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# VIDHIGYA

VMTC2266

## Current Affairs with GK

### Passage -1

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance holds the unique distinction of being the first modern treaty between nations aimed at conserving natural resources. The signing of the Convention on Wetlands took place in [1] at the small Iranian town of Ramsar. Since then, the Convention on Wetlands has been known as the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention's broad aims are to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve, through wise use and management, those that remain. This requires international cooperation, policy making, capacity building and technology transfer. Under the Ramsar Convention, a wide variety of natural and human-made habitat types ranging from rivers to coral reefs can be classified as wetlands. Wetlands include swamps, marshes, billabongs, lakes, salt marshes, mudflats, mangroves, coral reefs, fens, peat bogs, or bodies of water - whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary. Water within these areas can be static or flowing; fresh, brackish or saline; and can include inland rivers and coastal or marine water to a depth of six metres at low tide. There are even underground wetlands. The Ramsar Convention encourages the designation of sites containing representative, rare or unique wetlands, or wetlands that are important for conserving biological diversity. Once designated, these sites are added to the Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance and become known as Ramsar sites. In designating a wetland as a Ramsar site, countries agree to establish and oversee a management framework aimed at conserving the wetland and ensuring its wise use. Wise use under the Convention is broadly defined as maintaining the ecological character of a wetland. Wetlands can be included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance because of their ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological or hydrological importance.

1. Which of the following will be replaced by [1]?

- (a) 1971 (b) 1975 (c) 1979 (d) 1981

2. Which of the following States has the greatest number of Ramsar Wetlands sites in India?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Gujarat (d) Jammu and Kashmir

3. When is the World Wetlands Day celebrated?

- (a) 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> February (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> March (d) 4<sup>th</sup> April

4. Consider the following statements

**Statement 1:** Montreux Record should be employed to identify priority sites for positive international and national attention towards conservation.

**Statement 2:** Sites may be removed from and added to the Record without consent of Contracting Parties in which they lie.

**Statement 3:** Three Indian Ramsar Sites are in Montreux Records

**Statement 4:** India has total 49 Ramsar Sites which is the highest among the South Asian countries.

Which of the abovementioned statements are correct?

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

5. Which of the following has been declared India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2022?

- (a) The Aravalli Biodiversity Park (b) Nilgiri Biodiversity Reserve  
(c) Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve (d) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

### Passage -2

Ahead of assembly elections in five states, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has increased the expenditure limits for candidates contesting in Lok Sabha and Legislative assembly polls. The election commission has hiked the poll expenditure limit up to \_\_lakh for the Lok Sabha elections. Earlier, a candidate was allowed to spend up to \_\_lakh. For the state assembly elections, the expenditure limit has been enhanced to ₹ 40 lakh from ₹ 28 lakh.



According to the Election Commission of India, the revision in the expenditure has come due to the rise in the cost inflation index and the size of the electorate. The latest expenditure revision for the Lok Sabha elections for bigger states has been raised by 35%--from ₹ 70 lakh to ₹ 95 lakh. On the other hand, for small states, the revised expenditure limit increased by 38%--from ₹ 54 lakh to ₹ 65 lakh.

In the case of state assembly elections, the revised poll expenditure limit for candidates will now be ₹ 40 lakh for the large states, up 42% from ₹ 28 lakh. Whereas, candidates in smaller states will be able to spend a maximum of Rs. 28 lakh--40% higher than the previous limit of ₹ 20 lakh.

Source: Livemint 07 Jan 2022

<https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/election-commission-increases-expenditure-limit-for-candidates-contesting-lok-sabha-state-assembly-polls-11641521016673.html>

6. ECI administers elections to which of the following:

- i) Election to the office of President
- ii) State legislative assembly
- iii) Rajya Sabha
- iv) Panchayati Raj Institutions
- v) Urban Local Bodies

Consider the following options:

- (a) i, ii, iii only                      (b) ii, iii, iv only                      (c) iii, iv, v only                      (d) i, iii and v only

7. Which of the following statement is/are true?

- (a) Every candidate shall keep a separate and correct account of all expenditures incurred.
- (b) All candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the ECI within 10 days of the completion of elections.
- (c) Irregular account maintenance leads to permanent disqualification of the candidate.
- (d) There is also a cap on a political party's expenditure.

8. When was the last major revision in the election expenditure limit for candidates carried out?

- (a) 2019                      (b) 2017                      (c) 2014                      (d) 2015

9. Who among the following headed the Committee on state funding of elections?

- (a) Lodha Committee                      (b) Justice Verma Committee                      (c) Indrajit Gupta Committee                      (d) Malimath Committee

10. Election Commission of India is a:

- (a) Constitutional Body                      (b) Statutory Body                      (c) Judicial Body                      (d) None of the above

### Passage -3

The Taliban regime in Afghanistan has now stopped issuing driving licences to women and other provinces of the land-locked country, news agency ANI quoted Afghan media reports. Before the Taliban took over Afghanistan, women could be seen driving in some of the major cities including Kabul. But now the regime has imposed this restriction.

The human rights situation in Afghanistan has worsened since the Taliban's return to power last year. From banning girls from schools above sixth grade to not allowing women to take trips alone, there have been reports of women rights being snatched away by the new government.

On March 23, the Taliban regime shut schools for girls for secondary classes across the country, just hours after they had reopened for the first time since the new regime took over. In 2021, just a month after takeover, the Taliban had allowed some schools for girls up to class 6 to reopen. The move evoked stern response from the United Nations. The UN Security Council had said, "Security Council members reaffirmed the right to education for all Afghans, including girls, and called on the Taliban to respect the right to education and adhere to their commitments to reopen schools for all female students without further delay." The Taliban's Ministry of Education (MoE) said the Islamic Emirate is close to a solution for reopening the school for girls.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/taliban-stops-issuing-driving-licences-to-women-in-afghanistan-report-101651715200433.html>

11. United Nations Security Council under the Presidency of India, passed which of the following resolution in September 2021?

- (a) 2593 (b) 2596 (c) 2598 (d) 2599

12. Which of the following is INCORRECT about the United Nations Security Council?

- (a) The composition of the UNSC is governed by Article 23 of the UN Charter.  
 (b) UN Security Council consists of 15 permanent members.  
 (c) Only the Security Council, out of all the UN organs, has the authority to adopt decisions that member states must then implement under the Charter.  
 (d) New York is the council's headquarters.

13. Consider the following about Taliban, and choose the INCORRECT answer?

- (a) The Taliban, emerged in the early 1990s in northern Pakistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.  
 (b) It is an Islamic fundamentalist political and military organisation operating in Afghanistan.  
 (c) They seek to reimpose their strict version of Islam in Afghanistan.  
 (d) Afghanistan was admitted into SAARC as the eighth member in 2012.

14. What was the name of NATO led multinational military mission in Afghanistan that lasted from 2014-2021.

- (a) International Security Assistance Force (b) Operation Desert Storm  
 (c) Operation Thunder Storm (d) Resolute Support Mission

15. Who among the following is the current supreme leader of Taliban?

- (a) Haibatullah Akhundzada (b) Mullah Abdul Hakeem (c) Sirajuddin Haqqani (d) Rahbari Shura

#### Passage -4

Just months after the global minimum tax was approved by over 130 countries, the agreement is quickly on its way to becoming a reality. With rules for the tax's implementation now unveiled and some governments already preparing to bring the tax into effect by next year, what impact could this have for developing countries and how should they prepare? The global minimum tax was agreed in October 2021 between 136 (now 137) of the 141 countries who are members of the [1]/G20 inclusive framework on tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), capping years of negotiations. The long-anticipated deal is designed to ensure that multinational enterprises (MNEs) will be subject to a minimum [2] tax rate in every country of operation from 2023, thus preventing situations where these MNEs take advantage of differing tax regimes between jurisdictions and effectively avoid paying tax. While the headlines around the agreement have largely focused on taxing the digital economy, the global minimum tax, which is the second pillar of the overall global tax reform agreement, should have more of an impact on developing countries. It should reduce the use of tax havens by MNEs to shift profits out of their main operating companies. The global minimum tax could also limit tax competition between developing countries in a range of economic sectors, such as mining, manufacturing, or telecommunications, reversing a decades-long "race to the bottom" on corporate taxation.

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/global-minimum-tax-deal>

16. Which of the following will replace [1] in the above passage?

- (a) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)  
 (b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
 (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
 (d) World Bank (WB)

17. Where is the headquarters of OECD located?

- (a) Shanghai (b) Paris (c) New York (d) London

18. Which of the following will replace [2] in the above passage?

- (a) 12% (b) 10% (c) 15% (d) 14%

19. Which of the following was NOT a low-tax country or a tax haven prior to the deal?

- (a) Panama (b) Bahamas (c) Ireland (d) Switzerland

20. Apart from OECD, which among the following grouping had also recently backed global minimum corporate taxation of at least 15%?

- (a) ASEAN (b) G20 (c) G7 (d) FATF

**Passage -5**

US President Joe Biden's nominee for coordinator for sanctions policy James O'Brien has hinted at balance in US approach on India's requirements for Russian S-400 missile defence systems, which are being deployed here, vis-a-vis CAATSA.

O'Brien, Biden's nominee for the US State Department's coordinator for sanctions policy was asked at his confirmation hearing on Wednesday if the US experience with Turkey provided any warning or or lessons on how to proceed with India. The US had imposed sanctions on Turkey over the procurement of S-400 missile systems.

O'Brien said it was difficult to compare the two situations, with a NATO ally that is breaking with legacy defence procurement systems, and then with India, a partner of growing importance, but that has legacy ties with Russia. "The administration...is discouraging India from proceeding with the acquisitions of Russian equipment, and there are important geostrategic considerations, particularly with (unintelligible) relationship to China. So, I think we have to look at what the balance is," he said.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-looks-to-balance-indias-s-400-missile-systems-needs-vis-à-vis-caatsa/articleshow/88887925.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-looks-to-balance-indias-s-400-missile-systems-needs-vis-à-vis-caatsa/articleshow/88887925.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

21. Which of the following best describes the S-400 missile defence system?

- (a) Shore to Air Missile (SAM) (b) Surface to Surface Missile (SSM)  
(c) Long Range Shore to Air Missile (LRSAM) (d) Surface to Air Missile (SAM)

22. Which of the following is NOT a missile developed by India?

- (a) Astra (b) Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launch Systems  
(c) K-4 Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (d) None of the above

23. Which among the following country is NOT a banned country for trade according to CAATSA?

- (a) North Korea (b) Iran (c) Russia (d) Libya

24. Recently which country has faced sanctions under CAATSA for purchasing S-400 Missile System?

- (a) Egypt (b) Turkey (c) Syria (d) Iran

25. Which famous Indian is known as the Agni Putri for her contribution to develop Agni-V Missile?

- (a) Asima Chatterjee (b) Dr Indira Hinduja (c) Dr Aditi Pant (d) Dr Tessy Thomas

**Passage -6**

Six sites, including the Ganga ghats in Varanasi, temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu and the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites, Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel said on Wednesday.

Mr. Patel said six of the nine sites submitted by the Archaeological Survey of India had been accepted by UNESCO for inclusion in the tentative list, which is a requirement before the final nomination of any site.

The recently-included proposals are the Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra, the Hire Bengal megalithic site in Karnataka and Bhedaghat-Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh. The six proposals were included in the list on April 13, taking the total number of proposals from India to 48, according to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

A Culture Ministry official said the final nomination for a site could be submitted after the proposal had been on the tentative list for a year, so the time would be used to prepare the dossier.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/6-unesco-heritage-sites-added-in-india/article34600080.ece>

26. Which institution is responsible for taking care and maintaining most of the World Heritage sites in India?

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India (b) Anthropological Survey of India  
(c) The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (d) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

27. Which is the only mixed-criteria World Heritage site in India?

- (a) Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers (b) Kaziranga National Park  
(c) Elephanta Caves (d) Khangchendzonga National Park



28. India has entered the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions. Which of the following Countries is not one of the Super-40 Members?

- (a) Italy (b) France (c) U.K. (d) China

29. Which of the following recently became the UNESCO's World heritage Site?

- (a) Ahmedabad (b) Rani ki Vav (c) Dholavira (d) Champaner

30. UNESCO was formed in which of the following year?

- (a) 1945 (b) 1951 (c) 1958 (d) 1962

**Passage -7**

The government on Monday unveiled a [1] National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) worth an estimated 6 Lakh Crore. It aims to unlock value in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them revenue rights and not ownership in the projects, and using the funds so generated for infrastructure creation across the country.

The NMP has been announced to provide a clear framework for monetisation and give potential investors a ready list of assets to generate investment interest. The government has stressed that these are brownfield assets, which have been "de-risked" from execution risks, and therefore should encourage private investment. Structuring the monetisation transactions, providing a balance risk profile of assets, and effective execution of the NMP will be key challenges.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-the-governments-plan-with-the-national-monetisation-pipeline-7468258/#:~:text=The%20NMP%20will%20run%20co,43%20lakh%20crore%20under%20NIP.>

31. Which of the following will replace [1] in the above passage?

- (a) 2 years (b) 3 years (c) 4 years (d) 5 years

32. Which among the following sector are among the Top 5 sectors in terms of estimated value capture:

- 1) Roads
- 2) Power
- 3) Oil and Gas Pipelines
- 4) Mining

Options

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 2, 3 and 4 only (c) 1, 2 and 4 only (d) All of the above

33. National Monetization Pipeline is developed by NITI Aayog in consultation with infrastructure related ministries. Who among the following is the Chairman of NITI Aayog?

- (a) President of India (b) Minister of Finance  
(c) Minister of Commerce and Industry (d) Prime Minister

34. Where does the Government wish to spend the funds generated through this Asset monetization Project?

- (a) Building airports across the country (b) Building Road network across the country  
(c) Building Housing societies across the country (d) All of the above

35. Consider the following about Brownfield Investments:

I. The projects which are modified or upgraded are called brownfield projects.

II. The term is used for purchasing or leasing existing production facilities to launch a new production activity.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

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