

UPSC 2021: Weekly GK and Current Affairs Quiz Jul 31 - Aug 06

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II):

1. This fourth generation launch vehicle is a four-stage vehicle with four liquid strap-ons.
2. The indigenously developed flight proven Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) forms the third stage of GSLV Mk II.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II) is the largest launch vehicle developed by India, which is currently in operation. This fourth generation launch vehicle is a three-stage vehicle with four liquid strap-ons. The indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), which is flight proven, forms the third stage of GSLV Mk II.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Orion Spacecraft:

1. It is a human spacecraft for deep-space missions.
2. It is the second such initiative by any country and the first initiative of China.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

Orion is NASA's mission.

Q3. Who publishes the Pneumonia and Diarrhea Progress Report?

- a) WHO
- b) Lancet International
- c) International Vaccine Access Centre

- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answer: c

Self-explanatory

Q4. Consider the following statements with respect to River Pampa:

1. It is the longest river in Kerala.
2. It originates in the Pulachimalai hill in the Western Ghats.
3. It flows westwards and drains into Vembanad Lake.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Pamba River (also called Pampa river) is the third-longest river in the South Indian state of Kerala after Periyar and Bharathappuzha. It originates in the Pulachimalai hill in the Western Ghats. It is a west flowing river. It flows westwards and empties into the Vembanad Lake.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Palamau Tiger Reserve – Jharkhand
2. Buxa Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra
3. Dampa Tiger Reserve – Mizoram
4. Satkosia Tiger Reserve – Odisha

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b

1, 3 and 4 only are correctly matched. Buxa Tiger Reserve is located in West Bengal.

Q6. Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

1. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
2. India is a member and has the second-largest shareholding and voting rights.
3. Membership is open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.
4. The bank allows non-sovereign entities of member countries to apply for membership.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c

All the statements are correct.

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is headquartered in Beijing, China.
- India is a member and has the second-largest shareholding and voting rights after China.
- The AIIB allows non-sovereign entities to apply for AIIB membership, assuming their home country is a member. Thus, sovereign wealth funds (such as the China Investment Corporation) or state-owned enterprises of member countries could potentially join the Bank.
- Its membership is open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.

Q7. The “Five Eyes” alliance comprises which of the following countries?

1. Canada
2. Russia
3. New Zealand
4. Australia
5. India
6. United Kingdom
7. United States

Choose the correct option:

- a) 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 only
- b) 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 only
- c) 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 only
- d) 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 only

Answer: a

1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only are correct. The Five Eyes, often abbreviated as FVEY, is an Anglophone intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Q8. Consider the following statements with respect to compensation cess:

1. The cess will not be payable by exporters and those persons who have opted for compensation levy.
2. The cess will compensate the states for any revenue loss on account of the implementation of GST.
3. The input tax credit of this cess can be used to pay taxes like CGST, SGCT or IGST.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Statements 1 and 2 only are correct. The compensation cess will compensate the states for any revenue loss on account of the implementation of GST. This cess will not be payable by exporters and those persons who have opted for compensation levy. The input tax credit of this cess can be only used to pay compensation cess and not the other taxes like CGST, SGCT or IGST.

Q9. Which of the following tribes are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups residing in the Andamans?

1. Great Andamanese
2. Jarawas
3. Onges
4. Shompens
5. North Sentinelese

Choose the correct option:

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- c) 1 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: d

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are correct. The five Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups residing in Andamans are Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.

Q10. Consider the following statements:

1. Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India define who would be Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with respect to any State or Union Territory.
2. The Central List of Scheduled Castes and Tribes is notified by the President.
3. The consent of the Parliament is required to exclude or include castes in the List.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

None of the above is incorrect. Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India define who would be Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with respect to any State or Union Territory. The Central List of Scheduled Castes and Tribes is notified by the President under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. The consent of the Parliament is required to exclude or include castes in the List. States cannot unilaterally add or pull out castes from the List.

Q11. Consider the following statements with respect to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):

1. It provides for a time-bound and market-linked resolution of stressed assets.
2. It does not provide for the initiation of insolvency proceedings against personal guarantors of corporate debtors.
3. Any person aggrieved by the order of the National Company Law Tribunal may make an appeal to the High Court.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

Statements 2 and 3 only are incorrect. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code provides for a time-bound and market-linked resolution of stressed assets.

Any person aggrieved by the order of the National Company Law Tribunal may make an appeal to the

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. The Code also provides for the initiation of insolvency proceedings against personal guarantors of corporate debtors. The rule governing the initiation of the insolvency process against the personal guarantor to corporate borrowers came into effect from December 2019. It empowers creditors to file insolvency applications against personal guarantors under the IBC.

Q12. Consider the following statements:

1. The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question Hour and is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
2. Zero Hour is an informal device, not mentioned in any rules of the Parliament.
3. The time immediately following the Question Hour is known as “Zero Hour”.

Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

None of the statements is incorrect. The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question Hour. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House. The time immediately following the Question Hour has come to be known as “Zero Hour”. Members can, with prior notice to the Speaker, raise issues of importance during this time. Unlike the Question Hour, the Zero Hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.

Q13. Which of the following are the tributaries of River Mahanadi?

1. Mand
2. Ong
3. Parry
4. Musi
5. Hasdeo

Choose the correct option:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: a

1, 2, 3 and 5 only are correct. Tributaries of River Mahanadi are Seonath (Shivnath), the Hasdeo, the Mand, the Ib, the Ong, the Tel, the Parry and the Jonk.

Q14. Which of these islands are part of the Lakshadweep Islands group?

1. Kavaratti
2. Agatti
3. Minicoy
4. Amini
5. Kalpeni

Options:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: c

All five are part of the Lakshadweep Islands.

Q15. Which of the following are NOT constitutional bodies?

1. Central Board of Direct Taxes
2. GST Council
3. National Human Rights Commission
4. Finance Commission
5. National Commission for Backward Classes

Options:

- a) 1, 3 and 5 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: b

1 and 3 are not constitutional bodies. Central Board of Direct Taxes and the National Human Rights Commission are statutory bodies. The GST Council, Finance Commission and National Commission for Backward Classes are Constitutional bodies.

Q16. Consider the following statements with respect to Pulikkali:

1. It is a folk dance performed on the streets of Kerala as a part of Onam celebrations.

2. It is performed to the rhythm of traditional percussion instruments such as mridangam and ghatam.
3. The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Statements 1 and 3 only are correct. The literal meaning of Pulikkali is the 'play of the tigers' and hence, the performance revolves around the theme of tiger hunting. It is a folk dance performed on the streets of Kerala during Onam celebrations. The folk art form is performed to the rhythm of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda.

Q17. Consider the following statements with respect to UMANG App:

1. It is a common unified platform for the delivery of services of various Government Departments through the mobile platform.
2. It was developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
3. The app hosts services such as Digilocker and e-RaktKosh.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

All three are correct statements. The Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), is a Government of India all-in-one single unified secure multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service freeware mobile app for accessing over 841 services through 127 department central and state government services in multiple Indian languages. It is a common unified platform for the delivery of services of various Government Departments through the mobile platform. It was developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY). It hosts services such as digilocker, Parivahan Sewa – Vahan, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, e-RaktKosh, Ayushman Bharat, etc.

Q18. Consider the following statements with respect to Export Preparedness Index 2020:

1. It is the first report to examine the export preparedness and performance of Indian states.
2. It ranks states on Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance.
3. Coastal States are the best performers in EPI 2020.

Which of the given statements is/are INCORRECT?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

All the statements are correct.

Q19. Greece is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Albania
2. Bulgaria
3. Macedonia
4. Turkey
5. Romania
6. Serbia

Choose the correct option:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 3 and 6 only
- d) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Answer: a

1, 2, 3 and 4 only are correct. Greece shares a land border with Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Turkey.

Q20. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Clean Air Programme:

1. It aims to achieve a national-level target of 20-30% reduction of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration by 2024.
2. It is a nationwide programme executed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
3. 2015 is the base year for the National Clean Air Programme.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Answer: b

Statements 1 and 2 only are correct. National Clean Air Programme is a nationwide programme executed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It aims to achieve a national-level target of 20-30% reduction of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration by 2024. 2017 is the base year for the National Clean Air Programme.

Q21. Consider the following statements with respect to Earth Observation Satellites:

1. They are intended for uses such as environmental monitoring, meteorology, map making and disaster management.
2. The Earth-observation satellites include the Resourcesat, RISAT series and the Oceansat series.
3. They are placed in Geostationary orbit only.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Statements 1 and 2 only are correct. An Earth observation satellite or a remote sensing satellite is a satellite used or designed for Earth observation (EO) from orbit. They are intended for uses such as environmental monitoring, meteorology, map making and others. Currently, 13 operational Earth Observation satellites are in Sun-synchronous orbit and 4 in Geostationary orbit.

Q22. Which of the following is India's first aircraft carrier?

- a) INS Vikrant
- b) INS Viraat
- c) INS Shardul
- d) INS Vikramaditya

Answer: a

INS Vikrant is India's first aircraft carrier.

Q23. Consider the following statements with respect to SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS):

1. It is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation formed in 2004.
2. It is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
3. It serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

All the statements are correct.

Q24. Consider the following statements with respect to Peacock Island:

1. It is located in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. It is the world's smallest inhabited river island.
3. It houses a temple dedicated to the god Shiva and is also known as Umananda Island.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Statements 2 and 3 only are correct. Peacock Island is located in the middle of the river Brahmaputra, flowing through the city of Guwahati in Assam. It is the world's smallest inhabited river island. It houses the Umananda temple and is also known as Umananda Island.

Q25. Consider the following statements with respect to the Bonda Tribe:

1. They are classified as a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG).
2. Bondas live in the state of Odisha.
3. They speak the Remo language.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

None of the above is incorrect. Odisha's Bonda tribe are classified as one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). They speak the Remo language, one of the Mundari group of languages spoken by the Munda people.

Q26. Which of the following was not composed by Kalidasa?

- a) Mrichchhakatikam
- b) Abhijnanashakuntalam
- c) Kumarasambhavam
- d) Ritusamhara

Mrichchhakatikam was composed by Shudraka.

Q27. Which of the following is/are correct about Dholavira?

- 1. It is located on the island of Khadir.
- 2. It is the 40th site from India to get the UNESCO's World Heritage tag.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

Q28. Which of the following is/are correct about the Vedic Civilisation?

- 1. The people worshipped natural forces like earth, fire, wind, rain, thunder, etc. by personifying them into deities.
- 2. There was no idol worship.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

Q29. Which of the following is/are correct?

1. The Thousand Pillar Temple located in Hanmakonda was built by Rudradeva of the Kakatiya dynasty.
2. The early members of the Kakatiya dynasty were believed to have been Jains of the Digambara sect.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Both are correct.

Q30. Which of the following is/are correct?

1. Basavanna is the founding saint of the Lingayat sect.
2. Lingayatism rejects the caste system.

Options:

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

Answer: c

Both are correct.