by all Public Sector General Insurance Companies and all other insurers who are willing to join the scheme and tie up with banks for this purpose.

**Q.5.** With respect to the PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BHIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY)-LIFE INSURANCE COVER, consider the following statements,

1. Premium is Rs.230 per annum
2. Risk coverage is Rs. 2 lakh in case of death for any reason

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans.(b)**

## Explanation;

- Eligibility: Available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 and having a bank account.
- Premium: Rs.330 per annum.
- Payment Mode: The payment of premium will be directly auto-debited by the bank from the subscribers account.
- Risk Coverage: Rs.2 Lakh in case of death for any reason.



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- Terms of Risk Coverage: A person has to opt for the scheme every year. He can also prefer to give a long-term option of continuing, in which case his account will be auto-debited every year by the bank.
- The scheme is offered by Life Insurance Corporation and all other life insurers who are willing to join the scheme and tie-up with banks for this purpose.

## POLITY

- a. Under article 80 of the Constitution, the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) is composed of not more than 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President of India from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in which of the following fields?
1. Art
  2. Science
  3. Cooperative movements
  4. Literature
  5. Social Service
  6. Sports
- a. 1, 3, 4 & 5 only  
b. 1, 2, 5 & 6 only  
c. 2, 4 & 6 only  
d. 1, 2, 4 & 5 only

### Answer – D

Under **article 80 of the Constitution**, the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) is composed of not more than 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President of India from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.

A petition was recently filed in the Supreme Court conveying “widespread disquiet and unease” triggered by the nomination of the former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi to the Rajya Sabha. The petition sought the court’s intervention for extending the post-retirement restrictions imposed on the office of the Lokpal to former judges as well.

14th report of the Law Commission of India considered the question of such nominations and appointments before forming a negative opinion. The report said it is clearly undesirable that Supreme Court Judges should look forward to other Government employment after their retirement. Explaining the reason for why Supreme Court judges should resist such offers from the government, the Law Commission report says, “The Government is a party in a large number of causes [cases] in the highest Court and the average citizen may well get the impression, that a judge who might look forward to being employed by the Government after his retirement, does not bring to bear on his work that detachment of outlook which is expected of a judge in cases in which Government is a party.”



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- b. Which of the following statements is/are not true about the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine, which will replace the Indian Medicine Central Council**
- The NCISM will consist of 29 members, appointed by the central government.
  - These posts will have a maximum term of four years.
  - They will be recommended by a search committee consisting of five members including the Cabinet Secretary and three experts nominated by the central government
  - It would act as the conducting body for all entrance examinations for all medical colleges in the country.

### Answer – D

The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2019 (NCIM) was recently passed in Rajya Sabha. The Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970. Within three years of the passage of the Bill, state governments have to establish State Medical Councils for Indian System of Medicine at the state level.

### Key features of the Bill include:

- Constitution of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine:
  - The NCISM will consist of 29 members, appointed by the central government.
  - These posts will have a maximum term of four years.
  - They will be recommended by a search committee.
  - The Search Committee will consist of five members including the Cabinet Secretary and three experts nominated by the central government (of which two should have experience in any of the fields of Indian System of Medicine).
- Functions of the NCISM include:
  - Framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals of Indian System of Medicine.
  - Assessing the requirements of healthcare related human resources and infrastructure.
  - Ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils of Indian System of Medicine of the regulations made under the Bill.
  - Ensuring coordination among the autonomous boards set up under the Bill.
- Autonomous boards to be set up:
  - Board of Ayurveda and the Board of Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa.
  - Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Indian System of Medicine.
  - Ethics and Medical Registration Board.
- Entrance examinations:





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- There will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to under-graduate education in each of the disciplines of the Indian System of Medicine in all medical institutions regulated by the Bill.
- The Bill also proposes a National Teachers' Eligibility Test for postgraduates of each discipline of Indian System of Medicine who wish to take up teaching that particular discipline as a profession.

c. Consider the following statements about the National Register for Citizens.

1. The NRC is the list of Indian residents and was prepared in 1951, following the census of 1951.
2. The process of NRC update was taken up in Assam as per a Supreme Court order in 2013.
3. In order to wean out cases of illegal migration from Bangladesh and other adjoining areas, NRC updation was carried out under The Citizenship Act, 1955, and according to rules framed in the Assam Accord.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 & 3 only
- b. 2 & 3 only
- c. 1 & 2 only
- d. All of the above

**Answer – C**

The NRC is the list of Indian citizens (not residents) and was prepared in 1951, following the census of 1951. The process of NRC update was taken up in Assam as per a Supreme Court order in 2013. In order to wean out cases of illegal migration from Bangladesh and other adjoining areas, NRC updation was carried out under The Citizenship Act, 1955, and according to rules framed in the Assam Accord. Union Home Ministry has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that preparation of NRC is a “necessary exercise for any sovereign country for mere identification of citizens from non-citizens.”

4. A permanent commission entitles an officer to serve in the Navy till he/she retires unlike short service commission (SSC), which is currently for \_\_\_\_\_ and can be extended by four more years, or a total of \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. 10 years, 14 years
  - b. 7 years, 11 years
  - c. 6 years, 10 years
  - d. 4 years, 8 years

**Answer – A**

The Supreme Court has upheld the right of serving Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers of the Navy to be granted permanent commission (PC) on a par with their male counterparts. The judgment was based on a case filed by 17 women SSC



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officers who were denied PC and discharged despite completing 14 years of service as SSC officers.

### Implications of the judgment:

- Women naval officers will now be eligible to apply for permanent commission.
- All serving women short service commission (SSC) officers in at least seven wings, including the executive, engineering, electrical, education, law and logistics, will be eligible to apply.
- The grant of PCs will be subject to: (i) availability of vacancies in the stabilised cadre; (ii) Suitability of the candidate; and (iii) recommendation by the chief of Naval Staff.

### What is a permanent commission?

A permanent commission entitles an officer to serve in the Navy till he/she retires unlike short service commission (SSC), which is currently for 10 years and can be extended by four more years, or a total of 14 years.

#### 5. Consider the following about the benefits offered to OCI (Overseas Citizens of India) card holders.

1. Lifelong Visa to visit India multiple times.
2. Same treatment as of NRIs in respect to Inter-country adoption of Indian children.
3. Also treated at par with NRIs regarding – entry fees for national monuments, practice of professions like doctors, dentists, nurses, advocates, architects, Chartered Accountants & Pharmacists.
4. At par with NRIs to participate in All India Pre-medical tests and such.
5. Same entry fee as for Indians for entry into India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- a. 1, 3 & 4 only
- b. 2,4 & 5 only
- c. 1, 2 & 3 only
- d. All of the above

#### Answer – D

Thousands of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders have been forced to cancel trips to India owing to the recent ban on their entry by the GOI and are apprehensive they will not be able to get back in the event of an emergency.

#### Who are OCI cardholders?

Government of India launched the 'Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme' by making amendments to Citizenship Act, 1955 in 2005. On 09 January 2015, the Government of India discontinued the PIO card and merged it with OCI card.

#### Benefits for OCI cardholders:



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1. Lifelong Visa to visit India multiple times. (special permission needed for research work in India).
2. No need to register with Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) for any length of stay.
3. Except for acquisition of agricultural and plantation properties, OCI card holders have similar facilities that are extended to NRIs in economic, financial and educational fields.
4. Same treatment as of NRIs in respect to Inter-country adoption of Indian children.
5. Also treated at par with NRIs regarding – entry fees for national monuments, practice of professions like doctors, dentists, nurses, advocates, architects, Chartered Accountants & Pharmacists.
6. At par with NRIs to participate in All India Pre-medical tests and such.
7. Treated at par with Indian citizens in matters of traffic in airfares in Indian domestic sectors.
8. Same entry fee as for Indians for entry into India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
9. OCI booklet can be used as identification to avail services. An affidavit can be attached with local address as residential proof

6. Which of the following is not true about the questions being asked in the Parliament?

- a. The number of starred questions was fixed at 20 per Question Hour from the fourth session of the fifth Lok Sabha in 1972.
- b. The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.
- c. A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House
- d. No questions can be asked to a Private member

## Answer – D

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently said his right as an MP to ask a supplementary question in Lok Sabha was taken away as Speaker Om Birla did not allow him to ask one. Rahul Gandhi was asking the government to name wilful bank loan defaulters, but was not allowed another supplementary question amid uproar in the lower house.

## What is Question hour?

1. The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.
2. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
3. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.

## How many starred questions can be asked?

The number of starred questions was fixed at 20 per Question Hour from the fourth session of the fifth Lok Sabha in 1972.

## Type of Questions:



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Members have a right to ask questions to elicit information on matters of public importance within the special cognizance of the Ministers concerned. The questions are of three types:

**Starred Questions:** A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House and is required to be distinguished by him/her with an asterisk. Answer to such a question may be followed by supplementary questions by members.

**Unstarred Questions:** An Unstarred Question is one to which written answer is desired by the member and is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House by Minister. Thus it is not called for oral answer in the House and no supplementary question can be asked thereon.

**Short Notice Questions:** A member may give a notice of question on a matter of public importance and of urgent character for oral answer at a notice less than 10 days prescribed as the minimum period of notice for asking a question in ordinary course. Such a question is known as 'Short Notice Question'.

## Questions to Private Members:

A Question may also be addressed to a Private Member (Under Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha), provided that the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, Resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that Member is responsible. The procedure in regard to such questions is same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a Minister with such variations as the Speaker may consider necessary.

7. 'Guillotine' is a part of which of the following motions in the Parliament?
- Privilege motion
  - Motion of Thanks
  - Cut motion
  - Closure motion

## Answer – D

The Lok Sabha has passed the Appropriation Bill 2020-21 that empowers the government to draw over ₹110 lakh crore from the Consolidated Fund of India for its working, as well as for the implementation of its programmes and schemes.

- Now, only the Finance Bill that pertains to the government's taxation proposal awaiting passage.
- The Appropriation Bill was passed by a voice vote.
- Following this, Speaker Om Birla applied "guillotine" — the Parliamentary tool to club all other pending subjects for discussion.

- Consider the following statements about exceptions to anti-defection law and choose the correct ones.



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1. The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger.
  2. In such a scenario, neither the members who decide to merge, nor the ones who stay with the original party will face disqualification.
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 & 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2

## Answer – C

The crisis in Madhya Pradesh is not going to end anytime soon. The Speaker's role would come into play whether it comes to deciding on the resignations or disqualifying the MLAs. The Tenth Schedule, technicalities and also the Anti Defection Law would be cited during the crisis. Ultimately the matter could also end up in the Supreme Court.

### What is the anti-defection law?

The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the 52nd Amendment Act.

1. It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.
2. The decision on question as to disqualification on ground of defection is referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, and his decision is final.

The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.

### Disqualification:

If a member of a house belonging to a political party:

1. Voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party, or
2. Votes, or does not vote in the legislature, contrary to the directions of his political party. However, if the member has taken prior permission, or is condoned by the party within 15 days from such voting or abstention, the member shall not be disqualified.
3. If an independent candidate joins a political party after the election.
4. If a nominated member joins a party six months after he becomes a member of the legislature.

### Exceptions under the law:

Legislators may change their party without the risk of disqualification in certain circumstances.

1. The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger.



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2. In such a scenario, neither the members who decide to merge, nor the ones who stay with the original party will face disqualification.

9. Which of the following is not true about the Foreigners Tribunal in India?
- In 1964, the govt brought in **the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order**.
  - The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has amended the **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964**, and has empowered **district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals (quasi-judicial bodies)** to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
  - Typically, the tribunals there have seen two kinds of cases:** those concerning persons against whom a reference has been made by the border police and those whose names in the electoral roll has a "D", or "doubtful", marked against them.
  - None of the above

## Answer – D

A series of judgments delivered by the Gauhati High Court over the course of the last few weeks has brought into sharp focus the utter brutality of the regime governing the Foreigners' Tribunals in Assam.

### What is a Foreigners tribunal?

In 1964, the govt brought in the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order.

Composition: Advocates not below the age of 35 years of age with at least 7 years of practice (or) Retired Judicial Officers from the Assam Judicial Service (or) Retired IAS of ACS Officers (not below the rank of Secretary/Addl. Secretary) having experience in quasi-judicial works.

### Who can setup these tribunals?

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals (quasi-judicial bodies) to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not. Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.

Typically, the tribunals there have seen two kinds of cases: those concerning persons against whom a reference has been made by the border police and those whose names in the electoral roll has a "D", or "doubtful", marked against them.

### Who can approach?



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The amended order (Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019) also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals. Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Which of the following statements is not true about SAARC?
  - a. It has a **permanent secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal.**
  - b. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.
  - c. India has pledged \$10 million towards this Covid19 emergency fund.
  - d. It will be an emergency fund based on voluntary contributions from all SAARC members except Pakistan.

### Answer – D

PM Modi proposed emergency covid-19 fund for Saarc nations.

- It will be an emergency fund based on voluntary contributions from all SAARC members.
- India has already pledged \$10 million towards this fund.

### What is SAARC?

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.

- The member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- It has a permanent secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The organization was started to promote economic and cultural ties amongst its member states.

## PT - HISTORY

1. In the Battle of Plassey, Siraj was betrayed by many important nobles, merchants and bankers etc but only few of them supported Nawab Siraj-ud-daullah. Who were they?
  - a. Khadim Khan and Jagat Seth.
  - b. Ami Chand and Manick Chand.
  - c. Mir Jafar and Rai Durlabh.
  - d. Mir Madan and Mohan Lal.

Ans. D.

Explanation:



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- English organised a web of intrigue and treachery with the leading men of the Nawab's court such as – Mir Jafar- the Mir Bakshi, Manick chand- Officer in charge of Calcutta, Amichand- a rich merchant, Jagat Seth-the biggest banker and Khadim Khan- military chief in Nawab's army.
- On 23 June 1757, the battle of Plassey was fought only in name. In all, the English lost 29 men while Nawab lost nearly 500 soldiers.
- The major part of the Nawab's army, led by the traitors Mir Jafar and Rai Durlabh took no part in the fighting.
- Only a small group of the Nawab's soldiers led by Mir Madan and Mohan Lal fought bravely and supported Nawab. The Nawab was forced to flee and was captured and put to death by Mir Jafar's son Miran.

2. Consider the following statements about Dadabhai Naoroji:

1. He organised the East India Association in London.
2. He was also known as 'Grand Old Man of India'.
3. He was also India's first economic thinker.
4. Dadabhai was honoured by being elected President of Indian National Congress five times.

Select the Correct Code:

- a. 2 and 3 only.
- b. 1, 2 and 4 only.
- c. 1, 2 and 3 only.
- d. All the above.

Ans. C.

EXPLANATION:

- **Dadabhai Naoroji Dordi** (1825 –1917) also known as the "**Grand Old Man of India**" and "**Unofficial Ambassador of India**"
- He was an Indian Parsi scholar, trader and politician who was a Liberal Party member of Parliament (MP) in the United Kingdom House of Commons between 1892 and 1895, and the first Indian to be a British MP.
- Naoroji was one of the founding members of the Indian National Congress.
- His book *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India* brought attention to the draining of India's wealth into Britain. In it he explained his "drain of wealth theory".
- Dadabhai Naoroji's works in the congress are praiseworthy. In 1886, 1893 and 1906, i.e., thrice was he elected as the president of INC.

3. The Theosophical Society advocated the revival and strengthening of the ancient religions of:-

1. Hinduism.
2. Islam.
3. Buddhism.
4. Jainism.
5. Zoroastrianism.





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Select the correct code:

- 1, 2 and 5 only.
- 2, and 5 only.
- 1, 2, 3 and 4 only.
- 1,3, and 5 only.

Ans. D.

Explanation:

- The Theosophical Society was founded by *Madame Blavatsky and Col. Olcott* in 1875 in New York.
- It was only in 1879, that this ideology gained its roots in the Indian culture and Society.
- It was crystallised in the *Madras Presidency* with its headquarters in *Adayar*. The movement was popularised by *Annie Besant* in India.

Theosophy was based on three principles:-

- Universal brotherhood.
- The study of comparative religion and philosophy.
- Investigations into the natural laws which seek to understand the unexplained mystic laws!

The Theosophists emphasised upon ancient religions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism. They recognised *the doctrine of Transmigration of the Soul*.

4. Who wrote "the only hope is from the masses. The upper classes are physically and morally dead".
- Swami Vivekanand.
  - Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
  - Aurobindo Ghose.
  - Rabindranath Tagore.

Ans. A.

Explanation:

- **Vivekananda**, original name **Narendranath Datta**, Datta also spelled **Dutt**, (born January 12, 1863, Calcutta [died July 4, 1902, near Calcutta), Hindu spiritual leader and reformer in [India](#) who attempted to combine Indian [spirituality](#) with Western material progress, maintaining that the two supplemented and complemented one another.
- Born into an upper-middle-class family of the Kayastha (scribes) [caste](#) in [Bengal](#), he was educated at a Western-style university where he was exposed to [Western philosophy](#), [Christianity](#), and [science](#).
- Social reform became a prominent element of Vivekananda's thought, and he joined the [Brahmo Samaj](#) (Society of Brahma), dedicated to eliminating child marriage and illiteracy and determined to spread [education](#) among women and the lower castes.
- He later became the most-notable [disciple](#) of [Ramakrishna](#), who demonstrated the essential unity of all [religions](#).
- In 1893 he appeared in [Chicago](#) as a spokesman for Hinduism at the World's Parliament of Religions .



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5. **Rani Gaidilieu** participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and raised the banner of rebellion against foreign rule. She originally belonged to –
- Manipur.
  - Nagaland.
  - Mizoram.
  - Assam.

Ans. B.

Explanation:

- Rani Gaidilieu was a **Naga spiritual** and political leader who led a revolt against British rule in India. At the age of 13, she joined the Heraka religious movement of her cousin Haipou Jadonang.
- The movement later turned into a political movement seeking to drive out the British from Manipur and the surrounding Naga areas. Within the Heraka faith, she came to be considered an incarnation of the Goddess Cherachamdinliu.
- Gaidinliu was arrested in 1932 at the age of 16, and was sentenced to life imprisonment by the British rulers.
- Jawaharlal Nehru met her at Shillong Jail in 1937, and promised to pursue her release. Nehru gave her the title of "Rani" ("Queen"), and she gained local popularity as **Rani Gaidinliu**.
- She was released in 1947 after India's independence, and continued to work for the upliftment of her people. An advocate of the ancestral Naga religious practices, she staunchly resisted the conversion of Nagas to Christianity. She was honoured as a freedom fighter and was awarded a Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.

## GEOGRAPHY

21) Consider the following statements on 29th National Energy Conservation Awards. It was organized under the guidance of Ministry of Power, Government of India :-

- India celebrates the National Energy Conservation Day every year on 14th December.
- National Painting Competition for students is organized under this.
- A Handbook for Implementation of Provisions of Energy Conservation Act 2001 was released.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- ii and iii
- i and ii
- i and iii
- i, ii and iii



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**Answer d**

**Explanation :-**

**29th National Energy Conservation Awards:** The National Energy Conservation Awards are presented to industry and other establishments and prizes to the winners of the annual Painting Competition on Energy Conservation for school children every year by the Ministry of Power with the objective of promoting energy conservation among all sectors of economy.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) organized the “29th National Energy Conservation Awards”. It was organized under the guidance of Ministry of Power, Government of India. India celebrates the National Energy Conservation Day every year on 14th December to recognize and celebrate the efforts towards energy conservation. The concluding event witnessed awards distribution to the winners from different industries and establishments, and the winners of National Painting Competition for students. The event aims to promote energy conservation among all the sectors of economy, followed by an award distribution ceremony for the industrial units & other establishments to encourage more actions in achieving efficient utilization and conservation of energy. Star Labeling Programme for Solar Water Heater was launched and a Handbook for Implementation of Provisions of Energy Conservation Act 2001 was also released.

22) Consider the following statements on **E-cigarettes** :-

- (i) Government of India has decided to promote e-cigarettes so as to control the use of tobacco filled cigarettes.
- (ii) In its continuance, government has also decided to promote e-Hookah as Hookah has been a part of Indian tradition since long.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both I and ii
- (d) neither i nor ii

**Answer d**

**Explanation :-**

**E-cigarette Ban:** The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) Ordinance, 2019. This has been approved taking into account the overall interest of public health as envisaged under Article 47 of the Constitution of India. The decision has been taken to prohibit e-cigarettes including all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), Heat Not Burn Products, e-Hookah and the like devices to help protect population, especially the youth and children, from the risk of addiction. The current decision has come on the back of an advisory issued by the Government in 2018 to all States to consider banning e-



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cigarettes. 16 States and 1 UT have already banned e cigarettes in their jurisdictions. Any manufacturing, production, import, export, transport, distribution or advertisement (including online advertisement), sale (including online sale) of e-cigarettes shall be a punishable offence.

It is an electronic-cigarettes that are battery-operated devices. They produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes. These include all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Heat Not Burn Products, e-Hookah and the like devices. As these novel products come in multiple flavours with attractive appearances the youth as well as children have started getting addicted to it and has acquired epidemic proportions in developed countries also.

23) Government of India through Department of Science & Technology has set up the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D) as a national level consortium on clean coal R&D, led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) Its aim is to develop energy efficient as well as cost efficient technology.
- (ii) The target is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 33% to 35% by 2030.
- (iii) GAIL, NTPC and BHEL shall be other beneficiaries by this centre.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only ii
- (b) i and ii
- (c) ii and iii
- (d) i, ii and iii

**Answer d**

**Explanation :-**

**NCCCR&D** : It is a national consortium on clean coal research and development led by IISc. Government of India through Department of Science & Technology has set up the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D) as a national level consortium on clean coal R&D, led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. It was inaugurated By Minister of Science & Technology Harsh Vardhan. The primary goal is to address several critical R&D challenges towards the development of clean coal technologies, in tandem with developing supercritical power plant technologies, both at the materials and system level. The new centre is aimed at meeting the energy needs of the country in terms of higher efficiency and capacity at lower operating costs and size. So in order to achieve international targets on climate change by minimizing anthropogenic emissions and also to address the ever-growing energy demand of India, development of clean coal technologies to reduce carbon emissions from coal-based power plants has become a prime necessity for India. This could be achieved by shifting towards high-efficiency advanced ultra-supercritical steam power plants as well as supercritical carbon dioxide plants, along with exploration of new combustion and gasification technologies. It would enable reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 33% to 35% by 2030. Target beneficiaries of NCCCR&D includes national organisations such as the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Bharat Heavy Electronics Ltd.(BHEL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Tata Power and Triveni Turbines Ltd.

24) Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organization operating under United Nations (UN) released a report on Peatlands. As per the report, the Peatlands which play a crucial role in regulating



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global climate by acting as carbon sinks are facing degradation and need to be urgently monitored. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) Peatlands are the world's largest terrestrial carbon stock.
- (ii) Peatlands may lead to emission of green house gases.
- (iii) In India restoration work of peatlands was conducted in the Hindukush Himalayan region.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) ii and iii
- (c) only iii
- (d) all are correct

**Answer d**

**Explanation :-**

Peatlands refers to the peat soil and the wetland habitat growing on its surface. It's formed when plant material does not fully decay in acidic and anaerobic conditions. It is composed mainly of wetland vegetation which is principally bog plants including mosses, shrubs and sedges. As it accumulates, the peat holds water as a result, this slowly creates wetter conditions that allow the area of wetland to expand. These lands are a type of wetlands that occur in almost every country on Earth. Peatlands are the world's largest terrestrial carbon stock. It stores atleast 550 Gigatonnes of carbon globally which is more than twice the carbon stored in all the world's forests. At present, it covers 3% of the global land surface. Peatlands in India occupy about 320 square kilo metres to 1,000 square kilo metres area.

Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organization operating under United Nations (UN) released a report on Peatlands. As per the report, the Peatlands which play a crucial role in regulating global climate by acting as carbon sinks are facing degradation and need to be urgently monitored.

The cause of their degradation is mainly due to drainage, fire, agricultural use and forestry. This could trigger release of the stored carbon in a few decades which would lead to emission of green house gases. They have the potential to release up to one giga tonne of carbon. The publication which was authored by 35 experts, highlights essential case studies from Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their attempts to map and monitor peatlands.

The Indonesian and Indian Governments both have taken corrective measures to restore the peatlands. As Indonesia has forty percent of tropical peatlands, its government has created Peat Ecosystem Restoration Information System (PRIMS), an online platform that provides information about Peatlands and their restoration efforts. Whereas, in India restoration work of highland peatlands was also conducted in the Hindukush Himalayan (HKH) region. It was conducted to ensure water security in the region.

25) Consider the following statements on **National Technical Textile Mission** :-

- (i) National Technical Textiles Mission is created for a period of 4 years (2020-21 to 2023-24).



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- (ii) An objective of the mission is to increase the farmer income with a focus on water and soil conservation.
- (iii) It also aims to use geo-textiles in roadways, railways and waterways infrastructure.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) i and ii
- (b) ii and iii
- (c) all correct
- (d) all wrong

**Answer c**

**Explanation :-**

**National Technical Textile Mission:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for creation of National Technical Textiles Mission for a period of 4 years (2020-21 to 2023-24) with an outlay of Rs.1480 crores. The National Technical Textiles Mission will have four components which are research, innovation and development, promotion and market development, export promotion and education, and training and skill development.

The focus of the Mission is on the development in usage of technical textiles in various flagship missions as well as programmes of the country. The main objective of the mission is an overall improvement in cost economy, water and soil conservation along with better agricultural productivity and higher income to farmers per acre of land.

The mission will also add to the promotion of manufacturing and exports activities in India. The use of geo-textiles in highways, railways and ports will result in robust infrastructure, reduced maintenance cost and higher life cycle of the infrastructure assets.

The work of the Mission is not only the promotion of innovation amongst young engineering /technology/ science standards and graduates along with creation of innovation and incubation centres and promotion of start-up and Ventures but also to generate 2 lakhs jobs in organized/ unorganized sector in the country along with holistic development of entire technical textile sector on pan-India basis.