

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to Kaziranga National park:

1. It lies on the banks of River Ganga
2. The park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

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.1) Solution (b)



- Kaziranga National park's 430 square kilometer area in the Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam, sprinkled with elephant-grass meadows, swampy lagoons, and dense forests is home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros, approximately 2/3rd of their total world population.
- Formed in 1908 on the recommendation of Mary Curzon, the park is located in the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots – Golaghat and Nagaon district in Assam
- In the year 1985, the park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- Along with the iconic Greater one-horned rhinoceros, the park is the breeding ground of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer.
- Over the time, the tiger population has also increased in Kaziranga, and that's the reason why Kaziranga was declared as Tiger Reserve in 2006.
- Also, the park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species. Birds like lesser white-fronted goose, ferruginous duck, Baer's pochard duck and lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, black-necked stork, and Asian Openbill stork specially migrate from the Central Asia during the winter season.

- The park has successfully managed to grow the population of Greater one-horned rhinoceros, an endangered species.

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct:

1. National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated in month of November
2. Statue of unity was added in the 'Eight Wonders' of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

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.2) Solution (a)

- National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated on 31st October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The day was celebrated for the first time in 2014, when the Government of India decided to celebrate Patel's birthday as the National Unity Day to recognise his monumental contribution and service to the nation.
- On this day, several events like Run For Unity, a nationwide marathon to increase awareness about Patel's contributions, National Unity pledge, Ekta Parade, etc. are organised.
- In 2018, the Government unveiled the Statue of Unity in Gujarat in Patel's honour.
- It is the tallest statue (182-meter) in the world.
- In January 2020, it was added in the 'Eight Wonders' of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Q.3) Shivalik Elephant Reserve was recently in news, is located in which of the following states?

- a) Uttarkhand
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Haryana
- d) Punjab

Q.3) Solution (a)

Shivalik Elephant Reserve:

- It is located in Uttarkhand
- It was notified in 2002 under the 'Project Elephant'.
- Project Elephant was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with following objectives:
 - To protect elephants, their habitat & corridors.
 - To address issues of man-animal conflict.
 - Welfare of captive elephants.

- The Kansora-Barkot Elephant Corridor is located near to it.
- The Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) occurs in the central and southern Western Ghats, North-east India, eastern India and northern India and in some parts of southern peninsular India. As per the Elephant Census, 2017, Karnataka has the highest population of Indian elephants.
- It is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).
- It is 'Endangered' as per the IUCN Red List.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Public Affairs Index:

1. It is developed by The Public Affairs Centre
2. Gujarat topped in the index as the best-governed state in the 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.4) Solution (a)

- The Public Affairs Centre has developed Public Affairs Index (PAI) as a unique statistical tool to evaluate the performance of governance in the States.
- It is largely based on secondary data and has been extracted from Union Government Ministries and Departments.
- According to the PAC, the governance performance is analysed in the context of sustainable development defined by three pillars of equity, growth and sustainability.
- It is a data driven platform to rank the 30 States of India from the lens of governance.
- Kerala was adjudged the best-governed state in the country while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Corals exhibit characteristics of marine animals, but are plants
2. In India, Coral reefs are under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

- Corals exhibit characteristics of plants, but are marine animals that are related to jellyfish and anemones.
- They are made up of genetically identical organisms called polyps, which are tiny, soft-bodied organisms.
- At their base is a hard, protective limestone skeleton called a calicle, which forms the structure of coral reefs.
- There are 2 types of corals:
 - Stony, shallow-water corals—the kind that build reefs.
 - Soft corals and deep water corals that live in dark cold waters.

Coral Reefs:

- Reefs begin when a polyp attaches itself to a rock on the seafloor, then divides, or buds, into thousands of clones. The polyp calicles connect to one another, creating a colony that acts as a single organism.
- As colonies grow over hundreds and thousands of years, they join with other colonies, and become reefs.
- Coral reefs cover less than 1% of the ocean floor but they are among the most productive and diverse ecosystems on Earth. They are referred to as the rainforests of the sea for their biodiversity.
- In India, they are under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.
- Climate change remains one of the biggest threats to corals. Around the world, this threat has been visible in the “bleaching” of corals.
- Coral Bleaching: It is a process during which corals, under stress from warm weather, expel the algae that give corals their brilliant colours and live in their tissues and produce their food.

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to Budapest Convention:

1. It is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime
2. India is not a party to this convention.

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.6) Solution (c)

- The Council of Europe's (CoE) Cybercrime Convention, also known as the Budapest Convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime. It coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalizes certain cybercrime conduct.
- It was open for signature in 2001 and came into force in 2004.

- The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.
- India is not a party to it. India recently voted in favour of a Russian-led UN resolution to set up a separate convention. The resolution seeks to set up new cyber norms considered as a counter alternative to the US backed Budapest Accord.

Q.7) Consider the followings statements:

1. According to recent NASA's find, this asteroid could be entirely made up of metal
2. This asteroid orbits between mars and Jupiter
3. It was discovered by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gaspard

Which among the following asteroid has the above said features?

- a) Asteroid 16 Psyche
- b) Chondrite asteroids
- c) Asteroid Geographos
- d) Asteroid Pallas

Q.7) Solution (a)

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has found out that asteroid 16 Psyche, which orbits between Mars and Jupiter, could be made entirely of metal
- Asteroid 16 Psyche is located 370 million kilometers away from earth between Mars and Jupiter and has a diameter of 140 miles.
- It was discovered in the year 1853 by the Italian astronomer Annibale de Gaspard and was named after the ancient Greek goddess of the soul, Psyche.
- Unlike most asteroids that are made up of rocks or ice, scientists believe that Psyche is a dense and largely metallic object thought to be the core of an earlier planet that failed formation.
- Psyche's shape is like a potato which takes about five earth years to complete one orbit of the sun but only a bit over 4 hours to rotate once on its axis.

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme:

1. It is a centrally funded scholarship scheme
2. Students need to score at least 50% in their class exams to get eligibility under this scheme

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.8) Solution (c)**Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

- It is a centrally funded scholarship scheme for students in all states, which opens every year and has to be applied between August and November.
- Aim: To help students of minority communities viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains and Buddhists from families with annual income below Rs. 1 lakh.
- Eligibility: Students need to score at least 50% in their class exams.
- Structure of the Scholarship: It is given in two tiers every year to:
 - Students in class 1 to 5: Rs. 1,000 per year.
 - Students of class 6 to 10: Rs. 10,700 if a hosteller or Rs 5,700 if a day scholar.

Application Process:

- Eligible students need to register at the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and submit educational documents, bank account details and Aadhaar numbers among other documents.
- The scheme is online and one can apply for a fresh or renewal scholarship on the NSP or through a mobile application of NSP.

Q.9) Mansar lake which was recently in news, is located in which of the following state?

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

Q.9) Solution (c)

- Mansar Lake is situated in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir
- Surinsar Lake and Mansar Lake are considered to be twin lakes.
- It is a lake having a natural border of forest-covered hills.
- Surinsar-Mansar Lakes were designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.
- Mansar is of immense importance from Pilgrimage as well as Heritage point of view



Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Seasonal update:

1. It is prepared and released by Indian Meteorological Department.
2. It includes data on Global-scale seasonal forecasts, including those of precipitation and surface temperature

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.10) Solution (b)

Global Seasonal update

- Global Seasonal Climate Update is prepared and released by World Meteorological Organization.
- It is based on an ensemble of global prediction models run by WMO-accredited centres around the world.
- It includes data on Global-scale seasonal forecasts, including those of precipitation and surface temperature, which take into account ENSO as well as other climate drivers.
- There are now 13 WMO Global Producing Centres of Long Range Forecasts, whose products are consolidated by a Lead Centre of Long Range Forecast Multi Model Ensemble

Q.11) Which of the following country does not share boundary with Red sea?

- a) Sudan
- b) Egypt
- c) Eretria
- d) Libya

Q.11) Solution (d)



Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to Purchasing Managers' Index:

1. It is compiled by World Bank
2. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.12) Solution (c)

- Purchasing Managers' Index is an indicator of business activity - both in the manufacturing and services sectors.
 - It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is also constructed.
 - The PMI summarizes whether market conditions as viewed by purchasing managers are expanding, neutral, or contracting.
- The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- The headline PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
 - PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared to the previous month;
 - PMI under 50 represents a contraction, and
 - A reading at 50 indicates no change.

- The PMI is usually released at the start of every month. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.
- PMI is compiled by IHS Markit for more than 40 economies worldwide. IHS Markit is a global leader in information, analytics and solutions for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide.

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. River Ganga was declared as the National River of India on 4th November 1951.
2. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) celebrates Ganga Utsav every year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.13) Solution (b)

Ganga Utsav:

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) celebrates the festival every year.
- NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council, set up in 2016, which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA).
- The three-day festival aims to promote stakeholder engagement and ensure public participation.
- It celebrates mystical and cultural river Ganga through storytelling, folklores, dialogues with eminent personalities, quizzes, displaying traditional art forms, dance and music performance by renowned artists, photo galleries and exhibitions and much more.
- Ganga was declared as the National River of India on 4th November 2008.

Q.14) Baghlan and Kunduz are recently in news. These places are located in which of the following country?

- a) Syria
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Israel

Q.14) Solution (b)



Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. Central Vigilance Commission is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.
2. Theme for Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 is “Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat”.

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.15) Solution (c)

Vigilance Awareness Week:

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) observes the Week every year during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October) falls.
- Objective: It affirms India's commitment to the promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation and reiterates Government's resolve to continue the crusade against corruption.
- Theme for 2020: In 2020, it was observed from 27th October to 2nd November with the theme of “Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat”.

Central Vigilance Commission:

- It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.
- It is the apex vigilance institution monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organisations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.

- It was set up by the Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by K Santhanam.

Q.16) Which of the following country is not a member of Gulf Cooperation Council:

- a) Bahrain
- b) Kuwait
- c) Oman
- d) Israel

Q.16) Solution (d)

Gulf Cooperation Council

- GCC was established by an agreement concluded in 1981 among Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE in view of their special relations, geographic proximity, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny and common objectives.
- The structure of the GCC consists of the Supreme Council (the highest authority), the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat General. The Secretariat is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- It is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation according to its charter.



Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region
2. As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

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.17) Solution (c)

- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) was launched in 2015.
- It is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Mission Sagar-II, follows the first 'Mission Sagar' undertaken in 2020.
- As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.
- Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles along with La Réunion are part of Indian Ocean Commission.
- The assistance is in line with India's role as the first responder in the Indian Ocean region.
- The strategic importance of these island nations is highlighted by their location along key Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).
- Earlier, India had sent Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari, carrying food items and medical assistance teams, to countries in the southern Indian Ocean to deal with Covid-19 pandemic as part of a "Mission Sagar" initiative.

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. Luhri Hydro power project is located on River Sutlej which is situated in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The waters of Sutlej are allocated to India under Indus Water Treaty.

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.18) Solution (d)**Luhri Hydro power project**

- Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project located on river Satluj which is situated in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh
- The project is to be implemented by the Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited.
- It is to be implemented in Build-Own-Operate-Maintain mode.
- In order to implement the project, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Government of Himachal Pradesh and Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited during the event "Rising Himachal". It is a Global Investor Meet that was inaugurated by PM Modi in November 2019.

River Sutlej

- It is the longest of the five rivers flowing through Punjab namely Beas, Jhelum, Chenab and Ravi.
- It is a tributary of Indus.
- The waters of Sutlej are allocated to India under Indus Water Treaty.
- The river has several major hydroelectric power points namely Bhakra Dam (1,325 MW), Nathpa Jhakri Dam (1,500 MW) and Karcham Wangtoo Hydroelectric Plant (1,000 MW).

Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to National Monsoon Mission:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. It builds a working partnership between the academic and research and development (R&D) organisations, both national and international.

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 (b)

National Monsoon Mission

- It was launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2012.
- Aim: To improve the forecasting skills by setting up a state-of-the-art dynamic prediction system for monsoon rainfall different time scales.
- NMM builds a working partnership between the academic and research and development (R&D) organisations, both national and international.
- Its augmentation with the HPC facilities has helped the country in achieving a paradigm shift in weather and climate modelling for operational weather forecasts.

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals
2. Janaushadhi Week was celebrated across the country in the month of November

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.20) Solution (a)

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

- It is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- It seeks to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendras known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- Initially launched in 2008, the scheme was rechristened in 2015.
- Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP.
- BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.
- Janaushadhi Week was celebrated across the country from 1st to 7th March 2020, to inform and educate the general public about the price benefits and quality of the medicines being sold at Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Q.21) Which of the countries does not share land border with UAE?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Oman
3. Qatar
4. Yemen

Which of the following is true?

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

Q.21) Solution (c)



Q.22) Leishmaniasis disease was recently in news, is caused by:

- a) Bacteria
- b) Fungus
- c) Parasite
- d) Virus

Q.22) Solution (c)

- Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease that is found in parts of the tropics, subtropics, and southern Europe.
- Leishmaniasis is caused by infection with Leishmania parasites, which are spread by the bite of infected sand flies.
- There are three types of leishmaniasis:
 - Visceral leishmaniasis, which affects multiple organs and is the most serious form of the disease.
 - Cutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin sores and is the most common form.
 - Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin and mucosal lesions.
- Visceral leishmaniasis, which is commonly known as Kala-azar in India, is fatal in over 95% of the cases, if left untreated.

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to Long-finned pilot whales:

1. The IUCN status of these whales are endangered
2. These whale belongs to large species of oceanic dolphin

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.23) Solution (b)

- The long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) is a large species of oceanic dolphin
- Long-finned pilot whales are known as such because of their unusually long pectoral fins.
- These are one of two species of pilot whale, along with short-finned pilot whales.
- These prefer deep temperate to subpolar oceanic waters, but they have been known to occur in coastal waters in some areas.
- They have been documented near the Antarctic sea ice and associated with the colder Benguela and Humboldt Currents, which may extend their normal range.
- Protection Status:
 - CITES: Appendix II
 - IUCN: Least Concern

Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge:

1. This Scheme is launched by Child and women welfare
2. This initiative will support cities to develop, pilot, and scale solutions that enhance the quality of life of young children, their caregivers and families in the public realm.

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.24) Solution (b)

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched initiative namely, the Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge that focuses on shaping cities for young children and their families.
- It is a three-year initiative that will support cities to develop, pilot, and scale solutions that enhance the quality of life of young children, their caregivers and families in the public realm.
- It will be open to all smart cities, other cities with more than 5,00,000 population, and capitals of states and Union territories.
- Cities will receive technical assistance and help in capacity-building to re-imagine parks and open spaces, improve access to early childhood facilities, adapt public spaces with early childhood-oriented amenities, and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for young children and families.

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to Pinaka missile :

1. The Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket-launcher (MBRL) system
2. It is indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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.25) Solution (c)

- Pinaka Mk-1 Missile is indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The design and development has been carried out by Pune-based DRDO laboratories i.e. Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).

- The Enhanced Pinaka Mk-1 will eventually replace the Pinaka Mk-1 missiles, which are currently used by regiments of the Indian Army along India's frontiers with China and Pakistan.
- The Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket-launcher (MBRL) system named after Shiva's bow.
- It acts as a key tactic of long-range artillery battle as the launchers have to 'shoot and scoot' to ensure they themselves do not become the targets, especially being detectable due to its back blast.
- The development of the Pinaka was started by the DRDO in the late 1980s as an alternative to the Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher systems of Russian make called like the 'Grad'.
- While the Mark-1 has a range of 38 km, the enhanced version of Mark-1 has a range of 45 km and some key additional features.
- DRDO has also developed and successfully tested the Mk-II which has a range of around 60 km.
- The Guided Pinaka system has a range of 75 km and has integrated navigation, control and guidance system to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range.

The navigation system of Guided Pinaka missile is also aided by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to Academic Freedom Index (AFI):

1. It has been published by Global Public Policy Institute
2. India's score in the Index is less than Pakistan

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.26) Solution (c)

Academic Freedom Index:

- It has been published by Global Public Policy Institute as a part of a global time-series dataset (1900-2019) in close cooperation with Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Scholars at Risk and the V-Dem Institute.
- It compares levels of academic freedom worldwide and enhances the understanding of its curtailments.
- The AFI used eight components to evaluate the scores: freedom to research and teach, freedom of academic exchange and dissemination, institutional autonomy, campus integrity, freedom of academic and cultural expression, constitutional protection of academic freedom, international legal commitment to academic freedom under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and existence of universities.
- The scores are scaled 0-1.

- The index did not report data for 35 countries - including the United States and Australia.
- Top Performers: Uruguay and Portugal top the AFI, with scores of 0.971 each, followed closely by Latvia (0.964) and Germany (0.960).

India's performance on the index:

- India with a score of 0.352, is closely followed by Saudi Arabia (0.278) and Libya (0.238).
- In the last five years, the AFI of India has dipped by 0.1 points.
- Countries like Malaysia (0.582), Pakistan (0.554), Brazil (0.466), Somalia (0.436) and Ukraine (0.422) have scored better than India.

Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to Body Mass Index:

1. It is measured as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in metres
2. World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines define a normal BMI range as 1 to 5

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.27) Solution (a)

- It is measured as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in metres.
 - World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines define a normal BMI range as 18.5 to 24.9, overweight as 25 or higher, and obesity as 30 or higher.
- India ranks third and fifth from the bottom respectively among countries where 19-year-old girls and boys have a low BMI.
- The mean BMI of 19-year-old boys is 20.1 in India, compared to a high of 29.6 in the Cook Islands and a low of 19.2 in Ethiopia.
- The mean BMI for 19-year-old Indian girls is again 20.1, compared to a high of 29.0 in Tonga and a low of 19.6 in Timor-Leste.

Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:

1. NIIF is completely owned by the Indian government
2. NIIF is considered India's quasi-sovereign wealth fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.28) Solution (b)**National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**

- NIIF is a government-backed entity established to provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector.
- The Indian government has a 49% stake in NIIF with the rest held by foreign and domestic investors.
- With the Centre's significant stake, NIIF is considered India's quasi-sovereign wealth fund.
- It was set up in December 2015 as a Category-II Alternate Investment Fund.
- Across its three funds viz. Master Fund, Fund of Funds, and Strategic Opportunities Fund, it manages over USD 4.3 billion of capital.
- Its registered office is in New Delhi.

Q.29) Baghjan Oilfield was recently in news, is located in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Maharashtra

Q.29) Solution (a)

- The Baghjan oilfield is located in Tinsukia district of Assam, in June 2020, a gas leak has occurred at the oil well following a blowout.
- It has been burning for 160 days by now, it continues to impact an area of 10 kilometres around.
- The Baghjan well is a purely gas-producing well in Tinsukia district, and is at an aerial distance of 900 metres from the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.
- NGT's principal bench headed by AK Goel, constituted a committee led by former Judge BP Katakey June 26 to investigate the cause and the impact of the blowout.
- According to committee's report NGT Baghjan oil field along with 26 oil wells in Assam was operating without mandatory environmental clearances.

Q.30) SITARE-GYTI and SRISTI-GYTI awards are given by which of the following ministry?

- a) Ministry of Science & Technology
- b) Ministry of Human resource development
- c) Ministry of Education
- d) Ministry of Defence

Q.30) Solution (a)

- Union Ministry of Science & Technology announced Gandhian Young Technological Awards in two categories.
- The awards and appreciations are given under these two categories to encourage technology students to move towards setting up Biotech and other start-ups.
- SITARE-GYTI - Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations - Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SITARE-GYTI) under Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- The SITARE-GYTI awards are given every year to the most promising technologies developed by the students in life sciences, biotechnology, agriculture, medical devices etc.
- SRISTI-GYTI - Sustainable Technological Innovations-Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SRISTI-GYTI) given by SRISTI.
- This awards is given to students in other engineering disciplines.

Q.31) Which of the following country does not share boarder with Italy?

- a) Austria.
- b) Germany
- c) Slovenia.
- d) Switzerland

Q.31) Solution (b)

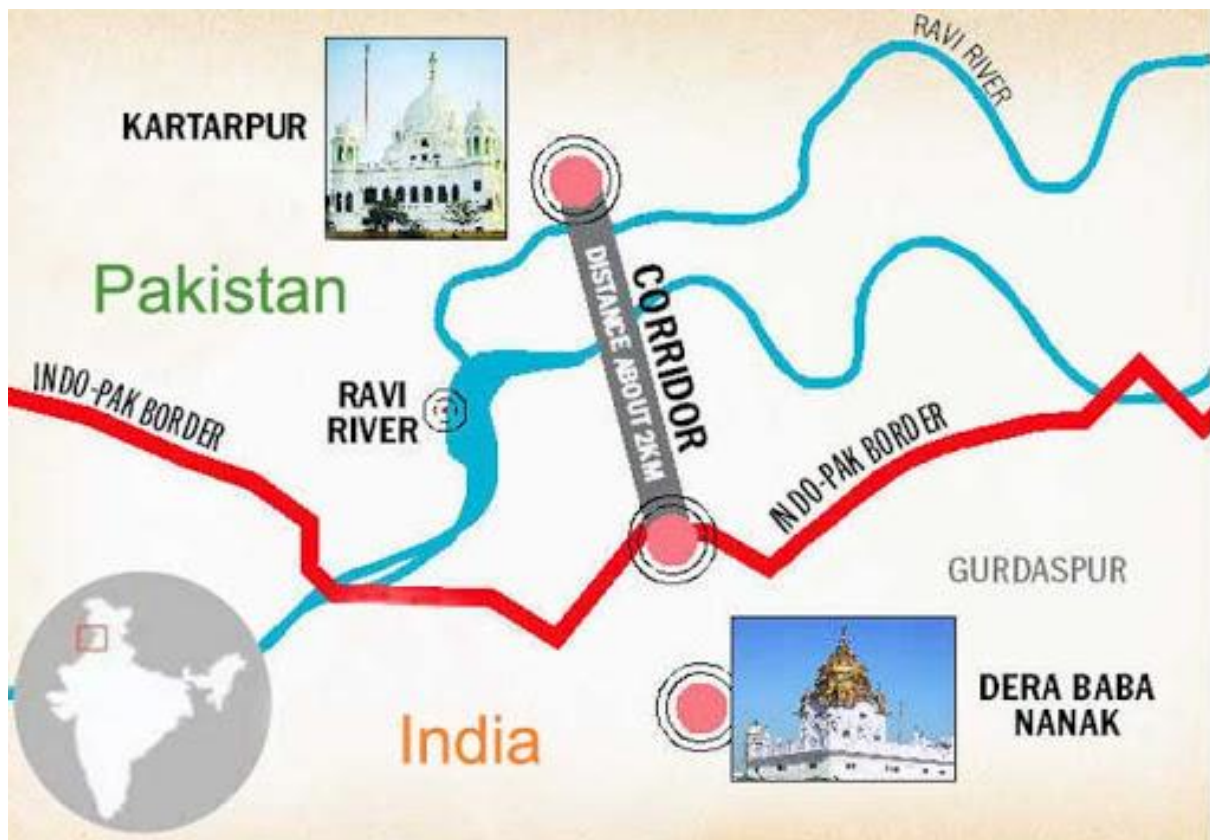


Q.32) Gurdwara Darbar Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district on the banks of which river?

- a) Ravi
- b) Sutlej
- c) Jhelum
- d) Beas

Q.32) Solution(a)

- Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, also known as the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across river Ravi. It is one of the most significant historical and spiritual places for Sikhs.
- According to historians, the first Sikh Guru (Guru Nanak Dev) had arrived in Kartarpur between 1520 and 1522, and spent the last 18 years of his life there.
- It was in Kartarpur where he laid the foundations of a Sikh religion.



Q.33) Consider the following statements:

1. Pakke Tiger Reserve is situated in this state
2. The great hornbill is the state bird of this state

The above statements best describes which of the following state?

- a) Himachal Pradesh

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

Q.33) Solution (b)

- Pakke Tiger Reserve (declared in 1999-2000) lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh and is also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve.
 - It falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.
 - It is home to over 2000 species of plants, 300 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, etc. Many species of the flora and fauna are globally threatened, and PTR is one of the last remaining strongholds left for these species.
 - It is known for its amazing sightings of four resident hornbill species.
- The great hornbill is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and it is 'vulnerable' under the IUCN Red List.
- Other Protected Areas in Arunachal Pradesh:
 - Talle Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve.
 - Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - Namdapha Tiger Reserve.
 - Mouling National Park.
 - Sessa Orchid Sanctuary.

Q.34) Ringing or buzzing noise in one or both ears that may be constant or come and go, often associated with hearing loss is called as:

- a) Tinnitus
- b) Acoustic neuroma
- c) Otosclerosis
- d) ménière's disease

Q.34) Solution (a)

- Tinnitus is the perception of noise or ringing in the ears.
- Tinnitus isn't a condition itself — it's a symptom of an underlying condition, such as age-related hearing loss, ear injury or a circulatory system disorder.
- Tinnitus can significantly affect quality of life. One may experience fatigue, stress, sleep problems, trouble concentrating, memory problems, depression, anxiety and irritability, etc.
- Although it can worsen with age, for many people, tinnitus can improve with treatment. Treating an identified underlying cause sometimes helps. Other treatments reduce or mask the noise, making tinnitus less noticeable.
- Treatments may include hearing aids, sound-masking devices, medicines, and ways to learn how to cope with the noise.

Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to Magnetar:

1. As per NASA, It is a neutron star, “the crushed, city-size remains of a star many times more massive than the Sun.”
2. The nearest known magnetar to Earth is 1E 1048.1-5937

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.35) Solution (c)

- As per NASA, a magnetar is a neutron star, “the crushed, city-size remains of a star many times more massive than the Sun.”
- The magnetic field of such a star is very powerful, which can be over 10 trillion times stronger than a refrigerator magnet and up to a thousand times stronger than a typical neutron star’s.
 - Neutron stars are formed when the core of a massive star undergoes gravitational collapse when it reaches the end of its life. This results in the matter being so tightly packed that even a sugar-cube sized amount of material taken from such a star weighs more than 1 billion tons, which is about the same as the weight of Mount Everest, according to NASA.
- Magnetars are a subclass of these neutrons and occasionally release flares with more energy in a fraction of a second than the Sun is capable of emitting in tens of thousands of years.
- In the case of SGR 1935, for instance, the X-ray portion of the simultaneous bursts it released recently carried as much energy as the Sun produces in a month, assuming that the magnetar lies towards the nearer end of its distance range.
- The nearest known magnetar to Earth is 1E 1048.1-5937, located 9,000 light-years away in the constellation Carina.

Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to Ecologically Sensitive Areas:

1. ESAs are notified by the MoEFCC under Environment (Protection) Act 1986.
2. Eco-Sensitive Zones are located within 10 km of Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.36) Solution (c)

- Eco-Sensitive Zones or Ecologically Fragile Areas are located within 10 km of Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ESAs are notified by the MoEFCC under Environment (Protection) Act 1986.
- Aim: To regulate certain activities around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so as to minimise the negative impacts on the fragile ecosystem encompassing the protected areas.

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to Blue Macaws:

1. It is the largest macaw and the largest flying parrot species.
2. International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List is Endangered.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.37) Solution (a)

Blue Macaws

- Scientific Name: *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*
- It is a parrot native to central and eastern South America.
- With a length of about one meter it is longer than any other species of parrot.
- It is the largest macaw and the largest flying parrot species.
- Threat: Habitat loss and the trapping of wild birds for the pet trade have taken a heavy toll on their population in the wild.
- Protection status :
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List: Vulnerable.
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I.



Q.38) The country's longest motorable single lane suspension bridge is in which state or Union territory?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Ladak

Q.38) Solution (a)

- Dobra-Chanthi suspension bridge in Tehri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand
- The 440-metre long Dobra Chanti bridge is India's longest motorable single lane suspension bridge.
- Built over Tehri Lake, it will cut travel time between Tehri and Pratapnagar districts from 5.5 to 1.5 hours.
- Benefits of the bridge
 - Better connectivity within the region.
 - Boost tourism potential.
 - Gateway to development in the region.
 - Local employment promotion.

Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to Warli Art:

1. Warli is a traditional art form of Madhya Pradesh
2. These paintings are mainly dominated by basic geometric shapes like circles, triangles and squares.

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.39) Solution (b)

- Warli is a traditional art form of Maharashtra.
- Its roots can be traced to as early as the 10th century A.D.
- These paintings are distinctive with their vivid contrast expressions.
- These paintings are mainly dominated by basic geometric shapes like circles, triangles and squares.
- These geometric shapes stand as a symbol of natural elements in our environment.
- For example, the circles represent the sun and moon, the triangles represent the mountains and the squares are considered as the central motifs of the painting.
- People and animals are represented by two inverted triangles joined together, where the upper triangle is the torso and the lower triangle is the pelvis.
- The central theme of the paintings are scenes portraying huntin, fishing, farming, festival and dances, trees and animals are used to surround the central theme.
- Warli art form is being used by many artists to beautify cities and spread awareness through wall paintings.
- It is also being used to beautify bags, bed sheets and many other items.
- Warli is the vivid expression of daily and social events of the Warli tribe of Maharashtra, used by them to embellish the walls of village houses.

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect US President:

1. The US President is both the head of the State and head of the Government.
2. S/he has a fixed tenure of four years

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.40) Solution (c)**US Presidential System**

- The US President is both the head of the State and head of the Government.
- The law making is done by the legislature (called the Congress in the US), but the President can veto any law.
- S/he has a fixed tenure of four years and completes it even if her/his party does not have a majority in the Congress.

- The President and the Vice President are chosen by 'electors' through a process called the Electoral College.
 - The presidential candidate of each of the political parties, chooses a vice presidential running mate. Voters vote on the two—presidential and vice presidential candidates—as a team.
- The President can be removed for conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanor.

Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):

1. This program is launched by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
2. It is funded by the World Bank and the Indian Government on a 50:50 basis.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.41) Solution (c)

National Agricultural Higher Education Policy

- ICAR has recently launched Rs.1100 crore ambitious National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
- It aim to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.
- It is funded by the World Bank and the Indian Government on a 50:50 basis.
- The objective of the NAHEP for India is to support participating agricultural universities and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students.
- In addition, a four year degree in Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries and Forestry has been declared a professional degree.
- The overall objective of the project is to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students that is in tune with the New Education Policy – 2020.
- It is set to bring academic credit banks and degree programmes with multiple entry and exit options to the 74 universities focussed on crop sciences, fisheries, veterinary and dairy training and research.

Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to Competition Commission of India:

1. Competition Commission of India is a constitutional body of the Government of India
2. It consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.42) Solution (b)

Competition Commission of India

- It is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the objectives of the Competition Act, 2002.
- Composition: A Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
- Objectives:
 - To eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition.
 - Promote and sustain competition.
 - Protect the interests of consumers.
 - Ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- The Commission is also required to give an opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to Saffron:

1. It needs a photoperiod of 12 hours a day.
2. It also requires adequate rainfall that is 100-150 mm per annum.

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.43) Solution (a)

Conditions for the cultivation of Saffron:

- Saffron grows well at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level. It needs a photoperiod (sunlight) of 12 hours.
- Soil: It grows in many different soil types but thrives best in calcareous (soil that has calcium carbonate in abundance), humus-rich and well-drained soil with a pH between 6 and 8.
- Climate: For saffron cultivation, we need an explicit climatological summer and winter with temperatures ranging from no more than 35 or 40 degree Celsius in summer to about –15 or –20 degree Celsius in winter.

- Rainfall: It also requires adequate rainfall that is 1000-1500 mm per annum.

Q.44) Which of the following country does not share border with Afghanistan?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Pakistan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Iran

Q.44) Solution (a)

Kazakhstan



Q.45) Consider the following statements with respect to Eurasian Otter:

1. These are categorized as endangered in the IUCN Red List
2. These can be seen throughout Europe and Asia

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

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

- Scientific Name: *Lutra lutra*
- Habitat: Throughout Europe and Asia from Ireland in the west as far as eastern Russia and China. They are also found in north Africa (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) and the Middle East (Israel, Jordan, Iraq and Iran).

Protection Status

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

**Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to Armenia:**

1. It shares a border with Caspian sea
2. Azerbaijan does not share border with Armenia

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.46) Solution (d)



Q.47) Consider the following statements with respect to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

1. 20th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was chaired by India
2. Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent body of SCO

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.47) Solution (b)

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region. It was created in 2001.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
- SCO has two Permanent Bodies
 - SCO Secretariat in Beijing, and

- Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.
- The Chairmanship of SCO is by rotation for a year by Member States.
- The 20th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State was held recently via Video Conferencing, it was chaired by Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin
- Significance of SCO Meet: 20th Summit of SCO Heads of State is important as it brought President Xi Jinping of China and Mr. Modi together in the virtual format even as both sides are caught in the high tension confrontation in Eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and the third meeting that India participated after becoming a full member in 2017.
- The Republic of Tajikistan assumed chairmanship of SCO for 2021-22.
- India has proposed to set up a Special Working Group on Innovation and Startups and a Sub Group on Traditional Medicine within SCO.

Q.48) Panna Biosphere Reserve which was recently included in World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNB) by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is located in which of the following state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.48) Solution (c)

- The Panna Biosphere Reserve (PBR) is the third in Madhya Pradesh to be included in the list after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak.
- It established in 1981, PBR is located in the Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh with an area of around 540 km. sq.
- It is situated in the Vindhya mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.
- Ken River (one of the least polluted tributaries of the Yamuna River) flows through the reserve and the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will also be located in it.
- The region is also famous for Panna diamond mining.

Conservation and Recognition:

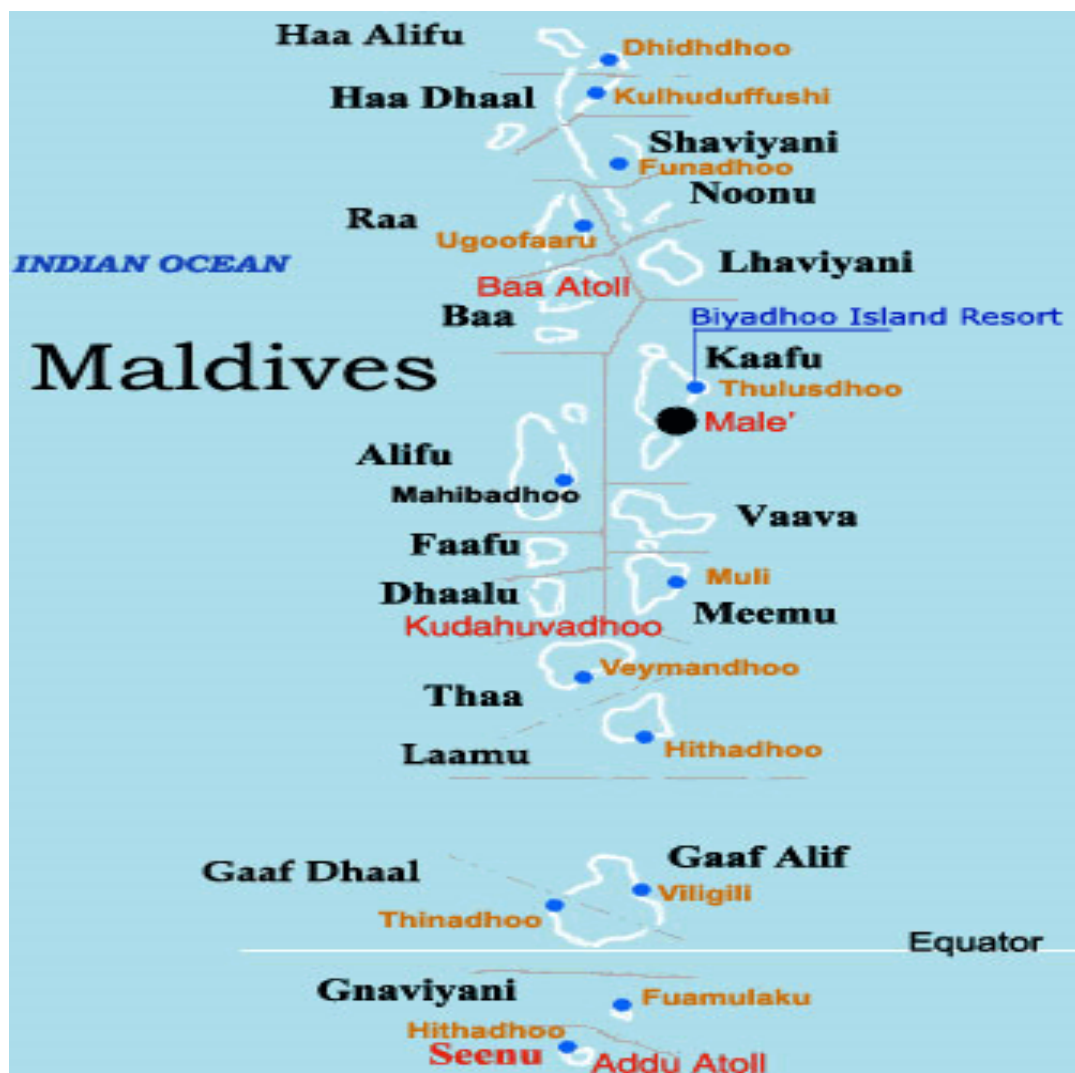
- 1994: The Panna National Park got the status of Project Tiger Reserve as India's 22nd tiger reserve.
- 2011: It was notified as a Biosphere Reserve by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- 2018: By 2018, it witnessed a remarkable turnaround in tiger population by increasing their numbers remarkably from zero estimated a decade ago.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers in the country followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

- 2020: UNESCO included it in the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB).

Q.49) Addu Atoll was recently in news, is in which country?

- India
- Maldives
- Australia
- Indonesia

Q.49) Solution (b)



Q.50) Consider the following statement with respect to National Water Awards:

1. The awards are organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The NWAs were launched in 2007 for the first time along with the Ground Water Augmentation Awards

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.50) Solution (c)**National Water Awards:**

- The awards are organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The NWAs were launched in 2007 for the first time along with the Ground Water Augmentation Awards and the winners in different categories are given a citation, trophy and cash prize.
- These focus on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country, and the government's vision for the path to 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.
- Objectives:
 - To motivate individuals/organisations who are doing commendable work in the field of water resources conservation and management.
 - To create awareness among the people about the importance of water and encourage them to adopt the best water usage practices.
- Opportunities Provided: Start-ups, leading organisations and people can engage, deliberate and strengthen existing partnerships on issues concerning water conservation and management activities.

Q.51) The process of sun heating an asteroid in a non-uniform way, causing the space rock to radiate heat energy asymmetrically, this can cause a thrust or a tiny push in a certain direction is called as:

- a) Yarkovsky acceleration
- b) Yavsoky acceleration
- c) Helkinesi acceleration
- d) Asteroid acceleration

Q.51) Solution (a)

- According to a report, the sun can heat an asteroid in a non-uniform way, causing the space rock to radiate heat energy asymmetrically.
- This can cause a thrust or a tiny push in a certain direction, sometimes changing the path of the asteroid.
- This effect is called the Yarkovsky acceleration.
- Before the discovery of Yarkovsky effect, the possibility of the collision was impossible.
- The detection of this effect acting on Apophis means that the 2068 impact scenario is still a possibility.
- Asteroid Apophis may hit the Earth in 2068 due to Yarkovsky effect phenomenon

Q.52) OPERATION GREENS – TOP TO TOTAL SCHEME is related to which of the following?

- a) Afforestation
- b) Ayurvedic research
- c) Agriculture
- d) Air transportation

Q.52) Solution (d)

- Under Operation Greens Scheme TOP to TOTAL, 50% transportation subsidy is now made available for air transportation for 41 notified fruits and vegetables from North-Eastern and Himalayan States to any place in India.
- Airlines will provide the transport subsidy directly to the supplier by way of charging only 50% of the actual contracted freight charges and will claim the balance 50% from MoFPI as subsidy.
- The scheme was approved and the amended Scheme Guidelines were notified in November 2020.
- All consignment of notified fruits and vegetables irrespective of quantity and price would be eligible for 50% freight subsidy.
- Eligible airports: All the airports in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim (Bagdogra), and Tripura from North-East, and Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh among the Hilly States.

Q.53) jingtang port was recently in news, is situated in which of the following country?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) South Korea
- d) North Korea

Q.53) Solution (b)



Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme:

1. It is administered by NITI Aayog
2. Funds for VGF will be provided from the government's budgetary allocation.

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.54) Solution (b)

- Viability Gap Finance means a grant to support projects that are economically justified but not financially viable.
- The scheme is designed as a Plan Scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Finance and amount in the budget are made on a year-to-year basis.
- Such a grant under VGF is provided as a capital subsidy to attract the private sector players to participate in PPP projects that are otherwise financially unviable.
- Projects may not be commercially viable because of the long gestation period and small revenue flows in future.
- The VGF scheme was launched in 2004 to support projects that come under Public-Private Partnerships.
- Funds for VGF will be provided from the government's budgetary allocation. Sometimes it is also provided by the statutory authority who owns the project asset.

- If the sponsoring Ministry/State Government/ statutory entity aims to provide assistance over and above the stipulated amount under VGF, it will be restricted to a further 20% of the total project cost.
- VGF grants will be available only for infrastructure projects where private sector sponsors are selected through a process of competitive bidding.

Q.55) Consider the following statements with respect to Haiderpur wetland:

1. It is a Ramsar wetland site.
2. It is located within the boundaries of the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.55) Solution (b)

- The forest department in Uttar Pradesh is working along with conservation organisations to eventually make the the Haiderpur wetland in Muzaffarnagar district a Ramsar site.
- Fed by the Ganga and Solani rivers, the wetland came into existence in 1984 after the construction of the Madhya Ganga Barrage on the former.
- It is spread over 1,214 hectares.
- It is located within the boundaries of the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is an important stopover destination for winter migratory birds like the Greylag goose and the Bar-headed goose.
- The Haidepur wetland has been identified under Namami Gange, a flagship programme of the Government of India launched in 2014, as a model wetland along the Ganga.

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to ASEAN:

1. India is one of the founding member of ASEAN
2. The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community"

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.56) Solution (b)

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- It is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation.
- It was established on 8th August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Ten Members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.
- Chairmanship: It rotates annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.
- The group has played a central role in Asian economic integration, signing six free-trade agreements with other regional economies and helping spearhead negotiations for what could be the world's largest free trade pact.



Image: ASEAN

Q.57) Consider the following statements with respect to INS Vagir:

1. It is one of the Kalvari-class submarines Project-75
2. Vagir has been named after a Sand Fish, a predatory marine species.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.57) Solution (c)

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vagir is the fifth among the six Kalvari-class submarines.
- The other vessels in the class are INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela and INS Vagsheer.
- Like Kalvari (which means Tiger Shark), Vagir has been named after a Sand Fish, a predatory marine species.
- The design of Kalvari class of submarines is based on Scorpene class of submarines.
- This class of submarines have Diesel Electric transmission systems.
- These are primarily attack submarines or 'hunter-killer' type which means they are designed to target and sink adversary naval vessels.
- It can reach the highest speeds of 11 knots when surfaced and 20 knots when submerged.
- These submarines have the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) which enables non-nuclear submarines to operate for a long time without access to surface oxygen.

Q.58) Striped Bubble-nest frog (*Rohanixalus vittatus*) was recently in new as a new genus of treefrog found in which State/Union territory?

- a) Kerala
- b) Andaman and Nicobar
- c) Assam
- d) Tamil nadu

Q.58) Solution (b)

- Scientists has reported a new genus of treefrog from the Andaman Islands called Striped Bubble-nest frog.
- Biological name: *Rohanixalus vittatus*
- The new genus '*Rohanixalus*' is named after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda.
- Striped Bubble-nest frog belongs to the genus of the Old World treefrog family Rhacophoridae.
- This is the first report of a tree frog species from the Andaman Islands.

Bodily Features

- Small and slender body (2-3 cm long).
- A pair of contrastingly coloured lateral lines on either side of the body. Minute brown speckles scattered throughout the upper body.
- Light green-coloured eggs laid in arboreal bubble-nests.
- Arboreal means living in trees or related trees
- They are also known as Asian Glass Frog or see through frogs.

Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to Swarna Jayanti Fellowship:

1. It provides special assistance and support to a selected number of school students in the field of research
2. The project submitted by the selected Fellows are considered for funding by the Science & Engineering Research Board

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 (b)

- The Swarna Jayanti Fellowships scheme was instituted by the Government of India to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence.
- It provides special assistance and support to a selected number of young scientists with a proven track record to enable them to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.
- The award consists of a Fellowship of Rs. 25000 per month in addition to the salary drawn from the parent Institute along with a Research Grant of Rs. 5 lakh per annum by Department of Science and Technology (DST) for a period of 5 years.
 - In addition to fellowship, grants for equipment, computational facilities, consumables, contingencies, national and international travel, and other special requirements, if any, is covered based on merit.
 - The fellowships are scientist specific and not institution-specific, very selective, and have close academic monitoring.
- Scientists selected for the award are allowed to pursue unfettered research with a freedom and flexibility in terms of expenditure as approved in the research plan.
- The project should contain innovative research ideas and it should have a potential of making impact on R&D in the discipline.
- The project submitted by the selected Fellows are considered for funding by the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) as per SERB norms.

Q.60) Strait of Dover is between which of the following countries?

- a) France and Italy
- b) Japan and South Korea
- c) Indonesia and Malaysia
- d) UK and France

Q.60) Solution (d)



Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to National ayurveda day 2020:

1. Ayurveda for Covid-19 is the theme of National ayurveda day 2020.
2. The National Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.61) Solution (c)

- The National Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). This year Ayurveda Day is being observed on 25th October 2019.
- Ayurveda is perceived as one of the most ancient and well documented system of medicine equally relevant in modern times.
- Ayurveda for Covid-19 is the theme this year.

Objectives:

- An attempt to further promote Ayurveda into mainstream
- Focus on strengths of Ayurveda and its unique treatment principles
- Reduce the burden of disease and related morbidity and mortality by utilizing the potential of Ayurveda.
- Exploring the potential of Ayurveda to contribute towards National health policy & National Health programmes.
- Create a sense of awareness in today's generation and promote Ayurvedic principles of healing in society.

Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air missiles:

1. It is a surface to air missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
2. It uses solid fuel propellant and has a strike range of 50-100 km with capability of hitting single targets.

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.62) Solution (a)

- The missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army, was flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur
- It has been developed to replace the 'Akash' missile defence system, and has 360-degree coverage.
- It uses solid fuel propellant and has a strike range of 25-30 km with capability of hitting multiple targets.
- It is capable of hitting the low flying objects.
- The missile is an all-weather, all-terrain surface-to-air missile equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars
- The missile can be mounted on a truck and is stored in a canister.
- The missile is equipped with a midcourse inertial navigation system with a two-way data link and a DRDO-developed terminal active seeker. The system has the capability to search and track targets while moving.
- QRSAM is a compact weapon system and is mobile. It has a fully automated Command and Control System. The missile system comprises of two four-walled radars both of which encompass a 360-degree coverage, namely, the Active Array Battery Surveillance Radar and the Active Array Battery Multifunction Radar, apart from the launcher.

Q.63) If we want to travel from Thiruvananthapuram to Patna what is the minimum number of states we passes through?

- a) 4
- b) 5
- c) 6
- d) 3

Q.63) Solution (a)



Q.64) Labrador Sea which was recently in news, is located between which two countries?

- a) Canada and USA
- b) USA and Greenland
- c) Canada and Greenland
- d) USA and Mexico

Q.64) Solution (c)

Labrador Sea, northwestern arm of the North Atlantic Ocean, between Labrador, Canada (southwest), and Greenland (northeast). It is connected with Baffin Bay (north) through Davis Strait and with Hudson Bay (west) through Hudson Strait.



Q.65) Bru community which was recently in news, concentrated mainly in which region of India?

- a) North eastern states
- b) Western Ghat
- c) Eastern Ghat
- d) Chota Nagpur Plateau

Q.65) Solution (a)

- Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- Brus, also known as Reangs, are ethnically different from the Mizos, with their own distinct language and dialect and form one of the 21 scheduled tribes of Tripura.
- Displaced Bru tribals from Mizoram are living as refugees in Tripura since 1997.
- In 1997, roughly half the Bru population fled to Tripura, following violent clashes with the Mizo population.
- Recently, the union home ministry finally inked the tripartite pact which now paves the way for these displaced Bru tribals from Mizoram to permanently settle in Tripura.
- The Brus—spread across Tripura, Mizoram and parts of southern Assam—are the most populous tribe in Tripura.

Q.66) Which of the following country is not a member of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

- a) India
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) New Zealand

Q.66) Solution (a)

- It consists of 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members i.e Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), Laos , as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.
- Negotiations over the RCEP deal began in 2012. India was also part of the negotiations but it pulled out in 2019 over concerns that lower tariffs could hurt local producers.



Q.67) Consider the following statement with respect to Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report 2020:

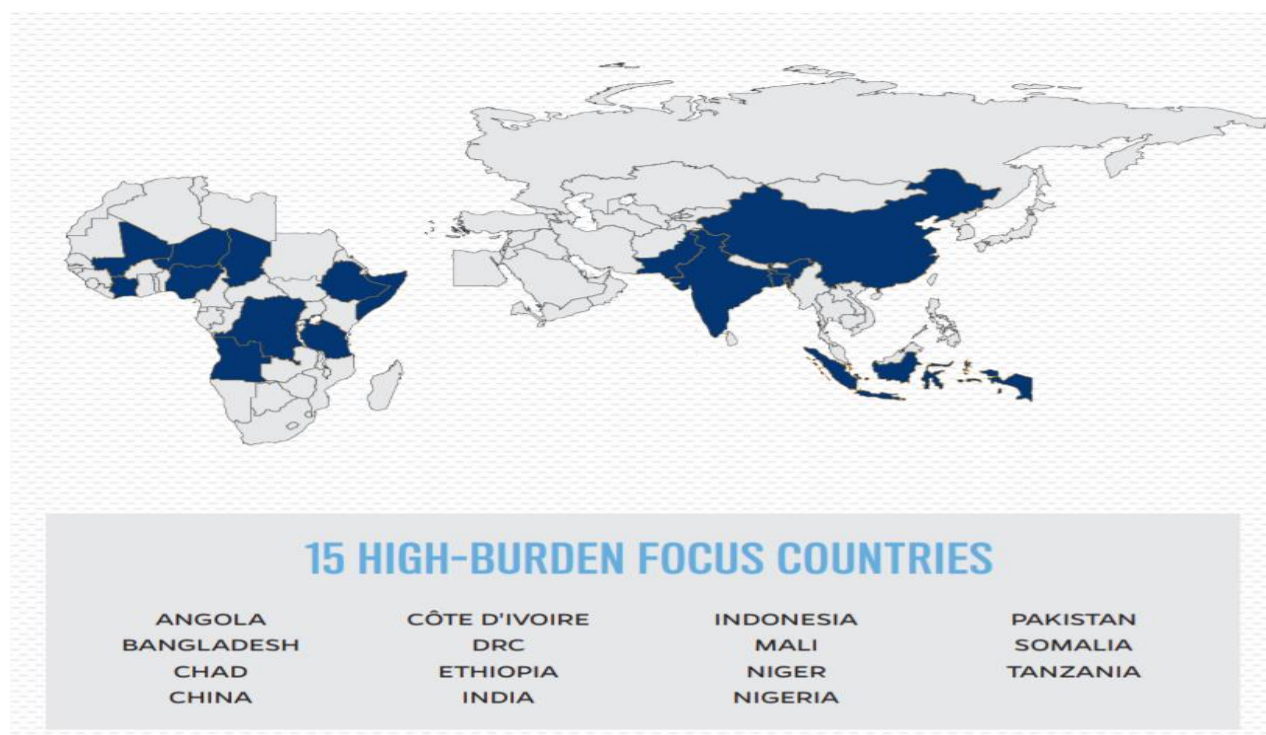
1. It has been released by the International Vaccine Access Centre (IVAC).
2. India is one among the 15 High Burden Focus Countries according to the report

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.67) Solution (c)

- The annual Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report has been released by the International Vaccine Access Centre (IVAC).
- IVAC, founded in 2009, accelerates equitable access to vaccines through the generation, synthesis, and use of evidence to inform decision-making and action. It is located in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA.
- It evaluates the progress across 10 high-impact indicators outlined in the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) in the 15 countries with the greatest burden of under-five pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths and how they are delivering key interventions to prevent these.
 - These interventions include breastfeeding, immunisation, care-seeking and antibiotics, Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), and zinc supplementation.
 - These measures are proven to help prevent deaths due to these illnesses and could help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal-3 (Good Health and Well-Being) target of reducing under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births by 2030.
- This year's report also addresses the emerging impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It monitors the coverage of five vaccines which are Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) vaccine, Measles-containing-vaccine first dose, Haemophilus influenzae type B, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and rotavirus vaccine.



Q.68) Which of the following Indian States does not share international land border?

- a) Bihar
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Haryana

Q.68) Solution (d)



Q.69) Consider the following statements:

1. Munda Rebellion was led by Birsa Munda in the south of Ranchi in 1945

2. Jharkhand state was brought into existence by the Bihar reorganization Act on 15th November, 1970 - the birth anniversary of the legendary Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

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.69) Solution (d)

Munda Rebellion:

- It was led by Birsa Munda in the south of Ranchi in 1899-1900.
- The movement identified following forces as the cause of the misery the Mundas were suffering:
 - The land policies of the British were destroying their traditional land system.
 - Hindu landlords and moneylenders were taking over their land.
 - Missionaries were criticising their traditional culture.
- The 'Ulgulan' or the 'Great Tumult' as the movement came to be called, aimed at establishing Munda Raj by driving out the British.
 - Munda used traditional symbols and language to rouse people, urging them to destroy "Ravana" (dikus/outsiders and the Europeans) and establish a kingdom under his leadership.
- Birsa's followers began targeting the symbols of diku and European power. They attacked police stations and churches, and raided the property of moneylenders and zamindars. They raised the white flag as a symbol of Birsa Raj.
- On 3rd March, 1900, Birsa Munda was arrested by the British police while he was sleeping with his tribal guerilla army at Jamkopai forest in Chakradharpur (Jharkhand).

Jharkhand Foundation Day

- The name "Jharkhand" means "The Land of Forests". The state was brought into existence by the Bihar reorganization Act on 15th November, 2000 - the birth anniversary of the legendary Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- Jharkhand shares its border with the states of Bihar to the north, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to the west, Odisha to the south, and West Bengal to the east.
- Most of the state lies on the Chotanagpur Plateau, which is the source of the Koel, Damodar, Brahmani, Kharkai, and Subarnarekha rivers, whose upper watersheds lie within Jharkhand.

Q.70) Recently Lonar Lake was in news, is located in which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Orissa
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Kerala

Q.70) Solution (C)

- The Lonar lake at Buldhana district of Maharashtra and have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites, a conservation status conferred by International Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- The Lonar lake, situated in the Deccan Plateau's volcanic basalt rock, was created by the impact of a meteor 35,000 to 50,000 years ago.
- The lake is part of Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary which falls under the unified control of the Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR).
- It is also known as Lonar crater and is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument. Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight to earth's evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.
- It is the second Ramsar site in Maharashtra after Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary in Nashik district.
- The water in the lake is highly saline and alkaline, containing special microorganisms like anaerobes, Cyanobacteria and phytoplankton.

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to Border Area Development Programme (BADP):

1. The BADP was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

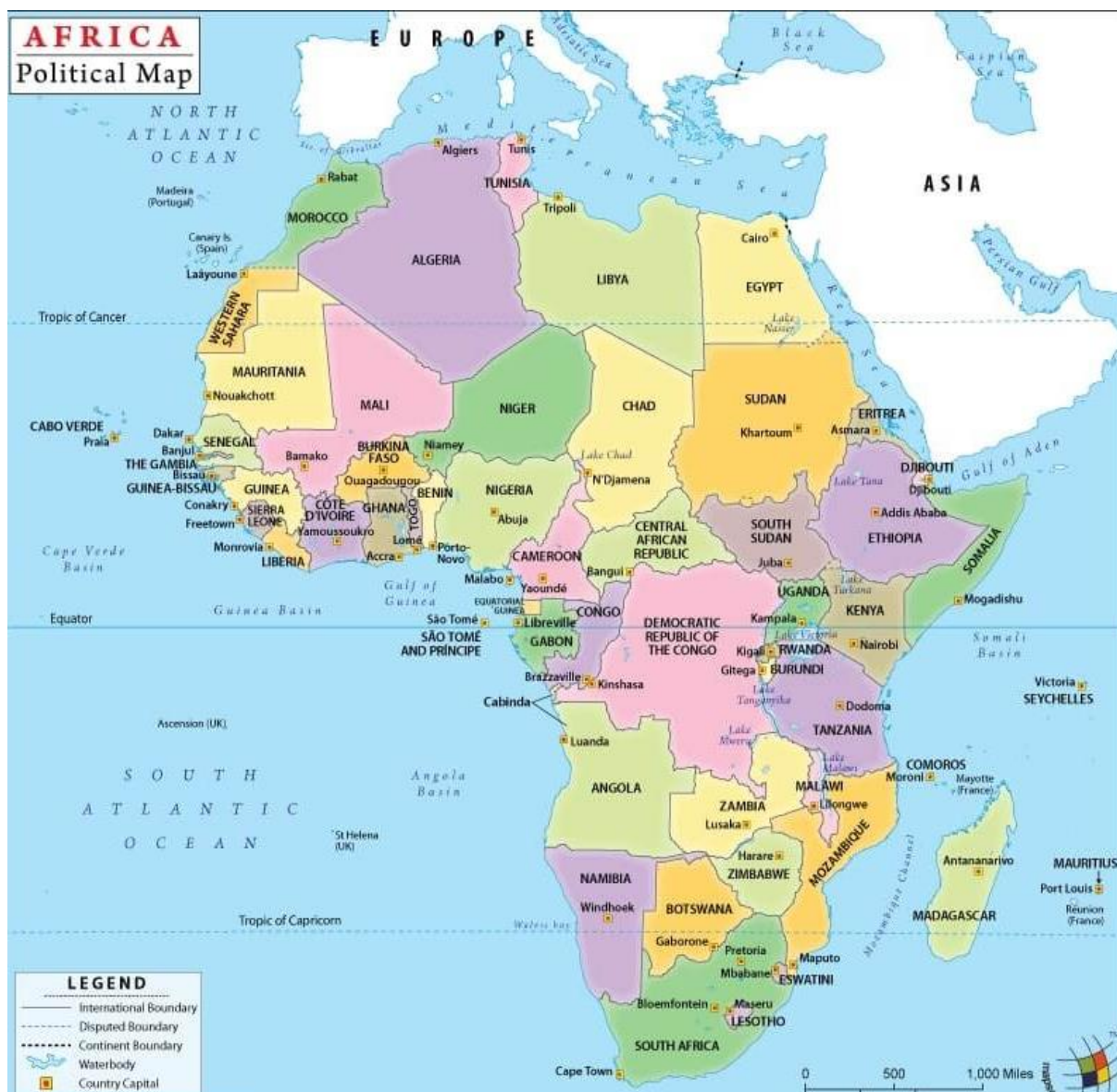
Q.71) Solution (c)

- The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1986-87 as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
- BADP was initiated in the border areas of the western region during the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), for ensuring balanced development of border areas through development of infrastructure and promotion of a sense of security among the border population.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme. Funds are provided to the states as a non-lapsable special central assistance for the execution of projects relating to infrastructure, livelihood, education, health, agriculture and allied sectors.
- The States covered are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Q.72) Which of the following African country is landlocked?

- a) Somalia
- b) Kenya
- c) Egypt
- d) Ethiopia

Q.72) Solution (d)



Q.73) Which of the following country recently Launched 10-year golden card visa?

- a) UAE
- b) India
- c) Australia
- d) USA

Q.73) Solution (a)

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has approved the issuance of a 10-year golden card visa for more professionals, including PhD holders, physicians, engineers as well as graduates from certain universities.
- Golden Visa is citizenship by investment or residency by investment program. It is directed to wealthy foreign nationals who want to acquire residency in a certain country by investing a substantial amount of money or by purchasing a property. It grants 10-year residency to these visa holders and their families.
- Eligibility:
- All holders of doctorate degrees, medical doctors and computer, electronics, programming, electrical and biotechnology engineers.
- Those with specialised degrees in artificial intelligence (AI), big data and epidemiology, as well as high school students living in the UAE who rank top in the country and students from certain universities with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.8 or higher.
- The changes will take place from 1st December 2020.

Background:

- Foreigners in the UAE usually have renewable visas valid for only a few years tied to their employment.
- In May 2019, the UAE started granting 5 and 10-year renewable visas to certain foreign investors, entrepreneurs, chief executives, scientists and outstanding students, under the Golden Card scheme.
- The scheme offers unprecedented benefits to the cardholders and their families while creating an attractive environment for business and growth.
- It attracts greater foreign investment and stimulates the local economy, making it more efficient and attractive for investors.
- It also increases the UAE's competitiveness and reaffirms the country's position as a global incubator.
- The government in the past couple of years has made its visa policy more flexible, offering longer residencies for certain types of investors, students and professionals.

Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to Wholesale Price Index:

1. It is published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. The base year of All-India WPI is 2004-05

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.74) Solution (a)

- Wholesale Price Index measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is the most widely used inflation indicator in India.
- Major criticism for this index is that the general public does not buy products at wholesale price.
- The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.

Q.75) Which of the following wetland is not in Montreux Record:

1. Keoladeo National Park
2. Loktak Lake
3. Bhitarkanika Mangroves

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.75) Solution (b)

- The Montreux Record is a voluntary mechanism to highlight specific wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention, but which are facing immediate challenges.
- In particular, the Montreux Record is a register of listed Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
- At present, two wetlands of India are in Montreux Record:
 - Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and
 - Loktak Lake (Manipur).
- Chilika Lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but later removed from it.

Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to Erra Matti Dibbalu:

1. It is coastal red sediment mounds located between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam
2. It is among the 34 notified National Geological Heritage Monument Sites of India by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.76) Solution (c)**Erra Matti Dibbalu:**

- It is coastal red sediment mounds located between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam.
- The width of sandy red dunes vary from 200 metres to two kilometres, spread across five kilometres along the coast.
 - Such sand deposits have only been reported from two other low latitude tropical regions in South Asia — the Teri Sands of Tamil Nadu and Red Coastal Sands of Sri Lanka.
- It is among the 34 notified National Geological Heritage Monument Sites of India by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
 - The term geological heritage is used for natural geological or geo-morphological features that have aesthetic, intrinsic or scientific and educational value, that provide unique insight into geological processes affecting the formation or evolution of Earth.

Q.77) Soor Sarovar Lake was recently in news, is located in which of the following state?

- a) Uttarkhand
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Orissa
- d) Gujarath

Q.77) Solution (b)

- Soor Sarovar Lake is also known as Keetham lake situated within the Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, which was declared as a bird sanctuary in the year 1991.
- This lake is situated alongside river Yamuna in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Soor Sarovar bird sanctuary covered an area of 7.97 sq km.
- It is today home to more than 165 species of migratory and resident birds.
- It also has a Bear Rescue centre for rescued dancing bears.

Q.78) Consider the following statements with respect to Tuberculosis:

1. It is a viral disease which affects lungs
2. It is primarily an waterborne disease

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.78) Solution (d)

- Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs.
- Transmission: TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- Symptoms: Cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.
- Treatment: TB is treatable and curable disease. It is treated with a standard 6 month course of 4 antimicrobial drugs that are provided with information, supervision and support to the patient by a health worker or trained volunteer.
- Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a form of TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the 2 most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs.
- Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is a more serious form of MDR-TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to the most effective second-line anti-TB drugs, often leaving patients without any further treatment options.
- Tuberculosis (TB) remains the world's deadliest infectious disease, killing more than 1.4 million people in 2019, despite being curable

Q.79) Consider the following statements with respect to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located in Karnataka
2. It has the world's largest and oldest teak tree named "Kannimara", which is believed to be 350 years old

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.79) Solution (b)

- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a well protected ecological portion in the Nelliampathy-Anamalai landscape of the Southern Western Ghats in India.
- It is located in the Palakkad District of Kerala.
- It was declared as Tiger Reserve during 2008-09.
- The reserve is credited with the first scientifically managed teak plantation in the world which was later merged with the forest land.
- It has the world's largest and oldest teak tree named "Kannimara", which is believed to be 350 years old.

Q.80) India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in which of the following state?

- a) Goa
- b) Gujarat
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

Q.80) Solution (a)

- India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in Goa.
- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, and Goa government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the same.
- Focus: It focuses on energy solutions that lie at the confluence of renewable energy, electric mobility and climate change.
- Objective: It seeks to connect seemingly independent sectors like Solar Energy, Energy Storage and LED lights to provide solutions, which can enable in decarbonisation and affordable energy access.
- Mechanism:
 - EESL is offering convergent interventions, which solve multiple gap areas in the energy ecosystem.
 - Solutions such as solarised agriculture feeders, LED street lights in local villages and battery energy storage systems.
 - Leveraging the carbon financing mechanism to rapidly strengthen rural infrastructure in a clean and sustainable manner, and to create a resilient and sustainable rural community in India.
 - EESL's climate financing interventions currently include Gram UJALA, Decentralised Solar and Gram Panchayat Street Lights programmes.

Q.81) Borra Caves was recently in news, is situated in which of the following states?

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

Q.81) Solution (a)

- Borra Caves are located 125.6 km from Visakhapatnam, Borra Caves are the gem that is studded in the crown of Ananthagiri hills of Araku Valley.
- These limestone caves are a million-year-old and the largest caves in India at an elevation of about 705 m. The caves are spread across an area of two sq km.
- Discovered by William King George of the GSI, these one million year old caves attract a huge number of tourists every day. These are located at an elevation of 1400 m above sea level.

- These caves are known for stalactite and stalagmite formations such as Shiva-Parvathi, Rishi's Beard, Mother-Child, Crocodile, Human Brain, Tiger and Cows udder.

Q.82) The forest comprising about 1% of India's forest land, are a controversial subject as they refer to land tracts that appear to be a "forest", but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records is called as :

- a) Autonomous forest
- b) Deemed forest
- c) Agriculture forest
- d) None of the above

Q.82) Solution (b)

- Deemed forests, comprising about 1% of India's forest land, are a controversial subject as they refer to land tracts that appear to be a "forest", but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records.
- The concept of deemed forests has not even been clearly defined in any law including the Forest Conservation Act 1980.
- In the T N Godavarman Thirumalpad case 1996, the Supreme Court (SC) accepted a wide definition of forests under the Act and held that the word 'forest' must be understood according to its dictionary meaning.
 - This description covers all statutorily recognised forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (1) of the Act and also includes any areas recorded as forest in the government record irrespective of the ownership.
- The provisions for the conservation of forest and the matters connected therewith applies clearly to all forests irrespective of the ownership or classification.
- The freedom to define which tracts of forest qualify as forest has been the prerogative of States since 1996.
 - However, this only applies to forest land that has not already been historically classified as "forest" in revenue records, or categorised so by the government as "protected" or "reserve forest".

Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to National Population Register (NPR):

1. NPR is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country
2. The NPR was first collected in 2019 and then updated in 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.83) Solution (a)

- National Population Register is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country. Its objective is to have a comprehensive identity database of people residing in the country.
 - A usual resident for the purposes of NPR is a person who has resided in a place for six months or more, and intends to reside there for another six months or more.
- The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015.
- It is generated through house-to-house enumeration during the “house-listing” phase of the census, which is held once in 10 years.
 - The last census was in 2011, and the next was scheduled for 2021

Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect to Guillain Barre Syndrome:

1. It is a very rare autoimmune disorder in which the patient's immune system attacks nerves.
2. Double vision, rapid heart rate, low or high blood pressure are some of its symptoms

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.84) Solution (c)

Guillain Barre Syndrome:

- It is a very rare autoimmune disorder in which the patient's immune system attacks nerves.
- The exact cause of Guillain-Barre syndrome is unknown, but as per the World Health Organisation (WHO), GBS is often preceded by an infection. This could be a bacterial or viral infection. It may also be triggered by vaccine administration or surgery.
- Some patients infected with Covid-19 have been found suffering from Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS).
- In the past, patients of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), Zika virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Herpes virus and Campylobacter jejuni have shown symptoms of GBS.

Symptoms:

- Weakness or tingling sensations, which usually start in the legs, and can spread to the arms and face.
- Difficulty with facial movements, including speaking, chewing or swallowing.

- Double vision, rapid heart rate, low or high blood pressure.

Q.85) Tristan da Cunha was recently in news. It is located in which of the following Ocean?

- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Indian Ocean
- c) Arctic Ocean
- d) Atlantic Ocean

Q.85) Solution (d)

- Tristan da Cunha is a remote group of volcanic islands in the south Atlantic Ocean.
- It is the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world
- Tristan da Cunha is a British Overseas Territory with its own constitution.
- It is declared as the largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean at 687,000 square kilometres.
- The mountainous archipelago Tristan da Cunha is home to tens of millions of seabirds and several unique land birds.
- The island group is also home to the World Heritage Site of Gough and Inaccessible Islands, which is one of the most important seabird islands in the world.



Q.86) Which of the following country does not shares border with Luxembourg?

- a) Germany
- b) France
- c) Belgium
- d) Switzerland

Q.86) Solution (d)

Luxembourg, country in northwestern Europe. One of the world's smallest countries, it is bordered by Belgium on the west and north, France on the south, and Germany on the northeast and east.



Q.87) Global Prevention Coalition is a global coalition of United Nations Member States, donors, civil society organizations was recently in news, is related to:

- a) Prevention of HIV
- b) Prevention of depletion of Ozone layer
- c) Prevention of Tuberculosis
- d) Prevention of Covid 19

Q.87) Solution (a)

- Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) is a global coalition of United Nations Member States, donors, civil society organizations which was established in the year 2017 to support global efforts to accelerate HIV prevention.
- It includes the 25 highest HIV burden countries, UNAIDS Cosponsors, donors, civil society and private sector organizations.

- It aims to strengthen and sustain political commitment for primary prevention by setting a common agenda among key policy-makers, funders and programme implementers.
- Recently, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally addressed the Ministerial meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) for Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Prevention.
- It was hosted by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on behalf of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC).

Q.88) Which of the following statements is not true with respect to Lilavati Award-2020:

- a) It is established by Ministry of Science and technology
- b) The award covers multidisciplinary areas such as women's health, self defense, sanitation, literacy, entrepreneurship and legal awareness.
- c) The program will ensure the participation of women and enable them to hold higher positions in educational institutions.
- d) The award has been named after the 12th century book called "Lilavati"

Q.88) Solution (a)

Lilavati Award-2020

- With women empowerment as the theme, the objective of the award is to create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has established the Lilavati Award.
- The award covers multidisciplinary areas such as women's health, self defense, sanitation, literacy, entrepreneurship and legal awareness.
- Benefit: Ensures the participation of women and enables them to hold higher positions in educational institutions.
- Prize: In each sub-category, the top three winners will be awarded with certificates as well as prize money. The first prize winner will get Rs 1 lakh, the second winner will get Rs 75,000 and the third winner will get Rs 50,000.

Q.89) Consider the following statements with respect to Willow Warbler:

1. They migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during early winter.
2. IUCN Red List status of this bird is Least Concern.

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.89) Solution (c)

- Scientific Name: *Phylloscopus trochilus*.
- Habitat: They breed throughout northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic.
 - Palearctic ecozone is one of the Earth's 8 ecozones and covers Asia north of the Himalayas, with parts of western Asia and most of East Asia and Africa north of the Sahara.
- Migration: They migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during early winter.
- Features:
 - It is one of the longest migrating small birds.
 - The bird weighs around 10 grams and its long wing feathers help it fly long distances.
 - Warblers are generally difficult to identify owing to the small size and change in plumage twice a year. They are also the most difficult groups of birds to identify in the field for their striking resemblance to each other.
- Threats: The species is affected by drought conditions in its wintering quarters and habitat alterations due to human population expansion.
- IUCN Red List: Least Concern.

Q.90) Sarna Religion was recently in news , it belongs to which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

Q.90) Solution (b)

- Recently Jharkhand government has passed a resolution to recognise Sarna religion and include it as a separate code in the Census of 2021.
- The holy grail of the faith is "Jal, Jungle, Zameen" and its followers pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.
- It is believed that 50 lakhs tribal in the entire country put their religion as 'Sarna' in the 2011 census, although it was not a code.
- Many of the tribals who follow this faith have later converted to Christianity, the state has more than 4% Christians most of whom are tribals.
- The population of Sarna tribals in the state has declined from the 38.3 per cent in 1931 to 26.02 per cent in 2011.
- One of the reasons for this was tribals who go for work in different states not being recorded in the Census, in other states they are not counted as Tribals.
- The separate code proposed by the state government will ensure recording of their population.
- If the Centre approves the new Sarna code, Census 2021 would have to make space for a new religion.

- Currently, citizens can choose from only six religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism.

Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to World Children's Day:

1. It is celebrated in the month of November each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide.
2. India ratified it in 1992.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.91) Solution (c)

- It is celebrated on 20th November each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare.
- The date of 20th November is an important date because, on this date, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises every human being under 18 years old as a child and is the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty.
 - India ratified it in 1992.

Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to Fisheries sector in India:

1. India is the second major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.
2. Fisheries is included in Union subject

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.92) Solution (a)

- Fisheries being a State subject, the States play a pivotal role in fisheries governance.
- Inland Fisheries are fully managed by State Governments.
- Marine Fisheries are a shared responsibility between the Central and Coastal State/UT Governments.
- Coastal States/UTs are responsible for development and regulation of fisheries in the sea waters inside the 12 nautical mile (22 km) territorial limit.
- Government of India is responsible for the development, management and regulation of fisheries in the EEZ waters beyond 12 nautical miles and up to 200

nautical miles (370 km). India is the second major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.

- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish in the world as it contributes 7.7% to the global fish production.
- Fish constituted about 10% of total exports from India and almost 20% of agriculture exports in 2017-18.

Q.93) Malaysia does not share land border with which of the following countries?

- a) Brunei
- b) Indonesia
- c) Thailand
- d) Philippines

Q.93) Solution (d)

The borders of Malaysia include land and maritime borders with Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand and shared maritime boundaries with Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.



Q.94) SIAM BHARAT Airforce –Joint exercise is between India and which country?

- a) UAE
- b) Thailand
- c) Indonesia
- d) Australia

Q.94) Solution (b)

Joint Military Exercises (Air Force)

S. No.	Country	Exercise
1.	France	Ex GARUDA-V
2.	Oman	Ex EASTERN BRIDGE-IV
3.	Russia	Ex AVIAINDRA-14
4.	Singapore	JOINT MILITARY TRAINING
5.	Thailand	SIAM BHARAT
6.	UAE	Ex DESERT EAGLE-II
7.	UK	Ex INDRADHANUSH-IV
8.	USA	Ex RED FLAG

Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge:

1. It is launched by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
2. It aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous cleaning'.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.95) Solution (c)

- The Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge.
- It aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous cleaning'.
- India still continues to witness over hundred deaths per year due to manual scavenging.
- It is in line with PM's vision who has always placed the safety and dignity of sanitation workers at the core of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).
- The challenge has been launched in 243 cities to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021.
- The challenge will focus extensively on creating citizen awareness on this critical issue along with infrastructure creation for mechanized cleaning and capacity building of workforce.

Q.96) Consider the following statements:

1. Lakshmi Devi temple at Doddagaddavalli, Karnataka was built by the Hoysalas during the period of Vishnuvardhana.

2. It is a Dravida style Architecture

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.96) Solution (a)

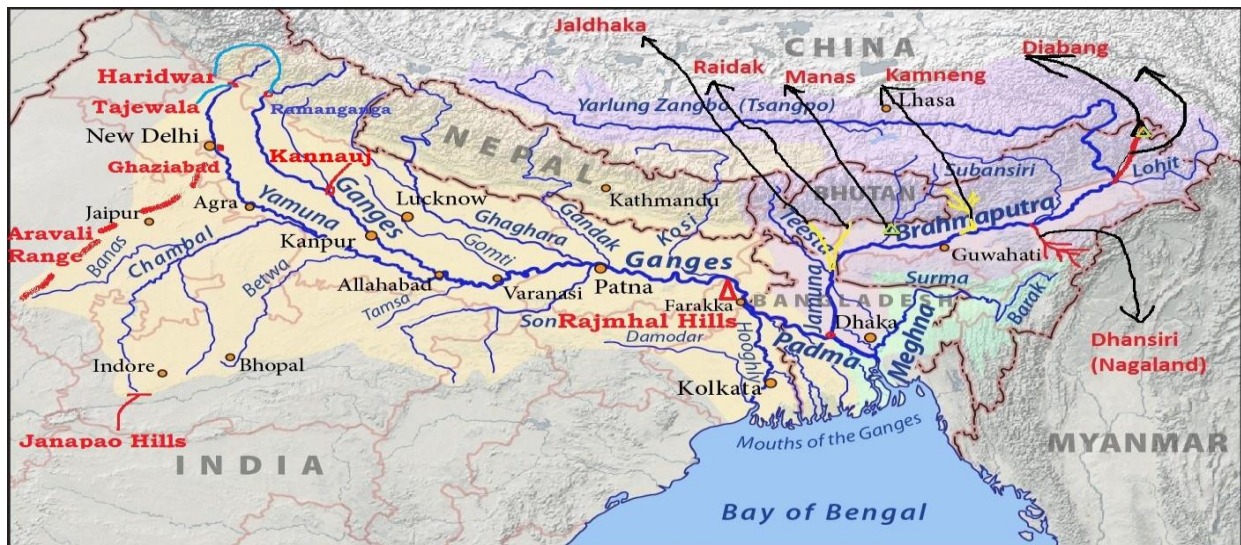
- Lakshmi Devi Temple at Doddagaddavalli, Karnataka was built by the Hoysalas in the year 1114 CE during the rule of king Vishnuvardhana.
- The building material is Chloritic schist, more commonly known as soapstone.
- The temple does not stand on a jagati (platform), a feature which became popular in later Hoysala temples.
- The temple is a chatuskuta construction (4 shrine and tower). The towers are in Kadamba nagara style. The mantapa is open and square. The reason for the square plan is the presence of shrines on all four sides of the mantapa.
- There is a separate fifth shrine of Bhairava, an avatar of Lord Shiva.
- The main deity is Goddess Lakshmi whereas all Hoysala temples are dedicated to either Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva and in some cases to Jains.
- Hoysala temples are called vesara as their unique style seems neither completely dravida nor nagara, but somewhere in between.



Q.97) Which of the following river is not a tributary of River Brahmaputra:

- a) Manas River
- b) Dhansiri River
- c) Teesta River
- d) Kosi River

Q.97) Solution (d)

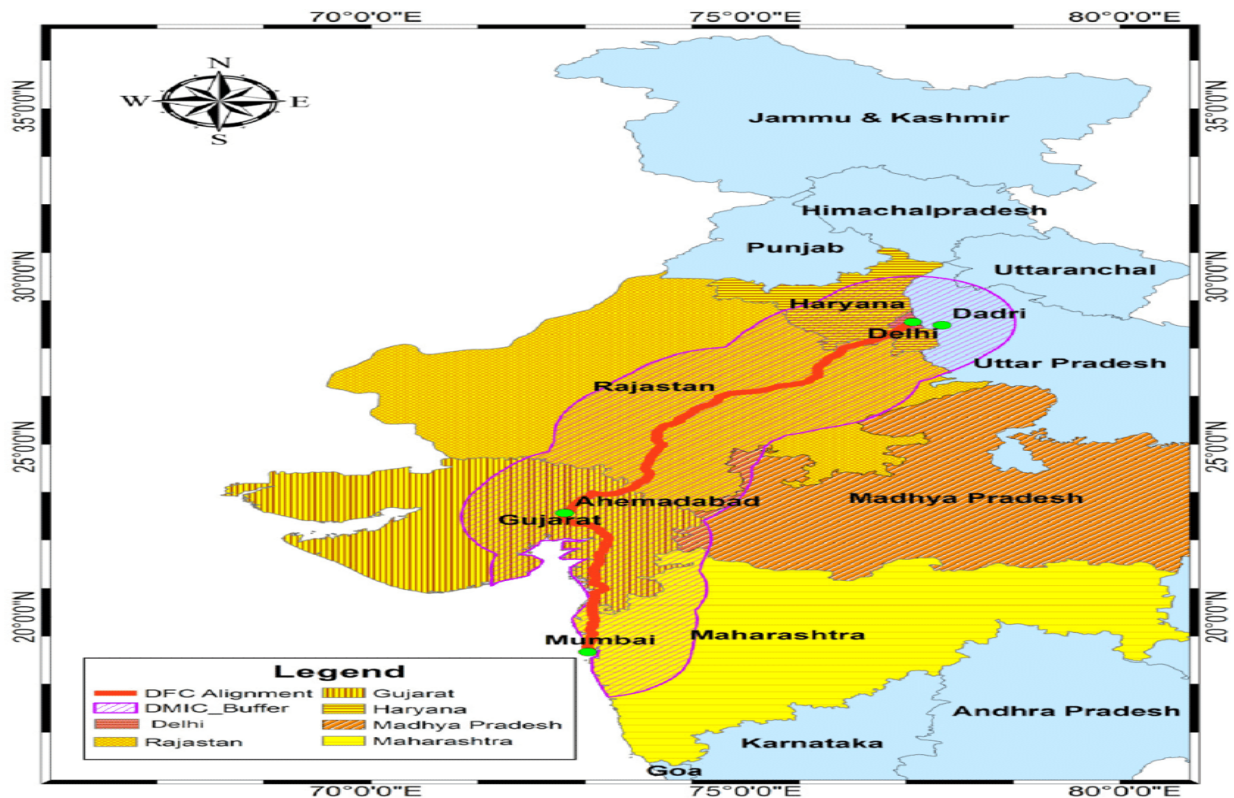


Q.98) Smart, sustainable industrial cities which aims to create under Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) does not comes in which of the following states?

- a) Punjab
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Haryana
- d) Rajasthan

Q.98) Solution (a)

- Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) is the first Industrial Corridor project which was announced.
 - DMIC Development Corporation (DMICDC) incorporated in 2008, is the implementing agency for the project.
 - DMICDC has been registered as a company with 49% equity of Government of India, 26% equity of the JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) and the remaining held by government financial institutions.
- The project aims to create smart, sustainable industrial cities by leveraging high speed, high capacity connectivity backbone provided by the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) to reduce logistic costs in an enabling policy framework.
 - These new cities will come up in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
 - The 1,504 kms long Western DFC is from J N Port in Mumbai, Maharashtra to Dadri in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The DFC project is one of the Indian Railways' largest infrastructure projects, undertaken by the government at a cost Rs. 81,459 crore.



Q.99) La Perouse Strait lies between which two countries?

- a) Japan and South Korea
- b) Japan and Russia
- c) Japan and North Korea
- d) China and South Korea

Q.99) Solution (b)

La Perouse Strait, international waterway between the islands of Russia and Japan



Q.100) Consider the following statements with respect to SITMEX-20:

1. It is a maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka
2. SITMEX-20 concluded in the Andaman Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.100) Solution (b)

- The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between IN, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- The first edition of SITMEX, hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.
- The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by RSN. The second edition will be conducted from 21 to 22 November 2020 in Andaman Sea.
- The maritime drill witnessed a variety of exercises including naval manoeuvres, surface warfare exercises and weapon firings.
- Besides improving inter-operability, SITMEX series of exercise also aims to strengthen mutual confidence and develop common understanding and procedures towards enhancing the overall maritime security in the region.

Q.101) Which of the Indian states does not shares border with Bhutan?

- a) Sikkim
- b) West Bengal
- c) Assam
- d) Bihar

Q.101) Solution (d)

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.102) UMANG International version does not include which of the following country?

- a) United States of America
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Australia
- d) Japan

Q.102) Solution (d)

- The UMANG international version is for select countries including US, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, and will help

Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad to avail government of India services anytime

- The International version was launched on the completion of three years of UMANG. It was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Significance

- The application will help to take Indian culture to the world through its services. Also, the Common Services Centres are being integrated with the application.

UMANG App:

- The UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app.
- It provides access to high impact services of various organizations of Centre and States. Presently it has 2000+ services.
- The aim of UMANG is to fast-track mobile governance in India.
- UMANG enables 'Ease of Living' for Citizens by providing easy access to a plethora of Indian government services ranging from – Healthcare, Finance, Education, Housing, Energy, Agriculture, Transport to even Utility and Employment and Skills.
- The key partners of UMANG are Employee Provident Fund Organization, Direct Benefit Transfer scheme departments, Employee State Insurance Corporation, Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
- UMANG was developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT.
- UMANG attained 'Best m-Government service' award at the 6th World Government Summit held at Dubai, UAE in February 2018.

Q.103) Sentinel-6-Satellite which was launched recently is dedicated to:

- a) Measure changes in the global sea level
- b) Global education
- c) To Study on comets
- d) Communications Satellite.

Q.103) Solution (a)

- Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force base in California aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- Jason-CS Mission: Sentinel-6-Satellite is a part of the mission dedicated to measuring changes in the global sea level. The mission is called the Jason Continuity of Service (Jason-CS) mission.
- Objective of the Mission: To measure the height of the ocean, which is a key component in understanding how the Earth's climate is changing.
- Components: It consists of two satellites, Sentinel-6 and the other, called Sentinel-6B, to be launched in 2025.

- Joint collaboration of: The European Space Agency (ESA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (Eumetsat), the USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the European Union (EU), with contributions from France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES).
- Significant in:
 - Ensuring the continuity of sea-level observations.
 - Understanding how the ocean stores and distributes heat, water and carbon in the climate system.
 - Supporting operational oceanography, by providing improved forecasts of ocean currents, wind and wave conditions.
 - Improving both short-term forecasting for weather predictions, and long term forecasting for seasonal conditions like El Niño and La Niña.

Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to Masala Bonds:

1. As per the RBI guidelines, the money raised through such bonds can be used for any activities by government
2. Any corporate, body corporate and Indian bank is eligible to issue these bonds overseas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.104) Solution (b)

- They are rupee-denominated bonds used by Indian companies to raise funds from the overseas market in Indian rupees.
- Eligibility for Issuance:
 - According to RBI, any corporate, body corporate and Indian bank is eligible to issue these bonds overseas.
 - These can be issued and subscribed by a resident of such country that is a member of the financial action task force (FATF) and whose securities market regulator is a member of the International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO). It can also be subscribed by multilateral and regional financial institutions where India is a member country.
 - IOSCO is the international body that brings together the world's securities regulators and is recognised as the global standard setter for the securities sector.

Limitations:

- As per the RBI guidelines, the money raised through such bonds cannot be used for real estate activities other than for development of integrated township or affordable housing projects.
- Also, it cannot be used for investing in capital markets, purchase of land and on-lending to other entities for such activities as stated above.
- Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) had overstepped its legal bounds by issuing masala bonds to raise money from foreign markets in violation of Article 293 (1) of the Constitution.

Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to Floating Rate Bonds:

1. These are fixed income instruments offered by the Government of India which come with a lock-in period.
2. Non-Resident Indian (NRI) can also invest in the scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.105) Solution (a)

- FRS bonds are fixed income instruments offered by the Government of India which come with a lock-in period.
- Unlike regular bonds that pay a fixed rate of interest, floating rate bonds have a variable rate of interest.
- The rate of interest of a floating rate bond is linked to a benchmark rate and is reset at a regular interval.
- The interest rate risk is largely mitigated as these bonds will pay higher return when prevailing rates are high.
- There is no certainty of the future stream of income when investing in a floating rate bond.
- The best time to buy floating rate bonds is when rates are low and are expected to rise.
- The FRS bonds are a 100% risk free investment option as interest payments on these are guaranteed by the Government of India.
- The interest earned on FRBs will be taxed, TDS will be deducted on interest payment similar to an Fixed Deposit, the same can be claimed back while filing Income Tax returns.
- The minimum amount that a person can invest is INR 1,000 and in multiples of INR 1,000 thereof and there is no cap on investments that a person can make.
- All residents of India and Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) are eligible to invest in FRBs, However a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) cannot invest in the scheme.
- Recently, the Ministry of Finance has provided the information that the outstanding balance of 'Government of India Floating Rate Bonds (FRB) 2020' is repayable at par on December 21, 2020.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to National Nutrition Mission:

1. The progress report on National Nutrition Mission is released by Ministry of Health
2. Its aim is to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia and low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.106) Solution (b)

- National Nutrition Mission launched in 2018, it is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- It is backed by a National Nutrition Strategy prepared by the NITI Aayog with the goal of attaining "Kuposhan Mukh Bharat" or malnutrition-free India, by 2022.

Aims:

- To reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- To address the problem of malnutrition in a mission-mode.
50% of the total budget comes from the World Bank or other multilateral development banks and the rest of the 50% is through Centre's budgetary support.
- The Centre's budgetary support is further divided into 60:40 between the Centre and the States, 90:10 for the north-eastern region and the Himalayan States and 100% for the Union Territories (UTs) without legislature.

NITI Aayog recently released "Accelerating Progress on nutrition in India: What Will It Take", the third progress report on the National Nutrition Mission or the Poshan Abhiyaan.

- The third progress report (October 2019-April 2020) takes stock of the roll-out status on the ground and implementation challenges encountered at various levels through large scale datasets.
- The initial Reports I and II, focused majorly on the mission's preparedness and implementation by States and UTs, respectively.
- The review report was drafted in March 2020 and does not factor worsening poverty and hunger levels since then, which are expected to have gone down further due to the Covid-19.

Q.107) Chang'e-5 mission was recently launched to bring back lunar rocks, the first attempt by any nation to retrieve samples from the Moon by which of the following country?

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

Q.107) Solution (c)

- China has launched an unmanned spacecraft to bring back lunar rocks, the first attempt by any nation to retrieve samples from the Moon in four decades.
- Upon entering the moon's orbit, the spacecraft is intended to deploy a pair of vehicles to the lunar surface, a lander and an ascender.
- A lander will drill into the ground, then transfer its soil and rock samples to an ascender that will lift off and dock with an orbiting module.
 - There will be an attempt to collect 2 kg of samples in a previously unvisited area in a massive lava plain known as Oceanus Procellarum, or "Ocean of Storms".
 - Area of the moon where the spacecraft is due to land is 1-2 billion years old.
- If this is successful, the samples will be transferred to a return capsule that will return them to Earth, with a landing in China's Inner Mongolia region.
- The entire mission is scheduled to take around 23 days.
- If the mission is completed as planned, it would make China only the third country to have retrieved lunar samples, joining the United States and the Soviet Union.

Q.108) Consider the following statements:

1. The IMO is the United Nations specialised agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping.
2. India has become the second country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the IMO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.108) Solution (a)

- The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has recognised the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) during its 102nd session held virtually.
- The IMO is the United Nations specialised agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

- India has become the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the IMO as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).
- The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the USA, Russia and China.
- The IMO has accepted IRNSS as an alternative navigation module in Indian waters. It was in use only on a pilot basis earlier but now all merchant vessels are authorised to use it, even small fishing vessels.
- The navigation system can now replace GPS in the Indian Ocean waters upto 1500 km from the Indian boundary.
 - IRNSS is a regional and not a global navigation system.
 - With the recognition as a component of the WWRNS, the Indian navigation system is similarly placed as Global Positioning System (GPS - USA), most commonly used by marine shipping vessels across the world or the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS).

Q.109) Consider the following statements with respect to BrahMos supersonic cruise missile:

1. It is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile which can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land.
2. It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.109) Solution (c)

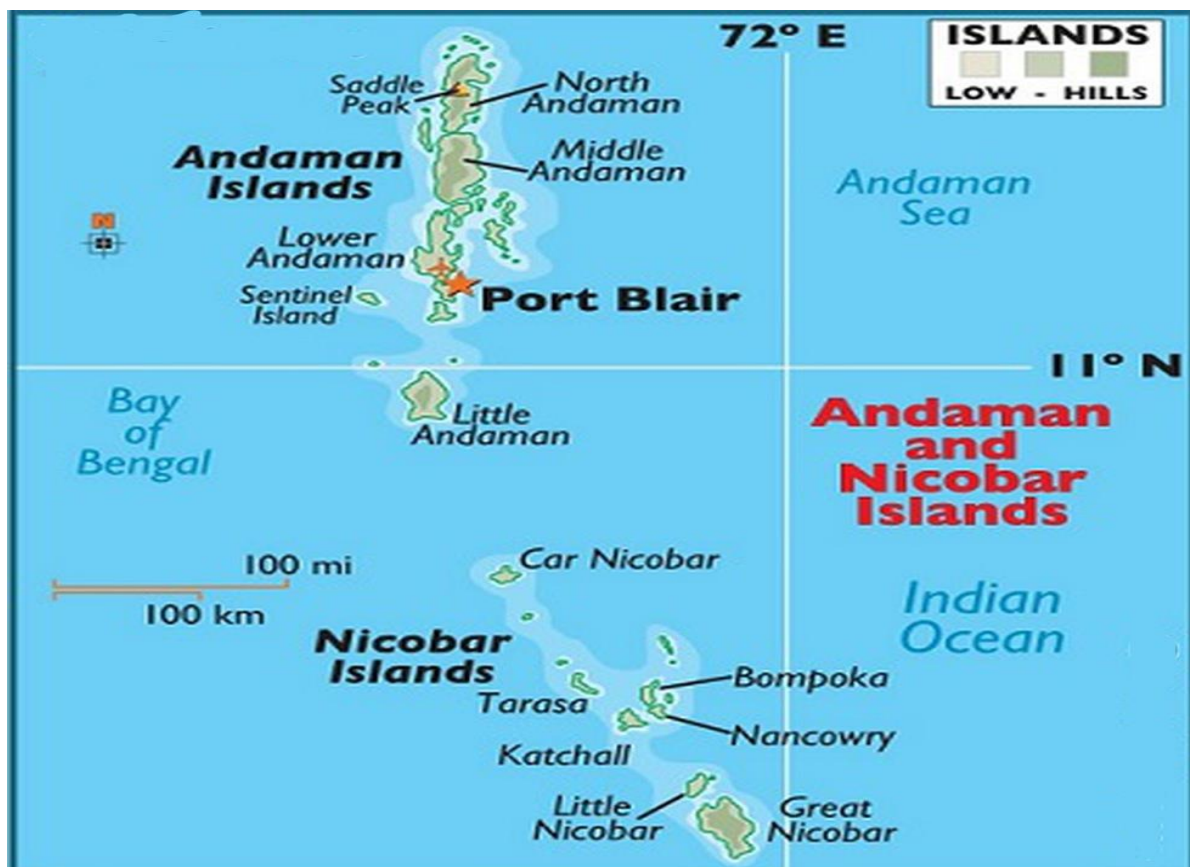
- The range of the land-attack version of the BrahMos missile has been extended to 400 km from the original 290 km but its speed has been maintained at 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- The test was done in a "top-attack" configuration.
 - In top attack mode, the missile is required to climb sharply after launch, travel at a certain altitude and then fall on top of the target.
- An amalgamation of the names of Brahmaputra river and Moskva river (Russia), BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace. BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture company set up by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Mashinostroyeniya of Russia.
- It is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile which can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land.
- Cruise missiles are defined as "an unmanned self-propelled guided vehicle that sustains flight through aerodynamic lift for most of its flight path and whose primary mission is to place an ordnance or special payload on a target."

- It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile, as well as the fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.
- It operates on the "Fire and Forget" principle, i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.
- The missile has a flight range upto 290-km. However, India's entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) has extended the range of the BrahMos missile to reach 450-600 km.

Q.110) Katchal Island was recently in news, is located in which of the following country?

- Japan
- China
- India
- Indonesia

Q.110) Solution (c)



Q.111) Consider the following statements:

1. Tropical cyclones, move from east to west where as temperate cyclones move from west to east
2. Tropical cyclone duration is greater when compared to temperate cyclone

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.111) Solution (a)

Tropical Cyclone	Temperate Cyclone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tropical cyclones, move from east to west. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These cyclones move from west to east
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tropical cyclone has an effect on a comparatively smaller area than a Temperate cyclone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperate cyclone affect a much larger area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The velocity of wind in a tropical cyclone is much higher and it is more damaging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The velocity of air is comparatively lower
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tropical Cyclone forms only on seas with temperature more than 26-27degree C and dissipate on reaching the land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperate cyclones can be formed on both land and sea
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tropical cyclone doesn't last for more than 7 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperate cyclone can last for a duration of 15 to 20 days

Q.112) The term MQ-9B was recently in news it is related to which of the following?

- a) Sea Guardian unarmed drones
- b) New Asteroid found in asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter
- c) NASA's new satellite to Mars
- d) Anti missile defence system

Q.112) Solution (a)

MQ-9B Sea Guardian:

- It is the maritime variant of the Predator MQ9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
- It has a maximum endurance of 40 hours and a maximum flying altitude of 40,000 feet.
- It has a 3600 maritime surveillance radar and an optional multimode maritime surface search radar.
- It can be used in operations such as Anti-Surface Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement (Drug Trafficking, Illegal Immigration and Piracy), etc.
- Two American MQ9B Sea Guardian unarmed drones have been inducted by the Indian Navy recently.
- The drones would be on lease with India for one year.

Q.113) Roridomyces phyllostachydis the bioluminescent Mushroom was first sighted in which Indian state?

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.113) Solution (b)

- The new bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom species is named as Roridomyces phyllostachydis.
- The discovery is important because it was the first mushroom in the Roridomyces genus to be found in India.
- It is the only member in its genus to have light emitting from its stipe or stalk.
- It is now one among the 97 known species of bioluminescent fungi in the world.
- It was first sighted in Meghalaya's Mawlynnong in East Khasi Hills district and later at Krang Shuri in West Jaintia Hills district.

Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to Sahakar Pragya training module:

1. It is an capacity building initiative for the Women
2. It is a part of initiatives taken up by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.114) Solution (b)

- Recently, the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has unveiled 'Sahakar Pragya' training module.
- It is part of a series of initiatives taken up by NCDC to strengthen India's cooperative societies.
- It is an innovative capacity building initiative for the farmers associated with such entities in the country.
- The 45 new training modules will impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas of the country.
- It embodies enhancing NCDC's training capacity through an elaborate network of 18 Regional Training Centres across the country.

Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to M Dwarf Stars:

1. M dwarfs, also known as Red Dwarfs, are the tiniest of the stars
2. The red dwarf stars have relatively low pressures, a high fusion rate, and a low temperature.

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.115) Solution (a)

- M dwarfs, also known as Red Dwarfs, are the tiniest of the stars that have masses ranging from about 8 percent to about 50 percent of the Sun's mass.
- The planets circling an M dwarf must be in a close orbit to the star to be warm enough for life, like campers huddling around a small fire.
- The term "red dwarf" does not refer to a single kind of star.
- It is frequently applied to the coolest objects including K and M dwarfs which are true stars and brown dwarfs, often referred to as "failed stars" because they do not sustain hydrogen fusion in their cores.

Characteristic features of M Dwarf Stars are

- The red dwarf stars have relatively low pressures, a low fusion rate, and a low temperature.
- The low temperature of red dwarfs implies that they are far dimmer than stars like the sun.
- The low temperature also means that they burn through their supply of hydrogen less rapidly.
- The red dwarf stars live for so long that not one of them has reached an advanced stage of evolution since the universe was created.

Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to Garima Greh:

1. The purpose of this scheme is to provide only shelter to transgender person only
2. It is under Social Justice & Empowerment ministry

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.116) Solution (c)

- 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons is under Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment
- Under Garima Greh Scheme of Shelter Home for Transgender Persons, Garima Greh: Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' has been inaugurated, in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- It includes shelter facility, food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development opportunities, legal support, technical advice for gender transition and surgeries, etc.
- The Nodal Ministry has identified 10 cities to set up the 13 Shelter Homes and extend the facilities to Transgender persons, in association with selected 13 Community based organizations (CBOs) in the country on pilot basis.
- The cities include Vadodara, New Delhi, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Kolkata, Manipur, Chennai, Raipur and Mumbai.
- The scheme will rehabilitate a minimum of 25 transgender persons in each homes identified by the Ministry.

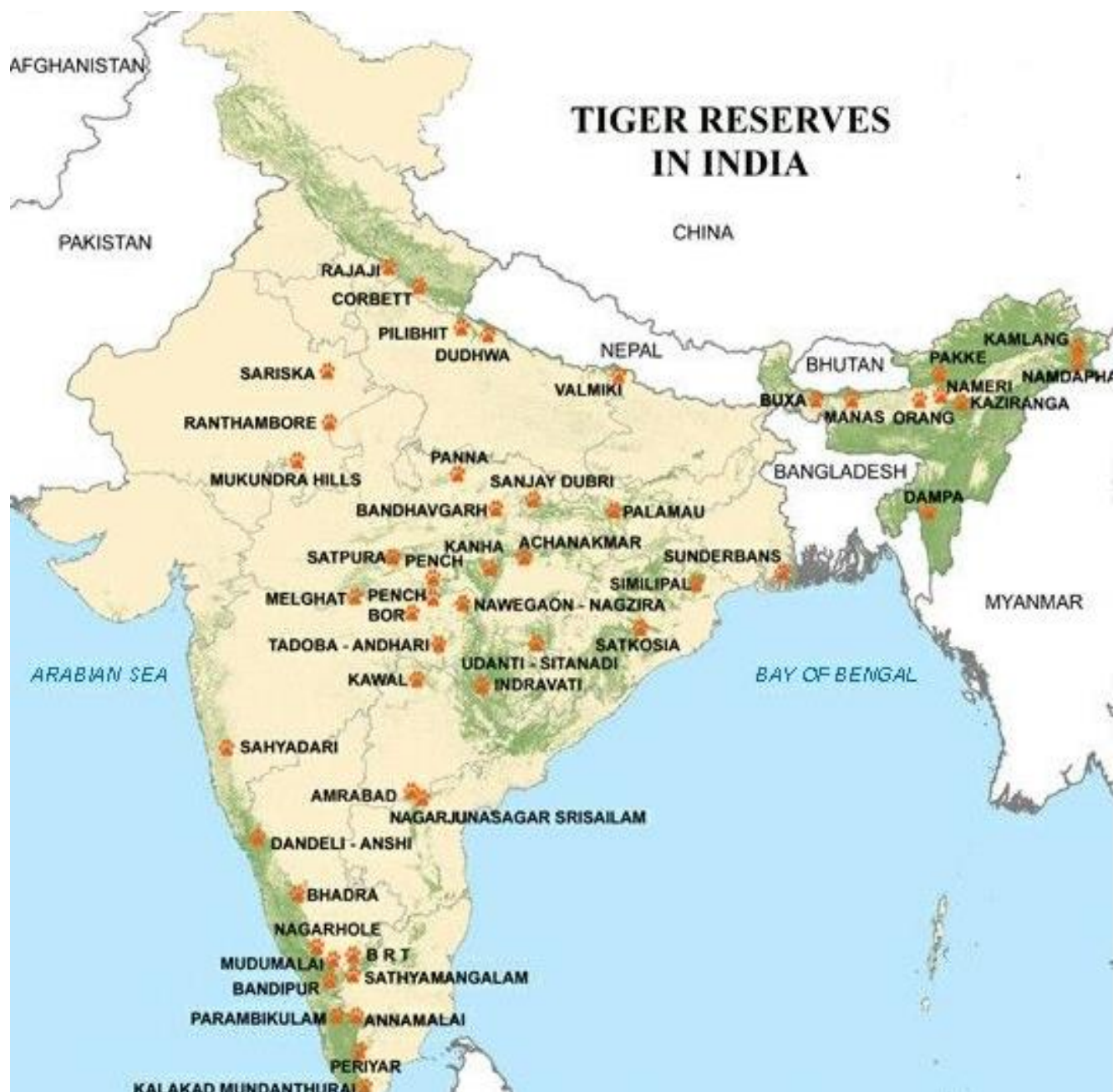
Q.117) The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve which was recently awarded TX2 award for doubling the number of tigers in the past four years is in which state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Assam
- d) Karnataka

Q.117) Solution (a)

TX2 award:

- Launched recently, these awards were open to submissions from any site in a tiger range country that has achieved remarkable measurable progress since 2010.
 - Site: An area having a functional tiger population, legally designated as a "site" under national legislation.
- Award winners were announced on 23rd November 2020 - the 10 year anniversary for the global TX2 goal.
- Sites will receive a small financial grant to be used to further tiger conservation.
- TX2 Award: It goes to one site that has achieved remarkable and measurable increase in its tiger population since 2010.
- Conservation Excellence Award: This award recognises one site that has achieved excellence in two or more of these five themes:
 - Tiger and prey population monitoring and research (tiger translocation/prey augmentation),
 - Effective site management,
 - Enhanced law enforcement & protection & ranger welfare improvement,
 - Community based conservation, benefits and human-wildlife conflict mitigation and
 - Habitat and prey management.



Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:

- Location: Pilibhit district, Lakhimpur Kheri District and Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh
- The northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border while the southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.

Q.118) Chhath Puja was recently in news, is related to which god?

- a) Agni God
- b) Sun god and his wife Usha
- c) Lord Vishnu and Laxmi

d) Lord Shiva and Parvathi

Q.118) Solution (b)

- Chhath is a Hindu festival dedicated to the Sun god and his wife Usha in order to thank them for bestowing the bounties of life on earth.
- The word chhath means sixth and the festival is celebrated on the sixth day of the month Kartika of the Hindu lunar Bikram Sambat calendar.
- The festival is observed over a period of four days, Goddess Chhathi Maiya is worshipped during the Chhath Puja.
- The main worshipers, called Parvaitin, are usually women.
- However, many men also observe this festival as Chhath is not a gender-specific festival.
- The rituals include holy bathing, fasting, standing in water for long periods of time, and offering prayers and food to the setting and rising sun.
- The festival is observed most elaborately in Mithila Province of Nepal, Terai-Madhesh region of Nepal, Indian states of Bihar, Jharkhand and UP.

Q.119) Arrange the following Places from North to South:

1. Kabul
2. Astana
3. Tashkent
4. Ashgabat

Which of the following order is/are correct?

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

Q.119) Solution (b)



Q.120) Consider the following Statements with respect to Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN):

1. eVIN is an indigenously developed technology
2. WHO is associating with India under this Mission

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.120) Solution (a)

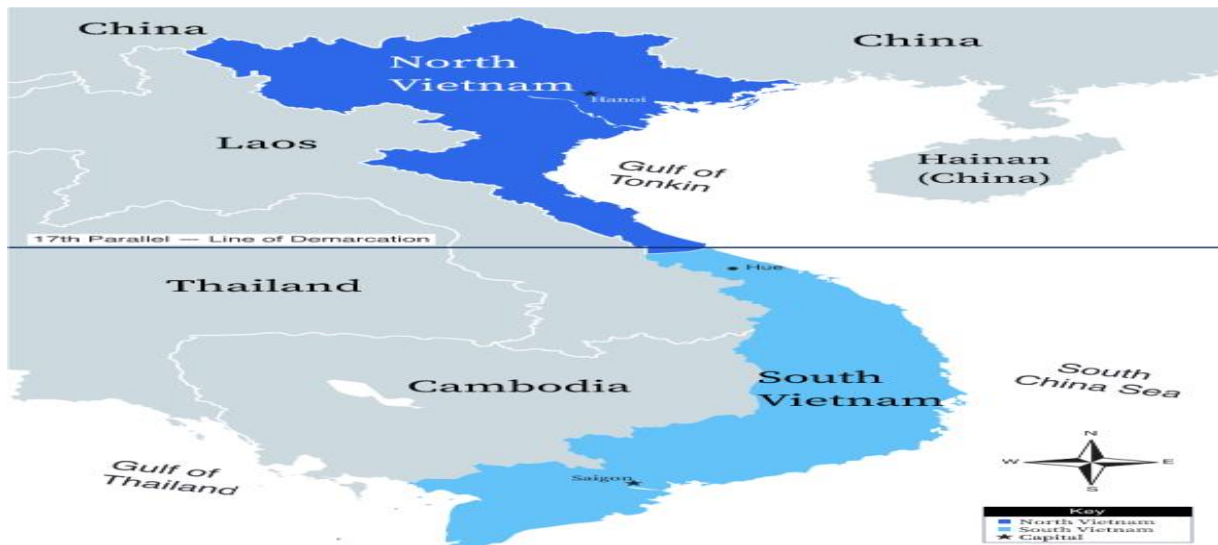
- The Indian government is using eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) in association with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to identify primary beneficiaries and vaccine distribution networks.
- eVIN is an indigenously developed technology.
- It digitises vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
- The innovative eVIN was first launched across 12 states in 2015 to support better vaccine logistics management at cold chain points.
- eVIN supports the central government's Universal Immunization Programme by providing real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points across states and UTs.

Q.121) Which of the following countries does not share land border with Vietnam?

- a) Myanmar
- b) China
- c) Laos
- d) Cambodia

Q.121) Solution (a)

Vietnam borders the Gulf of Thailand, Gulf of Tonkin, and Pacific Ocean, along with China, Laos, and Cambodia.



Q.122) Consider the following statements Blue Tide:

1. It occurs when phytoplankton produce light through chemical reactions in proteins.
2. Waves disturb these unicellular microorganisms and make them release blue light.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.122) Solution (c)

- Beaches in Maharashtra have witnessed the fluorescent bluish glow when the waves hit the shoreline. The phenomenon is called 'blue tide'.
- It appears when luminescent marine life makes the sea appear a deep shade of blue.
- It occurs when phytoplankton (microscopic marine plants), commonly known as dinoflagellates, produce light through chemical reactions in proteins.
- Waves disturb these unicellular microorganisms and make them release blue light.

Q.123) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Constitution:

1. The basic structure of the Indian Constitution stands on the Government of India Act, 1935.
2. 102nd Constitution amendment is extending the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies.

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.123) Solution (a)

On 26th November, 71st constitution day was celebrated in the country. Every year as part of the celebrations, a number of activities aimed at highlighting and reiterating the values and principles enshrined in the Constitution are organised.

Facts about the Constitution of India:

- The framing of the Constitution took over 2 years, 11 months and 18 days.
- The original copies of the Indian Constitution weren't typed or printed. They have been handwritten and are now kept in a helium-filled case within the library of the Parliament.
- Prem Bihari Narain Raizada had written the unique copies of the Structure of India.
- Originally, the Constitution of India was written in English and Hindi.
- The Constitution of India has borrowed some of its features from a number of countries, including Britain, Ireland, Japan, USA, South Africa, Germany, Australia, and Canada.
- The basic structure of the Indian Constitution stands on the Government of India Act, 1935.
- World's lengthiest Constitution
- Federal System with Unitary Features
- Parliamentary Form of Government
- The Constitution (104th Amendment) Act, 2020: It extended the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies.

Q.124) Consider the following statements with respect to National Bee Board:

1. NBB is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
2. National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is being implemented by NBB

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.124) Solution (c)**National Bee Board**

- SFAC registered the NBB as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 2000 and it was reconstituted (with the secretary as chairman) in June 2006.

Objective:

- Overall development of beekeeping by promoting scientific beekeeping in India to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production for increasing the income of the beekeepers/farmers.

- Presently NBB is implementing National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan State (HMNEM).

Q.125) Consider the following statements:

1. India Climate Change Knowledge Portal was recently launched by NITI Aayog
2. According to the Central government, India has practically achieved its pre-2020 climate action targets.

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.125) Solution (b)

India Climate Change Knowledge Portal:

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched the 'India Climate Change Knowledge Portal'.
- Objective: The Portal will help in disseminating knowledge among citizens about all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address climate change issues.
- Benefit: It will be a single point Information resource which provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access updated status on these initiatives.

Components: The eight major components included in the knowledge portal are:

- India's Climate Profile
 - National Policy Framework
 - India's Nationally determined contributions (NDC) Goals
 - Adaptation Actions
 - Mitigation Actions
 - Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation
 - International Climate Negotiations
 - Reports & Publications
- According to the Central government, India has practically achieved its pre-2020 climate action targets.