

Q.1) Which of the following countries does not share border with Baltic sea?

- a) Denmark
- b) Russia
- c) Germany
- d) United Kingdom

Q.1) Solution (d)

The countries bounding the Baltic are Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Germany. The countries bounding the Baltic are Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Germany.



Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:

1. It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.
2. National health agency is an implementing body of PMJAY.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

- PMJAY offers a sum insured of ₹ 5 lakh per family for secondary care (which doesn't involve a super specialist) as well as tertiary care (which does). For the beneficiaries, this is a free scheme.
- It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.
- Individuals can walk into any empanelled hospital that can process cashless payments.
- Once identified by the database, the beneficiary is considered insured.
- The insurance cost is shared by the centre and the state mostly in the ratio of 60:40.
- Empanelled hospitals agree to the packaged rates under PMJAY—there are about 1,400 packaged rates for various medical procedures under the scheme.
 - These packaged rates also mention the number of average days of hospitalization for a medical procedure and supporting documents that are needed.
 - These rates are flexible, but once fixed hospitals can't change it and under no circumstances can they charge the beneficiary. The scheme also has prescribed a daily limit for medical management.
- National Health Agency has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PMJAY in alliance with state governments.
- Inter-alia, this will include, formulation of PMJAY policies, development of operational guidelines, implementation mechanisms, coordination with state governments, monitoring and oversight of PMJAY amongst other.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF):

- The CCHF is a disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus)
- Expansion of Lungs which leads to death is the main symptom of CCHF
- CCHF is endemic in all of Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and in Asia.
- There are no vaccines widely available for human or animal use.

Q.3) Solution (b)**Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF):**

- Congo fever was first discovered in Crimea in 1944 and was named Crimean hemorrhagic fever.
- Cause: The CCHF is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) of the Bunyaviridae family.

Transmission:

- The virus is transmitted through bite of Hyalomma tick, an external parasite, living by feeding on the blood of mammals, birds etc.
- It can also be contracted through contact with viraemic animal tissues (animal tissue where the virus has entered the bloodstream) during and immediately post-slaughter of animals.
- Human-to-human transmission: It can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons.

- Hospital-acquired infections can also occur due to improper sterilisation of medical equipment, reuse of needles and contamination of medical supplies.
- Fatality: CCHF outbreaks constitute a threat to public health services as the virus can lead to epidemics, with a high case fatality ratio (10-40%).
- Case fatality rate (CFR) is a measure of the severity of a disease and is defined as the proportion of cases of a specified disease or condition which are fatal within a specified time.
- CCHF is endemic in all of Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and in Asia.

Symptoms:

- Fever, muscle ache, dizziness, neck pain, backache, headache, sore eyes and photophobia (sensitivity to light).
- There may be nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and sore throat early on, followed by sharp mood swings, confusion, depression and liver enlargement.

Treatment:

- General supportive care with treatment of symptoms is the main approach to managing CCHF in people.
- The antiviral drug ribavirin has been used to treat CCHF infection with apparent benefit.
- There are no vaccines widely available for human or animal use.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Amnesty International:

1. It is a global level Inter-governmental Organizational which works for Human rights globally
2. it was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1977

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 (b)

- It is an international Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded in London (UK) in 1961.
- It seeks to publicize violations by governments and other entities of rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), especially freedom of speech and of conscience and the right against torture.
- In 1977, it was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.
- AI India is a part of the global human rights movement spearheaded by Amnesty International. It has its registered office in Bangalore (Karnataka).

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to geographical location of UAE:

1. Tropic of cancer passes below UAE

2. UAE shares land border with only two countries

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

- The United Arab Emirates is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the west and south and by Oman to the east and northeast.
- Tropic of cancer passes through Eight Asian countries they are: Myanmar, Oman, Bangladesh, UAE, Saudi Arabia, India, China, and Taiwan.

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to Cat Que virus(CQV):

1. CQV comes under the category of Arthropod-borne viruses
2. Culex mosquito bite can cause human to get affected by CQV

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)

- Cat Que virus belongs to the Simbu serogroup virus of the genus Orthobunyavirus.
- It was first isolated in 2004 from mosquitoes in northern Vietnam. It has also been reported in China.
- CQV comes under the category of Arthropod-borne viruses.
- Arthropods are a group of invertebrate animals including insects, spiders etc.
- It is found in pigs and Culex mosquitoes. Birds such as the Jungle Myna may also act as a host.
- Mosquitoes of Culex species also cause Japanese Encephalitis.
- It infects both humans and livestock species.
- Humans are infected through mosquito bites.
- Other viruses that belong to the same genus as CQV and are similarly transmitted through mosquitoes include the Cache valley virus (causes meningitis), La Crosse virus (causes pediatric encephalitis), Jamestown Canyon virus (causes Jamestown Canyon encephalitis), and the Guaroa virus (causes febrile illness).

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to National Crime Report Bureau:

1. NCRB is under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. According to crime in India report 2019 released by NCRB crime against women in India is Increased 100 percent in 2019 from 2018

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (a)

National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)

- NCRB, headquartered in New Delhi, was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country ('Crime in India' report).
- Being published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law and order situation across the country.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released the annual Crime in India 2019 report.

According to the report:

- Crime against SCs have increased by over 7% and crimes against STs have increased by 26% in year 2019 compared to 2018.
- Cognizable Crimes: An increase of 1.6% in registration of cognizable crimes in 2019 as compared to 2018 was recorded. Cognizable crimes comprise Indian Penal Code (IPC) ones and Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes.
- Crimes against Women: Crime against women showed an increase of 7.3% in 2019 from 2018
- Cybercrimes: Increased by 63.5% in 2019

Q.8) What is the name of the fire that from a previous growing season that can smoulder under the ground which is made up of carbon-rich peat. When the weather warms, the fire can reignite?

- a) Zombie Fire
- b) Underground Fire
- c) Coal Fire
- d) Homo Fire

Q.8) Solution (a)

- Zombie Fire: It is a fire from a previous growing season that can smoulder under the ground which is made up of carbon-rich peat. When the weather warms, the fire can reignite. These are also known as holdover fires.

- According to a new study, the fire regimes in the Arctic are changing rapidly, with 'zombie fires' becoming more frequent in addition to fires occurring in the once-frozen tundra.
- The fires in the Arctic spreading to areas which were formerly fire-resistant are more worrying feature.
 - The tundra is drying up and vegetation there like moss, grass, dwarf shrubs, etc are starting to catch fire.
 - The tundra is a cold region of treeless level or rolling ground found mostly north of the Arctic Circle or above the timberline on mountains.
- In 2019 and 2020, burning occurred well above the Arctic Circle, a region not normally known to support large wildfires. Wildfires on permafrost in Siberia south of the Arctic are not uncommon.

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Index of Industrial Production:

1. It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office
2. IIP is the measure on the physical volume of production.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.9) Solution (c)

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a fixed period of time.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
 - Base Year for IIP calculation is 2011-2012.

Significance of IIP:

- IIP is the measure on the physical volume of production.
- It is used by government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, etc, for policy-making purposes.
- IIP remains extremely relevant for the calculation of the quarterly and advance Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates.

Q.10) Which of the following Statements is not correct about Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission?

- a) It is launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes

- b) Major objective of the mission is to promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.
- c) It will support 1,000 innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs)
- d) Student will funded upto 10 crores in a year as equity (investment) funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.

Q.10) Solution (d)

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the 'Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)' under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs)

Objectives of the Mission:

- To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.
- To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Implemented By: Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SCs) which was set up in 2015-16 with the Fund size of Rs. 500 Crore. Under this fund, 117 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs have been sanctioned financial assistance to set up business ventures.

Features:

- 1,000 SC youth would be identified in the next 4 years with start-up ideas through the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in various higher educational institutions.
- They will be funded @ Rs. 30 lakhs in 3 years as equity (investment) funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.
- Successful ventures would further qualify for venture capital funding of up to Rs. 5 Crore from the VCF-SCs.
- Venture capital is a form of private equity and a type of financing that investors provide to startup companies and small businesses that are believed to have long-term growth potential.

Eligibility:

- Youth who have been identified by the TBIs.
- Students who have been awarded under the Smart India Hackathon or Smart India Hardware Hackathon being conducted by the Ministry of Education.
- Innovative ideas focusing on the socio-economic development of the society identified in the TBIs.
- Start-ups nominated and supported by corporates through Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) funds.

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to BrahMos Missile:

1. It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.
2. It is a joint venture between the DRDO and the NPOM of Russia.

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.11)Solution (c)

- BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile (surface-to-surface) is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia.
- Brahmos is named on the rivers Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia).
- It is a supersonic missile travelling at a speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound)
- It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.
- It is a multiplatform i.e it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- It is, therefore, used by all three forces, the Army, Navy and the Air Force.
- It operates on the "Fire and Forget" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.
- It is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft, with a weight of 2.5 tonnes.
- Its range has been recently enhanced from 300 Km to 450-600 Km,
- Increasing the missile's range became possible after India's induction into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016.
- The missile features indigenous Booster and Airframe Section, along with many other indigenous sub-systems.

Q.12) In which of the following country we cannot see arctic Permafrost?

- a) Green Land
- b) Russia
- c) Canada
- d) United Kingdom

Q.12)Solution(d)

- The Arctic region, or the Arctic, is a geographic region spreading around the North Pole.
- The Arctic Circle (66° 33'N) delimits the Arctic in terms of solar radiation.
- Based on temperature, the monthly average temperature in the Arctic is below + 10°C throughout the year, even in summer.
- The Arctic contains vast stores of carbon and other planet-warming greenhouse gases in its soils, in peat as well as frozen soil that can be freed up through combustion.
- Peatlands are wetlands that contain ancient, decomposed and partially decomposed organic matter.
- Nearly half the world's peatland-stored carbon lies between 60 and 70 degrees north, along the Arctic Circle.

- Arctic Permafrost: It is ground that remains completely frozen at 0 degrees Celsius or below for at least two years and is defined solely based on temperature and duration.
- It is composed of rock, sediments, sand, dead plant and animal matter, soil, and varying degrees of ice and is believed to have formed during glacial periods dating several millennia.
- It is mainly found near the polar zones and regions with high mountains covering parts of Greenland, Alaska, Russia, Northern Canada, Siberia and Scandinavia.
- Permafrost is the most threatened by climate change, Arctic regions are warming twice as fast compared to the rest of the planet, its current rate of temperature change being the highest in 2,000 years.



Q.13) Arrange the following core industry according to their increase in weightage:

1. Electricity
2. Coal
3. Crude oil
4. Natural gas

Which of the following is correct?

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

Q.13) Solution (a)

- The eight core sector industries represent about 40% of the weight of items that are included in the IIP.
- The eight core industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products (28.04 %)> Electricity (19.85 %)> Steel (17.92 %) > Coal (10.33 %)> Crude Oil (8.98 %)> Natural Gas (6.88 %)> Cement (5.37 %)> Fertilizers (2.63 %).
- The eight core sector industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.
- These eight industries account for 40.27% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Wolbachia bacteria?

1. It is not usually found in the Aedes aegypti mosquito.
2. It is safe for humans, animals and the environment.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.14)Solution (c)

- Wolbachia are natural bacteria present in up to 60% of insect species, including some mosquitoes.
- It is not usually found in the Aedes aegypti mosquito.
- It is safe for humans, animals and the environment.
- The Aedes aegypti mosquito spreads Dengue and other diseases such as chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever
- However, it cannot spread the disease when it is artificially infected with Wolbachia.

Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Innovative Index:

1. It is released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
2. Switzerland is the world's most-innovative economy

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.15) Solution (c)

- Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 was recently released.
- Released by: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Key takeaways

- India's rank: 48th
- India has climbed 4 spots.
- With this, India ranked in the top 50 countries for the first time in the Global Innovation Index.
- World's most-innovative economies: (1) Switzerland, (2) Sweden, (3) USA, (4) UK and (5) Netherlands.
- India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering and R&D-intensive global companies.
- India is the lower middle-income economy with the highest innovation due to universities like IIT Delhi and Bombay, IIS Bengaluru and other top scientific publications.
- India was at the 52nd position in 2019 and was ranked 81st in the year 2015.
- The WIPO had also accepted India as one of the leading innovation achievers of 2019 in the central and southern Asian region.
- The 2020 edition of the GI presents the annual innovation ranking of 131 economies.
- Its 80 indicators explore a broad vision of innovation, including political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication.
- The theme of GI, 2020 – Who Will Finance Innovation?

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to Data Governance Quality Index(DGQI):

1. DGQI survey was conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office
2. It assess different Ministries/Departments' performance on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to give ranking.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

- Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) survey was conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), Niti Aayog to assess different Ministries/Departments' performance on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).
- Objective: To drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning from best practices.
- Benefits: Improve the implementation framework of government policies, schemes and programmes to achieve the desired goals.
- Six major themes of DGQI: Data Generation; Data Quality; Use of Technology; Data Analysis, Use and Dissemination; Data Security and HR Capacity and Case Studies.

- Ministries/Departments were classified in six categories: Administrative, Strategic, Infrastructure, Social, Economic and Scientific.

Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Tunnel:

1. Atal Tunnel connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.
2. It is constructed under Pir panjal range

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)

- Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang, which connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.
- It is the 9-km-long tunnel is constructed under the Pir Panjal range.
- It has been named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and will be the world's longest highway tunnel above the altitude of 10,000 feet (3000 metres).
- It was scheduled to be completed by May 2020, in a revised estimate, but the Covid-19 pandemic pushed back the completion by a few months due to lockdown conditions.
- Vehicles can travel at a maximum speed of 80 km per hour. Up to 1,500 trucks and 3,000 cars are expected to use it per day when the situation gets to normal.

Q.18) Bilateral naval Exercise, Bongosagar takes place between India and which country?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Japan
- c) Brazil
- d) Myanmar

Q.18) Solution (a)

- The second edition of Exercise Bongosagar, bilateral naval exercise between India and Bangladesh, is scheduled to commence in Northern Bay of Bengal on 3rd October 2020.
- Its first edition was held in 2019.
- Aim: To develop interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
- Participants: Naval ships from both the countries along with the maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters will be participating in the exercise.
- It will be followed by the 3rd edition of India-Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (IN-BN CORPAT), wherein both countries will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

Q.19) Which of the following is known as the period of decreased solar activity?

- a) Modern Grand Solar Minimum

- b) Modern Grand Solar Maximum
- c) Future Solar minimum
- d) Future Solar maximum

Q.19) Solution (a)

- Grand solar minima occur when several solar cycles exhibit lesser than average activity for decades or centuries. Solar cycles still occur during these grand solar minimum periods but are at a lower intensity than usual
- This period of decreased solar activity is known as the Modern Grand Solar Minimum that will last from 2020 to 2053.
- This is done by observing the number of Sunspots at any given time.
- The number of sunspots is directly proportional to solar activity.
- More Sunspots mean more solar activity.
- The last time such an event occurred was during the Maunder Minimum, from 1645 CE to 1710 CE.

Impact

- The surface temperatures on Earth may go down during the Modern Grand Solar Minimum due to a 70% reduction in solar magnetic activity.
- Variations in solar irradiance will lead to heating of the upper layer of the Earth's atmosphere and influences the transport of solar energy towards the planet's surface.
- Decreased solar activity has complex impacts on the abundance of ozone in the Earth's atmosphere
- It also affects the climatic cycles of Earth such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO).

Q.20) Consider the following statements

1. Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India between October 1 and 8.
2. The annual theme of the campaign is "Life Below Water: For people and planet"

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.20) Solution (b)

- Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India between October 1 and 8.
- The annual theme of the campaign is to promote the preservation of fauna – i.e. animal life.
- Wildlife Week was conceptualized in 1952 with the overall goal of raising awareness to serve the long-term goal of safeguarding the lives of wildlife through critical action.
- In addition, the Indian Government established an Indian Board of Wild Life which works to improve awareness towards the preservation of wildlife.

Q.21) Consider the following pairs:

Pass Connects

1. Fotu La pass Leh with kargil
2. Jelep La Sikkim with Tibet
3. Khardung La Ladakh with Siachen glacier

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Q.21) Solution (d)

| Pass | Link/Features |
|--------------------|---|
| Banihal Pass | Kashmir Valley with the outer Himalaya and the plains to the south. |
| Bara-Lacha-La Pass | Lahaul district in Himachal Pradesh with Leh district in Ladakh. |
| Fotu La Pass | Leh with Kargil of Ladakh |
| Rohtang Pass | Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh. |
| Shipki La Pass | Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China. |
| Jelep La Pass | Sikkim with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China. |
| Nathu La Pass | Sikkim with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China. |
| Lipu Lekh Pass | Chaudans valley of India with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China. It is located close to the tri junction of Uttarakhand (India), China and Nepal. |
| Khardung La | Ladakh with Siachen glacier. It is the highest motorable pass in the world. |
| Bom di La | It is in Arunachal Pradesh |

Q.22) The French overseas territory New Caledonia was recently in news it is located in which of the following ocean?

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

Q.22) Solution (b)

- The French territory of New Caledonia voted against independence from France in a referendum held recently.

- The referendum was a part of a decolonisation plan agreed in 1998, known as the Noumea Accord.
- New Caledonia is an archipelago and special collectivity of France located in the southwest Pacific Ocean.
- Population: The indigenous Kanaks represent around 39% of the population, while European settlers (known as Caldoches) make up about 27%.
- Most of the remainder are from other Pacific islands, which are of mixed heritage, called Caledonians.



Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to Shaurya missile:

1. It is a surface-to-surface tactical missile.
2. Shaurya is a short-range Submarine Launch Ballistic 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.23) Solution (c)

- Shaurya is a land variant of short-range Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile. Shaurya is a land variant of short-range Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) K-15 Sagarika, which has a range of at least 750 kilometers.

- It is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg.
- It is a surface-to-surface tactical missile.
- These ballistic missiles belong to the K missile family – codenamed after late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam which are launched from Arihant class of nuclear submarines.
- Shaurya, like many of the modern missiles, is a canister-based system, which means that it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- The missile is less vulnerable to anti-ballistic missile defence systems due to its high maneuverability.

Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to POSCO Act:

1. It defines a child as any person below sixteen years of age
2. It also casts the police in the role of child protectors during the investigative process.

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)

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

- It was enacted to protect the children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography with due regard for safeguarding the interest and well-being of children.
- It defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography.
- It deems a sexual assault to be “aggravated” under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.
- It also casts the police in the role of child protectors during the investigative process.
- The Act stipulates that a case of child sexual abuse must be disposed of within one year from the date the offence is reported.
- It was amended in August 2019 to provide more stringent punishment, including the death penalty, for sexual crimes against children.

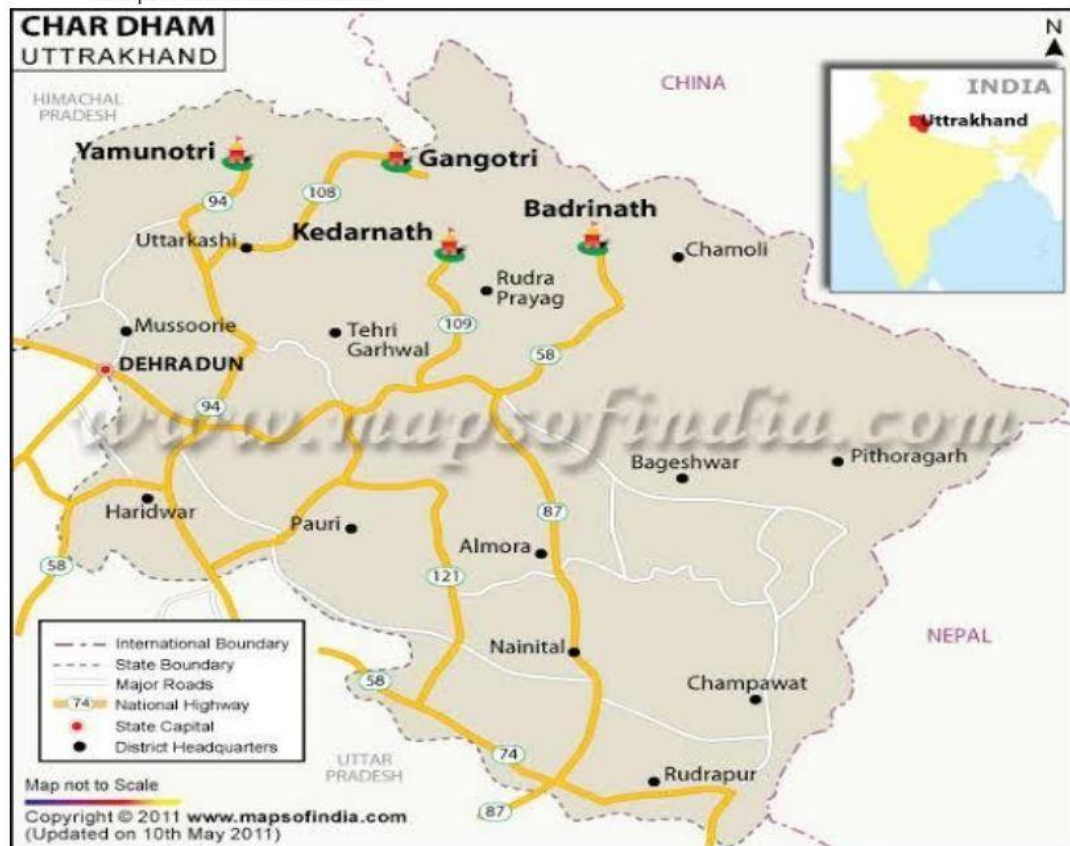
Q.25) Which of the following place is not included in chardham project?

- a) Bhadrinath
- b) Kedarnath
- c) Gangotri

d) VishnoDevi temple

Q.25) Solution (d)

- It is a programme taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand.
- The cost of the project is around Rs. 12,000 Crore.
- It envisages improvement as well as development of 889 km length of national highways.
- Implementing Agencies: Uttarakhand State Public Works Department (PWD), BRO and the National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).
- Project Mode: The work under the programme is being implemented on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.
- Under the EPC mode, the project cost is completely borne by the government.
- However, the contractor is directly responsible for ensuring quality of the work as well as rectification of defects and maintenance of the project stretch for a period of 4 years after completion of construction.



Q.26) EriocaulonParvicephalum and Erioculonkaraavalense are recently in news these are related to:

- New species of plants
- New species of animals
- New species of birds

d) New virus found

Q.26) Solution (a)



- Eriocaulon Parvicephalum and Eriocaulon karaavalense two new species of a plant group known for their varied medicinal properties have been discovered in the Western Ghats – one of the thirty-five hot-spots of biological diversity in the world.
- The plant group known as pipeworts (Eriocaulon), which completes their life cycle within a small period during monsoon, exhibits great diversity in the Western Ghats, having around 111 species in India.
- The one reported from Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra was named as Eriocaulon parvicephalum (due to its minute inflorescence size).
- The other reported from Kumta, Karnataka was named as Eriocaulon karaavalense (named after Karaavali = Coastal Karnataka region).

Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to K Family of Missiles:

1. The K family of missiles are primarily Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles
2. These have been indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation

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 (c)

The K Family of Missiles:

- The K family of missiles are primarily Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs).
- These have been indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The development of these missiles began in the late 1990s as a step towards completing India's nuclear triad.
- Nuclear triad is the capability of launching nuclear weapons from land, sea and air-based assets.
- Because these missiles are to be launched from submarines, they are lighter, smaller and stealthier than their land-based counterparts – the Agni series of missiles which are medium and intercontinental range nuclear capable ballistic missiles.
- India has also developed and successfully tested multiple times the K-4 missiles from the family which has a range of 3500 km.
- The early development trials of K-15 and K-4 missiles had begun in the early 2010s.
- K-5 and K-6 with ranges of 5000 and 6000 km are also under development.
- Strategic Importance of SLBMs:
- Nuclear Deterrence: The capability of SLBMs has great strategic importance in the context of achieving a nuclear triad, especially in the light of the 'no first use' policy of India which acts as a deterrent.

Q.28) Which of the Indian states does not share border with Myanmar?

- Arunachal Pradesh
- Nagaland
- Mizoram
- Assam

Q.28) Solution (d)

Four Northeast Indian states share the border with Myanmar: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Manipur.



Q.29) Consider the following statements:

1. Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology, 2020 is awarded for the discovery of the Vaccine for Hepatitis C Virus.
2. Hepatitis C is transmitted through direct contact with infected body fluids

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.29) Solution (b)

- Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology, 2020 for the discovery of the Hepatitis C Virus.
- The Hepatitis C virus was discovered in 1982 by screening millions of DNA samples.

Hepatitis:

- Hepatitis refers to an inflammatory condition of the liver.
- It's commonly caused by a viral infection, but there are other possible causes of hepatitis like autoimmune responses, medications, drugs, toxins, and alcohol.
- There are 5 main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D, and E.
- World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28th July to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis.

Hepatitis C:

- Hepatitis C is caused by the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).
- It is transmitted through direct contact with infected body fluids, typically through injection drug use and sexual contact.
- According to the World Health Organization, about 71 million people in the world have chronic infection with the Hepatitis C virus, which is also a major cause of liver cancer.
- A vaccine for the disease has still not been developed but it can be treated with the help of anti-viral drugs.

Q.30) Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Swiggy to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform as a part of which scheme?

- a) PM SVANidhi
- b) PM Savdhan
- c) PM AHAR
- d) Annadatha scheme

Q.30) Solution (a)

- Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Swiggy to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform.
- This move is a part of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanibhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.
- An updated and modified version of PM SVANidhi Dashboard, which facilitates users not only with a better granular view of the scheme's performance but also with additional tools for comparisons, has also been launched.
- The MoU will give the vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses.

Phased Implementation:

- In a first of its kind initiative, MoHUA and Swiggy will run a pilot program by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.
- Upon the successful completion of the pilot, MoHUA and Swiggy plan to expand this initiative across the country in phases.
- Key Stakeholders: MoHUA, Municipal Corporations, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Swiggy and Goods and Services Tax (GST) officials.
- Assistance: The street vendors will be helped with Permanent Account Number (PAN) and FSSAI registration, training on technology/partner app usage, menu digitisation and pricing, hygiene and packaging best practices.

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- It was announced as a part of the Economic Stimulus-II under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It has been implemented since 1st June 2020, for providing affordable working capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdowns, with a sanctioned budget of Rs. 700 crore.

Aims:

- To benefit over 50 lakh street vendors who had been vending on or before 24th March 2020, in urban areas including those from surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.
- To promote digital transactions through cash-back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 1,200 per annum.

Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Zoo Authority:

1. The CZA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India and has 10 members and a member-secretary.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.31) Solution (a)

- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It was constituted in 1992 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Members: It is chaired by the Environment Minister and has 10 members and a member-secretary.
- Objective: The main objective of the authority is to complement and strengthen the national effort in the conservation of rich biodiversity.
- Functioning: The authority provides recognition to zoos and is also tasked with regulating the zoos across the country.
- It lays down guidelines and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.
- It coordinates and implements programmes on capacity building of zoo personnel, planned breeding programmes, and ex-situ research.

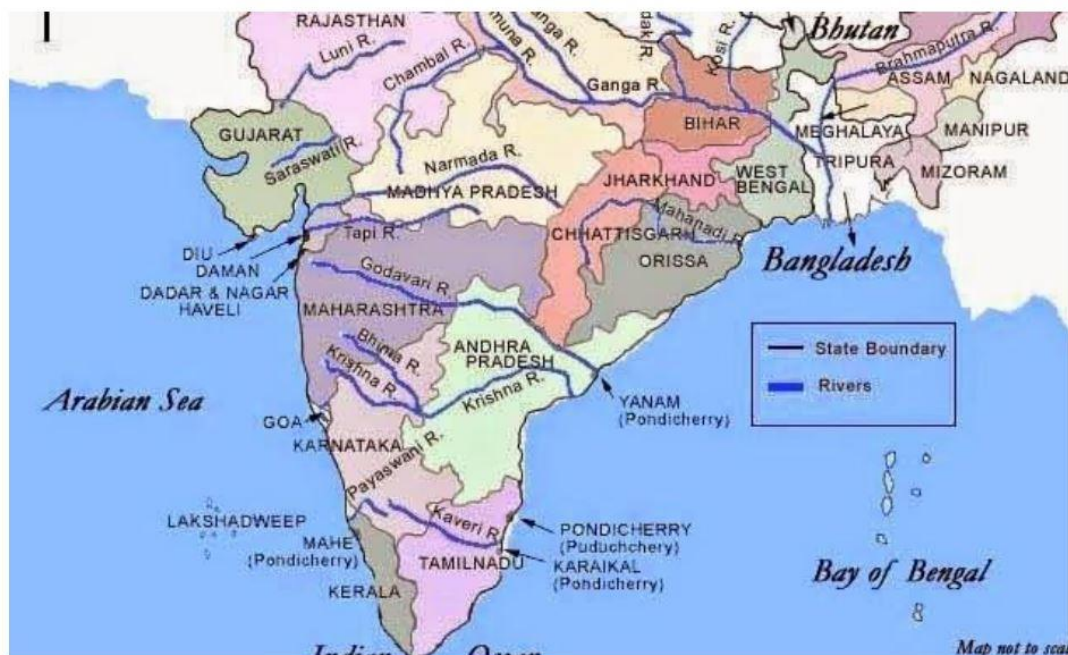
Q.32) Godavari river does not flow through which of the following states:

- Andhra Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Tamil nadu
- Chhattisgarh

Q.32) Solution (c)

The Godavari River System and is spread in the states of Maharashtra (48.6%), Andhra Pradesh (23.4%), Madhya Pradesh (10.0%), Chattisgarh (10.9%), Orissa (5.7%) and Karnataka (1.4%).

River mouth: Bay of Bengal



Q.33) Consider the following statement with respect to National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT):

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human resource and Development
2. Act as a nodal agency for achieving the goals of Universalization of Elementary Education.

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.33) Solution (b)

NCERT:

- It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education (MoE) which is responsible for:
- Ensuring qualitative improvement in school education by undertaking and promoting research in areas related to school education.
- Prepare and publish model textbooks, supplementary material.
- Develop and disseminate innovative educational techniques and practices.
- Act as a nodal agency for achieving the goals of Universalization of Elementary Education.

Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to Sambhar lake:

1. It is India's largest inland saline water body located near Jaipur in Rajasthan.
2. It is surrounded on all sides by the Aravali hills.

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.34) Solution (d)

Sambhar Lake

- It is India's largest inland saline water body located near Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- It is surrounded on all sides by the Aravali hills.
- It is the source of most of Rajasthan's salt production.

- Sambhar has been designated as a Ramsar site (recognised wetland of international importance) because the wetland is a key wintering area for tens of thousands of flamingos and other migratory birds.

Q.35) Nobel Prize in Physics 2020 is awarded for the discovery of:

- a) Supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
- b) Exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star
- c) For decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves
- d) Theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter"

Q.35) Solution (a)

- The Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 2020 was awarded to three astrophysicists Roger Penrose from the UK, Reinhard Genzel from Germany, and Andrea Ghez from the USA.
- Roger Penrose received half of this year's prize for the discovery that a black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity.
- Black holes were one of the first and most extreme predictions of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity which came in 1915.
- The theory explains gravity, as objects try to follow a straight line through a universe whose geometry is warped by matter and energy. As a result, planets, as well as light beams, follow curving paths.
- Dr Penrose proved that if too much mass accumulated in too small a place, collapse into a black hole was inevitable. At the boundary of a black hole, called the event horizon, one would have to go faster than the speed of light to escape it, which is impossible. At the centre of a black hole, where the density became infinite, the laws of physics, would no longer apply.
- Genzel and Ghez received the second half of the prize for the discovery of a supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milkyway galaxy, now known to be the Sagittarius A*.
- It has a mass four million times that of the Sun and is confined to an area roughly the size of our Solar System.
- In 2019, scientists got the first optical image of a black hole which is at the centre of the Messier 87 galaxy.
- Sagittarius A* is the second black hole whose photographs have been captured by the Event Horizon Telescope project. It is yet to be released.
- Dr. Ghez is only the fourth woman to win the Nobel Prize in Physics, following Marie Curie in 1903, Maria Goeppert Mayer in 1963 and Donna Strickland in 2018.
- Other News: Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology, 2020 for the discovery of the Hepatitis C Virus.

Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Environment Facility:

1. GEF was established with the Rio Earth Summit of 1992.

2. The GEF is jointly managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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)

- GEF was established with the Rio Earth Summit of 1992.
- Headquarter: Washington, D.C., USA.
- The GEF is jointly managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The financial mechanism was established to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.
- It provides funds to the developing countries and transition economies for projects related to climate change, biodiversity, the ozone layer, etc.
- It is a financial mechanism for 5 major international environmental conventions:
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD),
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to Nobel prize in Chemistry:

1. 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors
2. It is for the first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.37) Solution (c)

- Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer A Doudna of the USA have been awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors, one of gene technology's sharpest tools.
- It is for the first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team.
- The CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors can be used to change the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.
- The CRISPR/Cas9 tool has already contributed to significant gains in crop resilience, altering their genetic code to better withstand drought and pests.

- This technology has had a revolutionary impact on the life sciences and contributes to new cancer therapies. It has the potential of curing inherited diseases.

Discovery:

- Charpentier, while studying the *Streptococcus pyogenes*, a harmful bacterium, discovered a previously unknown molecule, tracrRNA.
- TracrRNA was part of bacteria's ancient immune system, CRISPR/Cas, that disarmed viruses by cleaving (cutting) their DNA.
- TracrRNA is programmed to locate the particular problematic sequence on the DNA strand, and a special protein called Cas9 (also known as genetic scissor) is used to break and remove the problematic sequence.
- Both scientists collaborated and succeeded in recreating the bacteria's genetic scissors in a test tube and simplifying the scissors' molecular components making it easier to use.
- In their natural form, the scissors recognise DNA from viruses but the duo reprogrammed them so that they could be controlled and can cut any DNA molecule at a predetermined site.

Q.38) Crude petroleum is found in which of the following rocks?

- a) Sedimentary rocks
- b) Igneous rocks
- c) Metamorphic rocks
- d) None of the above

Q.38)Solution (a)

- Crude petroleum occurs in sedimentary rocks of the tertiary period.
- It consists of hydrocarbons of liquid and gaseous states varying in chemical composition, colour and specific gravity.
- Its numerous by-products are processed in petrochemical industries such as fertiliser, synthetic rubber, synthetic fibre, medicines, vaseline, lubricants, wax, soap and cosmetics.
- Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Russia are some major countries with the largest oil reserves.
- Digboi, Naharkatiya and Moran in Assam, Ankleshwar, Kalol, Mehsana, Navagam, Kosamba and Lunej in Gujarat; Mumbai High in Maharashtra are important oil-producing areas in India.

Q.39) A new family of Bony Fish discovered recently in?

- a) Gulf of Mannar
- b) Ganga river
- c) Gulf of Kutch
- d) Western Ghats

Q.39) Solution (d)

- Scientists from India, Germany, United Kingdom, and Switzerland have discovered a new family of bony fish from the Western Ghats, and named it Aenigmachannidae.

- A year after the discovery of the enigmatic Gollum Snakehead, Aenigmachannagollum from the rice fields of northern Kerala, scientists have now conducted detailed studies on its skeleton and genetic assembly.
- The study led to the recognition that this species, and its congener Aenigmachanna mahabali, represents a new family different from Channidae, in which both species were initially placed.
- These suggest that members of Aenigmachannidae are “living fossils” and comprise an ancient gondwanan lineage that survived the break-up of the supercontinent and the northward drift of the Indian subcontinent, about 100 million years ago.

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to Production link Investment Scheme:

1. This Scheme is under Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology
2. Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) is for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

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)

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) For Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

- Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY)
- It was notified on 1st April, 2020.
- It extends an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of five years (base year- FY2019-20).
- Over the next 5 years, the approved companies under the PLI Scheme are expected to lead to total production of more than INR 10.5 lakh crore.
- The companies approved under the scheme are expected to promote exports significantly.
- The companies approved under the scheme will bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of INR 11,000 crore.

Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to

1. CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Finance
2. It is an autonomous body

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 (b)

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- CSIR is the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India. CSIR has a pan-India presence and has a dynamic network of 38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.
- Established: September 1942
- Located: New Delhi
- CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology and it operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- CSIR covers a wide spectrum of streams and provides significant technological intervention in many areas with regard to societal efforts which include the environment, health, drinking water, food, housing, energy, farm and non-farm sectors.

Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to World Space Week:

1. It is celebrated every year from 4th to 10th of October
2. Theme of 2020 WSW is "Satellites Improve Life."

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.42) Solution (c)

- World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition.
- It is coordinated by the United Nations with the support of the World Space Week Association (WSWA), a non-profit organisation.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared in 1999 that World Space Week would be held each year from 4th-10th October. These dates commemorate two events:
- 4th October 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration.
- 10th October 1967: The signing of the Outer Space Treaty (Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space including the Moon and other celestial bodies).
- 2020 Theme: "Satellites Improve Life."

Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to Broadcast Audience Research Council:

1. It is a statutory body under Broadcast Audience Research Council Act
2. It measures television viewership in the country, using television rating points

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 (b)

- The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is an industry body.
- It is jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies.
- They are represented by Indian Society of Advertisers, Indian Broadcasting Foundation and Advertising Agencies Association of India.
- It measures television viewership in the country, using television rating points, or TRPs.

How does it work?

- BARC has installed “BAR-O-meters” in around 30,000 empanelled households across the country.
- These households are classified into 12 categories.
- This is under the New Consumer Classification System (NCCS), the so-called “new SEC” that was adopted by BARC in 2015.
- The classification is based on the education level of the main wage earner and the ownership of consumer durables.
- While watching a show, the members of the household register their presence by pressing their viewer ID button.
- It thus captures the duration for which the channel was watched and by whom.
- It also provides data on viewership habits across age and socio-economic groups.
- This data is one of the most important considerations for advertisers and agencies.
- It influences their choice of channel to advertise their products.

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

1. Ballistic Missile can carry multiple payloads (Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicle)
2. BrahMos missiles is an Ballistic 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.44) Solution (a)

Ballistic Missile

- It is a rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system that follows a parabolic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined fixed target.

- It can carry multiple payloads (Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicle) Ballistic Missile Defence System in India
- A Ballistic Missile Defence system (BMD) is a missile defence system that acts as a shield against ballistic missile attacks.
- India's BMD development began in 1999, after the Kargil war.
- The primary aim was to augment India's defence against possible nuclear attack from Pakistan.
- India seeks to deploy a functional 'iron dome' ballistic missile defence (BMD), incorporating both low-altitude and high-altitude interceptor missiles.
- India's BMD is primarily developed by DRDO with help of many public and private firms like BEL, Astra Microwave, L&T, etc.

Ballistic missiles of India: Agni, K-4 (SLBM), Prahaar, Dhanush, Prithvi and Trishul.
BrahMos missiles is an Cruise Missile

Q.45) What is the name of the government programme which was launched for massive road development programme in North East region?

- a) SARDP-NE
- b) RASTH-NE
- c) CONNECT_NE
- d) SATH-NE

Q.45) Solution (a)

- Government of India has undertaken massive road development programme under SARDP-NE Scheme in NE Region.
- The scope of the programme has been enlarged from time to time, since September. 2005.
- Under SARDP-NE (Phase –A and Arunachal Pradesh), 6418 km (5998 km actual design length) has already been identified for development at an estimated investment of about Rs. 30,450 crore, out of which 3356 km has been completed and 1961 km is under construction.

Objectives of SARDP-NE:

- Upgrade National Highways connecting State Capitals to 2/ 4 lan
- Upgrade National Highways connecting State Capitals to 2/ 4 lan
- Improve roads of strategic importance in border area.
- Improve connectivity to neighboring countries

Q.46) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to World Food Programme (WFP):

- a) It is a full-fledged UN programme
- b) It was awarded Nobel peace prize in 2019
- c) It is the world's largest humanitarian agency combating hunger.
- d) All are correct

46) Solution (b)

- The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the World Food Programme (WFP), a United Nations (UN) agency, for its efforts to combat hunger, bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
- It was established in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and became a full-fledged UN programme in 1965.

Significance and Achievements:

- Eradicating hunger is one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2: Zero Hunger) to be achieved by 2030 and WFP is the UN's primary agency that works towards this goal.
- Currently, it is the world's largest humanitarian agency combating hunger.
- In 2019, it assisted 97 million people, the largest number since 2012, in 88 countries. The same year, it delivered about 4.4 million tons of food, purchased USD 1.7 billion worth of food from 91 countries, and USD 762 million worth of goods and services from 156 countries.

Q.47) Consider the following statements with respect to Monetary Policy Committee:

1. The Finance minister is ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
2. The MPC determines the policy interest rate

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)

- The Monetary Policy Committee is a statutory and institutionalized framework under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
- The committee comprises six members (including the Chairman) – three officials of the RBI and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- Decisions are taken by majority with the Governor having the casting vote in case of a tie.
- The MPC determines the policy interest rate (repo rate) required to achieve the inflation target (4%).
- An RBI-appointed committee led by the then deputy governor Urjit Patel in 2014 recommended the establishment of the Monetary Policy Committee.

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to National Commission for Protection of Child Rights(NCPCR):

1. NCPCR is a statutory body
2. It monitors the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.48) Solution (c)

- NCPCR is a statutory body set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009.
- It monitors the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Q.49) Union Minister for Textiles unveiled a brand and a logo for Indian cotton recently on the occasion of 2nd World Cotton Day recently. What is the name of the brand?

- a) Kasturi cotton
- b) Desi cotton
- c) Indian cotton
- d) Bharat Cotton

Q.49) Solution (a)

Union Minister for Textiles unveiled a brand and a logo for Indian cotton recently on the occasion of 2nd World Cotton Day on 7th October 2020. The branding, Kasturi Cotton, would initially be applicable to long-staple cotton that is grown in India and meets prescribed standards.



World Cotton Day

- Theme for World Cotton Day, 2020: Cotton: The Fibre that Moves Me
- Launched: By World Trade Organisation in 2019 on the initiative of Cotton-4 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali).
- In Collaboration with: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).

Cotton

- Kharif Crop which requires 6 to 8 months to mature.
- Drought – resistant crop ideal for arid climates.
- Occupies 2.1% of the world's arable land, meets 27% of the world's textiles need.
- Temperature: Between 21-30°C.
- Rainfall: Around 50-100cm.
- Soil Type: Well-drained black cotton soil (Regur Soil) (E.g. Soil of Deccan Plateau)
- Products: fibre, oil and animal feed.
- Top Cotton Producing Countries: China > India > USA

Q.50) Distribution of property card will be done by Govt. of India under which Scheme?

- a) SAHAY Scheme
- b) SAMVITA Scheme
- c) SVAMITVA Scheme
- d) SARVAM Scheme

Q.50) Solution (c)

- The Prime Minister launched the distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme via video conferencing.
- The launch will enable around one lakh property holders to download their Property Cards through the SMS link delivered on their mobile phones.
- This would be followed by physical distribution of the Property Cards by the respective State governments.
- About: SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) is a Central Sector Scheme launched on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2020.
- Aims: To provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- To provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.
- The demarcation of rural areas would be done using Drone Surveying technology.
- Implementation: In a phased manner over a period of four years (2020-2024).
- Implementing Agency: Ministry of Panchayati Raj at National Level
- Revenue Department/Land Records Department in States
- Survey of India is a technology partner for implementation

Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to Vigyan Jyoti:

1. Its main aim is to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning among girl students
2. It is currently implemented by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

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.51) Solution (c)

Vigyan Jyoti:

- It was launched by the DST in 2019.

Aims:

- To promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning among girl students and build confidence and excitement towards these streams.
 - STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in 4 specific disciplines, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in an interdisciplinary and applied approach.
- To create a level-playing field for meritorious girls from grades 9 to 12, especially from the top colleges in the areas where girls are hugely underrepresented.
- To solve the multidimensional problems associated with the meagre representation of women.
- The programme provides a scholarship, visit to nearby scientific institutions, science camps, lecturers from eminent women scientists, and career counselling.

- It is currently implemented by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in 58 districts, with the participation of about 2900 students.

Q.52) Which of the following conditions to be satisfied by a political party to be recognized as a State Party?

1. Two seats plus a 6% vote share in the last Assembly election in that state.
2. One seat plus a 6% vote share in the last Lok Sabha election from that state.
3. 3% of the total Assembly seats or 3 seats, whichever is more.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.52) Solution (d)

- The Election Commission of India lists political parties as “national party”, “state party” or “registered (unrecognised) party”.
- The conditions for being listed as a national or a state party are specified under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

Conditions for recognized parties:

1. National Party:

- 6% valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the State legislative assembly; and, in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states.
- 2% of all Lok Sabha seats in the last such election, with MPs elected from at least three states.
- Recognition as a state party in at least four states.

2. State Party:

- Two seats plus a 6% vote share in the last Assembly election in that state.
- One seat plus a 6% vote share in the last Lok Sabha election from that state.
- 3% of the total Assembly seats or 3 seats, whichever is more.
- One of every 25 Lok Sabha seats (or an equivalent fraction) from a state.
- An 8% state-wide vote share in either the last Lok Sabha or the last Assembly polls.

3. Loss of Recognised Status:

- Once recognised as a national or a state party, a political party loses its given status only if it fails to fulfil any of the conditions for two successive Assembly and two successive Lok Sabha elections.
- That means a party retains that status irrespective of its performance in the next elections.

Q.53) Consider the following statements with respect to Rudram-1 missile:

1. It is an air-to-surface missile, designed and developed by the DRDO.
2. Rudram-1 is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile of 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.53) Solution (c)

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested indigenously developed Anti Radiation Missile (Rudram-1).

About Anti Radiation Missiles:

- These are designed to detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources, which are generally part of their air defence systems.
- These can locate and target any radiation emitting source.
- These can play a key role in neutralising any jamming platforms of the enemy or take out radar stations thereby clearing a path for own fighters to carry out an offensive and also prevent own systems from being jammed.

About Rudram-1:

- Development and Test: It is an air-to-surface missile, designed and developed by the DRDO.
- DRDO conducted a successful test of the New Generation Anti Radiation Missile (NGRAM) also called the Rudram-1 at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore (Odisha).
- Rudram-1 is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile of the country.
- Capability: Once the missile locks on the target, it is capable of striking accurately even if the radiation source switches off in between.

Operational Features:

- The missile, integrated with SU-30 Mkl aircraft, has a capability of varying ranges based on the launch conditions.
- It can be adapted for launch from other fighter jets too.
- It can be launched from altitudes of 500 m to 15 km and speeds of 0.6 to 2 mach.

Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Information Commission:

1. It is not a Constitutional body
2. Information Commissioner are not eligible for reappointment
3. Information Commissioner hold office until they attain age of 62 years

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.54) Solution (a)

Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005, under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). It is not a constitutional body.
- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They are not eligible for reappointment.

Power and Functions of CIC

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

Q.55) South Asia Economic Focus report is released by which of the following:

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Q.55) Solution (b)

- World Bank has released a report titled "South Asia Economic Focus".
- The report forecasts a sharp economic fall in each of the region's eight countries they are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The cause of the sharp economic fall have been stated as the halting economic activity, collapsing trade as well as greater stress in the financial and banking sectors which is a result of COVID-19 outbreak.
- The report states that the regional growth will get dropped to a range between 1.8% and 2.8% in 2020, down from 6.3% that was projected 6 months ago.

- According to the report, Maldives is expected to be the worst hit nation along with Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- In the above listed countries, the full range of forecast is in negative territory. India's economy has been expected to grow at 1.5% to 2.8% in the fiscal year 2020-2021.

Q.56) Consider the following statements:

1. Engage with Science is a initiative by Vigyan Prasar to build interest and create a community of practice with students, teachers, and scientists
2. Vigyan Prasar is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and technology

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 (c)

Engage with Science:

- Engage with Science by Vigyan Prasar is another initiative to build interest and create a community of practice with students, teachers, and scientists connecting the high school students to the higher education institutions.
- Vigyan Prasar is an autonomous body under the DST to help India's science popularisation agenda through several strategic initiatives.
- This is an interactive platform that will be built on the Over-The-Top (OTT) platform to encourage and inspire high school students to pursue science and technology for a career.
- An OTT media service is any online content provider that offers streaming media as a standalone product.
- The term is commonly applied to video-on-demand platforms, but also refers to audio streaming, messaging services, or internet-based voice calling solutions.
- It needs access to the internet and smartphones, tablets, laptop/computers.

Q.57) The report "The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019" is released by which of the following institute:

- a) United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- b) International Monetary fund
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) National disaster management Authority

Q.57) Solution (a)

- The report "The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019" is published by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The report did not touch on biological hazards and disease-related disasters like the coronavirus pandemic.
- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed on 13th October every year.

- Findings:
- 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, affecting 4.2 billion people and costing the global economy some USD 2.97 trillion.
- 6,681 climate-linked disasters had been recorded in the period 2000-19, up from 3,656 during the previous 20-year-period.
- Major floods had more than doubled to 3,254, there had been 2,034 major storms up from 1,457 in 20 years.
 - India is the 2nd most affected country by floods after China.
- Extreme heat is proving especially deadly. Heatwaves of 2015 in India resulted in 2,248 deaths.
- The deadliest single disaster in the past 20 years was the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, with 2,26,400 deaths, followed by the Haiti earthquake in 2010, which claimed some 2,22,000 lives.
- The data showed that Asia has suffered the highest number of disasters in the past 20 years with 3,068 such events, followed by the Americas with 1,756 and Africa with 1,192.
- In terms of affected countries, China topped the list with 577 events followed by the United States with 467 and India (321 events).

Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to Sovereign gold bonds:

1. They are issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.
2. Maturity period SGB is eight years, with an option to exit the investment after the first five 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.58) Solution (c)

- The Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings – used for the purchase of gold – into financial savings.
- The Gold Bonds are issued as Government of India Stock under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006.
- These are issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.
- Bonds are sold through Commercial banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices (as may be notified) and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange, either directly or through agents.
- The bonds are restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.
- The price of the gold bonds is calculated based on the spot price of gold as provided by the Mumbai-based India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

- For the seventh tranche, a price of Rs. 5,051 per unit is applicable. Those purchasing the bonds through an online mode – using a digital mode of payment – get a discount of Rs. 50 on each unit.
- Gold bonds can be purchased in the multiples of one unit, up to certain thresholds for different investors.
- The upper limit for retail (individual) investors and HUFs is 4 kilograms (4,000 units) each per financial year. For trusts and similar entities, an upper limit of 20 kilograms per financial year is applicable.
- Minimum permissible investment is 1 gram of gold.
- The gold bonds come with a maturity period of eight years, with an option to exit the investment after the first five years.
- A fixed rate of 2.5% per annum is applicable on the scheme, payable semi-annually.
- The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961.

Q.59) Consider the following statements:

1. The Universal Postal Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. World Post Day is celebrated each year in the month of January

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.59) Solution (a)

- World Post Day: It is celebrated each year on 9th October, to commemorate the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in the Swiss capital, Berne.
- It was declared as World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969.
- Purpose: To create awareness about the role of the postal sector in the lives of people and business and its contribution to the social and economic development of the country
- National Postal Week is celebrated from 9th to 15th October every year
- The Universal Postal Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal systems.
- Its headquarters are located in Berne, Switzerland.

Q.60) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Mount Kilimanjaro:

- a) Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's tallest mountain
- b) It is also the largest free-standing mountain rise in the world
- c) It is located in the eastern Africa
- d) All are correct

Q.60) Solution (d)**Mount Kilimanjaro**

- Located in Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's tallest mountain at about 5,895 meters.
- It is also the largest free-standing mountain rise in the world, meaning it is not part of a mountain range.
- Kilimanjaro is a stratovolcano or composite volcano (a term for a very large volcano made of layers of ash, lava, and rock) and is made up of three cones: Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.
 - Kibo is the summit of the mountain and the tallest of the three volcanic formations. While Mawenzi and Shira are extinct, Kibo is dormant and could possibly erupt again.
- The mountain is also known for its snow-capped peak which might disappear within the next 20 years or so as per the warnings by the scientists.
- In 1973, the mountain and its six surrounding forest corridors were named Kilimanjaro National Park in order to protect its unique environment.
 - The park was named a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site in 1987.

**Q.61) Which state become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms or high-tech labs in all government-run and aided schools?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Q.61) Solution (d)

- Kerala has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms or high-tech labs in all government-run and aided schools

- As part of this flagship project of the government, high-tech labs have been set up in primary and upper primary schools and 40,000 classrooms in high school and higher secondary schools have been converted into smart classrooms.
- High-speed broadband internet has been ensured in 12,678 schools.
- The high-tech classroom project was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), the nodal agency for ICT education in schools.
- The Kerala government has also started digital classrooms known as 'First bell' to impart education to 41 lakh students in the state after schools shut due to the lockdown

Q.62) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Mexico?

- Tropic of cancer passes through Mexico
- Guatemala shares land border with Mexico in the south
- Gulf of California separates Baja California Peninsula from the Mexican mainland
- All are correct

Q.62) Solution (d)



Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

1. It is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
2. It constituted in 2006 with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.63) Solution (c)

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
- The NDMA was formally constituted in 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson.
- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) defines the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders including Central Ministries/ Departments, State Governments, UT Administrations, District Authorities and local self Governments.
- Primary responsibility of disaster management rests with the States.
- The Central Government conducts regular mock drill, community training and awareness programmes to prepare the civilian populations for disasters.

Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to Cotton Corporation of India:

1. Cotton Corporation of India was established under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer welfare.
2. Its main role is to undertake price support operations, whenever the market prices of cotton fall below the Minimum Support Prices (MSP)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.64) Solution (b)**Cotton Corporation of India**

- CCI was established in 1970 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles as a Public Sector Undertaking under the Companies Act 1956.
- Headquarters: CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- Role: To undertake price support operations, whenever the market prices of cotton fall below the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) announced by Govt. of India, without any quantitative limit.

Cotton Research

- The Central Institute for Cotton Research has campuses in Nagpur in Maharashtra state and Sirsa in Haryana state.
- It is a central research institute established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- The ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology is situated in Mumbai.

Q.65) Which Indian states/UTs does not share border with Pakistan?

1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Haryana

3. Jammu and Kashmir
4. Gujarat
5. Punjab

- a) 1, 2 and 5 Only
- b) 1 and 2 Only
- c) 1, 2 and 5 Only
- d) None

Q.65) Solution (a)

- Four Indian states share border with Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir has longest border with Pakistan, having a length of 1222 km, followed by Rajasthan with 1179 km. Gujarat has 506 km, while Punjab has 425 km.



Q.66) Consider the following statements:

1. The Government of India launched the First National Protocol on Snow Leopard Population Assessment in 2019
2. IUCN Red List Status of Common Leopard is Vulnerable

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.66) Solution (c)

Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

- It occurs in a wide range in sub-Saharan Africa, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia.
- The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.
- Threats: Habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching for the illegal trade of skins and body parts, and persecution due to conflict situations
- Conservation Status:
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Key takeaways:

- A recent study by TRAFFIC India on the seizure and mortality of 'common leopards' (*Panthera pardus fusca*) revealed that of the total of 747 leopard deaths between 2015-2019 in India, 596 were linked to illegal wildlife trade and activities related to poaching.
- The Government of India launched the First National Protocol on Snow Leopard Population Assessment in 2019, to mark the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day (23rd October).
- In 2014, a national census of leopards around tiger habitats was carried out in India except for the northeast. 7,910 individuals were estimated in surveyed areas and a national total of 12,000-14,000 estimated.

Q.67) Consider the following statements with respect to AMRUT mission:

1. It is under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
2. AMRUT 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.67) Solution (c)

- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Mission is launched in June 2015
- Concerned Ministry: Housing and Urban Affairs
- AMRUT is aimed at transforming 500 cities and towns into efficient urban living spaces over a period of five years.
- AMRUT is a centrally sponsored scheme with 80% budgetary support from the Centre.

Purpose:

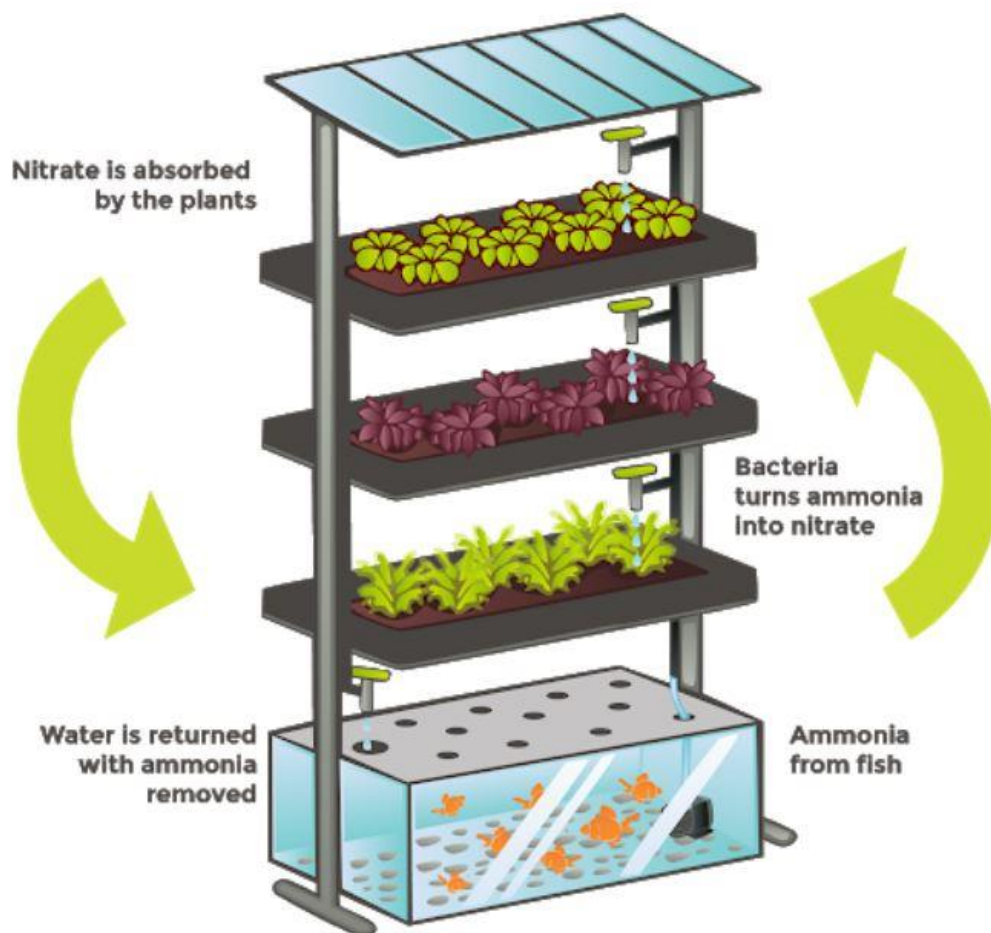
- To ensure that every household has access to a tap with the assured supply of water and a sewerage connection.
- The Priority zone of the Mission is water supply followed by sewerage.
- To increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces (e.g. parks).
- To reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport (e.g. walking and cycling).
- AMRUT provides for basic civic amenities like water supply, sewerage, urban transport, parks as to improve the quality of life for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged.

Q.68) The term Aquaponics was recently in news it refers to which of the following?

- a) Fish farming in the agricultural pond
- b) soil-less agriculture, and aquaculture within a closed system
- c) Fish farming and paddy growing in the same agricultural area
- d) Sea water purifying method

Q.68) Solution (b)

- Aquaponics is a system that combines hydroponics, soil-less agriculture, and aquaculture within a closed system.
- Hydroponics: It is a method of growing plants in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution.
 - Hydroponics does not use soil, instead, the root system is supported using an inert medium such as clay pellets.
 - The basic premise behind hydroponics is to allow the plant's roots to come in direct contact with the nutrient solution, while also having access to oxygen, which is essential for proper growth.
- Aquaculture: Breeding, raising, and harvesting fish, and aquatic plants.
- There are three biological components in the aquaponics process: fish, plants, and bacteria (for cycling of nutrients- ammonia to nitrate conversion).
- Process:
 - With aquaponics, the farmer combines the aquaculture with hydroponic vegetables – the fish waste provides fertilizer for growing plants.
 - The plants absorb nutrients and filter the water. This filtered water is used to replenish the fish tank. This is an environment friendly technique.
 - The result is value-added, local production of both fish and vegetables together, using the same water.



Q.69) Consider the following statements with respect to Program for International Student Assessment:

1. It is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.
2. PISA was introduced in 2000 by the United Nations International Children's Emergency 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.69) Solution (a)

- Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.
- First conducted in 2000, the major domain of study rotates between reading, mathematics, and science in each cycle.

- PISA also includes measures of general or cross-curricular competencies, such as collaborative problem solving.
- PISA was introduced in 2000 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- PISA is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organization of industrialized countries, and is conducted in the United States by NCES.
- India stayed away from PISA in 2012 and 2015 on account of its dismal performance in 2009, when it was placed 72nd among the 74 participating countries. The government decided to end the boycott in 2019.

Q.70) Consider the following statements:

1. India is presently serving as member in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
2. The members of United Nations Human Rights Council are elected for a period of ten years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.70) Solution (a)

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- It was established in 2006.
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland
- Aim: Promoting and protecting human rights around the globe, as well as investigating alleged human rights violations.
- Features: The UNHRC has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis from 5 groups.
- Membership: To become a member, a country must receive the votes of at least 96 of the 191 states of the UN General Assembly (an absolute majority).
- According to Resolution 60/251, which created the council, members are elected directly by secret ballot by the majority of the UN General Assembly. Membership has to be equally distributed geographically.
- Five regional groups for membership: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and Eastern Europe.
- The members are elected for a period of three years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- Sessions: The UNHRC holds regular sessions three times a year, in March, June, and September.
- The council also carries out the Universal Periodic Review of all UN member states, which allows civil society groups to bring accusations of human rights violations in member states to the attention of the UN.

| Term | African States (13) | Asia-Pacific States (13) | Eastern European States (6) | Latin American & Caribbean States (8) | Western European & Other States (7) |
|-------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2021–2023 | Côte d'Ivoire Gabon Malawi Senegal | China Nepal Pakistan Uzbekistan | Russian Federation Ukraine | Bolivia Cuba Mexico | France United Kingdom |
| 2020–2022 [19] | Libya Mauritania Sudan Namibia | Indonesia Japan Marshall Islands South Korea | Armenia Poland | Brazil Venezuela | Germany Netherlands |
| 2019–2021 [20] | Burkina Faso Cameroon Eritrea Somalia Togo | Bahrain Bangladesh Fiji India Philippines | Bulgaria Czech Republic | Argentina Bahamas Uruguay | Austria Denmark Italy |

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project:

1. It is aided by World Bank.
2. It is under the Department of School Education and Literacy.

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 Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE).
- Aim and Focus: These are aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of Quality Based Learning Outcomes.
- Strengthening the government-managed school education system that primarily caters to the educational needs of girls and students from marginalised groups.
- Focus on initiatives of PM e-Vidya, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission and National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Q.72) Consider the following Statements:

1. 'Prevalence of Endoparasitic Infections in Free-Ranging Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros' report is released by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. Greater one-horned rhino is listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.72) Solution (b)

- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India has published reports titled 'Prevalence of Endoparasitic Infections in Free-Ranging Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros' for Assam and West Bengal.
- There are three species of rhino in Asia — Greater one-horned (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Javan and Sumatran.
- The five rhino range nations (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species.

Protection Status:

- Javan and Sumatran Rhino are critically endangered and the Greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino is vulnerable in IUCN Red List.
- All three listed under Appendix I (CITES).
- Greater one-horned rhino is listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Habitat of Greater One-Horned Rhino:
- The species is restricted to small habitats in Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam.
- In India, rhinos are mainly found in Kaziranga NP, Pobitora WLS, Orang NP, Manas NP in Assam, Jaldapara NP and Gorumara NP in West Bengal and Dudhwa TR in Uttar Pradesh.

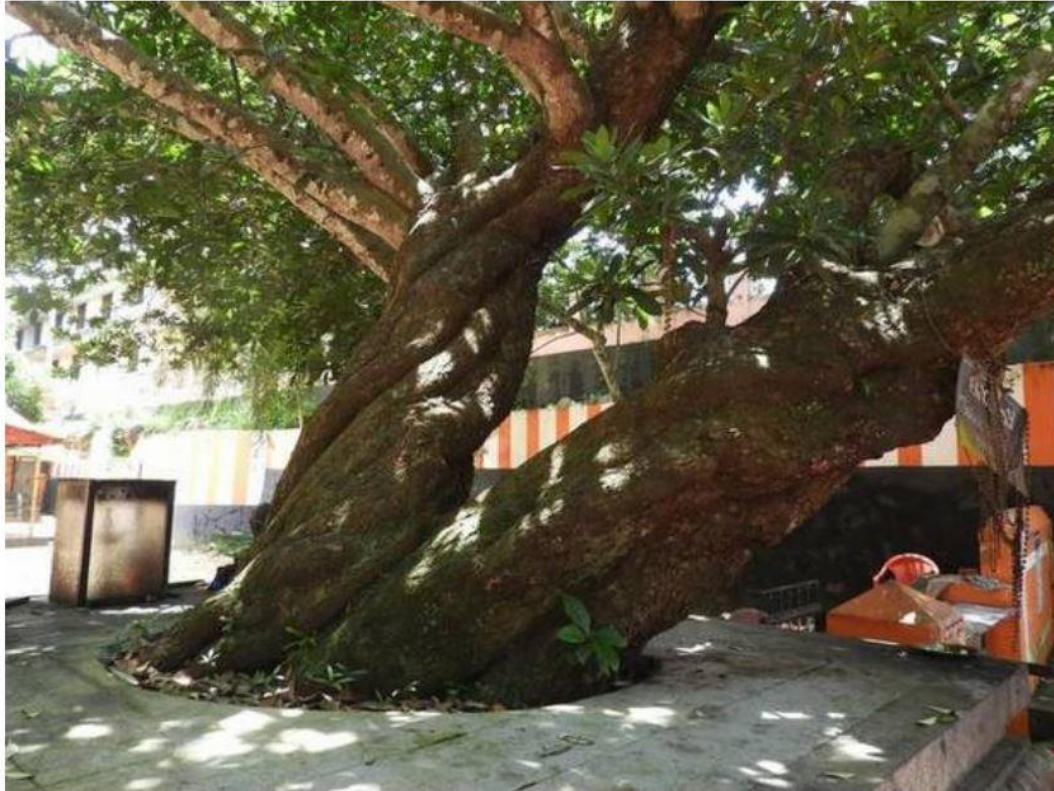
Q.73) Recently *Madhuca diplostemon* was in news it is related to which of the following?

- a) Species of endangered tree
- b) Newly found frog species
- c) Species of fish which is declared as extinct
- d) None of the above

Q.73) Solution (a)

- *Madhuca diplostemon* is a tree that has been rediscovered after a gap of more than 180 years from a sacred grove in Kollam district, Kerala.
- The tree is locally known as Kavilippa in Malayalam.
- It has been identified by the scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) at Palode, Kerala.
- The threatened species of the Western Ghats was believed to be extinct.
- This is the second time a tree of this species has ever been located and only one mature tree has been found so far, which makes this remarkable rediscovery extremely valuable from a scientific, environmental and conservation point of view.
 - In 1835, Robert Wight, a surgeon-botanist with the East India Company, found the first specimen.

- Since its original collection, specimens of the tree were never collected again, neither from its locality nor elsewhere, and botanical explorations in Eastern and Western Ghats failed to locate the species.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has included it in the endangered species list.
- The JNTBGRI is planning to undertake the ex-situ conservation of this species through the institute's species recovery programme.



Q.74) Consider the following statements:

1. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. India is a signatory of Sendai Framework

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 (c)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

- The UNDRR was established in 1999 as a dedicated secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is mandated to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities.
- It is an organisational unit of the UN Secretariat and is led by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG).
- UNDRR's Strategic Framework 2016-2021 has a vision to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future with the mandate to act as the custodian of the Sendai Framework (India is a signatory).

Q.75) Consider the following statements:

1. GST was introduced through the 100th Constitution Amendment Act, 2016.
2. Alcohol and Petrol was not brought under the purview of GST regime

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.75) Solution (b)

Goods and Services Tax

- GST was introduced through the 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016.
- It is an indirect tax levied on the supply of final goods and services. The GST has subsumed indirect taxes like excise duty, Value Added Tax (VAT), service tax, luxury tax etc.
- It is essentially a consumption tax and is levied at the final consumption point.
- It is levied only on the value addition and is collected on goods and services at each point of sale in the supply line.
- The GST that a merchant pays to procure goods or services (i.e. on inputs) can be set off later against the tax applicable on supply of final goods and services. The set off tax is called input tax credit.
- The GST avoids the cascading effect or tax on tax which increases the tax burden on the end consumer.
- Tax Structure under GST:
 - Central GST to cover Excise duty, Service tax etc, State GST to cover VAT, luxury tax etc.
 - Integrated GST to cover inter-state trade.
 - IGST per se is not a tax but a system to coordinate state and union taxes.
- It has a 4-tier tax structure for all goods and services under the slabs- 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
- Alcohol and Petrol was not brought under the purview of GST regime.

Q.76) Consider the following statements:

1. Asian elephants are in “endangered” status in IUCN Red List of threatened species.
2. MIKE programme which was launched in 2003, is related to Elephant

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)

Asian Elephant

- There are three subspecies of Asian elephant – the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.
- The Indian has the widest range and accounts for the majority of the remaining elephants on the continent.
- Escalation of poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity are some common threats to both African and Asian elephants.
- African elephants are listed as “vulnerable” and Asian elephants as “endangered” in IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- CITES status: Appendix I for Asian Elephants.

Conservation Efforts:

- Project Elephant launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Elephant census is conducted once in 5 years under the aegis of Project elephant.
- Establishment of elephant reserves and adoption of the “World Elephant Day” (August 12) to help conserve and protect elephants in India.
- ‘Gaj Yatra’ a nationwide awareness campaign to celebrate elephants and highlight the necessity of securing elephant corridors.
- The Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme, launched in 2003, is an international collaboration that tracks trends in information related to the illegal killing of elephants from across Africa and Asia, to monitor effectiveness of field conservation efforts.

Q.77) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Australia:

- a) Tropic of Capricorn passes through Australia
- b) River Murray is the longest single river of Australia
- c) Tasman Sea separates Australia and New Zealand
- d) None of them

Q.77) Solution (d)

Australia's longest single river is the River Murray at 2508 kilometres



Q.78) Recently MACS 6478 was in news, is related to which of the following?

- Wheat variety
- Supersonic Missile
- Mars mission by UAE
- Scorpion class submarine

Q.78) Solution (a)

- A new wheat variety MACS-6478 was recently in news.
- It has helped farmers in a village in Maharashtra to double their yield.
- Developed by: Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology.
- The farmers are now getting a yield of 45 to 60 quintal per hectare with the new variety compared to earlier average yield ranging 25 to 30 quintal per hectare.
- It is also called high yielding Aestivum, matures in 110 days and is resistant to most races of leaf and stem rust.

Q.79) “What to do with old vehicles: Towards effective scrappage policy and infrastructure” report is released by-

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- Department of science and technology
- Ministry of Environment

d) Department of transport

Q.79) Solution (a)

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released a report titled “What to do with old vehicles: Towards effective scrappage policy and infrastructure”, which suggests parameters of an effective vehicle scrapping policy for India.
- CSE is a non-profit, public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi. It researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has formulated a note for the Cabinet on the creation of an ecosystem for voluntary and environment-friendly phasing out of unfit and old polluting vehicles.
- The proposed policy awaits for Cabinet’s approval and once approved, will be applicable on all vehicles.

Concerns on Vehicles:

- India will have over two crore old vehicles nearing the end of their lives by 2025. These, along with other unfit vehicles, will cause huge pollution and environmental damage.

Q.80) Consider the following statements with respect to Global hunger Index:

1. Based on the values of the indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where 0 is the worst and 100 is the best possible score (no hunger).
2. India’s rank is improved compared to the last year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.80) Solution (b)

Global Hunger Index

- Annual Report: Jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2020 edition marks the 15th edition of the GHI.
- Aim: To comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- Calculation: The GHI scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger. It is calculated on the basis of four indicators:
 - Undernourishment
 - Child Wasting
 - Child Stunting
 - Child Mortality
- Scoring: Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.

- Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.

Indian Scenario:

- Overall Performance:
- With a score of 27.2, India has a level of hunger that is "serious".
- It ranks 94 out of 107 countries in the Index. In 2019, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.

Q.81) Consider the following pairs

Term Explanation

1. Undernourishment Population with insufficient caloric intake.
2. Child Wasting Children under age eight who have low weight for their height,
3. Child Stunting Children under age five who have low height for their age
4. Child Mortality The mortality rate of children under the age of eight

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Q.81) Solution (c)

- Undernourishment: Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
- Child Wasting: Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
- Child Stunting: Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
- Child Mortality: The mortality rate of children under the age of five.

Q.82) Consider the following statements:

1. Zero Hunger is included under Sustainable Development Goal 2.
2. Theme for 2020 world food day is "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together."

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.82) Solution (c)

- World Food Day is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on 16th October 1945.

- The Prime Minister of India released a commemorative coin of Rs. 75 denomination to mark the 75th Anniversary of the FAO.
- FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

About World Food Day:

- It is observed annually on 16th October to address the problem of global hunger.
- It emphasises on the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) i.e. Zero Hunger.
- Theme for 2020: "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together."
- There has been a renewed focus on food, nutrition, health, immunity and sustainability due to the unprecedented challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Q.83) Consider the following statements:

1. Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) is 300 times less potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂)
2. Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) can live in the atmosphere for up to 125 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.83) Solution (b)**Nitrous Oxide (N₂O):**

- It is a greenhouse gas (GHG) 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- It has the third-highest concentration, after CO₂ and methane (CH₄), in Earth's atmosphere among GHGs responsible for global warming.
- N₂O is also the only remaining threat to the ozone (O₃) layer, for it accumulates in the atmosphere over a long period of time, just like CO₂.
- It can live in the atmosphere for up to 125 years.
- Its global concentration levels have increased from 270 parts per billion (ppb) in 1750 to 331 ppb in 2018, a jump of 20%.
- The growth has been the quickest in the past five decades because of human emissions.

Q.84) Arrange following cities north to south:

1. Kualalumpur
2. Bangkok
3. Jakarta
4. Naypyitaw

Which of the following is correct order?

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

Q.84) Solution (b)

South East Asia

Countries and their Capitals



Q.85) The device used for physically separating spilled oil from the water's surface are called as:

- a) Containment Booms
- b) Skimmers
- c) Sorbents
- d) Dispersing agents

Q.85) Solution (b)

- Oil Spill is an accidental/uncontrolled release of crude oil, gasoline, fuels, or other oil by-products into the environment. Oil spills can pollute land, air, or water, though it is mostly used for oceanic oil spills.
- Measure: Cleaning up of the oil spillage from the oceans without damaging the marine ecosystem is becoming an increasingly challenging task.

- Containment Booms: Floating barriers, called booms are used to restrict the spread of oil and to allow for its recovery, removal, or dispersal.
- Skimmers: They are devices used for physically separating spilled oil from the water's surface.
- Sorbents: Various sorbents (e.g., straw, volcanic ash, and shavings of polyester-derived plastic) that absorb the oil from the water are used.
- Dispersing agents: These are chemicals that contain surfactants, or compounds that act to break liquid substances such as oil into small droplets. They accelerate its natural dispersion into the sea.

Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojan:

1. It is an umbrella scheme under the Ministry of Culture.
2. It is a central sector 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.86) Solution (c)

- Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY) is an umbrella scheme under the Ministry of Culture for the promotion of art and culture in the country.
- It is a central sector scheme.
- The ministry implements many schemes under KSVY, where the grants are sanctioned/approved for holding programs/activities.
 - Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture.
 - Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure.
 - Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which aims to promote the 13 intangible cultural heritage of India, recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Q.87) Theme for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2020 is:

- a) Acting Together to Achieve Social and Environmental Justice for All
- b) Together we Eradicate Poverty
- c) Acting Together we Achieve Zero Hunger for All
- d) Social Income Equality to All

Q.87) Solution (a)

- Every year 17th October is observed as International Day for the eradication of Poverty.

- Its observance started in 1992 with the adoption of UN resolution.
- The theme for the year 2020 is “Acting Together to Achieve Social and Environmental Justice for All”
- Poverty Trends: More than 90% countries have reported a dip in per capita income because of Covid-19 and the ensuing economic disruptions.
 - More than 115 million new poor have been added to the world, and their spread is universal, from the rich Europe to the already poor Asia and from rural to urban areas.
 - According to the latest “Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report” by the world bank, the Covid-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty this year, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021.
- Beyond Income Poverty: India and Nigeria are two countries that host the world’s largest number of poor. Here, the poor live in very ecologically fragile areas. This makes poverty not alone an income related aspect as economists and politicians consider.

Q.88) Bahrain, an archipelago of 33 islands lies in which of the following Gulf:

- a) Persian Gulf
- b) Gulf of Alaska
- c) Gulf of Aqaba
- d) Gulf of Fonseca

Q88) Solution (a)

- Bahrain is an archipelago of 33 islands in the Persian Gulf located off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia.



Q.89) Pearl River estuary was recently in new, is situated in which country?

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

Q.89) Solution (b)

- Pearl River estuary includes Hong Kong, Macau as well as the mainland Chinese cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Dongguan. Around 22 million people live in the area.
- The Pearl River Delta, the low-lying area surrounding the PRE where the Pearl River flows into the South China Sea, is one of the world's most densely urbanised, heavily industrialised and busiest shipping lanes on Earth.



Q.90) Consider the following statements with reference to 'Ghar Tak Fiber' Scheme:

1. This scheme will be coordinated by village level Common Service Centers.
2. The Scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Rural development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.90) Solution (a)

Ghar Tak Fibre Scheme:

- It aims to connect all 45,945 villages of Bihar with high-speed optical fibre internet by 31st March 2021.
- Under the scheme, Bihar has to provide at least five fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connections per village and at least one WiFi hotspot per village.
- The Scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- This scheme will be coordinated by village level Common Service Centers.

Benefit:

- The Scheme will lead digital services including e-Education, e-Agriculture, Tele-Medicine, Tele-law and other social security schemes in Bihar ensuring easy access to all state natives.
- It is also likely to boost the local employment generation with the implementation of Bharat Net initiative which will be done by recruiting local workers.

Q.91) Which of the following is not included in Intangible cultural Heritage of India list recognized by UNESCO?

- a) Kalbelia folk dance
- b) Kumbh Mela
- c) Yoga
- d) Mahamastakabhisheka

Q.91) Solution (d)

- The list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness about its importance.
- The list was established in 2008 when Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect.
- UNESCO maintains three lists under its "Intangible Cultural Heritage" banner:
 - the list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding
 - the list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity and
 - the register of good safeguarding practices.

- Some of the criteria for inclusion in the representative list are if the inscription of the element will ensure visibility and awareness of it and if the element has been nominated after having “the widest possible participation” of the community, group or individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent.

| 13 ICH traditions recognised by UNESCO | | | |
|--|---|-----|---|
| 1. | Tradition of Vedic chanting, 2008 | 8. | Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India, 2012 |
| 2. | Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana, 2008 | 9. | Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur, 2013 |
| 3. | Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre, 2008 | 10. | Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India, 2014 |
| 4. | Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India, 2009 | 11. | Yoga, 2016 |
| 5. | Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala, 2010 | 12. | Nowruz, 2016 |
| 6. | Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan, 2010 | 13. | Kumbh Mela, 2017 |
| 7. | Chhau dance, 2010 | | |

Q.92) SLINEX-20 bilateral naval maritime exercise was recently held. It is with India and which of the following Country?

- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa

Q.92) Solution (b)

- The 8th edition of annual India – Sri Lanka bilateral naval maritime exercise, SLINEX-20 will be held at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October 2020.
- The 7th edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam in September 2019. SLINEX series of bilateral maritime exercises were initiated in 2005.

Aim:

- SLINEX aims to enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- It exemplifies the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka which has strengthened mutual cooperation in the maritime domain.

The 2020 Exercise:

- In SLINEX-20, the Indian Navy will be represented by Indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and Kiltanunder.
- Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and Chetak helicopters and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft will also be participating.
- The Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLN Ships Sayura (Offshore Patrol Vessel) and Gajabahu (Training Ship).

- The maritime exercise will also showcase capabilities of India's indigenously constructed naval ships and aircraft.
- Surface and anti-air exercises including weapon firing, seamanship evolutions, manoeuvres and cross deck flying operations are planned during the exercise, which will further enhance the high degree of interoperability already established between the two friendly navies.

Q.93) Arrange the following Indian cities from North to south:

1. Aizawl
2. Dispur
3. Itanagar
4. Imphal

Which of the following code is correct?

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

Q.93) Solution (b)



Q.94) Consider the following statements with respect to National Cooperative Development Corporation:

1. It is a statutory Corporation body set up under an Act of Parliament in 2020 to tackle the pandemic
2. It functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.94) Solution (b)

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

- NCDC was set up under an Act of Parliament in 1963 for promotion and development of cooperatives.
- It functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The objectives of NCDC are planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other notified commodities and services on cooperative principles.
- NCDC is a major financial institution for cooperatives, and has started Mission Sahakar 22, which aims to double farmers' income by 2022.

Q.95) NITI Aayog along with which tech giant, establishing the Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center?

- a) Amazon web series
- b) Google Cloud platform
- c) IBM Cloud
- d) Infosys Cloud

Q.95) Solution (a)

- Recently, the NITI Aayog and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC), the first of its kind in India.
- It provides on-demand cloud computing platforms and Application Programming Interfaces (API) to individuals, companies, and governments, on a metered pay-as-you-go basis.
- Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) is part of the AWS CIC Global Program, which provides an opportunity for government agencies, nonprofits and educational institutions, to come

together on pressing challenges, apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technical expertise of AWS.

- Frontier Technologies CIC will identify and prioritise projects as well as collaborate with local leaders, including subject matter experts at the state and district levels, to solve critical challenges.
- Local enterprises, start-ups, researchers, and universities in India can experiment and build prototypes on AWS Cloud.
- It is aligned to the visions of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission and the Atal Innovation Mission.

Q.96) Which of the following country is a landlocked country in South America?

- a) Peru
- b) Argentina
- c) Paraguay
- d) Columbia

Q.96) Solution (c)

Paraguay and Bolivia, the only two landlocked countries in South America



Q.97) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Taiwan?

- a) Tropic of cancer passes through Taiwan
- b) It lies South to the Philippines.
- c) It is Asia's 5th largest economy.
- d) It is the most populous state that is not a member of the United Nations

Q.97) Solution (b)

- Taiwan neighbors include China (officially the People's Republic of China, PRC) to the west, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south.
- Taiwan is the most populous state that is not a member of the United Nations and the largest economy outside the UN.
- Taiwan is Asia's 5th largest economy.
- It is a global leader in chip manufacture and the second-largest manufacturer of IT hardware, etc.



Q.98) Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project which was recently in news, is being constructed on which of the following River?

- a) Godavari River
- b) Krishna River
- c) Kaveri River
- d) Mandovi River

Q.98) Solution (a)

- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project, on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, Telangana initiated in 2016.
- The project starts at the confluence point of Pranahita River and Godavari River.

- Originally called Dr. B R Ambedkar Pranahita Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, it was redesigned, extended and renamed as Kaleshwaram project in Telangana in 2014.

Q.99) The New START Treaty is a treaty between which of the following countries?

- a) United States of America and the Russian Federation
- b) United States of America and People's Republic of China
- c) People's Republic of China and United Kingdom
- d) Russian Federation and Russian Federation

Q.99) Solution (a)

- The New START Treaty (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty): It is a treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.
- It entered into force on 5th February, 2011.
- New START has replaced the 1991 START I treaty, which expired December 2009, and superseded the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), which terminated when New START entered into force.
- It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.
- It continues the bipartisan process of verifiably reducing the USA and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals by limiting both sides to 700 strategic launchers and 1,550 operational warheads.
- It will lapse in February 2021 unless extended for a five-year period.

Q.100) Consider the following statements with respect to India International Science Festival (IISF):

1. Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) organise IISF every year.
2. The 5th edition of IISF was held in Kolkata in 2019.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.100) Solution (C)

- India International Science Festival (IISF): It is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.

- It was launched in 2015 to promote Science and Technology and demonstrate how science could lead India towards a developed nation within a short span of time.
- The 6th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held virtually in 2020.
- The 5th edition was held in Kolkata in 2019.
- Aim: To engage the public with science and celebrate the joy of science and show the ways how science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) provide solutions to improve people's lives.
- Organising Agencies: Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) organise IISF every year.
- IISF 2020: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will spearhead the IISF 2020 with support of all other concerned ministries and departments.
- CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Q.101) Mission Bhagiratha was recently in news, is related to which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Telangana
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

Q.101) Solution (b)

Mission Bhagiratha

- It is an initiative of Telangana government to provide piped water supply to every household in the country's youngest state. It requires interlinking of Krishna and Godavari Rivers with reservoirs in the state to collect conserve and supply much needed water to the state.
- Project to be completed by 2018 and budget is around 42,000 crore.
- Project water allocated for industrial use: 10%
- Women in villages empowered to oversee allocation and distribution of water in villages and collection of taxes
- More than 1.5 Lakh Km of pipeline to be built.
- Use of LIDAR technology for the survey and project monitoring.

Q.102) Consider the following pairs:

Exercise

1. Indra
2. Naseem
3. Varuna

Participating Countries

India-Britain Naval Exercise
Al-Bahr India- Oman Naval Exercise
India-France

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.102) Solution : b

| Important Bilateral and Multilateral Defence Exercises | |
|--|--|
| Indra | India-Russia Naval Exercise |
| Malabar | US-India-Japan Naval Exercise |
| Varuna | France and India Naval Exercise |
| Simbex | India and Republic of Singapore Naval Exercise |
| Ibsamar | India, Brazil and South Africa Naval Exercise |
| Konkan | India and Britain Naval Exercise |
| Ausindex | India and Australia Naval Exercise |
| Naseem Al-Bahr | India-Oman Naval Exercise |

Q.103) Consider the following statements with respect to Election Commission of India:

1. It is an autonomous constitutional body
2. Part XII of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.

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.103) Solution (a)

- The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.
- The commission consists of one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- At the state level election commission is helped by Chief Electoral Officer who is an IAS rank Officer.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a Supreme Court judge for by Parliament.

Q.104) Consider the following with respect to State of Global Air 2020 (SoGA 2020)

Report:

1. It has been released by the Health Effects Institute (HEI).
2. According to report India is also among the top ten countries with highest ozone (O₃) exposure in 2019

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.104) Solution (c)

- A global study, State of Global Air 2020 (SoGA 2020) has been released by the Health Effects Institute (HEI).
- It highlights that air pollution is the largest risk factor for death among all health risks and it is the first-ever comprehensive analysis of air pollution's global impact on newborns.
- HEI is an independent, nonprofit research institute funded jointly by the USA's Environmental Protection Agency and others.

Key Points

- India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal are among the top ten countries with the highest PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) exposures in 2019 and all of these countries experienced increases in outdoor PM_{2.5} levels between 2010 and 2019.
- India is also among the top ten countries with highest ozone (O₃) exposure in 2019. Also, among the 20 most populous countries, India recorded the highest increase (17%) in O₃ concentrations in the past ten years.
- Long-term exposure to outdoor and household (indoor) air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases, and neonatal diseases, in India in 2019.

Infant Related Data:

- High PM contributed to the deaths of more than 1,16,000 Indian infants who did not survive their first month.
- Infants in the first month of life are already at a vulnerable stage and a growing body of scientific evidence-supported studies in India indicates that particulate air pollution exposure during pregnancy is linked to low birth weight and preterm birth.

- More than half of these deaths were associated with outdoor PM2.5 and others were linked to the use of solid fuels such as charcoal, wood, and animal dung for cooking.
- Although there has been a slow and steady reduction in household reliance on poor-quality fuels, the air pollution from these fuels continues to be a key factor in the deaths of these youngest infants.

Q.105) Consider the following statements Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana:

1. PMKSY is a centrally sponsored scheme
2. The implementation of PMKSY is only by State Irrigation Plan

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)

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- PMKSY is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2015 with the motto of “Har Khet Ko Paani”.
- Objectives: PMKSY is being implemented to expand cultivated areas with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency i.e. Per drop-More crop.
 - It also focuses on creating protective irrigation by harnessing rainwater at micro level through “Jal Sanchay” and “Jal Sinchan”.
 - Formulation: It was formulated by amalgamating following schemes:
 - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) – Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti).
 - Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) – Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.
 - On-Farm Water Management (OFWM) – Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC).
- Implementation: Decentralised implementation through State Irrigation Plan and District Irrigation Plan.

Q.106) Nazca Lines, which are a group of very large geoglyphs made in the soil of the Nazca Desert, is located in-

- a) Peru
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Egypt

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

- The Nazca Lines are a group of very large geoglyphs made in the soil of the Nazca Desert in southern Peru.
- They were created between 500 BCE and 500 CE by people making depressions or shallow incisions in the desert floor, removing pebbles and leaving differently coloured dirt exposed.
- There are many figurative designs of animals and plants.
- The figures include pelicans (the largest ones sized around 935 feet long), Andean Condors (443 feet), monkeys (360 feet), hummingbirds (165 feet), and spiders (150 feet).
- Geometric shapes, such as triangles, trapezoids and spirals, are also found.
- Some designs have been associated with astronomical functions as well.
- The Lines were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.

Q.107) Consider the following statements with respect to Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW):

1. The Base year for the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW) is 2016
2. CPI-IW is compiled and maintained by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.107) Solution (c)**CPI-IW**

- The CPI-IW is mainly used for determining dearness allowance (DA) paid to central/state government employees and workers in the industrial sectors besides measuring inflation in retail prices, fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments.
- CPI-IW is compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment released the new series of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW) with base year 2016.
- The new series of CPI-IW with base 2016 has replaced the existing series with base 2001.
- The new series with base year 2016 covers the latest consumption pattern of the target population.
- It gives more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages.

- The weight of spending on housing and clothing increased from 15.2% to 17%.
- The weight of miscellaneous items, like education and health rose to 30.31% from 23.26%.
- The weight of food and beverage was reduced from 46.2% to 39% and indicates an increase in disposable income.

Q.108) Consider the following statement with respect to Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA):

1. It is Launched by Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention.

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 (b)

- The Union Education Minister has launched the Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA) on the occasion of the 89th birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention.
- Students in higher education institutions of the country are innovating constantly under the guidance of their teachers but they are not aware of the system of filing its patent.
- Through this campaign, students will be able to get benefits from their inventions by patenting them.
- For India to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25, students and scientists have to be more aware of protecting intellectual property (IP).
- The program will facilitate the colleges and institutions to encourage more and more students to file patents and everyone engaged in research and development must apply to preserve and safeguard their inventions.

Q.109) Himalayan Brown Bears were recently in news, is categorized under which category?

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

d) Vulnerable

Q.109) Solution (a)

- Himalayan Brown Bears are also known as the Himalayan red bear, Isabelline bear or Dzu-The
- Himalayan Brown Bears are subspecies of the brown bear
- These bear are the largest mammal in the Himalayan region, males reach up to 2.2 m long while females are little smaller. They are omnivorous and hibernate in a den during the winter
- In India, these are found in 23 protected areas of the northern states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttaranchal. In J&K they are found in Suru, Zaskar, Drass and Kargil in the Ladakh Region.
- These are categorized as critically endangered in IUCN list

Q.110) Which among the following scheme was recently launched by PM which aims at providing day-time electricity to farmers in the Gujarat for irrigation and farming purposes?

- a) Kisan Suryodaya Yojana
- b) Kisan Kaushal Yojana
- c) Kisan Vidhyut yojana
- d) Krishi Samrudhi yojana

Q110) Solution (a)

- PM Modi launched the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' aimed at providing day-time electricity to farmers in the State for irrigation and farming purposes.
- Under the scheme, the farmers are to be availed with power supply between 5 AM and 9 PM.
- In order to implement the scheme, the State Government of Gujarat has allocated budget of Rs 3,500 crores. These funds will install transmission infrastructure by 2023.
- Around 234 transmission lines are to be installed under the scheme. Each line is to carry power of 66 KW. They are to be erected to a total length of 3,490 km. Also, additional 220 KV substations are to be installed.

Q.111) Consider the following statements:

1. India's first ever seaplane service is going to start in Gujarat
2. Seaplane service comes under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

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)

- India's first seaplane service in Gujarat, is set to start from 31st October 2020, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with the aim of providing air connectivity between the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad and the Statue of Unity in Kevadia.
- Ministry: Union Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- The seaplane will be operated by SpiceJet. It is a 19-seater seaplane, which will be able to accommodate 14 passengers.
- In the next phase, Dharoi dam (Mehsana district) will connect Ambaji and Shatrunjay dam (Bhavnagar district) and Tapi district.

Seaplane:

- A seaplane is a fixed-wing aeroplane designed for taking off and landing on water.
- There are two main types of seaplanes: flying boats (often called hull seaplanes) and floatplanes.
- A flying boat is a fixed-winged seaplane with a hull, allowing it to land on water, that usually has no type of landing gear to allow operation on land. It differs from a floatplane as it uses a purpose-designed fuselage which can float, granting the aircraft buoyancy
- A floatplane is supported on the water by pontoons, called floats.



Q.112) Country's first MultiModal Logistics Park (MMLP) is going to set up in which of the following State?

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Kerala
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Q.112) Solution (a)

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has laid the foundation stone for the country's first MultiModal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Jogighopa in Assam.
- Developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India.
 - Bharatmala Pariyojana is an umbrella program for the highways sector envisaged by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
 - In order to reduce congestion on proposed economic corridors, enhance logistic efficiency and reduce logistics costs of freight movements, 35 locations have been identified for development of MultiModal Logistics Parks.
- It will have direct connectivity with National Highway 17, the proposed Jogighopa waterway terminal on Brahmaputra, the newly constructed Rupsi and Guwahati airports as well as the main railway route.
- It will have all the facilities like warehouses, railway siding, cold storage, custom clearance house, yard facility, workshops, petrol pumps, truck parking, administrative building, boarding lodging, eating joints, water treatment plant, etc.
- The park will reduce trade cost by 10% and have cargo capacity of 13 million metric tons (MMT) per year.

Q.113) Consider the following statements:

1. Saudi Arabia hosted the first-ever Ministerial Meeting of the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) virtually.
2. Currently India holds the presidency of G-20

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.113) Solution (a)

- Saudi Arabia hosted the first-ever Ministerial Meeting of the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) virtually.
- Currently, Saudi Arabia holds the presidency of G-20 and is the first Arab nation to do so.

G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group:

- It was set up in June 2010 at the Toronto Summit of G-20. The year 2020 marks its 10th anniversary.
- Objective: To prepare "comprehensive recommendations for consideration by leaders on how the G20 could continue to make practical and valuable contributions to international efforts to combat corruption".
- ACWG has led the G-20 anti-corruption efforts coordinating the collective and national actions taken by its members.

- It actively works with the World Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), etc.
 - The World Bank and the UNODC are also involved in the ACWG through the active participation and contribution of Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR) to its work, which plays an advisory role on asset recovery, anti-money laundering/counter-terrorism financing, transparency and beneficial ownership, etc.

Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to World Economic Outlook:

1. According to report, India's (GDP) will witness a contraction of over 10%.
2. It is a survey released thrice a year by International Monetary 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.114) Solution (a)

- According to the October update of the World Economic Outlook 2020, India's gross domestic product (GDP) will witness a contraction of over 10%.
- This is more than the double of 4.5% contraction projected in the April edition.
- World Economic Outlook is a survey by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which is usually published twice a year in the months of April and October.

Key Points

- Global growth would contract by 4.4% in 2020 and bounce back to 5.2% in 2021.
- Indian economy, severely hit by the pandemic, is projected to contract by 10.3% in 2020.
 - The spread of the Covid-19 and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India.
- However, India is likely to bounce back with an 8.8% growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest-growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2%.
 - Among the major economies, China is the only country to show a positive growth rate of 1.9% in 2020.

Q.115) Kabartal Wetland which was recently designated as Ramsar site it is located in which of the following states?

- a) Bihar
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.115) Solution (a)

- Recently, Kabartal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand) have been designated as Ramsar sites, making them 'Wetlands of International Importance'.
- Earlier in 2020, India designated 10 more wetlands as a Ramsar site, taking the total number from 27 to 37.
- With 2 more inclusions, the total number of Ramsar sites in India is 39, the highest in South Asia.

Kabartal Wetland:

- Also known as Kanwar Jheel, it covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the Begusarai district of Bihar.
- It acts as a vital flood buffer for the region besides providing livelihood opportunities to local communities.
- Significant biodiversity is present, with 165 plant species and 394 animal species recorded, including 221 bird species. It is also a valuable site for fish biodiversity with over 50 species documented.
- It is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel.
- Five critically endangered species inhabit the site, including three vultures – the red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) – and two waterbirds, the sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*).
- Major threats to the Site include water management activities such as drainage, water abstraction, damming and canalization.

Q.116) Indira Rasoi Yojana which is aimed to provide nutritious food to the poor and needy twice a day at concessional rates is related to which of the following state?

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

Q.116) Solution (b)**Indira Rasoi Yojana**

- Indira Rasoi Yojana (a kitchen scheme), was launched by Rajasthan.
- The scheme was launched in August 2020.
- Aim: To provide nutritious food to the poor and needy twice a day at concessional rates.
- Under the scheme, each plate serves 100 grams of pulses and vegetables each, 250 grams of chapati and pickles.
- It aligns with the World Food Day's 2020 theme to grow, nourish and sustain together.
- Implementation: The local voluntary organisations have been roped in for establishing the centres near the places such as bus stands, railway stations and hospitals and for successful implementation of the scheme.

- Background: The current Rajasthan government scrapped the previous Annapurna Rasoi Yojana which was offering breakfast and lunch on the lines of Tamil Nadu's Amma Unavagam (mother's canteen).
- Monitoring: A committee headed by the District Collector will be monitoring the implementation of the scheme. A special app has also been created for monitoring the food quality.

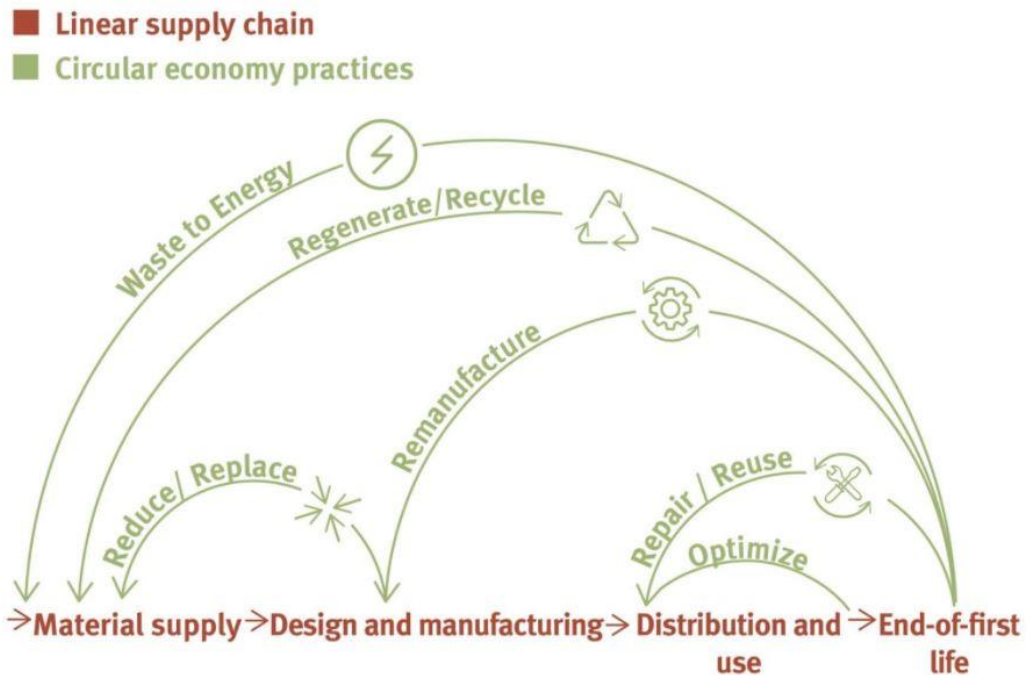
Q.117) The economy where products are designed for durability, reuse and recyclability and thus almost everything gets reused, remanufactured, and recycled into a raw material or used as a source of energy is called as:

- a) Recycle Economy
- b) Circular Economy
- c) Rotation Economy
- d) Round economy

Q.117) Solution (b)

Circular Economy

- Meaning: It is an economy where products are designed for durability, reuse and recyclability and thus almost everything gets reused, remanufactured, and recycled into a raw material or used as a source of energy.
- Efficient Use of Resources: It includes 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), Refurbishment, Recover, and Repairing of materials.
- Example: If a person is planning to discard his/her mobile, it can be given to someone else (i.e. giving the mobile second life-Reuse), rather than throwing it just like that.
 - Once the mobile reaches its end of life, it can be ensured that everything embedded in it, aluminum, copper, plastic etc. should be brought back to production cycle so that the circle of the economy gets completed.
- Response to the Linear Process: Many countries follow a linear process in which raw materials are taken from the environment, turned into new products which are then disposed of after use.



Q.118) Arrange the following countries from west to east:

1. Sudan
2. Libya
3. Israel
4. Iran

Which of the following order is correct?

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

Q118) Solution (c)



Q.119) Tsunami can be caused by which of the following?

- a) Earth quake
- b) Landslide
- c) Volcanic Eruption
- d) All of the above

Q.119) Solution (d)

Tsunamis

- These are a series of waves usually generated by movement of the sea floor. These movements are caused by different types of geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions.
- The word tsunami is a Japanese word, represented by two characters: tsu, meaning, “harbor”, and nami meaning, “wave”.
- The tsunami waves behave very differently in deep water than in shallow water as their speed is related to the water depth.
- They frequently occur in the Pacific, where dense oceanic plates slide under the lighter continental plates. When these plates fracture they provide a vertical movement of the seafloor that allows a quick and efficient transfer of energy from the solid earth to the ocean.

Q.120) Srisailem Hydroelectric Power Plant is constructed over which River?

- a) Godavari River
- b) Kali River
- c) Krishna River
- d) Kaveri River

Q.120) Solution (c)

Srisailem Hydroelectric Power Plant

- Srisailem Hydroelectric Power Plant is constructed across the Krishna River located between Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts.
- The construction of the project started in 1980.
- The Srisailem is a Gravity & Masonry type dam.
- Recently Srisailem Hydroelectric power station started its operation after, witnessing a massive fire accident in August 2020.

Q.121) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS):

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. INCOIS identifies the Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) for the fishermen 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.121) Solution (b)**Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**

- INCOIS was established in 1999 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- INCOIS through Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) is the nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India.
- It is coordinating with the Disaster Management Officials (DMOs) for implementation of Tsunami Ready programme in India.
- It conducts IOWave Tsunami mock exercises biannually to strengthen the readiness to handle the emergency situations with stakeholders.
- INCOIS also identifies the Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) for the fishermen community.
- It has also made improvement in overcoming the cloud cover through usage of geostationary satellites and numerical modelling.
- INCOIS has also partnered with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) to develop a satellite based message broadcasting services through the indigenous navigational satellite communication system 'NAVIC'.

Q.122) The linear belt of intense deformation, where distinct terranes, or tectonic units with different plate tectonic, metamorphic, and paleogeographic histories join together is called as:

- a) Suture Zones
- b) Hard Zones
- c) Rock Zones
- d) Tectonic Zones

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

- A suture zone is a linear belt of intense deformation, where distinct terranes, or tectonic units with different plate tectonic, metamorphic, and paleogeographic histories join together.
- These zones also provide the only record of deep oceanic crust and of ancient seafloor processes for roughly the first 90% of Earth's history.
- Their study provides a means to understand the end-product of plate tectonic processes in time and space. In plate tectonics, sutures are seen as the remains of subduction zones together with the terranes possibly representing fragments of different tectonic plates.
- The suture zone is often represented on the surface by a mountain range comprising intensely deformed rocks.

- The Iapetus Suture from Great Britain, which is now concealed beneath younger rocks, and Indo-Tsangpo Suture well exposed in the Himalayas are some of the best examples of suture zones.

Q.123) The very weak form of magnetism that is induced by a change in the orbital motion of electrons due to an applied magnetic field is called as:

- a) Paramagnetism
- b) Ferromagnetism
- c) Diamagnetism
- d) None of the above

Q.123) Solution (c)

Diamagnetism

- It is a very weak form of magnetism that is induced by a change in the orbital motion of electrons due to an applied magnetic field.
- This magnetism is non-permanent and persists only in the presence of an external field.
- The magnitude of the induced magnetic moment is very small, and its direction is opposite to that of the applied field.

Q.124) Feni bridge connects Bangladesh with which state of India?

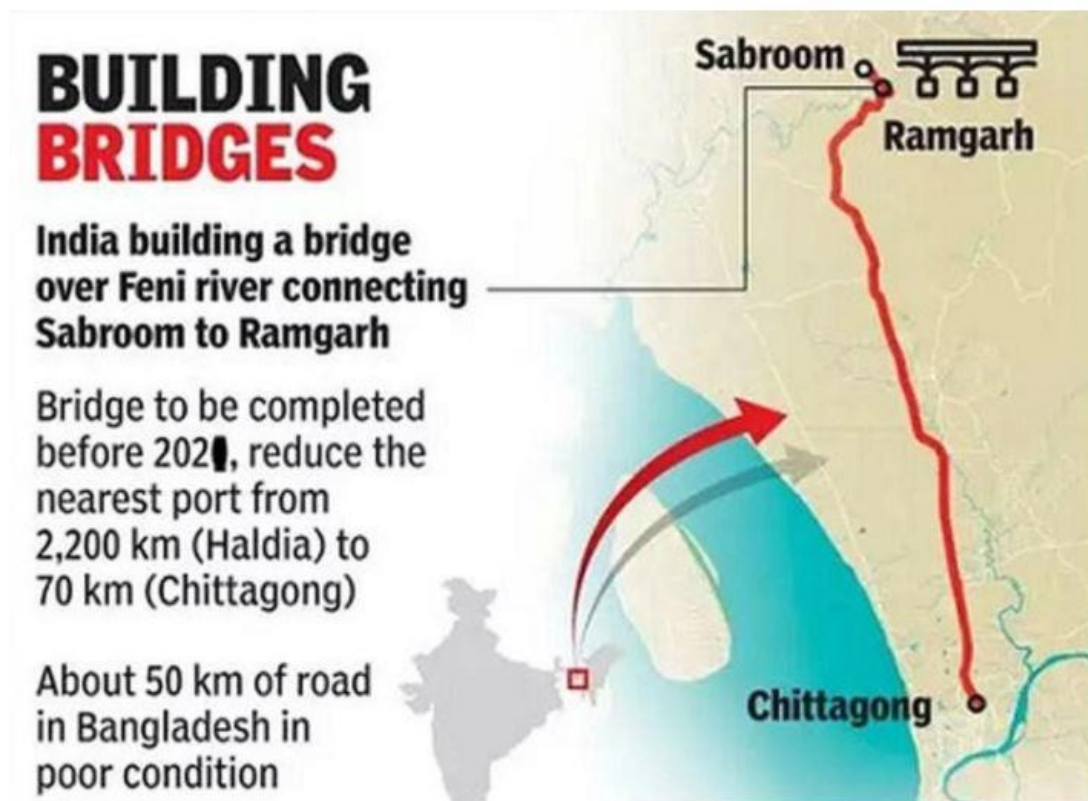
- a) West Bengal
- b) Tripura
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Assam

Q.124) Solution (b)

- The Feni river forms part of the India-Bangladesh border.
- It originates in the South Tripura district.
- The river passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.
- Feni Bridge is known as Maitree Setu in Chattogram.
- Location: The bridge is being built over the Feni River and will connect Tripura with Chittagong port of Bangladesh.

Significance:

- It is being developed as a corridor for trade and commerce between India's North-East and Bangladesh.
- It will provide direct road connectivity between South Tripura and Chittagong allowing India to use Chittagong as a "port of call" and promoting trade, tourism and people-to-people ties.
- The bridge will facilitate carrying of heavy machines and goods to and from the north-eastern states and the rest of India via Bangladesh through Chattogram.



Q.125) 'Parampara Series 2020- National Festival of Music & Dance' was organized by which of the following?

- a) Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations
- b) Union ministry of Culture in partnership with Natya Tarangini
- c) Union ministry of Culture with the aid of World Bank
- d) Indian cultural ministry and cultural ministry of Nepal

Q.125) Solution (a)

- 'Parampara Series 2020- National Festival of Music & Dance' was organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations. Natya Tarangini is organising the 'Parampara Series' continuously since past 23 years.
- This festival was organized to coincide with the World Day for Audio-visual Heritage.
- 'Parampara' means 'tradition', the transmission of cultural treasure house from one generation to the next.
- Natya Tarangini Performing Arts Centre, was founded initially as a Kuchipudi Dance Institute by India's legendary dancing couple Dr.(s) Raja Radha and Kaushalya Reddy in the year 1976 in New Delhi.

Q.126) Consider the following statements with respect to Annual Status of Education Report 2020:

1. It is a nationwide survey of urban education and learning outcomes.

2. ASER 2020 is the first ever phone-based ASER survey

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q126) Solution (b)

Annual Status of Education Report

- It is a nationwide survey of rural education and learning outcomes in terms of reading and arithmetic skills that has been conducted by the NGO Pratham for the last 15 years.
- It uses Census 2011 as the sampling frame and continues to be an important national source of information about children's foundational skills across the country.
- ASER 2018 surveyed children in the age group of 3 to 16 years and included almost all rural districts in India and generated estimates of foundational reading and arithmetic abilities of children in the age group 5 to 16 years.
- ASER 2019 reported on the pre-schooling or schooling status of children in the age group 4 to 8 years in 26 rural districts, focused on the "early years" and laid emphasis on "developing problem-solving faculties and building a memory of children, and not content knowledge".
- ASER 2020 is the first ever phone-based ASER survey and it was conducted in September 2020, the sixth month of national school closures.

Q.127) Arrange the following countries from east to west:

- 1. France
- 2. Spain
- 3. Germany
- 4. Finland

Which of the following order is/are correct?

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

Q.127) Solution (a)



Q.128) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana:

1. Its main aim is to strengthen and improve the living of potters in the country by making them self reliant
2. It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.128) Solution (c)

Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana (KSY)

- Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Program is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC).

- Aim: To strengthen and improve the living of potters in the country by making them self reliant (Atma Nirbhar).
- Features: Providing potters with modern equipment and training to reconnect them with the society and revive their art.
- Implementation: KVIC has created proper marketing channels including tie-up with the Indian Railway for selling the products of potters.
- Benefits: Proper training and distribution of advanced equipment under the scheme has eliminated drudgery from the process of pottery making and also resulted in increasing the production by 3-4 times.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Q.129) Recently India signed Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) with which of the following country?

- a) United States of America
- b) Russia
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Nepal

Q.129) Solution (a)

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

- India and the United States signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).
- BECA will help India get real-time access to American geospatial intelligence that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones.
- Through the sharing of information on maps and satellite images, it will help India access topographical and aeronautical data, and advanced products that will aid in navigation and targeting.
- This could be key to Air Force-to-Air Force cooperation between India and the US.
- BECA will provide Indian military systems with a high-quality GPS to navigate missiles with real-time intelligence to precisely target the adversary.
- BECA, along with the two agreements signed earlier LEMOA and COMCASA completes a troika of “foundational pacts” for deep military cooperation between the two countries.

Q.130) Consider the following statements:

1. Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-01) is intended for applications in preventing illegal mining

2. India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the first generation launch vehicle

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.130) Solution (d)

- Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-01): It is an earth observation satellite and is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.
- Earth observation satellites are the satellites equipped with remote sensing technology. Earth observation is the gathering of information about Earth's physical, chemical and biological systems.
- Many earth observation satellites have been employed on sun-synchronous orbit.
- Other earth observation satellites launched by ISRO include RESOURCESAT- 2, 2A, CARTOSAT-1, 2, 2A, 2B, RISAT-1 and 2, OCEANSAT-2, Megha-Tropiques, SARAL and SCATSAT-1, INSAT-3DR, 3D, etc.

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the third generation launch vehicle.
- PSLV is the first launch vehicle which is equipped with liquid stages.

Q.131) Consider the following statements with respect to SERB-POWER scheme:

1. It is launched under the Ministry of Science and Technology
2. The scheme targets women researchers in 18-55 years of age.

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.131) Solution (a)

- The Union Minister for Science and Technology has launched SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research) Scheme, which has two components of fellowship and research grants.
- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.

Key Points

- It is a scheme designed exclusively for women scientists to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various science and technology (S&T) programmes in Indian academic institutions and research and development (R&D) laboratories.
- It will serve as a benchmark of recognition in the national scenario and will empower women scientists and cultivate a women-friendly culture and ensure more women in leadership positions in decision-making bodies.

SERB-POWER Fellowship:**Target:**

- Women researchers in 35-55 years of age.
- Up-to 25 Fellowships per year and not more than 75 at any point in time.

Components of Support:

- Fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income.
- Research grant of Rs. 10 lakh per annum.
- Overhead of Rs. 90,000/- per annum.

Duration:

- Three years, without the possibility of extension. Once in a career.

Q.132) Vietnam does not share land border with which of the following country?

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

Q.132) Solution (a)

Vietnam shares its land borders with China to the north, and Laos and Cambodia to the west. It shares its maritime borders with Thailand through the Gulf of Thailand, and the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia through the South China Sea.



Q.133) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Jute cultivation?

- a) Temperature required to grow jute is between 25-35°C.
- b) Favorable Rainfall should be around 150-250 cm.
- c) Soil should be well drained alluvial soil
- d) China is the world's largest jute production country

Q.133) Solution (d)

Jute cultivation

- Temperature: Between 25-35°C.
- Rainfall: Around 150-250 cm.
- Soil Type: Well-drained alluvial soil.
- Top Jute Producing States: West Bengal > Bihar > Assam > Andhra Pradesh > Odisha.
- It is mainly concentrated in eastern India because of the rich alluvial soil of Ganga-Brahmaputra delta.
- The world's largest jute producing countries are India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand.
- India is the world's largest producer of raw jute and jute goods, contributing to over 50% and 40% respectively of global production.
- It is known as the golden fibre because it is one of the longest and most used natural fibre for various textile applications.
- It is used in making gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artefacts.
- Due to its high cost, it is losing market to synthetic fibres and packing materials, particularly nylon.

Q.134) Quarterly periodic labour force survey is released by:

- a) National Statistical Office (NSO)
- b) National Labour Commission
- c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Q.134) Solution (a)

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) released the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for October-December 2019.
- This dataset differs from the Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey, which covers both rural and urban areas. However, unemployment data for urban areas is released quarterly.

Unemployment Rate:

- It eased in urban areas to 7.9% in October-December 2019 compared to 9.9% in October-December 2018.
- However, state-wise data showed that urban unemployment rate was higher than the national average in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh.

- Female unemployment rate decreased to 9.8% in October-December 2019 compared to 12.3% in October-December 2018.
- Male unemployment rate moderated to 7.3% in October-December 2019 from 9.2% in October-December 2018.

Labour Force Participation Rate:

- It rose to 37.2% in October-December 2019 from 36.3% in October-December 2018.

Q.135) The initiative for focused action on security of women with an objective to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station is named as:

- a) Mahila Saathi
- b) Stree Suraksha
- c) Meri Saheli
- d) We are with you

Q.135) Solution (c)

- The “Meri Saheli” initiative was started as a pilot project in South Eastern Railway in September 2020.
- Recently it was extended to all zones after getting encouraging response from lady passengers.
- It is initiative for focused action on security of women across all zones with an objective to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.
- The Strategy entails interaction with lady passengers especially those travelling alone by a team of young lady Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at the originating station.
- These lady passengers are briefed about all precautions to be taken during the journey and told to dial 182 in case they face or see any problem in the coach.
- The platform duty RPF personnel at the stopping stations En-route keep unobtrusive watch over the concerned coaches and berths and if need arises, interact with the lady passengers.