



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz - 17-04-2020 - (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)*

1. It is the Ministerial-level committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. The meeting will be held annually to discuss matters of common concern affecting the global economy.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : a

- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has recently attended the Plenary Meeting of the **International Monetary and Financial Committee**.
- The discussions at the meeting were based on IMF Managing Director's Global Policy Agenda titled, "Exceptional Times - Exceptional Action".
- The members of the IMFC updated the committee on the actions and measures taken by member countries to combat COVID-19, and also remarked on IMF's crisis-response package to address global liquidity and members' financing needs.

International Monetary and Financial Committee

- It is the **Ministerial-level committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- The **IMFC meets twice a year**, once during the Fund-Bank Annual Meetings in October, and again during the Spring Meetings in April.
- The **Committee discusses matters of common concern affecting the global economy and advises the IMF on the direction of its work**.
- This year, due to the COVID-19 Outbreak, the meeting took place through video-conference.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting*

1. The 2nd edition of G20 FMCBG meeting, 2020 was recently held in Japan.
2. The meeting was held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : b

- *Indian Finance Minister had recently represented India in the 2nd **Extraordinary Virtual G20 FMCBG Meeting held on March 31, 2020.***
- The meeting held under the presidency of **Saudi Arabia.**

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)*

1. Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. Projects falling under A2 Category are exempted from requirement of collection of Base line data, EIA Studies and public consultation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : a

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.
- Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986 which contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process.
- To address unprecedented situation arising from global outbreak of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), and to ramp up availability or production of various drugs, MoEF&CC, has made an amendment to EIA Notification 2006.
- According to the amendment all projects or activities in respect of bulk drugs and intermediates, manufactured for addressing various ailments, have been **re-categorized from the existing Category 'A' to 'B2' category.**
- The re-categorization of such proposals has been done to facilitate decentralization of appraisal to State Level so as to fast track the process.

Classification of projects

- Category A projects require mandatory environmental clearance and thus they do not undergo the screening process.
 - Category B projects undergoes screening process and they are classified into two types.
1. Category B1 projects (Mandatorily requires EIA).
 2. Category B2 projects (Do not require EIA).

Thus, Category A projects and Category B, projects undergo the complete EIA process whereas Category B2 projects are excluded from complete EIA process.

4) "*Trimeresurus Salazar*" is a new species of green pit viper found recently in?

- a. Rajasthan
- b. Western Ghats
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Answer : c

- **Trimeresurus salazar** is the fifth variety of reptile to have been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh in a little more than a year.
- The other species found in Arunachal Pradesh were:

1. The Crying keelback
2. The Impressive Tortoise (so named because of the striking pattern on its back)
3. The Arunachal Pit Viper (India's fifth brown pit viper but with a reddish tinge)
4. The Natricid burrowing snake (similar to the shieldtail snake found in the Western Ghats)

- **Trimeresurus salazars** are pit vipers which are venomous snakes distinguished by their heat-sensing pit organs between the eye and the nostril.
- According to the researchers, Salazar's pit viper belongs to the genus *Trimeresurus* Lacepede comprising "charismatic venomous serpents with morphologically as well as ecologically diverse species".
- At least 48 species are known to be distributed across east and southeast Asia, of which at least 15 occur in India.
- Of the species recorded from India, seven had been found in the northeast before the Salazar's pit viper, collected from the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Pakke-Kessang district, and was identified as a separate species.
- The new species was found to have scales similar to three other pit viper species — *Trimeresurus septentrionalis*, *Trimeresurus insularis* Kramer and *Trimeresurus albolabris*.
- What set it apart was a reddish orange lateral stripe on the head besides some other subtle variations.

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)*

1. It is an autonomous society under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
2. Its main objective is to encourage, promote and boost the Software Exports from India.
3. It has been implementing the Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) scheme for the promotion of IT/ITES industry.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

Answer : c

- In view of the challenges thrown by COVID19 outbreak and consequent lockdown, the Government took a major decision to provide relief from payment of rental to the small IT units operating out of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).
- Most of these units are either Tech MSMEs or startups.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)

- It is an autonomous society under **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology**, Government of India in 1991, with the objective of encouraging, promoting and boosting the Software Exports from India.
- STPI acts as 'single-window in providing services to the software exporters.
- At present, it has 60 centers across the country.
- The services rendered by STPI for the software exporting community have been statutory services, data communications services, incubation facilities, training and value added services.
- STPI has been implementing the **Software Technology Park (STP) scheme** and the **Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) scheme** for the promotion of IT/ITES

industry.

