

UPSC 2021: Weekly GK and Current Affairs Quiz Jul 10 - Jul 16

1. 1. Question

Category: International Relations

Which of the following countries are parties to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

1. United States of America
2. Malaysia
3. Japan
4. Australia
5. Brunei
6. Chile

Choose the correct option:

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

Explanation: c

2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only are correct. Following the withdrawal of the U.S from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the remaining 11 countries renegotiated parts of the TPP and later signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), also known as TPP-11. TPP-11 is a trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

2. 2. Question

Category: Economy

Labour Force Participation Rate is:

- a) Section of the working population in the age group of 16-64 in the economy currently employed or seeking employment.
- b) Section of the working population in the age group of 16-64 in the economy currently employed.
- c) Section of the working population in the age group of 18-60 in the economy currently employed or seeking employment.
- d) None of the above

Explanation: a

Labour Force Participation Rate is the section of the working population in the age group of 16-64 in the economy currently employed or seeking employment.

3. 3. Question

Category: Health

Consider the following statements:

1. Member countries of the World Health Organisation South-East Asia Region have resolved to eliminate measles and rubella by 2023.
2. Both Sri Lanka and the Maldives have eradicated Measles and Rubella ahead of the target.
3. Both Measles and Rubella are caused by an RNA virus.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: d

All the statements are correct.

4. 4. Question

Category: International Relations

Consider the following statements:

1. India has an open skies policy with SAARC countries and countries within a 5,000-km radius.
2. Open sky air service agreement allows for airlines from the two countries to have an unlimited number of flights as well as seats to each other's jurisdictions.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: b

Statement 2 only is correct. India has an open skies policy with SAARC countries and those **beyond the 5,000-km radius**, which implies that nations within this distance need to enter into a bilateral agreement and mutually determine the number of flights that their airlines can operate between the two countries. An open sky air service agreement allows for airlines from the two countries to have an unlimited number of flights as well as seats to each other's jurisdictions.

5. **5. Question**

Category: Environment and Ecology

Which of the following is India's largest butterfly?

- a) Female golden birdwing
- b) Southern birdwing
- c) Quaker
- d) Elusive Prince

Explanation: a

A Himalayan butterfly named golden birdwing is now India's largest butterfly (wingspan of 194 mm). While the male golden birdwing (*Troides aeacus*) is much smaller at 106 mm wingspan, the female of the species is marginally larger than the southern birdwing. The record was earlier held by southern birdwing (wingspan of 190 mm) for 88 years. The smallest is the quaker (*Neopithecops zalmora*) with a wingspan of 18 mm.

6. **6. Question**

Category: Geography

Consider the following statements with respect to Daulat Beg Oldie:

- 1. It is the northernmost corner of the Indian Territory in Ladakh.
- 2. It has the world's highest airstrip.
- 3. It is to the west of the Line of Actual Control at Aksai Chin.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: d

All three are correct.

1. Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) is the northernmost corner of the Indian Territory in Ladakh.
2. DBO has the world's highest airstrip, originally built during the 1962 war but abandoned until 2008, when the Indian Air Force (IAF) revived it as one of its many Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) along the LAC, with the landing of an Antonov An-32.
 - It is located at an altitude of 16,614 ft.
- DBO is less than 10 km west of the LAC at Aksai Chin. A military outpost was created in DBO in reaction to China's occupation of Aksai Chin, and is at present manned by a combination of the Army's Ladakh Scouts and the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

7. 7. Question

Category: Geography

"Idlib Province" frequently in the news is located in:

- a) Syria
- b) Iran
- c) Israel
- d) Afghanistan

Explanation: a

Idlib is a province in Syria. Its proximity to the Turkish border makes Idlib strategically important to the Syrian government.

8. 8. Question

Category: Current Affairs

Consider the following statements with respect to Strategic Forces Command (SFC):

1. It works on the directives of the Nuclear Command Authority.
2. It is responsible for the management and administration of India's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: d

Both statements are correct.

9. **9. Question**

Category: Current Affairs

Consider the following statements with respect to Malabar Exercise:

1. It is a biannual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan and the USA.
2. It began as a bilateral exercise between India and Japan and included the US in 2015.
3. Australia has participated in the exercise as a non-permanent member in the past.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: b

Statement 3 only is correct. It is an annual exercise between the navies of India, Japan and the U.S. It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S. Then it got permanently expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015. Past non-permanent participants are Australia and Singapore.

10. **10. Question**

Category: Art and Culture

“Mongolian Kanjur” recently in the news is:

- a) A Buddhist canonical text which is the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- b) Critically Endangered ground squirrels endemic to Mongolia.
- c) A Mongolian percussion instrument found in Buddhist monasteries.
- d) A form of performing art involving ritual singing, drumming and dancing performed in Buddhist monasteries.

Explanation: a

Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes, is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language ‘Kanjur’ means ‘Concise Orders’ - the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

11. **11. Question**

Category: Environment and Ecology

Consider the following statements:

1. The Western Ghats have high endemism of orchids.
2. In India, the highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: c

Both statements are correct. According to Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide, as published by the Botanical Survey of India, Western Ghats have high endemism of orchids. The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim (560 species) and West Bengal; Darjeeling Himalayas have also a high species concentration, with 479 species.

12. 12. Question

Category: Schemes

Consider the following statements with respect to ASEEM digital platform:

1. It is an AI-based platform designed to bridge the demand-supply gap of skilled workforce across sectors.
2. It is developed and managed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: b

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched an AI-based ASEEM digital platform to bridge the demand-supply gap of skilled workforce across sectors. ASEEM stands for Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping. ASEEM is developed and managed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with Bengaluru-based company Betterplace, specialising in blue-collar employee management.

13. 13. Question

Category: Current Affairs

Consider the following statements with respect to AH-64 Apache:

1. It is the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter.
2. India has procured AH-64 Apache from Russia.
3. It is also used by the US Army.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: a

Statements 1 and 3 only are correct. Boeing has handed over the last of the five AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The AH-64 Apache is the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter and is also used by the US Army. India contracted 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinook helicopters from Boeing through the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S. government in September 2015 under a \$3 billion deal.

14. 14. Question

Category: Geography

Consider the following statements with respect to Rewa Solar project:

1. It is India's first renewable energy project to supply to an institutional customer outside the State.
2. It is Asia's largest solar power project.
3. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: c

All the statements are correct. Rewa Solar project is Asia's largest 750 MW solar power project. It is located in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh. It is India's first renewable energy project to supply to an institutional customer outside the State, i.e, Delhi Metro.

15. 15. Question

Category: Economy

Which of the following statements is/are incorrect with respect to Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR)?

1. The lower the CRAR of a bank the better capitalized it is.
2. The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk-weighted assets of 8%.
3. In India, scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CRAR of 7% while Indian public sector banks are emphasized to maintain a CRAR of 6% as per RBI norms.

Options:

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

Explanation: c

Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk. It is arrived at by dividing the capital of the bank with aggregated risk-weighted assets for credit risk, market risk, and operational risk. It is also known as the Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR). In other words, it is the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk-weighted assets and current liabilities. In general terms, a bank with a high CRAR/CAR is deemed safe/healthy and likely to fulfil its financial obligations. The higher the CRAR of a bank the better capitalized it is. CRAR is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process. RBI tracks CRAR of a bank to ensure that the bank can absorb a reasonable amount of loss and complies with statutory Capital requirements. The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk-weighted assets of 8%. In India, scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CAR of 9% while Indian public sector banks are emphasized to maintain a CAR of 12% as per RBI norms.

16. 16. Question

Category: International Relations

Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act' (CAATSA)?

1. CAATSA's stated purpose is to counter aggression by the Governments of Iran, the Russian Federation, and North Korea.
2. There are provisions in the law for secondary sanctions on persons that engage in significant transactions with Iran, Russia and North Korea.
3. There is a CAATSA waiver for India as part of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the fiscal year 2019.

Options:

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

Explanation: d

All the statements are correct. The 'Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act' (CAATSA) was passed by the U.S. Congress in 2017. CAATSA's stated purpose was to counter aggression by the Governments of Iran, the Russian Federation, and North Korea. There are provisions in the law for secondary sanctions on people who engage in significant transactions with Iran, Russia and North Korea. Given the India-U.S. growing defence relationship, the U.S. Congress passed a CAATSA waiver for India as part of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the fiscal year 2019.

17. 17. Question

Category: G K

Hagia Sophia is located in which of the following countries?

- a) Syria
- b) Iran
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Turkey

Explanation: d

Turkey

18. 18. Question

Category: Polity

Consider the following statements with respect to Fundamental Duties:

1. The concept of Fundamental Duties has been borrowed from the Irish Constitution.

2. Fundamental Duties were added to the Indian Constitution on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.
3. While the 42nd Amendment added 8 Fundamental Duties to the Indian Constitution, the rest were added through the 86th Amendment.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: b

Statement 2 only is correct. The concept of Fundamental Duties has been borrowed from the Russian Constitution. The 42nd Amendment added 10 fundamental duties. The 11th was added by the 86th Amendment.

19. 19. Question

Category: Current Affairs

Which of the following chillies have been granted the GI Tag in India?

1. Bydagi Chilli
2. Guntur Sannam Chilli
3. Mizo Chilli
4. Bhiwapur Chilli

Options:

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

Explanation: d

All four chilli varieties have been granted GI tag status.

20. 20. Question

Category: Schemes

Consider the following statements with respect to the NATGRID project:

1. It is an integrated intelligence grid connecting databases of core security agencies of the Government of India.
2. The office of NATGRID is attached to the Ministry of Defence.
3. The intelligence gathering mechanism relates to immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: a

Statements 1 and 3 only are correct. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is an integrated intelligence grid connecting databases of core security agencies of the Government of India. The intelligence gathering mechanism relates to immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels. The office of NATGRID is attached to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

21. 21. Question

Category: Polity

Consider the following statements with respect to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. The Seventh Schedule was inserted in the Constitution of India by the 73rd Amendment.
2. Constitutional status was accorded to Panchayati Raj Institutions through the 73rd Amendment Act.
3. It provided that one-third of the seats in all Panchayat councils, as well as one-third of the Pradhan (chairperson) positions, be reserved for women.
4. It fixed the minimum age for contesting in elections to Panchayat at 25 years.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: a

Statements 1 and 4 are incorrect. The Eleventh Schedule was inserted in the Constitution of India by the 73rd Amendment. Constitutional status was accorded to Panchayati Raj Institutions through the 73rd Amendment Act. It provided that one-third of the seats in all Panchayat councils, as well as one-third of the Pradhan (chairperson) positions, be reserved for women. It fixed the minimum age for contesting in elections to Panchayat at 21 years.

22. 22. Question

Category: Geography

Consider the following statements with respect to Bandar-e-Jask port:

1. Bandar-e-Jask port lies to the west of Chabahar.
2. It is located in the Hormozgan province of Iran.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: c

Both statements are correct.

23. 23. Question

Category: Economy

Consider the following statements:

1. RBI purchases G-Secs under its Open Market Operations to reduce excess liquidity in the system.
2. G-Secs are risk-free gilt-edged instruments.
3. G-Secs are issued by both the Central as well as State Governments.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: a

Statement 1 is incorrect. A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. The purchase of government securities by the RBI under its Open Market Operations will infuse liquidity into the system. G-Secs practically carry no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments. Gilt-edged securities are high-grade investment bonds offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.

24. 24. Question

Category: Science and Technology

Consider the following statements:

1. Cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds.
2. Cytokines can be pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: c

Both statements are correct. Cytokines are small proteins secreted by immune cells to communicate and alter the actions of other immune cells. They can be pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory, thus promoting or inhibiting the proliferation and functions of other immune cells. Cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds.

25. 25. Question

Category: Environment and Ecology

Which of the following statements is/are incorrect about Kaziranga National Park?

1. It is a “Mixed World Heritage Site” on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
2. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.
3. It has been declared a tiger reserve.

Options:

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

Explanation: a

Statement 1 is incorrect. Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is the only “Mixed World Heritage Site” in India to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Kaziranga National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site (Natural site). It is recognized as an Important Bird Area

by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species. It was declared a tiger reserve in 2006.

26. 26. Question

Category: Schemes

“PRAGYATA Guidelines” refer to the recently released:

- a) Guidelines for obtaining collateral-free MSME loans, as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- b) Guidelines on digital education.
- c) Set of procedural guidelines for use in India in cases of sexual harassment.
- d) Guidelines regarding the preparation of coal blocks before bidding.

Explanation: b

The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of online/digital education that is, Plan- Review- Arrange- Guide- Yak(talk)- Assign- Track- Appreciate. The guidelines on Digital/Online Education provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward online education to enhance the quality of education.

27. 27. Question

Category: G K

Consider the following statements with respect to the Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- 1. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- 2. The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries.
- 3. It issues Special Drawing Rights (SDR) monetary reserve currency that operates as a supplement to the existing money reserves of member countries.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: a

Statements 1 and 2 only are correct. The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, formerly the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE) and non-regional developed countries. Special Drawing Rights (SDR) refers to an international type of monetary reserve currency created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1969 that operates as a supplement to the existing

money reserves of member countries. SDRs are units of account for the IMF and not a currency per se. They instead represent a claim to currency held by IMF member countries for which they may be exchanged.

28. 28. Question

Category: Health

Total Fertility Rate is:

- a) The average number of children born to women during their reproductive years.
- b) The fertility rate at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, without migration.
- c) The fertility rate at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.
- d) The number of live births per thousand of population per year.

Explanation: a

Total Fertility Rate refers to the average number of children born to women during their reproductive years. In simple terms, it refers to the total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime if she were subject to the prevailing rate of age-specific fertility in the population (reproductive years).

29. 29. Question

Category: International Relations

Consider the following statements with respect to Chiang Mai Initiative:

- 1. It is a multilateral currency swap arrangement.
- 2. It involved ten members of ASEAN, the People's Republic of China including Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: c

Both statements are correct. The Chiang Mai Initiative was a financial swap mechanism that emerged in the aftermath of the late 1990s Asian financial crisis. It is a currency swap agreement among ASEAN +3 i.e., ten members of ASEAN, the People's Republic of China including Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea.

30. 30. Question

Category: Polity

Which of the following committees or commissions dealt with Centre-State relations?

1. Sarkaria Commission
2. Puncchi Commission
3. Rajamannar Committee

Choose the correct option:

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

Explanation: d

All three are correct.

Sarkaria Commission, Puncchi Commission and Rajmanner Committee dealt with centre-state relations.

- In 1983, the Central government appointed a three-member Commission on Centre-state relations under the chairmanship of R S Sarkaria, a retired judge of the Supreme Court.
- In April 2007, the Government of India constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under the chairmanship of Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi to look into the new issues of Centre-State relations keeping in view the changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.
- In 1969, the Tamil Nadu Government appointed a three-member committee under the chairmanship of Dr P V Rajamannar to examine the entire question of Centre-state relations and to suggest amendments to the Constitution so as to secure utmost autonomy to the states.