

# Feynman IAS Current Affairs test series

## Test-1 solutions : Current affairs from Dec 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>

**1.Option D:** In the 11<sup>th</sup> ministerial conference at Buenos Aires, the major issue of discussion is Doha development agenda, though developed countries are pushing for issues like e-commerce, investment facilitation, norms for small firms. All the ministerial conferences post 2001 were working on the unfinished Doha development agenda (2001), including the present conference in Argentina.

The decisions made in WTO need consensus of all the 164 member countries.

The declaration of global e-commerce was considered in 2<sup>nd</sup> ministerial conference in 1998 according to which moratorium regarding e-commerce started. India has recently laid pre conditions for giving its consent to the extension of moratorium that constraints member nations from laying custom duties on electronic transmissions.

**2. Option D:** Unlike a ballistic missile, a cruise missile is a small pilotless aircraft that carries an explosive warhead. It has wings and an engine and is designed to be extremely accurate. Hwasong 14 is the ICBM launched by North Korea. There is no legally binding multilateral instrument dealing with issues of missiles within UN. However there were committees appointed on these issues

### **3. Option A: DISABILITIES ACT, 2016**

1. The reservation for the disabled people in higher education institutions increased from 3% to 5%.
2. The Government jobs quota increased from 3% to 4%
3. Data from the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People show that 84% of seats lie vacant in top universities.
4. The 2016 Act, replaced 1995 Act, by recognising 21 kinds of disabilities in comparison to 7 previously. *They include dwarfism, speech and language disability, and three blood disorders.*

Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan) has been launched by the Government of India to make the country more inclusive by way of achieving universal accessibility for all citizens including Persons with Disabilities and enabling them to gain access and live independently.

India is a signatory to UNCRPD and ratified it in 2007

**4. Option D :** 14<sup>th</sup> Finance commission recommended 42% of tax devolution to states. Article 280 of the constitution provides for the establishment of FC. The members of the commission are eligible for reappointment. The commission submits the reports to president who in turn will place the report in parliament.

**5. Option C:** UNESCO established the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage with the aim of ensuring the better protection of important intangible cultural heritages worldwide and the awareness of their significance. The list was established in 2008 when the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage took effect.

Custom/ Cultural Expression	Year included
1. Tradition of Vedic Chanting	2008
2. Ramlila, the traditional performance of Ramayana	2008
3. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre	2008
4. Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India	2009
5. Navroj*	2009
6. Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala	2010
7. Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan	2010
8. Chhau dance	2010
9. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	2012
10. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	2013
11. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab	2014
12. Yoga 13. Nouroz	2016
14. Kumbhamela	2017

## 6. Option C

### 7. Option C: National nutrition mission includes

- mapping of various Schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition
- introducing a very robust convergence mechanism
- ICT based Real Time Monitoring system
- incentivizing States/UTs for meeting the targets
- incentivizing Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools
- eliminating registers used by AWWs
- introducing measurement of height of children at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)
- Social Audits
- setting-up Nutrition Resource Centres, involving masses through *Jan Andolan* for their participation on nutrition through various activities, among others.

50% of expenditure by IBRD

NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (*among young children, women and adolescent girls*) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. Although the target to reduce Stunting is atleast 2% p.a., Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (*Mission 25 by 2022*).

### 8. Option B: NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU?

- It is an Attached Office of Ministry of Home Affairs, established in 1986 to empower Indian Police with Information Technology Solutions and Criminal Intelligence.
- It finally started CCTNS Project, which connects 12,794 police stations.
- CCTNS once fully functional will allow for a criminal/suspect on a National Data base.

- It also proposes to connect police, courts, prosecution, prisons and forensic labs into an Interoperable Criminal Justice System.
- It compiles and publishes National Crimes Statistics that is, crime in India, accidental deaths and suicides, prison statistics and finger prints

Reforms needed:

1. Police force should become more transparent and socially accountable.
2. Government interference must reduce
3. NCRB must capture not only the principal offence in a case, but also must list all cognisable offences separately.

**9. Option A:** Despite significant progress in the extension of social protection in many parts of the world, the human right to social security is not yet a reality for a majority of the world's population, says a new flagship social security report from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

**10. Option B:** Monetary policy committee is a statutory body established as per RBI act 1934. The objective of the RBI is inflation targeting, so to control the money liquidity in the market RBI reviews its policy bimonthly in every fiscal year

**11. Option A:**



**12. Option C:** Currently ISA has membership of 19 countries and is an alliance for all the countries that lie between tropic of cancer and tropic of Capricorn

**13. Option D:** EVMs in India are stand alone machines. EVMs used in some western countries are connected. This is the reason for those countries to shift to paper ballots. In India, EVMs are indigenously developed but the micro chip is manufactured outside India with the machine language embedded in it.

**14. Option A:** Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC), or the Dutch East India Company was an ambitious trading competitor to the Portuguese. In 1609 they captured the Portuguese fort at Pulicat, which stands at the mouth of the Pulicat lagoon, today a placid bird sanctuary

A recent work by Charles Allen narrates how Ludovico di Varthema's *Itinerario*, published in Rome in 1510 captured the imagination of Portuguese rivals and brought them to Indian coasts. Then on, Indian coasts were never the same.

In the context of increasing significance of South Indian history, these details assume significance.

**15. Option A:** The above technology assumes significance in the wake of a report submitted to the Supreme Court by Harish Salve, Amicus Curiae in an ongoing case related to Delhi air pollution. The report suggested two most “promising technologies” technologies- Turbo Happy Seeder (THS), which allows for seeding without till and the Super Straw Management System (S-SMS) (developed by Punjab Agricultural University), which allows for straw to be spread on the field, to be given to panchayats, free of cost.

**16. Option C:** First two options were part of a Private members bill on transgenders unanimously passed in Rajya Sabha in 2014. However, the latest bill excludes both of them. Under the new bill, to be called a transgender, one needs approval of a District Screening Committee comprising of a Chief Medical officer, a psychiatrist, a social worker and a member of transgender community.

**17. Option B:** The CEC and the Election Commissioners have a tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier, and enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Supreme Court judges.

Article 324 (5) of the Constitution safeguards the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) from arbitrary removal. The same provision is silent about the procedure for removal of the other two Election Commissioners.

It only provides that they cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the CEC.

Why in news? A PIL based on the same has been accepted by the Supreme Court. It is set to be heard shortly.

**18. Option D:** Union Government recently promulgated the Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 to exempt bamboo grown in non-forest areas from definition of tree, thereby dispensing with the requirement of felling/transit permit for its economic use.

Bamboo, though, taxonomically a grass, was legally defined as a tree under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. This was a major impediment for bamboo cultivation by farmers on non-forest land. This while on the one hand removes the legal and regulatory hardships being faced by farmers and private individuals, on the other hand, it creates a viable option for cultivation in 12.6 million hectares of cultivable waste land. The measure will go a long way in enhancing the agricultural income of farmers and tribals, especially in North-East and Central India. As per the assessment of United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the bamboo business in the North-East Region alone has a potential of about Rs. 5000 crores in the next ten years.

**19. Option A:** The MRP printed on all packaged commodities that consumers purchase was introduced in 1990 by the Ministry of Civil supplies, by an amendment to the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976. The act was repealed by the Legal Metrology act in 2010. The Supreme Court's judgement on Tuesday was based on the special leave petition filed by the FHRAI, which argued that the definition of sale in both the new and old acts was the same

**20. Option B:**

**21. Option A:** The Shahid Beheshti port is expected to make Chabahar, Iran's closest sea link to the Indian Ocean

The port, whose new extension will take its capacity from 2.5 million tonnes to 8 million tonnes of cargo a year, is seen as an important route for India and Afghanistan to bypass obstacles posed by Pakistan for trade on the direct route.

It is also seen as a feeder port to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to Russia as well as land route to Central Asia.

## 22. Option D

## 23. Option D

**24. Option A:** MDR is the fee that a merchant has to pay to a bank for every debit/credit card transaction.

It is split between the bank which has issued the card, the lender whose point-of-sale terminal (PoS) is being used and payment gateways like MasterCard or Visa.

RBI officials said they had conducted a survey among the top five banks in terms of deployment of point-of-sale terminals.

All these banks — State Bank of Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and Bank of Bank of Baroda — had incurred losses for deploying these PoS terminals.

## 25. Option C: SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP INDIA – NEPAL AS PER “1950 INDIA-NEPAL TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP”

1. Everlasting peace and friendship between India & Nepal
2. Both the countries should inform each other any serious friction or misunderstanding with any neighbouring state
3. Visa free travel
4. Open borders
5. Nepal can freely import arms & ammunition required for its safety & security through the territory of India
6. “National treatment” to the nationals of other country in industrial and economic development
7. Same privileges to nationals of other country in the matter of residence, ownership of property and participation in trade and commerce

Terai is a region of plains but not hills. Its also called the rice bowl of Nepal. North of the Terai lies Bhabhar plains, a narrow and continuous belt of forests.

**26. Option D:** The convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 10, 1984 and came into force on June 26, 1987 after being ratified by 20 nations. India is a signatory to the Convention

**27. Answer C:** Free Basics is an open platform that gives developers the opportunity to make their services and websites available free of cost to those who cannot afford internet access. However, this free access is limited to partner websites and applications. Not all websites.

**28. Option A:** Petcoke is a serious contributor to Green house gases. U.S. oil refineries that are unable to dispense petcoke at home are exporting vast quantities of it to India instead. India is the biggest importer of US petcoke.

Supreme court recently exempted cement and limestone industries from using petcoke. Reason? These industries use petcoke not as a fuel but as an ingredient. SC asks MOEF to frame a scheme to prevent diversion of petcoke from cement and limestone industries to other industries.

**29. Option D:** Jerusalem is a region bordered by Mediterranean sea, Dead sea and lies above Judanian mountains. As per the 2 state solution east Jerusalem belongs to Palestine and West bank to Israel.

**30. Option C: Chandrayaan-2,** India's second mission to the Moon is a totally indigenous mission comprising of an Orbiter, Lander and Rover.

The mission will carry a six-wheeled Rover which will move around the landing site in semi-autonomous mode as decided by the ground commands. The instruments on the rover will analyse lunar rocks and soils and perform onsite chemical analyses and send back data, which will be useful for analysis of the lunar soil.

Aditya L1 mission is said to be launched in 2019 to study suns atmosphere. The X ray polarimeter (POLIX) is approved to be launched on a dedicated satellite mission of ISRO XPOSAT

**31. Option D: India, Australia call for 'open' Asia-Pacific zone.** Continuing with the strategic bilateral discussion, Australia and India on Tuesday discussed the need to maintain the Asia-Pacific region as a "free" and "open" zone under the "2+2" dialogue model which includes the foreign and defence secretaries of both sides. The discussion was the first meeting of this level since the two sides participated in the quadrilateral discussion for a new strategic partnership targeting the Asia-Pacific region.

**32. Option B:** 21<sup>st</sup> century trade issues are a major sticking point in the negotiations under the Doha round of WTO talks. The Doha Round had begun in Doha in 2001 with the 'development agenda' — to improve trading prospects of developing nations — at the heart of the talks.

However, countries, mostly from the developed world, want what they call the '21st century trade issues' — such as e-commerce, investment facilitation, matters relating to small firms and gender equality — to be discussed for rule-making to enhance the relevance of the WTO. India, and several countries mainly from the developing world, are against introduction of such 'new issues' into the Doha Round, saying it is important to first resolve outstanding issues such as the ones relating to food security and protection of poor farmers before taking up new topics.

**33. Option D:** 1,2,4 options are self explanatory.

Use of Blockchain technology is not limited to the financial sector. It is being used in many other areas. For example, Honduras government has put all land records on a public ledger - the blockchain. The minute there is a change in ownership, it gets recorded publicly.

The Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) announced this year that it would move Australia's equities clearing and settlement system on to blockchain

**34. Option D:**

**35. Option B:**

**36. Option C: Gatekeeping** is the process through which information is filtered for dissemination. TRAI is statutory body under Telecom Regulatory Authority Act 1997 to regulate Telecom services which were earlier vested with Central Government

**37. Option D:**

**38. Option A:** The Bill proposes to establish a 'Resolution Corporation' to monitor financial firms, calculate stress and take "corrective actions" in case of a failure. This Corporation will classify financial firms based on their risk factors as low, moderate, material, imminent, and

critical. In case of critical firms, the Corporation will be empowered to take over and resolve issues within a year.

However, the proposed Bill seeks closure of the DICGC, as the credit guarantee will be taken care of by the Resolution Corporation itself.

The Bill proposes 'bail-in' as one of the methods to resolution, where the banks issue securities in lieu of the money deposited. In the past, the bail-in efforts had largely worked against depositors

**39. Option D: G5 Sahel initiative is led by France.** Saudi Arabia has pledged \$100 million towards a five-nation anti-terror force in the Sahel region of West Africa, while the United Arab Emirates has offered \$30 million. G5 Sahel force, an initiative pooling troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

**40. Option A:** GDPR stand for “General Data Protection Regulations” that are being enforced in EU from April 2018. It became a cause of concern for various firms that are working on consumer behavioural analysis because the data usage is regulated. This issue also raised the debate of cyber security.

Budapest convention is a convention on cyber crime which is effective from 2004 and GDPR is independent of this convention.

**41. Option A:** The Aditya-1 mission was conceived as a 400kg class satellite carrying one payload, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) and was planned to launch in a 800 km low earth orbit. A Satellite placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses. Therefore, the Aditya-1 mission has now been revised to “Aditya-L1 mission” and will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1, which is 1.5 million km from the Earth.

Aditya-1 was meant to observe only the solar corona. The outer layers of the Sun, extending to thousands of km above the disc (photosphere) is termed as the corona. It has a temperature of more than a million degree Kelvin which is much higher than the solar disc temperature of around 6000K. How the corona gets heated to such high temperatures is still an unanswered question in solar physics.

Aditya-L1 with additional experiments can now provide observations of Sun's Photosphere (soft and hard X-ray), Chromosphere (UV) and corona (Visible and NIR).

**42. Option B :** Petro’: Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro recently announced launch of oil-backed cryptocurrency Venezuela will create a cryptocurrency. In order to circumvent US-led financial sanctions, Venezuelan President announced the launch of the “petro” backed by oil reserves. This will also help shore up a collapsed economy. It will be backed by oil, gas, gold and diamond reserves

**43. Option B :** Predatory pricing is the act of setting prices low in an attempt to eliminate the competition. It makes markets vulnerable to monopoly.

**44. Option A**

**45. Option C**



**46. Option B:** UNSC permanent members: UK, USA, Russia, France and China  
QUAD group: India, Japan, USA, Australia

**47. Option C:** Wassenaar treaty is neither a treaty nor legally binding but only an arrangement. India's membership in Wassenaar helps India to have some exemptions in licenses for high technology and dual use exports from countries like US. But India has to apply for licence.

**48. Option B: Yamal LNG** is a liquefied natural gas plant that reached initial operational capacity in 2017 and is located in Sabetta at the north-east corner of the Yamal Peninsula, Russia

**49. Option B:** 1st and 3rd options are true. Antibiotic resistance, besides being a medical issue, is also a serious socio cultural consequence. Developing countries with less literacy levels, poor health systems are seen to be more susceptible than the ones with robust health care facilities. Antibiotic resistance isn't an epidemic.

**50. Option B:** Bio digester technology has been developed by DRDO. It decomposes the organic waste through an anaerobic process, releasing methane and water. These could be further used for cooking and agricultural purposes respectively.