



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Date: 06<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Set 15)

## Current Affairs

### Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE) 3.0:

1. It aims at providing smart, tech-enabled public sector banking experience for aspiring India,
2. It has been released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Which of these statements is/are correct?

### Options:

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

**Answer: A**

### Explanation:

Union Finance minister has released Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE) 3.0, the new reform agenda for tech-enabled banking.

EASE 3.0 aims at providing smart, tech-enabled public sector banking experience for aspiring India,

by establishing paperless and digitally-enabled banking at places where people visit the most such as malls, stations etc.

With EASE 3.0, the government is trying to enhance the customer experience with the introduction of

features like Dial-a-loan, credit at a click, alternate-data-based lending or other analytics-based credit

offers.

### Question 2:



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Consider the following statements about the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) Portal:

1. It is an institutional mechanism of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and industry
  2. Investment of Rs. 100 Crores and above is eligible for PMG assistance
- Which of these statements is / are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Answer:A**

**Explanation:**

Project Monitoring Group (PMG) is an institutional mechanism of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and industry.

It aims to facilitate issue resolution in projects that are facing delays or awaiting regulatory clearances

with State and/or Central Ministries.

Any infrastructural or industrial project (domestic or foreign) with an investment of Rs. 500 Crores and

above is eligible for PMG assistance.

Further, the portal is assisted by Invest India which provides implementational support in identifying and following up on issues with the States.

**Question 3:**

Which of the following statements are correct about Nidhi companies:

1. It is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. Nidhi companies deal with their shareholder-members only
3. It works on the principle of mutual benefits that are regulated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Which of these statements is / are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Recently, The Central Government has amended the provisions related to Nidhi companies under the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules.

Under Nidhi Rules, 2014, Nidhi is a company which has been incorporated as a Nidhi with the object of cultivating the habit of thrift and saving amongst its members, receiving deposits from, and lending to, its members only, for their mutual benefit.

It is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013.

It works on the principle of mutual benefits that are regulated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Nidhi Company is a class of Non-Banking Financial Company(NBFC) and Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has powers to issue directives for them related to their deposit acceptance activities.

However, since these Nidhis deal with their shareholder-members only, RBI has exempted them from the core provisions of the RBI Act and other directions applicable to NBFCs.

**Question 4:**

Which of the following statements is incorrect about the National Biopharma Mission?

**Options:**

- A. It is an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.
- B. It is 50% co-funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- C. It is being implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- D. The Government has launched Innovate in India (i3) programme under National Biopharma Mission

**Answer: B**



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

## Explanation:

The National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.

It was launched in 2017 at a total cost of Rs 1500 crore and is 50% co-funded by World Bank loan.

It is being implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

BIRAC is a Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The oversight to the mission activities is provided by the inter-ministerial Steering Committee chaired

by the Secretary-DBT (Ministry of Science & Technology).

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) chaired by an eminent scientist provides scientific leadership to the mission drawing upon global expertise.

Under this Mission, the Government has launched Innovate in India (i3) programme to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

## Question 5:

With reference to the Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme would support setting up of Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).
2. It is in line with National Policy for Electronics (NPE), 2019 to make India a global hub for mobile and component manufacturing.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

## Options:

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

**Answer: C**



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

## Explanation:

EMC 2.0 is a scheme for development of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).

It will help India to become the mobile manufacturing hub in the world.

The Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme is in line with National Policy for

Electronics (NPE), 2019 to make India a global hub for mobile and component manufacturing.

The scheme would support setting up of Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).

The focus is on development of basic infrastructure, amenities and other common facilities for the ESDM sector.

The scheme would also support setting up of Common Facility Centres (CFCs).

## Science & Technology

### 1. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020.

2. Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020 aims at further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timelines for procurement of defence equipment.

3. The policy is aligned with the vision of the government to empower the private industry through the Make in India initiative with the ultimate of turning India into a global manufacturing hub.

**Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:**

(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only (2) & (3)

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

**Answer-d**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled the draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020 that aims at further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timelines for procurement of defence equipment. Speaking on the occasion,



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Raksha Mantri said, "Our aim is to make India self-reliant and a global manufacturing hub. The government is constantly striving to formulate policies to empower the private industry including MSMEs in order to develop the eco-system for indigenous defence production. The defence industry of India is a strategically important sector having huge potential for growth. It needs to be the catalyst for India's economic growth and realisation of our global ambitions." The major changes proposed in the new DPP are:

1. Indigenous Content ratio hiked In view of the experience gained by the domestic industry, the Draft proposes increasing the Indigenous Content (IC) stipulated in various categories of procurement by about 10% to support the 'Make in India' initiative. A simple and realistic methodology has been incorporated for verification of indigenous content for the first time.

2. Use of raw materials, special alloys and software incentivised as use of indigenous raw material is a very important aspect of 'Make in India' and Indian Companies are world leaders in software.

3. Assurance of procurement on a single vendor basis from Aero Engine manufacturing unit and chips from FAB manufacturing units established in the country.

4. New Category Buy (Global – Manufacture in India) has been introduced with minimum 50% indigenous content on cost basis of total contract value. Only the minimum necessary will be bought from abroad while the balance quantities will be manufactured in India. This would be in preference to the 'Buy Global' category as manufacturing will happen in India and jobs will be created in the country.

5. Leasing introduced as a new category Leasing has been introduced as a new category for acquisition in addition to existing 'Buy' & 'Make' categories to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments. Leasing is permitted under two categories i.e, Lease (Indian) where Lessor is an Indian entity and is the owner of the assets and Lease (Global) where Lessor is a Global entity. This will be useful for military equipment not used in actual warfare like transport fleets, trainers, simulators, etc.

6. A new Chapter is introduced for procurement of software and systems related projects as in such projects, obsolescence is very fast due to rapid changes in technology and flexibility in the procurement process is required to keep up with the technology.

7. A new Chapter is introduced for Post Contract Management to facilitate and provide clear guidelines for issues arising during the contract period as typically Defence contracts last for a long period.



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

8. Timelines for procurement reduced by reducing the process for accord of Acceptance of Necessity which would be single stage of projects less than Rs.500 crore and in case of repeat orders. Trial methodology and Quality Assurance Plan to be part of RFP.

9. Field Evaluation Trials to be conducted by specialised trial wings and the objective of trials will be to nurture competition rather than elimination for minor deficiencies.

10. A comprehensive Chapter introduced for 'Make' to cover procurement from manufacturers in India including start-ups and innovators and from research projects of DRDO

11. Product support The scope and options for Product Support have been widened to include contemporary concepts in vogue, namely Performance Based Logistics (PBL), Life Cycle Support Contract (LCSC), Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC), etc to optimise life cycle support for equipment. The capital acquisition contract would normally also include support for five years beyond the warranty period.

The first DPP was promulgated in 2002 and has since been revised a number of times to provide impetus to the growing domestic industry and achieve enhanced self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

**2. Which of the following organisation has designed NavIC messaging system and a NavIC receiver?**

- (a) ISRO
- (b) IISc
- (c) IIT-Hyderabad
- (d) NASA

**ANSWER-a**

Department of Space (DoS) has reported that Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has designed NavIC messaging system and developed a NavIC receiver and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS) is using this messaging system to broadcast emergency warning messages like cyclone, tsunami and high waves as and when it occurs and also for broadcasting of information of Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ). DoS have reported that ISRO has transferred this technology to five industries in India to manufacture the receivers. The Fisheries



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Department of various coastal States have been made aware of this technology for the fishermen community. ISRO has distributed about 250 units each to the State Fisheries Department of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for the use of fishermen. ISRO also has proactively conducted trials for fishermen of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu reported that 200 NAVIC units have been provided to 80 clusters having 10 to 15 deep sea fishing boats of Tamil Nadu. Distribution of NAVIC has to be implemented by the Department of Fisheries of the respective State Governments.

Funds for fisheries activities under the Blue Revolution scheme are provided based on the proposals received from the respective States and Union Territories as these are demand driven activities and hence, there is no such prior allocation exclusively for utilization for this purpose.

Awareness programme and meetings for dissemination of information to fishermen are organised by the Department of Fisheries and alerts of high waves, cyclones, tsunami etc are being communicated through all type of media on receipt of the information from Cyclone Warning Centre for the safety and security of fishermen and fishing vessels.

### 3. Consider the following statement which is not true-

1. Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2018
- 2.. The RKSK programme defines an adolescent as a person within 8-19 years of age, in urban and rural areas, includes both girls and boys, married and unmarried, poor and affluent, whether they are in school or out of school.
3. MoHFW in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has developed a National Adolescent Health Strategy.
4. The six thematic areas of RKSK as well as that of the strategy are nutrition, sexual reproductive health, substance misuse, non – communicable diseases, mental health and injuries and violence

**Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:**

- (a) Only (1) & (3)
- (b) Only 2,3.&4
- (c) Only 1 & 2
- (d) All the above

**Answer-c**

Promoting health and prevention of disease and risk factors is an important aspect of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram under the National Health Mission. Public health being a State subject, all the administrative and personnel matters, including





# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

the recruitment of counsellors in public health facilities lie with the respective State Governments. The shortage of health human resource in public health facilities varies from State to State depending upon their policies and context. However, under National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical supports are provided to the State/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for recruitment of health human resource based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope. Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram has the following components:

The Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) are established across various levels of public health institutions in all the States.

Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme is being implemented for school going adolescent boys and girls and out of school adolescent girls across the country.

The Peer Educator Programme is being implemented in select 200 districts, based on Composite Health Index and identified as High Priority Districts (HPDs). Within, these districts, 50% of the blocks are being covered for implementation of Peer Educator Programme in entirety. Government plans to saturate all the blocks in the selected Peer Educator districts first and then expand in remaining districts gradually based on proposals received from States in their Programme Implementation Plans.

-Under the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme, funds are provided to the States/UTs for procurement of sanitary napkins for Adolescent Girls (aged 10-19 years) as per proposals received from them in their Annual Programme Implementation Plans.

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) focuses on reaching out all adolescents include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ). The training of the Medical Officers, ANMs, Counsellors and Peer educators also caters to the need of this special population group in non-judgmental and non-stigmatized manner. Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2014.

#### 4. The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela-2020 was inaugurated by?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (c) Rajnath Singh
- (d) Nirmala Sitharaman

#### ANSWER-B

On 1st March, the three-day Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela was organized by the ICAR Indian

Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Theme entitled Agricultural Technologies of Pusa Institute for achieving Sustainable Agricultural Development Goals.



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Providing farmers with demonstration of the modern technologies and crop varieties timely, this would help to win their confidence

Government Initiatives for farmers:

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana;
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana;
- Soil Health Cards Scheme;
- Organic Agriculture and Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme (Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana) and
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi;
- They are aimed to empower and enhance the farmers' income by 2022.

**5. Which city will host the 108th Indian Science Congress scheduled to be held from 3 – 7th January, 2021?**

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Pune
- (d) Chennai

**ANSWER- C**

108th Indian Science Congress from 3 – 7th January, 2021 at Symbiosis International University, Pune.

Focal Theme – Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment.

**About Indian Science Congress:**

The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon.

The first meeting of the Congress was held from January 15-17, 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta.

Aim:

To advance and promote the cause of science in India, and to hold an annual congress at a suitable place in India.

To publish such proceedings, journals, transactions and other publications as may be considered desirable.

To secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of Science, including the rights of disposing of or selling all or any portion of the properties of the Association.



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

- To do and perform any or all other acts, matters and things as are conducive to, or incidental to, or necessary for, the above objects.
- Previous session:
  - 107th Indian Science Congress was held at University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bangalore, Karnataka from 3-7th January, 2020.
  - Focal Theme – Science & Technology : Rural Development
  - The Congress was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
  - 107th Indian Science Congress.

## Economy

### Question 1.

Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- | Committee                | Purview                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 P.J. Nayak Committee   | Governance of Public Sector Banks |
| 2 Rattan Watal Committee | Digital Payments                  |

Select the correct answer form the codes given below:

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

**Answer C:**

**Explanation:**

The P J **Nayak Committee** or officially the **Committee** to Review Governance of Boards of Banks in India, was set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the governance of the board of banks in India. The **Committee** was chaired by P J **Nayak**, the former CEO and Chairman of Axis Bank. The Committee on Digital Payments constituted by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs under the Chairmanship of Shri. Ratan P. Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog and former Finance Secretary to the Government of India. In its Report, the Committee has recommended that a medium term strategy for accelerating growth of Digital Payments in India with a regulatory regime which is conducive to bridging the Digital divide by promoting competition, open access & interoperability in payments. The Report recommends inclusion of financially and socially excluded groups and assimilation of emerging technologies in the market, while safeguarding security of Digital Transactions and providing level playing to all stakeholders and new players who will enter this new transaction space. It has suggested inter-operability of the payments system between banks and non-banks, up-gradation of the digital payment infrastructure and institutions and a framework to reward innovations and for leading efforts in enabling digital payments.

### Question 2.

Consider the following statements:

1. The UDAY scheme is under the Ministry of Power.



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

2. Under the scheme, the central government will take over 75% debt of the DISCOMS.

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

**Answer A:**

**Explanation:**

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), launched by Ministry of Power in Nov.2015 which targets in reducing the average technical and commercial loss from around 22% to 15% along with eliminating the gap between revenue-side supply & cost-side supply by 2018-19.

**Question 3.**

Consider the following statements about UDAY scheme:

1. It is voluntary for the state governments to join the UDAY scheme
2. The UDAY bonds cannot be kept as G-securities under the SLR.

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

**Answer C:**

**Explanation:**

- UDAY is basically a debt restructuring plan for the DISCOMs and is optional for the states.
- Attracting the states for their active participation in the scheme by providing incentives to the performing states. 75% of the debts of their respective DISCOMs are taken over by the joining states by signing a Memorandum of Understanding in a phased manner by issuing bonds. The other 25% of the debts will be issued by DISCOMs in the form of bonds.

**Question 4.**

Which among the following statements about National Gas Grid is/are correct?

1. Petroleum and natural gas regulatory board is the authorizing agency.
2. India aims to increase the share of gas in energy mix to 25% by 2025.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer A:**

**Explanation:**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid down plans for the expansion of **National Gas Grid** to 27,000 km from the present 16,200 km. Currently, around 7,000 km of **pipeline** is under construction. The share of natural **gas** in India's energy basket is 6.2%, against 23.4% globally.



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

- At present about 16,788 Km natural gas pipeline is operational and about 14,239 Km gas pipelines are being developed to increase the availability of natural gas across the country.
- These pipelines have been authorized by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and are at various stages of execution viz. Pre-Project activities/laying/testing/commissioning etc

## Question 5.

Which among the following changes have been made for the GDP Estimation in India?

1. Change in Base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12.
2. Change in GDP estimation from GDP at Market Price to GDP at Factor Cost
3. Capture of the Economic Activity from the MCA-21 Database.

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

**Answer B:**

**Explanation:**

**MCA** stands for ministry of corporate affairs. So, **MCA** conceptualized an e-governance plan, one that would reflect India's goals for the 21st century, and decided to create a website that would automate the process of registering a company, make things simple, uploading documents, downloading documents, pay and view.

## Polity

### Question 1:

Which of the following is true about Energy Efficiency Services Limited – the organization responsible for implementation of UJALA scheme?

**Options:**

- A. It is a 100% Central government owned body
- B. It is a joint venture PSUs under the Ministry of Power, Government of India
- C. It has equal partnership of Union & the state governments
- D. It is an agency with minority government share and open to public

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

UJALA and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) of the central government has completed five successful years on January 5, 2020. Through the UJALA initiative, over 36.13 crore LED bulbs have been distributed across India. This has resulted in estimated energy savings of 46.92 billion kWh per year and an estimated GHG emission reduction of 38 million t CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) is the world's largest streetlight replacement programme. Nearly 1.03 crore smart LED streetlights have been installed till date, enabling an



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

estimated energy savings of 6.97 billion kWh per year. Both have been spearheaded and implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

## Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the National Human Rights Commission.

1. NHRC of India is an independent statutory body established in 1993 as per provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, later amended in 2006.
2. NHRC is a multi-member body which consists of a Chairman and seven other members appointed by the President, on recommendation of high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister. Out of the seven members, four are ex-officio member.
3. NHRC does not have any mechanism of investigation. In majority cases, it asks the concerned Central and State Governments to investigate the cases of the violation of Human Rights

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:

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

**Answer: C**

### Explanation:

NHRC issued a notice to the Rajasthan government in connection with the deaths of over 100 children at the government-run hospital in Kota, Rajasthan in December 2019.

NHRC of India is an independent statutory body established in 1993 as per provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, later amended in 2006. It was established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights in Paris (October, 1991) and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December, 1993.

NHRC is a multi-member body which consists of a Chairman and seven other members appointed by the President, on recommendation of high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister. Out of the seven members, three are ex-officio member. NHRC can only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions. NHRC does not have any mechanism of investigation. In majority cases, it asks the concerned Central and State Governments to investigate the cases of the violation of Human Rights

## Question 3:



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Consider the following statements regarding Belgaum – the city which has been at the center of dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka.

1. Karnataka declared Belagavi its second capital, holds its winter session at the newly constructed Vidhan Soudha, changed the name of Belgaum to Belagavi and also held the World Kannada Summit there — all in the last 15 years.
2. In 2004, Maharashtra approached the Supreme Court for a settlement under Article 131(b) of the Constitution.
3. In 1960, both States agreed to set up a four-man committee with two representatives from each State.

Which of these statements is correct?

**Options:**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Recently Bus services between Kolhapur and Belgaum were suspended after the decadesold border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka flared up again.

Various Kannada organisations had staged a protest in Belgaum and burnt the effigy of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

**Controversy**

- In 1957, slighted by the implementation of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Maharashtra demanded readjustment of its border with Karnataka.
- It invoked Section 21 (2) (b) of the Act, and submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs stating its objection to Marathi- speaking areas being added to Karnataka.
- It claimed an area of 2,806 square miles that involved 814 villages, and three urban settlements of Belagavi, Karwar and Nippani with a total population of about 6.7 lakh, all part of the Mumbai Presidency before independence.
- The villages are spread across Belagavi and Uttar Kannada in north-western Karnataka, and Bidar and Gulbarga districts in north-eastern Karnataka — all bordering Maharashtra.
- when a four-member committee was formed by both States, Maharashtra expressed willingness to transfer predominantly Kannada-speaking 260 villages with a population of about 3.25 lakh and total area of 1,160 square miles in lieu of accepting its demand for 814 villages and three urban settlements, which was turned down by Karnataka. Remember:
- Karnataka declared Belagavi its second capital, holds its winter session at the newly constructed Vidhan Soudha, changed the name of Belgaum to Belagavi and also held the World Kannada Summit there — all in the last 15 years.
- In 2004, Maharashtra approached the Supreme Court for a settlement under Article 131(b) of the Constitution.
- Karnataka has questioned the suit. With one of the judges recusing, the court has to set up a new bench. Maharashtra's claim:
- Maharashtra's claim to seek the readjustment of its border was on the basis of contiguity, relative linguistic majority and wishes of the people.
- In 1960, both States agreed to set up a four-man committee with two representatives from each State.
- Except on the issue of contiguity, the committee could not arrive at a unanimous decision, and respective representatives submitted reports to their government. Between the 1960s



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

and 1980s, chief ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra have met several times to find a solution to the vexed issue but with no avail

## Question 4:

Which of the following is/are grounds for filling a curative petition in the Supreme Court?

1. The convict was not heard by the court before the adverse judgment was passed
2. The judge was biased.
3. The convict was absent from the court at the time of the pronouncement of the judgment.
4. The convict feels that the punishment is too harsh.

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:

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

### Answer: D

### Explanation:

A curative petition, which follows the dismissal of a review petition, is the last legal avenue open for convicts in the Supreme Court.

Came into Existence: It is a rare remedy devised by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in its judgment in the Rupa Ashok Hurra case in 2002. Grounds of Filing Curative Petition: A party can take only two limited grounds in a curative petition —

One-that he was not heard by the court before the adverse judgment was passed, and  
Two- the judge was biased.

## Question 5:

Consider the following statements regarding languages in India.

1. There is no national language in India as all the states are free to decide their own official languages
2. The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India. Presently, it consists of 22 languages.
3. However, Article 351 of the Constitution says that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India
4. Till date, six languages have been conferred the status of 'Classical Language' in India.

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:





# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- An MP from Kerala's Kasargud region arguing for including Tulu in the Eighth Schedule Present Scheme of Indian Languages
- Hindi and English are the official languages of the Central Government for communication and administrative purposes, no language in India has been conferred the status of the national language.
- There is no national language in India as all the states are free to decide their own official languages. This is primarily to address the huge linguistic diversity in the country.
- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India. Presently, it consists of 22 languages.
- Also, till date, six languages have been conferred the status of 'Classical Language' in India. They are Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Sanskrit, Malayalam and Odia
- However, Article 351 of the Constitution says that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India
- According to the 2001 Census, India has 30 languages that are spoken by more than a million people each.
- India also has 1,599 languages, most of which are dialects. These are restricted to specific regions and many of them are on the verge of extinction. Constitutional Safeguards
- Article 29 of the Constitution provides that a section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture have the right to conserve the same.
- Article 350B: Appointment of Special Officer for linguistic minority with the sole responsibilities of safeguarding the interest of language spoken by the minority groups. Cause of Concern

## International Relations

**Question 1:**

Consider the following statements regarding the Appellate Body of WTO.

1. For proper enforcement of trade rules, a binding, two-stage dispute settlement system was established at the World Trade Organization in the 1990s.
2. In the first stage for adjudicating trade disputes, a panel would decide cases brought before it by the members. Rulings issued by the panels can be appealed at the Appellate Body.
3. As part of the second-stage of adjudication, the Appellate Body can uphold, modify or reverse the legal findings and conclusions of a panel.
4. The Appellate Body's decisions are final and adopted within 30 days by the dispute settlement body.

Which of these statements is correct?



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

## Options:

- E. 2 & 4 only
- F. 1 & 3 only
- G. 1, 2 & 4 only
- H. All of the above

## Answer: D

## Explanation:

Recently the U.S. chose to spike the Appellate Body of WTO by starving funds for its functioning. US stalled the selection process for filling six vacancies at the Appellate Body. Consequently, the Appellate Body is left with only one member, who will not be able to deliver any rulings on pending trade disputes (a minimum of three members is required to adjudicate any dispute)

## Why US Chose to spike?

- Appellate Body has posed hurdles to the U.S. for adopting unilateral measures. Several U.S. provisions for imposing countervailing and anti-dumping measures were found to be inconsistent with core provisions of the WTO agreements.
- Consequently, the Appellate Body is left with only one member, who will not be able to deliver any rulings on the pending trade disputes.
- A minimum of three members are required to adjudicate any dispute. World Trade Organization's Appellate Body :
- For proper enforcement of trade rules, a binding, two-stage dispute settlement system was established at the World Trade Organization in the 1990s.
- The Appellate Body is the scaffolding of the dispute settlement system, with seven standing members.

## Working:

- In the first stage for adjudicating trade disputes, a panel would decide cases brought before it by the members. Rulings issued by the panels can be appealed at the Appellate Body.
- As part of the second-stage of adjudication, the Appellate Body can uphold, modify or reverse the legal findings and conclusions of a panel.
- The Appellate Body's decisions are final and adopted within 30 days by the dispute settlement body.
- Sanctions can be imposed on a member in case of its failure to comply with the Appellate Body's rulings.

## Question 2:

Consider the following statements regarding the US-Iran nuclear deal.

1. Iran ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970.
2. In 2006, the US, Russia and China joined Britain, France and Germany to form the P5+1 group of nations trying to persuade Iran to curb its nuclear program.
3. In 2015, the Iran nuclear deal (formally the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) was signed between Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) plus Germany and the European Union.

Which of these statements is correct?



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

## Options:

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

## Answer: D

## Explanation:

- Iran said it would abandon limitations on enriching uranium, refusing to adhere to the 2015 nuclear deal it signed with six major powers, but would continue to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog.
- Iran's announcement comes after its top security and intelligence commander, Major General Qassem Soleimani, was killed in a US drone attack in Baghdad Timeline:
- Iran ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970, and planned to expand its nuclear power.
- After the Islamic Revolution, these plans were discontinued, and in the late 1980s, Iran established an undeclared nuclear weapons program called the AMAD project.
- In 2003, under international pressure, Iran halted the program, and signed an Additional Protocol to its NPT safeguards agreement, giving the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) greater powers in verifying the program.
- In 2006, the US, Russia and China joined Britain, France and Germany to form the P5+1 group of nations trying to persuade Iran to curb its nuclear program.
- In 2009, under President Barack Obama, the US conducted extensive one-on-one talks with Iran's top nuclear negotiator.
- In 2013, Iran and the six powers announced an interim agreement that temporarily curbed Tehran's nuclear program and unfroze some Iranian assets, setting the stage for extended negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear accord.
- In 2015, the Iran nuclear deal (formally the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) was signed between Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) plus Germany and the European Union. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or Nuclear deal:
- Under JCPOA, Iran agreed to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, cut its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduce by about two-thirds the number of its gas centrifuges for 13 years.
- For the next 15 years Iran will only enrich uranium up to 3.67%.
- Iran also agreed not to build any new heavy-water facilities for the same period of time.
- Uranium-enrichment activities will be limited to a single facility using first-generation centrifuges for 10 years.
- Other facilities will be converted to avoid proliferation risks.
- To monitor and verify Iran's compliance with the agreement, the International Atomic

## Question 3:



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Consider the following statements about China and its alleged territory.

1. China's nationalist government, which was defeated in a civil war by the communists in 1949, had been exiled to Taiwan.
2. This policy was originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping shortly after he took the reins of the country in the late 1970s under which the plan was to unify China and Taiwan under the One Country Two Systems policy.
3. The idea of two systems in one country is replicated again in Hong Kong and Macau when Britain and the US, who were running these territories under lease (since colonial times) returned it to China in 1997 & 1999 respectively.

Which of these statements is correct?

**Options:**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The landslide re-election victory for the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Tsai Ing-wen in Taiwan has presented Beijing with a second pressing challenge in its backyard (along with ongoing protests in Hongkong) Also, pro-democratic political parties swept the local district council elections in Hong Kong, which were widely seen as a referendum on the protests happening in Hongkong pressing for wider Democratic reforms

**Brief Background of Taiwan**

- China's nationalist government, which was defeated in a civil war by the communists in 1949, had been exiled to Taiwan.
- Taiwan has been entirely self-ruled since then, however, China claims the island as a part of its territory
- Taiwan has a thriving democracy and has held direct elections to choose its leaders since 1996. China is Taiwan's largest trade partner. China's One Country- Two system model
- This policy was originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping shortly after he took the reins of the country in the late 1970s. Deng's plan was to unify China and Taiwan under the One Country Two Systems policy which provided autonomy to Taiwan
- Under this system, Taiwan could follow its capitalist economic system, run a separate administration and keep its own army but under Chinese sovereignty. Taiwan, however, rejected the Communist Party's offer.
- The idea of two systems in one country is replicated again in Hong Kong and Macau when Britain and **Portugal** (not the US), who were running these territories under lease (since colonial times) returned it to China in 1997 & 1999 respectively. These territories were also given autonomy in its functioning in return for recognition of China's Sovereignty over these areas. Election results in Taiwan a referendum on China
- If the local elections in Hong Kong were a referendum on the protests, the elections in Taiwan ended up becoming a referendum on China — and specifically, on the "one country, two systems"
- The events in Hongkong whereby Chinese authorities were criticized for their handling of protestors (not calling for peace talks) revitalized the anti-China campaign in Taiwan (Independence from China)



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

## Question 4:

Consider the following statements about SCO.

1. It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
2. The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
3. It was created in 2001 while the SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.

Which of these statements is correct?

### Options:

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

**Answer: D**

### Explanation:

New Delhi will invite Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit

From Prelims point of view: SCO:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- It was created in 2001.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- It is a statutory document which outlines the organisation's goals and principles, as well as its structure and core activities.
- The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.

## Question 5:

The British signed the treaty of Sagauli with

### Options:

- A. Bhutan
- B. Afganistan
- C. Nepal
- D. Burma

**Answer: C**

### Explanation:



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Nepal Prime Minister said bilateral disputes with India should be dealt with dialogue, indicating Kathmandu's political willingness to resolve the row over the Kalapani territorial issue.

The Kalapani issue was reignited after India published a new political map in November 2019 that displayed its continued position over the territory as part of Uttarakhand. From Prelims Point of view:

Kalapani territorial issue:

- Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.
- The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.
- The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after AngloNepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.
- Kalapani has been controlled by India's Indo-Tibetan Border Police since the Sino-Indian War with China in 1962
- The discrepancy in locating the source of the river led to boundary disputes between India and Nepal, with each country producing maps supporting their own claims

## History

Question 1. Under whose leadership was the Chittagong Armoury Raid organised?

- Jatin Das.
- Surya Sen.
- Ganesh Savarkar.
- Chandra Sekhar Azad.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- Chittagong armoury raid, also known as the Chittagong uprising, was an attempt on 18 April 1930 to raid the armoury of police and auxiliary forces from the [Chittagong](#) armoury in the [Bengal Presidency](#) of [British India](#) (now in [Bangladesh](#)) by [armed Indian independence fighters](#) led by [Surya Sen](#).

Question 2. Who founded a social organisation, the 'Jat Pat Torak Mandal' in 1922 against the caste system among the Hindus?

- Bhai Parmanand
- B. R. Ambedkar.
- M.G.Ranade.
- Keshav Chandra Sen.

Ans. a.

Explanation:

- The Jat-Pat-Todak Mandal was founded in [Lahore](#) in 1922, as an offshoot of the more militantly anti-caste wing of the [Arya Samaj](#). It was formed by Bhai Parmanand, Sant Ram etc.
- Members pledged themselves to a program of anti-caste propaganda, coupled with interdining and intermarriage.



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

- Except for their more radical opposition to caste, they did not differ greatly from the Arya Samaj's position on most issues. However, in 1924 their activities brought them into conflict with the Arya Samaj, and the Mandal eventually broke with the Arya Samaj.
- In 1935, the secretary of the *Jat-Pat Todak Mandal* (Society for the Abolition of Caste system), an anti-caste Hindu reformist group organisation based in [Lahore](#), invited B. R. Ambedkar to deliver a speech on the [caste system in India](#) at their annual conference in 1936. ***Annihilation of Caste*** was authored by Ambedkar.

**Question 3. From which party Dada bhai Naoroji was elected to the British House of Commons as a member?**

- Conservative.
- Liberal.
- Labour.
- Labour- Liberal Coalition.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- Dada Bhai Naoroji was also known as the "**Grand Old Man of India**" and "**Unofficial Ambassador of India**" 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](#).
- The [Anglo-Indian MP](#) **David Ochterlony Dyce Sombre** was disenfranchised for corruption. Hence Naoroji got the ticket by Liberal Party.
- 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 wealth drain theory. He was also a member of the [Second International](#) along with [Kautsky](#) and [Plekhanov](#).
- 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.

**Question 4. During the British Rule the only British King to visit India and hold his magnificent**

**Durbar, was...**

- Edward VII.
- George V
- James II
- Edward VI.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- The **Delhi Durbar** (meaning "[Court of Delhi](#)") was an Indian imperial style mass assembly organised by the British at [Coronation Park, Delhi, India](#), to mark the succession of an [Emperor or Empress of India](#).



# VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

- Also known as the **Imperial Durbar**, it was held three times, in 1877, 1903, and 1911, at the height of the British Empire. The 1911 Durbar was the only one that a sovereign, **George V**, attended.

**Question 5. Who was the first to unfurl the first Indian Tricolour Flag outside India, the parent and precursor of the flag of independent India?**

- Madam Bikaji Cama.
- Dadabhai Naoroji.
- Raja Mahendra Pratap.
- Tarakanath Das.

Ans. a.

Explanation :

- The flag was hoisted first time by Sacchindra Prasad Bose in 1906 in Calcutta and later on in year 1907, as an another tricolor flag was unfurled by the **Madam Bhikaji Kama** in Stuttgart, Germany.
- The current Tricolour flag was designed by the **Pingali Venkayya**, an agriculturist and Indian freedom fighter.
- The national flag of India was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947, when it became the official flag of the Dominion of India.
- A tricolor flag was first accepted by the Indian national congress in 1931, having chakra in place of today's chakra.
- Saffron colour shows the courage, sacrifice and renunciation. While colour shows truth and purity in thoughts and dark green is the symbol of the life prosperity.
- A wheel (chakra) in centre of the white strip is the symbol of progress and movement. **It has 24 spokes.**