

Current Test 20 Explanation

Question 1

Answer: A

Recently, India has scored 90.32% in United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

- This is a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019.

About Survey:

- The survey is conducted every two years by UNESCAP and includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- 58 measures include publications of existing import-export rules on the internet, risk management, advance ruling on tariff classification, pre-arrival processing, independent appeal mechanism, expedited shipments, automated customs system, among others.
- A higher score for a country helps businesses in their investment decisions.
- The UN Regional Commissions jointly conduct the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The Survey currently covers 143 economies around the globe. For Asia Pacific, it is conducted by UNESCAP.

Assessment of India:

- It pointed out India's improvement in the scores on all five key indicators.
 - Transparency: 100% in 2021 (from 93.33% in 2019)
 - Formalities: 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
 - Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
 - Paperless Trade: 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019).
 - Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019).

Question 2

Answer: C

G20

- The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- It does not have any permanent secretariat or headquarters.

Question 3

Answer: A

Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.

Carbon space is the amount of carbon (or CO₂) that can be put into the atmosphere without this leading to a level of warming—or underlying concentrations of CO₂—that can be considered dangerous or otherwise undesirable.

Question 4

Answer: A

Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) India Forum-2021 is being organised by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

India is one of the five countries taking part in this project – the other countries being **Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico**.

The NCAVES Project

The Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project seeks to advance the theory and practice of environmental and ecosystem accounting in **Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa**.

The project has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).

- **It aims to assist the five participating partner countries**, to advance the knowledge agenda on environmental-economic accounting, in particular ecosystem accounting.
- The project will have a **duration until the end of 2021**.

Funding: The project is funded by the **European Union** through its Partnership Instrument (PI).

Objectives:

The objectives of the National Forum would be:

- To present India's achievements in the domain of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA);
- To prioritize the emerging opportunities for NCA in India;
- To familiarize stakeholders with the work undertaken by the different international agencies in the area of NCA; and
- To provide a platform to selected Research Institutions to present their research conducted in the valuation of ecosystem services.

About NCAVES India Forum 2021

In India, the NCAVES project is being implemented by the MoSPI with collaboration of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).

NCAVES India Forum 2021 is being organised in a virtual format.

Key Focus area:

The Forum aims to build a stronger awareness about the different perspective to Environment and to show a way forward towards realizing the contribution of the natural capital to achieve a "better environment, better tomorrow".

Significance:

The participation in the project has helped MOSPI commence the compilation of the Environment Accounts as per the UN-SEEA System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework.

- The MOSPI has also released environmental accounts in its publication “EnviStats India” on an annual basis since 2018.
- Several of these accounts are closely related to the social and economic attributes, making them a useful tool for the Policy.

Question 5

Answer: C

- The Rudreswara temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recherla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.
- The presiding deity here is Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- It is also known as the Ramappa temple, after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.
- The temple stands on a 6 feet high star-shaped platform with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiya sculptors.
- The foundation is built with the “sandbox technique”, the flooring is granite and the pillars are basalt.
- The lower part of the temple is red sandstone while the white gopuram is built with light bricks that reportedly float on water.
- An inscription dates the temple to 1135 Samvat-Saka on the eight-day of Magha (12th January, 1214).
- The distinct style of Kakatiyas for the gateways to temple complexes, unique only to this region, confirm the highly evolved proportions of aesthetics in temple and town gateways in South India.
- European merchants and travellers were mesmerized by the beauty of the temple and one such traveller had remarked that the temple was the "brightest star in the galaxy of medieval temples of the Deccan".
- **Sandbox Technique:**
 - The technique involved filling the pit — dug up for laying the foundation — with a mixture of sand-lime, jaggery (for binding) and karakkaya (black myrobalan fruit) before the buildings were constructed on these ‘sandboxes’.
 - The sandbox in the foundation acts as a cushion in case of earthquakes.
 - Most of the vibrations caused by earthquakes lose their strength while passing through the sand by the time they reach the actual foundation of the building.