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**Neo IAS Current Affairs Exclusive Test Series**  
**Sample set 02, Answer set**

**1. Ans: A**

- ✓ Remittances can't be used for trading on the foreign exchange markets.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to put in place a system for daily reporting of individual transactions by banks under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/forex-and-remittance/rbi-tightens-monitoring-of-outward-remittances/articleshow/63734601.cms>

**Liberalised Remittance Scheme:**

- ✓ The Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) is a facility provided by the RBI for all resident individuals to freely remit up to a certain amount in terms of US Dollar for current and capital account purposes or a combination of both.
- ✓ Hence under the LRS, individuals are allowed to spend money in foreign countries for specific purposes like education, tourism, asset purchase etc.
- ✓ The remittance limit is set for a financial year.
- ✓ Regulations for the scheme are provided under the **FEMA Act 1999**.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank has raised the upper limit for foreign exchange remittances under the LRS to **\$250,000 per person per year**.
- ✓ Remittances **can't be used for trading on the foreign exchange markets**.
- ✓ Individuals are not allowed to send money to countries identified as 'non-cooperative jurisdictions' by the Financial Action Task Force.

**2. Ans: B**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The government suspects large tax evasion in case of GST, especially by small and medium enterprises. To plug this revenue leakage government thinking of reintroducing the reverse charge mechanism.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2018/apr/17/sushil-modi-led-group-of-ministers-to-meet-today-discuss-simplification-of-gst-returns-1802642.html>

### **Reverse Charge Mechanism**

- ✓ Reverse charge is a mechanism where **the recipient of the goods and/or services is liable to pay GST instead of the supplier.**
- ✓ Normally, the supplier of goods or services pays the tax on supply.
- ✓ In the case of Reverse Charge, the **receiver becomes liable to pay the tax**, i.e., the chargeability gets reversed.

### **3. Ans: C**

#### **Why in news?**

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for continuation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178190>

#### **Fertilizer Subsidy regime:**

- ✓ Government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 21 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/ importers.
- ✓ Presently, **Urea is the only fertilizer with pricing and distribution being controlled statutorily by the Government.** Thus, no one can sell urea above the MRP declared by the Govt.
- ✓ However, sale of phosphatic & potassic (P&K) fertilizers is decontrolled through Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme.

#### **Nutrient Based Subsidy:**

- ✓ Under this policy, the subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers is announced by the Government on annual basis for each nutrient i.e., Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) contained in these fertilizers.
- ✓ It was the continuation of the erstwhile Concession Scheme for decontrolled P & K fertilizers.

### **4. Ans: A**

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ The US dragged India to the WTO's dispute settlement body complaining that India's export subsidies were harming American companies.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/world/wto-sets-up-dispute-panel-on-india-us-case-on-export-subsidies/story/286783.html>

### **Non-Violation Complaints:**

- ✓ In some situations a government can go to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body even when an agreement under WTO has not been violated. This is called a **non-violation complaint**.
- ✓ It is allowed if one government can show that it has been deprived of an expected benefit because of another government's action, or because of any other situation that exists.
- ✓ In general, disputes in the WTO involve allegations that a country has violated an agreement or broken a commitment.

### **5. Ans: C**

#### **Trade Related Entrepreneurship Development Assistance Scheme (TREAD):**

- ✓ Trade Related Entrepreneurship Development Assistance Scheme (TREAD) is a scheme by Ministry of MSME for the **economic empowerment of women**.
- ✓ It envisages women empowerment through trade related training, information and counseling extension activities related to trades, products and services.
- ✓ Under the scheme financial loans are provided by nationalized banks and grants by government of India through NGOs.
- ✓ The focus is to promote self-employment and income generation activities for women mostly from SHG groups in non-farm sector.

### **6. Ans: A**

- ✓ Ministry of Communications had launched DARPAN Project.

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Communications has launched DARPAN-PLI application for seamless collection of premium for Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policies.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178732>

### **DARPAN Project:**

- ✓ The Ministry of Communications had launched DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India) Project to achieve total digitization of postal operations in the country, under IT Modernization Plan, Department of Posts (DoP).
- ✓ The project aims at connecting all 1.29 lakh Rural Branch Post Offices in country to enable them to do online postal and financial Transactions.
- ✓ DARPAN project seeks to increase rural reach of Department of Posts (DoP) and enable BOs to increase traffic of all financial remittances, savings accounts, RPLI policy and cash certificates.

#### 7. Ans: B

- ✓ National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) an autonomous body under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

#### Why in news?

- ✓ MNRE calls for 'Expression of Interest' for first offshore wind energy project of 1000 MW capacity

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178608>

#### National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE):

- ✓ The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ✓ The global EoI is intended to shortlist prospective offshore wind energy developers for a 1000 MW offshore wind energy project in Gulf of Khambhat, off the coast of Gujarat.
- ✓ The proposed area is located 23-40 km seaward side from Pipavav port. MNRE plans to install at least 5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2022.
- ✓ The **first offshore LiDAR** was installed in **Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat** for measurement of wind resource and National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) is collecting wind speed data.
- ✓ Areas off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are two identified areas for development of offshore wind power.
- ✓ The **second LiDAR** would be installed **off Tamil Nadu coast** by September, 2018. In addition NIWE is planning to set up

#### 8. Ans: B

- ✓ Chamaparan was the first experiment of civil disobedience by Mahatma Gandhi in India.

#### Why in news?

- ✓ April 10th, 2018 marks the end of the centenary year celebrations of the Champaran Satyagrah, and is going to be celebrated through the “Satyagrah se Swachhagrah” campaign.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=160650>

### **Champaran Satyagraha:**

- ✓ Champaran Satyagraha was Mahatma Gandhi’s **first experiment of Satyagraha**.
- ✓ It was undertaken in the erstwhile undivided Champaran district in northern Bihar in April **1917**.
- ✓ It was undertaken after Mahatma Gandhi learned about the abuses suffered by farmers, who were forced into growing indigo by British planters and estate owners.
- ✓ The tenants from Champaran were forced under the law to plant three out of every twenty parts of his land with indigo for his landlord under the so called Tinkathia system.
- ✓ Initially, Gandhiji was reluctant to commit himself to the task but he was so persuaded by indigo cultivator **Rajkumar Shukla** that he decided to investigate the matter.
- ✓ Gandhiji’s plan was to carry out an extensive inquiry in the district and demand action based on its findings.
- ✓ However, local authorities did not find his visit welcoming and they unsuccessfully tried to dissuade him.
- ✓ But Gandhi began his work from the house of Babu Gorakh Prasad in Motihari, headquarters of the then Champaran district.
- ✓ During this time, Gandhij was served with a court summon while he was making a spot visit to village.
- ✓ Gandhiji was charged with violating law and was told to leave Champaran, but he refused to leave.
- ✓ On April 18, 1917 when Gandhi appeared in Motihari Court and was accompanied by nearly 2000 local people.
- ✓ The then Lieutenant Governor of Bihar ordered the withdrawal of case against Gandhi, and the Collector wrote to Gandhi saying he was free to conduct the inquiry.
- ✓ This small step in the form of passive protest was a giant leap forward in the history of freedom struggle and heralded the advent of Gandhian era.
- ✓ His protest led to **abolishing of exploitative tinkathia system**.

- ✓ The victory at Champaran established Gandhiji in India's struggle against the British raj.

**9. Ans: D**

- ✓ Jyothirmath - North
- ✓ Sringeri - South

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book "Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism's Greatest Thinker", from the author Shri Pavan Varma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178831>

**Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism's Greatest Thinker**

- ✓ He was an early 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.
- ✓ He is credited with unifying and establishing the main currents of thought in Hinduism
- ✓ His works in Sanskrit discuss the unity of the ātman and Nirguna Brahman "Brahman without attributes".
- ✓ He also explained the key difference between Hinduism and Buddhism, stating that Hinduism asserts "Atman (Soul, Self) exists", while Buddhism asserts that there is "no Soul, no Self".
- ✓ He is reputed to have founded four mathas ("monasteries"), which helped in the historical development, revival and spread of Advaita Vedanta of which he is known as the greatest revivalist.
- ✓ Adi **Shankaracharya** wished to grace the Indian subcontinent by **establishing four** major **mathas** in the **four** corners of the peninsula – north (Jyothirmath), south (Sringeri), east (Puri), west (Dwaraka) – to propagate the philosophy of advaita vedanta and to promulgate the concept of Sanatana dharma.

**10. Ans: A**

- ✓ India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1994 and ratified it on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1996.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Union environment minister released the study of Economics of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (EDLDD) conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/pollution/desertification-land-degradation-drought-cost-india-2-54-of-its-gdp-study/articleshow/63944875.cms>

### **UNCCD**

- ✓ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is a **Convention to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs.**
- ✓ UNCCD was adopted in **1994 and entered into force 1996.**
- ✓ It is **the only legally binding international agreement** to address problem of desertification and other land issues.
- ✓ The Convention has its genesis in **Earth Summit in 1992 held in Rio De Janerio, Brazil.**
- ✓ The Convention addresses desertification and land issues specifically arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as dry lands.
- ✓ India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal Ministry for this Convention.

### **11. Ans: D**

- ✓ Yellow fever is transmitted by mosquitoes of Aedis species.

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Four infants have died after being vaccinated for Japanese encephalitis and measles in Jharkhand's Palamu district, one of the state's most backward districts.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/ranchi/three-infants-die-hours-after-taking-japanese-encephalitis-vaccine-in-palamu/story-OTU5MPLN11BdiaMhWOkV9M.html>

### **Japanese Encephalitis:**

- ✓ Japanese encephalitis (JE) is an **infection of the brain** caused by the Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV).
- ✓ JEV is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes of the **culex species.**

- ✓ Prevention is generally with the help **of Japanese encephalitis vaccine, which is included in universal immunization programme.**

#### **Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV):**

- ✓ Japanese encephalitis virus is the most important cause of viral encephalitis in Asia.
- ✓ It is a **mosquito-borne flavivirus**, and belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses.

#### **12. Ans: A**

##### **Why in news?**

- ✓ More than 30 global technology firms have signed up to a “digital Geneva convention”, committing never to partake in cyber-attacks against individuals or businesses.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/apr/18/tech-firms-including-facebook-sign-up-to-digital-geneva-convention>

##### **Cyber security Tech Accord**

- ✓ Cyber security Tech Accord was a **major agreement among software companies.**
- ✓ Here in the accord, companies pledged to protect their users around the globe against cyber security threats and to abstain from helping any government launch a cyber-attack.
- ✓ Through the accord the firms committed never to partake in cyber-attacks against individuals or businesses.

#### **13. Ans: C**

##### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Citing tragic road accidents in India and Canada, UN Deputy Secretary-General termed traffic deaths an urgent global concern as the world body launched a trust fund aimed at spurring action to help save lives in road accidents.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/un-launches-road-safety-trust-fund-118041300302\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/un-launches-road-safety-trust-fund-118041300302_1.html)

##### **UN Road Safety Trust Fund:**

- ✓ **UN Road Safety Trust Fund** was launched to improve road safety worldwide.
- ✓ This would save lives and prevent the loss of opportunity associated with road accidents.

- ✓ It aims to accelerate progress in improving global road safety by bridging the gaps in the mobilization of resources for effective action at all levels.
- ✓ The Fund will **mobilize resources from governments, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and individuals.**
- ✓ **UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** will be the secretariat for the Trust Fund. The fund will serve as catalyst for much-needed progress towards road safety targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**14. Ans: C**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The government had launched a portal, e-RaKAM, to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/government-launches-e-rakam-portal-for-selling-agri-produce/articleshow/59868582.cms>

**e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (e-RaKAM):**

- ✓ e-RaKAM is a **digital platform launched by central government to help farmers sell their agricultural produce.**
- ✓ It aims to bring together the **farmers, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers** on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products.
- ✓ It has been developed by state-run-auctioneer **MSTC Limited and CRWC** (Central Rail side Warehouse Company) Limited.
- ✓ Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed throughout the country in a phased manner to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce.
- ✓ The farmers will be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts under the e-RaKAM initiative.

**15. Ans: C**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ For the prevention of AIDS in the eight North-Eastern states, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare had launched a project called 'Project Sunrise'.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/project-sunrise-for-aids-prevention-307722-2016-02-08>

### **Project Sunrise:**

- ✓ Project Sunrise aims at **bringing the people living with HIV/AIDS into the national mainstream** and to create more awareness about the disease in these **N-Estates**.
- ✓ It will be implemented in the North East in addition to the existing projects.
- ✓ The project is a **five-year programme (2015-2020)** aimed at complementing the ongoing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).
- ✓ The project has been sponsored by US based Centre for Disease Control and would be implemented by Family Health International 360.
- ✓ It will cover one lakh people living with HIV/AIDS by giving them treatment and care facilities free of cost.
- ✓ In India, the highest HIV prevalence rates are found in **Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland**
- ✓ However Nagaland and Mizoram have the highest adult HIV prevalence in the country.
- ✓ Although North-east is less populated, some 100,000 people are living with this condition in these areas.

### **16. Ans: C**

#### **{The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) :**

- It is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations.
- IUCN was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France.
- It was renamed as International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1956 with the acronym IUCN.
- IUCN is the world's first global environmental organization. Today it is the largest professional global conservation network.
- The Union's HQ is located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland.
- IUCN is the only international observer organization in the UN General Assembly with expertise in issues concerning the environment, specifically biodiversity, nature conservation and sustainable natural resource use.
- It has an Official Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly.
- IUCN runs thousands of field projects around the world to better manage natural environments.}

### **17. Ans: B**

#### **{International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international

trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

**Background:**

- At 1945 — UN conference in Bretton Woods, 1944
- Headquarters — Washington
- Member — 189 countries

**Responsibility:**

- Ensure the stability of the international monetary system. It does so in three ways:
  1. keeping track of the global economy and the economies of member countries
  2. lending to countries with balance of payments difficulties
  3. giving practical help to members
- Voting Share – Based on the quota of country.
- Quota — based broadly on its **relative position in the world economy**. Quota and voting shares will change as members pay their quota increases.

**The Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR):**

- The Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) is a semiannual report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that assesses the stability of global financial markets and emerging-market financing.
- It is released **twice per year**, in April and October.
- The GFSR focuses on current conditions, especially financial and structural imbalances, that could risk an upset in global financial stability and access to financing by emerging-market countries.

**IMF Publications:**

- World economic outlook
- Global financial stability report
- Fiscal monitor
- Regional economic prospects
- Finance and Development}

**18. Ans: A**

**Girinka Programme:**

- The Girinka programme was initiated by Rwanda president Paul Kagame in 2006 to provide 'one cow per poor family' for their nutritional and financial security.
- It was initiated in response to the alarmingly high rate of childhood malnutrition and as a way to accelerate poverty reduction and integrate livestock and crop farming.

**19. Ans: B**

- ✓ All the States and union territories of India are covered under the programme Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Union Home Minister inaugurated the 10-day long annual Hornbill festival of Nagaland and said the event showcased the true spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/nagaland-hornbill-festival-shows-true-spirit-of-ek-bharat-shrestha-bharat-says-rajnath-singh/1400787/>

**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:**

- ✓ The idea of a sustained and structured cultural connect between citizens of different regions was mooted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October, 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

**Objectives of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:**

The broad objectives of the initiative are as follows:

- ✓ To celebrate the Unity in Diversity of our Nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our Country;
- ✓ To promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian States and Union Territories through a year-long planned engagement between States;
- ✓ To showcase the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of either State for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity that is India, thus fostering a sense of common identity
- ✓ To create an environment that promotes learning between States by sharing best practices and experiences.
- ✓ To induce a sense of responsibility & ownership for the nation as a whole through these close cross-cultural interactions as it intends to build up the inter-dependence matrix unequivocally.
- ✓ To further promote inter-state travel for boosting business activities of various hues.

**20. Ans:B**

- ✓ MPI is an annual index released by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

**Why in news?**

- ✓ India's Multidimensional Poverty (MDP) has dropped significantly, largely as a result of the performance of five key southern States.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/southern-comfort-indias-global-poverty-rank-improves/article23866587.ece>

**About Multidimensional Poverty Index**

- ✓ MDP is “an international measure of acute poverty” based on three key categories — **health, education and living standard.**
- ✓ It is an annual index released by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- ✓ The poverty levels fell from 55% to 21% in a decade and it is due to the lowered burden in the southern States.
- ✓ Multidimensional Poverty national average is 21%.
- ✓ Bihar is the poorest State with 43% incidence of poverty.
- ✓ Kerala has an **MDP of 1% which is the lowest.**

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