

Q.1) Recently the term AITIGA seen in news it refers to:

- a) It is a free trade agreement
- b) It is a new mission by ISRO
- c) It is a new financial inclusion scheme launched by NITI Aayog
- d) It is a dwarf planet found out by NASA

Q.1) Solution (a)

- The AITIGA is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) among the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India which came into force in January, 2010.
- Under the pact, two trading partners set timelines for eliminating duties on the maximum number of goods traded between the two regions.
- India's trade deficit with the ASEAN rose from around 5 billion USD in 2011 to 21.8 USD billion in 2019.
- India emphasized on review on AITIGA at the earliest and the need to strengthen the Rules of Origin provisions, work towards removal of non-tariff barriers and provide better market access.

Q.2) Which of the following country does not share Coastline with Caspian sea?

- a) Russia
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Iran
- d) Iraq

Q.2) Solution (d)

The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water. It is an endorheic basin (a basin without outflows) located between Europe and Asia, to the east of the Caucasus Mountains and to the west of the broad steppe of Central Asia. It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.



Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Kavkaz:

1. Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Astrakhan (Russia)
2. It is the tri-service exercise is part of a four-year exercise cycle of the Russian army

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

Kavkaz-2020 Exercise:

- It is a strategic command-post exercise, and also known as Caucasus-2020.
- The tri-service exercise is part of a four-year exercise cycle of the Russian army. Previous editions of the exercise were held in 2012 and 2016.
- In 2020 it will be conducted in the Astrakhan province of Southern Russia.
- Member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.

Q.4) Which of the following is the implementing agency of PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI)?

- a) Ministry of skill development
- b) Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment
- c) Ministry of human resource development
- d) Ministry of Education

Q.4) Solution (b)

- The Central government is contemplating setting up a single national scholarship scheme called PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) for meritorious students which will absorb all the existing scholarship schemes.
- Students in the Other Backward Class (OBC), SC, Denotified, Nomadic and semi-Nomadic Tribe (DNT) and Economically Backward Caste (EBC) categories will be able to avail the national scholarship.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been tasked to implement the Scheme by conducting a merit test.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Poshan Maah:

1. The month of August is observed as Poshan Maah i.e. Nutrition month every year, since 2018.
2. It is implemented by Ministry of Women and Child 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.5) Solution (b)

- Poshan Abhiyan: Also called as the National Nutrition Mission, it is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Poshan implies 'Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition'.
- Under Poshan Abhiyaan, the month of September is observed as Poshan Maah i.e. Nutrition month every year, since 2018.
- It includes a month-long activities focussed on antenatal care, optimal breastfeeding, anaemia, growth monitoring, girls education, diet, right age of marriage, hygiene and sanitation and eating healthy (food fortification).

- The activities focus on Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) and are based on Jan Andolan Guidelines.
- SBCC is the strategic use of communication approaches to promote changes in knowledge, attitudes, norms, beliefs and behaviours.
- Jan Andolan is one of the strategies under the Poshan Abhiyaan.
- A food and nutrition quiz as well as meme competition will be organized on the My Gov portal.
- A unique kind of nutrition park has been created at Statue of Unity (Gujarat), where one can witness nutrition related education along with fun and frolic.
- Implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. National Statistical Office is formed by merging National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with the Central Statistics Office (CSO)
2. National statistical office publishes Index of industrial 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.6) Solution (c)

- the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is merged to form an overarching body National Statistical Office (NSO) through the merger of the NSSO and the CSO.
- The order states that the proposed NSO would be headed by Secretary (Statistics and Programme Implementation), but skips any mention of National Statistical Commission (NSC), which has been the overseeing body for all the statistical work done in the country.

Index of Industrial production

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
- 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 is 2011-2012.

Q.7) What are bad banks?

- a) It is an asset reconstruction company
- b) It is bankrupted financial institute
- c) It is a bank forced to shutdown by RBI
- d) It is a part of National company law tribunal

Q.7) Solution (a)

- A Bad Bank is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).
- Once it is formed, banks divide their assets into two categories (a) one with non-performing assets and other risky liabilities and (b) others with healthy assets, which help banks grow financially.
- ARC or Bad Bank buys bad loans from the commercial banks at a discount and tries to recover the money from the defaulter by providing a systematic solution over a period of time.
- The bad bank will manage these Non-Performing Assets in suitable ways, some may be liquidated, others may be restructured, etc.
- RBI, too, came up with a suggestion to form two entities to clean up the bad loan problems ailing public sector banks-PAMC (Private Asset Management Company) and NAMC (National Assets Management Company).
- PAMC would be formed by roping in banks and global funding companies.
- This would invest in areas where there's a short-term economic viability.
- NAMC would be formed with government support, which would invest in bad assets with short-term stress but good chances of turnaround and economic benefit.

Q.8) Which of the following is not among the eight core sector industries?

- a) Electricity generation
- b) Coal production
- c) Natural Gas production
- d) Automobile Industry

Q.8) Solution (d)

- The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement, and electricity.

- These comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

Industry	Weight (In percentage)
1. Petroleum & Refinery production	28.04
2. Electricity generation	19.85
3. Steel production	17.92
4. Coal production	10.33
5. Crude Oil production	8.98
6. Natural Gas production	6.88
7. Cement production	5.37
8. Fertilizers production	2.63

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. African baobab is the oldest Known Angiosperm Tree
2. Baobabs are deciduous dwarf trees with 3-9 feet height

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 (b)

- Baobabs are deciduous trees ranging in height from 5 to 20 meters. Deciduous forest is a vegetation composed primarily of broad-leaved trees that shed all their leaves during one season.
- The African baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) is one of the nine species of baobab and is native to mainland Africa. They are also found in African Savannah here the ecosystem is a tropical grassland with warm temperatures year-round and with its highest seasonal rainfall in the summer.
- It is characterized by grasses and small or dispersed trees that do not form a closed canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the ground.
- Carbon-14 dating places the age of a specimen of African baobab in Namibia at about 1,275 years which is the oldest Known Angiosperm Tree.

Q.10) Onam one of the major harvesting festival of which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil nadu
- d) Andra Pradesh

Q.10) Solution (b)

- Onam is a major harvest festival in Kerala and is celebrated to honour the home-coming of Asura king Mahabali who brought about peace and prosperity in Kerala.
- It is one of the three major festivals of Kerala, celebrated during the month of Chingam, the first month in the Malayalam calendar, Kollavarsham.
- The other two major festivals of the state are Vishu and Thiruvathira.
- The 10-day harvest festival begins on Atham (first day of Onam) and concludes on Thiruvonam (last day).
- The main attraction is the traditional Onam sadhya (grand feast).

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to Chola dynasty:

1. The Cholas ruled the central and northern parts of Assam
2. Brihadeshwara temple was built during their period

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.11) Solution (b)

- The Cholas controlled the central and northern parts of Tamil Nadu from around the 8th-12th century AD.
- Their core area of the rule was the Kaveri delta, later known as Cholamandalam. Their capital was Uraiyur (near Tiruchirapalli town) and Puhar or Kaveripattinam was an alternative royal residence and chief port town.
- Tiger was their emblem.
- King Karikala was a famous king of the Sangam Cholas. Trade and commerce flourished during his reign. He founded the port city of Puhar (identical with Kaveripattinam)
- Recently, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched 'Project Digital Poompuhar' to recreate the Chola Dynasty port city (Poompuhar) in Tamil Nadu.

- Brihadisvara Temple was built by Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola I (985-1014 AD) between 1003 AD and 1010 AD.

Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to National sports Development fund (NSDF):

1. Donation given to NSDF can be considered as corporate social responsibility
2. The Fund is managed by a Council constituted by the Central Government. Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Council.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.12) Solution (c)

- National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890
- It was notified by Government of India in November 1998
- Donation given to NSDF can be considered as corporate social responsibility initiative
- Purpose of creation is to impart momentum and flexibility to assist the cause of sports
- The Fund helps sportspersons excel by providing them opportunities to train under coaches of international repute with technical, scientific and psychological support and giving them exposure to international competitions
- The Fund also provides financial assistance for the development of infrastructure and other activities for the promotion of sports
- The Fund is managed by a Council constituted by the Central Government. Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Council.
- The Council decides all policy matters relating to the Fund.

Q.13) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is located in which city?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Chennai
- d) New Delhi

Q.13) Solution (a)

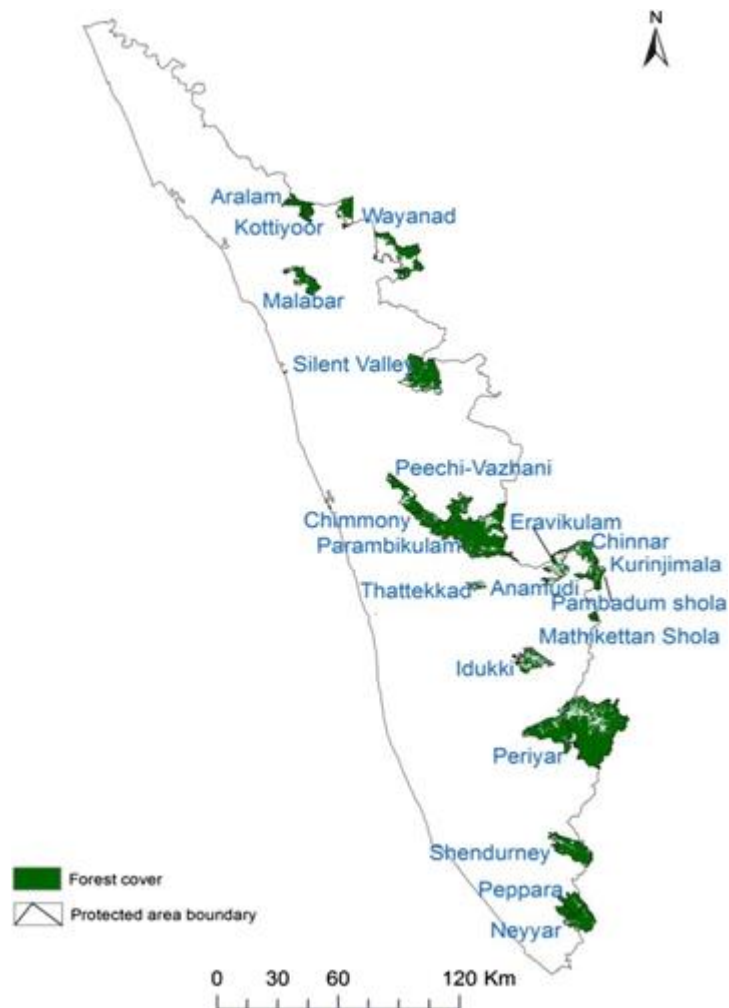
- National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is located in Hyderabad (Telangana).
- It is an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
- It is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj.
- It has been recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence.

Q.14) Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is situated in which state ?

- a) Assam
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Tamil nadu
- d) Kerala

Q.14) Solution (d)

- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a well protected ecological portion in the Nelliampathy - Anamalai landscape of the Southern Western Ghats in India.
- It is located in the Palakkad District of Kerala.
- It was declared as Tiger Reserve during 2008-09.
- The reserve is credited with the first scientifically managed teak plantation in the world which was later merged with the forest land.
- It has the world's largest and oldest teak tree. Named "Kannimara" (corrupt version of Irish name Connemara), the tree is believed to be 350 years old and has a height of 40m and girth of 6.4m.



Q.15) Tri-Services Exercise Indra is between which India and which country?

- a) Russia
- b) Japan
- c) France
- d) Turkmenistan

Q.15) Solution (a)

- India and Russia are scheduled to hold Indra 2020 in the Andaman Sea, close to the Strait of Malacca instead of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The Strait of Malacca connects Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and is 900 km in length and is also a prominent trade route between East Asia and West Asia-Europe.
- IOR is under high operational alert by the Indian Navy due to the ongoing standoff with China in Ladakh.
- The Indra series of exercises began in 2003 and was conducted as a bilateral naval exercise alternately between the two countries.

- However, the first joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017.
- Indra 2020 will be the first bilateral naval exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Its timing coincides with Indian Defence Minister's visit to Russia for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers Meet.

Q.16) 'Mission Karmayogi' was recently seen in news, it is related to:

- a) Civil services capacity building program
- b) Farmers monetary aid program
- c) Soldiers emotional training program
- d) Creation of jobs with minimum wage

Q.16) Solution (a)

- 'Mission Karmayogi' - the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
- It is meant to be a comprehensive post-recruitment reform of the Centre's human resource development. Similar to pre-recruitment changes in the form of the National Recruitment Agency.

Objectives of Mission Karmayogi:

- It is aimed at building a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India.
- It aims to prepare Indian civil servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, proactive, innovative, progressive, professional, energetic, transparent, and technology-enabled.
- Comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at the individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery.

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Science and technology
2. The Zoological Survey of India has its headquarters at Kolkata

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.17) Solution (b)

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was established in 1916.
- It is a national centre for faunistic survey and exploration of the resources leading to the advancement of knowledge on the exceptionally rich faunal diversity of the country.
- It has its headquarters at Kolkata and 16 regional stations located in different geographic locations of the country.

Q.18) Consider the following statements Special Frontier Force (SFF):

1. The units that comprise the SFF are known as Vikas battalions.
2. It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.18) Solution (c)

- SFF was raised in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war.
- It was a covert outfit which recruited Tibetans (now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas) and initially went by the name of Establishment 22.
- It was named so because it was raised by Major General Sujan Singh Uban, an Artillery officer who had commanded 22 Mountain Regiment. He named the new covert group after his regiment. Subsequently, the group was renamed as Special Frontier Force.
- SFF now falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
- It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
- The units have their own rank structures which have equivalent status with Army ranks.
- However, they are highly trained Special Forces personnel who can undertake a variety of tasks which would normally be performed by any Special Forces unit.

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. International Commission of Jurists is an NGO
2. Geneva is the headquarters of International court of justice

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.19) Solution (a)

International Commission of Jurists

- International Commission of Jurists is an international human rights non-governmental organization.
- It is a standing group of 60 eminent jurists—including senior judges, attorneys and academics.
- Its function is to develop national and international human rights standards through the law.
- Headquarters is located at Geneva, Switzerland.

International Court of Justice

- ICJ was established in 1945 by the United Nations charter and started working in April 1946.
- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Unlike the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA).

Q.20) Consider the following statements with respect to Andaman and Nicobar:

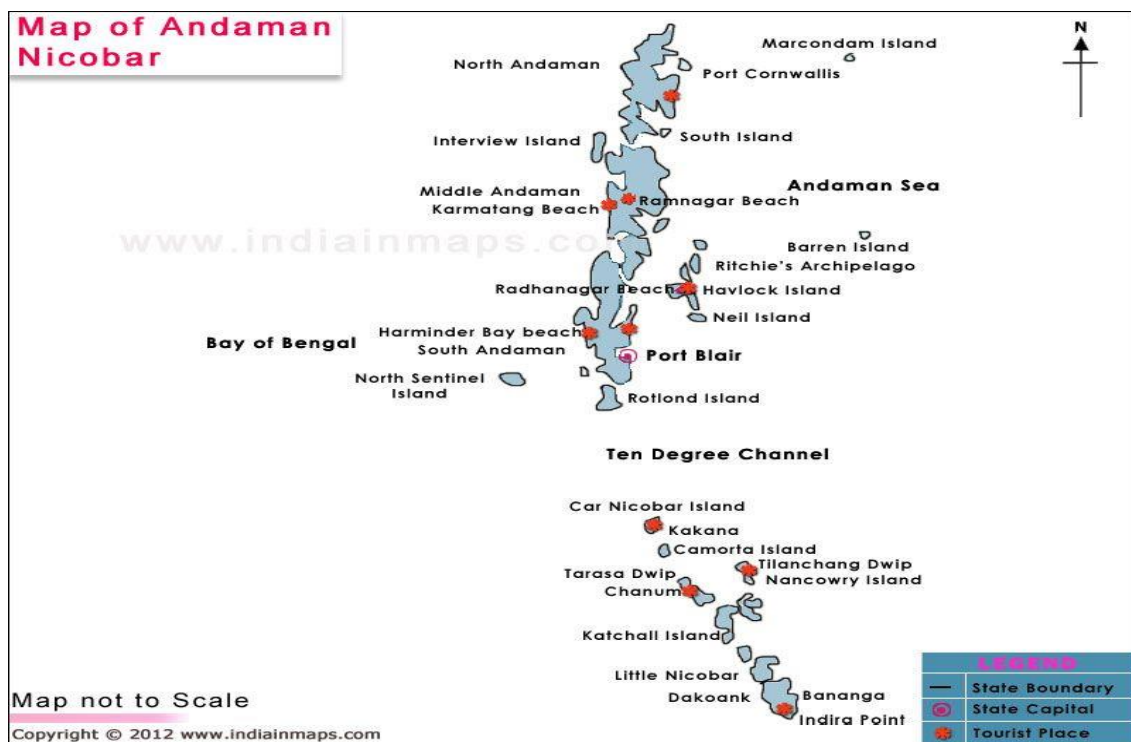
1. Barren islands is the only active Island in India
2. Port Blair is located in Middle Andaman

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.20) Solution (a)

- The Andaman and Nicobar islands (A&N islands), popularly known as 'Bay Islands', are situated in the Bay of Bengal, midway between peninsular India and Myanmar, spreading like a broken necklace in the North-south direction.
- The maximum altitude of these islands is 730 m at Saddle Peak in North Andaman, formed mainly of limestone, sandstone, and clay.
- Two islands of volcanic origin are found, namely the Narcondam and the Barren islands. The former is now apparently extinct while the latter is still active.
- The Andaman and Nicobars are separated by the Ten Degree Channel which is 150 Kms. wide.
- The indigenous people of Andamans are the Great Andamanese, the Jarawa; the Onge; and the Sentinelese (the most isolated of all the groups).
- The indigenous peoples of the Nicobars (unrelated to the Andamanese) are the Nicobarese; and the Shompen.
- The Andaman Wood Pigeon, Andaman Padauk and Dugong are declared as State Bird, State Tree and State Animal respectively.
- Port Blair the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar is situated in South Andaman



Q.21) The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is called as which of the following?

- Question Hour
- Zero Hour
- Parliament hour
- Submission hour

Q.21) Solution (a)

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour. However, in 2014 the Question Hour was shifted in the Rajya Sabha from 11 am to 12 noon.
- During this one hour, Members of Parliament (MPs) ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.
- The questions can also be asked to the private members (MPs who are not ministers).
- The presiding officers of the both Houses (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.
- Kinds of Questions: There are three types of questions asked.
- Starred question (distinguished by an asterisk)- this requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
- Unstarred question- this requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
- Short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.

Q.22) Which of the following does not have postal ballot service?

- a) Voters on election duty.
- b) Voters under preventive detention.
- c) Voters above 80 years of age
- d) Persons in prison

Q.22) Solution (d)

- Ballot papers are distributed electronically to electors and are returned to the election officers via post.
- Currently, only the following voters are allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot:
- Service voters (armed forces, the armed police force of a state and government servants posted abroad),
- Voters on election duty.
- Voters above 80 years of age or Persons with Disabilities (PwD).
- Voters under preventive detention.
- The exception to the above-mentioned category of voters is provided under Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to Mass Spectrometry:

1. It is based on ionization and fragmentation of sample molecules in the gaseous phase.
2. The instrument operates on the principle that moving ions may be deflected by electric and magnetic fields.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.23) Solution (c)

Mass Spectrometry (MS):

- It is an analytical technique used for determining the elemental composition of samples, quantifying the mass of particles and molecules, and elucidating their chemical structure.
- MS is based on ionization and fragmentation of sample molecules in the gaseous phase.
- The instruments used in this technique are called mass spectrometers and mass spectrographs, and they operate on the principle that moving ions may be deflected by electric and magnetic fields.
- Clinical laboratories use the MS technology for disease screening, diagnosis of disease and metabolic disorders, monitoring of drug therapy, identifying drug toxicity and poisoning, and discovering new biomarkers.
- Biomarker is short for biological marker, and is used as an indication that a biological process in the body has happened or is ongoing.

Q.24) Which of the following country share border with both Black sea and Mediterranean sea?

- a) Turkey
- b) Serbia
- c) Georgia
- d) Russia

Q.24) Solution (a)

Turkey is the only country which shares borders with both Black sea and Mediterranean sea



Q.25) which part of the Indian constitution deals with the official languages?

- a) Part XVII
- b) Part XVIII
- c) Part XIV
- d) Part XV

Q.25) Solution (a)

- Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages in Articles 343 to 351.
- Article 350A (Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage) provides that it shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- Article 345: Official language or languages of a State subject to the provisions of Article 346 and 347.
- Article 351 (Directive for development of the Hindi language) provides that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language.

Q.26) Consider the following statements:

1. 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation.

2. New development bank was established by BRICS countries.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

- The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation.
- The delegates from Culture Ministries of the BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - participated in the meeting.
- During the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (Brazil) in 2014, the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB - Shanghai, China). They also signed the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement to provide short-term liquidity support to the members.

Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to Zoological survey of India:

1. It is India's apex organization on animal taxonomy.
2. It works under Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.27) Solution (c)

- It is India's apex organization on animal taxonomy.
- Its objective is to promote survey, exploration, research and documentation on various aspects of animal taxonomy in Indian subcontinent.
- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was established in 1916 and headquartered in Kolkata.
- It also seeks advancement of knowledge on animal taxonomy.
- It has been declared as designated repository for National Zoological Collection as per section 39 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002.
- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was established in 1916 and headquartered in Kolkata.

Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF):

1. It started for the first time in august 2020 to fight against the Global Pandemic COVID-19
2. Theme of the forum 2020 is US-India Navigating New Challenges.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.28) Solution (b)

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)

- Established in The USISPF is a non-profit organization established in 2017.
- Objective is to Strengthening the USA-India bilateral and strategic partnership.
- Aim of the forum is to Strengthening economic and commercial ties between the two countries through policy advocacy that will lead to driving economic growth, entrepreneurship, employment-creation, and innovation to create a more inclusive society.
- Enabling business and governments to collaborate and create meaningful opportunities that can positively change the lives of citizens.
- Theme for 2020: US-India Navigating New Challenges.

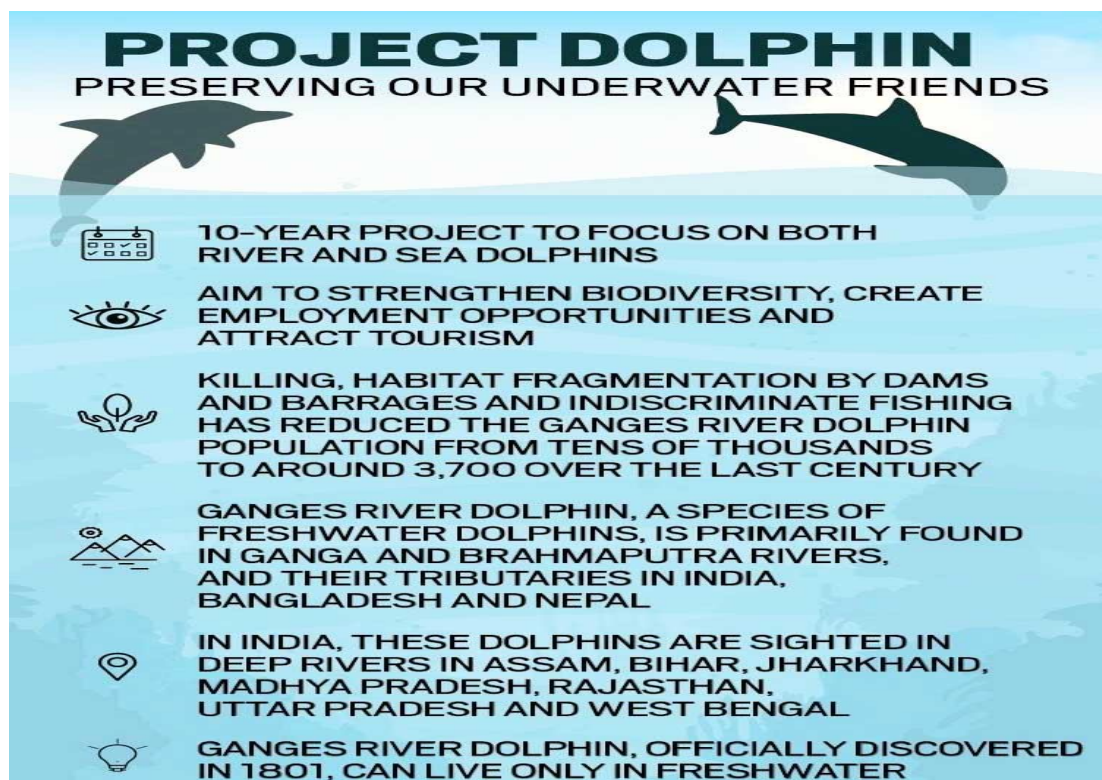
Q.29) Consider the following statements:

1. Project Dolphin is a 25 year project which focuses only on river dolphin.
2. Gangetic Dolphin is in the First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.

Which of the following is/are Correct?

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

Q.29) Solution (b)



- Project got in-principle approval in December 2019, at the first meeting of the National Ganga Council (NGC), headed by the Prime Minister.
- It is expected to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Special Conservation program needs to be taken up for Gangetic Dolphin which is a national aquatic animal and also indicator species for the river Ganga spread over several states.

Gangetic Dolphin

- These are generally blind and catch their prey in a unique manner. They emit an ultrasonic sound which reaches the prey.
- It is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems.

Status of Conservation:

- In the First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.
- Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Q.30) Which of the following Indian State/ Union territory does not share border with China?

- a) Jammu and Kashmir

- b) Uttarkhand
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

Q.30) Solution (a)

The entire China-Indian border (including the western LAC, the small undisputed section in the centre, and the McMahon Line in the east) is 4,056 km (2,520 mi) long and traverses one Indian union territory, Ladakh, and four Indian states Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.



Q.31) Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of G20 group
2. The head quarter of G 20 group is in New York

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 G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- It does not have any permanent secretariat or headquarters.

Q.32) Which of the following article provide facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage?

- a) 343 A
- b) 343 B
- c) 350 A
- d) 350 B

Q.32) Solution (c)

A linguistic minority is a class of people whose mother tongue is different from that of the majority in the state or part of a state. the constitution provides for the protection of the interests of linguistic minorities.

- Article 350-A imposes a duty on the states to Endeavour to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority. The president is authorized to issue such directions to any state, as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provisions of such facilities.
- Article 347 provides for the use of majority language in the administration. If a demand is made in this behalf and the president is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a state desire the use any language spoken by them to be recognized by the state, the president may direct that such language shall also be officially recognized throughout the state or any part of tire state for such purposes as he may specify.
- Article 350 gives right to every person to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance to any officer or authority of the union or a state in any of the language used in the union or a state, as the case may be.
- Article 350-B empowers the president to appoint a special officer for linguistic minorities. It is the duty of the special officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under this constitution and report to

the president upon those matters at such intervals as the president may direct. The president shall cause reports to be laid before each house of parliament and send to the government of the state concerned.

Q.33) Arrange the following in the decreasing order of their power production in India:

1. Hydro power
2. Renewable resource power
3. Thermal power
4. Nuclear power

Which of the following order is correct?

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

India mainly uses three types of thermal power plants- Coal, Gas and Liquid-fuel based. The electricity generated by these plants adds up to 62.2% of the total power generation in the country.

Fuel	MW	% of Total
Total Thermal	2,31,456	62.2%
Coal	1,99,595	53.7%
Lignite	6,360	1.7%
Gas	24,992	6.7%
Diesel	510	0.1%
Hydro (Renewable)	45,699	12.3%
Nuclear	6,780	1.8%
RES* (MNRE)	88,042	23.7%
Total	371,977	

Q.34) The term “Nord Stream 2” is recently seen in news it refers to which of the following?

- a) Sagar mala project in India
- b) Construction of port in Srilanka
- c) Sea way in south china sea
- d) Gas pipe line project between Russia and Germany

Q34) Solution (d)

- Nord Stream 2 is a gas pipeline project.
- Its purpose is to bring Russian gas under the Baltic Sea direct to Germany.
- The decision to build Nord Stream 2 was based on the successful experience in building and operating the Nord Stream gas pipeline.
- So it is an expansion of the Russia's existing Nord Stream gas pipeline.
- It will also ensure a highly reliable supply of Russian gas to Europe.



Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA):

1. This act is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every 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.35) Solution (c)

- Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act which is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every five years.

Q.36) Consider the following statements:

1. Malabar rebellion in 1921 was against the British rule in India.
2. Wagon tragedy is related to moplah rebellion.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.36) Solution (c)

Malabar Rebellion or Moplah Uprising or Mapillah Revolt (1921)

- The trigger of the uprising came from the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by the Congress in 1920 along with the Khilafat agitation.
- The anti-British sentiment fuelled by these agitations affected the Muslim Mapillahs (also known as Moplahs) of south Malabar region of Kerala.
- New Tenancy Laws
- After the death of Tipu Sultan in 1799 in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, Malabar had come under British authority as part of the Madras Presidency.
- The British had introduced new tenancy laws that tremendously favoured the landlords known as Janmis and instituted a far more exploitative system for peasants than before.
- The new laws deprived the peasants of all guaranteed rights to the land, share in the produce they earlier got and in effect rendered them landless.
- Most of the landlords were Namboodiri Brahmins while most of the tenants were Mapillah Muslims.
- It is fuelled by the fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders and anti-british sentiments, the Mopillahs launched a violent rebellion. Numerous actions of

violence were reported and series of persecutions were committed both against the British and the Hindu landlords.

- By the end of 1921, the rebellion was crushed by the British who had raised a special battalion, the Malabar Special Force for the riot.
- In November 1921, 67 Moplah prisoners were killed when they were being transported in a closed freight wagon from Tirur to the Central Prison in Podanur. They died of suffocation. This event is called the Wagon Tragedy.

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian council of Historical Research:

1. It was established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972.
2. It is under the Ministry of Culture.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.37) Solution (a)

- Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is an autonomous organization, established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972.
- It is under the Ministry of Education.
- The council also provides grants, assistance and fellowships for historical research.

➤ Objectives of ICHR:

- To bring historians together for exchange of views.
- To give a national direction to an objective and scientific writing of history.
- To promote, accelerate and coordinate research in history and ensure its dissemination.

Q.38) Recently the word “Mysticellus franki” was in news it is related to which of the following?

- a) Antibodies against Corona virus
- b) Newly spotted frog species
- c) Lander name of Chandrayan 3
- d) New comet found in Kuiper belt

Q.38) Solution (b)

- *Mysticellus franki* is a mysterious narrow-mouthed frog that was spotted in the seasonal roadside puddles in Kerala's Wayanad district.
- It is a new species and belongs to a completely new genus, *Mysticellus*.
- *Mysticellus* is named after Latin 'mysticus', meaning mysterious; and 'ellus' meaning diminutive as the frog is just around 3 cm long.
- The species is named after evolutionary biologist Franky Bossuyt from Brussel's Vrije Universiteit.
- The frogs' calls are extremely different as it resembles that of insects.
- Genetic studies further revealed that the frog is around 40 million years old and its nearest relatives live more than 2,000 km away, in Southeast Asia (including Indo-Burma, Malaysia and Vietnam).
- The genetic studies add strength to the theories that India and Southeast Asia were connected in the past by land bridges.

Q.39) Which of the following is considered as forex reserve by RBI?

1. Gold
2. special drawing rights of the International Monetary Fund
3. Foreign currency assets
4. Reserve Tranche in the IMF

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.39) Solution (d)

Foreign exchange reserves are assets denominated in a foreign currency that are held on reserve by a central bank. These may include foreign currencies, bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.

Forex Reserves in India: Forex reserves are external assets accumulated by India and controlled by the RBI in the form of:

- Gold
- SDRs (special drawing rights of the International Monetary Fund - IMF)
- Foreign currency assets (capital inflows to the capital markets, Foreign Direct Investment and external commercial borrowings)
- Reserve Position with IMF

Q.40) Which Indian state shares its border with maximum number of states?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

Q.40) Solution (a)

Uttar Pradesh share borders with 9 different states. Neighbouring States of Uttar Pradesh – Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in northwest, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan in west, Madhya Pradesh in south, Chhattisgarh in southeast, Bihar and Jharkhand in east.



Q.41) Consider the following statements:

1. Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds are included in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India.
2. Article 48 A mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife 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.41) Solution (c)

- Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds are included in the Concurrent List in the (Seventh Schedule) of the Constitution of India.
- Through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were transferred from State to Concurrent List along with Education, Weights & Measures and Administration of Justice.
- Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- Article 48 A in the Directive Principles of State policy, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

Q.42) Recently Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns. What is the name of the helpline?

- a) Sahaya
- b) Kiran
- c) Vikas
- d) M Support

Q.42) Solution (b)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline 'Kiran' to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.

About the Helpline:

- It will cater to - People in Distress, pandemic induced psychological issues and Mental Health Emergency.
- It will offer mental health rehabilitation services with the objective of early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, promoting positive behaviours, etc.
- It will be available in 13 languages and has 660 clinical/rehabilitation psychologists and 668 psychiatrists as volunteers.
- It is being coordinated by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR), Sehore (Madhya Pradesh).
- NIEPMD and NIMHR are under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Helpline operators had been sensitised not to ask the caller for name or any identification details

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

1. It is a Paramilitary Force under the Central Armed Police Forces.
2. It operated as a part of Indian Peace Keeping force to Sri Lanka in 1987

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.43) Solution (d)

- Assam Rifles is a Central Paramilitary Force under the Central Armed Police Forces.
- It came into being in 1835, as a militia called the 'Cachar Levy', to primarily protect British Tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids.
- It significantly contributed to the opening of Assam region to administration and commerce and over time it came to be known as the "right arm of the civil and left arm of the military".
- Major role post-Independence:
- Conventional combat role during the Sino-India War 1962.
- Operations in a foreign land as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Operation Pawan).
- Peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India.

Q.44) Which of the following country is a land locked country in South America?

- a) Brazil
- b) Venezuela
- c) Bolivia
- d) Peru

Q.44) Solution (c)

Paraguay and Bolivia are the only two landlocked countries in South America.



Q.45) Blue- Gren Policy was launched recently for the conservation of environment by which Indian State/UT?

- a) Kerala
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Delhi
- d) Ladak

Q.45) Solution (c)

- The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is holding public consultations for the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi 2041.
- It is a vision document for the city's development over the next two decades.
- The existing Master Plan 2021 will be outdated next year.
- The agency wants to notify the new plan by the time that happens.
- The draft policy's focus on water bodies and the land around it, which is referred to as the "Green-Blue policy", would give the city a new shape.

What is Green-Blue infrastructure?

- 'Blue' infrastructure refers to water bodies like rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands, floodplains, and water treatment facilities.
- 'Green' infrastructure stands for trees, lawns, hedgerows, parks, fields, and forests.
- The concept refers to urban planning where water bodies and land are interdependent, and grow with the help of each other.
- They will offer environmental and social benefits.

Q.46) A CAPTCHA is a type of response test used in computing to determine whether or not the user is human, which we regularly seen in many websites login pages. CAPTCHA stands for:

- a) Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart
- b) Completely Automated Person to tell computer it is a human Act
- c) Completely Automated Personal test to tell Computer and Humans Apart
- d) Completely Activated Public test to tell Computer and Humans Apart

Q.46) Solution (a)

CAPTCHA

- CAPTCHA stands for Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.
- CAPTCHA determines whether the user is real or a spam robot.
- CAPTCHA uses several human validation methods including math or general knowledge questions, visual puzzles and even chess puzzles.
- It is a type of challenge–response test used in computing to determine whether or not the user is human.
- The term was coined in 2003 by Luis von Ahn, Manuel Blum, Nicholas J. Hopper, and John Langford. The most common type of CAPTCHA (displayed as Version 1.0) was first invented in 1997 by two groups working in parallel.

Q.47) Consider the following statements with respect to Centre for Railways information System:

1. It is the Information Technology (IT) wing of Indian Railways.
2. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.47) Solution (c)

Centre for Railway Information Systems

- The Ministry of Railways set up CRIS as a Society in July 1986. It is the Information Technology (IT) wing of Indian Railways.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It performs the functions of Indian Railways such as passenger ticketing, freight operations, train dispatching and control, crew management, e-procurement, etc.

Q.48) Recently PM Modi inaugurated the Patrika gate through video conference, The Patrika gate is in which city?

- a) Bangalore
- b) New Delhi
- c) Kolkata
- d) Jaipur

Q.48) Solution (d)

Recently the Prime Minister has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur (Rajasthan) through video conferencing.

Key Points

- The Gate has been constructed by the Rajasthan Patrika Group of Publications (media conglomerate).
- It is an iconic gate built as a monument under Mission Anupam of the Jaipur Development Authority.
- The construction of Patrika Gate was in keeping with Jaipur having recently been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- In 2019, Jaipur became the second city of the country after Ahmedabad to get the recognition.
- India has 38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

1. According to NSO Report on Education literacy rate among persons (aged 7 years and above) in India was about 77.7%
2. For the first time Female literacy rate is almost equal to male literacy rate

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.49) Solution (a)

Recently, the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) released a report 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India', as part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey (July 2017 to June 2018).

Education and Literacy Rates:

- Literacy rate among persons (aged 7 years and above) in India was about 77.7%. In rural areas, the literacy rate was 73.5% compared to 87.7% in urban areas (Report on Literacy Rate).
- Male literacy rate was higher (84.7%) than female literacy rate (70.3%).
- Only 5.7% were graduates or above in rural areas while the percentage was 21.7% in urban areas.

Q.50) Consider the following:

1. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the defence sector which allows the FDI through automatic approval is to be 74%.
2. FDI is an investment made by only firm in one country into business interests located in another country.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.50) Solution (a)

Foreign Direct Investment

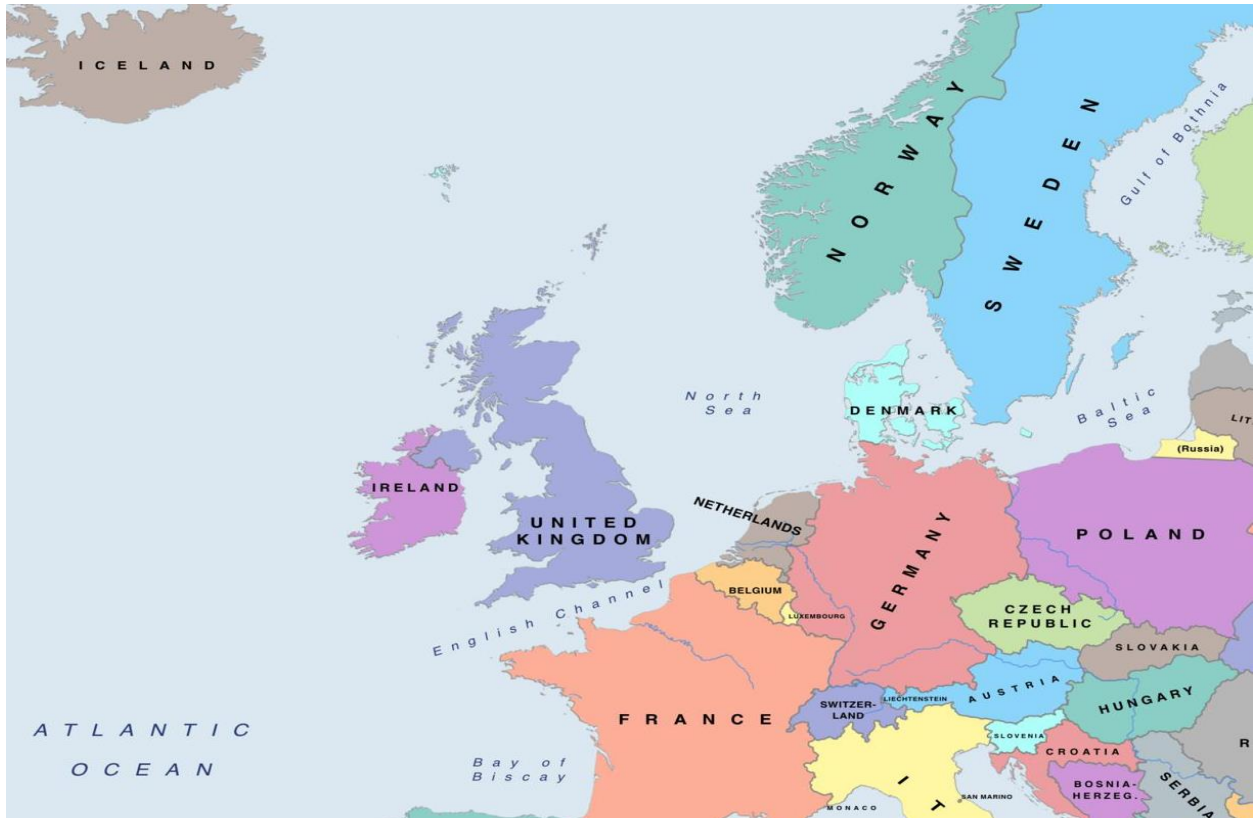
- FDI is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.
- Routes through which India gets FDI:
- Automatic Route: In this, the foreign entity does not require the prior approval of the government or the RBI.
- Government route: In this, the foreign entity has to take the approval of the government.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the defence sector which allows the FDI through automatic approval to be increased from 49% to 74%.
- Earlier, the defence industry can bring FDI up to 49% under the automatic route, and above it under government route.
- However, the new policy has a 'National Security' clause as a condition which has been proposed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q.51) English canal passes between which two countries?

- a) France and United Kingdom
- b) Sweden and Finland
- c) Italy and Spain
- d) Italy and Greece

Q.51) Solution (a)

The English Channel, also called simply the Channel, is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates Southern England from northern France and links to the southern part of the North Sea by the Strait of Dover at its northeastern end. It is the busiest shipping area in the world.



Q.52) Consider the following statements;

1. World Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th September annually
2. Shikshak Parv is an initiative under Ministry of Human Resource

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.52) Solution (d)

- Shikshak Parv is being celebrated from 8th-25th September 2020 to felicitate the teachers and to take New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 forward.
- Shikshak Parv, initiative by Ministry of Education is organizing a series of webinars on New Education Policy (NEP) and its implementation.
- Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th September every year throughout India in memory of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary.
- Radhakrishnan was born in a family in Tiruttani (Tamil Nadu) in 1888.

- He has played many roles in his life. He has been a teacher, philosopher, author and politician. He was the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and the second President of India from 1962 to 1967.
- He was awarded knighthood in 1931. In 1954, he was awarded Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India. He got honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963.
- World Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th October annually to commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.
- This instrument sets forth the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

Q.53) Consider the following statements:

1. Global Innovation Index 2020 was released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation.
2. India's position increased in the Global Innovative Index compared to last year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.53) Solution (c)

- Global Innovation Index 2020 was released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
- India is at the 48th position in the list of top 50 innovative countries.
- India occupied the 52nd position in 2019 rankings.
- Switzerland, Sweden, the USA, the UK and Netherlands are the top five countries.

India Specific Highlights:

- India has become the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world.
- India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and Research and Development-intensive global companies.
- India improved the most in three pillars: Institutions (61st), business sophistication (55th), and creative outputs (64th).

- The consistent improvement in the index rankings is owing to the immense knowledge capital, the vibrant startup ecosystem, and the amazing work done by the public and private research organisations.
- The India Innovation Index 2019 which was released by the NITI Aayog, has been widely accepted as the major step in the direction of decentralisation of innovation across all the states of India.

Q.54) Which of the following country is not a part of Exercise Malabar?

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

Q.54) Solution (d)

- The 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR is scheduled between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA.
- It is an annual exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the U.S. held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.
- Then it got permanently expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
- MALABAR 2019 would endeavour to further strengthen India - Japan - US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles.

Q.55) Which state topped the Ease of Doing Business Ranking by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade?

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

Q.55) Solution (b)

- Recently, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the 4th edition of Ease of Doing Business Rankings based on the State Business Reform Action Plan (State BRAP).
- Andhra Pradesh has topped the rankings followed by Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha were among the worst performers.

- Andhra Pradesh has achieved 100% compliance with BRAP.
- It is the first State to take measures to revive the economy hit by the global pandemic and revive the small and medium scale industries with a ReSTART package.
- The ReSTART package includes the payment of sanctioned incentives, working capital loans, preferential market access etc. to MSME units.
- Ease of Doing Business (EODB): It is a joint initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the World Bank to improve the overall business environment in the States.

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to SAROD-Ports:

1. 'SAROD-Ports' is similar to of SAROD-Roads constituted by National Highways Authority of India.
2. SAROD-Ports established under Societies Regulation Act, 1860.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.56) Solution (c)

- The Union Ministry of Shipping launched 'SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports) through virtual ceremony in New Delhi.
- It is established under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- 'SAROD-Ports' is similar to provision available in Highway Sector in the form of SAROD-Roads constituted by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- It consists of members from Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).

Functions:

- SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbors.
- It will also cover disputes between:
 - Granting authority and Licensee/Concessionaire /Contractor.
 - Also, disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors arising out of and during the course of execution of various contracts.

Q.57) "Five star village" scheme related to which of the following?

- a) Financial inclusion in the village
- b) Education in the village school levels
- c) Rating village on the basis of Open defecation
- d) Universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas

Q.57) Solution (d)

- The Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.
- Objective of the scheme is to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.

Features of the scheme:

- Three components: Product and Service Availability, Product and Service Publicity and Product and Service Marketing.
- One-Stop Centre: Branch offices will function as one-stop shops to cater all post office related needs of the villagers.

Schemes covered:

- Savings Bank accounts, Recurring Deposit Accounts, NSC/KVP certificates,
- Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts,
- Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts,
- Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy and
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account/Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.

Q.58) Consider the following Statements with respect to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control:

1. It is the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organisation.
2. India not ratified this treaty

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.58) Solution (a)

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC):

- It is the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO.
- It was adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003 and entered into force on 27 February 2005.
- India ratified it in 2004.
- It was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic and is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health.
- The FCTC's measures to combat tobacco use include:
 - Price and tax measures.
 - Large, graphic warnings on tobacco packages.
 - 100% smoke-free public spaces.
 - A ban on tobacco marketing.
 - Support for smokers who want to quit.
 - Prevention of tobacco industry interference.

Q.59) Arrange the following cities from South to North:

1. New Delhi
2. Beijing
3. Tokyo
4. Astana

Which of the following is the right order?

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

Q.59) Solution (d)

When arranged from North to south the order will be Astana the capital city of Kazakhstan will be in northern position then the china capital Beijing, after that Tokyo, Japan capital, the southern city will be India Capital New Delhi

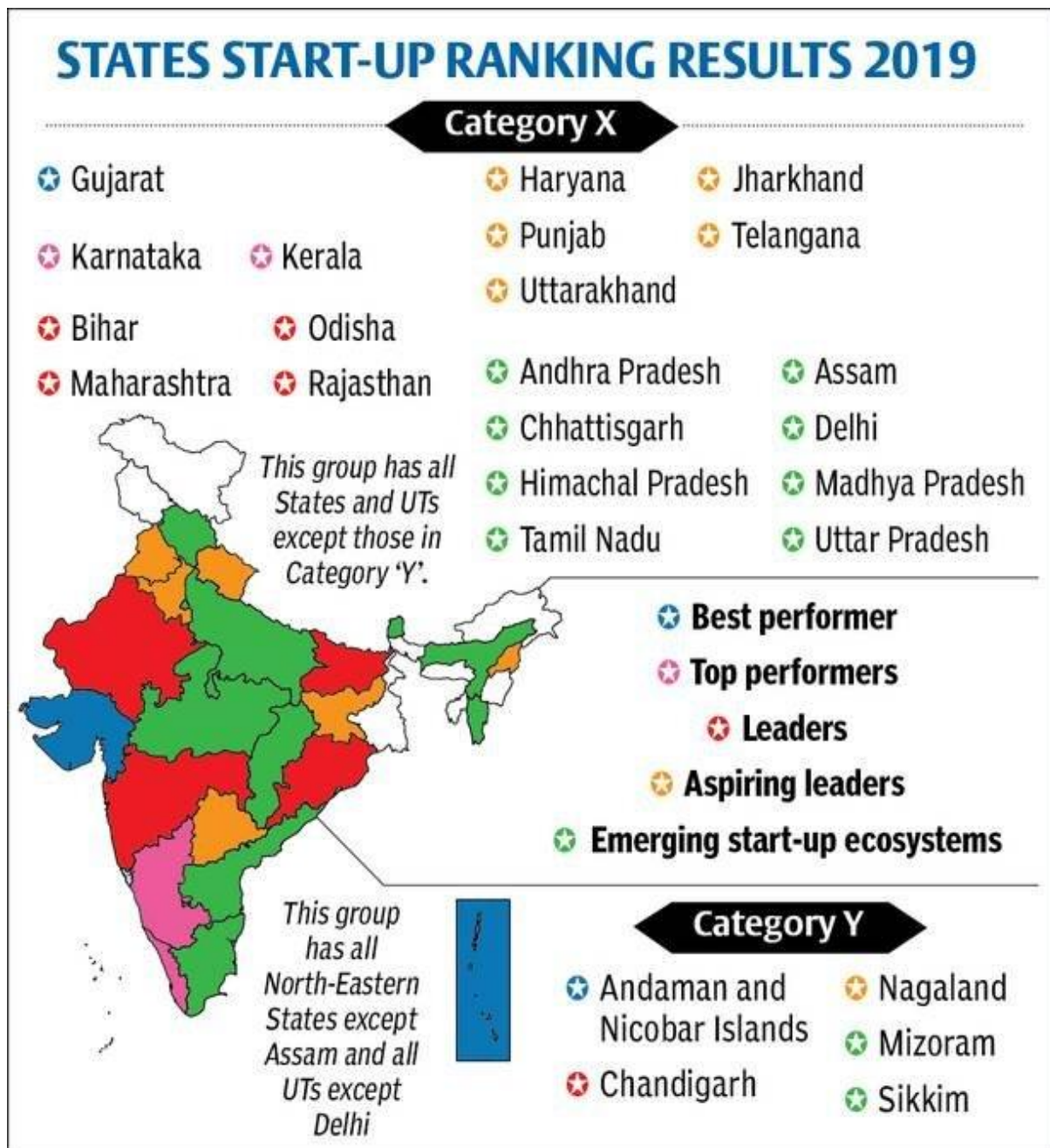
Q.60) Ranking of States on support to Start up Ecosystems were released by which of the following?

- a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

d) Competition Commission of India

Q.60) Solution (a)

- The Results of the 2nd edition of Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems were released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Ministry of Commerce & Industry).
- DPIIT has recently released the Ease of Doing Business Rankings of the States-2019 based on the State Business Reform Action Plan.
- The rankings were started with an objective of fostering competitiveness, mutual learning and propel States and Union Territories (UTs) to work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem.
- The 2019 Ranking Framework has seven broad reform areas consisting of 30 action points ranging from institutional support, easing compliances, relaxation in public procurement norms, incubation support, seed funding support, venture funding support, and awareness and outreach.
- 2 Categories: To establish uniformity and ensure standardization in the ranking process, States and UTs have been divided into two groups.
 - Category Y: All UTs except Delhi and all States in North East India except Assam.
 - Category X: All other States and UT of Delhi.
- Results: The States and UTs were classified as: Best Performers, Top Performers, Leaders, Aspiring Leaders and Emerging Startup Ecosystems.
- Gujarat was the Best performer in Category X followed by Karnataka and Kerala. Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu occupied the lowest positions.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands was the Best performer in Category Y. Sikkim secured the bottom place.
- Gujarat had secured the Best Performer position previous year as well.



Q.61) Which of the following writ is issued by the court to a public official asking him to perform his official duties that he has failed or refuse to perform?

- Certiorari
- Prohibition
- Mandamus
- Quo-warranto

Q.61) Solution (c)

- SC writs are under Article 32 which in itself is a fundamental right thus SC cannot refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction. Whereas article 226 is discretionary thus HC can refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction.
- The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights whereas a High Court can issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights along with “for any other purpose”

Habeus Corpus

- Habeas corpus is a Latin term which literally means “You may have the body”
- This writ can be issued against any person, Private or official
- An order calling upon the person who has unlawfully detained another person to produce the later before the court to ascertain, whether the detention is legal or not

Mandamus

- The Latin word ‘mandamus’ means ‘we command’.
- The writ of ‘mandamus’ is an order of the High Court or the Supreme Court commanding a person or a body to do its duty.
- Mandamus writ is used to command authority against both judicial & administrative, but entrusted only with public duty
- A writ of mandamus can be granted only in cases where a statutory duty imposed on an officer concerned results in failure on the part of officer or public authority to discharge the statutory obligation

Prohibition

- The Writ of prohibition means to forbid or to stop and it is popularly known as ‘Stay Order’.
- Writ of Prohibition is used against judicial & Quasi-Judicial authorities to command inactivity to certain judgment
- Sole purpose of this writ is to prevent inferior courts from usurping a jurisdiction with which they are not legally vested it Can be issued in excess or absence of jurisdiction
- Issued by superior court to inferior court or tribunal to prevent it from exceeding its jurisdiction & compel it to be within its limits of jurisdiction

Certiorari

- Literally, Certiorari means to be certified.
- It is issued by the higher court to the lower court either to transfer the case pending with the latter to itself or to squash the order already passed by an inferior court, tribunal or quasi judicial authority.

Quo Warranto

- The word Quo-Warranto literally means “by what warrants?” or “what is your authority”?
- It is a writ issued with a view to restrain a person from holding a public office to which he is not entitled.
- The writ requires the concerned person to explain to the Court by what authority he holds the office.
- If a person has usurped a public office, the Court may direct him not to carry out any activities in the office or may announce the office to be vacant.
- Thus High Court may issue a writ of quo-warranto if a person holds an office beyond his retirement age.

Q.62) With reference to Asian Development Bank consider the following statements:

1. India is one among the five largest share holder in ADB
2. ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.62) Solution (c)

- ADB is a regional development bank established on 19th December 1966.
- The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system.
- ADB now has 68 members, 49 from within Asia.
- As of 31 December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).
- It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia.
- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.
- ADB announced that it had appointed Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as its vice-president (V-P) for private sector operations and public private partnerships.

Q.63) The monetary policy which involves printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public, to stimulate the economy during a recession or when interest rates fall to zero is called as:

- a) Helicopter money
- b) Jet money
- c) Pushing money
- d) Liquid money

Q.63) Solution (b)

Helicopter money:

- It is an unconventional monetary policy tool, which involves printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public, to stimulate the economy during a recession (decline in general economic activity) or when interest rates fall to zero.
- Under such a policy, a central bank "directly increases the money supply and, via the government, distribute the new cash to the population with the aim of boosting demand and inflation"
- The term was coined by American economist Milton Friedman. It basically denotes a helicopter dropping money from the sky.

Q.64) Consider the following statements with respect to Smart Cities Mission:

1. It is an initiative under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
2. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.64) Solution (c)

- It is an initiative under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens.
- It was launched in the year 2015 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of Smart Solutions.

Strategy:

- Pan-city initiative in which at least one Smart Solution is applied city-wide.
- Develop areas step-by-step with the help of these three models:
- Retrofitting.
- Redevelopment.
- Greenfield.

Q.65) Consider the following statements with respect to Index of industrial Production:

1. It is published yearly by the National Statistical Office (NSO)
2. Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.65) Solution (b)

Index of Industrial Production

- It is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- NSO is the central statistical agency of the government, set up by an Act of the Parliament, Statistical Services Act (Chapter 386) 1980.
- 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.
 - Core Sector Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in IIP.
 - The eight core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilisers.
- Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.

Q.66) The type of money market instrument issued against the funds deposited by an investor with a bank in a dematerialized form for a specific period of time is called as:

- a) Certificate of deposit
- b) Commercial paper
- c) Promissory note
- d) Participatory note

Q.66) Solution (a)

- Certificate of Deposit is a type of money market instrument issued against the funds deposited by an investor with a bank in a dematerialized form for a specific period of time. It is regulated by RBI

A Certificate of Deposit in India can be issue by:

- All scheduled commercial banks excluding Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Local Area Banks (LABs)
- Select All India Financial Institutions permitted by RBI
- A commercial bank can issue Certificate of Deposit as per its own requirements. A financial institution can issue Certificate of Deposit within a limit prescribed by RBI. A thumb rule for FI is that CD together with other instruments, viz. term money, term deposits, commercial papers and inter-corporate deposits should not exceed 100 per cent of its net-owned funds, as per the latest audited balance sheet.
- Certificate of Deposit can be issued to individuals, corporations, companies, trusts, funds, associations etc. The No resident Indians are also eligible for CDs provided they don't repatriate the funds.
- Minimum amount for Certificate of Deposit has been fixed at Rs. 1 Lakh, to be accepted from a single subscriber. Larger amounts have to be in the multiples of Rs. 1 Lakh.
- Certificates of Deposit are money market instruments and their maturity period is between seven days to one year for commercial banks. For Financial Institutions, the maturity is not less than a year and not more than three years.

Q.67) With reference to the Rajya Sabha consider the following statements:

1. President nominates members of the Rajya Sabha only from the field of art, literature, science and social service.
2. Rajya Sabha is not subjected to Dissolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.67) Solution (c)

- Rajya Sabha: Article 80 of the Constitution have provisions for members of the Rajya Sabha. Currently, it has 245 members, including 233 elected members and 12

nominated. As per the constitutional limit, the Upper House strength cannot exceed 250.

- Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the President of India in the field of art, literature, science and social service.
- The Vice-President is the ex-officio chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.
- The Deputy Chairman, who is elected from amongst the house's members, takes care of the day-to-day matters of the house in the absence of the Chairman.
- Tenure of members: Every Rajya Sabha MP has a tenure of six years and elections to one-third seats are held every two years.
- Permanent house: The Rajya Sabha meets in continuous sessions, and unlike the Lok Sabha, is not subjected to dissolution. However, the Rajya Sabha, like the Lok Sabha can be prorogued by the President
- Process of election: Rajya Sabha members are elected indirectly by the people, that is, by the MLAs.
- Members of a state's Legislative Assembly vote in the Rajya Sabha elections in proportional representation with the single transferable vote (STV) system. Each MLA's vote is counted only once.
- To win a Rajya Sabha seat, a candidate should get a required number of votes. That number is found out using the below formula.

Required vote = Total number of votes / (Number of Rajya Sabha seats + 1) + 1.

Q.68) In India if a species of Tiger is declared protected under Schedule I of the wildlife (protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?

- a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the Blackbuck.
- b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
- c) It is endemic to a particular region of India.
- d) It is not endangered species.

Q.68) Solution (a)

- The wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants and matters connected with them, with a view to ensure the ecological and environmental security of India.

It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection

- Species listed in Schedule I and part II of Schedule II get absolute protection — offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties
- Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected, but the penalties are much lower
- Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted

- The plants in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting.
- Schedule I species will be endangered under this no Hunting is allowed, trading of that animal is completely prohibited

Some of the Examples of animals under Schedule I: Tiger, Blackbuck, Himalayan Brown Bear, Brow-Antlered Deer, Blue whale, Common Dolphin, Cheetah, Clouded Leopard, Hornbills, Indian Gazelle, and many others.

Q.69) Consider the following statements:

1. Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. Star labeling program on electronic items is done by BEE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.69) Solution (c)

- The Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.
- The Standards & Labeling Programme is one of the major thrust areas of BEE.
- A key objective of this scheme is to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the relevant marketed product.
- The scheme targets display of energy performance labels on high energy end use equipment & appliances and lays down minimum energy performance standards.
- BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies and other organizations and recognize, identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the Energy Conservation Act.

Q.70) Consider the following statements:

1. District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) was set up in all districts in the country

2. Central government retains the power to prescribe the rates of contribution to DMF
3. Contributions made to DMFs are collected by the central Governments.

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.70) Solution (a)

- Setting up of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in all districts in the country affected by mining related operations was mandated through the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, (MMDRA) 2015.
- Every holder of a mining lease or a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease shall, in addition to the royalty, pay to the DMF of the respective concerned districts in which their mining operations are carried on.
- DMF contributions do not exceed one-third of royalty and the Central Government retains the power to prescribe the rates of contribution, though DMF's operation is under state governments.
- The contributions made to DMFs are collected by the State Governments.

Q.71) Consider the following statements:

1. Israel is land locked country in west Asia
2. West bank western border touches the Mediterranean sea

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.71) Solution (d)

- Israel is located at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea in Western Asia. ... To the west of Israel is the Mediterranean Sea, which makes up the majority of Israel's 273 km (170 mi) coastline, and the Gaza Strip.
- The West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by Israel to the south, west and north. The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore.



Q.72) Which of the following is not true about Phytoplankton?

- a) They reduce global warming by absorbing human-induced carbon dioxide.
- b) They also serve as the base of the ocean food chain.
- c) Their abundance determines the overall health of the ocean ecosystem.
- d) None of the above

Q.72) Solution (d)

- Phytoplanktons: They are tiny microscopic floating plants found in water bodies.
- Study of phytoplankton biomass is done by analyzing chlorophyll-a, a dominant pigment found in phytoplankton cells.

Significance of Phytoplanktons:

- They contribute more than half of the oxygen in the environment.
- They reduce global warming by absorbing human-induced carbon dioxide.
- They also serve as the base of the ocean food chain.
- They are important bioindicators regulating life in oceans. Their abundance determines the overall health of the ocean ecosystem.

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

1. It is the principal development financial institution for MSME sector in India.

2. It is a Statutory Body

Which of the following is/are Incorrect?

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

Q.73) Solution (d)

- SIDBI is the principal development financial institution for promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India.
- It was established on April 2, 1990 through an Act of Parliament thus, it is statutory body.
- It is headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- SIDBI aims to facilitate and strengthen credit flow to MSMEs and address both financial and developmental gaps in MSME eco-system across the country.
- It co-ordinates functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.
- Currently, the shares of SIDBI are held by Central Government and 29 other institutions including public sector banks (PSBs), insurance companies owned and controlled by Central Government.

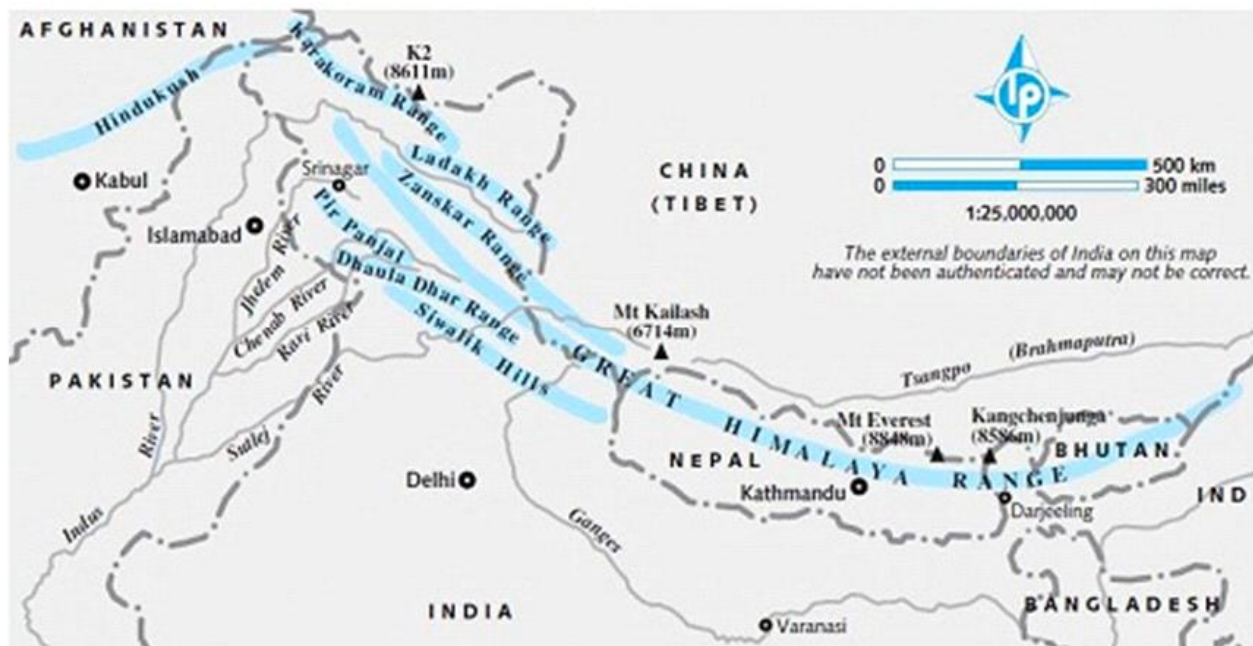
Q.74) Arrange the following mountain ranges from North to South:

1. Zaskar range
2. Ladak range
3. Karakoram range
4. Pirpanjal range

Which of the following order is/are correct?

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

Q.74) Solution (a)



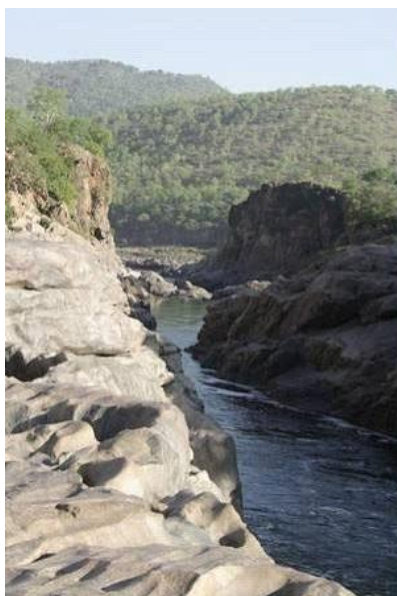
Q.75) Mekedatu dam dispute is related to which river?

- a) Godavari River
- b) Cauvery River
- c) Krishna River
- d) Narmada River

Q.75) Solution (b)

- Mekedatu, meaning goat's leap, is a deep gorge situated at the confluence of the rivers Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi.
- Ontigondlu is the proposed reservoir site, situated at Ramanagara district in Karnataka about 100 km away from Bengaluru. It is the midst of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Rs. 9,000 crore project aims to store and supply water for drinking purposes for the Bengaluru city. Around 400 megawatts (MW) of power is also proposed to be generated through the project.
- It received approval from the erstwhile Ministry of Water Resources for the detailed project report and is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- The approval from MoEFCC is crucial because 63% of the forest area of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary will be submerged.
- Tamil Nadu has approached the Supreme Court (SC) against the project even if Karnataka has held that it would not affect the flow of water to Tamil Nadu.

- In June 2020, during the Cauvery Water Management Authority's meeting, Tamil Nadu reiterated its opposition to the project.



Q.76) Recently the word Vyom Mitra was seen in news it refers to:

- a) Health insurance Scheme against COVID-19
- b) Pension Scheme old aged people
- c) Lady Robot for Gaganyaan
- d) None of the above

Q.76) Solution (c)

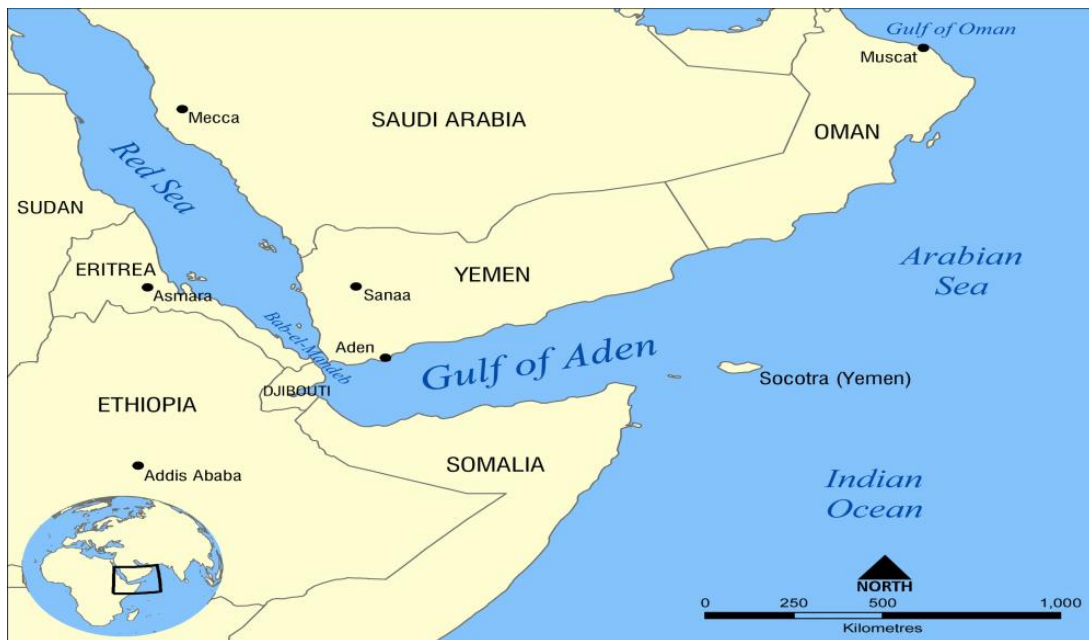
- Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled its first 'woman' astronaut, named Vyom Mitra who will ride to space in the first test flight of the human space mission, Gaganyaan.
- She is half-humanoid and her body stops at the torso and has no legs. She is capable of switching panel operations, performing Environment Control and Life Support Systems (ECLSS) functions, conversations with the astronauts, recognising them and solving their queries.
- The humanoid can detect and give out warnings if the environment changes within the cabin.
- She will simulate the human functions required for space before real astronauts take off before August 2022. She will be sent in a space capsule around the end of 2020 or early 2021 to study how astronauts respond to living outside earth in controlled zero-gravity conditions.

- The humanoid has been developed by the ISRO Inertial Systems Unit, Thiruvananthapuram.

Q.77) Yeman and Somalia is separated by which of the following?

- a) Gulf of Aden
- b) Gulf of Oristano
- c) Gulf of Panama
- d) Persian Gulf

Q.77) Solution (a)



- Gulf of Aden is deep water basin that forms a natural sea link between the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.
- Gulf of Aden forms the natural separation between the countries of Somalia and Yemen.
- Named for the seaport of Aden, in southern Yemen, the gulf is situated between the coasts of Arabia and the Horn of Africa.
- The Gulf of Aden is an extension of the Indian Ocean. Located between Africa and Asia, it forms the natural separation between the countries of Somalia and Yemen.
- The Gulf of Aden, formerly known as the Gulf of Berbera, is a gulf amidst Yemen to the north, the Arabian Sea and Guardafui Channel to the east, Somalia to the south, and Djibouti to the west.
- Gulf of Aden waters flow into the Red Sea through the Bab el Mandeb (strait), and because it provides an outlet to the west for Persian Gulf Oil, it's now one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Q.78) Recently “Hagia Sophia” converted into mosque from a museum it belongs to which country?

- a) Iraq
- b) Iran
- c) Turkey
- d) Georgia

Q.78) Solution (c)

- Recently, Turkey's highest court allowed for the conversion of the nearly 1,500 year-old Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque.
- The centuries-old structure, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, was originally a cathedral in the Byzantine empire before it was turned into a mosque in 1453, when Constantinople fell to Sultan Mehmet II's Ottoman forces.
- In the 1930s, however, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, shut down the mosque and turned it into a museum in an attempt to make the country more secular.
- The change in status of the Hagia Sophia comes after repeated warnings from the international community, including UNESCO, to ensure that Turkey did not proceed with these plans.

History: Hagia Sophia

- The construction of this iconic structure in Istanbul started in 532 AD during the reign of Justinian I, the ruler of the Byzantine Empire, when the city was known as Constantinople. The structure was originally built to become the seat of the Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church and remained so for approximately 900 years.
- In 1453, when Constantinople fell to Sultan Mehmet II's Ottoman forces, the Hagia Sophia was ransacked by the invading forces and turned into a mosque shortly after. The structure of the monument was then subjected to several interior and exterior changes where Orthodox symbols were removed or plastered upon and minarets were added to the exterior of the structure. For a long time, the Hagia Sophia was Istanbul's most important mosque.
- In 1934, Ataturk ordered that the Hagia Sophia be converted into a museum. It opened to the public in 1935.

Q.79) RBI has finalised a three- year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank. It is called as:

- a) Uttaam 2023

- b) Utkarsh 2022
- c) Upaay 2023
- d) Smart 2020

Q.79) Solution (b)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finalised a three- year roadmap, named Utkarsh 2022 to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.
- Utkarsh 2022 is a medium term strategy in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.
- This specifically includes central bank's proactive role to avoid any other IL&FS debt default issue in future.
- Earlier, an internal committee of RBI was formed under former Deputy Governor Viral Acharya, to identify issues that needed to be addressed over the next three years.
- The RBI board also approved the RBI's budget for the July 2019—June 2020 period.

Q.80) Free market system in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements is called as:

- a) Gig Economy
- b) Mixed Economy
- c) Market Economy
- d) Macro economy

Q.80) Solutions (a)

- A gig economy is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements
- Examples of gig employees in the workforce could include freelancers, independent contractors, project-based workers and temporary or part-time hires.
- Global Gig Economy Index report has ranked India among the top 10 countries.
- The report says there has been an increase in freelancers in India from 11% in 2018 to 52% in 2019, thanks to various initiatives including Startup India and Skill India.

Q.81) Consider the following statements:

1. Human capital index is released by IMF
2. India's performance in terms of score is improved when compared to 2018

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.81) Solution (b)

- World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) report for 2020. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
- Last year India was ranked 115 out of 157 countries. This year India finds itself at 116th from among 174 countries. However, India's score increased to 0.49 in 2020 from 0.44 in 2018.
- Human capital consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate over their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society.
- As part of this report, the World Bank has launched a Human Capital Project (HCP).
- The HCP programme is a program of advocacy, measurement, and analytical work to raise awareness and increase demand for interventions to build human capital.

There are three components of HCP-

- a human capital measurement metric called the Human Capital Index (HCI)
- a programme of measurement and research to inform policy action
- a programme of support for country strategies to accelerate investment in human capital.

Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to FATF:

1. India is a member of FATF.
2. FATF is a part of the UN system.
3. 1st Global report on Illegal wildlife trade was prepared by FATF

Which of the statements given above are *incorrect*?

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1,2 and 3
- d) None of the above

Q.82) Solution (d)

- FATF is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering.
- The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

- It holds three Plenary meetings in the course of each of its 12-month rotating presidencies.
- During 1991 and 1992, the FATF expanded its membership from the original 16 to 28 members. In 2000 the FATF expanded to 31 members, and has since expanded to its current 39 members
- India became an Observer at FATF in 2006. Since then, it had been working towards full-fledged membership. On June 25, 2010, India was taken in as the 34th country member of FATF.
- The FATF is not a part of the UN system, but it functions out of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development headquarters in Paris
- First global report on the illegal wildlife trade is prepared by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in that it has described illegal wildlife trade as a “global threat”, which also has links with other organised crimes like modern slavery, drug trafficking and arms trade.

Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to Blue Flag programme:

1. It runs by a Foundation for Environmental Education
2. The 'Blue Flag' beach is an 'eco-tourism model'

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.83) Solution (c)

Blue Flag certification:

- It beaches to create certain infrastructure — portable toilet blocks, grey water treatment plants, a solar power plant, seating facilities, CCTV surveillance and the like.
- The certification is accorded by the Denmark-based Foundation for Environment Education, with 33 stringent criteria under four major heads for the beaches, that is, (i) Environmental Education and Information (ii) Bathing Water Quality (iii) Environment Management and Conservation and (iv) Safety and Services.
- The 'Blue Flag' beach is an 'eco-tourism model' and marks out beaches as providing tourists and beachgoers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, a safe and healthy environment, and sustainable development of the area.

Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect Banks Board Bureau (BBB):

1. BBB recommends appointment of directors and non-executive chairperson to PSBs
2. The bureau was announced as part of the seven-point Indradhanush plan to revamp PSBs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.84) Solution (c)

- With a view to improve the Governance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the Government had decided to set up an autonomous Banks Board Bureau in August 2015.
- The bureau was announced as part of the seven-point Indradhanush plan to revamp PSBs.
- BBB is an autonomous body.
- The bureau will have three ex-officio members and three expert members, in addition to the Chairman. All the Members and Chairman will be part time.
- It recommends appointment of directors and non-executive chairperson to Public sector banks, State owned financial institutions and Insurance.
- Idea to set up BBB was first mooted by a committee set up by the RBI to review the governance of bank boards. The committee was headed by P.J. Nayak

Q.85) Consider the following statements with respect to DIKSHA:

1. DIKSHA Portal was launched by the Ministry of Science and technology.
2. It provides a digital platform for teachers to learn and train themselves and connect with the teacher community.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.85) Solution (b)

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing

- DIKSHA Portal was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in 2017.
- It provides a digital platform for teachers giving them an opportunity to learn and train themselves and connect with the teacher community.
- It is built considering the whole teacher's life cycle - from the time student teachers enroll in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to after they retire as teachers.
- It also provides access to NCERT textbooks and lessons, following the regular school curriculum.
- States, government bodies and even private organisations, can integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives based on their goals, needs and capabilities.

Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to Ashgabat agreement:

1. It is the multimodal transport and transit corridor between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.
2. India is a founding member of Ashgabat agreement

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.86) Solution (a)

- The aim of agreement is to establish an international multimodal transport and transit corridor between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.
- The Agreement was first signed by Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Oman, and Qatar on 25 April 2011.
- India joined the Ashgabat Agreement in 2018.
- Qatar subsequently withdrew from the agreement in 2013, Kazakhstan and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2016.
- The Ashgabat Agreement came into force in April 2016.
- Its objective is to enhance connectivity within the Eurasian region and synchronize it with other regional transport corridors, including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).



Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to MGNREGA:

1. At least half of beneficiaries should be women.
2. Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural laborers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.87) Solution (b)

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given, this demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.

- The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

Q.88) Consider the following statements:

1. Living Planet Report 2020 is released by World Wildlife Fund.
2. According to the report wildlife population is slightly increased over last 50 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.88) Solution (a)

- Wildlife populations have fallen by more than two-thirds over the last 50 years, according to a Living Planet Report 2020 of the World Wildlife Fund.

Related to Biodiversity:

- There has been a reduction of 68% in the global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016.
- The highest biodiversity loss due to land use change:
- Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 %
- North America at 52.5 %
- Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 %
- Africa at 45.9 %
- Asia at 43%.
- The sharpest declines have occurred throughout the world's rivers and lakes, where freshwater wildlife has plummeted by 84% since 1970 — about 4% per year.

Related to Land and Oceans:

- 75% of the Earth's ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered.
- Most of the oceans are polluted.
- More than 85% of the area of wetlands has been lost during 1970-2016.

India's scenario:

- India has 2.4% global land share, about 8% global biodiversity and around 16% global population
- However, it has lost 12% of its wild mammals, 19% amphibians and 3% birds over the last five decades.
- India's ecological footprint per person is less than 1.6 global hectares (gha)/person (smaller than that of many large countries). But, its high population size has made the gross footprint significantly high.

- Ecological Footprint: It is the amount of the environment necessary to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle.

Q.89) Consider the following statements:

1. Theme of world Bamboo day 2020 is Bamboo Now
2. India is the second richest country after China in terms of bamboo diversity

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.89) Solution (c)

- World Bamboo Day is celebrated every year on 18th September. Theme of World Bamboo day 2020 is Bamboo Now
- World Bamboo Day was officially established by the World Bamboo organization at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009.
- World Bamboo Organization was set up at the 1992 International Bamboo Congress in Japan.
- It is an international coordinating body for bamboo practitioners dedicated to promoting the use of bamboo and bamboo products for the sake of the environment and economy.

Indian Scenario:

- According to the National Bamboo Mission, India has the highest area (13.96 million hectares) under bamboo.
- It is the second richest country after China in terms of bamboo diversity with 136 species.
- The annual production of bamboo in India is 14.6 million tonnes and the bamboo-rattan industry in the country was worth Rs. 28,005 crore in 2017.

Q.90) Consider the following statements:

1. GI tag is used only for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.
2. Patents and trademarks are owned by an individual or a business entity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.90) Solution (c)

Geographical Indication (GI) tag

- It is an indication which is definite to a geographical territory.
- It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.
- The goods need to be produced or processed or prepared in that region. The product must have a special quality or reputation.
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 provides registration and also protection of GI goods in India.
- The Geographical Indications Registry for India is located in Chennai.
- A registered GI tag prohibits a third party to use such products.
- GI is a collective intellectual property right and is thus owned by all the producers within the defined GI territory.
- Patents and trademarks are owned by an individual or a business entity.

Q.91) Anti-defection law was passed through which amendment?

- a) 51st Amendment
- b) 52nd Amendment
- c) 53rd Amendment
- d) 54th Amendment

Q.91) Solution (b)

- The Anti-Defection Law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd amendment to the Constitution. It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution. The main intent of the law was to combat "the evil of political defections".
- According to it, a member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House, if:
 - he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
 - he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.

Exceptions to the Disqualification on the Ground of Defection

- If a member goes out of his party as a result of a merger of the party with another party. A merger takes place when two-thirds of the members of the party have agreed to such merger.
- If a member, after being elected as the presiding officer of the House, voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or rejoins it after he ceases to hold that office.

This exemption has been provided in view of the dignity and impartiality of the office.

Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to Ghar tak Fiber Project:

1. In this project all District head quarters are connect through Optical Fibre Internet Service.
2. This project will be executed jointly by Department of Telecom Common Service Centres (CSC).

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.92) Solution (b)

- Ghar Tak Fibre project provide all the 45,945 villages of Bihar with Optical Fibre Internet Service.
- This project will be executed by combined efforts of Department of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Common Service Centres (CSC).
- The Project would entail implementation of 1 wi-fi and 5 free of cost connections to Government Institutions like Primary Schools, Anganwadi Centres, Aasha Workers, Jeevika Didi etc.
- This project will lead digital services like e-Education, e-Agriculture, Tele-Medicine, Tele-law and other social security schemes to be easily available to all citizens of Bihar.

Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to Komodo dragon:

1. It is the largest extant species of lizard
2. They are listed as vulnerable by the IUCN.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.93) Solution (c)

- The Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) is also known as the Komodo monitor.

- It is a species of lizard.
- It is found in the Indonesian islands of Komodo, Rinca, Flores, and Gili Motang.
- It is the largest extant species of lizard, growing to a maximum length of 3 metres (10 ft) in rare cases and weighing up to approximately 70 kilograms (150 lb).
- A member of the monitor lizard family Varanidae.
- Komodo dragons hunt and ambush prey including invertebrates, birds, and mammals.
- It has been claimed that they have a venomous bite.
- The biological significance of these proteins is disputed, but the glands have been shown to secrete an anticoagulant.
- Komodo dragons were first recorded by Western scientists in 1910.
- They are listed as vulnerable by the IUCN.
- They are protected under Indonesian Law, and Komodo National Park was founded in 1980 to aid protection efforts.



Q.94) Consider the following statements:

1. This zoo is built right inside the forest and set in a completely natural environment.
2. It is the first zoo in the world to breed White tiger
3. It is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian Pangolins in the world

The above statements best describes which of the following Zoological park?

- a) Indira Gandhi Zoological park
- b) Nehru Zoological park
- c) Nandankanan Zoological Park
- d) Alipore Zoological park

Q.94) Solution (c)

- Nandankanan Zoological Park is a premier large zoo of India located near Odisha's capital Bhubaneswar.
- The zoo is built right inside the forest and set in a completely natural environment.
- It is the first zoo in the world to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger.
- It is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian Pangolins in the world.
- It is the only zoological park in India to become an institutional member of World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA).

Q.95) Consider the following statements:

1. CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) is a gene editing technology
2. CRISPR-Cas9 technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.95) Solution (c)

- Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) is a gene editing technology, which replicates natural defence mechanism in bacteria to fight virus attacks, using a special protein called Cas9.
- CRISPR-Cas9 technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands that contain genetic information. The specific location of the genetic codes that need to be changed, or edited, is identified on the DNA strand, and then, using the Cas9 protein, which acts like a pair of scissors, that location is cut off from the strand.
- A DNA strand, when broken, has a natural tendency to repair itself. Scientists intervene during this auto-repair process, supplying the desired sequence of genetic codes that binds itself with the broken DNA strand.
- CRISPR-Cas9 is a simple, effective, and incredibly precise technology with potential to revolutionise human existence in future.

Q.96) Consider the following Statements:

1. Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network is under Ministry of agriculture
2. The Scheme is Pan-India and has a hub-and spoke model

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.96) Solution (c)

- Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN) is a Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology initiative.
- It empowers farmers, especially women farmers. It aims to understand the problems of water, soil, seed and market faced by the farmers and provide simple solutions to them.
- The Scheme is Pan-India and has a hub-and spoke model and stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation in farmers.

Q.97) Consider the following statements:

1. The sloth bear is native to the Indian subcontinent.
2. IUCN status of sloth bear is endangered

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.97) Solution (a)

- The sloth bear is an ant eating bear species native to the Indian subcontinent.
- It feeds on fruits, ants and termites.
- IUCN status: Vulnerable
- The reasons of decline are mainly because of habitat loss and degradation.

Q.98) Consider the following statements with respect to Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND):

1. It is responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
2. It reports to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister.

Which of the above is/are *incorrect*?

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

Q.98) Solution (d)

- In India, Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) performs similar functions as those of the Financial Crime Enforcement Network.
- FIU-IND is the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
- It was set up in 2004 under the Ministry of Finance. The body reports to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister.
- It is also responsible for coordinating and strengthening efforts of national and international intelligence, investigation and enforcement agencies in pursuing the global efforts against money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Q.99) Consider the following statements with respect to Chendamangalam saree:

1. Odisha is having GI tag of Chendamangalam saree
2. It is recognisable by its puliyilakara border, a thin black line that runs side by side with the sari's selvedge.

Which of the above is/are *correct*?

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

Q.99) Solution (b)

Chendamangalam Saree:

Features:

- It is recognisable by its puliyilakara border, a thin black line that runs side by side with the sari's selvedge.
- It has extra-weft chuttikara and stripes and checks of varying width.

History:

- It is widely believed that weaving in Chendamangalam was introduced by the Paliam family.

- Called the Paliath Achans, the family was hereditary to the prime minister post to the Maharaja of Cochin, having been associated with Chendamangalam from the 16th century onwards.

Geographical Clusters: The Indian government has identified three clusters in Kerala - Balaramapuram, Chendamangalam and Kuthampully - that have been given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

The Care 4 Chendamangalam (C4C) initiative is supporting the 2018 Kerala flood-affected weavers.

Q.100) Which of the following recommend Minimum supporting price?

- a) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
- b) Commission for Minimum supporting price
- c) National Commission on Farmers
- d) Commission on farm sale

Q.100) Solution (a)

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

- The CACP is anb of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, formed in 1965. It is a statutory body.
- Currently, the Commission comprises a Chairman, Member Secretary, one Member (Official) and two Members (Non-Official).
- The non-official members are representatives of the farming community and usually have an active association with the farming community.
- It is mandated to recommend Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production.
- CACP submits separate reports recommending prices for Kharif and Rabi seasons.

Q.101) Consider the following statements with respect to e-Gram Swaraj:

1. It is a web portal released by Ministry of Science and technology
2. It will integrate the PRIASoft and Public Financial Management System to establish strong financial system.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.101) Solution (b)

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding e-Gram Swaraj. The application was launched on the National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24).
- It aims to bring in better transparency and strengthening of the e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country through decentralized planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.
- It will also assist in enhancing the credibility of Panchayats which would induce greater devolution of funds to PRIs.
- It will help in establishing a strong financial system by integrating the PRIASoft and Public Financial Management System (PFMS).
- The PRIASoft (Panchayati Raj Institutions Accounting Software) is the Online Payment Module whereby Gram Panchayats are carrying out online payments to the vendors and service providers.
- The main objective of introducing such a module is to have a sound financial management system in the Panchayats leading to their greater credibility and image.
- These endeavours are also congruent to that of Digital India Programme which is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to Participatory Guarantee Scheme:

1. It is a process of certifying organic products
2. The certification of products under this scheme will be in the form of a documented logo or a statement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.102) Solution (c)

- PGS is a process of certifying organic products, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards.
- The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement.

- According to a 2008 definition formulated by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), PGSs are locally focused quality assurance system that certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

Four pillars of PGS

The government's 2015 PGS manual underlines that the system in India is based on participatory approach, a shared vision, transparency and trust.

- Participation: Stakeholders such as producers, consumers, retailers, traders etc are collectively responsible for designing and decision-making. Direct communication among the stakeholders helps create an integrity- and trust-based approach with transparency in decision-making.
- Shared Vision: Each stakeholder organisation or PGS group can adopt its own vision conforming to the overall vision and standards of the PGS-India programme.
- Transparency: Transparency is maintained through the active participation of producers in information-sharing at meetings and workshops, peer reviews, and involvement in decision-making.
- Trust: A fundamental premise of PGS is the idea that producers can be trusted. The trustworthiness includes a producer pledge made through a witnessed signing of a declaration, and written collective undertakings by the group to abide by the standards of PGS.

Q.103) Consider the following statements:

1. The name list of cyclone is proposed by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
2. Recently Oman is hit by a tropical cyclone "Hikaa"

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 (c)

- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Hikaa was a tropical cyclone that struck eastern Oman
- The practice of naming storms (tropical cyclones) began years ago in order to help in the quick identification of storms in warning messages because names are presumed to be far easier to remember than numbers and technical terms.

How are cyclones named?

- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) started the tropical cyclone naming system in 2000.
- Tropical cyclones are named to provide ease of communication between forecasters and the general public regarding forecasts, watches, and warnings.

TROPICAL-CYCLONE

- Weather forecasters give each tropical cyclone a name to avoid confusion. Each year, tropical cyclones receive names in alphabetical order.
- The name list is proposed by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of WMO Members of a specific region, and approved by the respective tropical cyclone regional bodies at their annual/bi-annual sessions.
- Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization.
- The original name lists featured only women's names. In 1979, men's names were introduced and they alternate with the women's names. Six lists are used in rotation. Thus, the 2019 list will be used again in 2025.
- The only time that there is a change in the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity.

Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to International Day of Sign languages:

1. The first International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated on 1985
2. The theme for 2019 International Day of Sign languages is "Sign Language Rights for All".

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.104) Solution (b)

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages to raise awareness of the importance of sign language as a human rights of people who are deaf.

- The theme for 2019 International Day of Sign languages is “Sign Language Rights for All”.
- The proposal for the Day came from the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), a federation of 135 national associations of deaf people.
- The first International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated on 23 September 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf that took place in September 2018.

Sign Languages

- Sign languages is a language that employs signs made with the hands and other movements, including facial expressions and postures of the body, used primarily by people who are deaf.
- There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when travelling and socializing.
- According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries and use more than 300 different sign languages.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes and promotes the use of sign languages.

Q.105) Recently Naropa festival is seen in news, it is related to which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Hinduism
- d) Parsis

Q.105) Solution (a)

- Naropa Festival celebrates the life of Buddhist philosopher and scholar
- Similar to Kumbh Mela, the festival is celebrated every year with grand celebration every 12th year. The last celebration was organised in year 2016 for the completion of 1,000 years of Naropa legacy.
- It is the largest assembly of Drukpa masters and include cultural performances by prominent Himalayan artists.
- The festival includes several rare cultural events that are believed to grant spiritual liberation upon sight. This includes the ceremonial unfurling of the largest silk embroidery of Buddha Amitabha that is only displayed to public audiences during the Naropa festival.

Q.106) Consider the following statements:

1. National Service Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Defence.

2. Motto of National Service Scheme is “Not Me But You”.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.106) Solution (b)

- National Service Scheme (NSS) was launched during 1969, the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi, in 37 universities.
- NSS is an extension dimension to the higher education system to orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in educational institutions.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- Motto of NSS is “Not Me But You”.

Q.107) Consider the following statements with respect to Siachen Glacier:

- 1. It is world's second highest battlefield India's highest battlefield.
- 2. The Siachen Glacier is part of Jammu and Kashmir

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.107) Solution (d)

- The Siachen Glacier is known as the highest battlefield of the world.
- Siachen Glacier lies in Northern Ladakh in the Karakoram, a mountain range originating from the Pamirs. Its position is located near Indo-Pak Line of Control.
- Siachen is the 5th largest glacier of the Karakoram Range and second largest glacier in the world.
- Siachen is the source of the Nubra River that eventually feeds the Indus river.
- The average elevation of Siachen Glacier from sea level is approximately 17770 feet. Most of the Siachen Glacier is the LoC, a disputed territory between India and Pakistan.

- The area of “Aksai Chin” is also located in this area. It is very important for India to deploy its troops in this area to monitor the activities of the Pakistan and China in this area.
- Prior to 1984, neither India nor Pakistan had any permanent presence in the area.

Q.108) MedSpark, the first medical device parks in India is going to set up in which of the following states?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Odisha
- d) Gujarath

Q.108) Solution (b)

- Kerala will soon house one of the first medical device parks in India, called MedSpark.
- MedSpark is going to be established at the Life Science Park, Thonnakkal, in Thiruvananthapuram district.
- The park will create an enabling support system for R&D, testing, and evaluation of medical devices, manufacturing support, technology innovation, and knowledge dissemination.
- It is a joint initiative of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC).

Q.109) Consider the following statements with respect to Abhyas High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT):

1. It is designed by DRDO.
2. It is provided by small gas turbine engine.
3. Programmed for fully autonomous flight.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.109) Solution (d)

- Abhyas High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) Designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of DRDO.
- Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) is a key Aeronautical Systems Design Laboratory under DRDO.
- It is involved in the design and development of the state-of-the-art Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Aeronautical Systems and technologies to meet the requirements of the Indian Armed forces.

Features:

- It is a drone (UAV) that will be used as a target for various missile systems.
- It is powered by a small gas turbine engine.
- Navigation by Micro-electromechanical (MEMS) systems based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation.
- MEMS is a process technology used to create tiny integrated devices or systems that combine mechanical and electrical components.
- It is lightweight and reliable, consumes less power and is cost-effective.
- Programmed for fully autonomous flight.

Uses: As a target for evaluation of various Missile systems.

Background: This is the second time that the target vehicle was flight-tested successfully. The first successful test was in May 2019.

Q.110) Consider the following statements with respect to National Board for Wildlife:

1. It is a statutory Board constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. It is chaired by the ministry of environment.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.110) Solution (a)**National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)**

- It is a statutory Board constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It is chaired by the Prime Minister. Its vice chairman is Minister of Environment.
- It is involved in framing policies and promoting wildlife conservation and controlling poaching and illegal trade of wild life.

- It makes recommendations on the setting up of and management of national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas and restriction of activities in those areas.
- Its concurrence is needed for creation of tourist lodges, alteration of the boundaries of Protected Areas, de-notification of Tiger Reserves, etc.
- It may appoint a standing committee which provides clearances to projects that pass through or are located near protected areas.

Q.111) Consider the following statements:

1. A cess is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose.
2. A cess can be levied on both direct and indirect taxes.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.111) Solution (c)

- A cess is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose.
- It is levied on the tax payable and not on the taxable income.
- For the taxpayer, cess is equivalent to a surcharge on tax.
- A cess can be levied on both direct and indirect taxes.
- Examples: Clean environment cess, Education cess, Krishi Kalyan cess, Infrastructure Cess etc.

Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA):

1. For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
2. India is a member of CICA
3. Administrative body of CICA is located in Tajikistan

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.112) Solution (a)

Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

- It an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by the First President of Kazakhstan in 1992. CICA Secretariat, the administrative body of CICA is located in Kazakhstan.
- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
- Presently, CICA has 27 Member States (Including India), accounting for 99% of the territory and population of Asia. Eight countries and five multi-national organizations, including United Nations, have the observer status.
- Current Chair of CICA is held by Tajikistan.

Q.113) Prithvi-II is a ballistic missile which was recently in news Which of the following is true about prithvi-II missile?

- a) It is a surface to surface short range ballistic missile
- b) It is a air to air long range ballistic missile
- c) It is a Water to Air Ballistic missile
- d) It is Surface to air long term ballistic missile

Q.113) Solution (a)

India conducted a night test of the nuclear-capable Prithvi-II ballistic missile from the integrated test range at Chandipur off the Odisha coast.

- Prithvi is a surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation of India.
- It was also the first missile to be developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.
- The liquid-fueled Prithvi, which was the first nuclear-capable missile to be inducted into the tri-Service Strategic Forces Command (SFC) in 2003.
- It uses an advanced inertial guidance system with maneuvering trajectory to hit its target.
- Strike Range: 350 km.
- It can carry 500 to 1,000-kg payloads.
- Two versions Prithvi are now in service and a third is under development.

Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to Jnanpith Award:

1. Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award presented annually to an author for their “outstanding contribution towards literature”.
2. 2019 Jnanpith Award was given to Kannada Language

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.114) Solution (a)

- Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri was conferred the Jnanpith award. Akkitham is the only living poet being called Mahakavi (great poet) in Malayalam.
- Jnanpith award is India's highest literary award.
- It was constituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith trust.
- It is given each year for authors for their immense contribution towards their respective language and literature.
- 2019 Jnanpith Award was given to Malayalam Language to Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri

Q.115) Which of the following country is not a member of G4 group?

- a) India
- b) Brazil
- c) Japan
- d) France

Q.115) Solution (d)

G-4

- Members : India, Brazil, Germany and Japan
- All members support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council
- Formed in 2004
- Each of these four countries have figured among the elected non-permanent members of the council since the UN's establishment.
- Their economic and political influence has grown significantly in the last decades, reaching a scope comparable to the permanent members (P5)

- G4 campaigns for U.N. Reforms, including more representation for developing countries, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories, in the UNSC
- France supports inclusion of G4 and an African representative as permanent member with no objection to the veto power being extended to new permanent members. UK supports G4 as new members but without veto power.

Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to World Risk Index (WRI) 2020:

1. The World Risk Index is a statistical model for the assessment of disasters such as earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts and sea-level rise.
2. According to WRI among the continent Oceania is at the highest risk.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.116) Solution (c)

- The World Risk Index is a statistical model for the assessment of the global risk of disasters such as earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts and sea-level rise.
- WRI is part of the World Risk Report 2020 with special focus on “Forced Displacement and Migration” released by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft, in cooperation with the University of Stuttgart in Germany.
- Released annually since 2011, it indicates which countries are in the greatest need to strengthen measures for coping with and adapting to extreme natural events.
- Among continents, Oceania is at the highest risk, followed by Africa and the Americas.

Q.117) Consider the following statements with respect to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:

1. The implementing body of FCRA is Ministry of finance
2. Under the Act, organizations are required to register themselves every 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.117) Solution (b)

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Individuals are permitted to accept foreign contributions without permission of MHA. However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000.
- The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- Under the Act, organizations are required to register themselves every five years.

Q.118) Consider the following statements:

1. Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) is identified by IRDAI whereas the Domestic Systemically Important Bank is identified by RBI
2. In India only State Bank of India (SBI), and HDFC Bank have been identified as Domestic Systemically Important Bank

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.118) Solution (a)

- Domestic Systemically Important Bank (D-SIBs)
- D-SIB means that the bank is too big to fail. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection. Banks whose assets exceed 2% of GDP are considered part of this group.
- Presently, the State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank have been identified as DSIBs in India.
- Significance:
- Should such a bank fail, there would be significant disruption to the essential services they provide to the banking system and the overall economy.

- The too-big-to-fail tag also indicates that in case of distress, the government is expected to support these banks.
- Due to this perception, these banks enjoy certain advantages in funding. It also means that these banks have a different set of policy measures regarding systemic risks and moral hazard issues.
- In the insurance sector the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will identify Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs). For the year 2020-21 The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India and The New India Assurance Co have been identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)

Q.119) Recently “Kaushal Se Kal Badhenge” Program was in news, it is related to which of the following scheme?

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
- Atal innovation mission
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- UJWAL yojana

Q.119) Solution (a)

- Recently, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has celebrated the foundation day of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) as “Kaushal Se Kal Badhenge” on the occasion of Antyodaya Diwas (25th September).

Inaugurations and New Releases:

- **Agripreneurship (entrepreneurship in agriculture) Programme.**
 - Agripreneurship is defined as generally, sustainable, community-orientated, directly marketed agriculture.
 - Sustainable agriculture denotes a holistic, systems-oriented approach to farming that focuses on the interrelationships of social, economic, and environmental processes.
- **Guidelines regarding Captive Employment under DDU-GKY.**
 - Captive employers are businesses which can employ 500 or more in their own organisation or one of their subsidiaries and have suitable in-house training facilities.
- **Guidelines for Promotion of Integrated Farming Cluster (IFC).**
 - Integrated Farming is a combined approach aimed at efficient sustainable resource management for increased productivity in the cropping system.
 - It has multiple objectives of sustainability, food security, farmer's security and poverty reduction by involving livestock, vermicomposting, organic farming, etc.

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for capacity building of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)/StartUps and providing incubation support in rural areas.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

- MoRD announced it on Antyodaya Diwas in 2014.
- It is a demand-driven placement linked skill training initiative working under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- It uses skill training and placement in wage employment as a tool to diversify income and enable sustained upward movement out of poverty.
- DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.

Q.120) JIMEX 20 Maritime Exercise is between India and which of the following country?

- a) Jordan
- b) Japan
- c) Jamaica
- d) South Korea

Q.120) Solution (b)

- JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- It is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam, India.

JIMEX 20:

- Multi-faceted tactical exercises involving weapon firings, cross deck helicopter operations and complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.
- Indigenously built stealth destroyer Chennai, Teg Class stealth frigate Tarkash and Fleet Tanker Deepak will represent the Indian Navy.
- P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft will also participate in the exercise.

Q.121) Recently RAISE 2020 was in news consider the following statements with respect to it:

1. It will be jointly organized by the Ministry of health Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog.
2. It is Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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)

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog will organize a Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,' from October 5-9, 2020.
- RAISE 2020 is a first of its kind, global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision and roadmap for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment through responsible AI.
- This includes using AI in areas like Health, Agriculture, Education, Skilling, Mobility, Fintech, Research, Inclusive AI, Future of Work, among others.
- The event will witness participation from global industry leaders, key opinion makers, Government representatives and academia.
- It will also feature some startups working in AI-related fields.

Q.122) Consider the following statements:

1. Malayalam literature awarded with the 55th Jnanpith award.
2. Till now only one Jnanpith award given to English language.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.122) Solution (c)

About the Jnanpith award Award:

- It has achieved the recognition of the highest literary award of the country.
- English along with other Indian languages is considered for the Award.
- The Award is open for only Indian citizens and is given annually.
- The prize carries a cash award of Rs. 11 lakhs, a citation, and a bronze replica of Vagdevi (Saraswati), the goddess of learning.
- It is sponsored by the cultural organization Bharatiya Jnanpith.
- In 2019, author Amitav Ghosh was felicitated with 54th Jnanpith Award. He became the first English language writer to become a Jnanpith laureate.

- Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri was conferred the 55th edition of the Jnanpith Award.

Q.123) Arrange the following cities from north to south as per their geographical location

1. Baku
2. Tbilisi
3. Ashgabat
4. Tehran

Which of the following order is correct?

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

Q.123) Solution (a)

- Baku is a Capital city of Azerbaijan
- Tbilisi is a Capital city of Georgia
- Ashgabat is a Capital city of Turkmenistan
- Tehran is the capital city of Iran



Q.124) Which of the following European country is landlocked?

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

Q.124) Solution (a)

There are 17 landlocked countries in Europe: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Kosovo, Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Vatican City.



Q.125) Consider the following statements with respect to Red sanders:

1. These are endemic to South India
2. It is categorized as endangered species in the Red list of IUCN .

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.125) Solution (a)

- Red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is endemic to South India.
- They are found in the Tropical Dry Deciduous forest of the Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has put it under the category of near threatened from earlier endangered species in the Red List.
- It is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
 - Appendix II – Species which are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival.

Q.126) Consider the following statements with respect to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation:

1. It implements the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of human resource 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.126) Solution (a)

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

- It is a government organisation that manages the provident fund and pension accounts for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.
- It implements the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- The Act provides for the institution of provident funds for employees in factories and other establishments.
- It is administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

- It is one of the world's largest social security organisations in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken.

Q.127) Consider the following statements with respect to Lantana:

1. Lantana is a small perennial shrub, which forms extensive, dense and impenetrable thickets.
2. It is native to Central African 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.127) Solution (a)

- Lantana camara is a small perennial shrub, which forms extensive, dense and impenetrable thickets.
- It is native to Central and South America.
- It is an invasive species which was introduced in tropical regions as an ornamental plant (introduced in India in 1807).
- It is generally deleterious to biodiversity and is an agricultural weed.

Impact:

- The thickets covered vast tracts of land, stopping the natural light and nutrition for other flora and fauna.
- The toxic substance in its foliage and ripe berries affected the animals.
- With the herbivores not getting sufficient forage, the prey base for carnivorous animals was declining, leading to ecological disturbances in the food chain.
- In some regions, the plant has invaded pastures and shrunk the cattle grazing areas, affecting the livelihood of villagers.

Q.128) Consider the following statements with respect to Food Agriculture Organization:

1. The first ever International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction day is observed by Food Agriculture Organization
2. To monitor SDG Target 12.3, FAO has created the Food Loss Index.

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)

- Every year the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed on 29th September 2020.
- This is the first ever observance of the day by the Food Agriculture Organization, United Nations. It was designated by the UN in 2019 Highlights Globally 14% of food produced is lost between harvest and retail.
- SDG Target 12.3 says "by 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses."
- To monitor SDG Target 12.3, FAO has created the Food Loss Index (FLI). The focus of the indicator is on percentages of food removed from the supply chain. The FLI monitors changes in these percentages over time, relative to a base period currently set at 2015, in order to track progress against SDG Target 12.3.

Q.129) What is the name of the helpline started by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to provide counseling and psycho-social support to children during COVID 19?

- a) SAMVEDANA
- b) SMADANA
- c) SANTWANA
- d) SAHAYA

Q.129) Solution (a)

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a toll-free tele-counselling helpline number 1800-121-2830 for children affected during COVID-19 for providing counseling and psycho-social support.
- SAMVEDANA (Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance) is a Toll Free Tele counselling service - 18001212830 (from Monday to Saturday 10 am - 1 pm and 3 pm to 8 pm).
- The tele-counselling service will provide psychological first-aid and emotional support to children who are in quarantine or at COVID care centres and children who have COVID positive family members or children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19.
The tele-counselling support will cater to children all over India in various regional languages also.

- Counsellors have been specially trained by the expert team of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) to address the needs of children in these difficult times.

Q.130) Consider the following statements:

1. IUCN status of Asian elephant is Endangered
2. Kerala is having highest elephant population among Indian states

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

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

Q.130) Solution (b)

Asian Elephants: There are three subspecies of Asian elephant which are the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.

- Global Population: Estimated 20,000 to 40,000.
- The Indian subspecies has the widest range and accounts for the majority of the remaining elephants on the continent.
- There are around 28,000 elephants in India with around 25% of them in Karnataka stands first then followed by Kerala.
- IUCN Red List Status: Endangered.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I.