

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to "SAHAYAK-NG":**

1. It is India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container.
2. It was designed by Defence Research Development Organization.

**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)**

**In news:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy) off the coast of Goa.

**Main features of SAHAYAK-NG**

- The SAHAYAK-NG can carry payload up to fifty kilograms.
- It can be dropped from heavy aircraft.
- It is GPS enabled.
- It is an advanced version of SHAYAK Mk I.
- The SAHAYAK-NG containers are completely water tight.
- They are designed to withstand water entry shocks.
- The rate of descent of SAHAYAK-NG container is controlled by a parachute system.

The SHAYAK-NG was designed by Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and Avantel, a private company. The other entities involved in the development of SAHAYAK-NG are NTSL, Visakhapatnam and ARDE, Agra.

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Akash Missile:**

1. It is a surface to air anti-aircraft missile.
2. It is having an operational envelope to maximum altitude of 1000 meter.

**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.2) Solution (a)**

**In news:** The Union Cabinet approved the export of Akash missile system.

- This is surface to air anti-aircraft missile with a strike range of 25 km and capability to carry warhead of 60 kilogram.

- It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation under the Integrated Guided Missile Development programme (1984).
- It can simultaneously engage multiple targets in all weather conditions.
- It has a large operational envelope from a low altitude of 30 metres to a maximum of up to 20 km.
- It was inducted in 2014 in the Air Force and in 2015 in the Indian Army.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Ruthenium-106:**

1. It is a radioactive metal, produced from the fusion of uranium-235.
2. It is used in medicine for treatment of Ocular Tumours.

**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)**

**In news:** Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai has developed Eye Cancer therapy in the form of the first indigenous Ruthenium 106 Plaque for treatment of Ocular Tumours.

Ruthenium-106 is a radioactive form of the rare heavy metal ruthenium, which is a “platinum group” metal similar to platinum.

Ruthenium-106 is produced from the fission or splitting of uranium-235, the type of uranium used in nuclear fission reactors, so it's found in spent nuclear fuel.

It is used in medicine for cancer radiation therapy, especially for eye and skin tumours.

It's also used in radioisotope thermoelectric generators that power satellites.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Light House Projects:**

1. These are being constructed under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India.
2. They will be constructed at six sites across six states.

**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.4) Solution (d)**

Light House Projects (LHPs) showcase the new-age best of alternate global technologies, materials and processes in the construction sector at a large scale for the first time in India.

They are being constructed under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India).

They will be constructed at six sites across six states such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

They comprise about 1000 houses at each location along with allied infrastructure facilities.

They will demonstrate and deliver ready to live houses within twelve months, as compared to conventional brick and mortar construction.

They will serve as live laboratories for facilitating transfer of technology to the field and its further replication.

### Do you know?

Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators – India (ASHA-India)

- It aims to promote domestic research and entrepreneurship by providing incubation and acceleration support to potential future technologies.
- Under ASHA-India initiative, five ASHA-India Centers have been set up for providing incubation and acceleration support.
- The technologies, processes and materials identified through this initiative will provide a major fillip to young creative minds, start-ups, innovators and entrepreneurs.

**Q.5) Which of the following Indian States share border with Bhutan?**

1. West Bengal
2. Sikkim
3. Arunachal Pradesh
4. Assam

**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.5) Solution (d)**

**In news:** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Bhutan shares borders with the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh in its east, Sikkim in the west and Assam and West Bengal in the south.

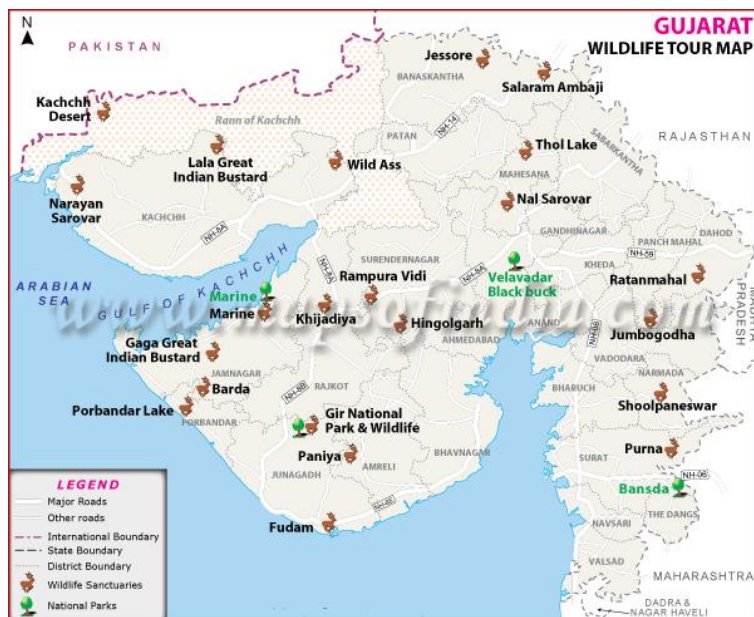


**Q.6) Shoolpaneshwar wildlife sanctuary which was recently in news, is located in which of the following State?**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Orissa
- c) Karnataka
- d) Assam

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

**In news:** Tribal communities have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the Centre's notification classifying 121 villages around the Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Narmada district as eco-sensitive zones.



Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Gujarat state, located in the western Satpura Range south of the Narmada River.

It shares a common boundary with Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to anaemia:**

1. It is the condition of having a higher than normal number of red blood cells.
2. Deficiency of vitamin B12 is a common cause of anaemia.

**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)**

Anaemia is the condition of having a lower-than-normal number of red blood cells or quantity of haemoglobin.

It can make one feel tired, cold, dizzy, irritable and short of breath, among other symptoms.

A diet which does not contain enough iron, folic acid or vitamin B12 is a common cause of anaemia.

Some other conditions that may lead to anaemia include pregnancy, heavy periods, blood disorders or cancer, inherited disorders and infectious diseases.

**Anaemia in our country:**

- In 15 of these 22 states and UTs, more than half the children are anaemic. Similarly, more than 50 per cent women are anaemic in 14 of these states and UTs.

- The proportion of anaemic children and women is comparatively lower in Lakshadweep, Kerala, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, and higher in Ladakh, Gujarat, J&K, and West Bengal, among others.

**Q.8) Consider the following statements:**

1. Lightning is caused due to the electrical potential difference between the two layers of atmosphere.
2. Occurrence of lightning is tracked by India meteorological department.

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 (a)**

Lightning is a very rapid — and massive — discharge of electricity in the atmosphere, some of which is directed towards the Earth's surface.

These discharges are generated in giant moisture-bearing clouds that are 10-12 km tall.

The base of these clouds typically lies within 1-2 km of the Earth's surface, while their top is 12-13 km away.

Occurrences of lightning are not tracked in India, and there is simply not enough data for scientists to work with. Often, safety measures and precautions against lightning strikes do not receive as much publicity as other natural disasters such as earthquakes.

**Process:**

- As water vapour moves upward in the cloud, the falling temperature causes it to condense. Heat is generated in the process, which pushes the molecules of water further up.
- As they move to temperatures below zero degrees celsius, the water droplets change into small ice crystals. They continue to move up, gathering mass — until they are so heavy that they start to fall to Earth.
- This leads to a system in which, simultaneously, smaller ice crystals are moving up and bigger crystals are coming down.
- Collisions follow, and trigger the release of electrons — a process that is very similar to the generation of sparks of electricity.
- As the moving free electrons cause more collisions and more electrons, a chain reaction ensues.
- This process results in a situation in which the top layer of the cloud gets positively charged, while the middle layer is negatively charged.
- The electrical potential difference between the two layers is huge — of the order of a billion to 10 billion volts.

- In very little time, a massive current, of the order of 100,000 to a million amperes, starts to flow between the layers.
- An enormous amount of heat is produced, and this leads to the heating of the air column between the two layers of the cloud.
- This heat gives the air column a reddish appearance during lightning. As the heated air column expands, it produces shock waves that result in thunder.

**Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Subhash Chandra Bose:**

1. The newspaper Swaraj was started by S C Bose.
2. He was elected only twice as a president of Indian National Congress.

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.9) Solution (c)**

**In news:** Subhash Chandra Bose had unfurled the Tricolour in Port Blair on 30th December, 1943.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (23 January 1897 – 18 August 1945) is one of the most celebrated freedom fighters of India.

In 1942, he earned the title 'Netaji', in Germany by the Indian soldiers of the Azad Hind Fauj.

Bose is credited with the very famous slogan, "Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom!" as well as "Jai Hind".

**Timeline**

- In 1919, Bose headed to London to give the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination and he was selected. Bose, however, resigned from Civil Services as he believed he could not side with the British.
- In 1921, Bose worked under Chittaranjan Das, a powerful politician in Bengal. He worked as the editor for Das's newspaper, Forward, and later started his own newspaper, Swaraj.
- In 1923, Bose was elected the President of the All India Youth Congress and also the Secretary of Bengal State Congress.
- During the mid-1930s Bose travelled in Europe. He researched and wrote the first part of his book, The Indian Struggle, which covered the country's independence movement in the years 1920–1934.
- After his return, Bose took over as the elected President of Indian National Congress in 1938 (Haripur) and stood for unqualified Swaraj (self-governance) and the use of force against the British which then combated against Mahatma Gandhi and his views.

- Bose was re-elected in 1939 (Tripuri) but soon resigned from the presidency and formed the All India Forward Bloc, a faction within the Congress which aimed at consolidating the political left.
- In 1943, he travelled to Japan and took leadership of the Indian Independence Movement in East Asia. With Japanese aid and influence, he took the leadership of a trained army of about 40,000 troops in Japanese-occupied Southeast Asia known as the Indian National Army.
- The troops of the INA were under the aegis of a provisional government, the Azad Hind Government, which came to produce its own currency, postage stamps, court and civil code, and was recognised by nine Axis states.
- In 1945, the British Indian Army retaliated to the capture of Manipur, Kohima and Imphal by INA and killed almost half of the Japanese forces and the entire participating INA contingent.
- Bose escaped to Manchuria seeking a future in the Soviet Union.
- He is said to have died in 1945 when his plane crashed in Taiwan. However, there are still many conspiracy theories regarding his death.

**Q.10) Tropic of Capricorn does not pass through which of the following country?**

- Argentina
- Madagascar
- Brazil
- Bolivia

**Q.10) Solution (d)**

The Tropic of Capricorn passes through the countries including Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, and Paraguay.



**Q.11) Which of the following can be the key adverse effects on the economy due to persistent trade deficit?**



1. It forces a country to constantly look to foreign investors to make up the gap between its export earnings and its import payouts.
2. It leads to a steadily weakening home currency.
3. It weakens domestic industries and decreases job opportunities.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.11) Solution (d)**

**Basic information:**

A trade deficit is an economic condition that occurs when a country is importing more goods than it is exporting.

The trade deficit is calculated by taking the value of goods being imported and subtracting it by the value of goods being exported.

**Explanation:**

Running a persistent trade deficit can have **adverse effects** on the economy -

1. The country's demand for dollars (foreign exchange) is usually greater than the supply. This leads to a steadily weakening home currency.
2. A high trade deficit also forces a country to constantly look to foreign investors to make up the gap between its export earnings and its import payouts.
3. In a slow-growing world, a rising trade deficit could be an indication that domestically produced goods are unable to compete against imports. If local factories shut down, that leads to job losses.

Article link: [Trade deficit grows to \\$15 bn in Dec](#)

**Q.12) Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency that it intends to produce uranium enriched to up to 20% purity, well beyond the threshold set by which international treaty between Iran and P5+1 nations?**

- a) Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- b) Non-proliferation Treaty
- c) International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
- d) 2015 Vienna accord

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

**Explanation:**

The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** known commonly as the Iran deal or Iran nuclear deal, is an international agreement on the nuclear program of Iran reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany), and the European Union. It is also called the **2015 Vienna accord**.

Article link: [Iran tells IAEA it plans to enrich uranium up to 20% at Fordow site](#)

**Q.13) Tirektyakh river, which is often seen in news, is found in which of the following countries?**

- a) Turkey
- b) Russia
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Kenya

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

**In news:** A well-preserved Ice Age woolly rhino with many of its internal organs still intact has been recovered from permafrost on the bank of the **Tirektyakh river in Yakutia, Russia**, near the Arctic Circle.

**Article link:**

1. [Woolly rhino from the Ice Age found on the bank of the Tirektyakh river, Russia](#)
2. [Head of 32,000-year-old wolf found in Russian Arctic](#)

**Q.14) The crops grown at the onset of winter which coincides with the northeast monsoon are known as?**

- a) Kharif
- b) Rabi
- c) Zaid
- d) None of the above

**Q.14) Solution (b)**

**Kharif Crops**

- Crops that are sown during the southwest monsoon season are called kharif or monsoon crops.
- These crops are sown at the beginning of the season around end May to early June and are harvested post the monsoon rains beginning October.
- Rice, maize, pulses such as urad, moong dal and millets are among the key kharif crops.

**Rabi Crops**

- Those that are sown during winter, are called rabi or winter crops. It begins by October.
- These crops are sown at the onset of winter which coincides with the northeast monsoon.
- The harvest for these crops happens typically during April and May, during the summer season.
- Wheat which is the staple grain for people in the Northern parts of the country is among the key rabi crops.
- Vegetables such as potato, tomato and onion are also cultivated post the winter onset and are harvested in summer.

**Zaid Crop**

- This crop is grown in some parts of country during March to June.
- Prominent examples are Muskmelon, Watermelon, Vegetables of cucurbitaceae family such as bitter gourd, pumpkin, ridged gourd etc.

Article link: [Rabi foodgrain output likely to exceed previous record](#)

**Q.15) Consider the following statements about West Bank:**

1. West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia.
2. The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore.

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

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

**Q.15) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by Israel on the south, west and north. The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore.



Article link: [Israeli gunshot paralysed Palestinian](#)

**Q.16) Which of the following are functions of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)?**

1. Approval of new drugs and clinical trials
2. License approving of Blood Banks, Vaccines, r-DNA products
3. Testing of new drugs
4. Regulatory control over the import of drugs

**Choose correct answer:**

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

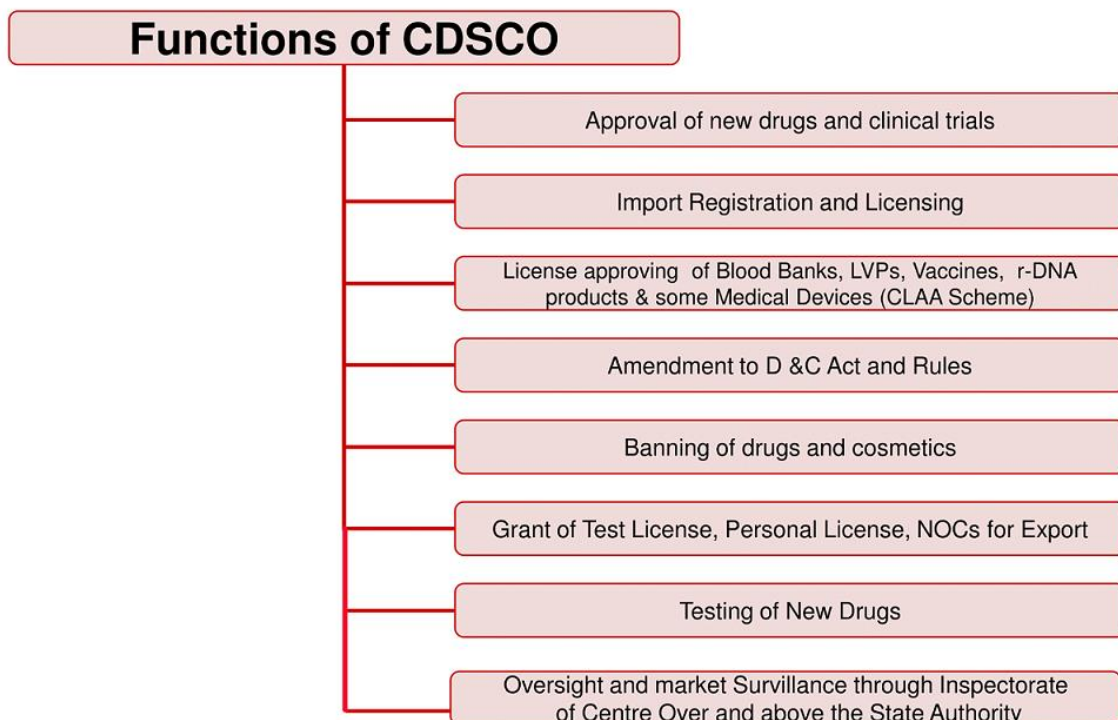
**Q.16) Solution (d)**

**Basic information:**

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

It is the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

**Major functions of CDSCO** - Regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials, meetings of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) and Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), approval of certain licenses as Central License Approving Authority is exercised by the CDSCO headquarters.



Article link: [India approves COVID-19 vaccines Covishield and Covaxin for emergency use](#)

**Q.17) Deepor Beel, which was designated a Ramsar site in 2002 for sustaining a range of aquatic life and species of birds, is located in which of the following states?**

- a) Manipur
- b) Assam
- c) West Bengal
- d) Chhattisgarh

**Q.17) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

Deepor Beel was designated a Ramsar site in 2002 for sustaining a range of aquatic life forms besides 219 species of birds. A Ramsar site is a wetland designated to be of international importance under the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

Article link: [Assam throws a lifeline to its only Ramsar site](#)

**Q.18) Consider the following statements with reference to Trans Fatty Acids (TFA):**

1. TFA are found both naturally and artificially in foods.
2. TFA are created when the hydrogen is added to liquid vegetable oils.

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

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

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

**Basic information:**

Health experts have noted that TFA can be found both naturally and artificially in foods. While natural TFAs present in small amounts in beef, lamb, and full-fat dairy products are not considered harmful, but industrially-produced artificial trans-fats, which are manufactured by done through adding hydrogen to vegetable oil, lead to an increase in bad cholesterol (LDL) and lowering of good cholesterol (HDL).

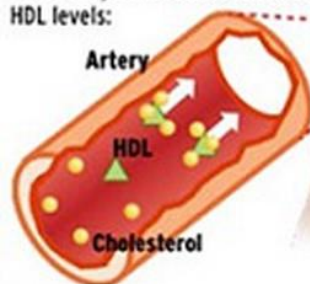
Hydrogenation is a process typically used by the industry to improve the flavour stability and keeping qualities of oil. Partial hydrogenation reduces the amount of saturated fats in oil, which are deemed unhealthy.

## Trans fats and the body

Trans fats (also known as partially hydrogenated oils) are created by adding hydrogen to liquid vegetable oil. This process makes the fat more solid, lengthens its shelf life and makes it more suitable for frying and other uses. However, trans fats are also more unhealthy than regular, unsaturated fats. Here's why:

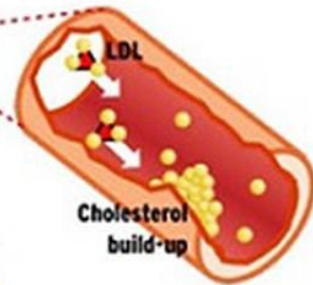
### Good cholesterol

High-density lipoproteins (HDL) pick up excess cholesterol and transport it back to the body's liver for processing. Consuming trans fats lowers the body's HDL levels:



### Bad cholesterol

Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) transport cholesterol throughout the body. As cholesterol builds up in the walls of the body's arteries, the arteries become narrow and hardened, reducing blood flow and leading to an increased chance of heart attack and stroke:



Article link: [FSSAI slashes limit for trans fat levels in foods](#)

**Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to Pong Dam Lake:**

1. It is constructed on the Beas River in Himachal Pradesh.
2. It was given the status of the wetland of national importance and also got the status of a Ramsar site.

**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.19) Solution (c)**

Pong Dam Lake is in news as more than 1,400 migratory birds were found dead recently due to an unexplained cause in the Pong Dam area of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh.

**About Pong Dam Lake:**

The Pong Dam Lake, constructed on the Beas river in 1960, was declared a bird sanctuary in 1983 and given the status of the wetland of national importance in 1994. In 2002, it got the status of a Ramsar site.

Article link: [Himachal on guard as 1,400 birds found dead](#)

**Q.20) Consider the following statements:**

1. They are one of the birds which can fly even at very high altitude.
2. They come to India and return to their homes by crossing the Himalayan ranges.

**Identify the correct bird from the following options which best suites the above characteristics:**

- a) Bar-headed Geese
- b) Amur Falcon
- c) Black-necked Cranes
- d) Woolly-necked Stork

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

**Bar-headed Geese**

**Basic info:**

- IUCN: Least Concern
- Habitat: Wetlands (inland), Artificial/Aquatic & Marine, Artificial/Terrestrial, Rocky areas

**Key points:**

- They are one of the birds which can fly even at very high altitude. They come to India and return to their homes by crossing the Himalayan ranges.
- Their migration has been a fascination for birders as they cross the Himalayas on one of the most high-altitude migrations in the world.
- Their ability to sustain the high oxygen demands of flight in air that is exceedingly oxygen-thin is exceptional.

Article link: [Avian flu causing migratory birds' death at HP's Pong Dam, toll rises to 2,400](#)

**Q.21) The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary also a declared tiger reserve shares its boundaries with which of the following states?**

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Kerala
3. Karnataka

**Choose correct answer:**

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



**Q.21) Solution (d)**

The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary also a declared tiger reserve, lies on the northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills (Blue Mountains), in Nilgiri District, **Tamil Nadu**. It shares its boundaries with the states of **Karnataka** and **Kerala**.

Article link: [Carcasses from goshala for Mudumalai's scavengers](#)

**Q.22) With reference to Safe City Project, which of the statements given below is/are true?**

1. It is a mission mode initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Nirbhaya Funds scheme for safety of women.
2. The project is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State sharing the funding in 60:40 ratio.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.22) Solution (b)****Basic information:**

The Safe City project was drawn up by the Delhi Police in 2013, and received approval from the **Union Home Ministry** in 2018. Eight cities have qualified to receive funding under the Safe City project — Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Kolkata.

The Safe City project, a **mission mode initiative of MHA under the Nirbhaya Funds scheme**, aims to create a safe, secure and empowering environment for women in public places, to enable them to pursue all opportunities without the threat of gender-based violence and/or harassment. It, further, aims to prevent and curb all forms of crimes against women and girl children in public places by providing safer urban infrastructure and efficient access to law enforcement agencies.

The project would be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State sharing the funding in **60:40 ratio**.

The projects are being implemented in consultation with Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology, respective Municipal & Police Commissioners of the cities and civil society organizations.

Article link: [Safe City Project dogged by delays](#)

**Q.23) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

1. Kambala – Andhra Pradesh
2. Jalikattu – Tamil Nadu
3. Aanaval Pidi – Kerala

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

**Correct pairs:**

1. Kambala – Karnataka
2. Jalikattu – Tamil Nadu
3. Aanaval Pidi (Catching elephant's tail) – Kerala

Kambala is an annual buffalo race which is a tradition in the Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts' farming community. This area is called Tulunadu (Land of Tulu Language).

A pair of buffaloes are tied to the plough and one person anchors it, beating the buffaloes with a stick to run faster. There are two parallel muddy tracks, on which two competing pairs of buffaloes run. Fastest team wins.

Article link: [Kambala likely to start this month-end](#)

**Q.24) Despite strict laws, the illegal trade of 'Pangolin' is threatening the very existence of the species. What is the status of India Pangolin under IUCN?**

- a) Near Threatened
- b) Least Concern
- c) Endangered
- d) Extinct in the Wild

**Q.24) Solution (c)**

Indian Pangolin is listed as Endangered because it is subject to hunting and increasing levels of poaching, principally for its meat and scales, both for local use and for illicit international trade in scales, which has also occurred historically. Available evidence suggests this trade is destined for East Asia where scales are used in traditional medicines.

Article link: [Track social media to check pangolin poaching](#)

**Q.25) Fordow, Natanz and Arak, which are quite often in news, are associated with –**

- a) Uranium/Nuclear Enrichment Facilities in Iran
- b) Newly developed missiles by Russia
- c) Mountain ranges in Armenia
- d) ISIS stronghold in Syria

**Q.25) Solution (a)**

Iran has told the United Nations nuclear watchdog it plans to enrich uranium to 20% purity, a level it achieved before its 2015 accord, at its **Fordow site** buried inside a mountain.

The **Arak area** has several industrial complexes, some with ties to the nuclear program, in particular the IR-40 reactor under construction and a heavy water production plant, both near Arak.



Article link: [Iran tells IAEA it plans to enrich uranium up to 20% at Fordow site](#)

**Q.26) H5N8, which has put some States on high alert, is associated with -**

- a) Swine Flu
- b) Bird Flu
- c) UK Mutant Strain
- d) Kyasanur Forest Disease

**Q.26) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

In 2020, an outbreak of Avian influenza subtype H5N8 occurred at poultry farms and among wild bird populations in several countries and continents, leading to the subsequent cullings of millions of birds to prevent a pandemic similar to that of H5N1 deadly outbreak in 2008.

H5N1 is severe and deadly – around 6 out of 10 confirmed cases in humans have led to deaths. Subsequently, several other strains of the virus such as H5N2 and H5N8 jumped from animals to humans, thus becoming a global public health concern.

Bird flu has been reported among wild geese in Himachal Pradesh, crows in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and ducks in Kerala. In Haryana, around one lakh poultry birds have died mysteriously in the last few days.

In Himachal Pradesh's Pong Dam Lake, around 1,800 migratory birds have been found dead. In Kerala, the flu has been detected in two districts, prompting authorities to order culling of ducks. A bird flu alert has been sounded in Rajasthan, where over 250 crows were found dead in half a dozen districts.

Article link: [States on alert as fear of bird flu grows](#)

**Q.27) Citizens' right to live in safe buildings and environment is a part of which of the following Fundamental Rights Articles?**

- a) Article 21
- b) Article 14
- c) Article 19
- d) Article 16

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

**Explanation:**

Right of citizens to live in safe buildings is a facet of right guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution.

In other words, citizens have a right to live in safe buildings and environment, within the meaning of Article 21.

Article link: Moribund governance: [On Ghaziabad disaster](#)

**Q.28) Consider the following pairs:**

**(Ports) : : (Associated country)**

1. Hambantota : : Bangladesh
2. Jask : : Djibouti
3. Gwadar : : Pakistan

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

**Q.28) Solution (a)**

**Correct pairs:**

- 1. Hambantota : : Sri Lanka
- 2. Jask : : Iran
- 3. Gwadar : : Pakistan

**Why in news?**

New ports for civilian and military use are being sought at Gwadar (Pakistan), Jask (Iran), Djibouti, Hambantota (Sri Lanka), Sihanoukville (Cambodia) and other places under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was announced in 2013 to seek new markets and allies for political, economic and strategic use.

Article link: [The hurdles in Xi's great power ambitions](#)

**Q.29) Consider the following statements with reference to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in India:**

- 1. It mainly comprises of Methane.
- 2. Most of the LNG demand in India is met through domestic production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

LNG is natural gas (predominantly methane) that has been cooled to  $-260^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-162^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), changing it from a gas into a liquid that is 1/600th of its original volume. This dramatic reduction allows it to be shipped safely and efficiently aboard specially designed LNG vessels.

India is the 4th biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer in the world, sourcing nearly half of its gas requirements from overseas.

Article link: [PM inaugurated Kochi-Mangaluru LNG pipeline](#)

**Q.30) Asian Waterbird Census-2020 was commenced which covered at least two dozen sites, including Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and Kolleru Lake. Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and Kolleru Lake is located in which of the following States?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Telangana
- d) Kerala

**Q.30) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

Recently, **Asian Waterbird Census-2020** commenced in **Andhra Pradesh** under the aegis of experts from the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**, covering at least two dozen sites, including Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolleru Lake and Krishna Sanctuary.

Article link: [Asian Waterbird Census commences in A.P.](#)

**Q.31) In the context of economic recession, which of the following actions can be considered a part of the “fiscal stimulus” package?**

- 1. Lowering interest rates
- 2. Cutting tax rates
- 3. Increasing Govt. spending
- 4. Abolishing the subsidies

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**Q.31) Solution (b)**

Economic stimulus consists of attempts by governments or government agencies to financially stimulate an economy. An economic stimulus is the use of monetary or fiscal policy changes to kick start growth during a recession. Governments can accomplish this by using tactics such as lowering interest rates, increasing government spending and quantitative easing, to name a few.

**Do you know?**

Over the course of a normal business cycle, governments may try to influence the pace and composition of economic growth using various tools at their disposal. Central government may utilize fiscal and monetary policy tools to stimulate growth. Similarly, state and local governments can also engage in stimulus spending by initiating projects or enacting policies that encourage private sector investment.

Article link: [GDP likely to contract by 7.7% in 2020-21, says Govt.](#)

**Q.32) Consider the following statements about Inner Line Permit (ILP)**

1. It can be issued for travel purposes solely.
2. It is issued by Ministry of Concerned State Government to foreign citizens.
3. Currently, it is applicable in all the North Eastern States.

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

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

**Q.32) Solution (a)**

**Inner Line Permit (ILP)**

- It is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to grant inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
- It is obligatory for Indians residing outside those states to obtain permission prior to entering the protected areas.
- Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- The document has been issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 and the conditions and restrictions vary from state to state.
- It can be issued for travel purposes solely.
- Visitors are not allowed to purchase property in these regions. However, there might be a different set of rules for long term visitors, though they are not valid for central government employees and security forces.

Article link: [Meghalaya lawmakers asked to unite for ILP](#)

**Q.33) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Constitution lays down that a person shall be disqualified from being a member of Parliament if he is so disqualified on the ground of defection under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.
2. Once a member of the House incurs disqualification under the Tenth Schedule, he cannot be permitted to contest again during the term for which he was elected.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.33) Solution (c)**

### **Disqualification on Ground of Defection**

The Constitution also down that a person shall be disqualified from being a member of Parliament if he is so disqualified on the ground of defection under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.

**A member incurs disqualification under the defection law:**

1. if he voluntary gives up the membership of the political party on whose ticket he is elected to the House;
2. if he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction given by his political party;
3. if any independently elected member joins any political party; and
4. if any nominated member joins any political party after the expiry of six months.

The question of disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is decided by the Chairman in the case of Rajya Sabha and Speaker in the case of Lok Sabha (and not by the president of India). In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that the decision of the Chairman/Speaker in this regard is subject to judicial review.

### **Do you know?**

- Once a member of the House incurs disqualification under the Tenth Schedule, he cannot be permitted to contest again during the term for which he was elected.
- Article 172 makes a membership of a House co terminus with the term of five years of the House except in circumstances mentioned there in.

Article link: [Supreme Court notice to Centre, EC on plea to debar legislators](#)

**Q.34) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) project by Indian Railways?**

1. The project aims to reduce the unit cost of transportation and speed up the freight train in India.
2. The Eastern DFC is funded by Japan while the Western DFC is funded by World Bank.
3. The freight trains in DFC will run completely on electricity, reducing the emission of Green house gases.



Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.34) Solution (c)**

The primary aim of the project is to reduce the unit transportation cost and speed up the freight trains resulting in higher productivity.

- The Eastern DFC extends from Dankuni near Kolkata to Ludhiana in Punjab, while the Western DFC extends from the Jawahar Lal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai to Dadri near Delhi.
- The Western DFC is being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) up to 77 per cent of the total cost.
- The Ludhiana to Mughalsarai section (1183 km) of the Eastern DFC is being funded by the World Bank up to 66 per cent of the project cost.
- The trains will run completely on electricity and thus reduces the green house gas emissions. Once implemented DFC will make Indian freight transport cheapest in the world as they run on a Broad-gauge with double-stack using electric locomotives, which no other country has achieved.

For further reading on DFCs, refer the Table Showing Dedicated Freight Corridors in India in the below link –

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dedicated\\_Freight\\_Corridor\\_Corporation\\_of\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dedicated_Freight_Corridor_Corporation_of_India)

Article link: [Western Dedicated Freight Corridor will be a boon for nation: PM](#)

**Q.35) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding fiscal deficit?**

1. It leads to crowding-out of private investment.
2. It leads to inflation in economy.
3. It leads to increase in primary deficit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.35) Solution (d)**

Fiscal deficit means Government need to borrow from the market which leads to crowding-out of funding for private players.

Fiscal deficit is inflationary and not deflationary as it leads to borrowing of money without any asset created for that.

Fiscal deficit adds to borrowings of the government and hence leads to increase in interest liabilities and thus adds to primary deficit.

Article link: [India's fiscal deficit may exceed 7% in current fiscal, say sources](#)

**Q.36) Consider the following statements with reference to Gangetic River Dolphin:**

1. Gangetic River Dolphin is recognised as the National Aquatic Animal.
2. They are found only in freshwater and they cannot breathe in the water.

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

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

**Q.36) Solution (c)**

The Ganges River Dolphin or also called 'Susu,' is the National Aquatic Animal of India. Gangetic Dolphins are found in the river systems of Ganga, Brahmaputra, Meghna, and Karnaphuli- Sangu in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

The reason to declare Ganges River Dolphin as the National Aquatic Animal of India was to save it from extinction. Also, the Ganges Dolphin is seen as the reflector of the health of the Ganga River.

Ganges River Dolphin is found only in freshwater and as the name goes, the Ganges Dolphins are endemic to the river Ganga. It cannot breathe in the water, it being a mammal. It surfaces above the water every 30-40 seconds to breathe.

Article link: [Youth kill endangered dolphin in U.P.](#)

**Q.37) From the below options, identify the dreadful battle where the Maratha army led by Sadashivrao Bhau was defeated by the forces of the Afghan invader Ahmad Shah Durrani, and left an indelible scar on the Maratha psyche –**

- a) Battle of Waterloo 1815
- b) Battle of Panipat 1761
- c) Battle of Palkhed 1707
- d) Battle of Delhi 1803

**Q.37) Solution (b)**

Before Waterloo 1815, there was Panipat 1761 – the dreadful battle where the Maratha army led by Sadashivrao Bhau was defeated by the forces of the Afghan invader Ahmad Shah Durrani, and left an indelible scar on the Maratha psyche.

**Basic information:**

The Third Battle of Panipat took place on 14 January 1761 at Panipat, between the Maratha Empire and the invading **Afghan army of (Ahmad Shah Durrani)**, supported by three Indian allies—the Rohilla (Najib-ud-daulah), Afghans of the Doab region, and Shuja-ud-Daula (the Nawab of Awadh).

The Maratha army was led by **Sadashivrao Bhau** who was third in authority after the Chhatrapati (Maratha King) and the Peshwa (Maratha Prime Minister). The main Maratha army was stationed in Deccan with the Peshwa.

The battle is considered one of the largest and most eventful fought in the 18th century, and it has perhaps the largest number of fatalities in a single day reported in a classic formation battle between two armies.

Article link: [Understanding Panipat 1761 through rare paintings](#)

**Q.38) Tadoba Andhari National Park is located in which of the following states?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Chhattisgarh

**Q.38) Solution (a)**

"Tadoba Andhari National Park", also known as the "Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve" is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park and is one of India's project tiger reserves existing in India.

Article link: [Here's how national parks are doing after the pandemic-induced hiatus](#)

**Q.39) Consider the following statements about Equalization levy or Google tax:**

1. It was introduced in India with the intention of taxing the digital transactions i.e. the income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies from India.
2. It is aimed at taxing (B2B) business to business transactions.

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

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

**Q.39) Solution (c)****About Equalization levy or Google tax:**

- It was introduced in India with the intention of taxing the digital transactions i.e. the income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies from India.
- It is aimed at taxing (B2B) business to business transactions.
- It is levied at 6% on payments made to offshore platforms hosting online advertisements, it will be taxed only at 2% on e-commerce transactions.

**Equalisation Levy 2.0:** The Equalisation Levy introduced by the Finance Act 2016, was charged at 6% on certain online advertising and related services.

Article link: USTR: [India's equalisation levy is discriminatory, burdens firms](#)

**Q.40) Consider the following statements about taxes levied on imported goods**

1. Countervailing duty is levied on goods that are sold below the prices in exporting country.
2. Anti-dumping duty is levied to counterbalance the subsidies provided by the government of exporting 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.40) Solution (d)**

Countervailing duty is levied on the imported goods to counterbalance (Countervail) the subsidies provided by the exporting country's Government. Many of the governments provide subsidies either during production or during exports to create price advantage for their products, this can be harmful to the products of the importing country, so Countervailing duties are levied to equalize the advantage.

Anti-dumping Duties are levied on the goods that are either sold either, below the cost of production or below the prices in the home country. This is considered predatory as it tries to drive-out the products of importing country and create a monopoly. To prevent this from happening, anti-dumping duty is levied.

Article link: [Anti-dumping duties on phthalic anhydride: 5-year extension proposed for Russia](#)

**Q.41) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is a significant consumer and not a primary producer of this strategic metal.
2. This metal in its pure form is a soft, grey and ductile element primarily derived from mined iron ore, carbonaceous shale or phyllites and steel slag.
3. Arunachal Pradesh could be India's prime producer of this high-value metal which used in strengthening steel and titanium.

**Identify the associated metal from the below –**

- a) Vanadium
- b) Scandium
- c) Nickel
- d) Beryllium

**Q.41) Solution (a)**

Arunachal Pradesh could be India's prime producer of vanadium, a high-value metal used in strengthening steel and titanium.

India is a significant consumer of vanadium but is not a primary producer of the strategic metal.

According to data provided by GSI, India consumed 4% of about 84,000 metric tonnes of vanadium produced across the globe in 2017. China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumed 44% of the metal.

Vanadium alloys are durable in extreme temperature and environments, and are corrosion-resistant. Its addition improves the tensile strength of steel and of reinforcing bars used for buildings, tunnels and bridges.

Article link: [Arunachal puts India on vanadium map](#)

**Q.42) Consider the following statements about 'Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve'**

1. It is located in the Eastern Ghats in southern Andhra Pradesh state.
2. It includes Sri Venkateswara National Park.

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

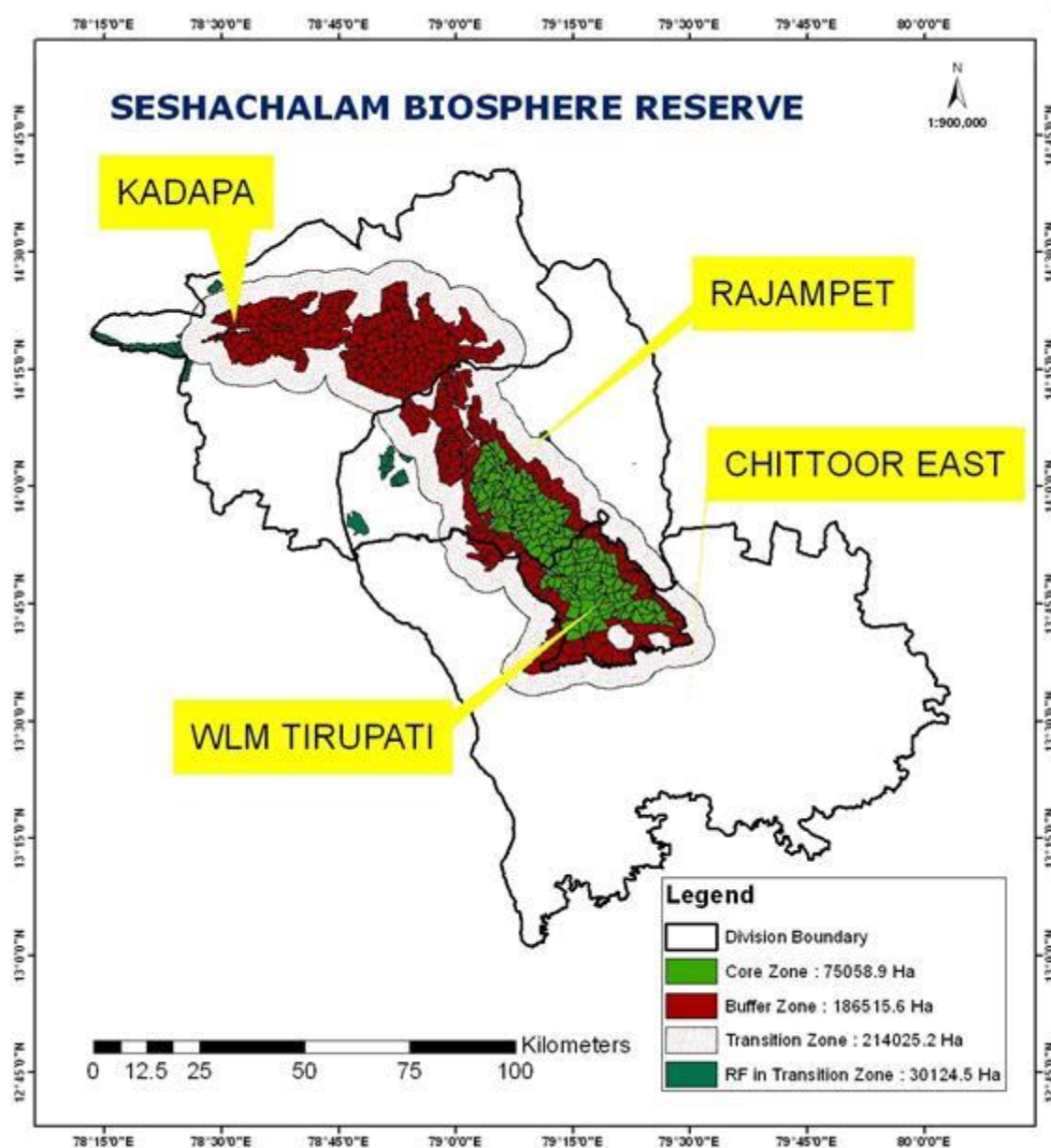
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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

Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve is the first biosphere reserve in Andhra Pradesh and the 17th in India.

It is home to a number of endemic species including the famous Red Sanders and Slender Loris. Being close to the pilgrim areas of Tirupati, the reserve also has a number of temples and holy places to visit.

The 'Seshachalam Hills are hilly ranges part of the Eastern Ghats in southern Andhra Pradesh state.



Article link: [‘Bachelor’s Group’ of jumbos heading towards Seshachalam hill range](#)

**Q.43) Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India had initiated a programme called QuEST, which is associated with which of the following area?**

- a) To boost Quantum technology in India
- b) Science and Technology Quiz to Educate Students
- c) Scholarship Test to send budding scientists to international universities
- d) It is a program to conduct education in schools on scientific lines

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

Recognising the importance of quantum technology, the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India had initiated a programme called QuEST at a modest 200-crore-rupee budget to explore the possibilities and engage with the researchers.

Quantum Experiments using Satellite Technology (QuEST)

Article link: [Harnessing what Einstein called spooky 'action at a distance'](#)

**Q.44) Consider the following pairs:**

***(Space Mission) :: (Samples collected from)***

- 1. NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission :: Asteroid Bennu
- 2. Japan's Hayabusa-2 mission :: Asteroid Ryugu
- 3. China's Chang'e 5 Mission :: Mars satellite Phobos

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

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

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

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched the improved Hayabusa2 space probe on December 3, 2014. **Hayabusa2** arrived at the target near-Earth C-type asteroid 162173 **Ryugu** on 27 June 2018. It surveyed the asteroid for a year and a half and took samples. It left the asteroid in November 2019 and returned to Earth on December 6, 2020.

NASA's **OSIRIS-REx mission** was launched in September 2016 on a mission to return samples from the asteroid 101955 **Bennu**. It collected its sample on 20 October 2020, and is expected to return to Earth on 24 September 2023.

China launched the Chang'e 5 lunar sample return mission on November 23, 2020, which returned to Earth with 2 kilograms of lunar soil on December 16, 2020. It was first lunar sample return in over 40 years.

JAXA is developing the MMX mission, a sample-return mission to Phobos that will be launched in 2024.

Article link: [Decoding a meteorite that fell near Jaipur in 2017](#)

**Q.45) Which of the following is/are form(s) of martial arts of India?**

1. Silambam
2. Gotipua
3. Kalaripayattu
4. Thang-Ta

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.45) Solution (a)**

Silambam, Thang-Ta and Kalaripayattu are example of martial art prevail in India.

Gotipua is a traditional dance form in the state of Odisha, India, and the precursor of Odissi classical dance. In this form of dance, young boys who dress up as female to praise Lord Jagannath and Lord Krishna.

Article link: [Kalaripayattu academy braces for action](#)

**Q.46) The phenomenon where increased borrowing by the government to meet its spending needs causes a decrease in the quantity of funds that is available to meet the investment needs of the private sector is known as –**

- a) Crowding out effect
- b) Multiplier effect
- c) Expansionary fiscal policy
- d) Contractionary fiscal policy

**Q.46) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

Crowding out effect refers to a phenomenon where increased borrowing by the government to meet its spending needs causes a decrease in the quantity of funds that is available to meet the investment needs of the private sector.



In other words, **reduction in private investment due to increase in interest rate which is due to fiscal deficit is called crowding out**. If the interest rate increases due to monetary policy, then it is not crowding out.

Crowding-out effect increases the vulnerability of the domestic economy from economic shocks which adversely affects business or economic activity of the country.

Sometimes, government adopts an expansionary fiscal policy stance and increases its spending to boost the economic activity.

Article reference: [Q3 private investment in manufacturing jumps 102%](#)

**Q.47) Which of the following can be possible effect when the RBI slashes policy interest rates aggressively?**

- a) It may bring changes in liquidity in the market
- b) Central Bank is following a tight money policy
- c) Less liquidity in the market
- d) Market will be flooded with an unprecedented amount of liquidity

**Q.47) Solution (d)**

Reduction in any type of rate (CRR, SLR, Bank Rate etc.) by the RBI will lead to the increase in liquidity in the market. Here change in the liquidity is not a correct option because change can be negative/ positive both. So option (d) is more appropriate.

Article link: [Planning an exit out of the easy money regime](#)

**Q.48) Trade Policy Review (TPR), which is often seen in news, is an important mechanism under which of the following organizations?**

- a) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

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

The second and final Session of India's seventh Trade Policy Review (TPR) was concluded recently at the World Trade Organization in Geneva. The TPR is an important mechanism under the WTO's monitoring function in which member countries' trade and related policies are examined by the WTO with an aim to contribute towards improved adherence to WTO rules, while providing constructive feedback to the Member under review.

Article link: [Seventh Trade Policy Review of India at the WTO](#)

**Q.49) The Thousand Islands are a chain of islands which are located to the north of -**

- a) East Timor coast
- b) Manila coast
- c) Jakarta coast
- d) Taipei coast

**Q.49) Solution (c)**

On 9 January 2021, a Boeing 737-500 (PK-CLC) operating Sriwijaya Air Flight 182 went missing after taking off from Jakarta Soekarno–Hatta Airport on route to Pontianak Supadio Airport. The aircraft crashed near the Thousand Islands.

The Thousand Islands (officially Kepulauan Seribu) are a chain of islands to the north of Jakarta's coast. It forms the only regency of Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia.

It consists of a string of 342 islands stretching 45 km (28 mi) north into the Java Sea at West Jakarta Bay and in fact north of Banten Province.

Article link: [Indonesia intensifies search for crashed plane's black boxes](#)

**Q.50) Consider the following statements with reference to Golden Quadrilateral:**

1. The Golden Quadrilateral project is managed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.
2. The longest segment of Golden Quadrilateral is Chennai to Kolkata.

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

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

**Q.50) Solution (c)**

The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is a national highway network connecting most of the major industrial, agricultural and cultural centres of India.

It forms a quadrilateral connecting the four major metro cities of India, viz., Delhi (north), Kolkata (east), Mumbai (west) and Chennai (south).

The sides of quadrilateral are: Delhi to Mumbai (1419 km), Mumbai to Chennai (1290 km), **Chennai to Kolkata (1684 km)** and Kolkata to Delhi (1453 km).

It is the largest highway project in India and the fifth longest in the world.

The Golden Quadrilateral project is managed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.

Article link: [Indian Railways enhances speed to 130 Kmph on Golden Quadrilateral, Golden Diagonal sections](#)

**Q.51) Article 142 is associated with**

- a) Enforcement of orders of Supreme Court
- b) Special Leave Petition of Supreme Court
- c) Advisory jurisdiction of Supreme Court
- d) Review of judgments by Supreme Court

**Q.51) Solution (a)**

Article 142 deals with the Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court.

As per it 'the Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice...'

The article is often in news for judicial activism or overreach.

Article reference: [Supreme Court stays implementation of 3 controversial farm laws](#)

**Q.52) Which of the following countries is not a member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?**

- a) Maldives
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Bhutan
- d) Myanmar

**Q.52) Solution (d)**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is comprised of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SAARC is regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union in South Asia. It promotes development of economical and regional integration.

Article link: [Reclaiming SAARC from the ashes of 2020](#)

**Q.53) Which of the below statements best describes the term 'Goldilocks economy'?**

- a) An economy that is not so hot that it causes inflation, and not so cold that it causes a recession, which allows a market-friendly monetary policy.

- b) An economy that is too hot with inflation and driven by market-friendly monetary policy.
- c) An economy that is struck between hot and cold, in other words doesn't sustain moderate economic growth and that has high inflation.
- d) An economy that's neither cold enough to support stimulus measures, nor hot enough to sustain growth.

**Q.53) Solution (a)****Basic information:**

A Goldilocks economy is an economy that is not too hot or cold, in other words sustains moderate economic growth, and that has low inflation, which allows a market-friendly monetary policy.

A Goldilocks Economy describes an economy that is not so hot that it causes inflation, and not so cold that it causes a recession. The term describes an economy that is operating in an optimal state by providing full employment and economic stability.

An anti-goldilocks economy, however, is one that's neither cold enough to support stimulus measures, nor hot enough to sustain growth.

Article link: [Reclaiming SAARC from the ashes of 2020](#)

**Q.54) In the case of Puducherry, the President of India can legislate by making regulations only**

- a) When the Parliament passes a resolution to that effect
- b) When the Assembly passes a resolution to that effect
- c) When the Assembly is suspended or dissolved
- d) When the Lt. Governor requests him to do so

**Q.54) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu.

In the case of Puducherry also, the President can legislate by making regulations but only when the assembly is suspended or dissolved.

Article reference: [Strained ties: On Puducherry standoff](#)

**Q.55) Which of the below given statement(s) is/are not correct about State Election Commission?**

1. The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the municipalities shall be vested in the state election commission.
2. The state legislature may make provision with respect to all matters relating to elections to the municipalities.

**Select the appropriate code from below:**

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

**Q.55) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

Both the given statements are correct, however question asks for not correct statements. Hence, (d) none is the correct answer.

Election commission is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.

The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the municipalities shall be vested in the state election commission. The state legislature may make provision with respect to all matters relating to elections to the municipalities.

Article reference: [Strained ties: On Puducherry standoff](#)

**Q.56) Which among the following is not a member of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a regional intergovernmental political and economic alliance of Middle Eastern countries?**

- a) Bahrain
- b) Qatar
- c) Oman
- d) Iraq

**Q.56) Solution (d)**

**Basic information:**

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates - **except Iraq**.



Pic: Map indicating GCC members

Article link: [In ancient Al-Ula, forging a new future](#)

**Q.57) Recently, the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states signed a “solidarity and stability” agreement, dubbed the “al-Ula Statement”. This ancient town, Al-Ula, is located in which of the following countries?**

- a) Kuwait
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) Iraq

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

On January 5, 2020, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met at the ancient town of **Al-Ula in Saudi Arabia** to end the bitter discord that three of its members — Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain, along with Egypt — have had with their partner, Qatar.

**Additional information:**

On June 5, 2017, the Arab Quartet, as they styled themselves, subjected Qatar to an onerous diplomatic boycott and a total land, sea and air embargo. They accused Qatar of destabilising the region with its support for Islamist groups. They then presented Qatar with 13 demands including severing ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, diluting relations with Turkey and Iran, and shutting down the Al Jazeera network, in order to normalise ties.

Viewing these demands as an encroachment on its sovereignty, Qatar rejected them. This led to the boycott which was accompanied by shrill invective against Qatar on national media, which included threats of violence and even regime change. Now, three and a half years later, the boycott has ended.

Article link: [In ancient Al-Ula, forging a new future](#)

**Q.58) Which of the following Article of the Indian Constitution says that all questions at any sitting of either House shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting?**

- a) Article 100
- b) Article 120
- c) Article 123
- d) Article 143

**Q.58) Solution (a)**

Article 100 says that all questions at any sitting of either House shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting.

#### **About Article 100 in the Constitution of India**

Voting in Houses, power of Houses to act notwithstanding vacancies and quorum

- (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Constitution, all questions at any sitting of either House or joint sitting of the Houses shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting, other than the Speaker or person acting as Chairman or Speaker. The Chairman or Speaker, or person acting as such, shall not vote in the first instance, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes
- (2) Either House of Parliament shall have power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in the membership thereof, and any proceedings in Parliament shall be valid notwithstanding that it is discovered subsequently that some person who was not entitled so to do sat or voted or otherwise took part in the proceedings
- (3) Until Parliament by law otherwise provides, the quorum to constitute a meeting of either House of Parliament shall be one tenth of the total number of members of the House
- (4) If at any time during a meeting of a House there is no quorum, it shall be the duty of the chairman or Speaker, or person acting as such, either to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum

Article link: [Farm laws, their constitutional validity, and hope](#)

**Q.59) Consider the following statements about Cuba**

1. Cuba is located in the northern Caribbean where the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean meet.
2. Havana is the largest city and capital of Cuba.

**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 (c)**

Cuba is located in the northern Caribbean where the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean meet. It is east of the Yucatán Peninsula (Mexico), south of both the U.S. state of Florida and the Bahamas, west of Hispaniola, and north of both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Havana is the largest city and capital.

Article reference: [Trump administration re-designates Cuba as 'state sponsor of terrorism'](#)

**Q.60) Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the manufacture of 83 Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is headed by -**

- a) National Security Advisor
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Defence Minister
- d) Chief of Defence Staff

**Q.60) Solution (b)**

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) of the Central Government of India discusses, debates and is the final decision-making body on senior appointments in the national security apparatus, defence policy and expenditure, and generally all matters of India's national security. The CCS is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.

Article reference: [CCS okays 83 LCAs worth around ₹47,000 cr. for IAF](#)

**Q.61) Which of the following Articles of Indian Constitution allows the Parliament to modify the fundamental rights of the armed forces personnel?**

- a) Article 13
- b) Article 31
- c) Article 33
- d) Article 20

**Q.61) Solution (c)**



**Article 33 and 34** empower the Parliament to restrict, modify or abrogate the fundamental rights to the members of armed forces, para-military forces, police forces, members of intelligence agencies or similar services. The above power of modification, restricting the fundamental rights, is available only with parliament and not state legislatures.

Article reference: [Adultery can't be decriminalised for armed forces](#)

**Q.62) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is associated with –**

- a) providing housing loan to poor people at cheaper interest rates
- b) skill development initiative scheme of the Government of India
- c) promoting financial inclusion in the country
- d) providing financial help to the marginalized communities

**Q.62) Solution (b)**

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a skill development initiative scheme of the Government of India for recognition and standardisation of skills.

The aim of the PMKVY scheme is to encourage aptitude towards employable skills and to increase working efficiency of probable and existing daily wage earners, by giving monetary awards and rewards and by providing quality training to them.

Article link: [Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana \(PMKVY 3.0\) to be launched](#)

**Q.63) In the line of 'One Nation – One Scheme' theme, the Government of India had launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY). Which of the following are the objectives of this scheme?**

1. To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
2. To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
3. To ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

**Select the code from below:**

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

**Q.63) Solution (d)**

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY), which is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme was launched in 2016.

**Objectives of the Scheme:**

- To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
- To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- To ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

**Implemented by:** Empanelled general insurance companies.

**Administered by:** Ministry of Agriculture

The scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan /KCC account for notified crops and voluntary for others.

Article link: [Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yajana \(PMFBY\) successfully completes 5 Years of operations](#)

**Q.64) Consider the following statements:**

1. He is an essential anchor for Tamils in tracing their cultural roots.
2. His 'Tirukkural', a collection of 1,330 couplets ('kural' in Tamil), are an essential part of every Tamil household.

**The above descriptions are associated with which of the following famous personalities/poets?**

- a) Thiruvalluvar
- b) Vishakhadutta
- c) Tolkappiyar
- d) Sittalai Sattanar

**Q.64) Solution (a)**

**Thiruvalluvar**

- He is fondly referred to as Valluvar by Tamils.
- He had contributed the Tirukkural or 'Kural' to the Sangam literature.
- His 'Tirukkural', a collection of 1,330 couplets ('kural' in Tamil), are an essential part of every Tamil household.
- He is an essential anchor for Tamilsin tracing their cultural roots.

Article reference: [PM bows to the venerable Thiruvalluvar on Thiruvalluvar Day](#)

**Q.65) Africa's Sahel region includes which of the following countries?**

1. Senegal
2. Mali
3. Eritrea
4. Chad

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.65) Solution (d)**

'Sahel' is a semi-arid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan. It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south. It is now a region flooded with arms, illicit drugs and terrorist groups.



Highlighted region is Sahel region.

Article reference: [India at UNSC expresses serious concern over security situation in Sahel & Lake Chad region in West Africa](#)

**Q.66) According to the CPCB data, Air Quality Index (AQI) keeps a tab on which of the major air pollutants in the atmosphere?**

- 1. Particulate Matter (PM10)
- 2. Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
- 3. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)
- 4. Sulphur Dioxide (SO2)
- 5. Carbon Dioxide (CO2)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

**Q.66) Solution (c)**

Air Quality is measured using a metric called Air Quality Index (AQI). AQI will display the changes in air pollution in the atmosphere. AQI keeps a tab on 8 major air pollutants in the atmosphere namely,

- Particulate Matter (PM10)
- Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
- Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
- Lead (Pb)

**Additional information:****Air Quality Index:**

National Air Quality Index was launched in 2014 to measure the air quality in terms of six categories: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderately Polluted (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very Poor (301-400) and Severe (401-500).

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has developed this Air Quality Index in consultation with IIT-Kanpur and air quality-professionals and experts.

**Article Link:** [Delhi's air 'poor'; may worsen today](#)

**Q.67) According to a recent study, the wildlife corridor of the Aravallis harbours a richer “variety of mammals” than the Asola Wildlife Sanctuary. Asola WLS is spread across which of the following states?**

- a) Rajasthan and Gujarat
- b) Delhi and Haryana
- c) Gujarat and MP
- d) Punjab and Haryana

**Q.67) Solution (b)**

**Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary** covering 32.71 sq km areas on the Southern Delhi Ridge of Aravali hill range on Delhi-Haryana border lies in Southern Delhi as well as northern parts of Faridabad and Gurugram districts of Haryana state. This protected area contains one of the last surviving remnants of Delhi Ridge hill range and its semi-arid forest habitat and its

dependent wildlife. Once the whole Delhi Ridge was a forested area, but development has destroyed several parts of it.

**Article Link:** [More wildlife in Aravallis at Faridabad, Gurgaon than at Asola, need better protection: Study](#)

**Q.68) Recently, Startup India International Summit was held in New Delhi which saw participation of members of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries, under the event name –**

- a) Super Start Asia-100
- b) Operation Arambh
- c) Operation SECURE
- d) Prarambh

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

Prarambh, a two day Startup India International Summit was organized by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and saw participation of members of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries .

Prarambh is expected to bring together top policy makers, industry, academia, investors, startups and all stakeholders from across the globe. In addition to deliberating on good practices from best of the ecosystems across the world, the sessions of the Summit are designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship based on innovation in India.

Article link: [PM Modi to interact with startups and address 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit'](#)

**Q.69) Which of the following Act is exclusively intended to deal with combating hunting and poaching?**

- a) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- b) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- c) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- d) Biological Diversity Act, 2002

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

The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted for protection of plants and animal species. The Act provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants; and for matters connected there with or ancillary or incidental thereto. It extends to the whole of India.

There are **six schedules** which give varying degrees of protection.

1. Out of the six schedules, Schedule I and part II of Schedule II provide absolute protection and offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties.

2. The penalties for Schedule III and Schedule IV are less and these animals are protected.
3. Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted. These are Common crow, Fruit bats, Mice & Rats only.
4. Schedule VI contains the plants, which are prohibited from cultivation and planting.

**Article Link:** [Supreme Court tells Centre to arm forest officers to fight poachers](#)

**Q.70) Dzukou valley is a popular trekking destination known for its exotic flowers, is spread across which of the following states?**

1. Assam
2. Nagaland
3. Manipur

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.70) Solution (c)**

The Dzüko Valley is a valley located at the borders of the states of Nagaland and Manipur in Northeast India. This valley is well known for its natural environment, seasonal flowers and flora & fauna.

It is situated at an altitude of 2452 m above sea level. The valley is famous for its wide range of flowers in every season but the most famous one is the Dzüko Lily and it is found only in this valley.

**Article Link:** [Dzukou Valley wildfire doused](#)

**Q.71) Which of the following islands are part of the South China Sea?**

1. Spartly islands
2. Natuna island
3. Senkaku islands
4. Paracel islands

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

## Q.71) Solution (c)

## South China Sea

The South China Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean. The South China Sea is a region of tremendous economic and geostrategic importance. One-third of the world's maritime shipping passes through it, carrying over US\$3 trillion in trade each year. Huge oil and natural gas reserves are believed to lie beneath its seabed. It also contains lucrative fisheries, which are crucial for the food security of millions in Southeast Asia.

Senkaku islands are associated with East China Sea dispute.



**Article Link:** [U.S. imposes new sanction on Beijing over South China Sea](#)

## Q.72) Ashok Dalwai Committee is related to-

- Non-Performing Assets
- Regional connectivity
- Doubling farmers income
- Data protection

**Q.72) Solution (c)****Recommendation of Ashok Dalwai Committee's report:**

The Report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) is documented in fourteen volumes. The Committee focuses on seven major sources of growth, operating within and outside the agriculture sector. The priority assigned to each will vary depending on the status of agricultural development in States and Union Territories. These sources are:

**Within the agriculture domain**

- Improvement in crop productivity.
- Improvement in livestock productivity.
- Resource use efficiency or saving in cost of production.
- Increase in cropping intensity.
- Diversification towards high value crops.
- Improvement in real prices received by farmers.

**Outside the agriculture domain**

- Shift from farm to non-farm occupations.

**Article Link:** [Doubling farmers income biggest priority of Modi govt: Amit Shah](#)

**Q.73) Consider the following statement with regard to APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority):**

1. It is an apex body under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, responsible for the export promotion of agricultural products.
2. It helps to make improvement in numerous areas such as packaging, marketing for the Scheduled products outside India.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.73) Solution (b)****Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**

It is an apex body under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India, responsible for the export promotion of agricultural products. APEDA was established by the



Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.

**Some of the functions of APEDA are as following:**

- Promotion of exports of agricultural and processed food products. Promotion of export oriented production and development of the Scheduled products.
- To make improvement in numerous areas such as packaging, marketing for the Scheduled products outside India.
- Setting standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports.
- Financial assistance, reliefs and subsidy to the relating industries.
- To provide training in the related areas

**Article Link:** [APEDA organizes VBSM with FPOs of APDMP and Millet Exporters to promote Millet products](#)

**Q.74) Which of the following statement is/are correct about LCA Tejas?**

1. It is a single-engine multirole light combat aircraft.
2. It is the lightest and smallest multi-role subsonic fighter aircraft in its class.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.74) Solution (a)**

**LCA TEJAS:**

- It is the lightest and smallest multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
- It is designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, and standoff weaponry.
- Light Combat Aircraft Mk-1A variant is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern 4+ generation fighter aircraft.
- This aircraft is equipped with critical operational capabilities of Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missile, Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite and Air to Air Refuelling (AAR) would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of Indian Air Force, IAF.

**Article Link:** [Largest indigenous defence procurement deal!](#)

**Q.75) 'SAKSHAM' is a mass awareness campaign launched by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) to spread awareness about-**

- a) To prevent corruption and money laundering
- b) Beach cleaning drive
- c) Clean drinking water and sanitation
- d) Green and Clean Energy

**Q.75) Solution (d)**

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas today launched a month long campaign, SAKSHAM, highlighting the adverse health and environmental impacts of increasing carbon footprints.

'SAKSHAM's idea is to convince consumers to switch to cleaner fuels and bring in behavioral change to use fossil fuel intelligently.

**Article Link:** [PCRA launches month-long mass awareness campaign 'SAKSHAM' to spread awareness about 'Green and Clean Energy'](#)

**Q.76) Dharashiv caves, believed to be built around 5th-7th centuries are located in which of the following state?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Karnataka

**Q.76) Solution (c)**

**Dharashiv caves**

- Dharashiv caves are the nexus of 7 caves in Balaghat mountains in Maharashtra.
- These have been declared as protected area by Government of Maharashtra.
- They are believed to be built around 5th-7th centuries. First cave has been discovered in 10th century during the age of Rashtrakutas.
- There have been debates over caves whether they are Buddhist or Jain creations.
- It is believed that these caves were originally Buddhist, but later some caves were converted to Jain caves.



Article Link: [Now, Maharashtra CM refers to Osmanabad as Dharashiv](#)

**Q.77) 'DekhoApnaDesh' Webinar on "Exploring Buddhist Circuit by Train" was organized by-**

- a) Ministry of Culture
- b) Ministry of Tourism
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- d) Ministry Of Railway

**Q.77) Solution (b)**

The Webinar focused on promoting and showcasing the rich Buddhist Heritage in India and highlighted the major destinations visited by Buddha personally across the country besides showcasing the Buddhist Heritage left behind by his disciples including the modern monasteries. Further, the Webinar also focused on providing first-hand information to the viewers on arrangements for travel (Especially by Train) & accommodation to the Buddhist Sites in India.

Article Link: [Ministry of Tourism organises 'DekhoApnaDesh' Webinar on "Exploring Buddhist Circuit by Train"](#)

**Q.78) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding 'Harike wetland'?**

- 1. It is one of the largest man-made wetlands of northern India which is located in Punjab.
- 2. It was accorded the wetland status in 1990 by the Ramsar Convention.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.78) Solution (c)**

**Harike wetland:**

- Recently, the winter migratory water birds using the Central Asian Flyway have started making a beeline to Punjab's Harike wetland.
- The Harike wetland, one of the largest in northern India, is situated in Tarn Taran district of Punjab.
- It came into existence in 1952 after the construction of barrage near the confluence of rivers Sutlej and Beas.
- It stands on the confluence of the Beas and the Sutlej.
- It is home to birds visiting from as far as the Arctic and Siberia.

Article Link: [Migratory birds flock to Punjab wetland](#)

**Q.79) Which of the following statement is/are correct about World Meteorological Organization (WMO)?**

3. WMO is an intergovernmental organization outside of the United Nations family.
4. WMO issues Annual, Five-Year and Decadal Statements on the Status of the global climate.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.79) Solution (b)**

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics
- The WMO is made up of 193 countries and territories, and facilitates the "free and unrestricted" exchange of data, information, and research between the respective meteorological and hydrological institutions of its members.

Article Link: [2020, one of three warmest years on record: World Meteorological Organization](#)

**Q.80) 'Kevadia' is emerging as a major global tourist destination and known for which of the following attractions?**

1. Glow Garden
2. Arogya Van and Jungle Safari
3. Grand Statue of Unity
4. Gir National Park

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q.80) Solution (b)**

**Kevadia**

- Prime Minister asserted that Kevadiya in Gujarat is no longer just a small block in some remote area, it has come up as a one of the biggest tourist destination of the world.
- Recently, PM flagged off eight trains connecting different regions of the country to Kevadiya in Gujarat and inaugurated several railways related projects in the state.
- Kevadia is a good example of planned development of economy and ecology while protecting environment, said the Prime Minister.
- Attractions here include, grand Statue of Unity, Sardar Sarovar, vast Sardar Patel Zoological Park, Arogya Van and Jungle Safari and Poshan Park. It also has Glow Garden, Ekta Cruise and water sports.

**Article Link:** [Today, Kevadia is emerging as a major global tourist destination: PM Modi](#)

**Q.81) The term 'Tala-Maddale', which is sometimes seen in news, is associated with**

- a) It is a regional dance form of Kerala
- b) It is a musical instrument
- c) It is a form of Dravidian Architecture
- d) It is a variant of Yakshagana theater

**Q.81) Solution (d)**

**Talamaddale theatre**

- Tala-Maddale is an ancient form of performance dialogue or debate performance in Southern India in the Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala.
- The plot and content of the conversation is drawn from popular mythology but the performance mainly consists of an impromptu debate between characters involving sarcasm, puns, philosophy positions and humour.
- The main plot is sung from the same oral texts used for the Yakshgana form of dance- drama.
- Performers claim that this was a more intellectual rendition of the dance during the monsoon season.

**How it is different from Yakshagana?**

- Unlike the Yakshagana performance, in the conventional 'talamaddale,' the artists sit across in a place without any costumes and engage in testing their oratory skills based on the episode chosen.
- If music is common for both Yakshagana performance and 'talamaddale', the latter has only spoken word without any dance or costumes.
- Hence it is an art form minus dance, costumes and stage conventions.
- It has an 'arthadhari' who is an orator, a 'bhagavatha' (singer-cum-director), and a 'maddale' player.

Article Link: [Video of Arebhashe talamaddale to go online soon](#)

**Q.82) WHO's REPLACE action package provides a strategic approach to –**

- a) Eliminating chemical fertilizers from horticulture
- b) Replacing the antigen test into transgen
- c) Eliminating trans-fat from national food supplies
- d) None of the above

**Q.82) Solution (c)**

The REPLACE action package provides a strategic approach to eliminating industrially-produced trans-fat from national food supplies, with the goal of global elimination by 2023 according to WHO.

Increased intake of trans fat (>1% of total energy intake) is associated with increased risk of coronary heart disease mortality and events. Trans fat intake is responsible for approximately 500,000 premature deaths from coronary heart disease each year around the world.

The package comprises an overarching technical document that provides a rationale and framework for this integrated approach to trans-fat elimination, along with six modules and additional web resources to facilitate implementation.

Article Link: [REPLACE transfat: WHO](#)

**Q.83) India Meteorological Department (IMD), principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology, comes under**

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) Ministry of Earth Science
- c) Ministry of EF&CC
- d) Ministry of Broad Casting

**Q.83) Solution (b)**

**India Meteorological Department (IMD)**

- IMD was established in 1875.
- It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.
- IMD is also one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organisation.
- It has the responsibility for forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region, including the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Article Link: [New monsoon models on the anvil this year](#)

**Q.84) Which of the following countries is not a member of G7?**

- a) China
- b) USA
- c) Italy
- d) Japan

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

The **Group of Seven (G7)** is a forum of the world's seven largest developed economies whose government leaders meet annually to discuss international economic and monetary issues.

G7 countries are— Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States

The G-7 has its roots in an informal meeting of the finance ministers of France, West Germany, the U.S, Great Britain, and Japan (the Group of Five) in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.

Article Link: [U.K. invites PM Modi for G7 summit](#)

**Q.85) Which of the statements given below is/are true about Mining in India?**

1. In the federal structure of India, the State Governments are the owners of minerals located within their respective boundaries.
2. The Central Government is the owner of the minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.85) Solution (c)**

Both the statements are correct. In the federal structure of India, the State Governments are the owners of minerals located within their respective boundaries. The Central Government is the owner of the minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

The State Governments grant the mineral concessions for all the minerals located within the boundary of the State, under the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957, and Mineral Concession Rules (MCR), 1960 framed thereunder.

Article reference: [Mining in India equals selling the family gold](#)

**Q.86) 'Financial Stability Report', which outlines the risks to financial stability as well as the resilience of the financial system in the contemporary context, is released by –**

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Commerce
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) None of the above

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

**Financial Stability Report:**

Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 22nd issue of its biannual Financial Stability Report outlining the risks to financial stability as well as the resilience of the financial system in the contemporary context.

**Significance of Financial Stability report**

- The FSR is a hugely useful publication as it receives contributions from all the financial sector regulators in the country.
- As such, it provides a rather comprehensive picture of the so-called macro-financial risks facing the economy.
- The FSR released by the RBI is the biannual alert of such risks in the Indian economy.

**Article Link:** [The Hindu Explains | What has the RBI cautioned against in its latest Financial Stability Report?](#)

**Q.87) Consider the following with respect to Faunas of Himalayas**

1. Wild Asses are found in Eastern Himalayas.
2. Red Pandas are found in Western Himalayas.
3. Elephants are found in the foothills of Himalayas.

**Choose the INCORRECT statement/s**

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

**Q.87) Solution (a)**

**Statement 1 is incorrect-** Wild Ass is found in Western Himalayas which are high altitude regions. Other animals of this region are bharal/blue sheep, antelopes (chiru and Tibetan gazelle), Kashmir stag/Hangul etc.





**Statement 2 is incorrect-** Red Panda is found in Eastern Himalayas. Other animals of this region are hog badgers/forest badgers, crestless porcupines, goat antelopes etc.



**Statement 3 is correct-** Elephants are found in the foothills of Himalayas and other animals found in the foothills of Himalayas are Rhinoceros, Sambar, Swamp deer, Cheetal, Hog, Hyena etc.

**Article reference:** [India home to both species of red panda, says ZSI study](#)

**Q.88) In recent time Guchchi mushroom, which is one of the costliest mushrooms in the world, has been sought for Geographical indication (GI). Guchchi mushroom are grown in**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

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

**Guchchi mushroom**



Expensive and exclusive ingredient that grows wild on the foothills of Himalayas is the Guchchi mushroom that is priced at anything between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000 for a kilogram!

Guchchi mushrooms usually grow in clusters on logs of decaying wood or decaying leaves and even in humus soil.

They may or not grow in the same spot the next season and they are notoriously unpredictable as they may show up anywhere. The villagers look for them with a sharp sight and close attention to the ground and yet there's always a possibility that they may miss them. This makes it a painful process to source them and sometimes farmers may only return with a few grams of Guchchi mushrooms.

**Article Link:** [GI tag sought for India's costliest mushroom](#)

**Q.89) 'Talamaddale', which is variant of Yakshagana theater, is widely practiced in which of the following states?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**Q.89) Solution (c)**

**Talamaddale theatre**

- Tala-Maddale is an ancient form of performance dialogue or debate performance in Southern India in the Karavali and Malnad regions of **Karnataka** and **Kerala**.
- The plot and content of the conversation is drawn from popular mythology but the performance mainly consists of an impromptu debate between characters involving sarcasm, puns, philosophy positions and humour.
- The main plot is sung from the same oral texts used for the Yakshgana form of dance- drama.
- Performers claim that this was a more intellectual rendition of the dance during the monsoon season.

Article Link: [Video of Arebhashe talamaddale to go online soon](#)

**Q.90) Which of the following statements is/are true regarding 'Kalaripayattu'?**

1. It is an Indian martial art and fighting style that originated in Kerala.
2. It includes strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry and healing methods.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the Above

**Q.90) Solution (c)**

**Kalaripayattu**



- It is also known as Kalari.
- It is an Indian martial art and fighting style that originated in Kerala.
- It is considered to be among the oldest martial arts still in existence, with its origin dating back to at least the 3rd century BC.
- It includes strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry and healing methods.
- Practitioners of Kalaripayattu also possess intricate knowledge of pressure points on the human body and healing techniques that incorporate the knowledge of Ayurveda and Yoga.
- Unlike other parts of India, warriors in Kerala belonged to all castes.
- Women in Keralite society also underwent training in Kalaripayattu, and still do so to this day.

Article Link: [Kalaripayattu academy braces for action](#)

**Q.91) 'Amended Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)' comes under which of the following Ministry?**

- e) Ministry of Science and Technology
- f) Ministry of Agriculture
- g) Ministry of Textile

h) Ministry of MSME

**Q.91) Solution (c)**

**Amended Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)**

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Textile

**Objectives:**

- Employment generation and export by encouraging apparel and garment industry, which will provide employment to women in particular and increase India's share in global exports.
- Promotion of Technical Textiles, a sunrise sector, for export and employment
- Promoting conversion of existing looms to better technology looms for improvement in quality and productivity
- Encouraging better quality in processing industry and checking need for import of fabrics by the garment sector.
- The amended scheme would give a boost to "Make in India" in the textiles sector; it is expected to attract investment to the tune of one lakh crore rupees, and create over 30 lakh jobs.

**Factual Information:**

- Old TUFs started in 1999
- ATUFS in 2015

**Article Link:** [VP reiterates the importance of textile sector to economy, to women employment](#)

**Q.92) 'Adaptation Gap Report' is released by which of the following organization?**

- a) UNDP
- b) UNEP
- c) FEE
- d) IUCN

**Q.92) Solution (b)**

**Adaptation Gap Report 2020**

- Released by: United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP)
- Purpose: The report identifies trends and highlights challenges associated with measuring progress towards fulfilling the adaptation finance gap while informing national and international efforts to advance adaptation.

**What is Adaptation?**

- Adaptation is a key pillar of the Paris Agreement. It refers to reducing countries and communities' vulnerability to climate change by increasing their ability to absorb impacts and remain resilient.

#### UNEP

- It was founded by the UN General Assembly as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in 1972.

Article Link: [Adaptation Gap Report 2020](#)

**Q.93) Recently, a volcano in 'Mount Semeru' had erupted, pouring ash and smoke around an estimated 5.6km (3.4 miles) into the sky. The 'Mount Semeru' is located in –**

- a) Malaysia
- b) Indonesia
- c) Hawaii
- d) Japan

**Q.93) Solution (b)**

**Mount Semeru:**



- Semeru – also known as “The Great Mountain” – is the highest volcano in Java and one of the most active.
- It is located in the seductions zone, where the Indo-Australia plate subducts under the Eurasia plate.
- It is also one of Indonesia’s most popular tourist hiking destinations.
- The volcano previously erupted in December, when about 550 people were evacuated.

#### Value Addition:

- Indonesia sits on the Pacific “Ring of Fire” where tectonic plates collide, causing frequent volcanic activity as well as earthquakes.

- Within the last week, Indonesia has endured multiple landslides, a deadly earthquake on Sulawesi island, and the loss of a Sriwijaya Air Boeing 737 with 62 people on board.

**Article Link:** [Indonesian Semeru volcano erupts, spews ash 5kms into sky](#)

**Q.94) Exercise Desert Knight-21 is being held between which of the following countries?**

- India and China
- India and France
- Russia and India
- UK and India

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

**Exercise Desert Knight-21:**



- The exercise is unique as it includes fielding of Rafale aircraft by both sides and is indicative of the growing interaction between the two premier Air Forces.
- Presently, the French detachment for Exercise Desert Knight-21 is deployed in Asia as part of their 'SKYROS Deployment'.
- Rafale fighter jets of India and France are carrying out war games code named Exercise SKYROS.
- The IAF has inducted and operationalised eight Rafale fighter jets of the 36 jets contracted from France in a 7.87-billion euro deal in 2016.

**Defence Exercises between India and France:**

- Varuna – Naval exercise
- Garuda – Air exercise
- Shakti – Army exercise

**Article Link:** [Ex-Desert Knight 21: Rafale to roar over Jodhpur skies during Indo-French air exercise](#)

**Q.95) Indian star tortoise is found across the Indian sub-continent, more specifically, in the Central and Southern parts of India. The IUCN status of 'Indian star tortoise' is –**

- a) Endangered
- b) Critically Endangered
- c) Vulnerable
- d) Extinct

**Q.95) Solution (c)****Indian star tortoise****Habitat:**

Indian star tortoise is found across the Indian sub-continent, more specifically, in the Central and Southern parts of India, in West Pakistan and in Sri Lanka.

**Protection Status:**

- Wild Life Protection Act 1972: Schedule IV
- Schedule IV: This list is for species that are not endangered. It includes protected species but the penalty for any violation is less compared to the Schedules I and II.
- Convention on International Trade in Species (CITES): Appendix I
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable

**Article Link:** [414 Indian star tortoises seized](#)

**Q.96) Which Article of the Indian Constitution mentions about 'Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc. and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases'?**

- a) Article 161
- b) Article 167
- c) Article 164
- d) Article 165

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

- **Article 161** of Constitution of India deals with 'Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc, and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases'.
- **Article 167** of Constitution of India deals with 'Duties of Chief Minister as respects the furnishing of information to Governor', etc.
- **Article 164** of Constitution of India deals with 'Other provisions as to Ministers'.
- **Article 165** of Constitution of India deals with ' Advocate General for the State'.

**Article reference:** [Rajiv Gandhi assassination case | Tamil Nadu Governor will decide on Perarivalan plea in 3, 4 days](#)

**Q.97) India is a member of which of the following?**

1. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
2. Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering
3. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

**Choose the correct answer:**

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

**Q.97) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 37 member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade. It is a forum of countries describing themselves as committed to democracy and the market economy, providing a platform to compare policy experiences, seeking answers to common problems, identify good practices and coordinate domestic and international policies of its members. Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries. OECD is an official United Nations observer. **India is not a member.**

The **Financial Action Task Force (on Money Laundering) (FATF)**, is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering. In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing. It monitors progress in implementing the FATF Recommendations through "peer reviews" ("mutual evaluations") of member countries. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris. **India is a member.**

India has requested membership in **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**, and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Officials have decided **not to allow India to join for various reasons**, considering that India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.

**Article reference:**



1. [Getting it wrong on India's level of agricultural support](#)
2. [Pakistan risks FATF blacklisting as it continues to abate terrorism](#)

**Q.98) The producer support estimate (PSE), an indicator of the annual monetary value of gross transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers, are updated and published annually by –**

- a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- b) Food and Agriculture Organization
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Department of Economic Affairs

**Q.98) Solution (a)**

The **producer support estimate (PSE)** is an indicator of the annual monetary value of gross transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers, measured at the farm gate level, arising from policy measures that support agriculture, regardless of their nature, objectives or impacts on farm production or income. Examples include market price support, and payments based on output, area planted, animal numbers, inputs, or farm income.

**PSEs, which are updated and published annually by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**, can be expressed in monetary terms: as a ratio to the value of gross farm receipts valued at farm gate prices, including budgetary support (percentage PSE); or, as a ratio to the value of gross farm receipts valued at world market prices, without budgetary support.

OECD's Producer Support Estimate (PSE) is the only available source of internationally comparable information on support levels in agriculture.

**Article reference:** [Getting it wrong on India's level of agricultural support](#)

**Q.99) Which committee was set up with regard to Data Protection?**

- a) Anil Kakodkar Committee
- b) B. N. Sri Krishna Committee
- c) Bibek Debroy Committee
- d) Ratan Watal Committee

**Q.99) Solution (b)**

A committee to deliberate on the issue of data protection in India was set up under the chairmanship of former apex court judge Justice B N Srikrishna.

**Article reference:** [Privacy and surveillance: On WhatsApp user policy change](#)

**Q.100) In order to protect its citizen's data, General Data protection regulation (GDPR) has been passed in which of the following?**

- a) Canada

- b) Australia
- c) Norway
- d) European Union

**Q.100) Solution (d)**

The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** is a regulation in **EU law on data protection and privacy** for all individuals within the European Union.

It addresses the export of personal data outside the EU. The GDPR aims primarily to give control back to citizens and residents over their personal data and to simplify the regulatory environment for international business by unifying the regulation within the EU

**Article reference:** [Privacy and surveillance: On WhatsApp user policy change](#)

**Q.101) 125th birth anniversary celebrations of the iconic freedom fighter, Subhas Chandra Bose, were held recently. Consider the following statements with reference to Subhas Chandra Bose:**

1. He formed an army, named 'Indian Legion' with help of Hitler in Germany.
2. He authored the book 'The Indian Struggle', which was later banned by the British government.
3. He formed the All India Forward Bloc in 1939 as a faction within the Congress.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q.101) Solution (d)**

Subhash Chandra Bose's ideology tilted towards socialism and leftist authoritarianism. He formed the All India Forward Bloc in 1939 as a faction within the Congress.

He founded the Indian Legion out of about 4500 Indian soldiers who were in the British army and had been taken prisoners by the Germans from North Africa.

He authored the book 'The Indian Struggle' which covers the Indian independence movement from 1920 to 1942. The book was banned by the British government.

**Do you know?**

- He was first called 'Netaji' by the people in Germany.

**Article reference:** [Netaji would have been proud of a new, self-reliant India: Modi](#)

**Q.102) Consider the following statements with reference to WHO's financing:**

1. WHO gets its funding from assessed contributions and voluntary contributions from its member states.
2. Assessed contributions (AC) cover more than 75% of the total budget of WHO.

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

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

**Q.102) Solution (a)**

WHO gets its funding from two main sources: Member States paying their assessed contributions (countries' membership dues), and voluntary contributions from Member States and other partners.

Assessed contributions (AC) are a percentage of a country's Gross Domestic Product (the percentage is agreed by the United Nations General Assembly). Member States approve them every two years at the World Health Assembly. They cover less than 20% of the total budget.

The remainder of WHO's financing is in the form of voluntary contributions (VC), largely from Member States as well as from other United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, the private sector, and other sources.

**Article reference:** [WHO chief thanks PM Modi for continued support](#)

**Q.103) Which of the following is not true about historically significant Yerawada Jail, where the Maharashtra government has decided to launch "jail tourism"?**

- a) Poona Pact between Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi took place at this Jail.
- b) Chapekar brothers were given death sentence in this jail.
- c) Terrorists Jinda and Sukha, who murdered General Vaidya, and Mumbai attack convict Ajmal Kasab were all hanged here.
- d) Gandhi-Irwin Pact and negotiations were held here.

**Q.103) Solution (d)**

The Maharashtra government is set to launch "jail tourism" under which historically significant jails in Maharashtra, which are still being used as penal centres, will be opened to visitors to see the barracks where freedom fighters were imprisoned by the British.

The famous Poona Pact between Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi took place beneath a mango tree at Yerawada jail. In 1899, the Chapekar brothers were given death sentence in this jail. Schools, colleges, educational institutions will be given the chance to see these historic places under the jail tourism project.

Terrorists Jinda and Sukha, who murdered General Vaidya, and Mumbai attack convict Ajmal Kasab were all hanged in the same jail.

On January 25, 1931 Gandhi and all other members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) were released unconditionally. The CWC authorised Gandhi to initiate discussions with the viceroy. As a result of these discussions, a pact was signed between the viceroy, representing the British Indian Government, and Gandhi, representing the Indian people, in Delhi on February 14, 1931. This Delhi Pact, also known as the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, placed the Congress on an equal footing with the Government. (Hence, (d) is not true)

**Article reference:** [Maharashtra to unlock history in prisons](#)

**Q.104) Which of the statements given below is/are true with regard to Flash droughts?**

1. They occur very quickly, with soil moisture depleting rapidly.
2. They occur mainly due to atmospheric anomalies and anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.104) Solution (c)**

**Flash droughts**

Flash droughts are those that occur very quickly, with soil moisture depleting rapidly. Normally, developing drought conditions take months, but these happen within a week or in two weeks' time. Several factors including atmospheric anomalies, anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions play an important role.

**Article reference:** [More flash droughts in India by end of century](#)

**Q.105) 'Exercise Kavach' is related to-**

- a) Joint Military exercise involving assets of Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard
- b) All India Vaccination programme
- c) The military exercise held between India and UK
- d) Joint Military exercise involving India and China at LAC

**Q.105) Solution (a)**

**'Exercise Kavach'**

- A large scale Joint Military exercise 'Exercise Kavach' involving assets of Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard is being conducted in the

coming week under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the only Joint Forces Command of the country.

- The exercise would involve participation and deployment of elements of Army's Amphibious Brigade along with supporting forces including Special Forces of Navy, Armour/Mechanised components, Naval Ships comprising Destroyers, ASW Corvettes and Landing Ships with ship-borne helicopters of Eastern Naval Command and ANC, Jaguar Maritime Strike and Transport aircrafts from Indian Air Force and assets of Coast Guard.

**Article reference:** [Exercise Kavach: Army, Navy, Air Force to fine tune joint war-fighting capabilities](#)

**Q.106) Recently there was a minor face-off between India and China at Naku La. Naku La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in –**

- a) Ladakh
- b) Sikkim
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Bhutan

**Q.106) Solution (b)**

Indian and Chinese troops clashed at Naku La in north Sikkim recently, which the Army termed a "minor face-off", resulting in some minor injuries on both sides.

Article link: [Indian, Chinese troops clash in Naku La](#)

**Q.107) Indian billionaires increased their wealth by 35% to ₹3 trillion during the lockdown, said the recently released "Inequality Virus Report". This report is brought out by –**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) OXFAM International
- c) Transparency International
- d) None of the above

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

Indian billionaires increased their wealth by 35% to ₹3 trillion during the lockdown, ranking them behind their counterparts in U.S., China, Germany, Russia and France, says the "Inequality Virus Report" brought out by Oxfam International, a non-profit organisation.

Article link: [Indian billionaires increased their wealth by 35% during the lockdown, says Oxfam report](#)

**Q.108) In one of his speeches, Subhash Chandra Bose gave the slogan 'You give me blood and I will give you freedom'. Where did he give this speech?**

- a) Japan
- b) Calcutta

- c) Singapore
- d) Burma

**Q.108) Solution (d)**

Subhas Chandra Bose was a freedom fighter in the Indian independence movement who believed in violent resistance to British colonial rule, and founded the Indian National Army, an armed Indian nationalist force.

He coined the nationalist phrase "Jai Hind" which later achieved popularity as a patriotic salutation in independent India. He labeled Mahatma Gandhi the 'father of the nation'. In India, he is widely respected and hailed as a patriot and national hero, who stood against the British colonial forces.

**Quote:**

Gird up your loins for the task that now lies ahead. I had asked you for men, money and materials. I have got them in generous measure. Now I demand more of you. Men, money and materials cannot by themselves bring victory or freedom. We must have the motive-power that will inspire us to brave deeds and heroic exploits.

It is blood alone that can pay the price of freedom. Give me blood and I will give you freedom!

Article reference: [Republic Day 2021: Famous Speeches By Indian Freedom Fighters](#)

**Q.109) Recently "ShramShakti Portal" has been launched by Government of India. This is related to-**

- e) To collect the data related to tribal migrant workers
- f) To provide self-defense training for women
- g) To collect the information about fisher women
- h) None of the above

**Q.109) Solution (a)****ShramShakti Portal:**

**Launched by:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs

**Purpose:**

- It is a National Migration Support Portal that aims to collect data related to tribal migrant workers and link them with the existing welfare schemes.
- The various data that will be recorded via the portal include demographic profile, livelihood options, skill mapping and migration pattern.

**Article Link:** [Centre flags off process to build database on tribal migrants; Goa to be testing ground for data collection](#)

**Q.110) Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case is related to –**

- a) Right to Information
- b) Right to Privacy
- c) Right to Internet
- d) Right to Freedom

**Q.110) Solution (b)**

**Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs Union of India:**

A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs Union of India unanimously held that Indians have a constitutionally protected fundamental right to privacy that is an intrinsic part of life and liberty under Article 21.

**Article Link:** [Privacy and surveillance](#)

**Q.111) Which among the following committee's recommendation resulted in the establishment of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Department of Economic Affairs research programme?**

- a) Ashok Lahiri Committee
- b) Vijay Kelkar committee
- c) AJ Paulraj committee
- d) Rangarajan committee

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

In 2005, the Ashok Lahiri Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Finance, came out with a report which stated that there was not enough knowledge about external capital flows and controls in India. The committee's recommendation resulted in the establishment of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Department of Economic Affairs research programme. The programme led to the creation of a rich body of world-class research on capital controls and flows in India, developed by Indian researchers, that was used to inform government policy on the matter.

**Article link:** [Roots to government-private thought partnerships](#)

**Q.112) China has continuously opposed having India chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in 2022. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is a subsidiary body of the -**

- a) BRICS
- b) UNSC
- c) SCO
- d) FATF

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

The Counter-Terrorism Committee is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Security Council.

In the wake of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1373, which, among its provisions, obliges all States to criminalize assistance for terrorist activities, deny financial support and safe haven to terrorists and share information about groups planning terrorist attacks.

The 15-member Counter-Terrorism Committee was established at the same time to monitor implementation of the resolution. While the ultimate aim of the Committee is to increase the ability of States to fight terrorism, it is not a sanctions body nor does it maintain a list of terrorist groups or individuals.

Article link: [China worked to prevent India from chairing key UNSC terrorism-related body](#)

**Q.113) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'time capsule'?**

- a) It is a container of any size or shape, which accommodates documents, photos and artefacts typical of the current era and is buried underground, for future generations to unearth.
- b) It is the concept of movement between certain points in time, analogous to movement between different points in space by an object or a person, typically with the use of a hypothetical device known as a capsule.
- c) It is an often-crewed spacecraft that uses a blunt-body reentry capsule to reenter the Earth's atmosphere without wings.
- d) It is a container of any size or shape, which accommodates information of vaccines to meet possible future demand, typical of the current era and is buried underground.

**Q.113) Solution (a)**

**What is a time capsule?**

It is a container of any size or shape, which accommodates documents, photos and artefacts typical of the current era and is buried underground, for future generations to unearth. The time capsule requires special engineering so that the contents don't decay, even if pulled out after a century. Material such as aluminium and stainless steel are used for the encasing, and documents are often reproduced on acid-free paper.

While the term "time capsule" was coined in the 20th century, among the earliest examples of one dates back to 1777, found by historians inside the statue of Jesus Christ in a church in Spain during restoration work in December 2017.

The International Time Capsule Society (ITCS), based in the US and formed in 1990, is now defunct but continues estimating the number of time capsules in the world. As per its database, there are "10,000-15,000 times capsules worldwide".

**Article reference:** [AMU buries 'time capsule' to mark its centenary year](#)



**Q.114) Consider the following statements about Skill India Mission Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0):**

1. It envisages training of eight lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs. 948.90 crore.
2. In this third version, the government wants to focus on matching local skilling requirements with local job opportunities.

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

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

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

### **Explanation**

On January 15, 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 3.0. This is the third phase of the scheme which was launched in 2015 to give a boost to skilling in the country. In this third version, the government wants to focus on matching local skilling requirements with local job opportunities. The thrust of PMKVY 3.0 is on empowering States and districts to implement skilling schemes by making regional-level plans.

The scheme guidelines state that the scheme shall be implemented in two phases. The first is being implemented on a pilot basis during the 2020-21 fiscal year, while simultaneously initiating the creation of an implementation framework for the second phase (2021-2026).

Skill India Mission PMKVY 3.0 envisages training of eight lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs. 948.90 crore. The 729 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs), empaneled non-PMKK training centres and more than 200 ITIs under Skill India will be rolling out PMKVY 3.0 training to build a robust pool of skilled professionals. On the basis of the learning gained from PMKVY 1.0 and PMKVY 2.0, the Ministry has improved the newer version of the scheme to match the current policy doctrine and energize the skilling ecosystem affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Article reference:**

1. [Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana \(PMKVY 3.0\)](#)
2. [Roots to government-private thought partnerships](#)

**Q.115) Recently which one among the following countries hosted the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 ("CAS Online") which set out clear commitments to deliver concrete new endeavours and partnerships to make our world more resilient to the effects of climate change?**

- a) Norway

- b) Belgium
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Netherlands

**Q.115) Solution (d)**

The online international Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021 on 25 and 26 January, was hosted by the Netherlands.

It saw the launch of a comprehensive Adaptation Action Agenda, setting out clear commitments to deliver concrete new endeavours and partnerships to make our world more resilient to the effects of climate change.

**Article link:** [Climate Adaptation Summit 2019](#)

**Q.116) What is Eriochrysis rangacharii, which is sometimes seen in news?**

- a) Invasive alien species found in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- b) New frog species discovered in biodiversity-rich Western Ghats
- c) New plant species discovered in northern Western Ghats
- d) Endemic plant in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

**Q.116) Solution (d)**

Members of the Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group (WGPSG) of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are assessing the threats to endemic flora in the Western Ghats.

Endemic plants such as *Anaphalis neelgerryana*, *Elaeocarpus recurvatus* and grasses such as *Eriochrysis rangacharii* face a number of threats, including habitat loss, climate change and being outcompeted by invasive species.

**Article link:** [Expert group to assess threats to plant species in the Nilgiris](#)

**Q.117) Which one of the following statements best describes the term “obliquity of a planet”?**

- a) It refers to a dimensionless parameter that determines the amount by which its orbit around another body deviates from a perfect circle.
- b) It refers to the motion of a planet's axis of rotation, which does not point towards a fixed direction in the sky through time.
- c) It is referred to as the angle between its equatorial plane and the orbital plane, i.e the tilt of a planet.
- d) It is referred to as the angle between a reference plane and the orbital plane or axis of direction of the orbiting object.

**Q.117) Solution (c)**

In astronomy, axial tilt, also known as obliquity, is the angle between an object's rotational axis and its orbital axis, or, equivalently, the angle between its equatorial plane and orbital plane. It differs from orbital inclination.

Orbital inclination measures the tilt of an object's orbit around a celestial body. It is expressed as the angle between a reference plane and the orbital plane or axis of direction of the orbiting object.

**Article reference:** [Saturn's obliquity](#)

**Q.118) Consider the following statements with reference to Padma Vibhushan:**

1. It is the third-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, preceded by the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Shri and followed by the Padma Bhushan.
2. It is awarded to Indian citizens and naturalized Indian citizen only.

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

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

**Q.118) Solution (d)**

Padma Vibhushan is the second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna.

The Padma Bhushan is the third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India, preceded by the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan and followed by the Padma Shri.

As of 2020, the award has been bestowed on 314 individuals, including seventeen posthumous and twenty-one non-citizen recipients. There is no written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only.

**Article reference:** [List of Padma awardees — 2021](#)

**Q.119) Davos Agenda Summit is associated with which of the following international organization/institution?**

- a) Oxfam International
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank Group
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**Q.119) Solution (b)**

Davos is the informal name of the annual four-day conference held by The World Economic Forum in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. The non-profit organization's aim is to "engage the

foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas," according to its website.

Article link: [PM Modi to address WEF's Davos Agenda Summit](#)

**Q.120) Green hydrogen is a clean burning fuel that reduces carbon emissions and is likely to replace fossil fuels in the future. Consider the following statements with regard to hydrogen based fuels and fossil fuels:**

1. Hydrogen is high in density, hence Green hydrogen is easy to store than fossil fuels.
2. Hydrogen contains almost three times as much energy as fossil fuels, so less of it is needed to do any work.

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

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

**Q.120) Solution (b)**

Green hydrogen has been in the news often lately.

**What is green hydrogen?**

Hydrogen generated from water using renewable electricity(solar, wind or water) is called green hydrogen. Electricity and pure water is provided to an electrolyser and green hydrogen and oxygen are produced. Green hydrogen is a clean burning fuel that reduces carbon emissions and is likely to replace fossil fuels in the future.

Hydrogen is low in density making it harder to store than fossil fuels. Better storage infrastructures are needed. An alternative is to store hydrogen in its liquid form. But again, the cost of storage technologies have been found to be higher than hydrogen production costs.

**Advantages of green hydrogen**

Hydrogen is abundant and its supply is virtually limitless. It can be used where it is produced or transported elsewhere. Unlike batteries that are unable to store large quantities of electricity for extended periods of time, hydrogen can be produced from excess renewable energy and stored in large amounts for a long time. Pound for pound, **hydrogen contains almost three times as much energy as fossil fuels**, so less of it is needed to do any work. And a particular advantage of green hydrogen is that it can be produced wherever there is water and electricity to generate more electricity or heat.

Article reference: [Companies form initiative to scale up green hydrogen production](#)

**Q.121) While being cautious of inflation, the RBI has recently decided to continue the accommodative stance in its latest monetary policy to support growth. Accommodative stance means –**

- a) RBI may reduce the policy rates to increase the money supply in the economy.
- b) RBI would have the flexibility to either increase or decrease the policy rates by taking into account the macroeconomic conditions.
- c) RBI would either keep the rates constant or increase the rates.
- d) Key policy rates would move in either direction.

**Q.121) Solution (a)**

RBI's various policy stances with regard to policy rates

**Accommodative Stance**

- Accommodative stance means RBI may reduce the policy rates to increase the money supply in the economy.
- Under this stance, policy rates normally decrease.
- Usually, this policy is adopted when there is slowdown in the economy.

**Neutral stance**

- Neutral stance means the RBI would have the flexibility to either increase or decrease the policy rates by taking into account the macroeconomic conditions.
- Under this stance, key policy rates would move in either direction.
- Usually, this policy is adopted when the inflation rate is stable.

**Calibrated Tightening stance**

- Calibrated Tightening stance means the RBI would either keep the rates constant or increase the rates.
- Under this stance, key policy rates either remain unchanged or increase. Decrease in policy rates is ruled out.
- Usually, this policy is adopted when there are concerns of higher rate of inflation.

Article reference: [Keep the wheels of economic recovery turning](#)

**Q.122) During previous monetary policy, RBI introduced a tool called long-term repo operation (LTRO). Which of the following is not true about LTRO?**

- a) Under LTRO, RBI provides longer term loans to banks at the prevailing repo rate.
- b) LTRO helped RBI ensure that banks reduce their marginal cost of funds-based lending rate, without reducing policy rates.
- c) RBI introduced LTRO to inject liquidity in the system, as well as to ensure transmission of rates.
- d) LTRO helps to prevent bringing down the yields for shorter-term securities (in the 1-3-year tenor) in the bond market.

**Q.122) Solution (d)**

**Basic information:**

The LTRO is a tool under which the RBI provides longer term (one- to three-year) loans to banks at the prevailing repo rate. As banks get long-term funds at lower rates, their cost of funds falls. In turn, they reduce interest rates for borrowers. LTRO helped RBI ensure that banks reduce their marginal cost of funds-based lending rate, without reducing policy rates.

LTRO also showed the market that RBI will not only rely on revising repo rates and conducting open market operations for its monetary policy, but also use new tools to achieve its intended objectives.

LTRO operations are also intended to prevent short-term interest rates in the market from drifting a long way away from the policy rate (i.e. repo rate)

The LTRO will also help bring down the yields for shorter-term securities (in the 1-3-year tenor) in the bond market.

**Article reference:** [Keep the wheels of economic recovery turning](#)

**Q.123) Under the Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO), banks can invest in specific sectors through which of the following debt instruments to push the credit flow in the economy?**

1. Corporate bonds
2. Commercial papers
3. Non-convertible debentures

**Choose correct answer:**

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

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

**Basic information:**

LTRO lets banks borrow one to three-year funds from the central bank at the repo rate, by providing government securities with similar or higher tenure as collateral.

Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO), banks can invest in specific sectors through debt instruments (corporate bonds, commercial papers, and non-convertible debentures (NCDs)) to push the credit flow in the economy.

It is called 'Targeted' LTRO as in this case, the central bank wants banks opting for funds under this option to be specifically invested in investment-grade corporate debt.

This helps banks get funds for a longer duration as compared to the short-term (up to 28 days) liquidity provided by the RBI through other tools such as liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) and marginal standing facility (MSF).

Article reference: [Keep the wheels of economic recovery turning](#)

**Q.124) Consider the following statements:**

1. India's R&D investment in science and technology is less than BRIC nations.
2. India's gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) as a percentage of GDP stood below 0.5% in 2020.

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

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

**Q.124) Solution (a)**

India's R&D investment in science and technology continue to hover between 0.5% and 0.6% of the GDP. Raising it to 2% of the GDP has been a national goal for a while. Despite strong recommendations in the past by several scientific bodies and leading scientists and policymakers, we are still well short of that goal.

However, India's gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) has been consistently increasing over the years. India's GERD as a percentage of GDP stood at 0.86% in 2020.

Gross expenditure on R&D as percentage share of the Indian GDP is far lower compared to Israel, South Korea, Japan, Germany, USA, France, UK, and Canada.

India's spending is lower than that of BRIC nations. China spends 2.1 per cent, Brazil 1.3 per cent while Russia spends a bit over 1 per cent.

Article reference: [Emphasising self-reliance in science](#)

**Q.125) Consider the following statements with reference to International Energy Agency:**

1. It is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. India has signed Strategic Partnership Agreement with the IEA.

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

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

**Q.125) Solution (c)**

The International Energy Agency is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation

and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.

The Framework for Strategic Partnership between the International Energy Agency (IEA) members and the Government of India was signed on 27th January, 2021 to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation & enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability. This partnership will lead to an extensive exchange of knowledge and would be a stepping stone towards India becoming a full member of the IEA.

Article link: [India signs Strategic Partnership Agreement with International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#)

**Q.126) In India, the practice of the President addressing Parliament can be traced back to the –**

- a) Government of India Act of 1919
- b) Government of India Act of 1935
- c) Indian Independence Act 1947
- d) Good Governance Act of 1858

**Q.126) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

In India, the practice of the President addressing Parliament can be traced back to the **Government of India Act of 1919**. This law gave the Governor-General the right of addressing the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State.

The law did not have a provision for a joint address but the Governor-General did address the Assembly and the Council together on multiple occasions. There was no address by him to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) from 1947 to 1950. And after the Constitution came into force, President Rajendra Prasad addressed members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for the first time on January 31, 1950.

Article reference: [Explained: History & precedent of President's address in Parliament](#)

**Q.127) Consider the following statements:**

1. The President addresses both the houses at the beginning of the first Session after each general election when the reconstituted lower house meets for the first time.
2. The President addresses both the houses at beginning of the first session of each year.

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

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



**Q.127) Solution (c)****Explanation:**

Article 87 of the constitution provides two instances when the President specially addresses both Houses of Parliament. The President of India addresses both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha at the beginning of the first Session after each general election when the reconstituted lower house meets for the first time. The President also addresses both the houses at beginning of the first session of each year.

The President's speech essentially highlights the government's policy priorities and plans for the upcoming year. The address provides a broad framework of the government's agenda and direction.

**Article reference:** [Explained: History & precedent of President's address in Parliament](#)

**Q.128) Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) is –**

- a) Shaktikanta Das
- b) Dr. Y. V Reddy
- c) Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar
- d) N K Singh

**Q.128) Solution (d)**

The 15th Finance Commission (FC) is led by former revenue secretary and parliamentarian N K Singh.

Article link: [Economic Survey to be tabled today](#)

**Q.129) Who among the following are prohibited from receiving any foreign contributions/donations?**

- 1. Government officials
- 2. Judges
- 3. Media persons

**Choose correct answer:**

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

**Q.129) Solution (d)**

Members of the legislature and political parties, government officials, judges and media persons are prohibited from receiving any foreign contribution.

Section 29B of the Representation of the People (1951) Act prohibits all political parties registered with the Election Commission from accepting any contribution from a "foreign

source.” Moreover, section 3 of the 2010 Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act bars candidates, legislative members, political parties and party officeholders from accepting foreign contributions.

**Article link:** [India tightens oversight on funds received by NGOs](#)

**Q.130) India and the World Bank signed a 500-million US dollar STARS programme in order to improve -**

- a) the quality and governance of school education in India
- b) the vaccine coverage in India
- c) India's ability to supply vaccines to global agencies
- d) the progress of ongoing projects in the North Eastern Region of India in various areas

**Q.130) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Government of India and the World Bank recently signed a 500-million US dollar Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Programme (STARS) to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states. These include Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan. Some 250 million students (between the age of six and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the programme.

The STARS programme builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank (since 1994), for strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing Education for All. Prior to STARS, the Bank had provided a total assistance of more than three billion US dollars towards this goal.

**Article reference:** [India, World Bank sign 500 million dollar Programme to improve quality of school education in India](#)