



Fact Sheet Prep Series Part - 12

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATION

CURRENT AFFAIRS

(PART - II)

1. Ans. d

Extra Information - The adverse impact of demonetisation on GDP growth will be transitional. It will affect growth rate by 0.25-0.5%, but to have long-term benefits. It may affect supplies of certain agricultural products like sugar, milk, potatoes and onions. Remonetisation will ensure that the cash squeeze is eliminated by April 2017. Universal Basic Income (UBI): Advocates the concept of UBI as an alternative to the various social welfare schemes in an effort to reduce poverty. It will be alternative to plethora of state subsidies for poverty alleviation. UBI would cost between 4 and 5% of GDP.

2. Ans. d

Extra Information - India's first dedicated space observatory, ASTROSAT has captured the rare phenomenon of a small six-billion-year-old vampire star preying on a bigger celestial body. The vampire star phenomenon is observed when smaller star sucks material (mass and energy) out of the bigger companion star, causing its eventual death. It is also called a blue straggler as small star becomes bigger, hotter and bluer, giving it the appearance of being young, while the ageing companion burns out and collapses to a stellar remnant.

3. Ans. a

Explan - Seven new countries Lithuania, Gabon, Hungary, Indonesia, Malta, Mauritius and Russia – have signed Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement for Country-by-Country Reporting (CbC MCAA). With this, the total number of signatories has increased to 57 including India (signed in May 2015). The agreement will help to ensure that tax administrations obtain better understanding of how MNEs structure their operations and also ensure that the confidentiality and appropriate use of such information is safeguarded.

4. Ans. d

5. Ans. d

Extra Information - It aims to put social and political pressure on those countries which have, up until now, failed to take ambitious action on climate protection. The index evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 58 countries on the basis of standardised criteria. These 58 countries together are responsible for about 90% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions.

6. Ans. a

Explan - India is founder member of the scheme. In India, the scheme is administered through the Department of Commerce under the aegis of the Union Commerce and Industry Ministry. Conflict diamonds or blood diamonds are the rough diamonds used by rebel movements in the third world countries especially in Africa to finance (civil) wars with an aim to topple legitimate governments. The KPCS completely bans import and export of rough diamonds without certification.

7. Ans. d

Extra Information - It uses ICT and space technology to further confirm correct selection of beneficiaries and progress of work. Under it, financial assistance will be provided for construction of dwelling units and upgradations of existing unserviceable kutcha houses. The entire payments will be done through transparent IT/DBT mode with Aadhaar linked Bank accounts with consent, to ensure complete transparency and accountability. The unit cost for houses has been increased with convergence of a minimum support of nearly Rs.1.5 lakh to Rs.1.6 lakh to a household is available. If the beneficiary desires, then there is also a provision of Bank loan upto Rs.70,000. PMAY-G will be



also serve as a major step forward in bringing together Skill India, Make In India, IT/DBT Aadhaar platform, Digital India and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

8. Ans. c

Extra Information - The garden has been set up by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) founded by eminent agriculture scientist Prof M S Swaminathan, father of Indian Green Revolution. It will have over 1,600 species belonging to 550 genera and 117 families of Halophytes plants. Initially it will comprise halophytes occurring along the coasts of India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Halophytes are salt-tolerant or salt-resistant plants. They can thrive and complete their life cycles in soils or waters containing high salt concentrations. They constitute two per cent of terrestrial plant species.

9. Ans. d

Related Information - The adaptation of Marrakech Action Proclamation sends out a strong signal to the world on climate action and shift towards a new era of implementation and action on climate and sustainable development. India has welcomed Marrakesh Action Proclamation as most of its demands including the issue of providing finance to developing nations to tackle climate change have been incorporated.

10. Ans. b

Explan - NALSA provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society. NALSA also identifies specific categories of marginalised and excluded groups and formulates various schemes for implementation of legal service programmes. It provides services of free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for the poor and marginalised people who cannot afford the services of a lawyer in any court or tribunal. It works in close coordination with various State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities and other agencies.

11. Ans. c

Explan - An APA can be entered into for a maximum of 5 years at a time. It seeks to introduce certainty in tax law by reducing compliance costs and make tax regime investment friendly. It boosts to economy and ease of doing business. Provide alternative path to the investors with rollback provision to reduce litigation Strengthen Government's mission of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime.

12. Ans. d

Explan - Abhay: It is an advanced hull mounted active-cum-passive integrated sonar system. It has been designed and developed for the smaller platforms such as shallow water crafts and coastal surveillance/patrol

vessels.

Humsa UG: It has been designed for upgrading the existing Humsa sonar system for intensifying the command over the high seas.

AIDSS: It stands for Advanced Indigenous Distress sonar system for submarines. It is distress sonar is an Emergency Sound Signaling Device. It is used to indicate that a submarine is in distress and enable quick rescue and salvage.

NACS: It stands for Near-field Acoustic Characterisation System. It determines the in-situ performance of SONAR systems used to find the frequency-dependent 3-D transmission and reception characteristics of SONAR.

13. Ans. d

Extra Information - Under WTO norms, once a country gets MES status, exports from it are to be accepted at the production costs and selling price as the benchmark. Prior to this status, country is considered as a Non Market Economy (NME). Under the WTO norms, the importing countries are allowed to use alternative methodologies for the determination of normal values for the exports from NME country. It often leads to imposition of higher anti-dumping duties by importing countries to protect its domestic market.

14. Ans. d

15. Ans. b

Explan - It is under the direct command of Prime Minister and reports on an administrative basis to the Cabinet Secretary of India, who reports to the Prime Minister. Its primary function is to gather foreign intelligence, engaging in counter-terrorism, advising Indian policymakers, promoting counter-proliferation and advancing India's foreign strategic interests. Its Motto is: (English: The law protects when it is protected.)

16. Ans. a

Explan - The next biennial APMCHUD Conference will be hosted by Iran in 2018. New Delhi Declaration strongly advocated planning for urban and adjoining rural areas in an integrated manner instead of looking at them as independent entities called for thorough review of existing policies and formulation of new policies to promote New Urban Agenda adopted at UN Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

17. Ans. d

Extra Information - Besides, declarant must make mandatory deposit of 25% of undisclosed income in the zero-interest Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme, 2016 with lock-in period of 4 years. The income declared under it will not be included in the total income of the declarant under the Income-Tax (IT) Act



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for any assessment year. Besides, declarations made under it will be kept confidential and shall not be admissible as evidence under any Act (ex. Wealth-tax Act, Central Excise Act, Companies Act etc.).

18. Ans. c

Related Information - All 8 LCU vessels have almost 90% of their components indigenous. They are deployed for maritime security of Lakshadweep Islands in Arabian Sea and Andaman and Nicobar Islands in Bay of Bengal.

19. Ans. d

20. Ans. a

Explain - The approach incorporates the interest of all strata of society in the country. India in the 22 COP to UNFCCC had participated constructively to ensure that actions are based on the principles of equity and climate justice. India in along with other developing countries was able to ensure that climate actions are based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and climate justice.

21. Ans. a

Explain - This MoU signed in July 2016 will enable ISRO to receive USGS's Landsat-7 and 8 in India. It will also allow USGS to receive ISRO's Resourcesat-2 (AWiFS and LISS III) data of US region.

22. Ans. d

Related Information - It has defined disability based on an evolving and dynamic concept to include 21 conditions as disable. Expands the list of disabilities from seven to 21, it also defines Persons with benchmark disabilities as those with at least 40% of any of the above specified disabilities. Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the first time. Acid Attack Victims have been included. Persons with disabilities (PwDs) shall have the right to equality. They shall not be discriminated against on grounds of their disability.

23. Ans. a

Explain - It is Microsoft's seventh Cyber security Centre in the world. Microsoft's other six cyber security centres are located in Singapore, Tokyo, Beijing, Seoul, Berlin and Washington DC. It will help to build a trusted and secure computing environment, a critical enabler for India's digital transformation.

24. Ans. d

25. Ans. c

Explain - The RM 50-03 watch weighs just 40gms. The ultralight watch was made using a unique grapheme composite known as Graph TPT incorporating graphene to manufacture a strong but lightweight new case to

house the delicate watch mechanism. Graphene is the world's first 2D material at just one-atom thick. It was first isolated in 2004 and has the potential to revolutionise a large number of applications including high-performance composites for the aerospace and automotive industries, as well as flexible, bendable tablets, mobile phones and next-generation energy storage.

26. Ans. c

Explain - Based on the air quality the grades have been classified as Emergency, Severe, Very Poor and Moderate poor. It will be enforced by Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA). Under this plan emergency measures will be automatically enforced in NCR if level of PM_{2.5} breaches 300 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and PM₁₀ levels stay above 500 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for two consecutive days. The plan recommends measures like odd-even car rationing scheme and ban on construction activities to combat air pollution.

27. Ans. d

Extra Information - Top 5 Countries: Switzerland (1st), Singapore (2nd), United Kingdom (3rd), United States (4th), Sweden (5th). BRICS Countries: India's ranking is worst among the five BRICS countries China (54th), Russia (56th), South Africa (67th) and Brazil (81st). It noted that BRICS countries are not getting stronger and both China and India have slipped from their year-ago rankings. In this edition of the list, India slipped by 3 places compared to 89th rank in 2016 GTI. India stood on a relatively solid in pool of global knowledge skills compared with other emerging markets. But in terms of retaining and attracting talent indices, India ranked lowly 104th and 114th, respectively.

28. Ans. a

Explain - Khanderi is also name for Tiger Shark. The state-of-the-art features include superior stealth and ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapon. The attack from it can be launched with torpedoes, as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles, whilst on surface or underwater. The stealth features gives it invulnerability, unmatched by many submarines.

29. Ans. d

Extra Information - It can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds with 1.2 tonnes of high explosives. It has capability to incorporate several types of warheads, makes it deadly for the enemy as it can even destroy solid structures and bunkers. The quick reaction time and high rate of fire of the system gives an edge to the Army during a low amount conflict situation. It already has been inducted into Indian Army.



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30. Ans. d

Explan - It will work for 22 hours in a day working from sunrise to sunset i.e. starting when Japan exchanges begin and close when US markets end. It will have 250 trading members including commodity and overseas brokers. India INX is one of the most advanced technology platforms with turnaround time of 4 seconds. It will facilitate international investors and NRIs to trade from anywhere in the world. It will provide benefits in terms of waiver of security transaction tax, commodity transaction tax, dividend distribution tax, long term capital gain tax and income tax.

31. Ans. a

Explan - It will result in energy savings and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative is part of the Government's efforts to spread the message of energy efficiency in the country. It is presently running in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. LED bulbs have a very long life, almost 50 times more than ordinary bulbs, and 8-10 times that of CFLs, and provide both energy and cost savings in the medium term.

32. Ans. d

Related Information - Nine Nobel laureates are attending it and interact with students of Indian Universities. The Nobel Prize Series 2017 will feature a five week long Science Exhibition. One of the 9 Nobel laureates include India-born scientist Dr. Venkatraman Ramakrishnan. He won 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on ribosome structure along with Thomas A Steitz and Ada Yonath. The other eight Nobel laureates are H C Harmut Michel (1988, Chemistry) Harold Varmus (1989, Medicine), Richard J Roberts (1993, Medicine), David J Gross (2004, Physics), Serge Haroche (2012, Physics), Randy Schekman (2013, Medicine), W E Moerner (2014, Chemistry) and Ada Yonath (2009, Chemistry).

33. Ans. c

Explan - The 2017 theme is "Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons". This day marks the epoch-making discovery of Raman Effect by Indian physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (CV Raman) on February 28, 1928. This day is celebrated as science festival in the entire nation by organising science exhibitions, seminars, workshops, symposiums and many other activities. The National Science Day was instituted by the Union Government in 1986 based on the demand of National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) forwarded. The first National Science Day was celebrated on 28 February 1987.

34. Ans. d

35. Ans. c

Explan - NCST is constitutional body set up under Article 338A added through Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003. The First commission was constituted on 2004 with Kunwar Singh as the chairperson. Composition: Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three full-time Members (including one lady Member). All of them have tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge.

36. Ans. d

Extra Information - It is the first phase of a planned 2,500-km East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC). The loan comprises \$500 million multi-tranche facility to build key infrastructure in the four main centres along the corridor - Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Amaravati, and Srikalahasti (Yerpedu) in Andhra Pradesh. ECEC also aligns with port-led industrialisation under Sagarmala initiative and Act East Policy by linking domestic companies with vibrant global production networks of East and Southeast Asia.

37. Ans. c

Extra Information - Sylhet is an ancient city and a historically vibrant city. It part of the former Assam province of India before Independence. It was focal point for 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War between India and Pakistan. It is a also hub of commercial activities.

38. Ans. b

Explan - Under the new Metro policy, TOD has been made mandatory and also an essential reform under the green urban mobility scheme and given priority for receiving central assistance. The Union Government already has notified the TOD policy in early 2015, however, there was no clarity on the process for management of open spaces, various sanctions, parking space, water requirement, etc. Under it, States/UTs are required to incorporate TOD in their master plans and development plans of cities besides identifying 'influence zones' from transit corridors for tapping revenue streams.

39. Ans. b

Explan - Venezuela and Libya were suspended from voting in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in the 2016-17 sessions for not paying dues to the world body. This is for the second time in two years both countries have been suspended. Besides them other four other countries Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Vanuatu and Cabo Verde also may lose their voting rights for not paying their in past two years .

40. Ans. a

Explan - The TFA in Goods was adopted by the WTO Members in 2014. It aims to streamline, simplify,



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standardise and ease customs procedures and norms. It will help to cut trade costs around the world. It was outcome of WTO's 9th Bali (Indonesia) ministerial package of 2013. The agreement includes provisions for Lowering import tariffs and agricultural subsidies: It will make it easier for developing countries to trade with the developed world in global markets.

41. Ans. a

Explan - All the States/UTs are eligible for benefits under the scheme. Under this scheme, smaller parks will also be considered in Himalayan and other hilly States where contiguous land may be difficult to acquire in view of the difficult terrain. The Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects will be set up by 2019-20 with Union Government's financial support of 8100 crore rupees. These plants after becoming operational will generate total 64 billion units of clean electricity per year.

42. Ans. b

Explan - The project is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha district of eastern Nepal. The project is based on Run-of-River scheme that envisages about 70 metre high concrete gravity dam and 74 Km Head Race Tunnel (HRT). It also has underground Power House containing four generating units of 225 MW each on Left Bank. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited had bagged the project through International Competitive Bidding. It had signed MoU with Nepal Government for the project in March 2008.

43. Ans. d

44. Ans. c

Extra Information - The volcanic island is part of Andaman Islands. Its northern part is barren and is uninhabited. It is also devoid of vegetation.

45. Ans. b

Explan - It was tested for full 10 minutes at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Complex (ILPC) at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. The C25 stage is the most powerful upper stage so far developed by ISRO. The development of C25 cryogenic stage will provide ISRO capability to launch 4 ton class satellites in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), an altitude where satellites revolve in sync with Earth's rotation.

46. Ans. d

Related Information - NATGRID will become a secure

centralised database to stream sensitive information from 21 sets of data sources such as banks, credit cards, visa, immigration and train and air travel details, as well as from various intelligence agencies. The database would be accessible to authorised persons from 11 agencies on a case-to-case basis, and only for professional investigations into suspected cases of terrorism.

47. Ans. c

Explan - It intends on gradually increasing public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP. Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025. Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019. Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025. Achieve the global 2020 HIV target (also termed 90:90:90; 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression). To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025.

48. Ans. a

Explan - Maharashtra is the largest banana producing state in the country with productivity of 65.7 tonnes per hectare. Overall the banana production in India stands at 142 lakh tonnes per year. The Union government has established banana research centre at Goraul in Vaishali district of Bihar. It will function under Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU) at Pusa in Samastipur. It will focus on the reasons for less production of banana and will work on expansion of its cultivation, plant protection, suitable utilisation of various parts of it such as pulp and fibre, marketing, processing, and value addition etc.

49. Ans. a

Explan - The plant, which is claimed to be the largest petrochemicals plant in Asia with occupation over 1700 metres of land. It is the single largest petrochemical plant in India and at full capacity will annually produce 14 lakh metric tonnes of polymers.

50. Ans. b

Explan - The 2017 theme of IWD is "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030". Its campaign theme is "#Be Bold For Change".



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