

Most Probable Questions: Daily MCQs – ClearIAS Email Program (Questions You Missed)

1. Which among the following is/are objectives of Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)?

1. Development and conservation of indigenous breeds
2. Enhance milk production and productivity
3. Distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service
4. Import more foreign breeds into the local market.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Learning Zone: The Mission is being implemented with the objectives to

- a) development and conservation of indigenous breeds
- b) undertake breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds so as to improve the genetic makeup and increase the stock;
- c) enhance milk production and productivity;
- d) upgrade cattle using elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi and
- e) distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

Why this question is important? Funds have been mobilized under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) for setting up of 21 Gokul Grams as Integrated Cattle Development Centres.

2. With reference to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), consider the following statements

1. It is a UN specialized agency.
2. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) inspect every airport of member states annually.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a) 1 only

Learning Zone: The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a UN specialized agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). There is no inspection conducted by ICAO in any airport. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Why this question is important? Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was appointed as the representative of India in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Montreal, Canada.

3. Consider the following statements regarding 'Superconductivity'?

1. It is a state in which a material shows absolutely zero electrical resistance.
2. Superconducting materials can save huge amounts of energy.
3. Applications of superconducting materials have remained limited as of now.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Learning Zone: It is a state in which a material shows absolutely zero electrical resistance. While resistance is a property that restricts the flow of electricity, superconductivity allows unhindered flow.

In a superconducting state, the material offers no resistance at all. All the electrons align themselves in a particular direction and move without any obstruction in a "coherent" manner.

Because of zero resistance, superconducting materials can save huge amounts of energy, and be used to make highly efficient electrical appliances.

The problem is that superconductivity, ever since it was first discovered in 1911, has only been observed at very low temperatures, somewhere close to what is called absolute zero (0°K or -273.15°C). In recent years, scientists have been able to find superconductive materials at temperatures that are higher than absolute zero but, in most cases, these temperatures are still below -100°C and the pressures required are extreme. Creating such extreme conditions of temperature and pressure is a difficult task.

Therefore, the applications of superconducting materials have remained limited as of now.

Why this question is important? IISc researchers have reported superconductivity at room temperature. Their finding, now under review, will be a breakthrough if verified.

4. E-2020 initiative, often seen in news is related to which among the following?

- (a) Promotion of electric vehicles by 2020
- (b) Elimination of malaria
- (c) Complete digitization of Government offices
- (d) Tax filing procedure

Ans: (b) Elimination of malaria

Learning Zone: In May 2015, the World Health Assembly endorsed a new Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030, setting ambitious goals aimed at dramatically lowering the global malaria burden over this 15-year period, with milestones along the way to track progress. A key milestone for 2020 is the



elimination of malaria in at least 10 countries that had the disease in 2015. To meet this target, countries must report zero indigenous cases in 2020.

Why this question is important? Four countries from Asia — China, Iran, Malaysia and Timor-Leste — and one from Central America — El Salvador — reported no indigenous cases of malaria in 2018, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The countries were part of the global health body's E-2020 initiative, launched in 2016, working in 21 countries, spanning five regions, to scale up efforts to achieve malaria elimination by 2020.

5. With reference to Common Service Centres (CSC), consider the following statements

1. It forms a strategic component of the National eGovernance Plan.
2. CSC 2.0 scheme in expanded the outreach of CSCs to all Gram Panchayats across the country.
3. They promote rural entrepreneurship.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Learning Zone: Common Services Centers (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme. They are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

CSCs are more than service delivery points in rural India. They are positioned as change agents, promoting rural entrepreneurship and building rural capacities and livelihoods.

The CSC project, which forms a strategic component of the National eGovernance Plan was approved by the Government in May 2006, as part of its commitment in the National Common Minimum Programme to introduce e-governance on a massive scale.

Based on the assessment of the CSC scheme, the Government launched the CSC 2.0 scheme in 2015 to expand the outreach of CSCs to all Gram Panchayats across the country. Under CSC 2.0 scheme, at least one CSC will be set up in each of the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country by 2019.

Why this question is important? NSIC signs MoU with Common Service Centres–eGovernance Services India for enhancing new offerings for the MSME sector.

6. With reference to National Freight Index, recently seen in news consider the following statements

1. It is introduced by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
2. NFI offers an aggregated picture of both live rates and historical trends of spot price movements in the road freight industry.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b) 2 only

Learning Zone: This first-of-its-kind barometer of the road freight market in India is based on a Rivigo rate exchange.

NFI gives a live spot rate on over 7 million lane and vehicle type combinations in the country.

NFI offers an aggregated picture of both live rates and historical trends of spot price movements in the road freight industry.

The index is represented in two main forms: In terms of actual freight rates condensed to INR per ton-km and in terms of relative movement with respect to a base month.

Why this question is important? In its bid to bring transparency in the road-freight marketplace, Gurgaon-based tech-enabled logistics start-up Rivigo has launched National Freight Index (NFI) that will provide live freight rates for different lanes and vehicles across the country.



7. With regard to 'Removal of Judges', consider the following statements

1. A judge is removable from his office, only on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
2. The words "misbehaviour" or "incapacity" have not been defined in the Constitution.
3. A judge may be removed from his office only by an order of the president.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Learning Zone: A judge is removable from his office, only on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

Parliament is empowered to regulate the procedure for the investigation and proof of such misbehaviour or incapacity.

A judge may be removed from his office only by an order of the president.

The words "misbehaviour" or "incapacity" have neither been defined nor clarified in the Constitution.

Why this question is important? Months after an in-house panel found an Allahabad High Court judge, Justice S.N. Shukla, guilty of misconduct, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate a motion for his removal.

8. With reference to Ocean Cleanup Project, consider the following statements

1. It is initiated by UNEP.
2. Ocean currents concentrate plastic in the subtropical gyres.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b) 2 only

Learning Zone: The Ocean Cleanup is a non-government engineering environmental organization based in the Netherlands, that develops technology to extract plastic pollution from the oceans. After a couple of years of various tests, they deployed their first full-scale prototype. It ran into difficulty after two months and was towed to Hawaii for inspection and repair. In June 2019, their second prototype system was deployed.

Ocean currents concentrate plastic in five areas in the world: the subtropical gyres, also known as the world's "ocean garbage patches".

Why this question is important? A floating device designed to catch plastic waste has been redeployed in a second attempt to clean up an island of trash swirling in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii.

9. Which among the following is/are provisions provided under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission?

1. Provision of 24/7 Water Supply to all households,
2. Solid and Liquid Waste Management facilities at the household and cluster level
3. Street Lights
4. Public Transport facilities using green technologies.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Learning Zone: Various Provisions under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

- Provision of basic amenities
- Provision of 24/7 Water Supply to all households,

- Solid and Liquid Waste Management facilities at the household and cluster level
- Provision of Inter and Intra village roads–
- Adequate Street Lights and Public Transport facilities using green technologies.
- Provision of Economic Amenities
- Various thematic areas in the sectors of Agri Services and Processing, Tourism, and Skill development to promote Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

Why this question is important? The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.

10. With reference to the National Policy on Biofuels – 2018, consider the following statements

1. It has a target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel by 2030.
2. The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.
3. The policy aims at reducing import dependency.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Learning Zone: The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 approved by the Government envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel by 2030.

Why this question is important? Globally, biofuels have caught the attention in the last decade and it is imperative to keep up with the pace of developments in the field of biofuels. Biofuels in India are of strategic importance as it augers well with the ongoing initiatives of the Government such as Make in India, Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan, Skill Development and offers great opportunity to integrate with the ambitious targets of doubling of Farmers Income, Import Reduction, Employment Generation, Waste to Wealth Creation.

11. With reference to the National Policy on Domestic Workers, consider the following statements

1. ILO's Convention 189 is related to domestic workers.
2. The policy does not permit the rights for them to organise and form their own unions/associations.
3. It aims to regulate the recruitment and placement agencies by respective governments through the formulation of policy.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c) 1 and 3 only

Learning Zone:

- Its aim is to protect the domestic workers from abuse, harassment, violence and guarantee the rights in the matter of social security and minimum wages. The policy also includes social security cover and provisions against sexual harassment and bonded labour.
- It is a national policy for all kinds of household helps, under which payment of wages will be made to the board under fixed slab rates and the central board/trust will be managed by all stakeholders.
- The policy intends to set up an institutional mechanism to social security cover, fair terms of employment, grievance redressal and dispute resolution.
- It provides for recognising domestic workers as a worker with the right to register themselves with the state labour department or any other suitable mechanism.
- The policy will also promote the rights for them to organise and form their own unions/associations and affiliate with other unions/associations. It will also provide for the model contract of employment with a well-defined period of work and rest.

- It also aims to regulate the recruitment and placement agencies by respective governments through the formulation of policy.
- It will also have a tripartite implementation committee at the centre, state and district levels.
- It will also clearly define various terms such as part-time workers, full-time workers, live-in workers, employers and private placement agencies.

Why this question is important? Draft National Policy on Domestic Workers Under Consideration.

12. With regard to the 'Jal Hi Jeevan Hai' scheme, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements

1. It is a scheme related to 'Crop Diversification'.
2. The scheme is introduced by the Government of Haryana.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

Learning Zone: The scheme is for replacement of Paddy by Maize and other crops in 7 dark zone blocks.

The target is to diversify around 50000 Hectare area from this season.

Why this question is important? The farmers of northern districts of Haryana have shown a keen interest in crop diversification scheme called 'Jal Hi Jeevan Hai' of the Haryana government which promotes to diversify paddy area into maize, arhar dal (pigeon pea) and soybean.

13. Which among the following is the objective of Lunar Evacuation System Assembly recently seen in the news?

- (a) to rescue an astronaut should he or she suffers an injury on the lunar surface.
- (b) to remove the space garbage
- (c) to evacuate the people from the natural disaster-prone area

(d) to develop the fastest computers

Ans: (a) to rescue an astronaut should he or she suffers an injury on the lunar surface.

Learning Zone: Developed by the European Space Agency (ESA), LESA is a pyramid-like structure whose purpose is to rescue an astronaut should he or she suffers an injury on the lunar surface.

Why this question is important? LESA can be operated by a single astronaut to rescue a fallen colleague. It enables an astronaut to lift their crewmate onto a mobile stretcher in less than 10 minutes, before carrying them to the safety of a nearby pressurised lander.

14. Consider the following statements regarding beekeeping

1. India ranked first in the world in terms of honey production.
2. Beekeeping can be an important contributor in achieving the 2022 target of doubling farmer incomes.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b) 2 only

Learning Zone: As per the Food and Agricultural Organization database, in 2017-18, India ranked eighth in the world in terms of honey production (64.9 thousand tonnes) while China stood first with a production level of 551 thousand tonnes.

Further, beekeeping can be an important contributor in achieving the 2022 target of doubling farmer incomes.

Why this question is important? The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister set up a Beekeeping Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Bibek Debroy.

BDC was constituted with the objective of identifying ways of advancing beekeeping in India, that can help in improving agricultural productivity, enhancing employment generation, augmenting nutritional security and sustaining biodiversity.

15. With reference to Motion of Thanks, consider the following statements

1. A failure to get the motion of thanks passed amounts to the defeat of the government.
2. The motion must be passed by Lok Sabha only.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a) 1 only

Learning Zone: Members of Parliament vote on the motion of thanks. This motion must be passed in both of the houses.

A failure to get the motion of thanks passed amounts to the defeat of government and leads to the collapse of the government. This is why the Motion of Thanks is deemed to be a no-confidence motion.

Why this question is important? The President makes an address to a joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget session, which is prepared by the government and lists its achievements. It is essentially a statement of the legislative and policy achievements of the government during the preceding year and gives a broad indication of the agenda for the year ahead.

The address is followed by a motion of thanks moved in each House by ruling party MPs. During the session, political parties discuss the motion of thanks also suggesting amendments.

16. Recently a worm named Fall Armyworm (FAW) has identified in India, Consider the following statements regarding this



1. It is confined to the state of Karnataka.
2. It is a worm affecting cotton crops only.
3. It has the nature of the caterpillar and the ability of the adult moth to fly more than 100 km per night.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c) 3 only

Learning Zone: A native of the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the Americas, FAW was first detected in the African continent in 2016. Since then, it has spread to other countries such as China, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

In India: It was reported in India for the first time last year when it affected crops in Karnataka. Within a span of only six months, almost 50 per cent of the country, including Mizoram, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal, has reported FAW infestations.

It is the polyphagous (ability to feed on different kinds of food) nature of the caterpillar and the ability of the adult moth to fly more than 100 km per night.

Given its ability to feed on multiple crops — nearly 80 different crops ranging from maize to sugarcane — FAW can attack multiple crops Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Why this question is important? The Department has taken note of Fall Army Worm (FAW) infestation in the country. The infestation has been found primarily on maize and to a small extent on Ragi and Sorghum.

17. In India, National Register of Citizens (NRC) Assam has chosen March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for include the names of the people. Which among the following is the reason for this?

- (a) The Assam Accord of 1985 decided upon March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date.

- (b) It is the date on which the State of Assam was formed.
- (c) Citizenship Act of India enacted on this day
- (d) It is on this day the Bangladesh Liberation War was officially declared.

Ans: (a) The Assam Accord of 1985 decided upon March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date.

Learning Zone: There have been several waves of migration to Assam from Bangladesh, but the biggest was in March 1971 when the Pakistan army crackdown forced many to flee to India. The Assam Accord of 1985 that ended the six-year anti-foreigners' agitation decided upon the midnight of March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date.

Why this question is important? Over one lakh people who were part of the final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) published in July last year but were found ineligible thereafter — they have been named in the Additional Draft Exclusion List published recently.

18. With reference to "The Healthy States, Progressive India" report recently seen in the news, consider the following statements

1. It is published by NITI Aayog.
2. It got technical assistance from the World Bank.
3. Haryana has emerged as the top-ranking state in terms of overall health performance.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a) 1 and 2 only

Learning Zone: NITI Aayog has released its second edition of comprehensive Health Index report titled, "Healthy States, Progressive India".

The report ranks states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other.

Kerala has emerged as the top-ranking state in terms of overall health performance. Uttar Pradesh is the worst when it comes to overall health performance.

Why this question is important? The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

19. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of which among the following?

1. Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products.
2. Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages.
3. Groundnuts, Peanuts and Walnuts.
4. Floriculture and Floriculture Products.
5. Herbal and Medicinal Plants.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (d) All of the above

Learning Zone:

APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the following scheduled products:

- Fruits, Vegetables and their Products.
- Meat and Meat Products.
- Poultry and Poultry Products.
- Dairy Products.
- Confectionery, Biscuits and Bakery Products.
- Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products.
- Cocoa and its products, chocolates of all kinds.
- Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages.
- Cereal and Cereal Products.

- Groundnuts, Peanuts and Walnuts.
- Pickles, Papads and Chutneys.
- Guar Gum.
- Floriculture and Floriculture Products.
- Herbal and Medicinal Plants.

Why this question is important? The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985. The Authority replaced the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPCC).

20. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding DNA technology Bill?

1. As per the Bill, national and regional DNA data banks will be set up for maintaining a national database.
2. All DNA data, including DNA profiles, DNA samples and records, will only be used for identification of the person.
3. The Bill establishes a DNA Regulatory Board to accredit the DNA laboratories that analyse DNA samples.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Learning Zone:

- As per the Bill, national and regional DNA data banks will be set up for maintaining a national database for identification of victims, suspects in cases, undertrials, missing persons and unidentified human remains.
- Punishment: According to it, those leaking the DNA profile information to people or entities who are not entitled to have it, will be punished with a jail term of up to three years and a fine of up to Rs. 1 lakh. Similar, punishment has also been provided for those who seek information on DNA profiles illegally.

- Usage: As per the bill, all DNA data, including DNA profiles, DNA samples and records, will only be used for identification of the person and not for “any other purpose”.
- The bill’s provisions will enable the cross-matching between persons who have been reported missing on the one hand and unidentified dead bodies were found in various parts of the country on the other, and also for establishing the identity of victims in mass disasters.
- The Bill establishes a DNA Regulatory Board to accredit the DNA laboratories that analyse DNA samples to establish the identity of an individual.

Why this question is important? Cabinet has cleared the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill once again, paving the way for its reintroduction in Parliament. The Bill had been passed by Lok Sabha in January this year, but could not get the approval of Rajya Sabha. As a result, it lapsed once the tenure of the previous Lok Sabha expired last month.

21. Which among the following is NOT a provision of Space Activities Bill?

- (a) It encourages the participation of non-governmental/private sector agencies in space activities.
- (b) It provides financial support to startups promoting space activities.
- (c) A non-transferable licence shall be provided by the Central Government to any person carrying out commercial space activity.
- (d) The government will maintain a register of all space objects and develop more space activity plans for the country.

Ans: (b) It provides financial support to startups promoting space activities.

Learning Zone:

- The provisions of this Act shall apply to every citizen of India and to all sectors engaged in any space activity in India or outside India
- A non-transferable licence shall be provided by the Central Government to any person carrying out commercial space activity
- The Central Government will formulate the appropriate mechanism for licencing, eligibility criteria, and fees for the licence.
- The government will maintain a register of all space objects (any object launched or intended to be launched around the earth) and develop more space activity plans for the country

- It will provide professional and technical support for commercial space activity and regulate the procedures for conduct and operation of space activity
- It will ensure safety requirements and supervise the conduct of every space activity of India and investigate any incident or accident in connection with the operation of space activity.
- It will share details about the pricing of products created by space activity and technology with any person or any agency in a prescribed manner.
- If any person undertakes any commercial space activity without authorisation they shall be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years or fined more than ₹1 crore or both.

Why this question is important? There is a need for national space legislation for supporting the overall growth of the space activities in India. This would encourage enhanced participation of non-governmental/private sector agencies in space activities in India, in compliance with international treaty obligations, which is becoming very relevant today.

22. Consider the following statements regarding Methane (CH₄)

1. On Earth, methane is a naturally occurring gas.
2. Methane can only be produced by the biotic process.
3. Once it is released into the atmospheres of Earth methane is relatively short-lived.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c) 1 and 3 only

Learning Zone: On Earth, methane (CH₄) is a naturally occurring gas. Most of the methane on Earth is produced in biological processes — some of it by microbes, and some occurring as underground natural gas that had been formed by earlier generations of microbial life.

Many of these methane-producing microbes live in the digestive systems of animals, especially cows.

However, methane can also be produced by abiotic processes (those that do not involve living organisms).

It has been found to occur in formations such as rocks, springs and aquifers, and studies have concluded that it was formed thereby chemical reactions between carbon and hydrogen atoms at low temperature. Hence statement 2 is not correct. Once it is released into the atmospheres of either Earth or Mars, methane is relatively short-lived.

Methane concentrations on Earth are over 1,800 parts per million.

Why this question is important? NASA's Curiosity rover recently discovered high amounts of methane in the air on Mars, leading to excitement whether this was an indication of life on the Red Planet, or beneath its surface. However, later it was confirmed that the methane had fallen back to usual levels.

23. The Coffee Club countries, often seen in the news, related to which among the following?

- (a) It is a grouping of the largest coffee-growing countries in the world.
- (b) It is a group of countries favoured the expansion of the non-permanent category of seats in the UN.
- (c) It is a group of countries bidding for permanent seats in the UN Security Council.
- (d) It is the group of Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) signed countries.

Ans: (b) It is a group of countries favoured the expansion of the non-permanent category of seats in the UN.

Learning Zone: The Coffee Club or Uniting for Consensus: Group of countries opposed to the G4. They favoured the expansion of the non-permanent category of seats with members to be elected on a regional basis. They are Italy, Spain, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, South Korea and Pakistan.

Why this question is important? India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council has been endorsed unanimously by the Asia Pacific group, which comprises 55 countries, including Pakistan.

The endorsement means that India has a “clean slate” candidature – that is there is no other contestant from the group – for the elections that will be held for five non-permanent members next year, for the 2021-22 term.

24. With reference to Proton Therapy, consider the following statements

1. It is a type of radiation therapy.
2. It painlessly delivers radiation through the skin from a machine outside the body.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

Learning Zone: Proton therapy, also called proton beam therapy, is a type of radiation therapy.

It uses protons rather than x-rays to treat cancer.

Why this question is important? Like x-ray radiation, proton therapy is a type of external-beam radiation therapy. It painlessly delivers radiation through the skin from a machine outside the body.

A proton is a positively charged particle. At high energy, protons can destroy cancer cells. Doctors may use proton therapy alone.

25. As per the National Food Security Act, 2013, consider the following statements

1. The Act provides for coverage of up to 90% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population.
2. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.
3. The Act contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.



Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Learning Zone: The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population.

The eligible persons will be entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.

The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.

The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children.

Besides meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the childbirth, such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.

Children up to 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards.

In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.

The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.

Why this question is important? As Passed by the Parliament, Government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 on 10th September 2013.

The objective is to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

26. Atal Tinkering Labs is set up under

- (a) Department of Science and Technology
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Ans: (b) NITI Aayog

Learning Zone: The Government of India has set up the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog. Realizing the need to create scientific temper and cultivate the spirit of curiosity and innovation among young minds, AIM proposes to support the establishment of a network of Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL).

Why this question is important? 8878 schools have been selected for establishing Atal Tinkering Lab (ATLs) to promote research and innovation in schools.

27. Recently in our country, there was a growing awareness and promotion of 'Rice Fortification' because it is found to be?

- (a) Double the farmers Income
- (b) Content of essential micronutrient
- (c) Cheap production cost
- (d) Low usage of pesticides

Ans: (b) Content of essential micronutrient

Learning Zone: Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health. Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice.

Why this question is important? Department of Food & Public Distribution has approved the "Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System". Financial Assistance up to 90% in case of North-Eastern, Hilly and Island States and up to 75% in case of rest of the States has been extended.

28. Jal Shakti Abhiyan, recently seen in the news is related to:

- (a) Water Conservation
- (b) River Pollution



- (c) Free water supply to Farmers
- (d) Ganga Rejuvenation

Ans: (a) Water Conservation

Learning Zone: The Centre is set to initiate the Jal Shakti Abhiyan to ramp up rainwater harvesting and conservation efforts in 255 water-stressed districts from July 1, in line with the government's promise to focus on water.

Why this question is important? It is to accelerate water harvesting, conservation and borewell recharge activities already being carried out under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme and the Integrated Watershed Management Programme of the Rural Development Ministry, along with existing water body restoration and afforestation schemes being undertaken by the Jal Shakti and Environment Ministries.

29. With reference to International Seed Testing Agency (ISTA), consider the following statements

1. ISTA works under the ambit of the World Trade Organization.
2. It defines the content of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the seed.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b) 2 only

Learning Zone: ISTA is an independent organisation supported by the non-profit cooperation of experienced seed scientists and analysts

Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish standard procedures in the field of seed testing, ISTA is inextricably linked with the history of seed testing.

It is an association of laboratories which are authorised to check on the marketability of seed as defined in various countries' laws.

Its duties include defining methods to determine the ability to germinate, the vigour of seed, and the content of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the seed.

The test results, as certified by ISTA member laboratories, are accepted by the trading partners of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in international seed traffic. The North American equivalent of the ISTA is the Association of Official Seed Analysts(AOSA).

Why this question is important? The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) is to hold its 32nd Congress in Hyderabad.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Telangana government are jointly hosting the conference, which will be attended by stakeholders from across the globe.

30. The sister-city agreement recently seen in the news is between which among the following?

- (a) Hongkong and Beijing
- (b) Ahmedabad and Kobe
- (c) Dhaka and Gangtok
- (d) Delhi and Lucknow

Ans: (b) Ahmedabad and Kobe

Learning Zone: In a bid to cultivate, promote and enhance opportunities on business, academic and cultural fronts between Kobe in Japan and Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India, a sister-city agreement has been inked between the two cities.

Why this question is important? This agreement will formalize the relationship between the two cities, both of which are unique in their own ways. While Kobe is the Creative Design City of Asia, Ahmedabad is India's first World Heritage City.

After the agreement, a plan will be laid out on creating more opportunities for cooperation between the two cities on the academic, cultural as well as business fronts.