

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd:**

1. It is an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India.
2. One of its major objectives is to distribute agricultural machinery.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

**National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd**

- It is an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India.
- It was founded on 2nd October 1958 and is registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.
- NAFED is now one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies for agricultural products in India.

**Objectives:**

- To organize, promote and develop marketing, processing and storage of agricultural, horticultural and forest produce.
- To distribute agricultural machinery, implements and other inputs, undertake inter-state, import and export trade, wholesale or retail as the case may be.
- To act and assist for technical advice in agricultural production for the promotion and the working of its members, partners, associates and cooperative marketing, processing and supply societies in India.

**Q.2) Which of the following state does not share border with Nepal?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Sikkim
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Bihar

**Q.2) Solution (c)**

- Nepal shares a border of about 1850 km with five Indian States – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.



**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD).
2. Gestational diabetes usually occurs in women during pregnancy when the body sometimes becomes less sensitive to insulin.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.3) Solution (b)**

Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

**Types:**

- Type I diabetes: It is also known as juvenile diabetes (as it mostly affects children of age 14-16 years), this type occurs when the body fails to produce sufficient insulin. People with type I diabetes are insulin-dependent, which means they must take artificial insulin daily to stay alive.
- Gestational diabetes: This type occurs in women during pregnancy when the body sometimes becomes less sensitive to insulin. Gestational diabetes does not occur in all women and usually resolves after giving birth.

**Do you know?**

- Diabetes affects the five major organs namely, Kidney, Heart, Blood vessels, Nervous System, and Eyes (retina).
- The factors responsible for the increase in diabetes are an unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, harmful use of alcohol, overweight/obesity, tobacco use, etc.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC):**

1. IMAC will become a National Maritime Domain Awareness (NDMA) centre.
2. IMAC will act as nodal centre of the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence System (NC3I).

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.4) Solution (c)****Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC)**

- IMAC will become a National Maritime Domain Awareness (NDMA) centre.
- IMAC will become a multi-agency centre with the presence of stakeholders in NDMA.
- Approved by the Defence Acquisition Council in 2012, IMAC became operational in 2014.
- It is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- Located in Gurugram, IMAC tracks vessels on the high seas.

- It gets data from the coastal radars, white shipping agreements, Automatic Identification Systems transponders fitted on merchant ships, air and traffic management system and global shipping databases.
- It is the nodal centre of the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence System (NC3I).

**Q.5) River Brahmaputra flows through how many countries?**

- a) Two
- b) Three
- c) Four
- d) Five

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

The Brahmaputra River flows for 1,800 miles through China, India, and Bangladesh. Starting in the Himalayas in Tibet (Autonomous Region) as the Tsangpo River, the river flows eastward for 704 miles.



**Q.6) Recently C32-LH2 was recently in news, is related to:**

- a) Cryogenic propellant tank
- b) Crude oil storage tank
- c) Covid-19 vaccine
- d) Combat Aircraft

**Q.6)Solution (a)**

- The C32-LH2 tank is a developmental cryogenic propellant tank of aluminium alloy designed for improving the payload capability of GSLV MK-III launching vehicle of ISRO.
- The tank designed by HAL can load 5755 kg propellant fuel in the 89 cubic meter volume. Even earlier HAL had partnered with ISRO to supply satellite structures for the PSLV, GSLV Mark II and III launch vehicles.

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to WORLD AIDS DAY:**

1. It is observed every year on last Sunday of October
2. Theme for 2020 is 'Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: resilience and impact.'

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.7) Solution (b)**

- World AIDS Day is observed on the 1st of December, every year, since 1988. World AIDS Day was the first global health day to be celebrated.
- The theme this year is 'Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: resilience and impact.'
- AIDS is the abbreviation for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. It is a chronic illness, which can also be potentially life-threatening. The disease is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV which affects the human immune system.
- According to the WHO, in 2019, there were still 38 million people living with HIV infection. In 2019, 6.9 lakh people died from HIV-related causes and 1.7 million people were newly infected.
- Since the inception of the National AIDS Control Program in 1992, India has done a commendable job in raising awareness and bringing down the number of HIV infections.
- India is a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and has committed itself to achieving the target of ending the epidemic of AIDS by 2030.

**Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):**

1. It is flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
2. Presently, there are only nine sports disciplines under High priority category in this scheme

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.8) Solution (c)**

- The Target Olympic Podium Scheme is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes.
- Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme was formulated in 2014 under overall ambit of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) with the aim to identify, groom and prepare potential medal prospects for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- The Scheme looks to add a premium to the preparations of these athletes so that they can win Olympic medals in 2020 and 2024 Olympics.
- Under the Scheme, the Department of Sports shall identify athletes who are potential medal winners in 2020 / 2024 Olympics.
- The idea of the Scheme is to also keep an eye in the future and fund a Developmental Group of Athletes who are medal prospects for the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles Games in 2028.
- The Mission Olympic Cell is a dedicated body created to assist the athletes who are selected under the TOP Scheme. The MOC is under the Chairmanship of the Director General, Sports Authority (DG, SAI).
- High priority category has been created to put focus on those sports disciplines played in the Olympics in which India has won medals in the last conducted Asian Games as well as Commonwealth Games or in which India has a good chance of winning medals.
- Presently, nine sports disciplines viz., (i) Athletics, (ii) Badminton (iii) Hockey (iv) Shooting (v) Tennis (vi) Weightlifting (vii) Wrestling, (viii) Archery and (ix) Boxing have been categorised as 'High Priority'.
- The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was established in November, 1998 under Charitable Endowments Act, 1890 with the aim of promotion of sports and games in the country.

**Q.9) Which Indian state is first in the country to get certification for Kiwi under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER)?**

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

**Q.9) Solution (a)**

- Arunachal Kiwi got organic certification for Kiwi under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER).
- [MOVCD-NER is a scheme for the north-eastern states by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare under the Central government.]
- Arunachal Pradesh is first in the country to get this certification for kiwi.



- These kiwis are grown Ziro Valley located in the Lower Subansiri district in Arunachal.
- An agricultural practice/product is considered organic when there are no chemical fertilisers or pesticides involved in its cultivation process.
- Such certifications can be obtained after scientific assessment done by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to Peacock Soft-shelled Turtle:**

1. This species is confined to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
2. Status of this in IUCN Red List is Critically endangered

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.10) Solution (a)**



- Peacock Soft-shelled Turtle have a large head, downturned snout with low and oval carapace of dark olive green to nearly black, sometimes with a yellow rim.
- The head and limbs are olive green; the forehead has dark reticulations and large yellow or orange patches or spots, especially behind the eyes and across the snout.
- Males possess relatively longer and thicker tails than females.
- Habitat:
  - This species is confined to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
  - In India, it is widespread in the northern and central parts of the Indian subcontinent.
  - These are found in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds with mud or sand bottoms.

- Conservation Status:
  - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
  - IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
  - CITES: Appendix I

**Q.11) Arrange the following countries from north to south:**

1. Sudan
2. Ethiopia
3. Madagascar
4. Tanzania

**Which of the following order is correct?**

- a) 1-2-3-4
- b) 2-3-4-1
- c) 4-2-3-1
- d) 1-2-4-3





**Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to Border Security Force (BSF):**

1. The BSF was raised in 1971 after the India-China war.
2. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.12) Solution (d)**

- 56th 'Raising Day' event of the Border Security Force (BSF) was held on 1st December 2020 in New Delhi.
- The BSF was raised in 1965 after the India-Pakistan war.
- It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of Union of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
  - Other Central Armed Police Forces are: Assam Rifles (AR), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- The 2.65-lakh force is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.
  - It is deployed on Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, Line of Control (LoC) along with Indian Army and in Anti-Naxal Operations.
- It contributes dedicated services to the UN peacekeeping Mission by sending a large contingent of its trained manpower every year.
- It has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories.

**Q.13) Consider the following statements with respect to Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:**

1. It is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education
2. Indian It aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with a set of at least (5) villages

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.13) Solution (c)**

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education. It was launched in 2014.
- It aims to link the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with set of at least 5 villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base.

- It covers two major domains for holistic development of villages – human development and material (economic) development – in an integrated way.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT, Delhi) has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA scheme.
- Main Objectives:
- To engage the faculty and students of HEIs in identifying development issues in rural areas and finding sustainable solutions for the same.
- Identify & select existing innovative technologies, enable customisation of technologies, or devise implementation methods for innovative solutions, as required by the people.
- To allow HEIs to contribute to devising systems for smooth implementation of various Government programmes.

**Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED):**

1. It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. Tech For Tribals program is one of the initiative of TRIFED

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.14) Solution (c)**

**Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India**

- Formation: It was established in 1987 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by the Government of India as a National level Cooperative body.
- Organisation: It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It has its head office in New Delhi.
- Objectives: Socio-economic development of tribal people, empowerment of tribal people with knowledge, tools and information and their capacity building.
- Initiatives and Involvement:
  - TRIFED, under the brand name Tribes India, markets the handcrafted products directly procured from the tribal people in India through its 73 brick and mortar outlets all over India. Tribes India has its own e-commerce platform.
  - TRIFOOD Scheme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED and it promotes value addition to Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
  - It has organised the Van Dhan Internship Programme, to enhance the output of the Van Dhan Yojana.
  - TRIFED helps in implementation of the scheme 'Mechanism for Marketing of MFP through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP'

to ensure fair returns to forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other traditional forest dwellers.

- MSP for MFP and Van Dhan program is in line with the “The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Forest Rights Act, 2006)”, a key forest legislation passed for securing protection & livelihood of poor tribals and concerns with the rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other natural resources.
- It has also launched a transformational Tech For Tribals program in partnership with Institutes of National Importance (INIs) to develop tribal entrepreneurship.

**Q.15) Sarayu River was recently in news. It originated in which State?**

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

**Q.15) Solution (a)**

- ‘Ramayan Cruise Tour’ on the Saryu River in Ayodhya will be launched soon.
- The Sarayu is a river that originates in Uttarakhand.
- It flows through Uttar Pradesh in India.
- It is a tributary of the Sharda River.

**Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Climate Provisional Report:**

1. This report was released by the World Meteorological Organization
2. According to this report the decade 2011-2020 was the warmest ever on record.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.16) Solution (c)**

**State of the Global Climate Provisional Report**

- This report was released by the World Meteorological Organization.
- The decade 2011-2020 was the warmest ever on record.
- Also, the year 2020 is set to be among the three warmest on record.
- The record heat in 2020 has been despite La Niña conditions prevailing in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- Scientific evidence indicates increasing temperatures are a direct result of human-led global warming, an impact of Green House Gas emission.

- After record GHG levels of 2019, there has been a slight dip this year due to measures taken by countries to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Global sea-level rise was similar to 2019 values and the general decreasing trend has continued.
- Extreme weather events such as tropical cyclones, floods, heavy rainfall and droughts which are an expensive consequence of global warming impacted many parts of the world.
- The report states that climate induced human migration is one of the least understood impact of anthropogenic climate change.

**Q.17) Migratory Bird Festival 2020 will be organized by which of the following state?**

- a) Bihar
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Orissa
- d) Jharkhand

**Q.17) Solution (a)**

- Bihar is holding a bird festival for the first time as part of its initiative to save migratory birds that arrive in the state in large numbers every year.
- The three-day festival is being organised in Bhagalpur district of Bihar.
- The 60-km stretch of Bihar's Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary between Sultanganj and Kahalgaon had long been a hub of migratory birds.
- The 'ringing of birds' involves trapping them in nets and snares.
- Subsequently, they are weighed and their details logged before a metal ring inscribed with a unique number is tied to their tibia bone.
- This helps birdwatchers and professional conservationists log their presence across the globe.

**Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020:**

1. This report is released by World health Organization
2. India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.18) Solution (c)**

- World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020.

- The report provides a comprehensive update on global and regional malaria data and trends including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, elimination and surveillance.
- It indicates that India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden.
- India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- The Annual Parasite Incidence (API, the number of new infections per year per 1000 population) reduced by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- India achieved a reduction of 83.34% in malaria morbidity and 92% in malaria mortality between the year 2000 and 2019, thereby achieving Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals.
  - MDG 6 aimed to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, which have a direct and indirect impact on rural development, agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security.
  - The Sustainable Development Goals have replaced the MDGs.
- States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh (high endemic states) disproportionately accounted for nearly 45.47% of malaria cases in 2019.

**Q.19) Which of the following country shares border with both Caspian sea and Persian gulf:**

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

**Q.19) Solution (b)**



**Q.20) Consider the following statements with respect to International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS):**



1. IAIS is a voluntary membership organisation of insurance supervisors and regulators.
2. Indian Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority is not a member of IAIS

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.20) Solution (a)**

- International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS): Established in 1994 with Switzerland as its headquarter, IAIS is a voluntary membership organisation of insurance supervisors and regulators.
- It is the international standard-setting body responsible for developing and assisting in the implementation of principles, standards, and other supporting material for the supervision of the insurance sector.
- Indian Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) is among the leading members of IAIS.
- The IAIS also provides a forum for Members to share their experiences and understanding of insurance supervision and insurance markets.
- In recognition of its collective expertise, the IAIS is routinely called upon by the G20 leaders and other international standard setting bodies.

**Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to Commission on Narcotic Drugs(CND):**

1. CND is one of the functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council
2. As per CND guidelines cannabis II remain in Schedule 1 category

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.21) Solution (c)**

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

- It is the UN agency mandated to decide on the scope of control of substances by placing them in the schedules of global drug control conventions.
- It was founded in 1946 and is headquartered in Vienna.
- Global attitudes towards cannabis have changed dramatically since the commencement of the 1961 Convention, with many jurisdictions permitting cannabis use for recreation, medication or both.

- Currently, over 50 countries allow medicinal cannabis programmes, and its recreational use has been legalised in Canada, Uruguay and 15 states of the USA.

**Cannabis:**

- Older Status: The CND decision will remove cannabis from Schedule IV, where it was listed alongside deadly, addictive opioids, including heroin.
- Current Status: Now, both cannabis and cannabis resin will remain on Schedule I, which includes the least dangerous category of substances.
- Countries in Favour: 27 of the CND's 53 Member States, including India, the USA and most European nations, voted in favour of the motion.
- Countries not in Favour: 25 countries, including China, Pakistan, and Russia, were not in favour and there was one abstention, Ukraine.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to Malayan Giant Squirrel:**

1. It is considered to be a forest health indicator species.
2. This animal is categorized as Schedule II under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.22) Solution (a)****Habitat:**

- It is found mostly in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, from plains to hills at elevations of 50 m to 1,500 m above sea level.
- Globally it is distributed through Southern China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, the Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java.
- In India, is found in the forests of Northeast and is currently found in parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland.

**Significance:**

- It is considered to be a forest health indicator species.
- An indicator species provides information on the overall condition of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem. They reflect the quality and changes in environmental conditions as well as aspects of community composition.

**Conservation Status:**

- IUCN Red List: Near Threatened.
- CITES: Appendix II.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

**Q.23) Which of the following is not a favorable condition for the formation of tropical storms?**

- a) Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27°C.
- b) Absence of the Coriolis force.

- c) Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
- d) A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.

**Q.23) Solution (b)**

- A tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain.
- A characteristic feature of tropical cyclones is the eye, a central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure.
- Storms of this type are called hurricanes in the North Atlantic and eastern Pacific and typhoons in SouthEast Asia and China. They are called tropical cyclones in the southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean region and Willy-willies in north-western Australia.
- Storms rotate counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere.
- The conditions favorable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:
  - Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27°C.
  - Presence of the Coriolis force.
  - Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
  - A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
  - Upper divergence above the sea level system.

**Q.24) Nisarg Gram which will be developed by Ministry of AYUSH as the 21st Century abode of Naturopathy is in which city?**

- a) Pune
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bengaluru

**Q.24) Solution (a)**

- Ministry of AYUSH will develop Nisarg Gram campus at Pune as the 21st Century abode of Naturopathy.
- "Nisarg Gram" will be the name of the upcoming new campus of National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) at Pune.
- This will invoke recollections of Mahatma Gandhi's Nature Cure campaign of 1946 at the "Nisarg Upchar" Ashram a village near Pune.
- Nisarg Gram will have many innovations and novelties incorporated in the project per se and the curriculum of the Naturopathy course.
- It is a future-orientated institute which has a science-based approach, Gandhian spirit and social relevance

**Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to National Technical Textiles Mission:**

1. It will be implemented for four years starting from 2020-2021 and has four components
2. It aims at taking domestic market size to USD 40 billion to USD 50 billion by 2024.

Which of the above statements is/are *incorrect*?

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

**Q.25) Solution (d)**

**National Technical Textiles Mission:**

- It was approved with a total outlay of Rs. 1480 crore in February 2020.
- It aims to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market.
- It aims at taking domestic market size to USD 40 billion to USD 50 billion by 2024. It will be implemented for four years starting from 2020-2021 and has four components:
  - First component: It focuses on research, development and innovation with an outlay of Rs. 1,000 crores.
    - The research will be at both fibre level and application-based in geo, agro, medical, sports and mobile textiles and development of biodegradable technical textiles.
    - Research activities will also focus on the development of indigenous machinery and process equipment.
  - Second component: It is for the promotion and development of the market for technical textiles.
  - Third component: It focuses on export promotion so that technical textile exports from the country reach from Rs.14,000 crores to Rs. 20,000 crores by 2021-2022 and will ensure 10% average growth every year till the Mission ends.
  - Fourth component: It focuses on education, training and skill development.
    - A Mission Directorate is operational in the Ministry of Textiles for implementation of the Mission.

**Q.26) India's first home for Transgender Children will be established in which of the following city?**

- a) Kochi
- b) Gujarat
- c) Mumbai
- d) Bengaluru

**Q.26) Solution (d)**

- India's first children's homes for transgender children in need of care and protection will soon be established in Bengaluru Urban.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development gave its nod for establishing two government-run homes reserved for transgender children.
- The two homes would have the capacity to house 50 children each.

- Child Welfare Committee (CWC) are not able to place the transgender children in the existing children's homes for boys and girls.
- So, a move to establish a separate home for transgenders would help them cross the many hurdles they faced in society.

**Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to Great Barrier Reef:**

1. It is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms
2. This reef is located in the North-West Coast of Australia.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.27) Solution (a)**

**Great Barrier Reef:**

- It is the world's most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands.
- The reef is located in the Coral Sea (North-East Coast), off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
- It can be seen from outer space and is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms.
- This reef structure is composed of and built by billions of tiny organisms, known as coral polyps.
  - They are made up of genetically identical organisms called polyps, which are tiny, soft-bodied organisms. At their base is a hard, protective limestone skeleton called a calicle, which forms the structure of coral reefs.
  - These polyps have microscopic algae called zooxanthellae living within their tissues. The corals and algae have a mutualistic (symbiotic) relationship.
- It was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981.





**Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Teacher Prize 2020:**

1. The award is organized by Varkey Foundation in partnership with UNESCO.
2. It is a 1 million dollar award presented annually to an exceptional teacher

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.28) Solution (c)**

**Global Teacher Prize:**

- It is a 1 million dollar award presented annually to an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to their profession.
- Founder: Varkey Foundation, which is a global charitable foundation focused on improving the standards of education. The award is organised in partnership with UNESCO.

**Objective:**

- It serves to underline the importance of educators and the fact that, throughout the world, their efforts deserve to be recognised and celebrated.
- It seeks to acknowledge the impacts of the very best teachers not only on their students but on the communities around them.
- An inadequate education is a major factor behind the social, political, economic and health issues faced by the world today. Education has the power to reduce poverty, prejudice and conflict.

**Q.29) Bhashan Char Island was recently in news, is located in which of the following country?**

- a) Bangladesh
- b) India
- c) Pakistan
- d) Myanmar

**Q.29) Solution (a)**



**Q.30) HL-2M Tokamak was recently in news, it is related to:**

- a) Nuclear fusion reactor
- b) Mars Mission by China
- c) Space debris collector
- d) None of the above

**Q.30) Solution (a)**

- The HL-2M Tokamak reactor is China's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device.
- Name of the mission: Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST).
- Location: Sichuan province
- The reactor is often called an "artificial sun" due to the enormous heat and power it produces.
- It uses a powerful magnetic field to fuse hot plasma and can reach temperatures of over 150 million degrees Celsius which is approximately ten times hotter than the core of the sun.
- Scientists hope that the device can potentially unlock a powerful clean energy source

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to Vijaya Vittala Temple, Hampi:**

1. World famous Stone Chariot of Hampi is inside this Temple
2. It was built by the Wodeyar of Mysore

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.31) Solution (a)**

- It was built in the 15th century during the rule of Devaraya II, one of the rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- It is dedicated to Vittala and is also called Vijaya Vittala Temple.
- Vittala is said to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
- Dravidian style adorns the built of the complex, which is further enhanced with elaborate carvings.
- Hampi Chariot is inside the Vijaya Vittala Temple

**Q.32) Hayabusa 2 is carrying the first extensive samples of dust from the asteroid Ryugu, is launched by which country?**

- a) USA
- b) Japan
- c) South Korea
- d) Russia

**Q.32) Solution (b)**

- Hayabusa 2 was launched from Japan's Tanegashima space centre in 2014 and took four years to reach the asteroid Ryugu.
- The mission builds on the original Hayabusa mission that was launched in 2003 and successfully linked up with asteroid Itokawa in 2005.
  - It returned samples to Earth in 2010 marking the first time when sample materials from an asteroid were brought back to Earth.
- Hayabusa is the Japanese term used for the peregrine falcon, which is the fastest bird during its hunting dive (200 mile per hour).
- The space probe orbited above the asteroid for a few months to map its surface before landing. Then it used small explosives to blast a crater, collected the resulting debris and headed back to Earth in November 2019.
- The craft's mission seeks to answer some fundamental questions about the origins of the Solar system and where molecules like water came from.

**Q.33) Consider the following Red sea turtles:**

1. Green turtle
2. Hawksbill turtle
3. Loggerhead turtle

Which of the above is/are critically endangered?

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

**Q33) Solution (b)**

The Red Sea is home to five out of seven species of sea turtles. They are:

- Green turtle – Endangered
- Hawksbill turtle – Critically Endangered
- Loggerhead turtle – Critically Endangered
- Olive Ridley turtle – Vulnerable
- Leatherback turtle – Vulnerable

**Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to houbara bustard:**

1. It lives in arid climates
2. IUCN Red List Status of this species is Vulnerable

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q34) Solution (c)**

**The houbara bustard**

- It lives in arid climates.
- It comes in two distinct species as recognised by the IUCN.
- One species resides in North Africa (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and the other in Asia (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) which is commonly known as MacQueen's bustard.
- The population of the Asian houbara bustards extends from northeast Asia, across central Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert.
- According to the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC), roughly 33,000 Asian houbara bustards remain today.
- After breeding in the spring, the Asian bustards migrate south to spend the winter in Pakistan, the Arabian Peninsula and nearby Southwest Asia.
- Some Asian houbara bustards live and breed in the southern part of their ranges including parts of Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

**Q.35) Consider the following statements:**

1. The amount of energy released in nuclear fission is much lower than the energy released during nuclear fusion.

2. Nuclear fission reaction produces highly radioactive substances than that of fusion reaction.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Solution (c)**

Difference between Nuclear Fission and Nuclear Fusion

	<b>Nuclear fission</b>	<b>Nuclear fusion</b>
Definition	Fission would be defined as the division of a single atom into multiple atoms of small size.	Fusion would be defined as the joining of two or more small atoms to form a large atom.
The necessity of Energy	Requires less energy to divide atoms into two or more ones.	A massive amount of energy is required to combine small atoms to form a large atom.
The release of Energy	The amount of energy released in fission is much lower than the energy released during fusion.	The release of energy during fusion is way higher than that of the fission reaction.
Production/Usage of energy	The energy produced in nuclear power plants uses this technology.	Experiments in power plants use this technology.
Natural Reactions	Never occurs in nature in normal cases.	Takes place in stars and the Sun that are natural forces.
Ideal Conditions	There is a necessity to have a critical mass of the substance and neutrons with high speed.	High density and high-temperature atmosphere are the requirements.
Reaction Outcome	The fission reaction produces highly radioactive substances.	Very few radioactive chemicals come out of this reaction.
Fuel Used	Uranium is one of the primary fuels in nuclear power plants.	Hydrogen isotopes are used as fuel in experimental plants.



**Q.36) Consider the following statements:**

1. Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed every year the death anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati
2. Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha was founded by Dayanand Saraswati

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.36) Solution (d)**

- Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed every year on 6th December to commemorate the death anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar.
- Major facts with respect to Dr. B R Ambedkar
- He established a fortnightly newspaper “Mooknayak” in 1920 which laid the foundations of an assertive and organised Dalit politics.
- He founded Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923), devoted to spreading education and culture amongst the downtrodden.
- He was appointed by the Bombay Presidency Committee to work in the Simon Commission in 1925.
- He led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 to challenge the regressive customs of the Hindus.
- The Kalaram Temple Movement of 1930 formed a pivotal role in the Dalit movement in India in which Ambedkar led a protest outside the Kalaram temple which did not allow Dalits to enter the temple premises.
- He participated in all three round-table conferences.
- In 1932, he signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).

**Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to Theravada Buddhism:**

1. Theravada is the most ancient form of Buddhism
2. The Pāli Canon is the standard collection of scriptures in the Theravada Buddhist tradition

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.37) Solution (c)**

**Theravada Buddhism**

- It is strongest in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. It is sometimes called 'Southern Buddhism'.
- The name means 'the doctrine of the elders' – the elders being the senior Buddhist monks.
- This school of Buddhism believes that it has remained closest to the original teachings of the Buddha. However, it does not over-emphasise the status of these teachings in a fundamentalist way – they are seen as tools to help people understand the truth, and not as having merit of their own.
- It emphasises attaining self-liberation through one's own efforts. The follower is expected to "abstain from all kinds of evil, to accumulate all that is good and to purify their mind".
- The ideal of Theravada Buddhism is the arhat, or perfected saint, who attains enlightenment as a result of his own efforts.
- Meditation is one of the main tools by which a Theravada Buddhist transforms themselves, and so a monk spends a great deal of time in meditation.
- The Pāli Canon is the standard collection of scriptures in the Theravada Buddhist tradition, as preserved in the Pāli language. It is the most complete extant early Buddhist canon. It derives mainly from the Tamrashatiya School.

**Q.38) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to River Narmada?**

- a) It rises from Maikala range near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh.
- b) Narmada is the largest west flowing river of the peninsular India
- c) Indira Sagar Hydro Power Projects is on the this river
- d) This river flows through four Indian States

**Q.38) Solution (d)**

- Narmada is the largest west flowing river of the peninsular region flowing through a rift valley between the Vindhya Range on the north and the Satpura Range on the south.
- It rises from Maikala range near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh.
- It drains a large area in Madhya Pradesh besides some areas in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- The river near Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) forms the Dhuandhar Falls.
- There are several islands in the estuary of the Narmada of which Aliabet is the largest.
- Major Tributaries: Hiran, Orsang, the Barna and the Kolar.
- The major Hydro Power Projects in the basin are Indira Sagar, Sardar Sarovar etc.



**Q.39) Global Wage Report 2020 is published by which of the following?**

- a) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) World Bank
- d) World Health Organisation (WHO)

**Q.39) Solution (a)**

**Global Wage Report 2020**

- It was published by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- It found that the average wages in two-third countries fell or grew more slowly in the first six months of 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- In the remaining one-third countries – including Brazil, France, Italy and the US – an increase in average wages was the result of a large numbers of low-paid workers losing their jobs or leaving the labour market.
- It found that those workers in lower-skilled occupations lost more working hours than higher-paying managerial and professional jobs.
- The impact on women was worse than that on men.
- The growth in inequality created by the pandemic threatens a legacy of poverty and social and economic instability that would be devastating.
- Adequate and balanced wage policies, arrived at through inclusive social dialogue, are needed to support economic recovery.

**Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to Feluda Test for Covid-19:**

1. It is developed based on Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) technology.
2. The Feluda test detects the virus genetic material, which is the Ribonucleic acid (RNA).

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.40) Solution (a)**

- The Feluda is a paper strip test that detects the coronavirus in an hour.
- Feluda is an acronym for FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection.
- It is expected to help to fulfil an urgent need of the rapid testing in India.
- It is the first such indigenous test kit to be developed in India based on Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) technology.
  - CRISPR is a gene editing technology, which replicates natural defence mechanisms in bacteria to fight virus attacks, using a special protein called Cas9.
  - CRISPR-Cas9 technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands that contain genetic information. The specific location of the genetic codes that need to be changed, or edited, is identified on the DNA strand, and then, using the Cas9 protein, which acts like a pair of scissors, that location is cut off from the strand.
  - A DNA strand, when broken, has a natural tendency to repair itself. Scientists intervene during this auto-repair process, supplying the desired sequence of genetic codes that binds itself with the broken DNA strand.

**Comparison to the RT-PCR Test:**

- Working Principle: The Feluda test uses the gene-editing tool-Crispr-Cas9 to target and identify genomic sequences of the novel coronavirus in suspected individual samples.
  - RT-PCR test (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) detects the virus genetic material, which is the Ribonucleic acid (RNA) .
- Cost: The Feluda test will cost less than Rs.500 compared to Rs. 4500 for the real-time PCR test which is currently being used for Covid-19 diagnosis in India.
- Required Medical Machinery: The Feluda test also does not rely on expensive real-time PCR machines for RNA isolation, DNA conversion, and amplification which are already in limited supply in the country.

**Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to Havana Syndrome:**

1. It is Associated with neurological illness
2. Directed microwave radiation is perceived to be possible cause of this syndrome

**Which of the above statements is/are *incorrect*?**

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

**Q.41) Solution (d)****Havana Syndrome**

- This is a neurological illness that has afflicted American diplomats and intelligence operatives in Cuba, China and other countries.
- The symptoms of the syndrome include nausea, dizziness, fatigue, and cognitive difficulties.
- A National Academies of Sciences (NAS) report has found “directed” microwave radiation to be the disease’s plausible cause.
- The study does not mention that the directed, pulsed radiofrequency energy was delivered intentionally and stopped short of naming a source.
- But it noted that significant research had been conducted on microwave weapons in Russia. Moscow has denied any role in the attacks.

**Microwave weapons**

- Microwave weapons are supposed to be a type of direct energy weapons.
- It aims highly focused energy in the form of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.
- People exposed to high-intensity microwave pulses have reported a clicking or buzzing sound, as if to be coming from within your head.
- It can have both acute and long-term effects – without any physical damage.

**Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to National water development agency (NWDA):**

1. NWDA is a registered society under the Ministry of Jal Shakthi
2. NWDA is also entrusted to prepare feasibility reports of intra-State links as proposed by the States

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.42) Solution (c)**

- The National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Registered Society under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) , Department of Water Resources
- It was set up in July, 1982 as autonomous society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It was established to carry out the water balance and other studies on a scientific and realistic basis for optimum utilisation of Water Resources of the Peninsular rivers system.
- Besides it was tasked to prepare feasibility reports and give concrete shape to Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective.
- In 1990, it was also entrusted with the task of Himalayan Rivers Development Component of National Perspectives.
- The functions of NWDA have been further modified and the work of preparation of detailed Project Reports (DPR) of various link proposals and Pre-feasibility Reports.



- It has been also entrusted to prepare feasibility reports of intra-State links as proposed by the States.

**Q.43) The State of the education report for India 2020 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is Launched by:**

- a) UNESCO
- b) UNICEF
- c) Ministry of Education
- d) NITI Aayog

**Q.43) Solution (a)**

- The 'State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)', was launched virtually today by UNESCO New Delhi
- The second edition of the State of Education Report focuses on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- The Report aims to support the Government of India which has already announced skills development as a key national priority under the Skill India Mission.
- With an in-depth analysis of the current state of TVET in India highlighting next practices and recommendations, the Report aims to serve as a reference tool for enhancing and influencing the policies and programs related to skills development in India.

**The ten recommendations are:**

- Place learners and their aspirations at the centre of vocational education and training programmes
- Create an appropriate ecosystem for teachers, trainers and assessors
- Establish a robust coordinating mechanism for inter-ministerial cooperation
- Focus on upskilling, re-skilling and lifelong learning
- Ensure inclusive access to TVET for women, differently abled and disadvantaged learners
- Massively expand the digitalization of vocational education and training
- Support local communities to generate livelihoods by engaging in the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage
- Align better with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Deploy innovative models of financing TVET
- Expand evidence-based research for better planning and monitoring

**Do you know?**

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences have released a report titled 'State of the Education Report for India 2019: Children with Disabilities.'
- The report states that in India, 75% of five-year-olds with disabilities and a quarter (more than one in four ) of children with disabilities ( in the age group of 5 to 19 years) do not attend any educational institution.

**Q.44) Consider the following statements with respect UNCTAD:**

1. It declares Investment Promotion Award bi-annually
2. World Investment Report is published by UNCTAD

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.44) Solution (b)**

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has declared 'Invest India' as winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020.

**United Nations Investment Promotion Award:**

- It recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of the world's Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs). Since 2002, UNCTAD has organised these awards annually.
- The Awards also highlight the contributions of these organizations in raising private sector investment in sustainable development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The response of IPAs to the Covid-19 pandemic became the basis for the evaluation of the 2020 Award.
- Germany, South Korea and Singapore have been some of the past winners of the award.

**Invest India:**

- It is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors in India.
- It is a non-profit venture set up in 2009 under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- UNCTAD highlighted good practices followed by Invest India, such as the Business Immunity Platform, Exclusive Investment Forum webinar series, its social media engagement and focus Covid response teams (such as business reconstruction, stakeholder outreach and supplier outreach) created as a response to the pandemic, in its publications.

**UNCTAD**

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 to promote development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.
- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.

**Some of the reports published by it are:**

- Trade and Development Report
- World Investment Report
- The Least Developed Countries Report
- Information and Economy Report
- Technology and Innovation Report
- Commodities and Development Report

**Q.45) Consider the following statements with respect to Beirut:**

1. Beirut is located in Syria
2. It lies on the eastern coast of Mediterranean sea

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.45) Solution (b)**

- Beirut is the capital and largest city of Lebanon. As of 2014, Greater Beirut has a population of 2.2 million, which makes it the third-largest city in the Levant region and the thirteenth-largest in the Arab world. The city is situated on a peninsula at the midpoint of Lebanon's Mediterranean coast



**Q.46) Orchha was recently in news. Which of the statements given below is/are correct with regard to it?**

1. Orchha is located in the southern part of Uttar Pradesh
2. It was the capital of Gurjar Pratihara in the 16th century.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.46) Solution (d)**

- Orchha of Madhya Pradesh has been included in the list of World Heritage City by UNESCO.
- It located in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh.
- Orchha is popular for its temples and palaces.
- It was the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.
- The famous spots in the town are Raj Mahal, Jehangir Mahal, Ramraja Temple, Rai Praveen Mahal, and Laxminarayan Mandir.
- After inclusion in the World Heritage City list, chemical treatment of historic spots like Mansingh Palace, Gujri Mahal and Sahastrabahu Temple will be done so that art inscribed on them will become more visible.

**Q.47) Operation Blackface, which is often seen in news, is associated with:**

- a) Childpornography
- b) Narcotics
- c) Rohingya muslims
- d) Corruption

**Q.47) Solution (a)**

- Maharashtra Cyber becomes India's first agency to acquire software 'Crawler' from the Interpol's south Asian wing.
- This software, which has algorithms to look for keywords around child pornography, would track down child pornography uploaded online.
- This software will be used in Operation Blackface, the state's call to action against Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) across the country.
- With the Tactical Response against Cyber Child Exploitation (TRACE) team of Maharashtra Cyber being trained by Interpol, it better equips them to deal with CSAM instances.
- 'Operation Blackface' is part of the larger action taken against CSAM across the country. Acting on the tip off provided by NCRB, Maharashtra Cyber cops forward complaints to the districts where FIR's were registered against accused persons.

**Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2020:**

1. GHG emissions, renewable energy, energy use and climate policy are the only categories considered in this Index

2. India's rank is consistently decreasing from last 4 years

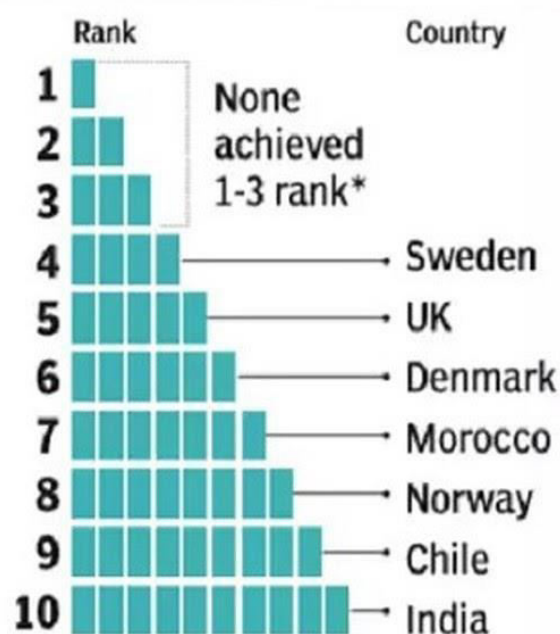
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.48) Solution (a)**

- The CCPI is developed by not-for-profit organisations Germanwatch and NewClimate Institute (Germany) together with the Climate Action Network (CAN International).
- It is an important tool to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- The latest list is prepared by assessing performances of 57 countries and European Union (as a whole) in four categories – GHG emissions (40%), renewable energy (20%), energy use (20%) and climate policy (20%).
- These 57 countries and the EU collectively are responsible for about 90% of global GHG emissions.
- India slid one position down from 9th in 2019 to 10th this year, its journey towards climate protection has been consistent with it improving its ranking from 31st in 2014.

### Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) Ranking 2020



\*No country performs well enough in all four categories to achieve perfect score on performance index

### India's track record



**Q.49) Consider the following statements with respect to Lakshadweep:**

1. It is an archipelago consisting of 572 islands
2. It is the first Union Territory to become 100% organic in farming

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.49) Solution (b)**

**Lakshadweep**

- It is India's smallest Union Territory.
- It is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands.
- There are three main group of islands: (1) Amindivi Islands; (2) Laccadive Islands; (3) Minicoy Island.
- All are tiny islands of coral origin (Atoll) and are surrounded by fringing reefs.

**Organic farming**

- Organic farming is a system of farm design and management to create an ecosystem of agriculture production without the use of synthetic external inputs such as chemical fertilisers, pesticides, etc.
- After Sikkim, India's smallest Union territory Lakshadweep with 32 sq.km. land area has set to become 100% organic.
- The UT's proposal to declare it as organic was approved by the Centre after receiving certifications under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India through Paramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

**Q.50) Consider the following statements with respect to Tharu tribes:**

1. The Tharu community belongs to the Terai lowlands
2. They have been categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.50) Solution (a)**

**Tharu tribe**

- The community of Tharu people belongs to the Terai lowlands.
- Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
- Tharus worship Lord Shiva as Mahadev, and call their supreme being "Narayan", who they believe is the provider of sunshine, rain, and harvests.

- The Tharus live in both India and Nepal.
- In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
- A majority still lives off the forest.
- They are not classified under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are characterised by:- a) pre-agriculture level of technology; b) stagnant or declining population; c) extremely low literacy; and d) subsistence level of economy.

**Do you know?**

- They speak various dialects of Tharu which is a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.
- In central Nepal, they speak a variant of Bhojपुरi, while in eastern Nepal, they speak a variant of Maithili.
- Tharu women have stronger property rights than is allowed to women in mainstream North Indian Hindu custom.

**Q.51) Which statement is true with reference to recently launched PM-WANI scheme?**

- a) It aims to enhance the women and neonatal intensive care units in the country
- b) It aims to elevate wireless internet connectivity in the country
- c) It aims to improve the perspective for regional trade and investment in West African Nations
- d) It aims to improve the perspective for regional trade and investment in West Asian countries

**Q.51) Solution (b)**

- The Central government has recently launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) and is associated with the establishment of public Wi-Fi networks across the country.
- Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) is being seen as an attempt by the government to elevate wireless internet connectivity in the country.

**Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to PM SVANidhi:**

1. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal ministry implementing this scheme.
2. The major objective of the scheme is to provide affordable working capital loan up to ₹10,000 to Street Vendors.

**Which of the statement given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.52) Solution (c)**

**PM SVANidhi – Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi**



- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has launched Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- The scheme would benefit vendors, hawkers, thelewale and people involved in goods and services related to textiles, apparel, artisan products, barbers shops, laundry services etc. in different areas.
- The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within a year. The loans would be without collateral.

**Q.53) Consider the following statements with respect to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):**

1. It is a statutory body under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
2. The Chairman of the NHRC appointed for 6 years or till the age of 72 years, whichever is earlier.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.53) Solution (a)**

**National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

- **NHRC** is a statutory body established on 12th October, 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- The Act also provides for the creation of the State Human Rights Commission as well.

**Composition:**

- The chairperson is a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of:
  1. Prime Minister (head)
  2. Speaker of the Lok Sabha
  3. Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
  4. Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament
  5. Union Home Minister.

**Term and removal:**

- They hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- The President can remove them from the office under specific circumstances.

**Q.54) Beresheet 2 mission to the Moon, which is often seen in news, is associated with which country?**

- a) China
- b) USA
- c) Russia
- d) Israel

**Q.54) Solution (d)**

**Israel launched the Beresheet 2 project (Beresheet means “Genesis”).**

- This project will be made up of three adjacent spacecrafts.
- It aims at landing an unmanned craft on the moon in 2024, after a previous such mission had crashed into the lunar surface.
- The original Beresheet was a spacecraft built by Israeli NGO SpaceIL and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries.
- It had reached the moon in April 2019, but suffered an engine failure as it prepared to land.
- Israel would become the fourth nation to land on the moon, only after Russia, the US and China

**Do you know?**

**Other Missions to Moon:**

- India has planned a new moon mission named Chandrayaan-3. It is likely to be launched in early 2021.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024.
- Artemis is a crewed spaceflight program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that has the goal of landing “the first woman and the next man” on the Moon, specifically at the lunar south pole region by 2024.

**Q.55) Consider the following statements with respect narrowband IoT network (NB-IoT) in India:**

1. Skylotech India has partnered with BSNL to launch a satellite-based NB-IoT network in India.
2. This is the world’s first satellite-based NB-IoT network.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.55) Solution (c)**

**Narrowband IoT network (NB-IoT)**

- Skylotech India has partnered with BSNL to launch a satellite-based narrowband IoT network in India.

- This is the world's first satellite-based NB-IoT network.
- It will connect with BSNL's satellite ground infrastructure and provide pan-India coverage, including Indian seas.
- This technology supports the Telecom Department and NITI Aayog's plan of bringing indigenous IoT connectivity to India's core sectors.
- It will transform India's lives and domestic industries like agriculture, railways and fisheries.
- Also, Skylo would help provide critical data for the logistics sector to enable effective distribution of Covid-19 vaccine in 2021.
- The coverage will be so vast that it will not leave any dark patch within the boundary of India.
- A small, smart, incredibly rugged box, the Skylo 'User Terminal' interfaces with sensors and transmits data to the Skylo Network and into people's hands.

**Q.56) Ural sea shares boundary between which of the following countries-**

- a) Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan
- b) Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan
- c) Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan
- d) Kazakhstan and Russia

**Q.56) Solution (c)**



**Q.57) Consider the following statements with respect to Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region (NER):**

1. The project is planned to provide landline coverage to around 2 thousands of uncovered villages
2. The project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.57) Solution (b)**

- The project envisages to provide mobile coverage to around 2 thousands of uncovered villages at an estimated cost of about Rs.2,029 crore including operational expenses for five years.
- The project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund.
- The project is targeted to be completed by December, 2022.
- The work related to provision of 4G mobile services in identified uncovered villages will be awarded through open competitive bidding process as per extant USOF procedures.

**Important value addition:**

**Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**

- Apart from the higher capital cost of providing telecom services in rural and remote areas, these areas also generate lower revenue due to lower population density, low income and lack of commercial activity.
- Keeping in mind the inadequacy of the market mechanism to serve rural and inaccessible areas on one hand and the importance of providing vital telecom connectivity on the other, most countries of the world have put in place policies to provide Universal Access and Universal Service to ICT.
- India's New Telecom Policy – 1999 (NTP'99) provided that the resources for meeting the Universal Service Obligation (USO) would be raised through a 'Universal Access Levy (UAL)', which would be a percentage of the revenue earned by the operators under various licenses.
- The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 01.04.2002.
- The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 giving statutory status to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was passed by both Houses of Parliament in December 2003.
- As per the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (as amended in 2003, 2006 and 2008), the Fund is to be utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.

**Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to Malaria:**

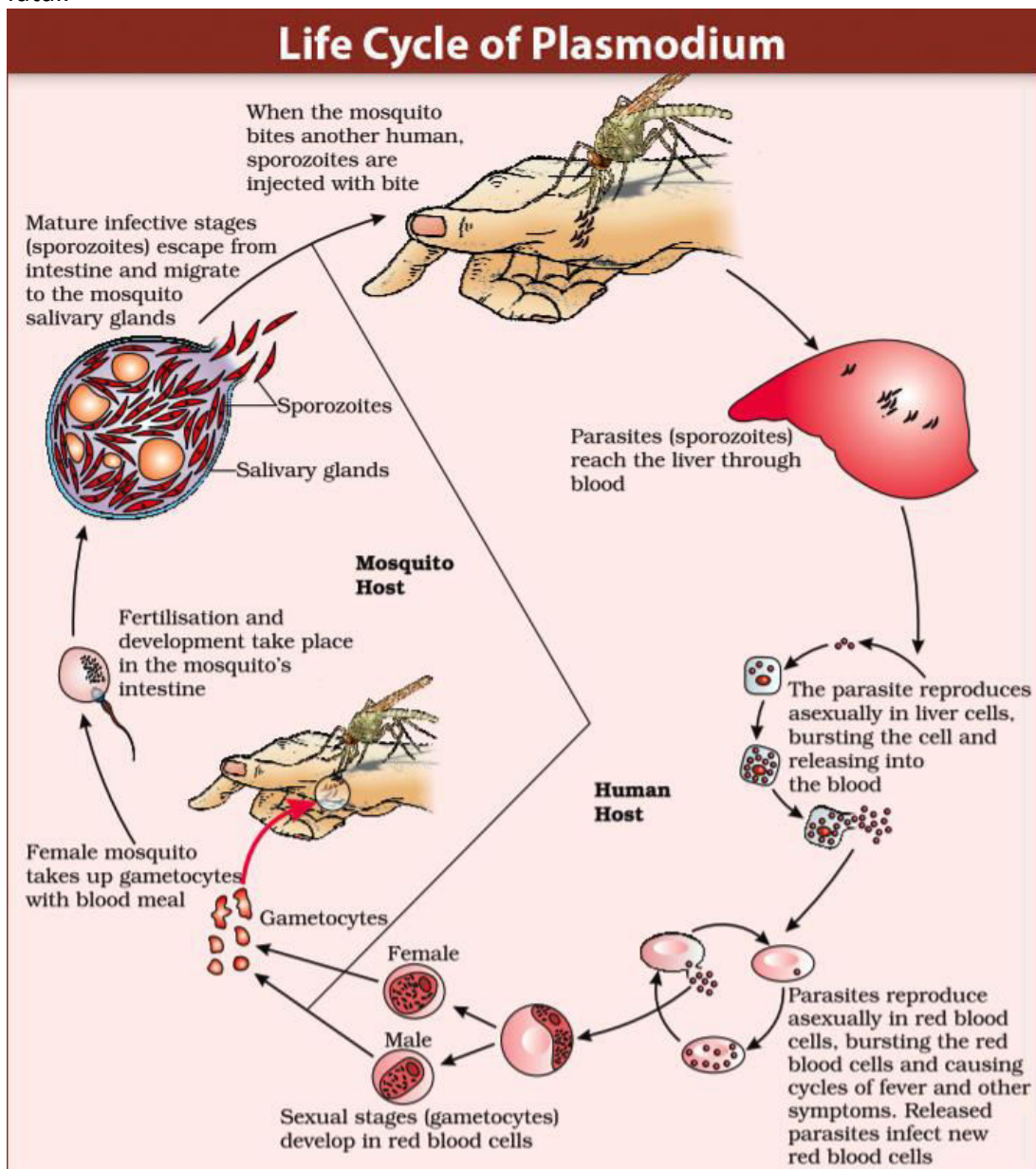
1. Malaria is an protozoan disease caused by Plasmodium
2. According to World Malaria Report 2020, cases in India dropped more than 70% in last decade

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.58) Solution (c)**

- Malaria is caused by Plasmodium (a protozoan).
- Malaria caused by Plasmodium falciparum is the most serious one and can even be fatal.



- India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden.
- India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.

- The Annual Parasitic Incidence (API) reduced by 27.6% in 2018 compared to 2017 and by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018. India has sustained API less than one since year 2012.
- India has also contributed to the largest drop in cases region-wide, from approximately 20 million to about 6 million. The percentage drop in the malaria cases was 71.8% and deaths was 73.9% between 2000 to 2019.

**Do you know?**

- It is interesting to note that the malarial parasite requires two hosts – human and mosquitoes – to complete its life cycle.
- The female Anopheles mosquito is the vector (transmitting agent) too.
- World Malaria Day is observed on 25th April.
- It can be noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO) officially endorses disease-specific global awareness days for only four diseases viz. HIV-AIDS, TB, Malaria, and Hepatitis.

**Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to Delimitation Commission:**

1. The Delimitation Commission works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
2. The last delimitation commission was set up in 2000

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.59) Solution (a)****Delimitation Commission**

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- Composition:
  - Retired Supreme Court judge
  - Chief Election Commissioner
  - Respective State Election Commissioners
- Functions:
  - To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make the population of all constituencies nearly equal.
  - To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

**Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Population Award 2020:**

1. It is awarded in recognition of contributions to population and reproductive health issues and solutions
2. HelpAge India got India's first UN Population Award in the institutional category in 2020

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.60) Solution (a)**

- HelpAge India has been presented the UN Population Award for 2020 in the institutional category.

**United Nations Population Award:**

- Each year, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award honours an individual and/or institution in recognition of outstanding contributions to population and reproductive health issues and solutions.
- The Award was established by the General Assembly in 1981, and was first presented in 1983. It consists of a gold medal, a diploma and a monetary prize.
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serves as its secretariat.

**HelpAge India:**

- It is a leading charity in India working with and for disadvantaged elderly for nearly 4 decades. It was set up in 1978 and is registered under the Societies' Registration Act of 1860.
- For the first time in the history of the UN Population Award, the honour is being conferred on an Indian institution.
- Only two Indians have been awarded in the past four decades since the award was established in 1981: former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1983 and industrialist-philanthropist J.R.D.Tata in 1992.

**Q.61) Consider the following statements:**

1. Myristica Swamp trees form a fairly dense forest with a closed canopy
2. Myristica Swamp Treefrog are endemic to the North-east India

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only



- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.61) Solution (a)**

- The Myristica swamps are tropical freshwater swamp forests with an abundance of Myristica trees.
  - Myristica trees are the most primitive of the flowering plants on earth.
  - The evergreen, water-tolerant trees have dense stilt roots helping them stay erect in the thick, black, wet alluvial soil.
  - The trees form a fairly dense forest with a closed canopy.
- The swamps are typically found in valleys, making them prone to inundation during monsoon rains.

**Myristica Swamp Treefrog**

- This rare arboreal species (*Mercurana myristicapalustris*) is endemic to the Western Ghats.
- It was first spotted in Myristica swamps of Arippe, near the Kulathupuzha Reserve Forest, in the western foothills of Agasthyamalai.
- The current species has been adapted to a non-Myristica swamp predominant with the plant *polyalthia fragrans*.
- It was now spotted north of the Shencottah gap in the Vazhachal Reserve Forest in Kerala's Thrissur district.
- These frogs are rare and elusive for the reason that they are arboreal and active only for a few weeks during their breeding season.

**Q.62) Strait of Gibraltar separates which of the following countries:**

- a) Spain and Algeria
- b) Portugal and Algeria
- c) Libya and Egypt
- d) Spain and morocco

**Q.62) Solution (d)**



**Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to Amnesty Scheme:**

1. It is a one-time voluntary disclosure scheme under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. The disclosure has to be done online through Parivesh portal.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.63) Solution (c)**

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change came out with an advisory on a one-time voluntary disclosure scheme, an amnesty scheme.
- This scheme allows owners of exotic live species that have been acquired illegally, or without documents, to declare their stock to the government between June and December 2020.
- It has defined exotic live species as animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- It does not include species from the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. So, the advisory excludes exotic birds.
- The disclosure has to be done online through MoEFCC's Parivesh portal.
- In its current form, the amnesty scheme is just an advisory, not a law.

**Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to UNESCO:**

1. The UNESCO recently launched Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman prize in the field of 'advanced agriculture'
2. UNESCO has declared 2021 as 'International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development'.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.64) Solution (b)**

- The UNESCO has decided to launch a prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Starting November 2021, the award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth.

- This award will create a knowledge-sharing mechanism by capturing, celebrating and communicating best practice in the development of creative entrepreneurship.
- UNESCO has declared 2021 as 'International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development'.

**Do you know?**

- Mujibur Rahman was the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh (1972-75).
- He was given the title of "Bangabandhu" (Friend of Bengal) by the people of Bangladesh.
- His daughter Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

**Q.65) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) in Northern Indian Ocean:**

1. Positive IOD results in more cyclones than usual in Arabian Sea
2. Negative IOD results in stronger than usual Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.65) Solution (c)****Indian Ocean Dipole effect:**

- It was demonstrated that a positive IOD index often negated the effect of El Nino, resulting in increased Monsoon rains in several El Nino years like the 1983, 1994 and 1997.
- Two poles of the IOD – the eastern pole (around Indonesia) and the western pole (off the African coast) were independently and cumulatively affecting the quantity of rains for the Monsoon in the Indian subcontinent.

**Impact of IOD on Cyclogenesis in Northern Indian Ocean:**

- Positive IOD (Arabian Sea warmer than Bay of Bengal) results in more cyclones than usual in Arabian Sea.
- Negative IOD results in stronger than usual Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal. Cyclonic activity in Arabian Sea is suppressed.

**Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to Himalayan Serow:**

1. They are endemic to Trans Himalayan region
2. It has been categorised as 'endangered' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only

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

**Q.66) Solution (d)**

- In news: A Himalayan Serow has been sighted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region.
- It is a subspecies of the mainland serow (*C. sumatraensis*).
- They are a medium-sized mammal with a large head, thick neck, short limbs, long, mule-like ears, and a coat of dark hair.
- It is found at altitudes between 2,000 and 4,000 m, which is restricted to the Himalayan region.
- They are known to be found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas, but not in the Trans Himalayan region.
- It has previously been spotted in the Great Himalayan National Park in Kullu; Rupin Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary, and in higher reaches of Chamba.
- It has been categorised as 'vulnerable' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- It is listed under Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which provides absolute protection.

**Q.67) San Isidro Movement was recently in news, is associated with which of the following country:**

- a) Cuba
- b) Mexico
- c) USA
- d) Israel

**Q.67) Solution (a)**

- In news: In Cuba, a campaign by artists and activists demanding greater freedom of expression has been in news recently.
- Cuba has been under an authoritarian communist regime for more than 60 years.

**Key takeaways**

- The Movimiento San Isidro, or the San Isidro Movement (MSI), started two years ago to protest state censorship of artistic works.
- It started in September 2018, when the Cuban government sought to enforce Decree 349 which is a law that would have given powers to the nation's Culture Ministry to restrict cultural activity it did not approve of.
- To protest against the decree, artists, poets, journalists and activists gathered in San Isidro. It is a Black-majority locality that is among Havana's poorest yet most culturally active wards, and which also forms part of the Old Havana UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- After 2015 deal between Cuba and the US, one of whose provisions stipulated that the Cuban regime should allow its people greater internet freedoms, the protesters managed to connect and amplify their message over the internet with relative ease.
- It has now become a platform for Cuban dissidents both within and outside the country.

**Q.68) Which of the following country shares border between both Dead sea and Mediterranean sea?**

- Egypt
- Jordan
- Syria
- Israel

**Q.68) Solution (d)**

In news: Recently, Israel has established diplomatic ties with Bhutan.



**Q.69) Consider the following statements with respect to Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India:**

1. It is the informational document released by union Ministry of Health and family welfare
2. Its main vision is to improve data-sharing mechanisms between Centre and states for better disease detection, prevention, and control.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.69) Solution (b)**

- In News: NITI Aayog has released a white paper, "Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India" which is envisaged to serve as a vision document to propel Public Health Surveillance (PHS) in India and establish India as a global leader in the area.
- A white paper is an informational document, usually issued by a company or not-for-profit organization, to promote or highlight the features of a solution, product, or service.

**Main Features:**

- Strengthen non-communicable disease prevention, detection, control and to reduce out of pocket expenses of individuals and families.
- It builds on initiatives such as the Integrated Health Information Platform of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program.
- Aligns with the citizen-centricity highlighted in the National Health Policy 2017 and the National Digital Health Blueprint.
- It encourages the use of mobile and digital platforms and point of care devices and diagnostics for amalgamation of data capture and analyses.
- It highlights the importance of capitalizing on initiatives such as the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act 2010 to enhance private sector involvement in surveillance.
- It points out the importance of a cohesive and coordinated effort of apex institutions including the National Centre for Disease Control, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and others.

**Vision:**

- To improve data-sharing mechanisms between Centre and states for better disease detection, prevention, and control.
- To make India's PHS system more responsive and predictive to enhance preparedness for action at all levels.
- To make it more citizen-friendly to ensure individual privacy and confidentiality, enabled with a client feedback mechanism.
- To provide regional and global leadership in managing events that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

**Q.70) Consider the following statements with respect to Chandra X-Ray Observatory:**

1. It is a space telescope launched by ISRO
2. This telescope can detect exploded stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes by using X-rays

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.70) Solution (b)**

- In news: The NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory has shared images of two super massive black holes merging.
- These black holes are located in Galaxy NGC 6240.
- They are 3,000 light-years apart and will drift together to form a larger black hole millions of years from now.

**Chandra X-ray Observatory**

- It is a telescope designed to detect X-ray emissions from very hot regions of the universe such as exploded stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes.
- Orbiting at 139,000 km in space, the telescope was launched aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia during STS-93 by NASA in 1999.
- Chandra is sensitive to X-ray sources 100 times fainter than any previous X-ray telescope, enabled by the high angular resolution of its mirrors.
- Since the Earth's atmosphere absorbs the vast majority of X-rays, they are not detectable from Earth-based telescopes; therefore space-based telescopes are required to make these observations.
- Chandra is an Earth satellite in a 64-hour orbit, and its mission is ongoing as of 2020.
- The telescope is named after the Nobel Prize-winning Indian astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar.

**Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to Ghana:**

1. It is the only country in the world in which both prime meridian and equator intersects.
2. Lake Victoria is the major lake of this country.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.71) Solution (d)**





**Q.72) Consider the following statements:**

1. Transfer of judges from one High Court to any other High Court is provided under Article 222 of the Constitution
2. The power of transferring High court judges lies only in the hands of CJI.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.72) Solution (a)**

**Procedure of transfer of HC judge:**

- Article 222 of the Constitution makes provision for the transfer of a Judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court.
- The initiation of the proposal for the transfer of a Judge should be made by the Chief Justice of India(CJI).
- The opinion of the CJI "is determinative".

- Consent of the Judge for his first or subsequent transfer would not be required.
- CJI is expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of the High Court from which the Judge is to be transferred and Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be effected.
- The views of one or more Supreme Court Judges who are in a position to offer his/their views are also taken into account.
- In the case of transfer of a Chief Justice, only the views of one or more knowledgeable Supreme Court Judges need to be taken into account.
- The views on the proposed transfer of a Judge or a Chief Justice of the High Court should be expressed in writing and should be considered by the CJI and the four senior most Judges of the Supreme Court.
- The proposal once referred to the Government, the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs would submit a recommendation to the Prime Minister who will then advise the President as to the transfer of the Judge concerned.
- After the President approves the transfer, the notification will be gazetted and the judge remains transferred.

**Q.73) Consider the following statements with respect to Gaur:**

1. It has been categorised as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN status.
2. It is endemic to only India.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.73) Solution (a)**

- In news: An Indian Bison, or Gaur, in Pune's urban landscape died due to human-animal conflict.
- It is mainly found in South and Southeast Asia.
- In India, the Gaur is mainly found in Western Ghats, the forests of central India and forest patches in the Northeast.
- It has been listed as 'Vulnerable' since 1986 on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- It is listed in Appendix I of the CITES.

**Q.74) Kerala state was recently in news because of pink phenomenon which was caused by Cabomba plant. Which of the statements given below is/are correct with regard to this plant?**

1. It is an invasive species that belongs to Central and South America.
2. It requires a huge amount of oxygen to grow and that could badly affect freshwater biodiversity.

**Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q.74) Solution (d)**

- In news: In Avalapandi, a village in Kerala, an aquatic plant forked fanwort has painted the water bodies pink, which led to the 'pink phenomenon'.
- Cabomba is a submerged perennial aquatic plant that grows in stagnant to slow-flowing freshwater.
- This plant comes from the family of Red Cabomba (*Cabomba furcata*).
- It is an invasive species that belongs to Central and South America.
- It requires a huge amount of oxygen to grow and that could badly affect freshwater biodiversity.
- It has a high natural dispersal potential due to its ability to readily fragment and spread.

**Invasive Species**

- Invasive alien species are any biological species that are introduced outside their natural range.
- They would negatively impact the native biodiversity, ecosystem function, health and human welfare.
- They could reproduce rapidly and out-compete the native species for food, water and space.
- They are the second-biggest cause for biodiversity loss, next to habitat destruction.

**Q.75) If the animal is protected under the Schedule II of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, it says which of the following?**

- a) It can be hunted
- b) It can be hunted in particular cases
- c) It cannot be hunted
- d) It should be protected in closed protected area

**Q.75) Solution (c)****Salient Features of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**

- The Act provides for the protection of a listed species of animals, birds, and plants, and also for the establishment of a network of ecologically-important protected areas in the country.
- The Act provides for the formation of wildlife advisory boards, wildlife wardens, specifies their powers and duties, etc.
- The Act prohibited the hunting of endangered species.
- The Act provides for licenses for the sale, transfer, and possession of some wildlife species.

- Its provisions paved the way for the formation of the Central Zoo Authority. This is the central body responsible for the oversight of zoos in India.
- The Act created six schedules which gave varying degrees of protection to classes of flora and fauna.
  - Schedule I and Schedule II (Part II) get absolute protection, and offences under these schedules attract the maximum penalties.
  - The schedules also include species that may be hunted.

**Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR):**

1. It not only monitors air quality, but also forecasts the quality of air.
2. It is introduced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and only in metropolitan cities.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.76) Solution (a)**

- The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) is a national initiative introduced by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to measure the air quality of a metropolitan city, by measuring the overall pollution level and the location-specific air quality of the city.
- It is targeted at the public at large to spread awareness about the harmful effects of air pollution and bad air quality, and also its environmental ill-effects.
- The system is indigenously developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and is operationalized by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- It has a giant true color LED display that gives out real-time air quality index on a 24×7 basis with color-coding (along with 72 hours advance forecast).
- The ultimate objective of the project is to increase awareness among the general public regarding the air quality in their city so that appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action can be taken up.
- SAFAR is an integral part of India's first Air Quality Early Warning System operational in Delhi
- SAFAR not only monitors air quality, but also forecasts the quality of air.

**Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to Global hunger index:**

1. It is jointly released by the International Food Policy Research Institute, Concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe.
2. India slipped to serious category in 2020 from moderate compared to last year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.77) Solution (a)**

**Global Hunger Index report was recently released.**

- Published by: Jointly by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- India: 94th rank among 107 countries
- It continues to be in the “serious” hunger category.
- However, it has made some progress, particularly since the enactment of National Food Security Act.

**Key takeaways**

- Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.
- The neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too were in the “serious” category.
- They ranked higher than India in 2020's index.
- Nepal and Sri Lanka are in “moderate” hunger category.

**Do you know?**

- Undernourished: 14% of India's population
- Stunting: 37.4% among children under five
- Wasting: 17.3%
- Under-five mortality rate: 3.7%

**Q.78) Consider the following statements:**

1. The maximum permissible limit of lead in drinking water is 1 mg/L according to WHO
2. Excessive lead can cause permanent damage to brain and nervous system

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.78) Solution (b)**

- As there is no cure for lead poisoning, identifying local sources is a very important part of preventing exposure.

- Lead is a potent neurotoxin that, with even low-level lead exposure, is associated with a reduction in IQ scores, shortened attention spans, and potentially violent – and even criminal – behavior later in life.
- According to the World Health the maximum allowable concentration of lead in drinking water are 0.01 mg/l

**Effects of lead poisoning**

- Lead can cause permanent damage to the brain and nervous system, resulting in decreased IQ and increased behavioural problems.
- Older children have higher risk of kidney damage and cardiovascular diseases.
- India has the largest number – more than 275 million children – with blood lead levels of more than five micrograms per decilitre.
- Children living at or near lead acid battery recycling workshops in India, have been found to have lead levels up to 190 micrograms per decilitre.

**Q.79) Which of the following statements with respect to Annapurna scheme is *not* correct?**

- a) The scheme is under the Ministry of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- b) The age of the applicant should be 65 years or above.
- c) They should not be getting pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme are eligible.
- d) The beneficiaries are given 10 Kg. of foodgrains per month free of cost.

**Q.79) Solution (a)**

- It aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS).
- The scheme is under the Ministry of Rural development and Department of Food and Public
- The Scheme is targeted to cover, 20% (13.762 Lakh) of persons eligible to receive pension under NOAPS. The Central assistance under the Annapurna Scheme is, thus, provided to the beneficiaries on fulfilling the following criteria :
- The age of the applicant should be 65 years or above.
- The applicant must be a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular means of substance from his/her own source of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. In order to determine destitution, the criteria, if any, in force in the States/UTs may also be followed.
- The applicant should not be in receipt of pension under the NOAPS or State Pension Scheme.
- The beneficiaries are given 10 Kg. of food grains per month free of cost.

**Q.80) Which of the following set of people cannot cast their vote through postal voting:**

- a) Union armed forces
- b) State police

- c) President of India
- d) NRI

**Q.80) Solution (d)**

- Postal voting: A restricted set of voters can exercise postal voting. Through this facility, a voter can cast her vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting.

**Who can avail this facility?**

- A restricted set of voters can exercise postal voting. Through this facility, a voter can cast her vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting.
  - Members of the armed forces like the Army, Navy and Air Force
  - Members of the armed police force of a state (serving outside the state)
  - Government employees posted outside India and their spouses are entitled to vote only by post.
  - Voters under preventive detention can also vote only by post
- Special voters such as:
  - President of India
  - Vice President
  - Governors
  - Union Cabinet ministers
  - Speaker of the House and government officers on poll duty have the option to vote by post. But they have to apply through a prescribed form to avail this facility.

**Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project:**

1. All the north-eastern states will be the beneficiaries under this project except Assam.
2. The financial assistance to this project is done by World Bank.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.81) Solution (b)**

- In news: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Rs. 6,700 crore for the North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP).

**North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project:**

- The Scheme was initially approved in December 2014 as a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Power.



- Objective: Government's commitment for the total economic development of the North Eastern Region and to strengthen the Intra-State Transmission & Distribution Infrastructure in the North East Region.
- Funded By: The assistance of the World Bank fund and by the Government of India through the Budget support of the Ministry of Power on 50:50 basis except for the capacity building component for Rs. 89 crore, which will be entirely funded by the Government of India.

**Implemented By:**

- The scheme is being implemented through Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) in association with six beneficiaries North Eastern States namely, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura and is targeted to be commissioned by December 2021.
- POWERGRID is a 'Maharatna' Company operating under Ministry of Power, it is engaged in power transmission business with the responsibility for planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS).
- Maintenance: After commissioning, the project will be owned and maintained by the respective North Eastern State Utilities.

**Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to Human Development Index (HDI):**

1. The index is released by United Nation Development Programme.
2. India has climbed its position by two spots in 2020 HDI index compared to 2019.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.82) Solution (a)**

- In news: Human Development Index was released recently.
- Released by: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- India dropped to 131st spot among 189 countries
- India's HDI value for 2019 is 0.645 which put it in the medium human development category.
- India had ranked 130 in 2018 in the index.
- Life expectancy of Indians at birth in 2019 was 69.7 years.
- Bangladesh has a life expectancy of 72.6 years and Pakistan 67.3 years.
- Top countries: Norway (1), Ireland (2), Switzerland (3), Hong Kong (4) and Iceland (5)
- Indigenous children in Cambodia, India and Thailand show more malnutrition-related issues such as stunting and wasting.
- India has dropped two spots on the Human Development Index (HDI), according to the 2020 Human Development Report.

**Do you know?**

- Human Development Index is the measure of a nation's health, education, and standards of living

**Q.83) Which of the following will be the result if a country weakens its currency?**

- a) It will shrink trade deficits
- b) It makes a country's exports more attractive.
- c) Imports will become cheaper.
- d) It lowers the purchasing power of a country's currency.

**Q.83) Solution (c)****What is Currency Manipulation?**

- Currency manipulation refers to actions taken by governments to change the value of their currencies relative to other currencies in order to bring about some desirable objective.
- The typical claim – often doubtful – is that countries manipulate their currencies in order to make their exports effectively cheaper on the world market and in turn make imports more expensive.

**Why do countries manipulate their currencies?**

- In general, countries prefer their currency to be weak because it makes them more competitive on the international trade front.
- A lower currency makes a country's exports more attractive because they are cheaper on the international market.
  - For example, a weak Rupee makes Indian exports less expensive for offshore buyers.
  - Secondly, by boosting exports, a country can use a lower currency to shrink its trade deficit.
  - Finally, a weaker currency alleviates pressure on a country's sovereign debt obligations.
- After issuing offshore debt, a country will make payments, and as these payments are denominated in the offshore currency, a weak local currency effectively decreases these debt payments.
- Currency devaluation involves taking measures to strategically lower the purchasing power of a nation's own currency.
- Exports will increase and imports will decrease due to exports becoming cheaper and imports more expensive which results in shrinking of trade deficit.

**Q.84) Strait of Malacca runs between which of the following countries?**

- a) Indonesia and Malaysia
- b) Singapore and Malaysia
- c) Malaysia and Philippines
- d) Philippines and China

**Q.84) Solution (a)**

Indian Ocean to Pacific Ocean maritime chokepoints

**Q.85) Consider the following statements with respect to Himalayan Griffon Vulture:**

1. It is a migratory bird species native to Himalayas.
2. It is listed in Appendix II of the CITES.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.85) Solution (C)****Himalayan Griffon Vulture**

- It is a migratory bird species native to Himalayas, has been spotted in Point Calimere wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- It is usually found in the high-altitude regions.
- Their originate from Himalayan Chain and Plateau of Tibet
- The IUCN status of the bird is "Near threatened".
- It is listed in Appendix II of the CITES.

**Q.86) North Sentinel Island was recently in news, is located in which of the following:**

- a) North Andaman
- b) Middle Andaman
- c) South Andaman

d) Nicobar

**Q.86) Solution (c)**

In news: Any exploitation of Sentinel Island will wipe out tribals



**Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to Biodiversity management committees (BMC):**

1. Setting up of BMC is mandatory is under Biological Diversity Act 2002
2. People's Biodiversity Register which includes knowledge of local biological resources is prepared by BMC

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.87) Solution (c)**

- In news: States get more time to set up biodiversity committees
- As per the Biological Diversity Act 2002, What are Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) are created for “promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity” by local bodies across the country.
- The main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with the local people. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other.

**Composition:**

- It shall consist of a chair person and not more than six persons nominated by the local body, of whom not less than one third should be women and not less than 18% should belong to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes.
- The Chairperson of the Biodiversity Management Committee shall be elected from amongst the members of the committee in a meeting to be chaired by the Chairperson of the local body.
- The chairperson of the local body shall have the casting votes in case of a tie.

**Q.88) Which among the following communities are notified as minorities come under National Commission for Minorities (NCM)?**

1. Muslim
2. Christians
3. Parsis
4. Jains

**Choose correct answer:**

- a) 1, 2 and 3 Only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 Only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 Only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q.88) Solution (d)**

- In news: The National Commission for Minorities celebrated World Minorities Rights Day on 18th December 2020.

**National Commission for Minorities**

- In 1992, with the enactment of the NCM Act, 1992, NCM was formed.
- In 1993, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities.
- In 2014, Jains were also notified as a minority community.

**Functions:**

- Evaluation of the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and States.
- Monitoring of the working of the safeguards for minorities provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament and the state legislatures.
- Example – National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) Act, 2004: It gives the minority status to the educational institutions on the basis of six religious communities notified by the government.
- It ensures that the Prime Minister's 15-point programme is implemented and the programmes for minority communities are actually functioning.
- Looking into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of minorities and taking up such matters with the appropriate authorities.

- It investigates matters of communal conflict and riots.

**Q.89) Himalayan Trillium was recently in news, is associated with:**

- a) It is a natural source of steroidal saponins which are important components of steroidal drugs.
- b) Invasive alien species
- c) Its extract is used in pesticides
- d) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows

**Q.89) Solution (a)**

- In news: Overexploitation, long life cycle have endangered a common Himalayan herb
- The Himalayan trillium is declared as endangered by the International union for conservation of Nature
- The Himalayan trillium is found across India, Bhutan, Nepal and China.
- It is a natural source of steroidal saponins which are important components of steroidal drugs.
- The plant is popular in traditional Chinese medicine.
- Increased demands over the last decade has made its illegal collection from the wild a rather lucrative business in India: a kilogram fetches about Rs.3,000-5,000.
- The current gathering practices are entirely destructive as a single team uproots all plants in an area lest other collecting teams get to them later.
- The trilliums growing mostly in moist hill slopes with dense tree cover.
- Mature plants (which can live to 30 years or more) usually produce only one flower per year and vegetative reproduction through tubers occurs only in very old plants.
- Unregulated harvests combined with such low levels of reproduction and other pressures like grazing could cause local extinction of the plant in many regions.

**Q.90) Which of the following State does not share border with Bangladesh?**

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Mizoram

**Q.90) Solution (b)**

In news: India-Bangladesh Virtual Summit





**Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme:**

1. It is a central sector scheme to be implemented over a period of ten years from 2020-21 to 2029-30
2. One District One Product (ODODP) approach is used in this scheme for procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.91) Solution (b)**

- It aims to provide financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme to be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore.
- The expenditure under the scheme would to be shared in 60:40 ratios between Central and State Governments, in 90:10 ratios with NE and the Himalayan States, 60:40 ratio with UTs with the legislature and 100% by Centre for other UTs.
- Features of the scheme



- The Scheme adopts One District One Product (ODODP) approach to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.
- The States would identify food product for a district keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material.
- The ODOP product could be a perishable produce based product or cereal-based products or a food product widely produced in a district and their allied sectors.
- An illustrative list of such products includes mango, potato, litchi, tomato, tapioca, kinnu, bhujia, petha, papad, pickle, millet-based products, fisheries, poultry, meat as well as animal feed among others.
- The Scheme also place focus on waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts.

**Q.92) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to River Mahanadi?**

- Mahanadi River flows through five Indian States
- It is a west flowing peninsular river
- Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal is formed to adjudicate dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh states.
- It rises from a place near Sihawa in Bastar hills in the state of West Bengal

**Q.92) Solution (c)**

- Mahanadi River flows through the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha. It originates from highlands of Chhattisgarh.
- The Mahanadi River system is the third largest of peninsular India after Godavari and Krishna, and the largest river of Odisha state.
- Source of origin of the Mahanadi river: It rises from a place near Sihawa in Bastar hills in the state of Chhattisgarh to the south of Amarkantak.
- In March 2018, Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal is formed on the direction of Supreme Court to adjudicate water sharing dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh states.

➤ Major Tributaries of the Mahanadi river

- Seonath River
- Hasdeo River
- Mand River
- Ib River
- Jonking River
- Tel River

**The Basin of the Mahanadi river:**

- The catchment area of the river extends to Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.
- Its basin is bounded by the Central India hills on the north, by the Eastern Ghats on the south and east and by the Maikala range on the west.

**Q.93) Consider the following pairs:**

**Martial Arts**

1. Tang Ta
2. Kalaripayattu
3. Gatka

**Originated State**

Assam  
Kerala  
Punjab

**Which of the above pairs is/are correct?**

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

**Q.93) Solution (d)**

- In news: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has recently included Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba in Khelo India Youth Games 2021.

**Gatka:**

- Gatka originates from the State of Punjab and this traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh Warriors is used both as self-defense as well as a sport.
- Gatka is believed to have originated when the 6th Sikh Guru Hargobind adopted 'Kirpan' for self-defence during the Mughal era.
- It was earlier confined to gurudwaras, nagar kirtans and akharas, but now it finds presence in the sports category after the formation of the Gatka Federation of India (GFI) in 2008.

**Kalaripayattu:**

- Kalaripayattu, also known simply as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in modern-day Kerala.
- Kalaripayattu is held in high regard by martial artists due to its long-standing history within Indian martial arts. It is believed to be the oldest surviving martial art in India. It is also considered to be among the oldest martial arts still in existence, with its origin in the martial arts timeline dating back to at least the 3rd century BCE.
- The place where this martial art is practised is called a 'Kalari'. It is a Malayalam word that signifies a kind of gymnasium.
- Kalari literally means 'threshing floor' or 'battlefield'. The word Kalari first appears in the Tamil Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.

**Thang Ta:**

- Huyen langlon is an Indian martial art from Manipur.
- In the Meitei language, huyen means war while langlon or langlong can mean net, knowledge or art.
- Huyen langlon consists of two main components:
  - Thang-ta (armed combat)
  - sarit sarak (unarmed fighting).

- The primary weapons of huyen langlon are the thang (sword) and ta (spear). Other weapons include the shield and the axe.

**Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to ease of doing business Index:**

1. The report is released by the IMF.
2. India's position is increased by 14 positions in 2020 from the previous year position.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.94) Solution (b)**

- In news: Ease of doing business report is recently released.
- The report is released by the World Bank.
- In August, the World Bank had decided to pause the publication the report due to irregularities in the data.
- As per new report, China's slipped from 85th rank to 78th rank.
- The rankings of three other countries – Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan have also changed.
- As per 2020 report, India is placed at 63rd position among 190 countries, jumped by 14 positions from the previous year position.
- India's rank remains unchanged after adjusting irregularities in the data.

**The ranking is based 10 indices:**

- Starting a business.
- Dealing with construction permits.
- Getting electricity.
- Registering property.
- Getting credit.
- Protecting investors.
- Paying taxes.
- Trading across borders.
- Enforcing contracts.
- Resolving Insolvency.

**Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana(PMKSY):**

1. This scheme is introduced by Ministry of Agriculture.
2. It is a crop insurance scheme monitored by co-operative societies.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.95) Solution (d)**

- PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is a central sector scheme introduced by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)
- The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.

The PMKSY has seven component schemes:

- Mega Food Parks
  - Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
  - Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters
  - Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
  - Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities
  - Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
  - Human Resources and Institutions
- Under PMKSY, capital subsidy in the form of grants-in-aid ranging from 35% to 75% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum specified limit is provided to investors.

**Q.96) Mahadayi water dispute tribunal adjudicates the water dispute between which of the following two states?**

- a) Karnataka and Goa
- b) Goa and Maharashtra
- c) Maharashtra and Karnataka
- d) Kerala and Karnataka

**Q.96) Solution (a)**

- The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT), is a tribunal that adjudicates the dispute over River Mhadei water allocation. The sharing of the waters of this river is a cause of dispute between the governments of Karnataka and Goa
- It originates in the Belagavi district of Karnataka, briefly passes through Maharashtra and flows through Goa (where its known as Mandovi), and drains to the Arabian Sea.
- Since the eighties, Karnataka has been was contemplating linking of Mahadayi with Malaprabha river, a tributary of Krishna.
- In 2002, Karnataka gave the idea a shape in the form of the Kalasa-Bhanduri project.
- Goa strongly opposed it as Mahadayi is one of the two rivers the State is dependent on and thus Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in 2010.

**Q.97) Change in our DNA base pair sequence due to various environmental factors such as UV light, or mistakes during DNA replication is called as:**

- a) Mutagen
- b) Twin DNA
- c) Genome multiplication
- d) Mutation

**Q.97) Solution (d)**

- In news: While novel coronavirus is undergoing many mutations, one particular mutation called D614G, according to a study, has become the dominant variant in the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mutation is the change in our DNA base pair sequence due to various environmental factors such as UV light, or mistakes during DNA replication.

**D614G mutation**

- When the virus enters an individual's body, it aims at creating copies of itself. When it makes an error in this copying process, we get a mutation.
- In this case, the virus replaced the aspartic acid (D) in the 614th position of the amino acid with glycine (G). Hence the mutation is called the D614G.
- This mutated form of the virus was first identified in China and then in Europe. Later it spread to other countries like the U.S. and Canada and was eventually reported in India.

**Q.98) Consider the following statements:**

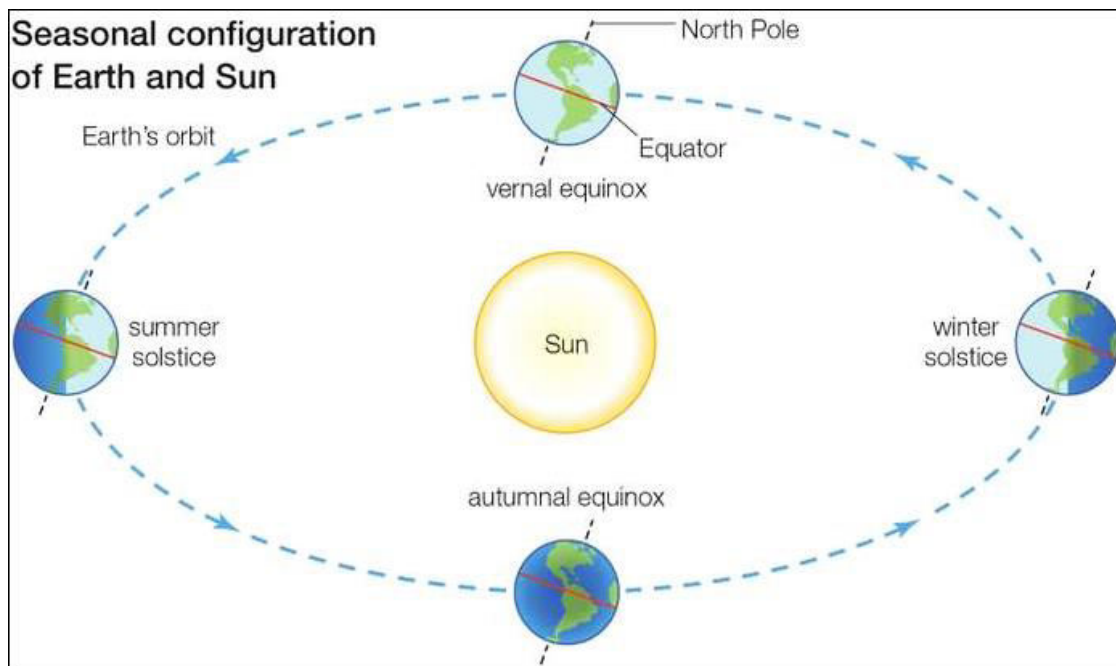
1. Winter solstice is the day when the North Pole is most tilted towards the Sun.
2. Summer solstice is the day when the North Pole is most tilted away from the Sun.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.98) Solution (d)**

- In news: 21st December or the Winter Solstice marks the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The same day marks the Summer Solstice, the year's longest day, in the Southern Hemisphere.



- It is the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and is also known as the 'first day of winter' in the Northern Hemisphere as well as 'Hiemal solstice or Hibernial solstice'.
- During this, countries in the Northern Hemisphere are farthest from the Sun and the Sun shines overhead on the Tropic of Capricorn ( $23.5^\circ$  south).
- This situation will be reversed on 21st June, when the Northern Hemisphere will see the Summer Solstice, the year's longest day and the Southern Hemisphere will see the year's shortest day.

**Q.99) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana(PMKKKY):**

1. This programme meant to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations
2. PMKKKY scheme is implemented by the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs)

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.99) Solution (c)**

- In news: auditing and an impact assessment of utilisation of funds from the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) for the financial years 2017-2020 will be taken place in Jharkhand.

**Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana(PMKKKY)**

- Nodal Ministry: PMKKKY is a scheme by the Ministry of Mines for the welfare of people & affected areas

**Objectives:**

- a. To implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government.
- b. To minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts.
- c. To ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

**Implementation:**

- a. The Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) will be implemented by the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF.
- b. At least 60% the fund will be utilized for “High Priority Areas” like Drinking water supply, Environment preservation & pollution control measure, Health care, Education, etc.
- c. Rest of the fund will be utilized for “Other Priority Areas”, such as Physical infrastructure, Irrigation, Energy & watershed development and Measures for enhancing environmental quality.

**Q.100) Consider the following statements:**

1. According to Status of leopards in India, 2018 report the largest number of leopards have been estimated in Karnataka
2. IUCN status of leopards is Vulnerable

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.100) Solution (b)**

- In news: As per a recent report ‘Status of leopards in India, 2018’ released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change there has been a “60% increase in the population count of leopards in India from 2014 estimates”.
- The 2014 estimates placed the population of leopards at nearly 8,000 which has increased to 12,852.
- The largest number of leopards have been estimated in Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690).

**Region wise distribution:**

- Central India and Eastern Ghats have the highest number of leopards at 8,071.
- Western Ghats: 3,387 leopards



- Shivalik and Gangetic Plains: 1,253 leopards
- Northeast hills: 141 leopards

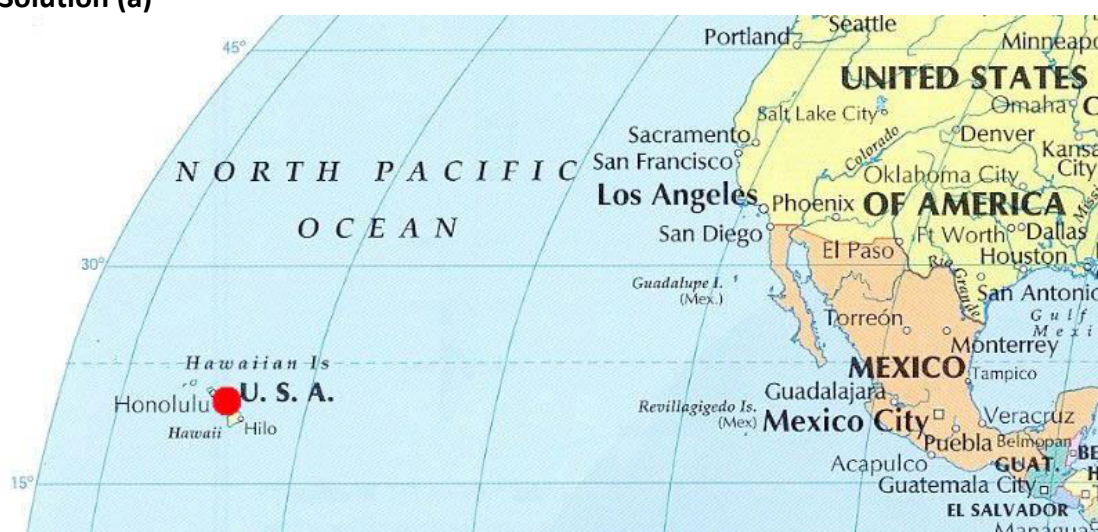
#### Conservation Status:

- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Vulnerable**
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule 1

**Q.101) Kilauea volcano which was recently in news for its eruption, is situated in which country?**

- USA
- Indonesia
- Singapore
- Japan

**Q.101) Solution (a)**



- Kilauea, also called Mount Kilauea (“Much Spreading” in Hawaiian), is located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the southeastern part of the island of Hawaii, U.S.A.
- Kilauea’s slopes merge with those of the nearby volcano Mauna Loa on the west and north.
- It ranks among the world’s most active volcanoes. It is an elongated dome built of lava eruptions from a central crater and from lines of craters extending along east and southwest rifts, or fissures.
- The volcano’s 4,090-foot (1,250-metre) summit has collapsed to form a caldera, a broad shallow depression nearly 3 miles (5 km) long and 2 miles (3.2 km) wide with an area of more than 4 square miles (10 square km).

- A caldera is a depression created after a volcano partially collapses after releasing the majority of its magma chamber in an explosive eruption.

**Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to Shigellosis disease:**

1. It is a contagious intestinal infection caused by Virus.
2. The main symptoms of this disease include diarrhea and often containing blood

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.102) Solution (b)**

- In news: Health officials in Kozhikode district of Kerala began preventive measures after 6 cases of shigella infection and nearly 24 suspected cases were detected.
- Shigellosis, or shigella infection, is a contagious intestinal infection caused by a genus of bacteria known as shigella.
- The bacteria is one of the prime pathogens responsible for causing diarrhoea, fluctuating between moderate and severe symptoms, especially in children in African and South Asian regions.
- The bacteria, after entering the body through ingestion, attacks the epithelial lining of the colon resulting in inflammation of the cells and subsequently the destruction of the cells in severe cases.
- Symptoms: Diarrhoea (often bloody and painful), stomach pain, fever, nausea and vomiting.
- Transmission: It spreads person-to-person when the bacteria is swallowed accidentally.
- Spread through contaminated food and water is the most common form of transmission across the world.
- Prevention: Wash hands with soap especially after dealing with a child's diaper and before preparing/eating food.

**Q.103) Consider the following statements with respect to Pobitora wildlife sanctuary:**

1. It lies on the banks of the River Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is also a part of Indian Rhino Vision 2020

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**103) Solution (b)**

- In news: Too many cattle are competing against the one-horned rhinos of Assam's Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, referred to as 'Mini Kaziranga' for nutritious food.
- Pobitora WLS is a wildlife sanctuary on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra in Morigaon district in Assam, India.
- Pobitora is running a successful Rhino breeding program within its sanctuary.
- It is running under Indian Government as "Indian Rhino vision 2020".
- In 1987, Pobitora was declared a wildlife sanctuary.
- It harbors the highest density of Rhinoceros in the world and second highest concentration of Rhinoceros in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.
- It is an Important Bird Area and home for more than 2000 migratory birds and various reptiles.

**Q.104) Consider the followings statements with respect to Great Indian Bustards:**

1. IUCN status of this bird is critically endangered.
2. Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary is located in Karnataka

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.104) Solution (a)**

- In news: The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India has come up with a unique initiative — a "firefly bird diverter" for overhead power lines in areas where Great Indian Bustard (GIB) populations are found in the wild.

**Great Indian Bustards (GIB):**

- IUCN status: critically endangered.
- Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES.
- Identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- Project Great Indian Bustard — state of Rajasthan — identifying and fencing off bustard breeding grounds in existing protected areas as well as provide secure breeding enclosures in areas outside protected areas.
- Protected areas: Desert National Park Sanctuary — Rajasthan, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary — Andhra Pradesh and Karera Wildlife Sanctuary— Madhya Pradesh.

**Habitats in India:**

- Only two districts in Rajasthan — Jaisalmer and Barmer — have a breeding GIB population in the wild. The bird can also be found in very small numbers in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary was established in 1979, also known as the Jawaharlal Nehru Bustard Sanctuary of Maharashtra is a wildlife sanctuary for the great Indian bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) at Solapur, Maharashtra.
- The land is drought-prone and semi-arid. It is in the Deccan thorn scrub forests ecoregion.

**Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to Parliamentary Committees:**

1. Standing Committees will be constituted every year or periodically and work on a continuous basis
2. Ad hoc committees are temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.105) Solution (c)**

- In news: Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the management of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country has recently submitted its report.
- Parliamentary Committees are broadly classified into two types: Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees.
- Standing Committees: Permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis.
- They can be categorized into following broad groups:
  - Financial Committees
  - Departmental Standing Committees (24)
  - Committees to Inquire
  - Committees to Scrutinise and Control
  - Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House
  - House-Keeping Committees or Service Committees
- Ad Hoc Committees: Ad hoc committees are temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them.

**Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to Jallikattu:**

1. It is referred to as bull taming event.
2. This is celebrated as a part of pongal celebration in Kerala.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.106) Solution (a)**

In news: Tamil Nadu government has permitted jallikattu to be held across the state during the coming Pongal season

- Jallikattu is referred to as bull taming event practiced in Tamil Nadu as a part of Pongal.
- 'jallikattu' is derived from Tamil words Jalli refers to gold or silver coins ,Kattu means 'tied'.
- There are references to people enjoying observing and partaking in Jallikattu in Silappatikaram the great epics of Tamil classical period and two other ancient literary works like Malaipadukadaam and Kalithogai.
- Jallikattu is an ancient sport. It is referred to belong to Tamil Classical Age (400-100 BC). Also, a cave painting which is said to be 2500 years old depicts a man controlling a bull.
- Supreme Court of India banned Jallikattu in 2014 following the petitions of Animal Welfare Organizations including Federation of India Animal Protection Agencies (FIAPO) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
- Tamil Nadu government has passed an amendment to the Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 which was approved by the President. The amendment allowed Jallikattu as it is held as a cultural pride of the state. (From the exam point of view, aspirants must understand the topic for critical analysis types of questions.)

**Q.107) Consider the following statements with respect to Vietnam:**

1. It shares border with Thailand and China
2. VINBAX is the military exercise conducted between India and Vietnam

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.107) Solution (b)**



- In news: India and Vietnam had a virtual summit recently on December 21, 2020,
- VINBAX is the bilateral army exercise between India-Vietnam

**Q.108) Consider the following statements with respect to Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA):**

1. PCA is an intergovernmental organization established by treaty at the First Hague Peace Conference in 1899.
2. India is a member of PCA.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.108) Solution (c)**

- In news: Recently, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) has ruled that the Indian government was wrong in applying a retrospective tax on energy giant Cairn Plc.
- PCA is an intergovernmental organization established by treaty at the First Hague Peace Conference, Netherland in 1899.
- It is not a court in the traditional sense, but a permanent framework for arbitral tribunals constituted to resolve specific disputes.

- PCA seeks to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution involving various combinations of states, state entities, international organizations and private parties.
- It was the first permanent intergovernmental organization that provided a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means.
- PCA has 121 member states out of that 119 members of the United Nations, as well as Kosovo and Palestine.
- India is a party of the PCA according to the Hague Convention on 1899.

**Q.109) Consider the following statements with respect to Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC):**

1. It is a central sector scheme and is implemented by national commission for scheduled caste.
2. This scholarship is applicable for scheduled caste students who are studying in foreign countries.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.109) Solution (d)**

- In news: Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved changes in the Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC).
- PMS-SC is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and implemented through State Government and UT administration.
- It provides financial assistance to the SC students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.
- These scholarships are available for studies in India only and are awarded by the government of the State/Union Territory to which the applicant actually belongs i.e. permanently settled.
- The focus of the scheme is on enrolling the poorest students, timely payments, comprehensive accountability, continuous monitoring and total transparency.
- Income Ceiling: Scholarships are paid to the students whose parents/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 per annum.

**Q.110) Shaheen-IX is a joint Air exercise between which of the following countries?**



- a) India and China
- b) India and Australia
- c) China and Pakistan
- d) Pakistan and USA

**Q.110) Solution (c)**

- Shaheen-IX is joint air exercise between China and Pakistan.
- China defended “Shaheen-IX” exercise with Pakistan air force as a routine arrangement, which experts believe is reflective of a larger strategic posture towards India.
- It is being held in Pakistan’s southern Sindh province near Indian border.
- India recently hosted the Malabar 2020 naval exercise with the U.S., Japan and Australia which was termed by a Chinese state media as an ill-intentioned attempt to corner China.

**Q.111) Tso Kar Wetland was recently in news, is located in which State?**

- a) Ladakh
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Assam
- d) Himachal Pradesh

**Q.111) Solution (a)**

- India has added Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site.
- It is also a second one in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.
- The Tso Kar Basin is a high-altitude wetland complex.
- It consists of two principal waterbodies, Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake and Tso Kar itself, a hypersaline lake situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh.
- It is called Tso Kar, meaning white lake, because of the white salt efflorescence found on the margins due to the evaporation of highly saline water.
- The Tso Kar Basin is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway.
- The site is also one of the most important breeding areas of the Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) in India.
- This IBA is also the major breeding area for Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*), Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) and many other species.

**Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to Sabarimala temple**

1. It is situated inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.
2. It is located on the banks of river Pamba.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.112) Solution (b)**

- In news: Kerala wants cap on Sabarimala pilgrims.
- The Sabarimala Temple is a temple complex located at sabarimala inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Perinad Village, Pathanamthitta district, Kerala,
- Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river Pamba.



**Q.113) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Information Commission:**

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. Chief Information Commissioner is not eligible for reappointment.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.113) Solution (b)**

#### **Central Information Commission**

##### **Formation:**

- It was established by the Central Government in 2005, under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). It is not a constitutional body.

##### **Composition:**

- It shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10 as may be deemed necessary.

##### **Appointment:**

- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

##### **Tenure:**

- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such a term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They are not eligible for reappointment.

##### **Power and Functions of CIC:**

- It is the duty of the Commission to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person regarding information request under RTI, 2005.
- The Commission can order an inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-moto power).
- While inquiring, the Commission has the powers of a civil court in respect of summoning, requiring documents etc.

**Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM):**

1. It is being implemented by the central ground water board.
2. NAQUIM was initiated as a part of the ground water management and regulation scheme.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.114) Solution (c)**

- In news: A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been recently signed between Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Jal Shakti and Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research–National Geophysical Research Institute, for use of advanced heliborne geophysical survey (through helicopter) and other scientific studies under the Aquifer Mapping Programme.
- The National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM) is being implemented by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).
- NAQUIM envisages mapping of aquifers (water bearing formations), their characterization and development of Aquifer Management Plans to facilitate sustainable management of groundwater resources.
- NAQUIM was initiated as a part of the Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme to delineate and characterize the aquifers to develop plans for ground water management.

**Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme**

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

**Central Ground Water Board**

- It is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources and is the National Apex Agency entrusted with the responsibilities of providing scientific inputs for management, exploration, monitoring, assessment, augmentation and regulation of groundwater resources of the country.
- It was established in 1970 by renaming the Exploratory Tubewells Organization under the Ministry of Agriculture and later on merged with the Groundwater Wing of the Geological Survey of India during 1972.

**Q.115) e-Sewa Kendra at court was recently inaugurated at Tripura High court, which of the following statement is not true with respect to e- Sewa Kendra**

- a) It has been created at High courts and district courts of all States.
- b) These centres also extend assistance in e-filing of cases.
- c) It enables litigants to obtain information with respect to case status.
- d) Litigant can also obtain copies of judgments and orders in this kendra.

**Q.115) Solution (a)**

- In news: Recently, an e-Sewa Kendra was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) at the High Court of Tripura.
- e-Seva Kendras have been created in the High Courts and in one District Court in each State on a pilot basis.
- They are dedicated to serve as a one-stop center for all legal aid and assistance for common litigants and advocates.
- It enables litigants to obtain information with respect to case status and to obtain copies of judgments and orders.
- These centres also extend assistance in e-filing of cases.
- These Kendras represent a significant step for the common man and his right to access to justice.

**Q.116) Kilauea Volcano which was recently in news because of its eruption, is located in which of the following Island?**

- a) USA
- b) Japan
- c) Indonesia
- d) Russia

**Q.116) Solution (a)**

- Kilauea Volcano volcano erupted from at least two vents inside its deep summit crater after a two-year break.
- Kilauea, also called Mount Kilauea, the world's most active volcanic mass, located on the southeastern part of the island of Hawaii, Hawaii state, U.S.
- It is one of the world's most active volcanoes, which has erupted almost continuously between 1983 and 2018.
- It had a lava lake in its crater from the last decade of that eruption.
- When erupting, Kilauea spews large amount of sulfur dioxide.
- This sulfur dioxide forms volcanic smog, when it mixes with oxygen, sunlight and other gases in the air.

**Q.117) Consider the following statements with respect to Leprosy:**

1. This disease is caused by the bacteria, Mycobacterium leprae.
2. India officially became leprosy free in 2020.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.117) Solution (a)**

- In news: Himachal Pradesh is doing a door-to-door surveillance campaign to screen the state's entire population for symptoms of leprosy.
- It is chronic, curable infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- It affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract, and eyes.
- Symptoms include light-coloured or red skin patches with reduced sensation, numbness and weakness in hands and feet.
- Claw hands, drop foot, eye damage, skin nodules, lesions and ulcers are some of the visible impairments associated with leprosy.
- The disease is treatable with multi-drug therapy within 6-12 months, which combines three drugs to kill the pathogen and cure the victim.
- India officially became leprosy free in 2005.

**Q.118) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme:**

1. It is a central sector scheme and implemented by ministry of finance.
2. Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs. 6,000 per year directly into the bank accounts of the all landholding farmers.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.118) Solution (b)**

- In news: Recently, the Prime Minister has virtually released the next installment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:
- Launched in February 2019, it is a Central Sector Scheme, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- On its first anniversary, the PM-KISAN Mobile App developed and designed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology was launched.
- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs. 6,000 per year, in three equal installments, directly into the bank accounts of the all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their landholdings.
- The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State/UT Governments.

**It aims to:**



- Reduce the input cost of the farmers.
- Ensure a fair price for the crop.
- Open new markets for the farmers to sell their crop.
- Supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs).

**Q.119) Consider the following statements with respect to Satkosia Tiger Reserve:**

1. It is located on the banks of River Mahanadi.
2. It is the meeting point of the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.119) Solution (c)**

- In news: Recently, the National Tiger Conservation Authority has asked Odisha to submit a status report on the adverse impact of tourism on Satkosia Tiger Reserve.
- Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Bhubaneswar comprises two adjoining sanctuaries of central Odisha named as Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Baisipalli Sanctuary.
- It is located in the Angul district of Odisha where the Mahanadi River passes through a 22 km long gorge in the Eastern Ghats Mountains. The area is also a part of the Mahanadi elephant reserve.
- Satkosia is the meeting point of two bio-geographic regions of India; the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats, contributing to immense biodiversity. The major plant communities are mixed deciduous forests including Sal and riverine forest.





**Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to Chandrayan-2:**

1. It consists of an Orbiter of the Moon, Vikram- the lander and Pragyan- the rover.
2. The Chandrayaan-2 was India's first attempt to land on Moon's South Polar Region.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.120) Solution (c)**

**Chandrayaan-2**

- It is an integrated 3-in-1 spacecraft of around 3,877 kg consisting of an Orbiter of the Moon, Vikram (after Vikram Sarabhai) - the lander and Pragyan (wisdom) - the rover, all equipped with scientific instruments to study the moon.
- The Chandrayaan-2 was India's first attempt to land on the lunar surface.
- ISRO had planned the landing on the South Pole of the lunar surface. However, the lander Vikram hard-landed in September last year. Its orbiter, which is still in the lunar orbit, has a mission life of seven years.

**Objective:**

- Try and build on the evidence of water molecules shown by Chandrayaan-1 and study the extent and distribution of water on the Moon.
- Study topography, seismography, composition of lunar surface and the lunar atmosphere.
- The study of ancient rocks and craters can offer indications of origin and evolution of the Moon.
- The South Pole region of the Moon also contains clues to the fossil records of early solar systems. Thus, it can improve our understanding of the early solar system as well.
- Map the lunar surface and prepare 3D maps of it.

**Q.121) Consider the following statements with reference to Inner Line Permit (ILP) System:**

1. ILP is applicable to all North-Eastern States.
2. It is issued only for travel purposes by the concerned State Government.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

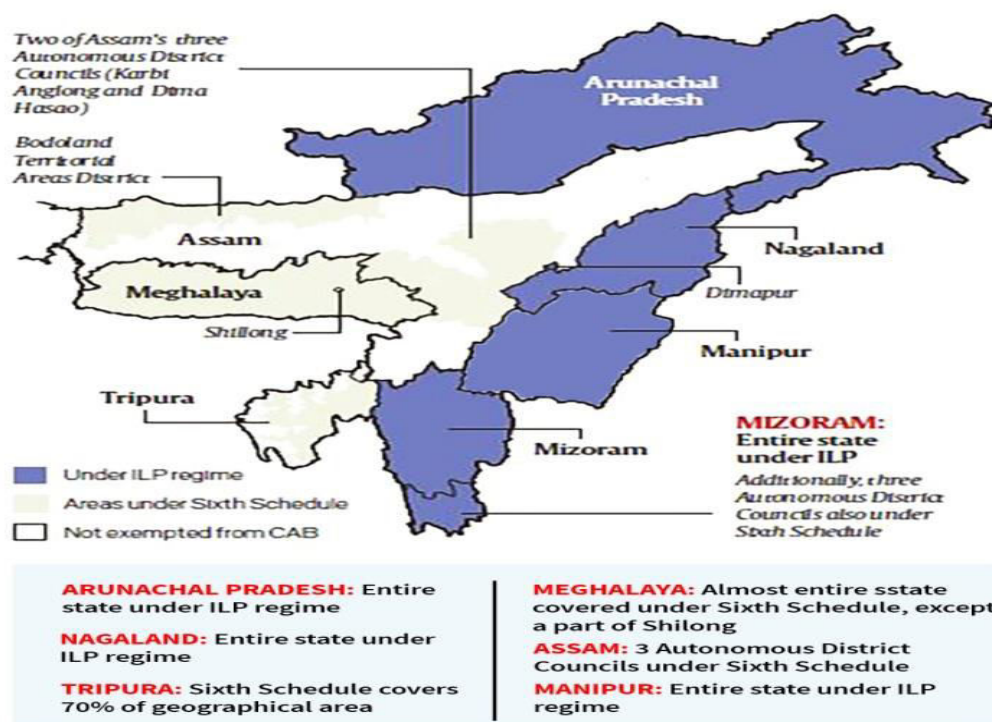
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Q.121) Solution (b)

- In news: Recently, the Union Home Minister has highlighted the importance of Inner-Line Permit (ILP) system in Manipur, while inaugurating several development projects in Manipur.

## Inner Line Permit System

- Implemented under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) 1873, the ILP is an official travel document which allows inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected/restricted area for a limited period.
- In 1950, the Indian government replaced 'British subjects' with 'Citizen of India'.
- An imaginary line known as the inner-line was created to divide between the two communities so that neither party could go beyond the line without a permit from the appropriate authorities.
- Under Section 2 of the Regulation of 1873, the ILP was only applicable to the three North-Eastern States viz. Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- On 11th December 2020, the President signed the order extending ILP to Manipur, which became the fourth state where the ILP regime is applicable.
- It is a special permit obligatorily required by "outsiders" from other regions of the country to enter the notified states.
- It is issued by the concerned State Government and can be issued for travel purposes solely.
- Foreigners need a Protected Area Permit (PAP) to visit tourist places which are different from ILPs needed by domestic tourists.
- A foreign national is normally not allowed to visit a Protected/Restricted Area unless it is established to the satisfaction of the Government that there are extraordinary reasons to justify such a visit.



**Q.122) Consider the following statements with respect to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme:**

1. The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the union territory of J&K.
2. It provides financial cover up to Rs.50 Lakh per family on a floater basis.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.122) Solution (a)**

- In news: Prime Minister has launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme via video-conferencing to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K.
- It provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.
- It provides for an operational extension of PM-JAY to 15 lakh (approximately) additional families.

**About PM- JAY:**

- The PM-JAY, world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme fully financed by the government, provides a cover of Rs 500,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- The benefit of Rs 5,00,000 is on a family floater basis, which means that it can be used by one or all members of the family.
- It covers medical procedures such as oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc and up to three days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days post-hospitalisation expenses such as diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.

**Q.123) Which of the following is not a discretionary power of Governor?**

- a) Advising the President for proclamation of Emergency.
- b) Dissolution of Legislative Assembly.
- c) Appointment of the Chief Minister.
- d) Power to grant pardons, reprieves, remissions of punishment given by law of court.

**Q.123) Solution (d)**

In news: Recently, the Kerala Governor has turned down a request of the state Cabinet to summon a special sitting of the Assembly to debate the new three central farm laws.

**Discretionary Powers:**

- Appointment of the Chief Minister: Generally, the leader of the party with majority is appointed as the Chief Minister. But in a situation where no party gets an absolute majority, the Governor exercises his discretionary powers in appointing the Chief Minister.
- Dismissal of a Ministry: A minister holds offices during the pleasure of the Governor. When the ministry loses support of the house, the governor will dismiss the ministry. But he cannot dismiss it until it loses majority support.
- Advising the President for proclamation of Emergency: The Governor advises the President to proclaim emergency when he is satisfied that the Government cannot carry on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, under Article 356.
- Reservation of a bill for the consideration of the President: However, situations are mentioned in Article 200, when he will reserve the bill, yet he can use discretion regarding this matter.
- Dissolution of Legislative Assembly: The Governor summons, prorogues and dissolves the Legislative Assembly, according to Article 174. When the ministry loses the majority and the Governor is satisfied, he may dissolve the House.

**Q.124) Consider the following statements with respect to Main Bhi Digital Drive:**

1. It will be launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
2. It empowers street vendors to accept and make payments digitally.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.124) Solution (c)**

- In news: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is going to launch 'Main Bhi Digital (me too digital)' drive for the street vendors to enable them to accept and make payments digitally.

**Main Bhi Digital Drive:**

- As part of the new drive, between 4th January to 22nd January 2021, over 10 lakh street vendors across the country who have availed of the Rs. 10,000 loan will be trained in using digital payments.
- The vendors would be able to not just receive payments digitally but also pay for material they procure from sellers using unique QR codes.

- The mobile phones of the vendors will be equipped with the software needed for the transactions, and training provided to them on safe and secure payments

**Q.125) Kamov-226T (Ka-226T) utility helicopters was recently in news, it is designed by which country?**

- a) Russia
- b) India
- c) USA
- d) France

**Q.125) Solution (a)**

- In news: The Indian Army is going to approach the Defence Ministry for a waiver to take the Kamov-226T (Ka-226T) utility helicopters with Russia.
- The Kamov Ka-226 is a small, twin-engine Russian utility helicopter.
- In 2015, India and Russia concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for 200 Ka-226T helicopters estimated to cost over USD 1 billion.
- The Kamov-226T is meant to replace Cheetah and Chetak fleets of the Indian Army and the Air Force.
- The Ka-226T is a design of Russia's famed Kamov design bureau.
- It is a light helicopter, with a maximum take-off weight of over 3.5 tonnes and can carry a payload of up to 1 tonne.
- The Ka-226T uses coaxial rotors which is especially advantageous in high-altitude environments.
- The Ka-226T also has a unique, detachable 'mission' compartment which allows the helicopter to be adapted for different roles such as surveillance and cargo delivery.

**Q.126) Consider the following statements with respect to National Common Mobility Card (NCMC):**

1. It is an initiative under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. NCMC is an automatic fare collection system.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.126) Solution (c)**

- In news: Indian Prime Minister recently inaugurated fully operational National Common Mobility Card service on the Airport Express Line of Delhi Metro,

- Ministry of housing & urban affairs brought to the fore the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) to enable seamless travel by different metros and other transport systems across the country besides retail shopping and purchases.
- This one card will give integrated access to the commuters wherever they travel, whichever public transport they take.
- The idea of NCMC was floated by the Nandan Nilekani committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- NCMC will allow passengers with RuPay debit card, issued in the last 18 months by 23 banks to be swiped for Metro travel.
- This facility will become available on the entire Delhi Metro network by 2022.
- NCMC is an automatic fare collection system.
- It will turn smartphones into an inter-operable transport card that commuters can use to pay for Metro, bus and suburban railways services.
- It will allow entry and exit from Metro stations with the help of a smartphone, known as the automatic fare collection (AFC) system.

**Q.127) Qatar Shares a land border with which of the following country?**

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) UAE
- c) Bahrain
- d) Oman

**Q.127) Solution (a)**

- In news: Recently, India's External Affairs Minister met the top leaders of Qatar and discussed strengthening the economic and security cooperation between the two countries.



**Q.128) Consider the following statements with respect to Pneumococcal disease:**

1. Pneumococcal disease is caused by virus.
2. Pneumosil is India's first fully indigenously developed pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.128) Solution (b)**

- In news: Recently, India's first fully indigenously developed pneumococcal conjugate vaccine "Pneumosil" has been launched.
- Pneumococcal disease is a name for any infection caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or pneumococcus.
  - The bacteria are the most common cause of bloodstream infections, pneumonia, meningitis, and middle ear infections in young children.
  - Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs. Many different bacteria, viruses, and even fungi can cause pneumonia. Pneumococcus is one of the most common causes of severe pneumonia.

**Doctors consider some of these infections "invasive".**

**Disease Burden:**

- Annually India witnesses an estimated 71% of pneumonia deaths and 57% of severe pneumonia cases.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), pneumonia accounts for 15% of all deaths of children under 5 years.

**Prevention:**

- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) prevents pneumococcal disease.
- The vaccine is a mix of several bacteria of the pneumococci family, which are known to cause pneumonia, hence 'conjugate' is included in the name of the vaccine.
- Conjugate vaccines are made using a combination of two different components.
- The Indian government has been ensuring PCV under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) to fight pneumococcal disease.

**Q.129) Monpa Paper was recently in news, is associated with which of the following State?**

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh



- c) Assam
- d) Karnataka

**Q.129) Solution (b)**

- In news: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) opened a Monpa paper making unit in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- This unit aims at reviving the art and also engaging the local youths with this art professionally and earn.
- Monpa Paper or Mon Shugu is the fine-textured handmade paper of Arunachal Pradesh that originated over 1000 years ago.
- It has great historic and religious significance as it is the paper used for writing Buddhist scriptures and hymns in monasteries.
- It will be made from the bark of a local tree called Shugu Sheng, which has medicinal values too.
- It is a local product with great global potential, which is aligned with the Prime Minister's mantra of "Local to Global".

**Q.130) Consider the following statements with respect to *Portulaca laljii* a new species of wild sun rose:**

1. It is discovered in the western ghats of India.
2. Tuberous root, no hair in its leaf axils are the unique features of this plant.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.130) Solution (b)**

- In news: Botanists have discovered a new species of wild sun rose from the Eastern Ghats in India.
- The new species, named *Portulaca laljii* was discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.
- It has unique features such as a tuberous root, no hair in its leaf axils, a reddish pink flower, prolate-shaped fruits, and copper brown seeds without lustre.
- The flowers are very attractive and bloom for months from June to February.
- The plant bears beautiful, tiny pink flowers for eight months.
- It is because of the succulent nature of tuberous roots that the plant can survive on rocky crevices.

**Q.131) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS):**

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. DigitalOcean application is developed INCOIS.

**Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q.131) Solution (a)**

- IN news: Recently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences inaugurated the web-based application DigitalOcean developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in a Virtual Meeting held in New Delhi.

**Digital Ocean:**

- Digital Ocean is a new state of the art data platform for Ocean Data Management.
- It is the first such platform to provide ocean data related services at one place.
- It includes a set of applications developed to organize and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology.
- It facilitates an online interactive web-based environment for data integration, 3D and 4D (3D inspace with time animation) data visualization, data analysis to assess the evolution of oceanographic features, etc.

**Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services**

- It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- It is located in Hyderabad & was established in 1999.
- It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), New Delhi.
- It is mandated to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvement through systematic and focused research.

**Q.132) Consider the following statements:**

1. Montreux Record is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.
2. All Ramsar wetlands of India are in Montreux Record.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.132) Solution (a)**

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea.
- It came into force for India on 1st February, 1982.
- Those wetlands which are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- The Convention's mission is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.
- The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
- It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

**At present, two wetlands of India are in Montreux Record:**

- Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and
- Loktak Lake (Manipur).
- Chilika Lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but later removed from it.

**Q.133) Consider the following statements with respect to Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat:**

1. It is endemic to India.
2. It has not been accorded legal protection under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.133) Solution (c)**

- In news: The Karnataka Forest Department, along with the Bat Conservation India Trust (BCIT), is getting prepared to save the Kolar leaf-nosed bat from extinction.
- Geographic Range: It is endemic to India. It is presently known only from one cave in Hanumanahalli village in Kolar district, Karnataka.

**Threats:**

- Habitat loss from land use change, hunting, and stone quarrying in the region.
- Till several years ago, the Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat was found in only two caves in the village of Hanumanahalli. For reasons that are still unknown, the bat became locally extinct in one of the two caves.

**Protection Status:**

- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: It has not been accorded legal protection under the Act.

**Q.134) Consider the following statements with respect to INS Kiltan:**

1. It is a Scorpion class submarine.
2. INS Kiltan took part of ongoing Mission Sagar-III.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.134) Solution (b)**

- In news: Recently, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kiltan has arrived at Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia as part of ongoing Mission Sagar-III.
- INS Kiltan is a Kamorta-class anti-submarine warfare corvette.
- It is part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command, based at Visakhapatnam.
- INS Kiltan, along with the INS Sahyadri, is the latest, indigenously designed and built multi-role ships of the Indian Navy.
- The two ships are equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors and can carry multi-role helicopters representing the 'coming of age' of India's warship building capabilities.

**Q.135) Consider the following statements:**

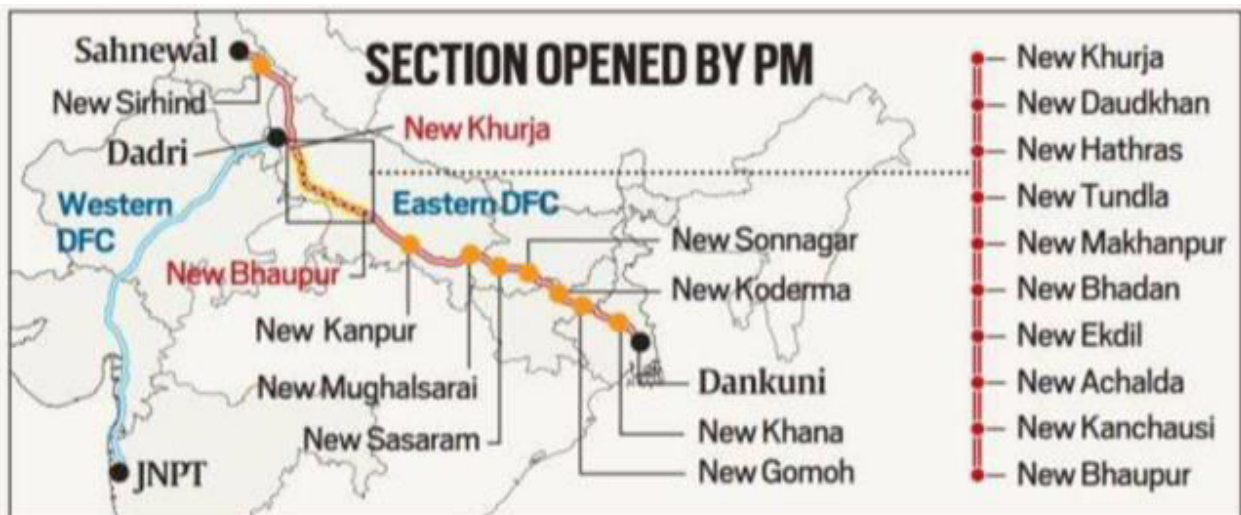
1. Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. is under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
2. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor connects Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.135) Solution (b)**

- In news: Indian Prime Minister dedicated to the nation the ambitious New Bhaupur-New Khurja section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) in Uttar Pradesh (UP).



- Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) is a high speed and high capacity railway corridor that is exclusively meant for the transportation of freight, or in other words, goods and commodities.
- DFC involves the seamless integration of better infrastructure and state of the art technology.

**It consists of two arms:**

- Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC): It starts at Sahnewal (Ludhiana) in Punjab and ends at Dankuni in West Bengal.
- Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC): It runs from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai, touching all major ports along the way.

**Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd.**

- DFCCIL under the Ministry of Railways is a special purpose vehicle tasked with planning and completion of 3,306 kms of DFCs.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).
- It engages in the planning and development, deployment of monetary resources, building, upkeep, and the operation of the DFCs.