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Q.1) With reference to Global Consortium for Governance of Digital Currency, consider the following statements:

1. The consortium will aim for increasing access to the financial system through inclusive, innovative, and inter-operable policy solutions.
2. It is launched at the G20 Summit held at Riyadh.

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.1) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Global Consortium for Digital Currency Governance will aim for increasing access to the financial system through inclusive, innovative, and inter-operable policy solutions . Initiative aims to bring together leading companies, financial institutions, government representatives, technical experts, academics, international organizations, NGOs and members of the Forum's communities on a global level.	The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the first global consortium focused on digital currency governance including the stablecoins.

Q.2) Which of the following Constitutional Amendments modified Article 312 to include an All India Judicial Service?

- a) 24th Constitution (Amendment) Act
- b) 38th Constitution (Amendment) Act
- c) 42nd Constitution (Amendment) Act
- d) 44th Constitution (Amendment) Act

Q.2) Solution (c)

- After the Swaran Singh Committee's recommendations in 1976, **Article 312 was modified by the 42nd constitution (amendment) act in 1977 to provide for an All India Judicial Service (AIJS).**

- All India Judicial Service (AIJS) aims at creating a centralized cadre of District Judges who will be recruited centrally through an all-India examination and allocated to each State along the lines of the All India Services (AIS).

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

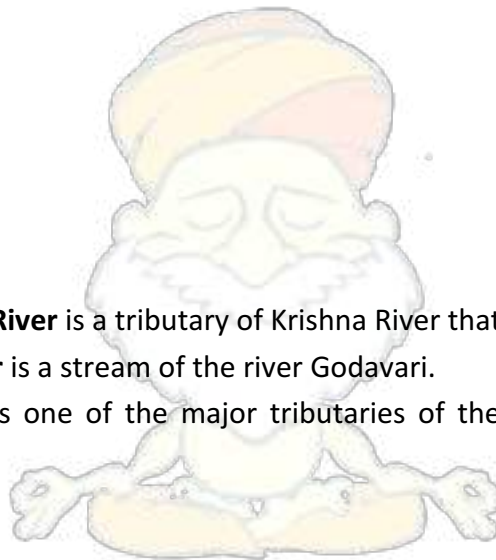
<i>River</i>	<i>Tributary of</i>
1. Indravati	Mahanadi
2. Ghataprabha	Krishna
3. Kabini	Cauvery

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Q.3) Solution (c)

- **The Ghataprabha River** is a tributary of Krishna River that flows in Karnataka.
- **The Indravati River** is a stream of the river Godavari.
- **The Kabini River** is one of the major tributaries of the river Cauvery in southern India.



Q.4) Yuelu Proclamation aims to protect and promote which of the following?

- Human rights
- Linguistic diversity
- Intellectual Property
- Public Health

Q.4) Solution (b)

- **Yuelu Proclamation** is a document on protection and promotion of the world's linguistic diversity.
- Yuelu Proclamation was adopted at the first international conference on language resources protection in Changsha, Central China's Hunan province in 2018 by UNESCO.

Q.5) India's first Super Fab Lab was inaugurated in which of the following cities?

- a) Pune
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Bengaluru
- d) Kochi

Q.5) Solution (d)

- On January 25, 2020, **India's first Super Fab Lab was inaugurated in Kochi, Kerala.** The laboratory is to function in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA.
- It is the only laboratory that is being installed outside US. The Super Fab Lab is being installed in collaboration with KSUM (Kerala Startup Mission).

Q.6) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Patola Saree – Punjab
2. Dhanu Jatra – Odisha
3. Lai Haroba – Tripura

Select the correct statements

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



Q.6) Solution (b)

Patola Saree – Gujarat

Dhanu Jatra – Odisha

Lai Haroba – Tripura

Q.7) Vakataka Dynasty was spread over which of the following states?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Maharashtra
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Gujarat
5. Chhattisgarh

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 5

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

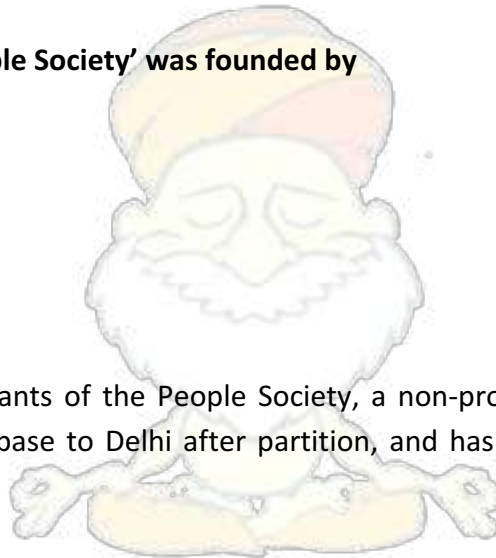
Q.7) Solution (d)

The Vakataka branch of the dynasty continued till the end of the reign of Prithvishena II in 480 CE. Since no son or daughter of this king is known to have succeeded him, the leadership passed on to King Harishena of the Bashim branch. By the time Harishena died in 510 CE, the Vakataka empire was at its zenith – covering Andhra, Maharashtra and most of Madhya Pradesh. In addition, its influence extended to Konkan, Gujarat, Malwa and Chhattisgarh. The dynasty was even larger than it had been under Pravarasena I.

DO READ THIS - <https://www.firstpost.com/living/the-vakatakas-a-forgotten-empire-tracing-the-history-of-a-once-powerful-kingdom-that-mysteriously-faded-away-6814501.html>

Q.8) ‘Servants of the People Society’ was founded by

- a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- b) Lokmanya Tilak
- c) Vinoba Bhave
- d) Lala Hansraj

**Q.8) Solution (a)**

In 1921, he founded Servants of the People Society, a non-profit welfare organisation, in Lahore, which shifted its base to Delhi after partition, and has branches in many parts of India.

Q.9) ‘Dasarathi Satakam’ was written by

- a) Kancharla Gopanna
- b) Tallapaka Annamayya
- c) Tyagaraja
- d) Kshetrayya

Q.9) Solution (a)

Dasarathi Satakam is a Telugu Bhakti Satakam, a popular form of Telugu poetry. It was written by Bhakta Ramadasu (Kancharla Gopanna) during 17th century.

It consists of 104 poems. Dasarathi means son of Dasaratha, who is the incarnation of Vishnu, Rama.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Senna spectabilis’.

1. It has become an invasive alien species of India.

2. It is native to South and Central America.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.10) Solution (c)

Senna spectabilis is a plant species of the legume family (Fabaceae) in the subfamily Caesalpinioideae native to South and Central America.

It has become an invasive species in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Invasive species in the region - eucalyptus, tea plantations and wattle and naturalised alien species like Lantana camara, Opuntia stricta, Chromolaena odorata, Parthenium hysterophorus and Senna spectabilis

Q.11) With reference to National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI), consider the following statements:

1. The strategy aims to strengthen the ecosystem for various modes of digital financial services in all Tier-II to Tier VI centers.
2. It is released by NITI Aayog.
3. To make the Public Credit Registry fully operational by 2022 is one of the objectives of the strategy.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

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

Q.11) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The strategy aims to strengthen the ecosystem for various modes of digital financial services in all Tier-II to Tier VI centers and to	National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) is released by Reserve Bank of	Some of other objectives in NSFI: Every adult had access to a financial service provider through a mobile device by March 2024; Every willing and eligible adult, who has been enrolled under the

create the necessary infrastructure to move towards a less-cash society by March 2022.	India (RBI) for the period 2019-2024.	PM Jan Dhan Yojana, be enrolled under an insurance scheme and a pension scheme by March 2020; To make the Public Credit Registry fully operational by March 2022.
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Q.12) The One Trillion Trees Initiative was launched recently by which of the following?

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCCD)
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)

Q.12) Solution (d)

- The **One Trillion Trees Initiative** is launched by **World Economic Forum** in its 2020 meeting to grow, restore and conserve 1 trillion trees across the world by 2030.
- It is also aimed at uniting governments, NGOs, businesses and individuals in mass-scale nature restoration.
- The global initiative is aimed at restoring biodiversity and help fight climate change.

Q.13) India signed the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement with which of the following?

- Russia
- France
- Japan
- Canada

Q.13) Solution (b)

- Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between India and France** aimed at enhancing people-to-people contacts, fostering Mobility of students, academics, researchers and skilled professionals between India and France
- It will also help in strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.

Q.14) Consider the following statements about TrueNat Test:

1. It is an indigenous molecular diagnostic tool for tuberculosis diagnosis.
2. It is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test which can also detect drug resistance with the use of chips.

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.14) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
TrueNat Test is an indigenous molecular diagnostic tool for tuberculosis diagnosis. It was developed by Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics, which WHO endorsed recently.	TrueNat is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test that, by assaying the genes present in the TB bacteria, can not only detect the presence of the bacteria but can also detect drug resistance with the use of chips. TrueNat test can easily and cost-effectively be done in the primary health care setup.

Q.15) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Buddhist monastic sites</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Moghalmari	Uttar Pradesh
2. Bojjannakonda	Andhra Pradesh
3. Lingalmetta	Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above are *incorrectly* matched?

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

Q.15) Solution (a)

- **Moghamari** is a Buddhist monastic site of the early medieval period in **West Bengal's** Paschim Medinipur district.
- **Bojjannakonda and Lingalmetta Monastries:** These are the twin rock cut Buddhist monasteries at Sankaram village in Visakhapatnam, **Andhra Pradesh**. They date back to the 3rd century BC.

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mission Innovation'.

1. It is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union to accelerate global clean energy innovation.
2. It was launched during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (CoP 21).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

Mission Innovation was announced on November 30, 2015 due to pioneering efforts by India, France and USA, as world leaders came together in Paris to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate changes. Mission Innovation (MI) is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union to dramatically accelerate global clean energy innovation. As part of the initiative, participating countries have committed to double their governments' clean energy research and development (R&D) investments over five years, while encouraging greater levels of private sector investment in transformative clean energy technologies.



MISSION INNOVATION
accelerating the clean energy revolution

A GLOBAL INITIATIVE WORKING TO ACCELERATE CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION



1 GOAL

To **accelerate** the pace of clean energy innovation to achieve performance breakthroughs and cost reductions to provide widely **affordable** and **reliable** clean energy solutions.

25 MEMBERS

Launched in 2015 at COP21 in **PARIS**

MI Members represent about 80% of global government investment in clean energy RD&D

4 OBJECTIVES

-  Substantial boost in public sector investment
-  Increasing international collaboration
-  Increased private sector engagement and investment
-  Raising awareness of the transformational potential of energy innovation



8 INNOVATION CHALLENGES Global collaborations to accelerate innovation in key technology areas

 **IC1** Smart Grids

 **IC2** Off-grid Access to Electricity

 **IC3** Carbon Capture

 **IC4** Sustainable Biofuels

 **IC5** Converting Sunlight

 **IC6** Clean Energy Materials

 **IC7** Affordable Heating and Cooling of Buildings

 **IC8** Renewable and Clean Hydrogen

19 MISSION INNOVATION CHAMPIONS

A program for recognizing and supporting the next wave of energy technology leaders

6 MAJOR COLLABORATORS

- BEC** Breakthrough Energy Coalition
- GCoM** Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- IEA** International Energy Agency
- IRENA** International Renewable Energy Agency
- WBG** World Bank Group
- WEF** World Economic Forum



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Q.17) The 'Corruption Perceptions Index' is brought out by the

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) Transparency International

d) International Court of Justice

Q.17) Solution (c)

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is an index published annually by Transparency International since 1995 which ranks countries "by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys."

Q.18) Which of the following statements is most appropriated with respect to 'Juice Jacking'.

- a) It is a process in which transactions for various forms of cryptocurrency are verified and added to the blockchain digital ledger.
- b) It is a type of cyber-attack involving a charging port that doubles as a data connection, typically over USB.
- c) It is the act of pretending to be someone you are not online, in order to lure someone you've never met into a relationship.
- d) It is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by disguising oneself as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

Q.18) Solution (b)

Juice jacking is a type of cyber-attack involving a charging port that doubles as a data connection, typically over USB. This often involves either installing malware or surreptitiously copying sensitive data from a smart phone, tablet, or other computer device.

Q.19) 'N Chandrasekaran Committee' was constituted to look into

- a) Artificial Intelligence
- b) 3D Printing
- c) Big Data
- d) Algorithm Trading

Q.19) Solution (a)

N Chandrasekaran Committee. Committee constituted by Ministry of Defence to study use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military.

Q.20) Consider the following statements

1. Lithium-Sulphur (Li-s) batteries store considerably more energy than the Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries.
2. Li-S batteries are generally considered to be the successors of the Li-ion batteries because of their lower cost of production, energy efficiency and improved safety.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.20) Solution (c)

Theoretically, Lithium-Sulphur batteries are capable of holding up to five-times more energy than Lithium-ion ones.

Li-S batteries are generally considered to be the successors of the Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries because of their lower cost of production, energy efficiency and improved safety. Their cost of production is lower because sulfur is abundantly available.

Lithium-ion batteries require minerals such as rare earths, nickel and cobalt to produce their positive electrodes. Supply of these metals is limited, prices are rising, and their mining often has great social and environmental costs.

Q.21) Which of the following organisation released the Women, Business and The Law Report 2020?

- a) Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- b) UN-Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
- c) UN Women
- d) World Bank

Q.21) Solution (d)

- **The Women, Business and The Law Report 2020** is the sixth edition of the report by **World Bank** to analyze the impact of laws and regulations (legal gender equality) on women's economic opportunity (entrepreneurship and employment) in 190 economies.
- It measures global progress towards gender equality in the law and the legal differences on access to economic opportunities between men and women.
- Eight indicators are Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.
- India was ranked 117th and scored 74.4 out of 100.

Q.22) Consider the following pairs:

Cities in News	Country
1. Al-Asad	Iraq
2. Sirte	Egypt
3. Lamu	Kenya
4. Erbil	Syria
5. Tripoli	Jordan

Which of the pairs given above are *incorrectly* matched?

- 2 and 5 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2, 4 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Q.22) Solution (c)

- **Al-Asad and Erbil** military bases are located in **Iraq**.
- **Lamu** town is situated on the coast of **Kenya**.
- **Sirte** is a City in **Libya** located on the Mediterranean coast.
- **Tripoli** is in **Libya**.

Q.23) Consider the following statements about Mugger Crocodile:

1. It is found in freshwater habitats and also in coastal saltwater lagoons and estuaries.
2. It is an 'Endangered' species under IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.23) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Mugger Crocodile is an egg-laying and hole-nesting species. It is mainly restricted to the Indian subcontinent.	IUCN status: Vulnerable. It is protected under

Found in a number of freshwater habitat types including rivers, lakes & marshes and also in coastal saltwater lagoons and estuaries.

Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Q.24) The Zo Kutpui is a festival of which of the following tribes?

- a) Mizo
- b) Apatani
- c) Kuki
- d) Meitei

Q.24) Solution (a)

- **Zo Kutpui** is festival celebrated by different **Mizo tribes** is an attempt to unify and strengthen the brotherhood among various Mizo tribes living in different parts of the world.
- Mizoram government will be organising Zo Kutpui in at least 10 states across India and countries such as US, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Q.25) With reference to North-East Gas Grid Project, which of these statements is/are NOT correct?

1. The grid connects all the eight states in North-Eastern region.
2. It is implemented by Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.25) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid is the 1,656-km pipeline which connects Guwahati in Assam to major cities in the region such	The project is critical towards implementing the government's Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for the North-East. Indradhanush Gas Grid

as Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizawl and Agartala covering all eight states in North-Eastern region.

Limited (IGGL) - a joint venture company of five CPSEs (IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and NRL) is the implementation Agency.

Q.26) Consider the following statements

1. 'Bureau of Immigration (BoI)' is under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs.
2. The e-FRRO scheme has been implemented on the Immigration, Visa and Foreigner's Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) platform.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.26) Solution (b)

'Bureau of Immigration (BoI)' is under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs. e-FRRO scheme is aimed at building a centralized, transparent online platform for the foreigners to avail visa related services and to provide Faceless, Cashless and Paperless services to the foreigners with user friendly experience. The e-FRRO scheme has been implemented on the IVFRT platform with negligible extra expenditure, taking a cue from the already successfully running e-Visa scheme.

Q.27) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Places in News Country

1. Ashdod – Israel
2. Taal Volcano – Indonesia
3. Hulhumale – Sri Lanka

Select the correct code

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

Q.27) Solution (a)

Ashdod – Israel
Taal Volcano – Philippines
Hulhumale – Maldives

Q.28) "Sahyog-Kaijin" is a joint exercise between Coast Guards of India and

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Indonesia

d) Thailand

Q.28) Solution (a)

The aim behind 'Sahyog-Kaijin' is to strengthen the bond between India and Japan.

Q.29) The term 'Reciprocating Territories of India' was in new recently. Consider the following statements

1. The scope of the term flows from the Code of Civil Procedure.
2. United Arab Emirates is the only to be the reciprocating territory of India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.29) Solution (a)

The definition, explanation and scope of Reciprocating Territories of India flows from section 44-A of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (the Code). A bare perusal of section 44-A of 'the code' suggests that a reciprocating territory means any country or territory outside India which the Central Government may by notification in the official gazette, declare to be a reciprocating territory for the purpose of section 44-A.

Apart from UAE, the other countries declared to be "reciprocating territories" are: United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, New Zealand, the Cook Islands (including Niue) and the Trust Territories of Western Samoa, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Aden.

Q.30) 'Reskilling Revolution' is an initiative by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) World Trade Organization
- d) International Monetary Fund

Q.30) Solution (a)

India on Wednesday joined as a founding government member the World Economic Forum's Reskilling Revolution, an initiative to provide one billion people with better education, skills and jobs by 2030

The scheme aims to future-proof workers from technological change and help economies by providing new skills for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Founding governments include Brazil, France, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, UAE and the US.

Q.31) Consider the following statements about Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

1. It is a statutory body established under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

2. It developed State Energy Efficiency Index in association with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
3. It is the implementing body of the Smart Meter National Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.31) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is a statutory body under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, under the Ministry of Power.	The State Energy Efficiency Index tracks the progress of Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives in states and union territories based on 97 significant indicators. The index is developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in association with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).	The Smart Meter National Programme is being implemented to deploy smart meters across the country. The scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a JV of PSUs under Ministry of Power.

Q.32) Which of the following statements about International Maritime Organization (IMO) is/are NOT correct?

1. It is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
2. It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom.
3. IMO measures cover both accidental and operational oil pollution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above

Q.32) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.	The objective of IMO is the improvement of Maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution. It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom, London. It is the first ever international organization devoted exclusively to maritime matters.	IMO measures cover all aspects of international shipping including ship design, construction, equipment, manning, operation and disposal. It covers accidental and operational oil pollution along with different types of pollution by chemicals, goods in packaged form, sewage, garbage and air pollution.

Q.33) Recently seen in news, the ‘biorock or mineral accretion technology’ is related with which of the following?

- Coral reef restoration
- Carbon capture and storage
- Biomining of metallic nodules
- De-contaminate the polluted water

Q.33) Solution (a)

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with help from Gujarat’s forest department, is attempting for the first time a **process to restore coral reefs using biorock or mineral accretion technology in the Gulf of Kachchh.**
- Biorock is the name given to the substance formed by electro accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater on steel structures that are lowered onto the sea bed

and are connected to a power source, in this case solar panels that float on the surface.

- Fragments of broken corals are tied to the biorock structure, where they are able to grow at least four to six times faster than their actual growth as they need not spend their energy in building their own calcium carbonate skeletons.

Q.34) The ‘Cyber Safe Women’ initiative launched by the Government of which of the following?

- Uttar Pradesh
- Kerala
- Maharashtra
- Delhi

Q.34) Solution (c)

- **Maharashtra Government launches ‘Cyber Safe Women’ initiative.** Maharashtra Government ‘has launched a ‘Cyber Safe Women’ initiative under which awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety.

Q.35) With reference to Nilavembukudinee, consider the following statements:

1. It is an Ayurveda medicine recommended for prevention and management of all types of viral infections/fevers.
2. It acts as immunostimulant and immunomodulator.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.35) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Nilavembukudineer is a Siddha medicine recommended for prevention and management of	It acts as immunostimulant and immunomodulator, which boosts

all types of viral infections/fevers. It reduces symptoms associated with fever, which include – a headache, body aches, muscle aches, loss of energy, fatigue, weakness etc. It is also effective for reducing joint pain, joint swelling, muscle pain, headache and rashes associated with chikungunya infection.

immunity and modulates defence response in the body. It contains herbal ingredients, which have antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and immunomodulatory actions.

Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Global Refugee Forum’.

1. The first-ever Global Refugee Forum was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. It was organized by the governments of Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, and Turkey, in partnership with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.36) Solution (c)

The first-ever Global Refugee Forum took place from 17-18 December 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The event was organized by the governments of Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan and Turkey, in partnership with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It was co-hosted by the government of Switzerland.

The next Global Refugee Forum will take place in 2023, with a mid-term review meeting in 2021.



Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Carborundum’.

1. It is a semiconductor
2. It is a desirable mirror material for astronomical telescopes.
3. It can be used in the production of graphene.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.37) Solution (d)

Silicon carbide (SiC), also known as carborundum, is a semiconductor containing silicon and carbon. It occurs in nature as the extremely rare mineral moissanite.

The low thermal expansion coefficient, high hardness, rigidity and thermal conductivity make silicon carbide a desirable mirror material for astronomical telescopes.

Silicon carbide can be used in the production of graphene because of its chemical properties that promote the epitaxial production of graphene on the surface of SiC nanostructures.

Q.38) 'Yarrabubba crater' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- Australia
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Portugal

Q.38) Solution (a)

The Yarrabubba crater is an impact structure, the eroded remnant of a former impact crater, situated in the northern Yilgarn Craton near Yarrabubba Station between the towns of Sandstone and Meekatharra, Mid West Western Australia. It is Earth's oldest known impact structure.

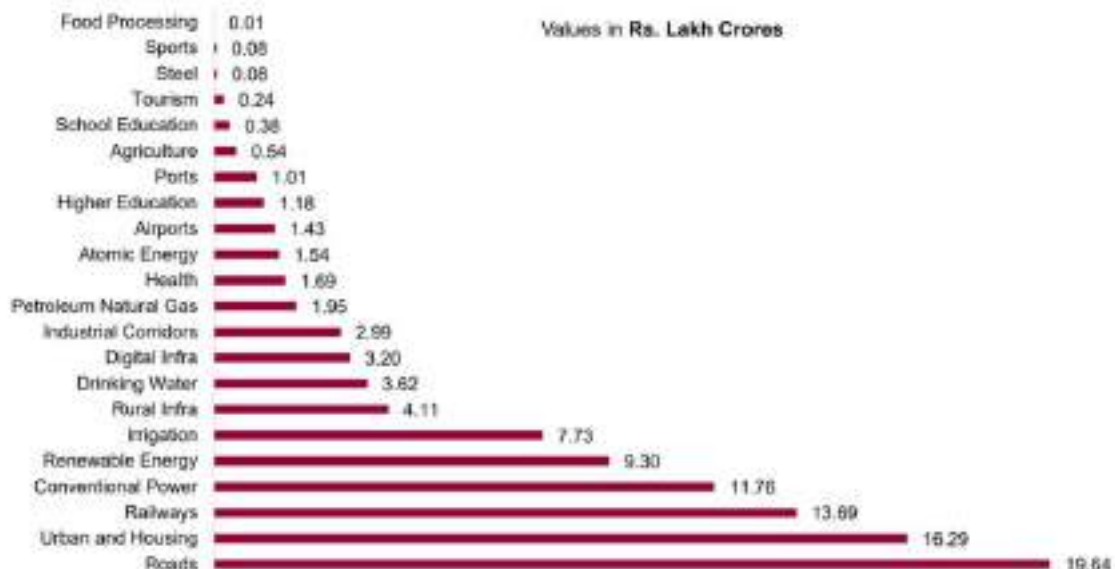
Q.39) Which of the following sectors has received maximum allocation under the 'National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)'?

- Renewable Energy
- Urban and Housing
- Railways
- Roads



Q.39) Solution (d)

Sector-wise break-up of the NIP



Note – Energy (All included) is 24%.

Q.40) 'New and Emerging Strategic Technologies (NEST)' is under the aegis of

- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- d) Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council

Q.40) Solution (a)

The Ministry of External Affairs announced the setting up of New, Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST) division. This will look into the issues pertaining to new and emerging technologies and will help in collaboration with foreign partners in the field of 5G and artificial intelligence which are in line with India's security goals.

Its mandate shall include, but not be limited to, evolving India's external technology policy in coordination with domestic stakeholders and in line with India's developmental priorities and national security goals. It will also help assess foreign policy and international legal implications of new and emerging technologies and technology-based resources, and recommend appropriate foreign policy choice.

NEST will negotiate technology governance rules, standards and architecture, suited to India's conditions, in multilateral and plurilateral frameworks.

It will also undertake creation of HR capacity within the ministry for technology diplomacy work by utilising the existing talent-pool and facilitating functional specialisation of foreign service officers in various technology domains.

Q.41) Recently RBI has revised the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) for placing restrictions on which of the following?

- a) Scheduled Commercial Banks
- b) Payment Banks
- c) Small Finance Banks
- d) Urban Co-operative Banks

Q.41) Solution (d)

- **RBI has revised the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).**
- SAF is similar to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework which is imposed on commercial banks.
- According to revised SAF, UCBs will face restrictions for worsening of three parameters:
 1. When net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) exceed 6% of net advances,
 2. When losses are incurred for two consecutive financial years or losses have accumulated on the balance sheets, and
 3. If Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) falls below 9%.

Q.42) Consider the following pairs:

Sanctuaries in news	State
1. Dnyanganga	Uttar Pradesh
2. Tipeswar	Maharashtra
3. Netravali	Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.42) Solution (b)

- Wildlife Sanctuaries in news:
 - **Dnyanganga** and **Tipeswar** Wildlife Sanctuary – Maharashtra.
 - **Netravali** and **Mhadei** Wildlife Sanctuary – Goa.



Q.43) Which of the following is the home port of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Karwar
- c) Cochin
- d) Vishakhapatnam

Q.43) Solution (b)

- **INS Vikramaditya is modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier.** It was built in 1987 and had served the Soviet navy (named as Baku). It was later renamed Admiral Gorshkov under the Russian navy.
- The vessel can carry more than 30 long-range multi-role fighters with anti-ship missiles, air-to-air missiles, guided bombs and rockets.
- It was retrofitted with a Barak missile system (joint development with Israel). It is based at its **home port at Karwar in Karnataka.**

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

1. Zonal Councils are the statutory bodies established by the Zonal Council Act of 1956.

2. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies.
3. The Union Home Minister is the chairman of all Zonal Councils.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.44) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
<p>Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies established by States Reorganization Act of 1956.</p> <p>The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone. A North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament, the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971.</p>	<p>The zonal councils aim at promoting cooperation and coordination between states, union territories and the Centre. They discuss and make recommendations regarding matters like economic and social planning, linguistic minorities, border disputes, inter-state transport, and so on. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies.</p>	<p>The Union Home Minister is the chairman of all Zonal Councils. Each zonal council consists of the following members - Union Home Minister; Chief Ministers of all the States in the zone; two other ministers from each state in the zone and Administrator of each union territory in the zone.</p>

Q.45) Consider the following statements about Yellow Rust:

1. It is a bacterial disease.
2. It affects the wheat crop.

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.45) Solution (b)

- **Yellow Rust is a fungal disease where yellow stripes of powder or dust appears on leaves and leaf sheaths of the wheat crop.**
- This occurs when the fungal colonies in the leaves drain the carbohydrates from the plant and reduce the green leaf area. The disease affects crop development, and eventually the yield (5-30%).
- In India, it is a major disease in the Northern Hill Zone and the North-Western Plain Zone and spreads easily during the onset of cool weather and when wind conditions are favorable. Rain, dew and fog favour the disease's development.

Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS)'

1. IDRSS will maintain a continuous communication link with Indian remote sensing/earth observation and other satellites in low earth orbit.
2. IDRSS satellites would be launched on the GSLV launcher to geostationary orbits.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.46) Solution (c)

As part of its proposed manned space mission, India will launch the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) to improve data relay and communication links with its remote sensing/earth observation satellites.

The two-satellite IDRSS will maintain a continuous communication link with India's remote sensing/earth observation satellites and also with the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III) that would carry three Indian astronauts to space in 2022.

Manned mission apart, IDRSS will maintain a continuous communication link with Indian remote sensing/earth observation and other satellites in low earth orbit.

The two IDRSS satellites will be placed in geostationary orbit, enabling the satellite to satellite communication and transfer data.

Q.47) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pyrocumulonimbus Cloud'.

1. It is a type of cumulonimbus cloud that forms above a source of heat.
2. There is no lightning from such clouds.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.47) Solution (a)

The pyrocumulonimbus clouds are essentially a thunderstorm that forms from the smoke plume of a fire as intense heat from the fire causes air to rise rapidly, drawing in cooler air. As the cloud climbs and then cools in the low temperatures of the upper atmosphere, the collisions of ice particles in the higher parts of the cloud build up an electrical charge, which can be released as lightning.

These can cause dangerous and unpredictable changes in fire behaviour, making them harder to fight as well as causing lightning strikes that could ignite new fires.

The rising air also spurs intense updrafts that suck in so much air that strong winds develop, causing a fire to burn hotter and spread further.

Q.48) Consider the following statements

1. According to the Constitution, Parliament cannot make laws on state subjects.
2. Constitution obligates the State government to ensure implementation of the laws made by the Parliament.
3. According to Constitution, Centre is to prevail over the states in the event of any inconsistency between central and state legislation.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.48) Solution (b)

Article 249 empowers Parliament to make laws even on state subjects in the national interest.

Under Articles 251 and 254, the Centre is to prevail over the states in the event of any inconsistency between central and state legislation.

Article 256 of the Constitution obligates the State government to ensure implementation of the laws made by Parliament.

Q.49) Which of the following is not declared a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern' according to the World Health Organisation?

- a) 2009 H1N1
- b) 2018 Nipah Virus
- c) 2014 Ebola Virus
- d) 1206 Zika Virus

Q.49) Solution (b)

A Public Health Emergency of International Concern is a formal declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) of "an extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response", formulated when a situation

arises that is "serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected", which "carries implications for public health beyond the affected state's national border" and "may require immediate international action".

Since 2009 there have been six PHEIC declarations: the 2009 H1N1 (or swine flu) pandemic, the 2014 polio declaration, the 2014 outbreak of Ebola in Western Africa, the 2015–16 Zika virus epidemic, the ongoing 2018–20 Kivu Ebola epidemic, and the ongoing 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic, declared a PHEIC by the Director-General. The recommendations are temporary and require reviews every three months

Q.50) 'Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC)' was launched by

- a) V.O. Chidambaram Pillai
- b) S. Ramanathan
- c) Nana Jagannath Sunkersett
- d) Mancherji E.Joshi

Q.50) Solution (a)

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/vo-chidambaram-pillai-s-entire-writings-to-be-published-in-two-volumes/article30552885.ece>

Q.51) Recently 10 wetlands from India were added to the list of 'Wetlands of International Importance'. With reference to Ramsar sites in India, consider the following statements:

1. With new additions, the total Ramsar sites in India increased to 36.
2. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of Ramsar sites than other Indian States.
3. All Southern States except Goa and Telangana has atleast one Ramsar site in it.

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?

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

Q.51) Solution (c)

- **Ramsar Convention** is formally known as Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat.
- Ramsar Convention has two fold objectives viz. Conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands; and stop the encroachment and loss of wetlands.
- The 10 new Ramsar sites are:
 - Nandur Madhameshwar, a first for Maharashtra.

- Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in Punjab.
- Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarsai Nawar in Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
India has added 10 more wetlands to the list of 27 Ramsar sites in India. With this, a total of 37 sites in the India have been recognised under the international treaty.	Uttar Pradesh with 7 sites is the State has the highest number of Ramsar sites, followed by Punjab with 6 sites.	In southern State, there is no Ramsar site in Karnataka, Goa and Telangana. Kerala has 3 (Ashtamudi Wetland, Sasthamkotta Lake Vembanad-Kol Wetland), Tamil Nadu (Point Calimere), Maharashtra (Nandur Madhameshwar) and Andhra Pradesh (Kolleru) has one each.

Q.52) The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Report is a annual publication of

- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- United Nations (UN)
- World Bank

Q.52) Solution (c)

- **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Report is an annual UN flagship publication on the state of the world economy,** viewed through the lens of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It is released jointly by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions

Q.53) The term 'Drosophila' seen in news is a

- Digital Currency
- Model Organism in research
- Invasive Alien Species
- Computer Malware

Q.53) Solution (b)

- 5th Edition of Asia Pacific Drosophila Conference was held at Pune. It is being organised in the country for the first time by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune.
- It is a biennial conference and it aims to promote the interaction of Drosophila researchers in the Asia-Pacific region with their peers in the rest of the world.
- Drosophila is a genus of two-winged flies commonly known as fruit flies. **Drosophila is one of the most widely-used and preferred model organisms in biological research** across the world for the last 100 years.
- Its genome is entirely sequenced and there is enormous information available about its biochemistry, physiology and behaviour,
- Approximately 60% of a group of readily identified genes that are mutated, amplified, or deleted in a diverse set of human diseases have a counterpart in Drosophila.

Q.54) Consider the following statement about Blue Dot Network:

1. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society.
2. It is expected to serve as a globally recognised evaluation and certification system for marine ecosystem restoration techniques.

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.54) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Blue Dot Network is a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development. The BDN was formally announced on 4th November, 2019 at the Indo-Pacific Business	It is expected to serve as a globally recognised evaluation and certification system for roads, ports and bridges with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region. Infrastructure projects would be graded on debt,

Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. It will be led by the US along with Japan and Australia.	environmental standards, labour standards etc.
--	--

Q.55) Consider the following pairs:

Multilateral Conference	Host country
1. Shangri-La Dialogue	China
2. Raisina Dialogue	India
3. Sagarmatha Sambaad	Bangladesh

Which of the pairs given above are *incorrectly* matched?

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

Q.55) Solution (d)

Pair 1	Pair 2	Pair 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
Raisina Dialogue of India is designed on the lines of Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.	Raisina Dialogue 2020 is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community, held annually in New Delhi.	Sagarmatha Sambaad is an initiative of the Government of Nepal to host a permanent biennial global dialogue starting from 2020. It is a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum committed to deliberate on the most prominent issues of global, regional and national significance.

Q.56) 'Laspeyres Index' is associated with

- a) Volatility in a stock market
- b) Consumer Price Index
- c) Unemployment due to Recession
- d) Non-Performing Assets

Q.56) Solution (b)

Laspeyres Index is a methodology to calculate the consumer price index by measuring the change in the price of the basket of goods to the base year.

THINK!

- Paasche's Index

Q.57) The 'Shatrughan Chauhan Supreme Court Judgement is associated with

- Mercy Petitions
- Right to Marry
- Right to Property
- Right to Privacy

Q.57) Solution (a)

In the Shatrughan Chauhan case, the rejection of mercy petitions by the President was challenged on the grounds of undue delay in disposal of their mercy petitions, mental illness, and solitary confinement as supervening grounds.

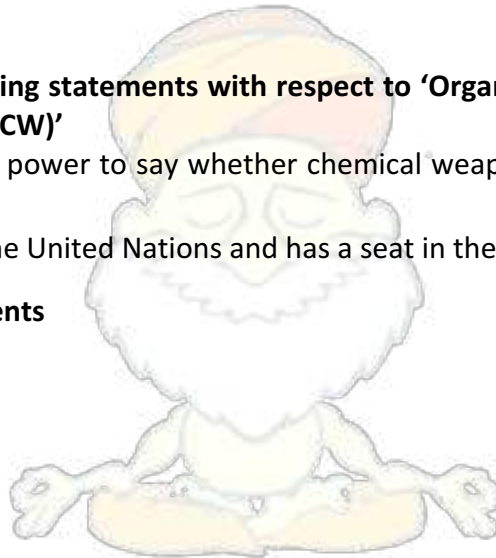
Undue delay by the President in rejecting mercy to a death row convict amounts to torture. Such inordinate and unexplained delay by the President is sufficient in itself to entitle the convict to a commutation.

Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)'

- The OPCW has the power to say whether chemical weapons were used in an attack it has investigated.
- It is an agency of the United Nations and has a seat in the Hague, Netherlands.

Select the correct statements

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

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

The OPCW, with its 193 member states, has its seat in The Hague, Netherlands, and oversees the global endeavour for the permanent and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons.

The organisation is not an agency of the United Nations, but cooperates both on policy and practical issues.

The OPCW has the power to say whether chemical weapons were used in an attack it has investigated.

Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Biological Weapons Convention'.

- It prohibits use but not possession or development of chemical and biological weapons.
- It was registered in League of Nations Treaty Series in 1929.

Select the correct statements

- 1 Only

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

Q.59) Solution (d)

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons. It was opened for signature on 10 April 1972 and entered into force 26 March 1975

Q.60) 'Tal Chhapar Sanctuary' is located in

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

Q.60) Solution (c)

Tal Chhapar Sanctuary is a sanctuary located in the Churu district of Northwestern Rajasthan.

Q.61) With reference to National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project, Consider the following statements:

1. NeVA is mission mode project to digitize the functioning of State Legislatures in India.
2. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the nodal ministry for its implementation.
3. Andhra Pradesh is the first Digital Legislature of the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.61) Solution (a)

- NeVA aims to make all the Legislatures of the country paperless by making the proceedings of the Houses digital.
- NeVA is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme and **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry'** for its implementation in all the 31 States/ UTs with Legislatures.

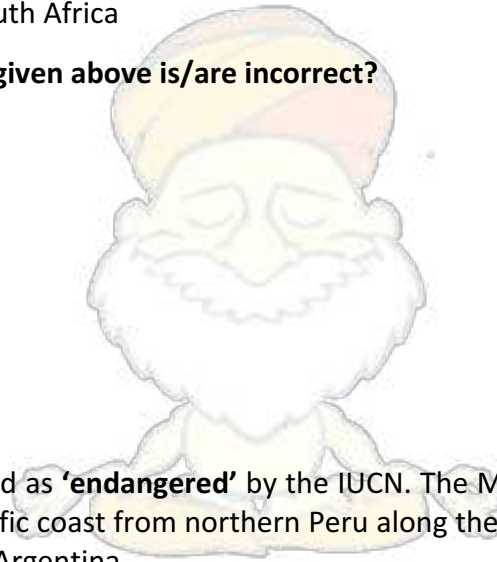
- **Himachal Pradesh** is the first Digital Legislature of the country.
- Once implemented, every information of the legislative assembly would be available in e-devices for the members of the assembly.
- In order to provide assistance to the Members, a NeVA Kendra (e-Facilitation Center) will be setup at each location under a Nodal Officer
- Funding of NeVA is on the pattern of Central Sponsored Scheme i.e. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.
- The Secretary (State Legislature) will be the Executing Authority for NeVA in respective State Legislature.

Q.62) Consider the following statements about Marine Otter

1. It is categorised as 'endangered' by the IUCN.
2. It is endemic to South Africa

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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



Q.62) Solution (b)

Marine Otter is categorised as '**endangered**' by the IUCN. The Marine Otter has a restricted distribution along the Pacific coast from northern Peru along the Chilean coast to Cape Horn and Isla de Los Estados in Argentina.

Marine Otter is endemic to **South America**. It is generally found in the regions of Argentina, Chile and Peru.

- Species of mammals associated with freshwater habitat.
- Hunted for their brush-like, water-resistant fur.
- Unlike the sea otter, which spends its whole life in the ocean, the marine otter lives on land, feeds along rocky shores, and makes only short trips into the water to hunt.

Q.63) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Hojagiri?

1. Hojagiri is a folk dance, performed in the state of Nagaland.
2. The dance is performed only by men.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.63) Solution (d)

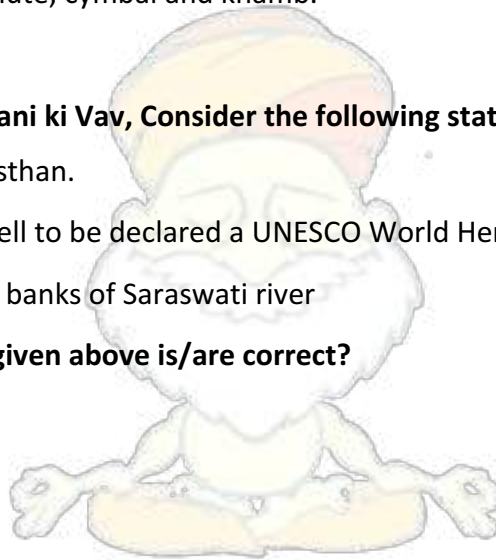
- Hojagiri is a folk dance, performed in the **state of Tripura** by the Reang (Bru) people.
- The dance is performed **by women and young girls**, about 4 to 6 members in a team, singing, balancing on an earthen pitcher and managing other props such as a bottle on the head and earthen lamp on the hand while only the lower half of the body is moved.
- The dance is performed on the occasion of the Hojagiri festivals and is accompanied by bamboo-made flute, cymbal and khamb.

Q.64) With reference to Rani ki Vav, Consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Rajasthan.
2. It is the only stepwell to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.
3. It is Located on the banks of Saraswati river

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.64) Solution (c)**

- Rani-ki-Vav is an exceptional example of a distinctive form of subterranean water architecture of the Indian subcontinent, the stepwell, which is **located on the banks of the Saraswati River in Patan (Gujarat)**.
- Stepwells in Patan, Gujarat , is the only stepwell tagged as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Rani (Queen) Udayamati commissioned this vav or stepwell, in 1063 in the memory of her husband King Bhimdev I of the Solanki dynasty. The vav was later flooded by the nearby Saraswati river and silted over until the late 1980s, when it was

excavated by the Archeological Survey of India, with the carvings found in pristine condition.

Q.65) Consider the following statements about Gharials

1. It is categorised as 'critically endangered' by the IUCN.
2. Gharials live in clear freshwater river systems.
3. Gharials are now found only in India and Nepal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.65) Solution (d)

- It is categorised as '**critically endangered**' by the IUCN.
- Gharials live in **clear freshwater river systems**.
- The species is now limited to only 14 widely spaced, restricted localities in north **India and lowland Nepal**.
- Madhya Pradesh top in gharial count.
- Reason for increase in number of gharials in the State is the creation of Devri Eco Centre where crocodile eggs are reared.
- India's first gharial breeding center was built in Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- National Chambal Sanctuary is the only place in India where a large wild population of India's special crocodilian Gharial is found.

Q.66) Consider the following statements

1. Indian Pangolin is found in India only
2. Chinese Pangolin is found in China only

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (d)

Indian Pangolin (EN) - India; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka

Chinese Pangolin (CR) - Bangladesh; Bhutan; China; Hong Kong; India; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar; Nepal; Taiwan, Province of China; Thailand; Viet Nam

Q.67) 'UN Human Rights Council Resolution 30/1 and its two successor resolutions, 34/1 and 40/1' were in news recently. It is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) Myanmar
- b) China
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Rwanda

Q.67) Solution (c)

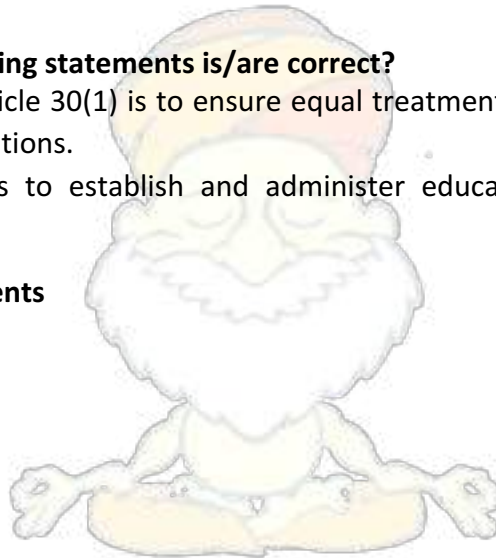
Sri Lanka made the ignominious announcement that it does not feel bound by the commitments made in 2015's UN Human Rights Council Resolution 30/1 and its two successor resolutions, 34/1 and 40/1, intended to encourage reform and transitional justice.

Q.68) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The essence of Article 30(1) is to ensure equal treatment between the majority and the minority institutions.
2. Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice is absolute.

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.68) Solution (a)**

When it comes to the right to appoint teachers, in terms of law laid down in the TMA Pai Foundation case, a regulation framed in the national interest must necessarily apply to all institutions regardless whether they are run by majority or minority as the essence of Article 30(1) is to ensure equal treatment between the majority and minority institutions.

Article 30(1) (right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice) was neither absolute nor above the law.

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<https://www.newindianexpress.com/magazine/voices/2020/jan/12/supreme-court-delivers-judgment-40-2088167.html>

Q.69) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)'

1. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.
2. It was founded in 1972 by a consortium of organisations convened by the Ford and the Rockefeller foundations.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.69) Solution (c)

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international organization which conducts agricultural research for rural development, headquartered in Patancheru (Hyderabad, Telangana, India) with several regional centers (Bamako (Mali), Nairobi (Kenya)) and research stations (Niamey (Niger), Kano (Nigeria), Lilongwe (Malawi), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)).

It was founded in 1972 by a consortium of organisations convened by the Ford and the Rockefeller foundations. Its charter was signed by the FAO and the UNDP.

Since its inception, host country India has granted a special status to ICRISAT as a UN Organization operating in the Indian territory making it eligible for special immunities and tax privileges.

Q.70) 'TIGR2ESS' is concerned with

- a) Trafficking of Wild Animals
- b) Land Degradation Neutrality
- c) Food Security
- d) Wetlands Conservation

Q.70) Solution (c)

The first General Assembly of TIGR2ESS (Transforming India's Green Revolution by Research and Empowerment for Sustainable Food Supplies), an UK-India research programme, which began in 2018 and brought over 20 research institutions together.

The programme seeks to address four key research questions: What should an Evergreen Revolution deliver? Can crop productivity increase, whilst maintaining yield stability? Can water supplies be shared to match community demand? How can we best engage and educate for local community well-being?

To further strengthen collaboration, specifically in agriculture research, he announced a fellowship programme that will soon be rolled out with India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR). The fellowship will facilitate 30 Indian researchers to undertake research work at crop science universities in the UK for two years.

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Q.71) With reference to Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Consider the following statements:

1. SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings.
2. The cost of sampling, testing and reporting is borne by State Government.

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.71) Solution (b)

- SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters.
- The cost of sampling, testing and reporting is borne by Central Government. It provides the sum to the state governments.
- SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. It is provided to all farmers in the country at an interval of 2 years to enable the farmers to apply recommended doses of nutrients based on soil test values.
- In India, the current consumption of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium (NPK) ratio is 6.7:2.4:1, which is highly skewed towards nitrogen (urea) as against ideal ratio of 4:2:1.
- The scheme is being promoted by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers welfare under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and implemented by respective Department of Agriculture in States & UTs.
- Farmers can also track soil samples on the Soil Health Card Portal.
- Soil samples are tested with respect to 12 parameters:

- Macro nutrients: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K);
- Secondary nutrient: Sulphur (S);
- Micro nutrients: Zinc (Zn), Iron (Fe), Copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn), Boron (B);
- Physical parameters: pH, EC (electrical conductivity), OC (organic carbon).
- During 2019-20, a pilot project 'Development of Model Villages' has been undertaken up where soil samples collection has been done at individual farm holding with farmer's participation instead of sample collection at grids.

Q.72) The term SUTRA PIC is sometimes seen in the news with reference to

- Enhancing activity of antibiotics and anticancer drugs, and other medicinal properties.
- Systematic scientific investigation of uniqueness of pure Indigenous Indian cows.
- Standardize effective, economic and eco-friendly preparations of Utility products.
- Perform scientific investigations on plant growth, soil health and providing immunity in plant system.

Q.72) Solution (b)

- SUTRA PIC: Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation-Prime Products From Indigenous Cows. One of the major aims is the systematic scientific investigation of uniqueness of pure Indigenous Indian cows.
- To be funded by multiple scientific ministries, the initiative is led by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- Cowpathy is a treatment based on products obtained from Indigenous cow as used in Ayurveda.

SUTRA PIC Covers following five thematic areas:

- Uniqueness of Indigenous Cows
- Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Medicine and Health
- Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Agricultural Applications
- Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Food and Nutrition
- Prime-products from indigenous cows-based utility items

Q.73) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) aims to set up Ultra Mega Renewable Energy (RE) Parks at

- a) Maharashtra and Karnataka
- b) Gujarat and Rajasthan
- c) Delhi and Haryana
- d) Tamil Nadu and Telangana

Q.73) Solution (b)

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) aims to set up Ultra Mega Renewable Energy (RE) Parks with a capacity of a total of 50 GW in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- The initiative could be the one of the largest renewable energy investment programmes in the world.
- Khavada in Gujarat and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan have been identified for RE parks of 25,000 megawatt (25GW) each.
- The MNRE has also requested the Ministry of Power to strengthen the transmission infrastructure to these locations within two years for the evacuation of power from these parks.

Q.74) National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA), 2019 framework covers which of the following six sectors?

1. Labour & Employment
2. Education
3. Transport
4. Local Government & Utilities
5. Insurance
6. Environment

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1,2 and 4 only
- c) 1,2,4 and 6 only
- d) 1,3,4 and 5 only

Q.74) Solution (c)

- National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2019 rankings were released by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.
- It is done for 4 categories: Union territories (7), North-Eastern States and Hill states (11), Remaining states (18), Central government ministries websites.
- It primarily assesses all State/UT and Central Ministry service portals on 7 key parameters: Accessibility, Content Availability, Ease of Use, Information Security & Privacy, End service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery and Status & Request Tracking.
- Framework covers six sectors - **Finance, Labour & Employment, Education, Local Government & Utilities, Social Welfare (including Agriculture & Health) and Environment (including Fire).**

Ranking

- Delhi, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu administration are the winners among Union territories across all parameters.
- Haryana and Rajasthan are the leading states in the assessment under the "remaining states" category comprising 18 states.
- The website of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Finance Ministry is the winner under the assessment of central ministry service portals category.
- The ministry portals of Health & Family Welfare, and Human Resource have emerged leaders across "all parameters".
- In terms of portals Kerala scored the highest in states and UTs category.

Q.75) The signatory of “Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan” are

- a) Russia and USA
- b) USA and Taliban
- c) Pakistan and Taliban
- d) India and Afghanistan

Q.75) Solution (b)

- The United States of America signed the “Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan” with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar.
- The US will pull its troops out of Afghanistan after nearly 19 years in return for a security guarantee from the Taliban group.

- Taliban will take steps “to prevent any group or individual, including al-Qa’ida, from using the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies.”

Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Kalinje Ecotourism’

1. It is a part of a community-based conservation initiative for the upliftment of local communities and promotion of mangrove and marine biodiversity conservation.
2. It is an initiative by the Maharashtra Forest Department.

Select the correct statements

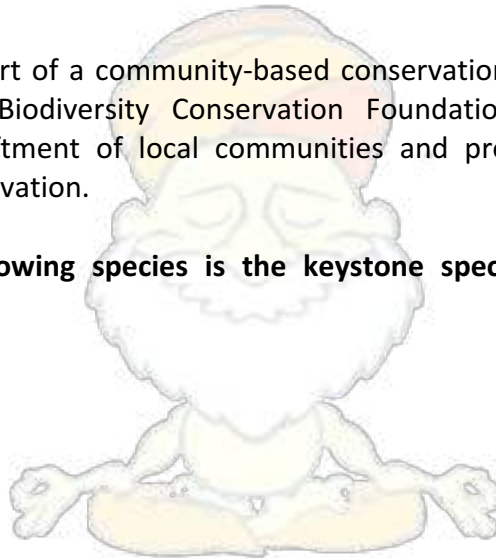
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.76) Solution (c)

Kalinje Ecotourism is a part of a community-based conservation initiative taken up by the Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation of Maharashtra Forest Department for the upliftment of local communities and promotion of mangrove and marine biodiversity conservation.

Q.77) Which of the following species is the keystone species of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary?

- a) Indian Wolf
- b) Jerdon’s Courser
- c) Batagur Turtle
- d) Asiatic Lion



Q.77) Solution (a)

Indian wolf is the keystone species of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q.78) Consider the following statements

1. The Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 removed ‘backwaters, lagoon, creeks, and estuaries’ from the definition of ‘wetlands’.
2. A total of 37 sites in India have been recognised under the Ramsar Convention.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.78) Solution (c)

India has added 10 more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention. With this, a total of 37 sites in the country have been recognised under the international treaty.

Nandur Madhameshwar in Maharashtra; Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in Punjab; and Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarsai Nawar in UP.

The 2010 version of the Rules provided for a Central Wetland Regulatory Authority; the 2017 Rules replace it with state-level bodies and created a National Wetland Committee, which functions in an advisory role. The newer regulations removed some items from the definition of “wetlands” including backwaters, lagoon, creeks, and estuaries.

Q.79) ‘Muktoshri — also called IET 21845’ is a

- Portable Reverse Osmosis water purifier developed by DRDO.
- Arsenic-resistant rice cultivated in West Bengal.
- Medicine developed by Ministry of Ayush to treat Diabetes.
- None of the above

Q.79) Solution (b)

It is a rice variety that is resistant to arsenic. Several studies have shown that arsenic from groundwater and the soil can enter the food chain through paddy.

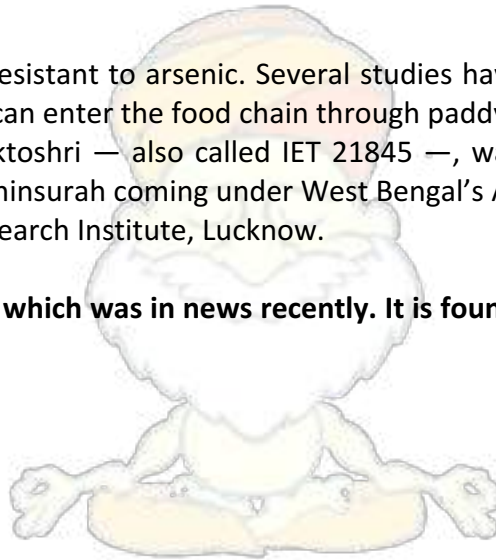
The new rice variety, Muktoshri — also called IET 21845 —, was developed jointly by the Rice Research Station at Chinsurah coming under West Bengal’s Agriculture Department and the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

Q.80) ‘NLRP3’ is a protein which was in news recently. It is found in which of the following species?

- Humans
- Bats
- Mice

Select the correct code:

- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3
- 2 Only
- 1, 2 and 3



Q.80) Solution (d)

It is found in all of the above species.

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/how-bats-harbour-several-viruses-yet-not-get-sick/article30711334.ece>

Q.81) With reference to “We Think Digital”, Consider the following statements:

- “We Think Digital” is Google India’s digital literacy program.
- The program aims to provide digital literacy training to one lakh men and women across seven states.

3. The seven states are Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, and Bihar.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

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

Q.81) Solution (c)

- We Think Digital, **Facebook’s global digital literacy programme**, was announced in 2019 during the second edition of its South Asia Safety Summit. The program **aims to provide digital literacy** training to one lakh women **across seven states**. The seven states are Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, and Bihar.
- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state where Facebook Inc, in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation, has launched its ‘We Think Digital’ program.
- As part of the program, the company will partner with agencies from both government and civil society to design learning modules.
- Microsoft also has the YouthSpark program to develop digital skills of unemployed youth and marginalised women. Separately, it also has a program for improving skills of weavers in eastern and northeastern states.
- Google India's 'Internet Saathi' program started in 2015, now covers 2.6 lakh villages across 20 states.

Q.82) Recently, the MoEFCC has issued a notification that seeks to ban membrane-based water purification systems (MWPS), primarily reverse osmosis (RO), in areas where the water supplied meets norms. Consider the following statements:

1. The problem with RO water purifiers is that during the purification process of water, around 70 to 80% of water is wasted.
2. The de-mineralization of water is not required if the input water has Total Dissolved Salts (TDS) less than 500 mg/litre.

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.82) Solution (c)

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued a draft notification that seeks to ban membrane-based water purification systems (MWPS), primarily reverse osmosis (RO), in areas where the water supplied meets norms.
- Reverse Osmosis (RO) is a water treatment process that removes contaminants from water by using pressure to force molecules through a semipermeable membrane.
- Present RO systems recover only 20 per cent of water while 80 per cent go waste.
- According to BIS standards, drinking water is considered below par if the TDS is above 500 mg/l.
- BIS standards also state that RO system is not recommended for treatment of raw water having Arsenic level above 0.1 mg/l and Fluoride level above 8.0 mg/l.
- As per a WHO study, TDS levels below 300 mg per litre are considered to be excellent, while 900 mg per litre is said to be poor and above 1200 mg is unacceptable.
- The de-mineralization of water is not required if the input water has Total Dissolved Salts (TDS) less than 500 mg/litre.
- If the TDS count is not more than 500mg/liter, and if needed for water purification system, then UV and UF water purifier are best.

Q.83) Consider the following statements

1. All medical equipment would qualify as “drugs” under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
2. Medical equipment under this definition include implantable medical devices such as knee implants, CT scan, MRI equipment, dialysis machine, PET equipment, X-ray machine etc.

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.83) Solution (c)

- The Union Ministry of Health has notified that from April 2020, **all medical equipment would qualify as “drugs” under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
- Medical equipment under this definition include implantable medical devices such as knee implants, CT scan, MRI equipment, dialysis machine, PET equipment, X-ray machine etc.
- As per the new notification, all devices, including instruments and implants, whether used alone or in combination for various purposes like diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, among others, will be regulated under the legislation.
- The manufacture, import and sale of all medical devices will now need to be certified by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)**
- It will help government to regulate the high prices of essential medical devices.
- **CDSCO** under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority of India.
- Its headquarter is located at New Delhi.

Q.84) With reference to Insight Mission, Consider the following statements:

1. InSight is part of Mars Orbiter Mission- ISRO, India
2. Insight is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Mars surface.
3. InSight mission is the first on the surface of Mars to detect magnetic signals with help of magnetometer.

Which of the statements given above is/are Not Correct?

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

Q.84) Solution (b)

- InSight is part of NASA’s Discovery Program

- InSight mission is the first on the surface of Mars to detect magnetic signals with help of magnetometer.
- InSight is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Mars surface.
- InSight mission finds that Mars doesn't have tectonic plates like Earth.
- The findings of Mars' formation will help better understand how other rocky planets, including Earth, were and are created

Why Mars?

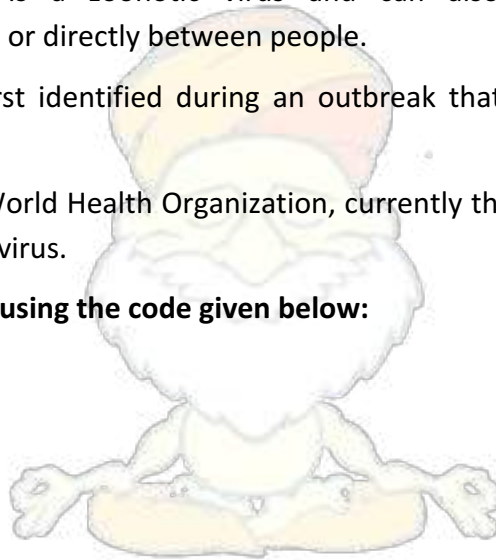
- In comparison to the other terrestrial planets, Mars is neither too big nor too small. This means that it preserves the record of its formation and can give us insight into how the terrestrial planets formed.

Q.85) Which of the following statements is/are Correct regarding Nipah virus?

1. Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.
2. Nipah virus was first identified during an outbreak that took place in Malaysia in 1998.
3. According to the World Health Organization, currently there are no specific drugs or vaccines for Nipah virus.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



Q.85) Solution (a)

- **Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.**
- Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus.
- In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis. The virus can also cause severe disease in animals such as pigs.
- Nipah's natural reservoir is the fruit bat, though pigs have been found to be the host in some Southeast Asian outbreaks. The virus can also be transmitted via human-to-human contact.

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Nipah's case-fatality rate is between 45% and 75%.
- The natural hosts of the virus are fruit bats. **Nipah virus was first identified during an outbreak that took place in Malaysia in 1998.**
- Nipah virus can spread among humans if they establish close contact with Nipah-infected people, bats or pigs.
- Another possible source of infection can be bodies of people who died due to Nipah virus. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) advises that handling of such dead bodies should be done strictly in accordance with government advisory.
- People infected with Nipah virus may suffer from brain fever; fever with persistent cough and difficulty in breathing, acute respiratory infection (mild or severe); influenza-like symptoms -- fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, sore throat, dizziness, drowsiness and neurological signs indicating encephalitis.
- WHO says that in some cases people can also experience pneumonia and severe respiratory problems, including acute respiratory distress.
- **According to the World health Organisation, currently there are no specific drugs or vaccines for Nipah virus.**

Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bilateral Netting'.

1. Bilateral netting allows two parties involved in a swap agreement to net-off their swap positions.
2. Indian financial contract laws do not permit bilateral netting.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.86) Solution (c)

Economic Survey 2019-20 has argued in favour of a practice called 'bilateral netting' as a way to release bank capital.

Bilateral netting allows two parties involved in a swap agreement to net-off their swap positions. Such bilateral netting, which is the global standard, will help reduce the amount of capital you need to set aside for such transactions.

According to the survey, Indian financial contract laws do not permit bilateral netting, however, they do allow multi-lateral netting where parties can offset claims against each other through a central counterparty.

Without bilateral netting, Indian banks have had to set aside higher capital against their trades in the over-the-counter market, which impacts their ability to participate in the market. Moreover, it also increases the systemic risk during defaults.

Bilateral netting would also help reduce hedging costs and liquidity needs for banks, primary dealers and other market-makers, thereby encouraging participation in the over-the-counter derivatives market. It would also help develop the corporate default swaps market, which, in turn, would provide support to the development of the corporate bond market

THINK!

- Credit Default Swaps (CDS) market

Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Turant Customs’.

1. It is aimed at speedy clearance of goods at air and sea ports, which in turn will benefit ease of doing business in India.
2. It is being launched by ‘The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)’.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.87) Solution (a)

Turant Customs, which is aimed at speedy clearance of goods at air and sea ports, which in turn will benefit ease of doing business in India is being launched by The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Scheme of Asset Management and Debt Change Structure (SAMADHAN)’

1. Under the scheme, a stressed power company’s debt will be divided into sustainable and unsustainable portions.
2. The liability of the sustainable debt will be assumed by the new owner and the unsustainable part will be converted into equity.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.88) Solution (c)

Under the Samadhan scheme, a stressed power company’s debt will be divided into sustainable and unsustainable portions. While the liability of the sustainable debt will be assumed by the new owner, the unsustainable part will be converted into equity.

Q.89) The ‘Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty’ is in news with respect to which of the following countries/organizations?

- a) European Union
- b) Brazil

- c) ASEAN
- d) France

Q.89) Solution (b)

While approaching to WTO against India for extending support to her sugarcane farmers, Brazil penned investment cooperation and facilitation treaty. This is Brazil's 10th and India's 4th bilateral investment agreement since both nations had adopted their Model Bilateral Investment Treaty. Previously, India has managed to conclude bilateral investment treaties with Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Cambodia after scrapping down all 83 existing bilateral investment treaties.

Q.90) The 'Single Convention' which was in news recently deals with

- a) Narcotic Drugs
- b) Road Safety
- c) Women Safety
- d) Orphan Drugs

Q.90) Solution (a)

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 is an international treaty to prohibit production and supply of specific (nominally home otic) drugs and of drugs with similar effects except under licence for specific purposes, such as medical treatment and research. India is a party.

Q.91) With reference to Masala Bonds, Consider the following statements:

1. Masala bonds are bonds issued outside India.
2. Unlike dollar bonds, where the investors take the currency risk, Masala bond makes the borrower bear the risk.
3. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) named it as Masala Bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

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

Q.91) Solution (c)

- Masala bonds are bonds issued **outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees**, rather than the local currency.

- Masala is an Indian word and it means spices. **The term was used by the International Finance Corporation (IFC)** to evoke the culture and cuisine of India.
- Unlike dollar bonds, where the borrower takes the currency risk, **Masala bond makes the investors bear the risk.**
- The first Masala bond was issued by the World Bank- backed IFC in November 2014 when it raised 1,000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India.
- Later in August 2015 International Financial Cooperation for the first time issued green masala bonds and raised Rupees 3.15 Billion to be used for private sector investments that address climate change in India.
- In July 2016 HDFC raised 3,000 crore rupees from Masala bonds and thereby became the first Indian company to issue masala bonds.
- In the month of August 2016 public sector unit NTPC issued first corporate green masala bonds worth 2,000 crore rupees.

Q.92) Consider the following statements

1. Budget 2020 provision seeks to tax income of non-resident Indians who are not paying taxes in any other tax jurisdictions.
2. Income earned outside India by him shall not be taxed in India unless it is derived from an Indian business or profession.

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.92) Solution (c)

- Budget 2020 amended the tax residency rules for NRIs. Till financial year (FY) 2019-20, an NRI who visited India would be considered a resident if they spent 182 days or more in the previous year in the country, in addition to an aggregate stay of 365 days or more in the preceding four years. Budget 2020 proposed to lower the threshold period of stay in the previous year to 120 days from 182 days.
- The budget proposed to amend the definition of “not ordinarily resident”. Till FY20, an individual was classified as a “not ordinarily resident” if he was a non-resident in

India for nine out of 10 preceding years. The budget proposal has reduced the numbers of years to seven out of the 10 preceding years

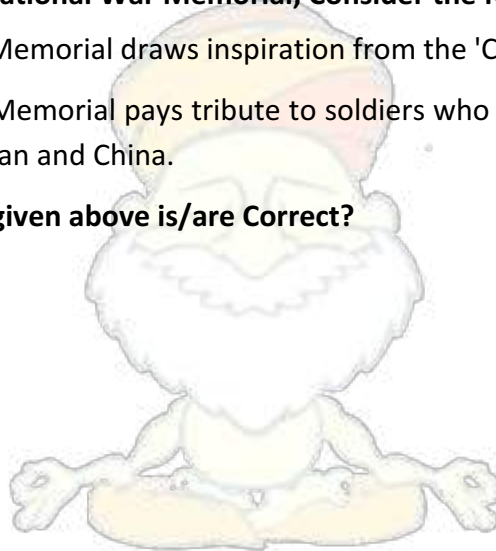
- The government is seeking to tax NRIs who are carrying on substantial economic activities from India. Under the present residence criteria of a minimum stay of 182 days in an FY, NRIs remain non-resident in India perpetually.
- Individuals who are non-residents of all the countries in which they work but a citizen of India would be deemed to be Indian tax residents.
- Budget 2020 provision seeks to tax income of non-resident Indians who are not paying taxes in any other tax jurisdictions.
- Income earned outside India by him shall not be taxed in India unless it is derived from an Indian business or profession.

Q.93) With reference to National War Memorial, Consider the following statements:

1. The National War Memorial draws inspiration from the 'Chakravayuh' formation
2. The National War Memorial pays tribute to soldiers who laid down their lives only in wars against Pakistan and China.

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.93) Solution (a)

- India Gate itself is a war memorial built during the British Raj as the All India War Memorial Arch to honour the soldiers who died in the First World War (1914-1918) and the Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919).
- The National War Memorial pays tribute to soldiers who laid down their lives defending the nation during the India-China war in 1962, Indo-Pak wars in 1962, Indo-Pak wars in 1947, 1965 and 1971, Indian Peace Keeping Force Operations in Srilanka and in the Kargil conflict of 1999.
- The National War Memorial also commemorates the soldiers who participated and made the supreme sacrifice in Peace Keeping Missions, and Counter Insurgency Operations.
- The National War Memorial draws inspiration from the 'Chakravayuh' formation

- The memorial comprises four concentric circles, namely Amar Chakra, Veerta Chakra, Tyag Chakra and Rakshak Chakra.
- The Rakshak Chakra the outermost one comprises of rows of more than 600 trees with each tree representing many soldiers who guard the territorial integrity of the nation round the clock.

Amar Jawan Jyoti is symbolised by an inverted bayonet and soldier's helmet over it with an eternal flame burning beside it. It was built in 1972 underneath the India Gate arch to commemorate soldiers martyred in the Indo-Pak War of 1971.

Q.94) Which of the following statements is/are Correct regarding Parambikulam Tiger Reserve?

1. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a protected area in Tamil Nadu.
2. The sanctuary is the home of four different tribes of indigenous peoples including the Kadar, Malasar, Muduvar and Mala Malasar.
3. The oldest ever teak tree, Kannimara Teak exists here.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



Q.94) Solution (c)

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a protected area in Palakkad district of Kerala state.

- It is in the Sungam range of hills between the Anaimalai Hills and Nelliampathy
- Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as part of the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve on February 19, 2010.
- The sanctuary is the home of four different tribes of indigenous peoples including the Kadar, Malasar, Muduvar and Mala Malasar.
- **Parambikulam Tiger Reserve implements the Participatory Forest Management Scheme (PFMS).**
- **The oldest ever teak tree, Kannimara Teak exists here. It is about 450 years. It won the Mahavriksha Puraskar given by the Indian Government.**

Q.95) With reference to Sharang, Consider the following statements:

1. The Sharang has been upgraded successfully from its previous specification by Bharat Dynamics Limited.
2. Sharang is an Anti-Tank Guided Missile.

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.95) Solution (d)

- The Sharang has been upgraded successfully from its previous specification by Ordnance Factory Board.
- The Indigenously upgraded **155 mm/45 calibre artillery gun**, Sharang gun system was successfully test-fired at the Long Proof Range (LPR) of Khamaria in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh
- Shells fired from this towed artillery gun can, it targets at a distance of 39 km.
- The indigenously-designed gun is part of the government’s ‘Make in India’ initiative, and the Indian army will be supplied from Gun Carriage Factory and the Ordnance Factory, Kanpur.
- The Sharang gun has been upgraded successfully from its previous specification of 130 mm to 155 mm and its commercial production will began soon.
- The Vehicle Factory Jabalpur (VFJ) will assemble 12 of 30 Sharang gun systems and the other 18 guns will be assembled at Gun Carriage Factory, Kanpur.
- Sharang gun systems are equipped with night vision sensors to target the enemy and can be operated at night.
- Sharang gun has been named after the celestial bow Sharanga crafted by Vishwakarma who had given it to Lord Vishnu.

Q.96) Consider the following statements

1. ‘Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations (BEFR), 1873’ empowered the Lieutenant Governor to define an inner line, beyond which no British subject of certain classes or foreign residents could pass without a licence.
2. The Government of India Act, 1935 prescribed “excluded areas” and “partially excluded areas” to be under the direct control of the provincial governor, to the exclusion of the Indian legislature.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.96) Solution (c)

The BEFR empowered the Lieutenant Governor to define an inner line, beyond which no British subject of certain classes or foreign residents could pass without a licence, giving the government untrammelled control. These regulations, which are still in force, cover Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. Manipur has also now been subsumed into the purview of the Inner Line.

The Government of India Act, 1935, went a step further, prescribing “excluded areas” and “partially excluded areas” to be under the direct control of the provincial governor, to the exclusion of the Indian legislature.

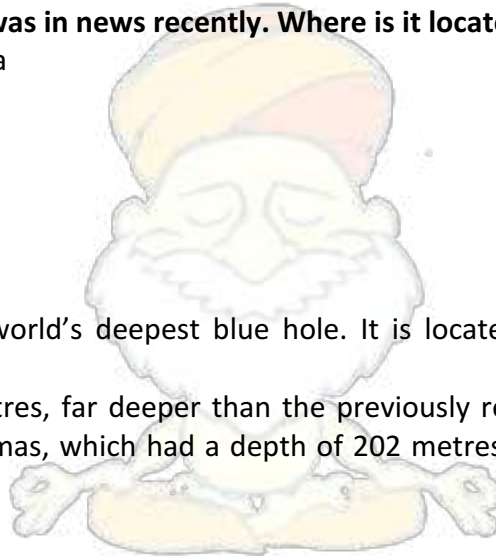
Q.97) ‘Yongle Blue Hole’ was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) East Philippines Sea
- b) Yellow Sea
- c) Bismarck Sea
- d) Sea of Azov

Q.97) Solution (a)

Yongle Blue Hole is the world’s deepest blue hole. It is located in South China Sea/East Philippines Sea.

It has a depth of 300 metres, far deeper than the previously recorded deepest blue hole, Dean’s Blue Hole in Bahamas, which had a depth of 202 metres. Like most blue holes, it is anoxic.



Q.98) Which of the following countries is India's largest trading partner?

- United Arab Emirates
- China
- USA
- United Kingdom

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Q.98) Solution (c)

The US has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner, showing greater economic ties between the two countries.

Q.99) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary – Assam
- Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary – Karnataka
- Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary – Kerala

Select the correct code:

- 1 and 2
- 3 Only
- 2 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3

Q.99) Solution (c)

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary – Arunachal Pradesh
 Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary – Karnataka
 Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary – Kerala

Q.100) Which of the following countries have collaborated with India for a government-to-government agreement on jet engine technology development?

- a) France
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Japan
- d) Israel

Q.100) Solution (b)

The answer is UK.

Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-uk-to-sign-pact-on-jet-engine-development/article30755415.ece>

Q.101) Consider the following statements:

1. The Artificial Intelligence based ASKDISHA chatbot is developed to register complaints of women which are harassment related.
2. The ASKDISHA Chatbot can converse even in Hindi language.

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.101) Solution (b)

- **Artificial Intelligence based ASKDISHA chatbot is developed to resolve queries of railway passengers over the internet pertaining to various services offered by IRCTC**
- In order to resolve queries of railway passengers over the internet pertaining to various services offered, Indian Railways had introduced the services of Artificial Intelligence based ASKDISHA chatbot in October 2018 for the benefit of the users, Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC).
- The ASKDISHA Chatbot was initially launched in English language. IRCTC has now powered **voice enabled ASKDISHA to converse with customers in Hindi language also**. The customers can now ask queries to ASKDISHA in Hindi language by voice as well as text.
- IRCTC plans to launch ASKDISHA in more languages along with many other additional features in the near future.
- The chatbot is a special computer programme designed to simulate conversation with users, especially over the internet.

Q.102) With reference to One Health, Consider the following statements:

1. The concept of One Health recognizes that health of human beings is connected to health of animals and environment.
2. The concept of One Health can be effectively implemented for reducing incidence of emerging zoonotic threats.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

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

Q.102) Solution (c)

- The concept of ‘One Health’, which **recognises that health of human beings is connected to health of animals and environment**, is gaining importance as most of the contagious diseases affecting humans are zoonotic (animal to man origin) in nature.
- “The concept of One Health can be effectively implemented for reducing incidence of emerging zoonotic threats like COVID-19.
- Of the contagious diseases affecting humans, more than 65% are of zoonotic or animal to man origin.
- The Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) has launched One Health centre to address the emerging zoonotic threats like avian influenza, swine flu, monkey fever, coronavirus infection, etc.
- Increasing stress on animals due to loss of their habitat would increase scope of zoonotic diseases.



Q.103) Which of the following statements is/are Correct regarding Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)?

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. Half of the cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government, while the other half will be funded by UN Water.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.103) Solution (d)

- The Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) is a **central sector scheme** worth Rs.6,000 crore for sustainable management of groundwater with community participation.
- It envisages people's participation through the formation of 'Water User Associations', water budgeting, preparation & implementation of Gram-panchayat-wise water security plans, etc.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** (earlier known as Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation).
- The objective of the programme was to lay emphasis on the recharge of groundwater resources and improve the exploitation of the groundwater resources, with the involvement of people at the local level.
- Half of the cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government, while the other half will be **funded by the World Bank** in the form of a loan.

Q.104) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)?

1. It enforces the prohibition of the smuggling of items including drugs, gold, diamonds, electronics, foreign currency, and counterfeit Indian currency.
2. The NCB's national headquarters is located in Mumbai.
3. It comes under Ministry of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

d) 1, 2, and 3

Q.104) Solution (c)

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is the major intelligence agency which enforces the prohibition of the smuggling of items including drugs, gold, diamonds, electronics, foreign currency, and counterfeit Indian currency.

Narcotics Control Bureau

- It was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- The act provides for the penalty of property derived from or used in illegal traffic in narcotic drugs.
- It is the apex drug law enforcement and intelligence agency responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances in India.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau's national headquarters is located in Delhi and it is affiliated to Ministry of Home Affairs.

Functions:

- Coordination among various Central and State Agencies engaged in drug law enforcement;
- Assisting States in enhancing their drug law enforcement effort;
- Collection and dissemination of intelligence;
- Analysis of seizure data, study of trends and modus operandi;
- Preparation of National Drug Enforcement Statistics;
- Liaison with International agencies such as UNDCP, INCB, INTERPOL, Customs Cooperation Council, RILO etc;
- National contact point for intelligence and investigations

Q.105) The term “Operation Vanilla” is sometimes seen in the news with reference to:

- a) It aims to unify the islands of Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, La Reunion, Seychelles Maldives and Mayotte, under one tourism brand through the affiliation of each of the islands.
- b) It is the operation launched by Indian Navy to assist the population of Madagascar affected by Cyclone Diane.
- c) It is the operation against fighting the vanilla thieves of Madagascar launched by government of Madagascar.

- d) It is an operation of Indian Air Force to bring back the Indians stuck in China due to Covid 19

Q.105) Solution (b)

- Recently, the Indian Navy has launched the 'Operation Vanilla' to assist the population of Madagascar affected by Cyclone Diane.
- Indian Navy also diverted large amphibious ship viz. INS Airavat carrying clothing, medicines, and other relief material to provide assistance and support in the relief operations.

Cyclone Diane

- It is a tropical cyclone.
- Origin: North-west off the coast of Mauritius in the South-western Indian Ocean.
- Madagascar has been hit by it and there has been heavy flooding and landslips causing loss of lives and displacement, affecting more than 92,000 people. India has been the first country to respond to floods in Madagascar.



Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gandhinagar Declaration'.

1. The Declaration urges Parties and other governments to ensure effective liaison between the national focal points of the Convention on Migratory Species and those of the Convention on Biodiversity and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, as well as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
2. The Declaration recognizes the importance of synergies and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, and that their role should be clearly reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

The Gandhinagar Declaration emphasizes that improvement of ecological connectivity is the top priority for the Convention on Migratory Species in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and that the role of the Convention body should be clearly reflected in the post-2020 framework.

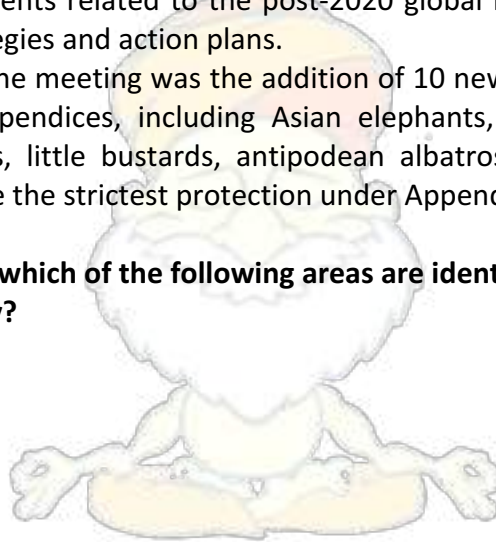
The Declaration also recognizes the importance of synergies and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, and that their role should be clearly reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Declaration urges Parties and other governments to ensure effective liaison between the national focal points of the Convention on Migratory Species and those of the Convention on Biodiversity and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, as well as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is with a view to reflect the respective priorities of, and align their efforts under the various agreements related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Another key outcome of the meeting was the addition of 10 new species to the Convention on Migratory Species Appendices, including Asian elephants, jaguars, and great Indian bustards, Bengal floricans, little bustards, antipodean albatrosses and oceanic white-tip sharks, all slated to receive the strictest protection under Appendix I.

Q.107) According to FAO, which of the following areas are identified as hotspots of threatening locust activity?

1. Horn of Africa
2. Red Sea Area
3. Southwest Asia
4. Pearl River Delta

**Select the correct code:**

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

Q.107) Solution (a)

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has currently identified three hotspots of threatening locust activity, where the situation has been called “extremely alarming” — the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea area, and southwest Asia.

The Horn of Africa has been called the worst-affected area, where the FAO has said there is “an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods”.

Four species of locusts are found in India:

- Desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*),
- Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*),

- Bombay Locust (*Nomadacris succincta*) and
- Tree locust (*Anacridium* sp.).

Q.108) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Hundred percent income tax exemption is given from profit derived from activities such as post-harvest value addition to agriculture by Farmer Producers' Organisations (FPO)'s having annual turnover up to Rs 100 crores.
2. Hundred percent FDI is permitted under the approval route in Food Processing Industries and forty nine percent FDI is allowed through automatic route for trading including e-commerce in respect of food products manufacture and produced in India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.108) Solution (a)

Hundred percent FDI is permitted under the automatic route in Food Processing Industries and 100 percent FDI is allowed through approval route for trading including e-commerce in respect of food products manufacture and produced in India. Further, 100 percent income tax exemption is given from profit derived from activities such as post-harvest value addition to agriculture by FPO's having annual turnover up to Rs 100 crores.

Q.109) 'India Economic Strategy to 2035 (IES 2035)' is associated with which of the following countries?

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

Q.109) Solution (b)

The India Economic Strategy is an ambitious plan to transform Australia's economic partnership with India out to 2035.

Q.110) 'National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)' is set up under

- a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- b) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- c) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- d) None of the above

Q. 110) Solution (a)

The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.

Q.111) Which of the following statements is/are Not Correct regarding Gram Nyayalayas?

1. The State Government, in consultation with the High Court, notifies the boundaries of the area under the jurisdiction of a Gram Nyayalaya.
2. The State Government shall appoint a presiding officer called Nyayadhikari for every Gram Nyayalaya in consultation with the District Court.
3. Gram Nyayalaya shall exercise only civil jurisdiction.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.111) Solution (b)

- The State Government, **in consultation with the High Court**, notifies the boundaries of the area under the jurisdiction of a Gram Nyayalaya.
- The State Government shall appoint a presiding officer called Nyayadhikari for every Gram Nyayalaya **in consultation with the High Court**.
- Gram Nyayalaya **shall exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction**.
- The judgment passed by a Gram Nyayalaya in civil cases shall be deemed to be a decree.
- Gram Nyayalaya is established for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district.
- 114th Report of the Law Commission (1986) recommended setting up of Gram Nyayalayas (mobile village courts) at the grass root levels
- The first and second schedules of the Gram Nyayalaya Act can be amended by both the central and state governments.

- A Gram Nyayalaya is not bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but is guided by the principles of natural justice
- An appeal against a judgement of a criminal case shall be taken to the Court of Session, while a civil case appeal shall be taken to District court.

Q.112) What is the main aim of 'Genome India' Project?

- a) To vastly add to the available information on the human species and advance the cause, both because of the scale of the Indian population and the diversity here.
- b) To decode of the entire human genome as done by an international programme- Human Genome Project (HGP 1990-2003).
- c) To ultimately build a grid of the Indian "reference genome", to understand fully the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population.
- d) To create a database of genetic information and gene modification.

Q.112) Solution (c)

- Genome India Project will involve 20 leading institutions including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and a few IITs.
- The first stage of the project will look at samples of "10,000 persons from all over the country" to form a "grid" that will enable the development of a "reference genome".
- The IISc's Centre for Brain Research, an autonomous institute, will serve as the nodal point of the project.
- The main aim of GIP ultimately build a grid of the Indian "reference genome", to understand fully the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population.
- GIP aims to vastly add to the available information on the human species and advance the cause, both because of the scale of the Indian population and the diversity here.
- The Genome India Project is inspired by the Human Genome Project (HGP 1990-2003)- an international programme that led to the decoding of the entire human genome.

Q.113) With reference to Inner Line Permit (ILP) and Protected Area Permit (PAP), Consider the following statements:

1. No permits (ILP and PAP) are required to visit Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura for both Indian Nationals and foreigners.
2. Nagaland is the recent state to join the ILP state list.
3. Protected Area Permit is required for visiting certain parts of Uttarakhand.

Which of the statements given above is/are Not Correct?

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

Q.113) Solution (c)

- **Manipur is the last state** to join the ILP state list and Manipur has launched an online portal for the travellers to seek Inner Line Permits.
- No permits (ILP and PAP) are required to visit Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura for both Indian Nationals and foreigners.
- Foreign nationals can apply for ILP and PAP if they have an E-Visa for India. It is not mandatory to have a regular Tourist Visa for applying permits for Northeast India for foreign nationals.
- Overseas Citizen of India card holders are classified as foreigners and they must obtain permits to visit North Eastern states.
- An ILP is issued by the state government concerned.

Q114) Consider the following statements regarding locust swarms

1. Desert Locusts are only found in Africa.
2. In a single day, a locust swarm can travel nearly 100 miles and eat its own weight in weight in fresh food.
3. Locusts carry diseases that can harm humans.

Which of the statements given above is/are Not Correct?

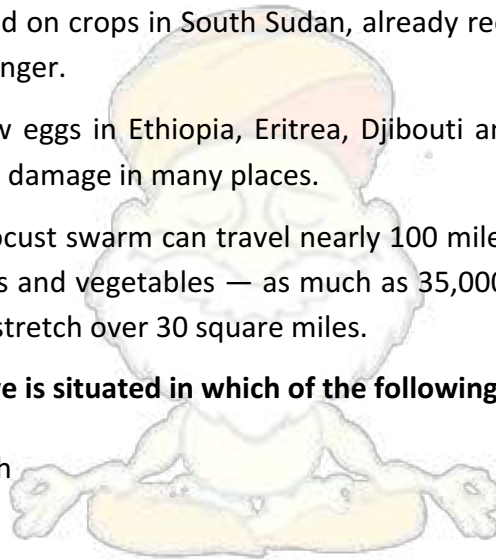
- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 only

Q.114) Solution (c)

- Major locust attacks have been observed in several countries in western and southern Asia and in eastern Africa.
- Four species of locusts are found in India: Desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*), Bombay Locust (*Nomadacris succincta*) and Tree locust (*Anacridium sp.*).
- Desert Locusts are usually restricted to the semi-arid and arid **deserts of Africa, the Near East and South-West Asia that receive less than 200 mm of rain annually.**
- The locust swarms had damaged 100% of Somalia's staple crops of maize and sorghum, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- **Locusts does not carry any diseases that are known to harm humans.**
- In Kenya, up to 30% of pastureland has been lost.
- Locusts have gorged on crops in South Sudan, already reeling from years of civil war and widespread hunger.
- They have laid new eggs in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. The U.N. is still trying to assess the damage in many places.
- In a single day, a locust swarm can travel nearly 100 miles and eat its own weight in leaves, seeds, fruits and vegetables — as much as 35,000 people would consume. A typical swarm can stretch over 30 square miles.

Q.115) Pakke Tiger Reserve is situated in which of the following state:

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Nagaland
- Manipur

**Q.115) Solution (b)**

- Pakke Tiger Reserve is situated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh
- Corridor, the highway aims to connect Arunachal Pradesh with Assam.
- Pakke Tiger Reserve (declared in 1999 - 2000) lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve.
- It falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.
- It is known for its amazing sightings of four resident hornbill species
- It is bounded by kameng river in the west and north and by pakke river in the east.

Q.116) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Nutrient-based subsidy (NBS)' scheme?

1. A fixed amount of subsidy, decided on an annual basis, is provided on each grade of subsidised phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers.

2. A complex fertilizer, ammonium phosphate, was recently included under the nutrient-based subsidy scheme.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.116) Solution (c)

In 2010, the government had launched the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) programme under which a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on an annual basis, is provided on each grade of subsidised phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers, except for urea, based on the nutrient content present in them.

Retail prices of non-urea fertilisers such as Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MoP) and NPK are decontrolled and are determined by manufacturers, while Centre gives a fixed subsidy each year.

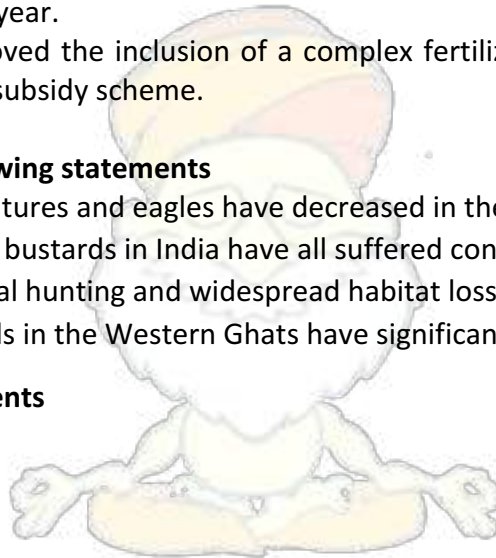
Recently, CCEA also approved the inclusion of a complex fertilizer, ammonium phosphate, under the nutrient-based subsidy scheme.

Q.117) Which of the following statements

- The numbers of vultures and eagles have decreased in the country.
- The four species of bustards in India have all suffered continuous population declines because of historical hunting and widespread habitat loss.
- The number of birds in the Western Ghats have significantly increased since 2000.

Select the correct statements

- 1 Only
- 1 and 2
- 1 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3



Q.117) Solution (b)

The number of birds in the Western Ghats, which is considered one of the world's foremost biodiversity hotspots, also declined by almost 75 per cent since 2000.

The numbers of vultures and eagles have decreased in the country.

The four species of bustards in India – the Great Indian Bustard, Macqueen's Bustard, Lesser Florican and Bengal Florican, have all suffered continuous population declines because of historical hunting and widespread habitat loss, compounded with their slow growth and reproduction.

Q.118) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project – Karnataka
- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – Maharashtra
- Paithan Hydroelectric Power Plant – Telangana

Select the correct code:

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

Q.118) Solution (a)

Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project – Karnataka
Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – Telangana
Paithan Hydroelectric Power Plant – Maharashtra

Q.119) The 'Neur' and 'Dinka' communities were in nrws recently. They belong to

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Ladakh
- c) Mizoram
- d) None of the above

Q.119) Solution (d)

They belong to 'South Sudan'.

Q.120) Which of the following national parks lost about 650 sq. km. in two decades from 1991?

- a) Bandipur National Park
- b) Papikonda National Park
- c) Orang National Park
- d) Ranthambore National Park

Q.120) Solution (b)

By some estimates, the Eastern Ghats have shrunk by 16% over the past century, and just one region, Papikonda National Park, lost about 650 sq. km. in two decades from 1991.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-browning-east-the-hindu-editorial-on-climate-change-impact-on-the-eastern-ghats/article30935306.ece>

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