



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS PRELIMS 2020

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500 MCQs**

DAY: 50

**QUESTIONS
with ANSWER HINTS**

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QUESTIONS

1. Aarhus Convention, seen in the news recently, relates to:

- (a) Rights of the public with regard to the environment.
- (b) Obligations of parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning.
- (c) Reducing long-range transboundary air pollution.
- (d) Preventing industrial accidents that can have trans-boundary effects.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Petroleum Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) is/are correct?

- 1. PESO is an organization mandated to administer the Explosives Act, 2884, and Petroleum Act, 1934.
- 2. It comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- 3. It also ensures competitive markets for gas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

3. With reference to African Swine Fever (ASF), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a severe viral disease that affects both wild and domestic pigs.
- 2. It has a case fatality rate (CFR) of about 100 percent.
- 3. Unlike the H1N1 virus that causes swine flu, the ASF virus doesn't infect humans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0:

- 1. It is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- 2. It aims to bring a transformative change in the rural development process by leveraging knowledge institutions.
- 3. Only the public higher education institutions can participate in this.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

5. Consider the following statements:

- 1. National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) focuses on both in-situ and ex-situ conservation of local medicinal plants.
- 2. National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) is the nodal agency for the management of plant genetic resources of all agri-horticultural crops.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

6. In the context of custodial violence consider the following statements:

- 1. The term 'custodial violence' has not been defined under any law.
- 2. Protection from torture is a fundamental right under A-22 (1) of the constitution.
- 3. India has neither signed nor ratified the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

7. The Environment performance Index is developed by-

- (a) Yale University and Columbia University
- (b) Columbia University and Stanford University
- (c) Yale University and Harvard University
- (d) None of these

8. With reference to the recently launched 'Integrated Flood Warning System' (IFLOW), consider the following statements:

1. It is a monitoring and flood warning system that will be able to relay alerts of possible flood-prone areas anywhere between six to 72 hours in advance.
2. Mumbai is the only city in the country to get this system.

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Sindhu Darshan Festival:

1. It is a celebration of River Sindhu in Leh-Ladakh region.
2. The motive of festival is to endorse the river as an icon of communal harmony in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Regarding the Indian Army's new concept of agile Integrated Battle Groups (IBG), consider the following statements:

1. IBG is a mix of infantry, artillery, air defense, tanks, and logistics units.
2. They are brigade-sized agile self-sufficient combat formations.
3. 10 IBGs will be headed by a major general.

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

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

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ANSWER HINTS

Answer Key

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (d) | (c) | (a) | (c) |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (a) | (b) |

1. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- Option (a) is correct

Supplementary notes:

Aarhus Convention

- The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was adopted on 25 June 1998 in the Danish city of Aarhus at the Fourth Ministerial Conference as part of the "Environment for Europe" process. It entered into force on 30 October 2001.
- The Aarhus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at the national, regional, or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective. The Convention provides for:
 - The right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities ("access to environmental information")
 - The right to participate in environmental decision-making
 - The right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general ("access to justice")

2. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 3 is incorrect:** Petroleum and

Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) ensures competitive markets for gas.

Supplementary notes:

Petroleum Explosives Safety Organization

- Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) has taken various measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of oxygen to hospitals and other healthcare facilities during the nation-wide lockdown.
- The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) was formerly the Department of Explosives with its Head Office at Nagpur.
- This Organization comes under, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India.
- Its mandate is to administer the responsibilities delegated under the Explosives Act 1884 and Petroleum Act 1934 and the rules made thereunder** related to manufacturing, import, export, transport, possession, sale, and use of Explosives, petroleum products, and compressed gases.

3. Correct Option: (d)

- All statements are correct**

Supplementary notes:

African Swine Fever

- Over 2,900 pigs have died in the Assam due to **African Swine Fever (ASF)**, which **does not affect humans but can be catastrophic for pigs**. This is the first time that an ASF outbreak has been reported in India.
- ASF is a severe viral disease that affects wild and domestic pigs typically resulting in an acute hemorrhagic fever.** It is caused by a

large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family.

- **The disease has a case fatality rate (CFR) of about 100 percent.**
- Its routes of transmission include direct contact with an infected or wild pig (alive or dead), indirect contact through the ingestion of contaminated material such as food waste, feed or garbage, or through biological vectors such as ticks.
- The disease is characterized by the sudden deaths of pigs. Other manifestations of the disease include high fever, depression, anorexia, loss of appetite, hemorrhages in the skin, vomiting, and diarrhea among others.
- It is important that the determination of ASF is made through laboratory testing and it is differentiated from Classical Swine Fever (CSF), whose signs may be similar to ASF, but is caused by a different virus for which a vaccine exists.
- It is different from swine flu which is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza in pig populations. While the swine flu causing virus leads to a high number of infections in pig herds, the disease is not as fatal and causes few deaths. Specific swine influenza vaccines are available for pigs. **Further, while swine flu viruses don't typically infect humans, cases have been reported in the past, most commonly when humans have contact with infected pigs.**

4. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: It is the flagship program of Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Both public and private higher educational institutions can participate.

Supplementary notes:

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

- **Under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) 2.0-a flagship program of MHRD, GOI 688 institutions are selected on a Challenge Mode (426 technical and 262 non-technical) which are reputed Higher Educational Institutes (both public and private) of the country, which have adopted total no. of 3555 villages for their development through UBA.**
- IIT Delhi has been designated to function as the National Coordinating Institute for this

program.

- **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India.**
- The Mission of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.
- It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors in responding to the development needs of rural India.
- In order to move towards the holistic development of the villages, there are two major domains, i.e. human development and material (economic) development, which need to be developed in an integrated way.

5. Correct Option: (c)

- Both statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

National Gene Bank

- Recently, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Ministry of AYUSH and the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conserve the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs) in the National Gene Bank (NGB).

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)

- To promote the medicinal plants' sector, the Government of India set up the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) on 24th November 2000 under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- NMPB focuses on in-situ & ex-situ conservation and augmenting local medicinal plants and aromatic species of medical significance.
- The NMPB also promotes research & development, capacity building through training, raising awareness through promotional activities like creation of Home/School herbal gardens.

National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)



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- The ICAR-NBPGR is the nodal agency responsible for the collection, conservation, and management of plant genetic resources of all agri-horticultural crops.

6. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 2 is incorrect: Protection from torture is a fundamental right enshrined under Article 21 (Right of Life) of the Indian constitution where rights such as Right to free legal aid, Right against inhuman treatment, Right against custodial harassment, Right of a prisoner to have necessities of life have been mentioned.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: India has signed the UNCAT in 1997 but has not ratified it.

Supplementary notes:

Custodial Violence

- The recent death of a father-son duo from Tamil Nadu, allegedly due to custodial violence, has sparked anger across India.
- Custodial violence primarily refers to violence in police custody and judicial custody. Besides death, rape and torture are two other forms of custodial violence. However, the term custodial violence has not been defined under any law.
- The right to counsel is also a fundamental right under Article 22(1) of the Indian constitution.
- India does not have anti-torture legislation and is yet to criminalize custodial violence.
- Although India has signed the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in 1997 its ratification remains. UNCAT aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment around the world.

7. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- Option (a) is correct: The Environment performance Index is developed by the Center for Environmental Law & Policy at Yale University and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

Supplementary notes:

- The Environment Performance Index ranks 180 countries on 32 performance indicators across 11 categories covering environmental health and ecosystem vitality.

- The global index considered 32 indicators of environmental performance, giving a snapshot of the 10-year trends in environmental performance at the national and global levels.
- In the 12th edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020), India secured 168 ranks.
- The country scored 27.6 out of 100 in the 2020 index.
- India's rank was 177 (with a score of 30.57 out of 100) in 2018.
- India scored below the regional average score on all five key parameters on environmental health, including air quality, sanitation and drinking water, heavy metals, and waste management.

8. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mumbai is the second city in the country after Chennai to get IFLOWS.

Supplementary notes:

- IFLOWS is a monitoring and flood warning system that will be able to relay alerts of possible flood-prone areas anywhere between six to 72 hours in advance.
- It is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).
- The system can provide all information regarding possible flood-prone areas, likely height the floodwater could attain, location-wise problem areas across all 24 wards, and calculate the vulnerability and risk of elements exposed to flood.
- Mumbai is only the second city in the country after Chennai to get this system.
- Similar systems are being developed for Bengaluru and Kolkata.

9. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

- The Sindhu Darshan festival is celebrated along the banks of the river Sindhu in the Leh Ladakh region, every year on the full moon day. Celebrated over three days, this is a celebration of River Sindhu, the former Indus Valley Civilisation, with the motive of endorsing

the river as an icon of communal harmony in India. The Bollywood movie "Dil Se" was shot at the first Sindhu Darshan Festival.

10. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Each IBG will be headed by a major general.

Explanatory notes:

- An IBG is a mix of infantry, artillery, air defence, tanks and logistics units, as part of bringing a change in warfighting capability.
- The IBGs are brigade-sized agile self-sufficient combat formations which, can swiftly launch strikes against the adversary.
- Each IBG would be tailor made based on Threat, Terrain, and Task, and resources will be allotted based on the three Ts.

- They will be able to mobilise within 12-48 hours based on the location.
- The Army has extensively "test bedded" the IBGs to fine-tune the concept.
- They are to replace the current Cold Start Doctrine, which called for defensive corps to carry out shallow cross-border thrusts within 72 hours for limited objectives such as the capture of territory. Gen.
- The IBGs are to perform both offensive roles, involving cross-border operations, and defensive roles to withstand an enemy attack.
- Each IBG will be headed by a major general. The integrated units for the border will be all-encompassing, with artillery, armoured, combat engineers, and signal units.

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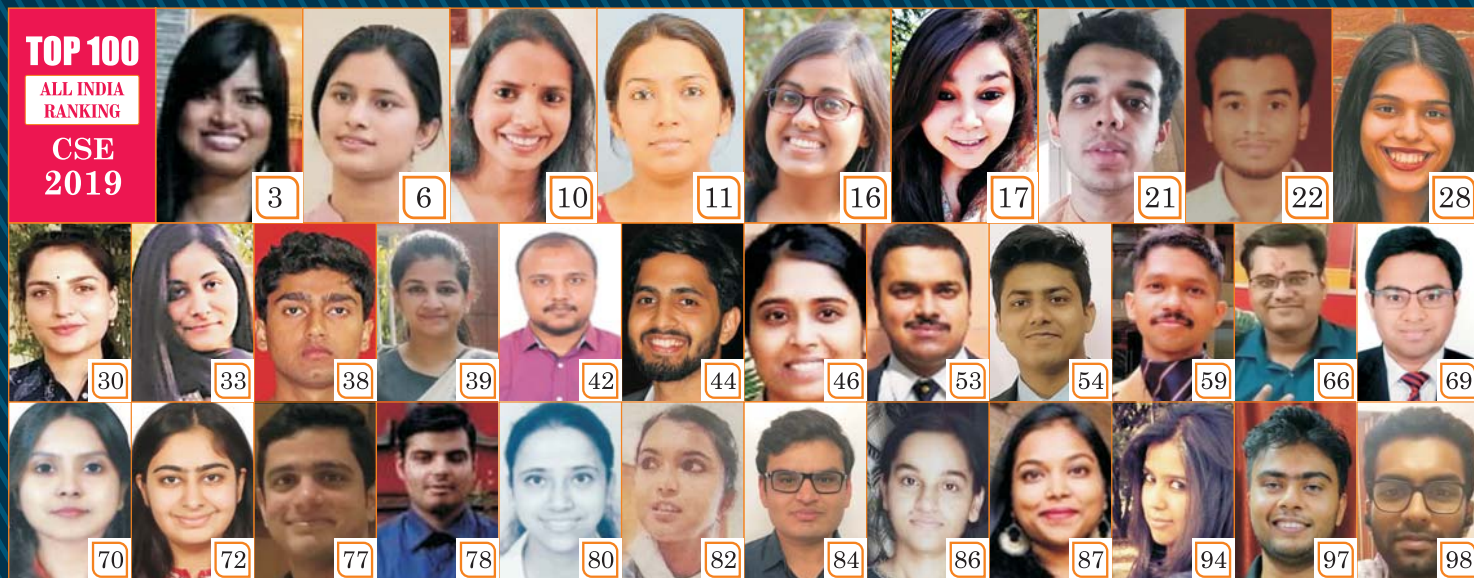
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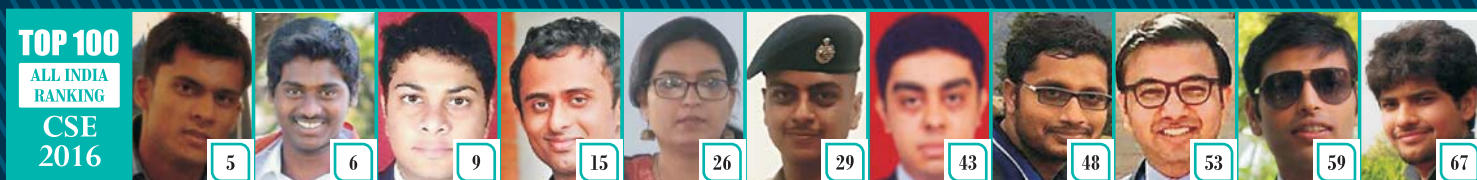
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