

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

Q.1) Pollution is defined as an addition or excessive addition of certain materials to the physical environment. With reference to this consider the following statements:

1. Primary pollutants persist in the form in which they are added to the environment
2. Secondary Pollutants are formed by interaction among the primary pollutants.
3. Qualitative Pollutants do not occur in nature and are man-made

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Q.1) Solution (d)

Types of pollutants	Characteristics
Primary pollutants	These persist in the form in which they are added to the environment e.g. DDT, plastic.
Secondary Pollutants	These are formed by interaction among the primary pollutants. For example, peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN)
Quantitative Pollutants	These occur in nature and become pollutant when their concentration reaches beyond a threshold level. E.g. carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide.
Qualitative Pollutants	These do not occur in nature and are man-made. E.g. fungicides, herbicides, DDT etc

Q.2) Indian cities are reeling under multiple problems, including environmental issues.

What are the major causes of pollution in Indian cities?

1. Crop burning
2. Vehicular emission
3. Poor waste management
4. Loss of tree cover
5. Construction activities

Choose correct option from below:

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

Q.2) Solution (d)

In 2016, a World Health Organisation (WHO) study found that fourteen of the twenty world's

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

most polluted cities belonged to India.

- The sources of pollution are multiple. Vehicular emissions, crop burning, generation of dust- particularly from construction sites, depleting tree covers and poor waste management – all contribute towards the pollution in Indian cities

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to short lived climate pollutants (SLCP)

1. The main short-lived climate pollutants are black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and fluorinated gases
2. SLCP'S contribute very less to climate change per molecule emitted as compared to Greenhouse gases

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

Statement-1: correct	Statement-2: Incorrect
The most significant short-lived climate pollutants are black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and fluorinated gases due to their atmospheric impacts. They primarily come from fossil fuel production and combustion.	Due to SLCP'S immense contributions to climate change per molecule emitted, reducing short-lived climate pollutants can be very cost-effective. Actions taken in the immediate future to address them could slow the planet's warming 0.6 degrees by mid-century

Q.4) Climate change performance Index is issued by?

- a) IPCC
- b) UNFCCC
- c) Germanwatch
- d) UNEP

Q.4) Solution (c)

Recently, India has been ranked 14th in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).

- It is issued by Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute, and the Climate Action Network.
- Countries are ranked across four categories — Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Renewable

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

Energy, Energy Use, and Climate Policy.

Q.5) Sahara forest project (SFP) is related with?

- a) Rejuvenation of degraded forest in Africa
- b) combating desertification and development
- c) Reversing Coral bleaching
- d) Livelihood programme for Saharan Tribes

Q.5) Solution (b)

Desertification refers to the land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.

- The Sahara Forest Project aims to provide fresh water, food and renewable energy in hot, arid regions as well as re-vegetating areas of uninhabited desert.

Q.6) Consider the following statements in the context of UNFCCC summits

1. The Ocean Pathway was successfully launched in COP23 in Bonn with a strategy for 2020 supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement
2. Fiji Momentum for Implementation outlined the steps that need to be taken in 2018 to make the Paris Agreement operational
3. Talanoa dialogue is a facilitative dialogue among Parties to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to Paris agreement

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.6) Solution (d)

Fiji momentum	Talanoa dialogue
COP23 concluded with what was called the 'Fiji Momentum for Implementation,' which outlined the steps that need to be taken in 2018 to make the Paris Agreement operational	a process designed to help countries enhance and implement their Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020

The ocean pathway: The Ocean Pathway was successfully launched in COP23 in Bonn with a two track strategy for 2020 supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement that includes;

1. Increasing the role of the ocean considerations in the UNFCCC process and;
2. Significantly increasing action in priority areas impacting or impacted by ocean and climate change.

Q.7) The first ever Gender Action Plan (GAP) is related to?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) Lima work programmes
- c) Sustainable development goals
- d) Both a and b

Q.7) Solution (d)

At COP 25 Parties agreed a 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan

GAP priority areas:

The enhanced gender action plan sets out objectives and activities under five priority areas that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to Mission Innovation (MI)

1. MI is a global initiative working to accelerate clean energy innovation
2. MI seeks to double investments in clean energy innovation over five years.
3. Ministry of forest and climate change is nodal agency of this mission in India

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Q.8) Solution (b)

- Mission Innovation (MI) is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union) working to reinvigorate and accelerate global clean energy innovation with the objective to make clean energy widely affordable.
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science & Technology is nodal agency coordinating and steering activities of Mission Innovation (MI) in India

Q.9) Recently, new Moth species has been discovered in this wildlife sanctuary, it lies between subansiri, sipu and Pange Rivers. Both sub-tropical and temperate vegetation is found here and it is also one of home to clouded leopard.

The above description is of which wildlife sanctuary?

- a) Pakke wildlife reserve
- b) Talle wildlife reserve
- c) Manas Park
- d) Kaziranga Park

Q.9) Solution (b)

Recently, new Moth species has been discovered in Talle Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. The scientific name of moth is *ElcysmaZiroensis*, and commonly called Apatani Glory, named after a local tribe called Apatani

Talle Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It lies roughly in between the Subansiri, Sipu and Pange Rivers.
- Sub-tropical broad leafed, temperate broad leafed and temperate conifer types of vegetation are found here
- It is one of the home for clouded leopard (Vulnerable IUCN status).

Q.10) Red Sanders are in news for smuggling across borders. With reference to this consider the following statements:

1. Red Sanders is an endemic tree of South India.
2. They are found in Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest of the Nilgiri hill ranges
3. IUCN has put it under the category of endangered species

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.10) Solution (a)

Red Sanders:

- Red Sanders is an endemic tree of South India.
- They are found in Tropical Dry Deciduous **Forest of the Palakonda and Seshachalam hill** ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Red Sanders usually grows in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and hot and dry climate.
- IUCN has put it under the category of endangered species in the Red List due to the dwindling population because of illegal felling and smuggling

Q.11) Secure Himalaya project is launched by?

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

1. UNEP
2. UNDP
3. MOEFCCC
4. IUCN

Choose correct option from below:

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above.

Q.11) Solution (c)

The **Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change** in collaboration with **UNDP** has launched a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.

Q.12) This protected Area has the complex and fragile mangrove ecosystem and the endangered flora, fauna associated with it. It is declared as Ramsar site and is one of largest home to endangered crocodile species. It also has Marine sanctuary associated with it. The above description refers to which protected Area?

- a) Chambal Basin
- b) Bhitarkanika
- c) Kolleru lake
- d) Sunderbans

Q.12) Solution (b)

About Bhitarkanika:

- Bhitarkanika is a unique habitat of Mangrove Forests crisscrossed with numerous creeks and mud flats located in Kendrapara district of Orissa.
- It is located in the estuary of Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra & Mahanadi river systems.
- The wetland is represented by as many as 3 protected Areas, namely “The Bhitarkanika National Park”, “The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary” and “The Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary”.
- Bhitarkanika is said to house 70% of India’s estuarine or salt water crocodiles whose conservation started in 1975.

Q.13) Consider the following statements with respect to Biodiversity Heritage sites:

1. They are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile Inland water

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

ecosystems only

2. Ameenpur Lake became the first water body in the country to be declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site.
3. Under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government in consultation with local bodies notifies Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS):

- They are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity and other social, economic, cultural and ecological values
- Recently, Ameenpur Lake became the first water body in the country to be declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site. It is located on the western fringes of Hyderabad in Telangana state.
- Under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government in consultation with local bodies notifies Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS). Further, the State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.

Q.14) Recently government of India has brought new Wetland conservation rules, in this respect consider the following statements:

1. Under the new rules, the central government has empowered the states and union territories to identify and manage their wetlands.
2. Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) replaced National Wetlands Committee
3. This new rules are applicable only to Wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.14) Solution (a)

Recently, Central government notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

Some Provision under the new rules:

- Definition of wetlands: They are defined as “an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres
- Under the new rules, the central government has empowered the states and union territories to identify and manage their wetlands.
- Setting Up National Wetlands Committee: it will replace Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA), to monitor implementation of these rules and advise the Central Government on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands
- These rules shall apply to the following wetlands- Wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convent and Wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration

Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to PERMACULTURE:

1. It is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems
2. It incorporates traditional farming practices with modern technological and scientific knowledge to create efficient systems.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.15) Solution (c)

Permaculture:

- It is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems.
- It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people — providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way.
- The term was coined by Bill Mollison in 1978.
- Environment friendly: It discourages uses of chemical and pesticide and promotes the uses of eco-friendly means to maintain soil health and increase productivity.
- Promotion of Traditional practice: It incorporates traditional farming practices with

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

modern technological and scientific knowledge to create efficient systems. It can also reduce the dependency of farmers on multi-national companies for genetically modified seeds.

Q.16) With respect to the Boreal biome, consider the following statements:

1. Soils in the Boreal ecosystem are acidic and poor in nutrients.
2. The southern most part of the boreal ecosystem is flanked by tree line.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Solution (a)

1. The tree line is the edge of the habitat at which trees are capable of growing. It is found at high elevations and high latitudes. Beyond the tree line, trees cannot tolerate the environmental conditions. It occurs at the northern flank of the taiga ecosystem. Beyond the tree line, tundra ecosystem is present
2. Soils in the boreal forest are typically podzols, gray soils that are thin, acidic, and poor in nutrients. These soils lie beneath a mat of coniferous tree needles and other organic material that accumulates due to the slow decomposition rates and limited soil microorganism activity that occurs in the cold climate.

Q.17) The term stratification in Ecology refers to?

- a) Vertical zones in an aquatic ecosystem with varying levels of salinity.
- b) Arrangement of essential minerals in the soil.
- c) Decrease in populations of species down a food chain
- d) Vertical distribution of different species occupying different levels.

Q.17) Solution (d)

The vertical distribution of different species occupying different levels is called stratification. For example, trees occupy top vertical strata or layer of a forest, shrubs the second and herbs and grasses occupy the bottom layers.

Q.18) consider the following statements with reference to Ecotypes:

1. Ecotypes differ from each other on the basis of morphological and physiological characters.
2. Different ecotypes of a species are inter- fertile

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.18) Solution (c)

1. Species having a wide range of distribution evolve genetically adapted local populations, called ecotypes. Ecotypes differ from each other on the basis of morphological and physiological characters
2. Ecotypes are inter-fertile. Though the different ecotypes of a species are morphologically and genetically distinct, yet because of their inter-fertility, they are put into one taxonomic species

Q.19) Room Of The River Project is recently seen in News, It is related with?

- a) Hydro power generation
- b) Wetland conservation
- c) Flood mitigation
- d) Dam safety

Q.19) Solution (c)

In News: One of the flagship projects of the Netherland government, “Room of the river” is to be replicated in Kerala’s Kuttanad, which remained submerged for weeks during Kerala floods.

- It is a flood mitigation initiative which is aimed at protecting areas adjoining rivers from routine flooding and improving water management systems in delta regions.
- Key concept behind the project: To provide more space for the water body so that it can manage extraordinary high-water levels during floods. The project involves tailor-made solutions for each River.

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Sumatran Rhino is the only Asian Rhino with two horns.
2. Sumatran Rhino’s IUCN status is Critically Endangered
3. The Sumatran rhino has become extinct in Malaysia

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

- d) All of the above

Q.20) Solution (d)

The Sumatran rhino has become extinct in Malaysia after the last remaining individual died on November 23, 2019, due to natural causes.

- It is the smallest of all rhino species and one of the most endangered land mammals on the planet.
- It is the only Asian Rhino with two horns.
- Its IUCN status is Critically Endangered.
- Earlier, it has occurred in the parts of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- Now, it exists only in four isolated regions of rainforests on the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

Q.21) With reference to *National Health Authority (NHA)*, Consider the following statements:

1. National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing PM-JAY.
2. To implement the scheme at the State level, State Health Agencies (SHAs) have been set up by respective States.
3. It determines the central ceiling for premium per family per year to be provided to the States/UTs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.21) Solution (d)

- National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana" at national level.

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

- National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency.
- NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. It is headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, who manages its affairs.
- To implement the scheme at the State level, State Health Agencies (SHAs) in the form of a society/trust have been set up by respective States.
- It acts as apex body for State Health Agencies that have been set up to implement **PM-JAY**
- **It determines the central ceiling for premium per family per year to be provided to the States/UTs and review it from time to time.**
- NHA functions as prevention, detection and control of frauds and abuse of the scheme.

Q.22) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding Indian Initiative on Earth BioGenome Sequencing (IIEBS)?

1. It is a nationwide project to decode the genetic information of all known species of plants and animals in the country.
2. This Project is part of the Earth BioGenome Project.
3. National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi is the coordinating centre of this project.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.22) Solution (d)

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

- The Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has been selected as one of the Biological Knowledge and Resource Centre of the Indian Initiative on Earth BioGenome Sequencing (IIEBS).
- IIEBS is part of the Earth BioGenome Project, an international initiative to catalogue life on the planet.
- The whole genome sequencing of 1,000 species of plants and animals will be taken up in the initial phase of IIEBS to be completed over a period of five years at an estimated cost of ₹440crore.
- National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi is the coordinating centre for the nationwide project involving a total of 24 institutes.
- Earth BioGenome Project (EBP) is an initiative that aims to sequence the genetic codes of all of earth's eukaryotic biodiversity over a period of 10 years.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- The digital repository of genome sequences is expected to provide the critical infrastructure for better understanding of ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity.
- It expected to provide development of new treatments for infectious and inherited diseases, agricultural products, biomaterials and biological fuel.
- India's participation in the EBP would provide a boost for the field of genomics and bioinformatics within the country.
- The project will enable collection and preservation of endangered and economically important species.
- The decoded genetic information will also be a useful tool to prevent bio-piracy.

Q.23) Which of the following statement is/are not correct regarding Ways and Means Advances (WMA)?

1. It is the temporary loan facility provided by the RBI to the central and the state governments.

2. The return time period for the WMA is 2 years.
3. If the WMA exceeds 2 years, it would be treated as an overdraft.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.23) Solution (c)

- WMA is a temporary liquidity arrangement with the central bank, which enables the Centre and states to borrow money up to 90 days from the RBI to tide over their liquidity mismatch.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gives temporary loan facilities to the central and state governments. This loan facility is called Ways and Means Advances (WMA).
- The Ways and Means Advances scheme was introduced in 1997.
- The Ways and Means Advances scheme was introduced to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.
- The government can avail of immediate cash from the RBI, if required. But it has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing repo rate.
- **If the WMA exceeds 90 days**, it would be treated as an overdraft (interest rate on overdrafts is 2 percentage points more than the repo rate).
- The limits for Ways and Means Advances are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically.
- There are two types of Ways and Means Advances — normal and special.
- Special WMA or Special Drawing Facility is provided against the collateral of the government securities held by the state. After the state has exhausted the limit of SDF, it gets normal WMA. The interest rate for SDF is one percentage point less than the repo rate.

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

- The number of loans under normal WMA is based on a three-year average of actual revenue and capital expenditure of the state.

Q.24) Consider the following statements:

1. The place of effective management (POEM) is a place where key management and commercial decisions that are necessary for the conduct of the business are made.
2. The company qualifies as a resident of India in any previous years if the company's POEM during the financial year is in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q.24) Solution (d)

As per the amended provisions of section 6 (3) of the Income Tax Act, as effective from 1 st April 2016, the company qualifies as a resident of India in any previous years, if –

1. The company is an Indian Company, or
2. The company's place of effective management during the financial year is in India.

Place of Effective Management

- The definition of place of effective management as provided under the Act means a place where key management and commercial decisions that are necessary for the conduct of the business of an entity as a whole are, in substance, made.
- The concept of the place of effective management is internationally accepted and various tax treaties entered into by India even speak about the concept of a place of effective management for the purpose of deciding the residential status of any company.

The company shall be said to be engaged in 'active business outside India', if the following factors are satisfied:

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

1. Passive income of the company is not more than 50% of its total income, and
2. Out of the total assets of the company less than 50% are situated in India, and
3. Out of the total number of employees, less than 50% are situated in India or less than 50% are resident in India, and
4. Out of the total payroll expenses incurred by the company less than 50% of payroll expenditure is incurred for such employee.

Q.25) With reference to Swamitva Yojana, Consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Property Cards will be prepared and given to respective land owners under this scheme.

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

Q.25) Solution (c)

- Swamitva Yojana is meant to create a record of land ownership in rural areas using modern technology.
- The scheme is piloted by the **Panchayati Raj ministry** of the Union government and has been launched on April 24 2020, the Panchayati Raj Diwas.
- The Swamitva scheme helps to map rural inhabited lands using drones and latest survey methods.
- The scheme will ensure streamlined planning, revenue collection and provide clarity over property rights in rural areas.

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

- Disputes related to property would also be settled through the title deeds allotted through this scheme.
- ‘Swamitva Yojana’ or Ownership Scheme to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones.
- The scheme aimed to revolutionise property record maintenance in India was launched on the Panchayati Raj Diwas.
- Swamitva Yojana is aimed to fill the above gap to provide ownership rights to people in the villages.
- The residential land in villages will be measured using drones to create a non-disputable record. It is the latest technology for surveying and measuring of land.
- The scheme will be carried out in close coordination with the Central Panchayati Raj ministry, Survey of India, Panchayati Raj departments and Revenue departments of various states.
- Drones will draw a digital map of every property falling within the geographical limits of a village and demarcate the boundaries of every revenue area.
- **Property card for every property in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping.**
- The delivery of property rights through an official document will enable villagers to access bank finance using their property.
- The property records for a village will also be maintained at the Panchayat level, allowing for the collection of associated taxes from the owners. The money generated from these local taxes will be used to build rural infrastructure and facilities.

Q.26) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) coming from which of the following countries is allowed only through "Government Approval Route"?

1. China
2. Nepal
3. Bhutan

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 Only

- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.26) Solution (d)

Earlier, all the FDI coming from Bangladesh or Pakistan was allowed only through "Government Approval Route".

Now this has been extended to all the countries sharing land border with India. So, now all the FDI coming from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar will be only through "Government Approval Route".

Q.27) Unlike in the past, when the RBI used its repo rate as the main instrument to tweak the interest rates, recently, it is the reverse repo rate that is effectively setting the benchmark. What are the reasons for reverse repo rate becoming the benchmark interest rate in the economy?

1. Decelerating Economy
2. Lower consumer demand
3. Too much liquidity with banks

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.27) Solution (d)

Reverse repo rate became benchmark interest rate in the economy – Broad Reasons

- Decelerating Economy
- Lower consumer demand
- Lower fresh investments > No new loans
- High NPAs > Diminished banks' demand for fresh funds from the RBI
- Banks are not lending in spite of reduced repo rate and CRR > Banks are too risk-averse to lend and partly because the overall demand from the businesses has also come down.
- Too much liquidity with banks > So they are parking money with the RBI.

Recognising this, the RBI has cut the reverse repo rate more than the repo twice in the spate

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 60 Environment

of the last three weeks. The idea is to make it less attractive for banks to do nothing with their funds because their doing so hurts the economy and starves the businesses that genuinely need funds.

Q.28) The terms 'NL63, OC43 and HKU1' were in news recently. What are they?

- a) Malware and Spyware
- b) Coronaviruses
- c) Proteins used in Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)
- d) Recently discovered exoplanets

Q.28) Solution (b)

229E: One of the first coronaviruses strains to be described in the mid-60s, possibly by D Hamre and JJ Procknow in their 1966 paper titled, "A new virus isolated from the human respiratory tract", published in Experimental Biology and Medicine.

OC43: Discovered in 1967 according to the Journal of Virology. However, a paper in Virology Journal has described it as the first human coronavirus to be discovered in 1965, citing a 1966 paper written by Tyrrell and Bynoe who worked with the nasal swab titled B814.

NL63 and HKU1: First identified in the Netherlands in 2004, probably after it was isolated from a seven-month-old infant showing respiratory symptoms. During this time, there was an increase in research on human coronaviruses, which led to the discovery of NL63 and HKU1 in Hong Kong in early 2005.

SARS-CoV: 2003 in China (animal source not yet known, bats thought to have given it to other animals, probably civet cats)

MERS: 2012 in Saudi Arabia (transmitted by dromedary camels)

SARS-CoV-2: 2019 in Wuhan (source not yet known, possibly bats, pangolins, leaked from a Chinese virology lab)

Q.29) The Indian basket of Crude Oil represents a derived basket comprising of

- 1. Oman & Dubai average
- 2. Brent Crude
- 3. West Texas Intermediate

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.29) Solution (a)

Indian Basket (IB), also known as Indian Crude Basket, is weighted average of Dubai and Oman (sour) and the Brent Crude (sweet) crude oil prices.

It is used as an indicator of the price of crude imports in India and Government of India watches the index when examining domestic price issues.

The Indian Basket is weighted average of daily prices and is updated daily on the website of the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Q.30 India has a currency swap agreement with

1. UAE
2. Japan
3. USA

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 Only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 3

Q.30) Solution (a)

India has a currency swap line with Japan, UAE and SAARC. India is discussing an agreement with USA.

