



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz - 10-08-2020 - (Online Prelims Test)

1) With respect to *Comptroller and Auditor General of India*, consider the following statements

1. He/She is one among the bulwarks of the democratic system of government in India.
2. The CAG is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
3. He/She can be removed by the President on same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : d

- *Former Jammu & Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has recently been appointed the next Comptroller Auditor General.*
- *He will succeed Rajiv Mehrishi.*

Comptroller and Auditor General

- The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
- His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
- He is one of the bulwarks of the democratic system of government in India; the others being the Supreme Court, the Election Commission and the Union Public Service Commission.
- The CAG is appointed by the president of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- He can resign any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to the president.
- He can also be removed by the president on same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- In other words, he can be removed by the president on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

2) Which of the following statements is *not correct* with respect to *Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)*?

- a. It aims to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area up to 2 kW/ha
- b. The Mission has 8 components, out of which, 2 are centrally sponsored schemes

- c. The Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- d. None of the above

Answer : b

Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

- The scheme will be implemented in all the states, to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area up to 2 kW/ha.

Mission Objectives

1. Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low
2. Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership
3. Creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments
4. Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities
5. Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

Components of SMAM

1. Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration - **Central Sector Scheme**
 2. Demonstration, Training and Distribution of Post Harvest Technology and Management (PHTM) - **Central Sector Scheme**
 3. Financial Assistance for Procurement of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
 4. Establish Farm Machinery Banks for Custom Hiring - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
 5. Establish Hi-Tech, High Productive Equipment Hub for Custom Hiring - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
 6. Promotion of Farm Mechanization in Selected Villages - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
 7. Financial Assistance for Promotion of Mechanized Operations/hectare Carried out Through Custom Hiring Centres - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
 8. Promotion of Farm Machinery and Equipment in North-Eastern Region - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
- SMAM will have Central Sector Schemes under component No.1 & 2.
 - Centrally Sponsored Schemes are covered under component No. 3 to 8 in which Government of India contributes 60% and states contribute 40%.
 - Funding pattern for states of Northern-Eastern and Himalayan region, the share of Govt. of India & State Govt. is 90:10.

3) Depsang Plains, often seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?

- a. Assam
- b. Sikkim
- c. Ladakh
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : c

- India and China had recently held talks at the Major General-level to discuss issues concerning the strategic Depsang Plains at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO).
- Despite the strategic importance of Depsang Plains, the series of military talks held so far have

focussed on the standoff areas at Galwan, Gogra Hotsprings and Finger area of Pangong Tso.

- The Depsang Plains along with Pangong Tso are the two major areas of concern in the ongoing standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern **Ladakh**.

Depsang Plains

- The Depsang Plains are located at the Line of Actual Control that separates the Indian and Chinese controlled regions.
- The Chinese Army occupied most of the plains in 1962.
- India controls the western portion of the plains as part of Ladakh, whereas the eastern portion is part of the Aksai Chin region, which is controlled by China and claimed by India.
- In April 2013, the Chinese PLA troops set up a temporary camp in the Depsang Bulge, but later withdrew as a result of a diplomatic agreement with India.
- Depsang is one of the few places on the LAC where tank manoeuvres are possible.

4) *FARMS-app* is an initiative of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare for which of the following purposes?

- a. It helps to improve life of farmers' by giving a complete package of activities to maximize farm returns and suggesting suitable farming system based approaches
- b. It facilitates agricultural mechanization by encouraging small and marginal farmers to take machines on rental basis for agriculture practices
- c. It facilitates farmers to get a minimum pension of Rs 3000/month on attaining the age of 60 through Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan yojana
- d. None of the above

Answer : b

- The agriculture ministry has developed a Multi lingual Mobile App, '**CHC- Farm Machinery**' which connects farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centres situated in their locality.
- This app is facilitating agricultural mechanization in the country by encouraging small and marginal farmers to take machines on rental basis for agriculture practices without them having to purchase such high priced machines.
- **The app has been further modified and been given the acronym of FARMS-app (Farm Machinery Solutions-app).**
- The revised version is more user friendly and the scope of the app has also been enhanced.

5) *Coronal Multi-channel Polarimeter (CoMP)* is an instrument very much useful for the measurement of the global magnetic field of the Sun's corona for the very first time. CoMP is located in?

- a. Hawaii, USA
- b. Guizhou, China
- c. Sierra Negra, Mexico
- d. Buenos Aires, Argentina

Answer : a

- *An international team of solar physicists led by those from Peking University, China, and National Center for Atmospheric Research of the United States has recently measured the **global magnetic field of the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, for the very first time.***
- This research has been published in the journal *Science*.
- The team used the improved measurements of the **Coronal Multi-channel Polarimeter (CoMP)** and advanced data analysis to measure the coronal magnetic field.
- CoMP is an instrument operated by High Altitude Observatory, of the U.S.
- It is located at Mauna Loa Solar Observatory, near the summit of that volcano on the big island of **Hawaii**.

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Petroleum And Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)*

1. It is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. It provides advisory role in matters of safety to the government and semi-government bodies like Ports and Railways.

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

- Post Beirut blast, norms to be tightened for handling of explosive grade chemicals.
- As per *PESO* rules there are certain basic security provisions like boundary-wall of the premises, locking of godowns, guards, escorting in sensitive areas, etc. for ammonium nitrate.
- *PESO is a statutory authority under the Department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP), Ministry of commerce & industry.*
- It provides advisory role in matters of safety to the government and semi-government bodies like Ports and Railways.
- It is entrusted with ensuring safety and security of public and property from fire and explosion.

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Snow Leopard*

1. It is native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of the Threatened Species.

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 : c

- *Uttarakhand* to develop *India's first Snow Leopard conservation centre.*
- Snow Leopard is native to mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.
- It is listed as *Vulnerable* in the IUCN Red List.

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Black Boxes in Aeroplane*

1. It is a black coloured Flight Data Recorder (FDR) which records the activities of the airplane during its flight.
2. It is usually placed in the cockpit of an aeroplane.

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 : d

- The investigators have found the *Black Boxes* from the Air India Express which crashed at Kozhikode.
- The black boxes, which are actually *two Orange metallic boxes* which records activities of the

airplane during its flight.

- It has two boxes, the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR).
- Usually they are *placed in the tail-end of the aircraft*, where the structure of the aircraft protects them best in case of a crash.
- The black box has a locator beacon which is activated in contact with water.

9) *Kavkaz 2020* sometimes seen in news is?

- a. A Supersonic Commercial Jet
- b. A South Korea's Counter-Insurgency military exercise
- c. A multilateral strategic command-post exercise of Russia
- d. None of the above

Answer : c

- *India to participate in Kavkaz 2020 exercise in Russia.*
- The invitation has been extended to at least 18 countries including China, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.
- It is a *multilateral strategic command-post exercise*, that is about *to be held in Russia*.

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Confucius Institutes*

1. They are non-profit public institutions which aim to promote Chinese and Indian languages and their culture.
2. They sponsor educational exchanges and hold public events and lectures to students.

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



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Answer : b

- Recently, India's Ministry of Education sent a letter to several institutions seeking information about the activities of their *Confucius Institutes (CIs)* and Chinese language training centres.
- *Confucius Institutes are non-profit public institutions which aim to promote Chinese languages and culture in foreign countries.*
- In addition they have become a platform for cultural exchanges between China and the world.
- They *sponsor educational exchanges and hold public events and lectures to students.*
- It is a key pillar of Beijing's global soft power effort.