

1. With reference to the Economic survey 2019-20, consider the following statements.

1. China remains as the largest trading partner of India.
2. With the USA, India has consistently run trade surplus since 2014-15.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

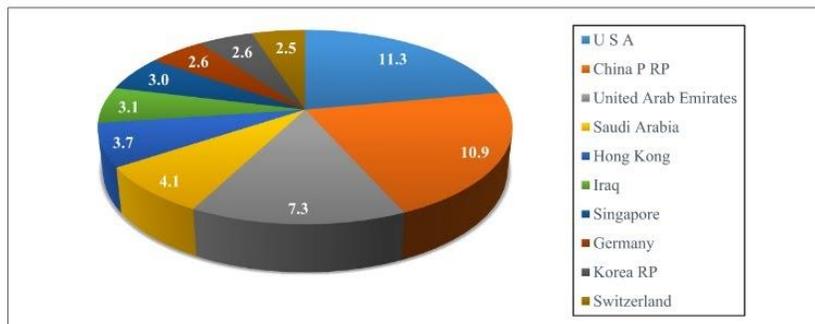
- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India's top five trading partners continue to be USA, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong respectively.

Figure 5: Top 10 Trading Partners of India in 2019-20 (April-November)(in Per cent)



Source: Computed from latest data available on Department of Commerce's website, 'https://commerce-app.gov.in/eidb/default.asp'.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** With two top trading countries i.e. The USA and United Arab Emirates, India has consistently run **trade surplus** since 2014-15.
- On the other hand, India has trade deficit continuously since 2014-15 with respect to other major trading partners i.e. China PRP, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Germany, Korea RP, Indonesia and Switzerland.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/shipments-to-china-driving-export-recovery/article32416273.ece>

2. Consider the following statements.

1. Dengue is a Neglected tropical disease.
2. Dengue is a vector borne disease transmitted by mosquitoes of Culex species.

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

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- Dengue is common in more than 100 countries around the world. Forty percent of the world's population, about 3 billion people, live in areas with a risk of dengue. Dengue is often a leading cause of illness in areas with risk.
- The mosquitoes that spread dengue are found in most tropical and subtropical regions of the world.
- The dengue virus (DEN) comprises four distinct serotypes (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4) which belong to the **genus Flavivirus, family Flaviviridae**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Aedes aegypti mosquito** is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue. The viruses are passed on to humans through the bites of an infective female Aedes mosquito, which mainly acquires the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person.
- Once infected, humans become the main carriers and multipliers of the virus, serving as a source of the virus for uninfected mosquitoes.
- Rarely, dengue can be spread through blood transfusion, organ transplant, or through a needle stick injury.
- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of communicable diseases that prevail in tropical and subtropical conditions in 149 countries which will affect more than one billion people and cost developing economies.
- Populations living in poverty without adequate sanitation and in close contact with infectious vectors and domestic animals and livestock are those worst affected.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The World Health Organization's Roadmap on NTDs set out a comprehensive plan for the control, elimination and eradication of 17 neglected tropical diseases by 2020. It includes **Dengue**, Blinding trachoma, Human dog-mediated rabies, Leprosy (Hansen disease), Endemic treponematoses (yaws), Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Leishmaniasis, Lymphatic filariasis, etc.

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20200822/282093459111807>

**3. Which of the following are initiatives under the Atal Innovation Mission.**

1. Atal Incubation Centres
2. Mentor India Campaign
3. ARISE programme
4. SPARC programme

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the **NITI Aayog** to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country.
- AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem of the country.

**Initiatives under Atal Innovation Mission**

**Atal Tinkering Labs - at School Level**

- Over the last two years, AIM has launched the establishment of thousands of Atal Tinkering Labs enabling students from **grade 6 to grade 12** to have access to and tinker with innovative tools and technologies like 3D printers, robotics, miniaturised electronics do-it-yourself kits, thus stimulating a problem solving innovative mindset to solve problems in the community they are in.
- Some activities related to ATL Operational Excellence, Proactive Promotion of Innovation & Thought Leadership, Collaborations & Partnerships and New Initiatives by AIM:
  - **ATL Gandhian Challenge** - launched in all schools along with UNICEF.
  - **India Stamp Creativity challenge**- launched with UNICEF and India Post.
  - **PM India Innovative Learning DHRUV Program** – AIM invited as key partner by MHRD.

**Atal Incubators at Universities, Institutions, Industry Level**

- To promote creation of a supporting ecosystem for start-ups and entrepreneurs, AIM has been establishing world-class incubators called Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) in

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universities, institutions, corporates, etc. that would foster innovative start-ups and become scalable and sustainable enterprises.

- Some activities related to AIC Operational Excellence, Proactive Promotion of Innovation & Thought Leadership, Collaborations & Partnerships and New Initiatives by AIM:
  - **Youth-CoLab Sustainable Innovation Challenge** along with UNDP-based on Gandhian Values.
  - **UNLEASH Startups Challenge** with Netherlands embassy support.

### **Atal Community Innovation Centres - Serving Unserved and Under-Served Regions of India**

- To promote the benefits of technology led innovation to the unserved/ underserved regions of India including Tier 2, Tier 3 cities, aspirational districts, tribal, hilly and coastal areas, AIM is setting up Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) with a unique partnership driven model wherein AIM would **grant up to Rs. 2.5 crore** to an ACIC subject to a partner proving equal or greater matching funding.

### **Atal New India Challenges - Product and Service Innovations with National Impact**

- To create product and service innovations having national socio-economic impact, AIM has launched over 24 Atal New India Challenges in partnership with five different ministries and departments of the central government.

### **Applied Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) - to Stimulate MSME Industry Innovation**

- To promote innovation in a phased manner in the MSME/Start-up sector AIM will be launching ARISE along with partner Ministries so that great research ideas are converted to viable innovative prototypes followed by product development and commercial deployment.

### **Mentorship and Partnerships - with Public, Private sector, NGOs, Academia, Institutions**

- To enable all the initiatives to succeed, AIM has launched the “**Mentor India – The Mentors of Change**” programme, in collaboration with the public sector, corporates and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
- It is a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students in Atal Tinkering Labs.
  
- The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) aims at improving the research ecosystem of India’s Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations to jointly solve problems of national and/or international relevance.
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.

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<http://newsonair.com/News?title=AIM%2c-NITI-Aayog%2c-Business-Sweden-collaborate-to-promote-disruptive-potential-of-Indian-entrepreneurs&id=397801>

**4. With reference to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), consider the following statements.**

1. BIS is the world's oldest international financial institution and remains the principal centre for international central bank cooperation.
2. BIS is owned by more than 50 central banks including the Reserve Bank of India.

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

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is a bank for central banks.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Founded in 1930, the Bank for International Settlements is the world's oldest international financial institution and remains the principal centre for international central bank cooperation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The BIS is owned by 62 central banks (including the Reserve Bank of India), representing countries from around the world that together account for about 95% of world GDP.
- BIS' mission is fostering discussion and facilitating collaboration among central banks.

<https://www.ft.com/content/aaf192ac-dc94-4509-8f24-5831a32e7aa2>

**5. With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements.**

1. In case of difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners, the decision of the CEC will prevail.
2. The Election Commissioners can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

#### Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- The **President** appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of **six years**, or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the **Supreme Court of India**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to Article 324 (5), the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be removed from office **only through impeachment by Parliament**. However, the same constitutional provision is silent about the procedure for removal of the two Election Commissioners. It only provides that they cannot be removed from office **except on the recommendation of the CEC**.
- The Commission transacts its business by holding regular meetings and also by circulation of papers. All Election Commissioners have **equal say in the decision making of the Commission**.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** If the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners differ in opinion on any matter, such matter shall be decided according to the **opinion of the majority**.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajiv-kumar-election-commissioner-ashok-lavasa-6564700/>