



# IASBABA

One Stop Destination for UPSC/IAS Preparation

## 60 Days Final Compilation



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**Q.1) Which of the following statements with respect to ‘Ottan Thullal’.**

- It is dance and poetic performance form of Kerala.
- It is a war dance performed in Karnataka
- It refers to colorful motifs done by hands in Tamil Nadu.
- It is a martial art of Andhra Pradesh which is similar to Silambam.

**Q.1) Solution (a)**

It is a dance and poetic performance form of Kerala, India. It was introduced in the eighteenth century by Kunchan Nambiar, one of the Prachina Kavithrayam (three famous Malayalam language poets). It is accompanied by a mridangam (a barrel shaped double headed drum) or an idakka (drum and cymbal).

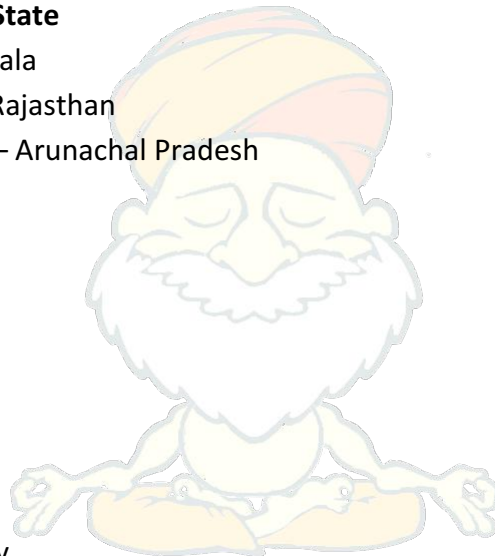
**Q.2) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Places in News – State**

- Oussudu lake – Kerala
- Sadikpur Sinauli – Rajasthan
- Pari Adi mountain – Arunachal Pradesh

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.2) Solution (d)**

Oussudu lake – Puducherry

Sadikpur Sinauli – Uttar Pradesh

Pari Adi mountain – Arunachal Pradesh

**Q.3) Which of the following countries do not open to the ‘Yellow Sea’?**

- Japan
- South Korea
- North Korea
- China

**Q.3) Solution (a)**

The Yellow Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean located between mainland China and the Korean Peninsula, and can be considered the northwestern part of the East China Sea.



**Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to ‘Sambar Deer’?**

1. It is the state animal of Odisha
2. It is listed as a critically endangered species on the IUCN Red List
3. In India it is only found along the Eastern Coast and North East part of the country.

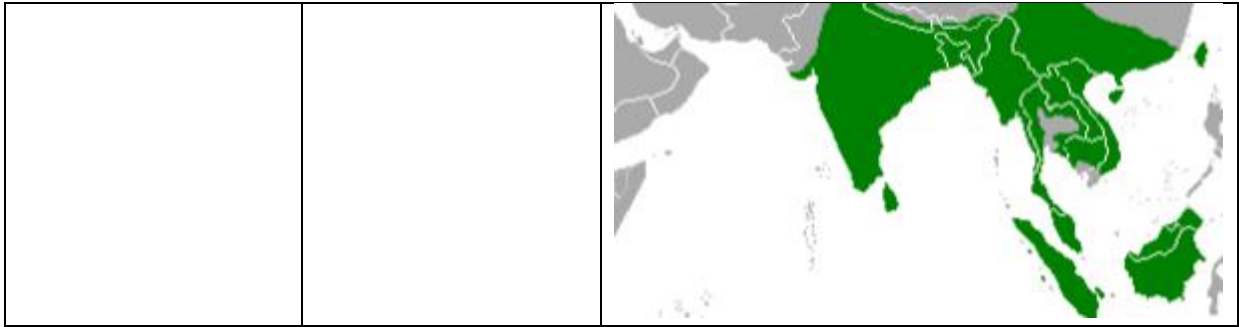
**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.4) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
It is the state animal of India.	IUCN - Vulnerable	It is found almost everywhere in India.



**Q.5) 'Abhay Karandikar Panel' which was in news recently is associated with**

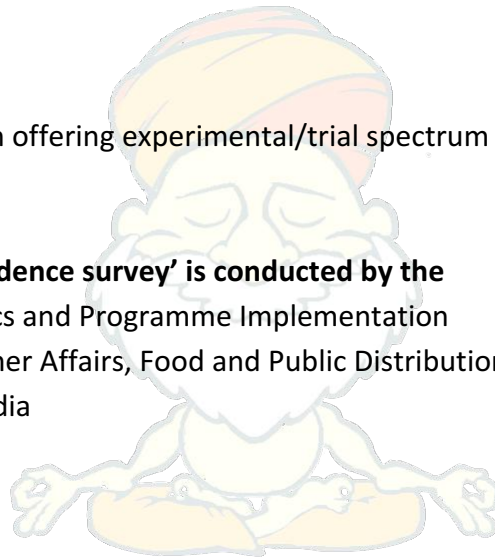
- a) Maharashtra Karnataka Border Dispute
- b) 5G Spectrum
- c) Feasibility of nationwide National Register of Citizenship
- d) Automobile Sector

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

Abhay Karandikar Panel on offering experimental/trial spectrum for 5G.

**Q.6) The 'Consumer Confidence survey' is conducted by the**

- a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) Ministry of Finance



**Q.6) Solution (c)**

Consumer Confidence survey is conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The survey measures consumer perception (current and future) on five economic variables - economic situation, employment, the price level, income and spending.

The Consumer Confidence survey has two main indices - current situation index and future expectations index. The current situation index measures the change in consumer perception over an economic issue in the last one year while the future expectations index measures what consumer thinks about the same variables, one year ahead.

**Q.7) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Places in News - Country**

1. Fujairah Port – Oman
2. Changangkha Lhakhang – Bhutan

3. Garzweiler – Germany

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.7) Solution (c)**

Fujairah Port – UAE

Changangkha Lhakhang – Bhutan

Garzweiler – Germany

**Q.8) Campaign 'Zero Chance' was launched concerning illegal immigration by which of the following countries?**

- a) United States of America
- b) Poland
- c) Australia
- d) Hungary

**Q.8) Solution (c)**

The Australian government has launched a campaign 'Zero Chance' to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally by boats. The message of Zero Chance is simple. Anyone who tries to come illegally to Australia by boat has zero chance of success. Australia has so far turned back over 857 people on 35 vessels trying to enter Australia illegally, as part of the **Operation Sovereign Borders** that has been implemented since 2013.

**Q.9) The term 'Pillar III Disclosure' is associated with**

- a) Basel Committee on Banking Supervision
- b) Financial Action Task Force
- c) International Criminal Police Organization
- d) International Atomic Energy Agency

**Q.9) Solution (a)**

Basel 3 is a global regulatory capital and liquidity framework developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Basel 3 is composed of three parts, or pillars. Pillar 1 addresses capital and liquidity adequacy and provides minimum requirements. Pillar 2

outlines supervisory monitoring and review standards. Pillar 3 promotes market discipline through prescribed public disclosures.

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to “Operation Sunshine-2’**

1. It was a joint operation between India and Myanmar.
2. It was aimed at transnational crime networks seeking to profit from wildlife smuggling activities.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.10) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
In a coordinated operation named “Operation Sunshine-2”, the Indian army along with Myanmar troops conducted a 3-week long operation.	It targeted several militant groups operating in the border regions of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.

**Q.11) According to The Botanical Survey of India’s first comprehensive Census of Orchids of India**

1. Entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
2. Among the 10 bio-geographic zones of India, the Himalayan zone is the richest in terms of orchid species

**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.11) Solution (c)**

The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to 1,256.

Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms: epiphytic (plants growing on another plants including those growing on rock boulders and often termed lithophyte), terrestrial (plants growing on land and climbers) and mycoheterotrophic (plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant).

About 60% of all orchids found in the country, which is 757 species, are epiphytic, 447 are terrestrial and 43 are mycoheterotrophic.

The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim 560 species and West Bengal; Darjeeling Himalayas have also high species concentration, with 479 species.

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally.	Among the 10 bio geographic zones of India, the Himalayan zone is the richest in terms of orchid species followed by Northeast, Western Ghats, Deccan plateau and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

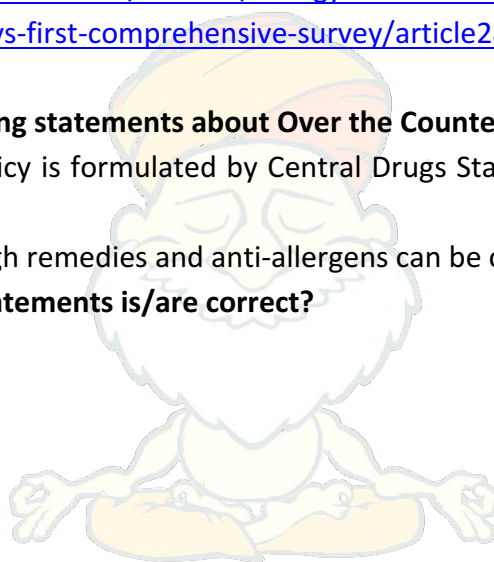
**Source** - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/india-is-home-to-1256-species-of-orchid-says-first-comprehensive-survey/article28429797.ece>

**Q.12) Consider the following statements about Over the Counter (OTC) medicines in India**

1. OTC medicines policy is formulated by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)
2. Pain relievers, cough remedies and anti-allergens can be categorised as OTC drugs

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

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



**Q.12) Solution (b)**

The medicines directly taken by people from the chemist as a part of self medication to cure diseases are called Over the Counter medicines.

A 2015 survey conducted by Lybrate among 20,000 people across 10 cities showed that 52% of people practised self-medication.

The government is in the process of finalising an OTC drug policy it may bring more clarity on the drugs so that a wider population can access.

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), a body of multinational drug companies, has worked with the government over the past one year by providing inputs to the draft of the OTC policy.

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct

India lacks a well-defined regulation for over the counter (OTC) medicines which are important for patient safety.

Most OTC drugs are usually categorised into pain relievers, cough remedies, anti-allergens, laxatives, vitamins, antacids etc.

**Source** - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/wide-access-to-otc-drugs-frees-up-govt-resources/article28693476.ece>

**Q.13) Kuril Islands are situated between**

- (a) Sea of Okhotsk and Pacific Ocean
- (b) Sea of Japan and Pacific Ocean
- (c) Sea of Okhotsk and Bering Sea
- (d) Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea

**Q.13) Solution (a)**



The Kuril Islands or Kurile Islands is a volcanic archipelago in Russia's Sakhalin Oblast that stretches approximately 1,300 km (810 mi) northeast from Hokkaido, Japan to Kamchatka, Russia, separating the Sea of Okhotsk from the north Pacific Ocean.

There are 56 islands and many minor rocks. It consists of the Greater Kuril Chain and the Lesser Kuril Chain.

All the islands are under Russian administration. Japan claims the four southernmost islands, including the two largest ones (Iturup and Kunashir), as part of its territory as well as Shikotan and the Habomai islets, which has led to the ongoing Kuril Islands dispute.



The disputed islands are known in Japan as the country's "Northern Territories".

In 2018, Russo-Japanese talks on reunification of islands with Japan resumed.

**Source** - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/japan-calls-russian-pms-visit-to-disputed-island-regrettable/article28793643.ece>

**Q.14) Which of the following statements about ASRAAM missile is incorrect?**

- (a) It is a high speed air-to-air missile.
- (b) It is designed as a "fire-and-forget" missile.
- (c) ASRAAM is intended to detect and launch against targets at much shorter ranges.
- (d) It has increased speed and range up to 50 km.

**Q.14) Solution (c)**

It is Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile.

It is a high speed, extremely manoeuvrable, heat-seeking, air-to-air missile.

Built by MBDA, it is designed as a "fire-and-forget" missile.

ASRAAM is intended to detect and launch against targets at much longer ranges, as far as early versions of the AMRAAM, in order to shoot down the enemy long before it closes enough to be able to fire its own weapons.

In this respect the ASRAAM shares more in common with the AMRAAM than other IR missiles,

To provide the needed power, the ASRAAM is built on a 16.51 cm (6½ inch) diameter rocket motor. This gives the ASRAAM significantly more thrust and therefore increased speed and range up to 50 km.

ASRAAM is widely used as a Within Visual Range (WVR) air dominance missile with a range of over 25km.

**Source** - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iaf-to-adopt-asraam-missile-across-its-fighter-fleet/article28359593.ece>

**Q.15) Match the following**

1. 'Dastak Campaign' – A) To eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease.
2. 'Utkarsh 2022' – B) To achieve excellence in the performance of RBI's mandates for macroeconomic development.
3. 'Operation Milap' – C) To rescue the trafficked or kidnapped person and arrests the kidnappers.
4. 'Operation Sankalp' – D) Indian Navy's operation in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels

**Which of the following statements is correct?**

- (a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
- (b) 1-A, 2-D, 3-B, 4-C
- (c) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

(d) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-D

**Q.15) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>'Dastak' campaign in association with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to control encephalitis and other vector-borne diseases.</p> <p>The campaign will ensure availability of clean drinking water, initiate sanitation drive. Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a mosquito-borne flavivirus. It belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses.</p>	<p>'Utkarsh 2022' is the Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework, in line with the evolving macroeconomic development. It is roadmap for next three years.</p>	<p>Under 'Operation Milap', the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Delhi Police develops information, rescues the trafficked person and arrests the kidnapers.</p>	<p>The Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels, following the recent maritime incidents in the region.</p> <p>The operation has been launched in the wake of escalating tension in the Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers were attacked recently. The U.S. considers Iran responsible for the attacks, heightening tensions between the two countries.</p>

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**Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Model Tax information exchange agreements (TIEA)'**

1. A model TIEA was developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. It is not a binding instrument.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.16) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Tax information exchange agreements (TIEA) provide for the exchange of information on request relating to a specific criminal or civil tax investigation or civil tax matters under investigation. A model TIEA was developed by the OECD Global Forum Working Group on Effective Exchange of Information.	This Agreement, which was released in April 2002, is not a binding instrument but contains two models for bilateral agreements.

**Additional Information:**

The purpose of this Agreement is to promote international co-operation in tax matters through exchange of information. It was developed by the OECD Global Forum Working Group on Effective Exchange of Information.

The Agreement grew out of the work undertaken by the OECD to address harmful tax practices. The lack of effective exchange of information is one of the key criteria in determining harmful tax practices. The Agreement represents the standard of effective exchange of information for the purposes of the OECD's initiative on harmful tax practices.

In June 2015, the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs (CFA) approved a Model Protocol to the Agreement. The Model Protocol may be used by jurisdictions, in case they want to extend the scope of their existing TIEAs to also cover the automatic and/or spontaneous exchange of information.

In doing so, jurisdictions are then able to base a bilateral competent authority agreement for the purpose of putting in place the automatic exchange of information in accordance with the Common Reporting Standard or the automatic exchange of Country-by-Country Reports on a TIEA, in particular in cases where it is not (yet) possible to automatically exchange information under a relevant Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement.

Jurisdictions may also choose to use the wording of the Articles of the Model Protocol in case they want to include the automatic and spontaneous exchange of information provisions in a new TIEA.

**Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Benchmark Administrators (FBAs)'**

1. FBA should be a company incorporated in India with a minimum net worth of Rs Ten crores at all times.
2. FBAs control 'significant benchmarks' in the markets for financial instruments regulated by the RBI.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.17) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Eligibility criteria for FBAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBA shall be a company incorporated in India.</li> <li>• FBAs shall maintain a minimum net worth of ₹ 1 crore at all times.</li> </ul>	FBAs control the creation, operation and administration 'benchmarks' like prices, rates, indices, values or a combination thereof related to financial instruments that are calculated periodically and used as a reference for pricing or valuation of financial instruments or any other financial contract.

Read More - <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11601&Mode=0>

**Q.18) 'Puerto Williams', which was in news recently is located in**

- a) Chile
- b) Puerto Rico
- c) Argentina
- d) New Zealand

**Q.18) Solution (a)**

It is the city, port and naval base on Navarino Island in Chile. It faces the Beagle Channel. Puerto Williams claims the title of world's southernmost city.

**Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to 'GAMA Portal'.**

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
2. It is a portal where complaints relating to misleading advertisements can be lodged.

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.19) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched this portal for registering online complaints for Grievances Against Misleading Advertisements (GAMA ).	It is a portal where complaints relating to misleading advertisements can be lodged. Any advertisement or promotion through Television, Radio, or any other electronic media, Newspapers, Banners, Posters, Handbills, wall-writing etc. to misrepresent the nature, characteristics, qualities or geographic origin of goods, services or commercial activities so as to mislead the consumer could be broadly defined as a misleading advertisement.

**Q.20) The 'E-2020 initiative' is associated with which of the following diseases/disorders?**

- a) Non-communicable Diseases
- b) Malaria
- c) HIV/AIDS
- d) Coronavirus

**Q.20) Solution (b)**

In May 2015, the World Health Assembly endorsed a new Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030, setting ambitious goals aimed at dramatically lowering the global malaria burden over this 15-year period, with milestones along the way to track progress. A key milestone for 2020 is the elimination of malaria in at least 10 countries that had the disease in 2015. To meet this target, countries must report zero indigenous cases in 2020.

**Read More -** <https://www.who.int/malaria/media/e-2020-initiative-qa/en/>

**Q.21) 'Abujh Marias' is a tribal group from which of the following states/union territories?**

- a) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Lakshadweep
- d) Nagaland

**Q.21) Solution (b)**

The Chhattisgarh government is processing habitat rights for Abujh Marias, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

Abujmaad (Abujhmaad) is a hilly forest area, spread over 1,500 square miles in Chhattisgarh, covering Narayanpur district, Bijapur district and Dantewada district. It is home to indigenous tribes of India, including Gond, Muria, Abuj Maria, and Halbaas.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Blast Disease'**

1. It is a bacterial disease which only affects rice crop.
2. Conditions conducive for the disease include long periods of free moisture and high humidity.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.22) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Magnaporthe grisea, also known as rice blast fungus, rice rotten neck, rice seedling blight, blast of rice, oval leaf spot of graminea, pitting disease, ryegrass blast, and Johnson spot, is a plant-pathogenic fungus that causes a serious disease affecting rice. Members of the Magnaporthe grisea complex can also infect other agriculturally important cereals including wheat, rye, barley, and pearl millet causing diseases called blast disease or blight disease.	Rice blast is a significant problem in temperate regions and can be found in areas such as irrigated lowland and upland. Conditions conducive for rice blast include long periods of free moisture where leaf wetness is required for infection and high humidity is common.

**Q.23) The '16 Point Agreement' is associated with which of the following?**

- a) USA, Afghanistan and Taliban
- b) South Korea and North Korea
- c) Syria, Russia and Turkey
- d) None of the above

**Q.23) Solution (d)**

The 16 Point Agreement was between the Government of India and the Naga People's Convention.

**Q.24) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Bomkai Saree – Odisha
2. Dhokra Metal Casting – Maharashtra
3. Kantha Embroidery – West Bengal

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Bomkai Sari (also Sonepuri Sari) is a handloom saree from Odisha, India. It is an origin of Bomkai, Ganjam district in the state and is primarily produced by the "Bhulia" community of Subarnapur district. Bomkai is one of the identified Geographical Indications of India.

Kantha (also spelled Kanta, and Qanta) is a type of embroidery craft in the eastern regions of the Indian subcontinent, specifically in Bangladesh and in the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Odisha.

Dhokra (also spelt Dokra) is non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique. This sort of metal casting has been used in India for over 4,000 years and is still used. Dhokra Damar tribes are the main traditional metalsmiths of West Bengal and Odisha. Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting. The tribe extends from Jharkhand to West Bengal and Orissa; members are distant cousins of the Chhattisgarh Dhokras. A few hundred years ago, the Dhokras of Central and Eastern India traveled south as far as Kerala and north as far as Rajasthan and hence are now found all over India. Dhokra, or Dokra, craft from Dwariapur, West Bengal, is popular. Recently Adilabad Dokra from Telangana got Geographical Indicator tag in 2018.

**Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to 'INSTEX SAS (Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges)'**

1. It is a Special Purpose Vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.
2. It is financed and managed by France, Germany, and the U.K.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.25) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is a European special-purpose vehicle (SPV) established in January 2019. Its mission is to facilitate non-USD transactions and non-SWIFT to avoid breaking U.S. sanctions.	INSTEX is financed and managed by France, Germany, and the U.K. INSTEX has been registered in France and will be run by German banks.

**Q.26) Tiangong-2, recently seen in news is**

- Ballistic Missile manufactured by China
- Anti-Satellite missile developed by China
- A manned Chinese space station
- Chinese Mars Mission

**Q.26) Solution (c)**

- Tiangong-2 is a manned Chinese space station
- Tiangong-2 hosted two Chinese astronauts for 30 days
- It is China's longest manned space mission so far.
- Tiangong-2 was retired from service after it had completed its experiments in space.

**Q.27) The Reko Diq mine situated in Pakistan, recently seen in news is famous for its :**

- Gold reserves
- Copper reserves
- Iron Reserves
- Both a and b

**Q.27) Solution (d)**

Recently An international arbitration court has imposed a penalty of over 5 billion dollars on Pakistan for unlawful denial of a mining lease to a company for the Reko Diq project in 2011. The Reko Diq mine in Balochistan is famous for its vast gold and copper reserves.

**Read More** - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pak-should-pay-foreign-firm-6bn/article28429823.ece>



**Q.28) With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is a herbivorous marine animal.
2. IUCN lists the dugong as a species 'Endangered' to extinction.
3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Q.28) Solution (c)**

The Dugong is a medium-sized marine mammal.

- It is a species of sea cow found throughout the warm latitudes of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans.
- It is the only member of the Dugongidae family, and its closest living relatives are the manatees.
- The IUCN lists the dugong as a species 'vulnerable' to extinction.
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) limits or bans the trade of derived products.
- These languid animals make an easy target for coastal hunters.
- They were long sought for their meat, oil, skin, bones, and teeth.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The dugong is the only strictly herbivorous marine mammal.	IUCN lists the dugong as a species 'vulnerable' to extinction	It has been brought under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/stranded-sea-cow-named-sea-prince/article28307135.ece>

**Q.29) Consider the following statements about International Whaling Commission (IWC)**

1. Established to organize the whaling business
2. It is one of the United Nations Agencies
3. It acts under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

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

**Q.29) Solution (d)**

- It is the global body for the conservation of whales and the management of whaling.
- Headquarters in the City of Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- The various governments that are members of the IWC make their decisions through its various meetings and committees, using the IWC secretariat to help manage their discussions and decision making.
- The main duty of the IWC is to keep under review and revise as necessary the measures laid down in the Schedule to the Convention which govern the conduct of whaling throughout the world.
- Recently Japan withdrew its membership from IWC.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
Established for the conservation of whales and the management of whaling	It is the global body for the conservation of whales and not an UN agency.	The IWC was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/japan-resumes-commercial-whaling-seen-as-face-saving-end/article28239774.ece>

**Q.30) 'Operation Thirst' recently in news is to**

- a) Give Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Railways premises
- b) Code-name for the Indian Armed Forces operation to capture the Siachen Glacier .
- c) Curb the menace of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Railways premises
- d) None of these

**Q.30) Solution (c)**

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched "Operation Thirst", an All India Drive to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water.
- To curb the menace of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Railway premises, an all India drive named "Operation Thirst" was launched on 08th & 09th July 2019 on the direction of DG/RPF, Railway Board, New Delhi.

- During this, all the Zonal Principal Chief Security Commissioners (PCSCs) were asked to crackdown these unauthorised activities. Almost all major stations over Indian Railway were covered during this operation.
- During the drive, 1371 persons were arrested for selling of packaged drinking water of unauthorised brands under different sections i.e. 144 & 153 of Rly. Act.

The special drive will be followed by continuous action by concerned PCSCs on this issue.

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Purchasing Managers’ Index’.**

1. It represents the weighted average of top ten Indian manufacturing company stocks.
2. It is owned and managed by India Index Services and Products (IISL), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the NSE Strategic Investment Corporation Limited.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.31) Solution (d)**

PMI or a Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity -- **both in the manufacturing and services sectors.** It is a survey-based measures that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before. **It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.**

For India, the **PMI Data is published by Japanese firm Nikkei but compiled and constructed by Markit Economics (for the US, it is the ISM).** A manufacturing PMI and a services PMI are prepared and published by the two.

**Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Opposition Party and the Leader of Opposition in the Parliament’**

1. The post of Leader of Opposition is defined in the Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
2. According to the Mavalankar Rule, the strength of the main Opposition party, to be officially recognized as such, must be equal to the quorum of the house.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.32) Solution (c)**

The leader of the opposition in the houses of Indian parliament is a **statutory post**. This post is defined in the **Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977** as simply the leader of the numerically biggest party in opposition to the government and recognised as such by the speaker/chairman:

- **Definition.**—In this Act, “Leader of the Opposition”, in relation to either House of Parliament, means that member of the Council of States or the House of the People, as the case may be, who is, for the time being, the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be.
- **Explanation.**—Where there are two or more parties in opposition to the Government, in the Council of States or in the House of the People having the same numerical strength, the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be, shall, having regard to the status of the parties, recognise any one of the Leaders of such parties as the Leader of the Opposition for the purposes of this section and such recognition shall be final and conclusive.

**India did not have a Leader of Opposition till 1969.** In the first three Lok Sabha elections, the Congress-led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had an overarching influence. Nehru’s Congress won 1951-52, 1957 and 1962 Lok Sabha elections with an overwhelming majority and the main Opposition parties consistently failed to win 10 per cent of the seats.

**The 10 per cent rule was spelt out by GV Mavalankar**, the first Lok Sabha speaker. Mavalankar had ruled in the Lok Sabha **that the strength of the main Opposition party, to be officially recognised as such, must be equal to the quorum of the house. Quorum is equivalent to 10 per cent of the members.**

**Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Baltic Dry Index (BDI)’**

1. The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) is a measure of what it costs to ship raw materials.
2. It is compiled daily by the International Maritime Organization.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.33) Solution (a)**

The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) is a shipping and **trade index created by the London-based Baltic Exchange on a daily basis. (not by the International Maritime Organization). It measures changes in the cost of transporting various raw materials, such as coal and steel.**

The Baltic Dry Index typically increases in value as demand for commodities and raw goods increases and decreases in value as demand for commodities and raw goods decreases.

**Q.34) The term, ‘Miyawaki’ method was in news recently. What is it associated with?**

- a) Desalination of Seawater
- b) Afforestation
- c) Zero Budget Natural Farming
- d) Algal Bloom

**Q.34) Solution (b)**

Miyawaki is a Japanese technique of growing dense plantations in a short time.

**Method named after-** Akira Miyawaki is a Japanese botanist and expert in plant ecology, specializing in seeds and the study of natural forests. He is active worldwide as a specialist in the restoration of natural vegetation on degraded land.

**Q.35) The ‘World Economic Outlook (WEO)’ is brought out by**

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

**Q.35) Solution (b)**

The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is a report by the **International Monetary Fund** that analyzes key parts of the IMF's surveillance of economic developments and policies in its member countries. It also projects developments in the global financial markets and economic systems.

- Global Financial Stability Report is also released by IMF.
- Fiscal Monitor is also published by IMF.

**Q.36) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Protected Areas    State**

1. Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary - Karnataka
2. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve – Kerala
3. Amrabad Tiger Reserve – Telangana

**Select the correct code:**

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

- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.36) Solution (b)**

- Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary - Andhra Pradesh
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve – Kerala
- Amrabad Tiger Reserve – Telangana

**Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Core Investment Companies (CICs)’**

1. A core investment company is a Non-banking Financial Company (NBFC) which carries on the business of acquisition of shares and securities.
2. It holds not less than 90 per cent of its net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.37) Solution (c)**

Core investment companies are **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) holding not less than 90% of their net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.**

Further investments in equity shares in group companies constitute not less than 60 per cent of its net assets.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-sets-up-panel-to-review-cics/article28275384.ece>

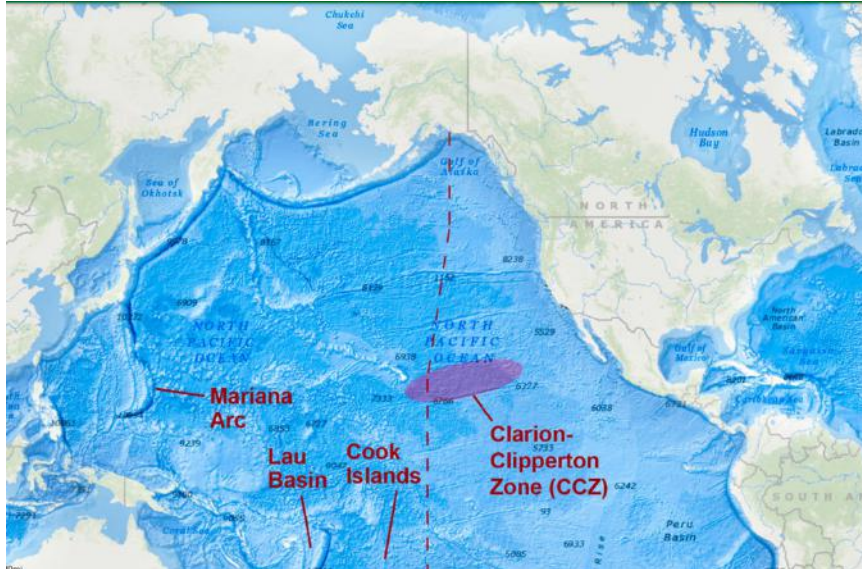
**Q.38) ‘Clarion-Clipperton Zone’ is located in**

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

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

The Clipperton Fracture Zone, also known as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, is a geological **submarine fracture zone of the Pacific Ocean, with a length of 7240 km.** In 2016, the seafloor in the Clipperton Fracture Zone – an area being targeted for deep-sea mining – was found to contain an abundance and diversity of life, with more than half of the species

collected being new to science. The zone is sometimes referred to as the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCFZ), with reference to Clarion Island at the northern edge of the zone.



**Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘The International Charter Space and Major Disasters’**

1. Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter.
2. As signatories to the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, any of the member countries can send a ‘request’ to activate the Charter.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.39) Solution (c)**

The International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" is a **non-binding charter which provides for the charitable and humanitarian re-tasked acquisition** of and transmission of space satellite data to relief organizations in the event of major disasters.

Initiated by the European Space Agency and the French space agency CNES after the UNISPACE III conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 1999, it officially came into operation on November 1, 2000 after the Canadian Space Agency signed onto the charter on October 20, 2000.

Their space assets were then, respectively, ERS and ENVISAT, SPOT and Formosat, and RADARSAT.

**As signatories to the ‘The International Charter Space and Major Disasters’, any of the 32 member countries can send a ‘request’ to activate the Charter.** This would immediately

trigger a request by the coordinators to space agencies of other countries whose satellites have the best eyes on the site of the disaster.

**Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter.** The members cooperate on a voluntary basis. Each member agency has committed resources to support the Charter by providing space-derived data and products. The members take on the roles of the secretariat by rotation and act as project managers for activations.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/china-russia-france-share-satellite-data-on-assam-floods/article28726001.ece>

**Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Strait of Gibraltar’**

1. It connects the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Ionian Sea.
2. It separates France and Algeria.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.40) Solution (d)**

The Strait of Gibraltar is a narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Gibraltar and Peninsular Spain in Europe from Morocco in Africa.

**Q.41) ‘Surjit Bhalla Committee’ which was in news recently, is associated with which of the following?**

- a) Net Metering
- b) Elephant Bonds
- c) Naxalism
- d) Prison Reforms

**Q.41) Solution (b)**

**High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla has been constituted by the Department of Commerce.** The HLAG has made several recommendations for boosting India’s share and importance in global merchandise and services trade. Among other things, the Report identifies tax reforms also to boost export and investment channels for exports.

**It has asked the government to allow people to declare their ‘undisclosed income’ with a mandatory condition to invest 50% in a government bond, termed as Elephant Bond,** which should be utilised only for infrastructure projects.

It has also made recommendations for reforms in Financial Services Framework for making India a Preferred Destination for financial services.



**Q.42) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'Vallam Kali'?**

- It is a traditional boat race in Kerala.
- It is an art form in which patterns are created on the floor or the ground using materials such as colored rice, dry flour, colored sand or flower petals in West Bengal.
- It refers to a floral embroidery from Tamil Nadu.
- It is a drum made out of the wood of the jackfruit tree.

**Q.42) Solution (a)**

**It is a traditional boat race in Kerala.** It is a form of canoe racing, and uses paddled war canoes. It is mainly conducted during the season of the harvest festival Onam in autumn. Chundan vallam ('beaked boat'), known outside Kerala as Kerala snake boats, are one of the icons of Kerala culture used in the Vallamkali.

**Q.43) The 'Joint Security Area (JSA)' refer to which of the following countries?**

- Israel and Palestine
- South Korea and North Korea
- Ethiopia and Eretria
- Sudan and South Sudan

**Q.43) Solution (b)**

**The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)** is a region 4 km wide and 240 km long, dividing the Korean Peninsula into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the north and Republic of Korea on the south. The DMZ was created after the 1953 Korean War Armistice Agreement, which ended the Korean War. **The site where the Armistice was signed is called the Joint Security Area (JSA), located 53 km to the north of Seoul.**

**Q.44) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT)' is/are correct?**

- It uses independent computers to record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers.
- All Blockchain is considered to be a form of DLT.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.44) Solution (c)**

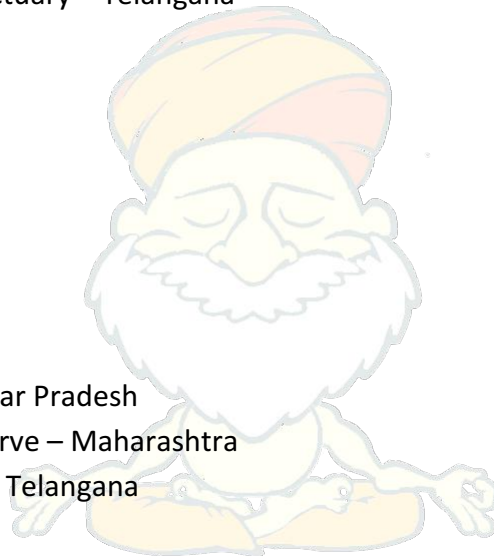
Blockchain is one type of a distributed ledger. Distributed **ledgers use independent computers (referred to as nodes) to record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers** (instead of keeping data centralized as in a traditional ledger). **All Blockchain is considered to be a form of DLT.** But there are also Distributed Ledger Tables that are not Blockchain. These non-Blockchain DLT's can be in the form of a distributed Cryptocurrency or they may be the architecture on which private or public data is stored or shared. The main difference being that while Blockchain requires Global Consensus across all nodes a DLT can achieve consensus without having to validate across the entire Blockchain.

**Q.45) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve – Uttarakhand
2. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger reserve – Maharashtra
3. Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary – Telangana

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve – Uttar Pradesh

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger reserve – Maharashtra

Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary – Telangana

**Q.46) 'Bimal Jalan Committee' is concerned with which of the following?**

- a) Corporate Governance
- b) Economic Capital Framework for the RBI
- c) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
- d) Code on Wages

**Q.46) Solution (b)**

The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the government, constituted a committee led by the central bank's former Governor Bimal Jalan to look into **its Economic Capital Framework.**

**Q.47) The 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' report is published by**

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)

- c) The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- d) None of the above

**Q.47) Solution (a)**

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report is released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

**Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘The Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators’.**

1. It was founded at the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 14) in 2018.
2. The Coalition is initiated by the Government of India.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.48) Solution (d)**

The Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators was founded at the **13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 13) in 2016.**

It was formed to follow up on the findings of IPBES Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, which found that many of the world’s pollinator species are on the decline.

**It is initiated by the Government of the Netherlands.**

**Q.49) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Kharchi Puja – West Bengal
2. Ashadhi Beej – Gujarat
3. Vat Pournima – Maharashtra

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.49) Solution (b)**

Kharchi Puja – Tripura

Ashadhi Beej – Gujarat

Vat Pournima – Maharashtra

**Q.50) 'Godawan' is a state bird of**

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Odisha
- c) Telangana
- d) Chhattisgarh

**Q.50) Solution (a)**

The Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) is a state bird of Rajasthan.

**Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Development Association (IDA)'**

1. It aims to reduce poverty by providing loans and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.
2. It is a member of the World Bank Group.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.51) Solution (c)**

The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries. Overseen by 173 shareholder nations, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing loans (called "credits") and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.

IDA complements the World Bank's original lending arm—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). IBRD was established to function as a self-sustaining business and provides loans and advice to middle-income and credit-worthy poor countries. IBRD and IDA share the same staff and headquarters and evaluate projects with the same rigorous standards.

**Q.52) Which of the following is/are associated with 'BRICS'?**

1. Asian Development Bank
2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement
3. Fortaleza Declaration

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2

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

**Q.52) Solution (b)**

Currently, there are two components that make up the financial architecture of BRICS, namely, the New Development Bank (NDB) or sometimes referred to as the BRICS Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). Both of these components were signed into treaty in 2014 and became active in 2015.

BRICS nations signed BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) in 2014 as part of Fortaleza Declaration at Sixth BRICS summit.

**Q.53) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Rohingyas – Myanmar
2. Uighurs – Nepal
3. Yazidis – Libya

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.53) Solution (a)**

Rohingyas – Myanmar

Uighurs – Nepal

Yazidis – Iraq

**Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Goods and Service Tax Council'.**

1. It is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
2. It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax. The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

**Q.55) Which of the following Tiger Reserves was the best managed according to the '4th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR)'?**

- a) Pench Tiger Reserve
- b) Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- c) Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
- d) Corbett Tiger Reserve

**Q.55) Solution (a)**

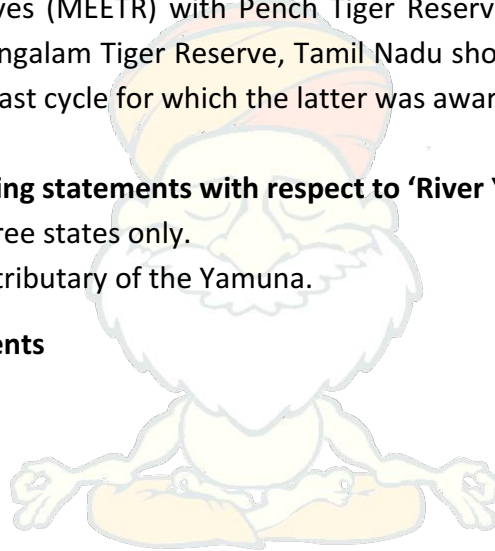
The Prime Minister released a report of the 4th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR) with Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh scoring the highest and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu showing the highest increment in management since the last cycle for which the latter was awarded.

**Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'River Yamuna'.**

1. It flows through three states only.
2. Tons is the largest tributary of the Yamuna.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.56) Solution (b)**

The Tons is the largest tributary of the Yamuna and flows through Garhwal region in Uttarakhand, touching Himachal Pradesh.

Flows Through - Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi

**Tributaries**

- Left Hindon, Tons, Giri, Rishiganga, Hanuman Ganga, Sasur Khaderi
- Right Chambal, Betwa, Ken, Sindh, Baghain

**Q.57) Which of the following rivers are 'Antecedent Rivers'?**

1. Subansiri
2. Kosi
3. Sutlej

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.57) Solution (d)**

Antecedent Rivers had established their drainage networks well before the Himalaya came into existence as a mountain barrier. These rivers were past their youthful stage when the mountain ranges began rising across their paths.

Many Himalayan rivers are good examples of antecedent origin. These rivers originated well before the Himalayan region was uplifted. The rivers Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Kosi and Subansiri originated on the Tibetan side and now traverse the existing mountain ranges, cutting deep gorges.

**Q.58) 'Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary' is located in**

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

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

Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary is located in Bhagalpur District of Bihar.

**Q.59) 'Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)' is associated with which of the following countries?**

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

**Q.59) Solution (c)**

The Military Logistics Support Agreements (MLSA) with Japan is called the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and with Russia, the Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS).

**Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Seabed Authority (ISA)'**

1. All Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) are members of ISA.

2. The headquarters of the ISA is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.60) Solution (a)**

It is an intergovernmental body based in Kingston, Jamaica, that was established to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, an area underlying most of the world's oceans. It is an organization established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is comprised of 167 Member States, and the European Union. All Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) are members of ISA. ISA is mandated as the organization through which Parties to UNCLOS shall organize and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area, known also as “the Area.”

**Q.61) The Shillong Declaration, recently seen in the news is associated with which of the following?**

- a) Protection of Biodiversity of North East India
- b) E-governance
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) North East Insurgency

**Q.61) Solution (b)**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> **National Conference on e-Governance 2019 held in Shillong** led to this declaration.
- Theme of Conference: Digital India: Success to Excellence.
- Key highlights of Shillong declaration:
  - Promote timely implementation of **India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA)**.
  - Consolidate the plethora of successful State level e-Governance projects with a focus to replicate them as a common application software.
  - Take steps to further improve connectivity in North Eastern States
  - Explore the possibility for opening an electronics skill center in Shillong.

**Q.62) In which of the following States is ‘Gandhamardhan Hills’ located?**



- a) Maharashtra
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Sikkim
- d) Odisha

**Q.62) Solution (d)**

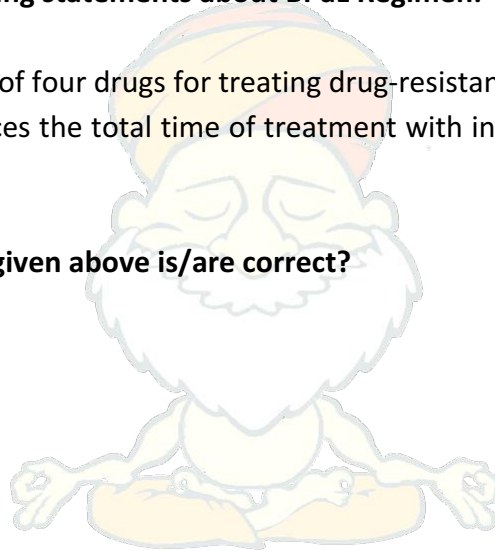
- In August, heavy rain triggered a major **landslide** near Harishankar Temple, situated on the southern slopes of the **Gandhamardhan Hills** in western **Odisha**.
- **Gandhamardhan Hills** is known for medicinal plants and **Bauxite reserve**.
- BSI has reported the existence of 220 plant species of medicinal value.

**Q.63) Consider the following statements about BPaL Regimen:**

1. It is a combination of four drugs for treating drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB).
2. This regimen reduces the total time of treatment with increase in per day dosage or pills.

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.63) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The <b>three-drug regimen</b> consists of <b>Bedaquiline, Pretomanid and Linezolid</b> , collectively known as the <b>BPaL regimen</b> . U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new drug Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant tuberculosis i.e. multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB).	Before the FDA approved this combination therapy, the most common treatment for this type of tuberculosis required patients to take around 30 pills a day plus sometimes daily injections for at least 18 months. <b>Unlike 18-24 months</b> needed to treat highly-resistant TB using nearly 20 drugs, <b>the BPaL regimen takes just six months with reduced dose of 5 pills/day.</b>

**Q.64) 'Loki's Castle' is a field of active hydrothermal vents in the**

- Atlantic ocean
- Pacific ocean
- Indian ocean
- Southern Ocean

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

- Some scientists suggested a kind of archaea, Asgard archaea, may have been interacted with bacteria, resulting in the first eukaryotes.
- DNA analysis of samples of mud from the deep ocean showed evidence of both archaea and eukaryote-like genomes.
- The samples were given the name **Lokiarchaea**, because they were **uncovered from an area close to Loki's Castle**, a deep-sea hydrothermal vent.
- Now team of researchers in Japan has succeeded in cultivating samples of Lokiarchaeain a special tank in their lab.
- Loki's Castle** is a field of five **active hydrothermal vents in the mid-Atlantic Ocean**, located at 73 degrees north on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between Greenland and Norway at a depth of 2,352 metres.

**Q.65) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Craft</b>	<b>Heritage of</b>
1. Kandangi saree	Kerala
2. Kondapalli Toys	Tamil Nadu
3. Tawlhlohpuan	Mizoram

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

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

**Q.65) Solution (a)**

<b>Pair 1</b>	<b>Pair 2</b>	<b>Pair 3</b>
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>

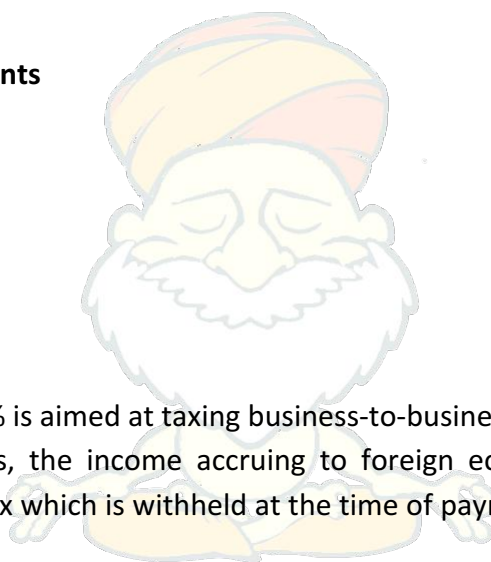
<p><b>Kandangi</b> is a type of saree made from silk threads in <b>Tamil Nadu</b>. Traditionally, Chettinad and Koorainad are two types of Kandangi saree native in Tamil Nadu.</p>	<p><b>Kondapalli Toys</b> are cultural icons of <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>. They are made from soft wood known as TellaPoniki which are found in nearby Kondapalli Hills.</p>	<p><b>Tawlhlohpuan</b> is a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from <b>Mizoram</b> and is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving &amp; intricate designs that are made by hand.</p>
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**Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Equalisation Levy’.**

1. It is aimed at taxing business-to-business transactions in the digital advertising space i.e. the income accruing to foreign ecommerce companies from within India.
2. It is an indirect tax which is withheld at the time of payment by the recipient of the services.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.66) Solution (a)**

The equalisation levy of 6% is aimed at taxing business-to-business transactions in the digital advertising space - that is, the income accruing to foreign ecommerce companies from within India. It's a direct tax which is withheld at the time of payment by the recipient of the services.

The equalisation levy is payable on any specified service received or receivable by a non-resident, though it should not be charged where:

- the non-resident providing the specified service has a permanent establishment in India and the specified service is effectively connected with such permanent establishment
- the annual accrued payments made to one single service provider do not exceed Rs. 100,000 in one financial year
- The service is not for business purposes.

**Q.67) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 originally provided for a maximum of 10 judges including the Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- At present, the Supreme Court is working with its full sanctioned strength of 31, including the CJI.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.67) Solution (d)**

**The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**

- It originally provided for a maximum of ten judges (excluding the CJI).
- This number was increased to 13 by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1960, and to 17 in 1977.
- The working strength of the Supreme Court was, however, restricted to 15 judges by the Cabinet (excluding the CJI) till the end of 1979. But the restriction was withdrawn at the request of the chief justice of India.
- In 1986, the strength of the top court was increased to 25, excluding the CJI. Subsequently, the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2009 further augmented the strength of the court from 25 to 30.
- With the increase in the number of judges (2019) in the apex court to the total sanctioned strength of 34, including the CJI.

**Q.68) European Union's 'AMLD 5' regime deals with**

- Money Laundering
- Illegal Immigrants
- Data Protection Regulation
- Brexit

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

The European Union is putting in a bunch of regulations to tackle money laundering, and it is called the 5th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive (AMLD-5).

**Q.69) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Goldilocks Zone'**

- It is the area around a star where it is not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to exist on the surface of surrounding planets.
- Earth is the only planet in the Sun's Goldilocks Zone.

**Select the correct statements**

- 1 Only

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

**Q.69) Solution (a)****The Goldilocks Zone**

- It refers to the habitable zone around a star where the temperature is just right - not too hot and not too cold - for liquid water to exist on a planet.
- Just because a planet or moon is in the Goldilocks Zone of a star, doesn't mean it's going to have life or even liquid water.
- After all, Earth isn't the only planet in the Sun's Goldilocks Zone - Venus and Mars are also in this habitable zone, but aren't currently habitable.
- Venus is Earth's sister planet, both are about the same size and in the same region of the solar system, and Venus once also had water.
- However, Venus now has a runaway greenhouse effect going on, with a surface temperature of over 460 degrees Celsius, which has boiled away all its liquid water.
- At the other end of the Sun's Goldilocks Zone is Mars which also once had liquid water flowing across its surface in rivers, lakes and oceans.
- However, the Red Planet is now a freeze-dried desert, with a thin carbon dioxide atmosphere, and only one 99th the atmospheric pressure of sea level on Earth.
- The lack of both a significant atmosphere and a global magnetic field - thanks to its mostly solidified core - means the Martian surface is constantly being irradiated by the Sun.

**Q.70) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?****Lake Place**

1. Kajin Sara – Nepal
2. Tilicho Lake – Chile
3. Gogabeel – Assam

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.70) Solution (a)**

Kajin Sara – Nepal

Tilicho Lake – Nepal

Gogabeel – Bihar

**Q.71) Which of the following is the India's first Development Finance Institution?**

- a) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)
- b) Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd (IIBI)
- c) Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)
- d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)

**Q.71) Solution (c)**

- **Development banks** are financial institutions that provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments spread over a long period and yielding low rates of return, such as urban infrastructure, mining and heavy industry, and irrigation systems.
- **Development banks are also known as term-lending institutions or development finance institutions (DFIs).**
- Such banks often lend at low and stable rates of interest to promote long-term investments with considerable social benefits.
- Development banks are different from commercial banks which mobilise short- to medium-term deposits and lend for similar maturities to avoid a maturity mismatch—a potential cause for a bank's liquidity and solvency.
- Development banks formed the central piece of growth strategy in India too. Soon after independence, the institutional framework for development banking began—**IFCI (1948), IDBI (1964), IIBI (1972), NABARD and EXIM Bank (1982), SIDBI (1990), etc.**
- IFCI, previously the **Industrial Finance Corporation of India, was set up in 1948. This was probably India's first development bank for financing industrial investments.**
- In 1955, the World Bank prompted the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) — the parent of the largest private commercial bank in India today, ICICI Bank — as a collaborative effort between the government with majority equity holding and India's leading industrialists with nominal equity ownership to finance modern and relatively large private corporate enterprises.
- After 1991, following the Narasimham Committee reports on financial sector reforms, development finance institutions were disbanded and got converted to commercial banks. ICICI in 2002 and IDBI in 2004 converted into commercial banks.

**Q.72) Consider the following statements about Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019.**

1. With the passage of this order, all the provisions of Indian Constitution are applicable to earlier State of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It repealed Article 370 as well as Article 35A of Indian Constitution.
3. It re-organised Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

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.72) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
President of India in “concurrence” with the “Jammu and Kashmir government” promulgated <b>Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019</b> which states that provisions of the Indian Constitution are applicable in the State.	All the provisions that formed the basis of a separate Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir stand abrogated i.e. <b>Article 370</b> of Indian Constitution. With this, <b>Article 35A is scrapped automatically.</b>	Under <b>Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019</b> Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) was re-organised into two Union Territories - J&K division with a legislative assembly and the UT of Ladakh without having an assembly.

**Q.73) To which of the following, India is a member?**

1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
2. ASEAN Regional Forum
3. East Asia Summit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

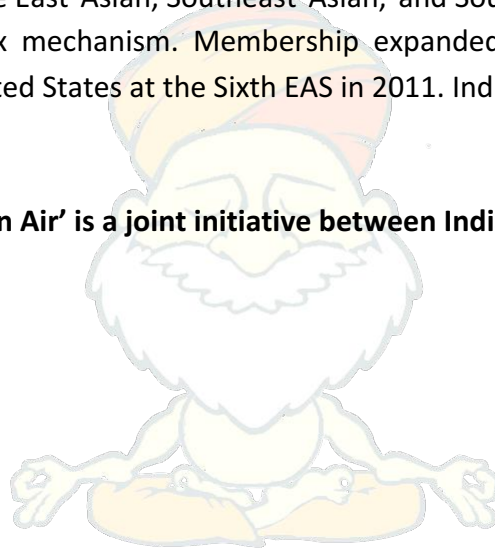
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.73) Solution (c)**

- **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** set up in 1994 is an important platform for security dialogue in the Indo-Pacific.
- ARF consists of 27 member states - 10 ASEAN member states, 10 ASEAN dialogue partners and 7 other members.
- **10 ASEAN members:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **(India is not a member of ASEAN)**
- **10 ASEAN dialogue partners:** Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States
- Other members: Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste; one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea).
- **India is a member of ARF since 1996.**
- The **East Asia Summit (EAS)** is a regional forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, and South Asian regions, based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism. Membership expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011. India is a member of EAS.

**Q.74) 'Innovating for Clean Air' is a joint initiative between India and**

- a) Netherland
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Switzerland
- d) France

**Q.74) Solution (b)**

- **India and United Kingdom** launched two-year joint initiative- **Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA)** in Bengaluru.
- It is aimed at providing unique air quality measurement system by integrating satellite and sensor data and support India's transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- The initiative will identify innovations having potential to improve air quality and contribute to a more detailed localised map of the air quality of Bengaluru.
- It will also facilitate opportunities for Indian and UK innovators to collaborate in developing long-lasting relationships to address these challenges.

**Q.75) With reference to recently launched Commando unit "CORAS", consider the following statements:**



1. It is launched by Ministry of Home Affairs to fight against Left Wing Extremism.
2. It's first deployment will be in naxal-hit Chhattisgarh.

**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.75) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Union Ministry of Railways launched CORAS</b> (Commando for Railway Security) of Indian Railways. It is separate Commando Unit of Railway Protection Force (RPF). It has been carved out from motivated and willing young staff of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF).	These CORAS commandos will be posted in Left Wing Extremism (LWE /Insurgency /Terrorism affected Railway areas where providing security to passengers and railway network is of utmost priority. <b>'CORAS' first deployment will be in naxal-hit Chhattisgarh.</b>

**Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Delimitation Commission of India'**

1. Delimitation commissions have been set up six times in the past.
2. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be called in question before any court.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.76) Solution (b)**

In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.

The Delimitation Commission in India is a highpower body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. These orders come into force on a

date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

**Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)’**

1. It can handle payment and aggregation of payment services relating to bills under the scope of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
2. BBPOU can be a Bank or a Non-Bank entity.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.77) Solution (c)**

Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit aka BBPOU is the entity that is authorized by Reserve Bank of India. It can be a Bank or a Non-Bank. BBPOU may choose to integrate either with the customers, (COU: Customer OU) or with the billers (Biller OU) or may wish to participate as both – which means such BBPOU will be integrated with customers as well as billers. Going forward, only authorised BBPOU - both banks and non-banks authorised by RBI - can handle payment and aggregation of payment services relating to bills under the scope of BBPS.

**Q.78) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Places in News – Country**

1. Idlib – Syria
2. Rojava – Jordan
3. Okjokull – Norway

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.78) Solution (a)**

Idlib – Syria

Rojava – Syria

Okjokull – Iceland

**Q.79) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the U.S. when China manipulates its currency?**

1. U.S. exports to China becomes more expensive
2. China's exports to the U.S. have an unearned competitive advantage
3. U.S. exports to all countries become less competitive

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.79) Solution (d)**

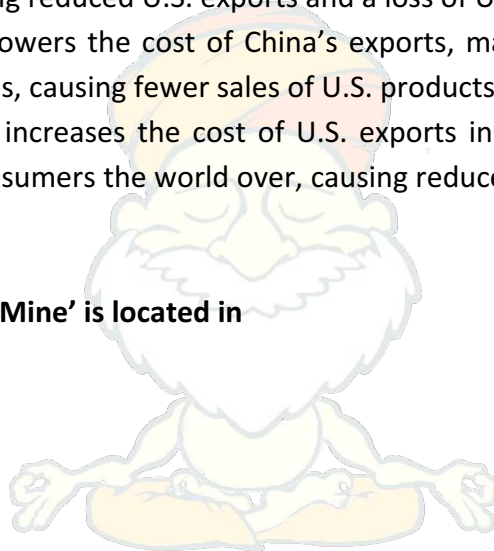
China's weaker currency increases the cost of U.S. exports, making them less attractive to consumers in China, causing reduced U.S. exports and a loss of U.S. jobs.

China's weaker currency lowers the cost of China's exports, making them more attractive than American-made goods, causing fewer sales of U.S. products and a loss of U.S. jobs.

China's weaker currency increases the cost of U.S. exports in all global markets, making them less attractive to consumers the world over, causing reduced U.S. exports and a loss of U.S. jobs.

**Q.80) 'Jaduguda Uranium Mine' is located in**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Odisha



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

Jaduguda Mine has the distinction of being the first Uranium Mine of the country. It is located in Jaduguda village in the Purbi Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

**Q.81) With reference to Mekong - Ganga Cooperation, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an initiative by India and four ASEAN Countries.
2. Initiative aims at achieving cooperation between members in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.

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

- a) 1 only

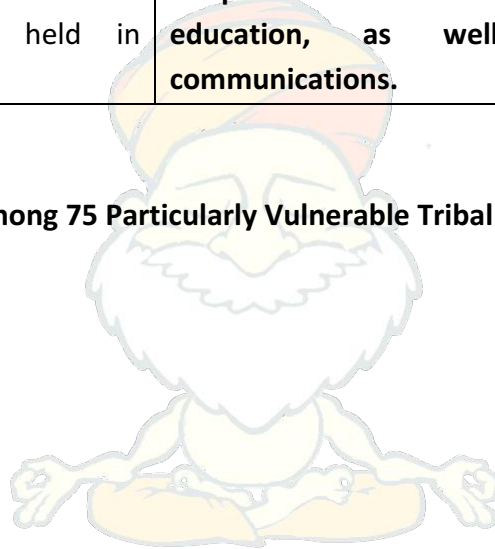
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.81) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Mekong - Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is an <b>initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries</b> , namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Lao PDR. 10th Ministerial Meeting was recently held in Bangkok, Thailand	Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins. The MGC is also indicative of the cultural and commercial linkages among the member countries of the MGC down the centuries. <b>Cooperation areas include tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.</b>

**Q.82) The largest tribe among 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India is**

- a) Saharia
- b) Baiga
- c) Jenu Kuruba
- d) Irular

**Q.82) Solution (a)**

- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- **The Saharia people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the largest among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) with population more than 4 lakhs.**
- Saharias are mainly found in many districts of Madhya Pradesh and Baran district of Rajasthan
- Their habitats are located in the forest area, barren and stony land and they are still a primitive society.

**Q.83) India's first National Time Release Study (TRS) is conducted by**

- Ministry of Science and Technology
- The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Finance

**Q.83) Solution (d)**

- India's first National Time Release Study (TRS) is conducted by the Ministry of Finance as part of its strategic commitment to improve global trade.
- TRS is an internationally recognized tool advocated by World Customs Organization to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
- The aim is to identify and address bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take the corresponding policy and operational measures.
- This initiative will help India maintain the upward trajectory on Ease of Doing Business, particularly on the Trading across borders indicator.
- This exercise will be conducted every year across 15 ports including sea, air, land and dry ports.

**Q.84) Consider the following pairs:**

<i>River</i>	<i>City</i>
1. Tawi	Srinagar
2. Musi	Hyderabad
3. Narmada	Surat

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

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

**Q.84) Solution (b)**

- Some of the rivers flowing through cities include
  - Srinagar – Jhelum
  - Jammu – Tawi**
  - Hyderabad – Musi**

▪ Surat - Tapi

**Q.85) In which of the following state Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

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

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

- **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary** is protected area located in the state of Assam in India on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River in Nagaon district.
- It is situated 40 km downstream of the Kaziranga National Park and 30 km northwest of the Orang National Park on the other side of the river Brahmaputra.
- It is a part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system. The sanctuary is an ideal habitat for Indian rhinoceros and Asiatic water buffaloes.

**Q.86) Often seen in the news 'Special Data Dissemination Standard' was established by**

- a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- b) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- c) United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)
- d) Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

**Q.86) Solution (a)**

- **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) is an International Monetary Fund standard** to guide member countries in the dissemination of national statistics to the public. It was established in April 1996.
- Objective: To guide members to enhance data transparency and help financial market participants with adequate information to assess the economic situations of countries.
- There are over 20 data categories which IMF considers for this report to capture a nation's economic health including national accounts (GDP, GNI), production indices, employment, and central government operations.
- India voluntarily subscribed to the SDDS in December 27, 1996.

**Q.87) With reference to Price Stabilisation Fund, consider the following statements:**

1. It is constituted for the purpose of containing extreme volatility in prices of all essential agriculture commodities.
2. It is maintained as a Central Corpus Fund by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).

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

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Price Stabilisation Fund is constituted for the purpose of containing extreme volatility in prices of selected commodities. Set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. However, Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme was transferred to the Department of Consumer Affairs from April, 2016.	PSF will be maintained as a Central Corpus Fund by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), which will act as Fund manager. SFAC is a society promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture for linking agriculture to private businesses and investments and technology. The fund is utilized for Maintaining Strategic buffer by procuring directly from farmers or by import of goods and for granting interest free advance of working capital to Central/State agencies to undertake market intervention operations.

**Q.88) Consider the following statements about National Essential Diagnostic List (NEDL):**

1. India has become the first country in the world to compile such list.
2. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has finalized the NEDL.
3. NEDL has been developed for all levels of health care.

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.88) Solution (c)**

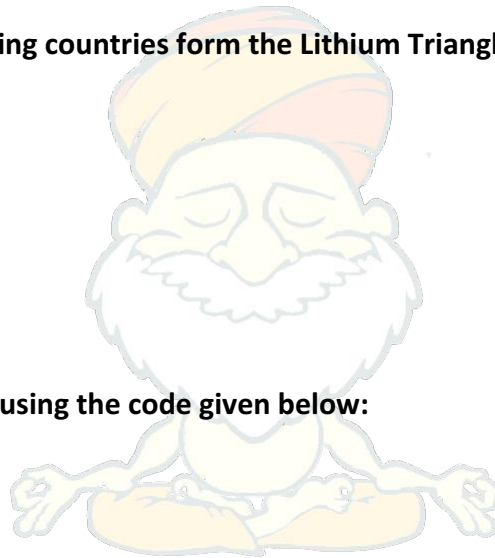
Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
India has become the first country in the world to compile such a list that would provide guidance to the government for deciding the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has finalised the first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL).	NEDL has been developed for all levels of health care – village level, primary, secondary & tertiary care.

**Q.89) Which of the following countries form the Lithium Triangle?**

1. Chile
2. Bolivia
3. Brazil
4. Argentina
5. Peru

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



**Q.89) Solution (b)**

- The **Lithium Triangle** is a region of the Andes rich in lithium reserves around the borders of **Argentina, Bolivia and Chile**.
- The lithium in the triangle is concentrated in various salt pans that exist along the Atacama Desert and neighboring arid areas.
- The area is thought to hold around 54% of the world's lithium reserves.
- India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bolivia, which provides it with access to the lithium reserves of the country. Bolivia, estimated to hold over 60 percent of the world's reserves of lithium.



**Q.90) The term ‘Menhir’, sometimes seen in news in the context of**

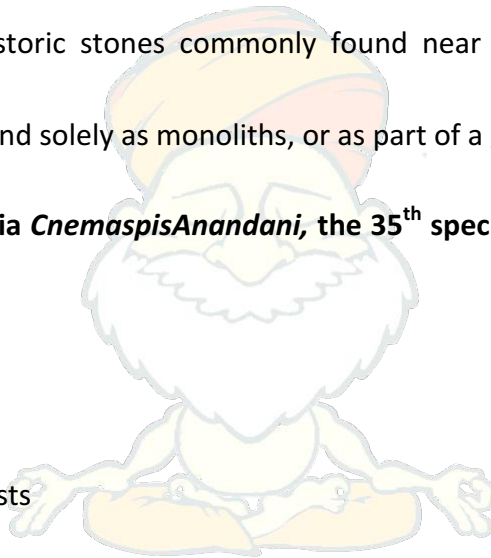
- An pathogen found in international space station
- Largest global human chain formed to raise awareness on air pollution
- A tall upright stone of a kind erected in prehistoric times
- A new drug discovered for cancer treatment

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

- The sighting of new menhirs, perhaps the largest-ever recorded in Kerala, on the Pothamala hills in the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border, has thrown light on the possible existence of a major prehistoric necropolis (designed cemetery) there.
- Menhir is a tall upright stone of a kind erected in prehistoric times** in western Europe.
- Menhirs are prehistoric stones commonly found near the ancient burial sites or chambers.
- Menhirs can be found solely as monoliths, or as part of a group of similar stones.

**Q.91) In which part of India *CnemaspisAnandani*, the 35<sup>th</sup> species of day gecko was found recently?**

- Western Ghats
- Eastern Himalaya
- Andaman Islands
- Central Indian Forests



**Q.91) Solution (a)**

- CnemaspisAnandani (Anandan’s day gecko)** is the 35th species of day gecko found in Western Ghats, in Nilgiris forests of Tamil Nadu.
- It’s a species of diurnal, rock-dwelling, insectivorous gecko and is only around 42 mm in size.
- It is Endemic to India and is named after Anandan Sethuraman, a conservationist.
- Faces the threat of extinction - natural predators such as calotes (lizards), birds and anthropogenic factors.

**Q.92) Bonavista bay opens directly onto**

- Central Indian Ocean

- b) North Pacific Ocean
- c) South Pacific Ocean
- d) North Atlantic Ocean

**Q.92) Solution (d)**

- **Bonavista Bay/Peninsula** located on the **northeast coast of the island of Newfoundland** in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada.
- It **opens directly onto the Atlantic Ocean**.
- The bay is demarcated by Cape Freels to the north and Cape Bonavista (eastern limit of the Bonavista Peninsula) to the south.



**Q.93) With reference to International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), consider the following statements:**

1. It will focus on developing resilience in infrastructure by sharing knowledge and conducting country-specific and global activities.
2. It was officially launched at United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
3. It is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 of India.

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

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

## Q.93) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international coalition of countries, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure. It is established as a platform for generating and exchanging knowledge, <b>CDRI will conduct country-specific and global activities.</b>	It was <b>launched</b> by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the <b>2019 UN Climate Action Summit</b> in September 2019. India launched the establishment of a CDRI along with its supporting Secretariat Office in New Delhi.	<b>CDRI registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.</b> National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to finalise charter document in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs.

## Q.94) Consider the following statements about NISHTHA Scheme:

1. It is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world.
2. Participants include all the teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all schools.

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.94) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Union HRD Minister launched the <b>National Mission to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level (NISHTHA)</b> , National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement. <b>NISHTHA is</b>	This integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants <b>covering all teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all Government schools</b> , faculty members of State Councils

<p><b>the largest teachers’ training programme of its kind in the world.</b> It aims to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through teachers training.</p>	<p>of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as Block Resource Coordinators and Cluster Resource Coordinators in all States and UTs.</p>
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**Q.95) Tardigrade, also known as water bear have scattered on Lunar surface following the crash landing of**

- Chang'e 4 Robotic lander
- Vikram Moon lander
- Beresheet probe
- Manfred Memorial Moon Mission (4M mission)

**Q.95) Solution (c)**

- Beresheet probe is a first private mission to the Moon by Israeli non-profit Spacell organisation. It was launched by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket but crashed on the lunar surface while landing.
- Beresheet carried thousands of specimens of a living organism called tardigrade.
- Beresheet’s crash landing may have scattered the tardigrades onto the lunar surface.
- Tardigrade, also known as water bear, are a phylum of water-dwelling eight-legged segmented micro-animals.
- Half a millimetre long Tardigrade, is essentially a water-dweller but also inhabits land. The organism is known to “come back to life” on rehydration.
- It can withstand gamma radiation, lack of oxygen, blast of solar winds and go without food and water for over ten years.

**Q.96) Sometimes seen in news, Astana Consensus is related to bilateral relations between**

- China and Kazakhstan
- India and China
- Iran and India
- Russia and Kazakhstan

**Q.96) Solution (b)**

- The **Astana consensus** states that “differences between **India and China** should be addressed in a manner that they don’t become disputes”.

- In June 2017, on the side-lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, India and China interacted in Astana.
- The two countries agreed upon the fact that their differences should not be allowed to become disputes, and if these disputes were handled carefully, they may even turn into opportunities.
- The Consensus also viewed that India-China relations were significant not only bilaterally but for the region and the whole world and were a factor of stability.
- Astana is the capital city of Kazakhstan which was renamed as Nur-Sultan.

**Q.97) Consider the following statements with respect to South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA):**

1. It is a region above the South Atlantic Ocean where there are a large number of charged particles.
2. All space telescopes are shut down when they pass through the SAA.

**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.97) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<b>South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)</b> is a region above the South Atlantic Ocean where there are a large number of charged particles that can damage sensitive instruments. It is a portion of Van Allen Radiation Belt.	<b>All space telescopes are shut down when they pass through the SAA as it damages sensitive instruments.</b> India's Astrosat telescope could not detect gravitational wave emanating from a possible collision with a neutron star, as it was above SAA.

**Q.98) Which of the following has issued the final framework for regulatory sandbox?**

- a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- c) Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)
- d) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)

**Q.98) Solution (b)**

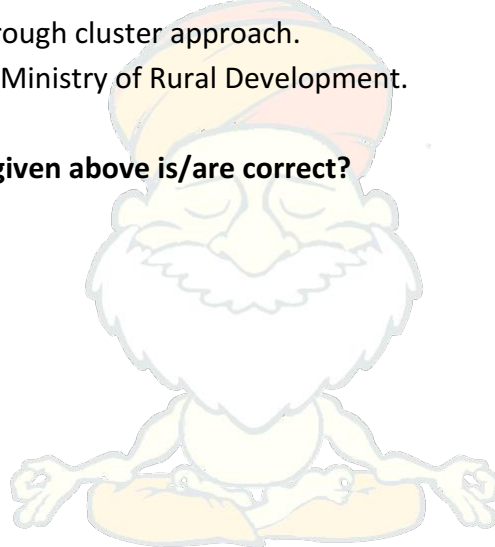
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued the final framework for **regulatory sandbox** in order to enable innovations in the financial technology space.
- Regulatory Sandbox usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment. The objective of the regulatory sandbox is to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency, and bring benefit to consumers.

**Q.99) With reference to the Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme, consider the following statements:**

1. Programme aims at creation of sustainable livelihoods amongst Self Help Group (SHG) members through cluster approach.
2. It was launched by Ministry of Rural Development.

**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.99) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>Programme aims at creation of sustainable livelihoods amongst Self Help Group members through cluster approach.</b> The scheme provides for intensive training for skill building, refresher training, backward-forward linkages and handholding & escort supports.	<b>The Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme launched by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 2015.</b> It also encompasses the complete value chain and offers end-to-end solution to the SHG members.

**Q.100) Falaq, recently in news is a radar system of**

- a) Russia

- b) USA
- c) Iran
- d) Turkey

**Q.100) Solution (c)**

- **Falaq system** is Iran's radar air defence missile system and is upgraded version of the Gamma system (Russian origin).
- It can identify all types of cruise missiles, stealth planes, drone systems and ballistic missiles for a range of 400 kms. It is expected to complement the existing air defence systems, such as the S-300.

**Q.101) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Barak River'.**

1. It flows only through India, whereas the river basin extends to Bangladesh.
2. The river has its source in the state of Mizoram.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Barak River is a 900-kilometre-long river flowing through the states of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam in India and into the Bay of Bengal via Bangladesh. From its source at Liyai Kullen Village in Manipur state of India wherein the majority of the local population belongs to the Poumai Naga tribe, the river is known as Vourei.

**Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Public Works Department (CPWD)'**

1. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It came into existence in 1805 when Lord Bentick established a central agency for execution of public works and set up Ajmer Provincial Division.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.102) Solution (d)**

The Central Public Works Department, under the Ministry of Urban Development now MoHUA (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs), deals with buildings, roads, bridges, flyovers, complicated structures like stadiums, auditoriums, laboratories, bunkers, border fencing, border roads (hill roads), etc.

CPWD came into existence in July 1854 when Lord Dalhousie established a central agency for execution of public works and set up Ajmer Provincial Division.

**Q.103) ‘World Population Prospects 2019’ was released by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Health Organisation
- c) International Labour Organisation
- d) None of the above

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

World Population Prospects 2019 was released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

**Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Eastern Economic Forum’.**

1. It is organized by the World Economic Forum to focus especially on the Eastern Asian Countries.
2. It is held annually in Kyoto, Japan.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.104) Solution (d)**

It is an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.

**Q.105) \_\_\_\_\_ is the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID).**

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



**Q.105) Solution (a)****Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)**

- India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers.
- The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based bio-metric data, with modern security features.
- It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy.
- The new card is in confirmation of the Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organisation on BSID. India ratified the Convention in October 2015.
- In India the BSID project has been taken up in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Mumbai. The Government notified the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers Bio-metric Identification Document) Rules in 2016. The issuance of SID involves the collection of biometric and demographic details of the seafarers, their verification and then issuance of the card to them.
- Every Indian seafarer who possesses a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate issued by the Govt. of India will be eligible for issue of a BSID.

**Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'New York Declaration on Forests'.**

1. It is a voluntary and non-binding international declaration to take action to halt global deforestation.
2. It was first endorsed during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 in Paris.

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The New York Declaration on Forests is a voluntary and non-legally binding political declaration which grew out of dialogue among governments, companies and civil society, spurred by the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit held in New York in 2014.

The Declaration pledges to halve the rate of deforestation by 2020, to end it by 2030, and to restore hundreds of millions of acres of degraded land. The proposed land restoration is described as covering "an area larger than India".

**Q.107) 'Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)' was chaired by**

- a) Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
- b) Madhav Gadgil
- c) Oommen V Oommen
- d) Bibek Debroy

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

The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), also known as the Gadgil Commission after its chairman Madhav Gadgil, was an environmental research commission appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

The Expert Panel approached the project through a set of tasks such as:

- Compilation of readily available information about Western Ghats
- Development of Geo-spatial database based on environmental sensitivity, and
- Consultation with Government bodies and Civil society groups.

**Q.108) Consider the following statements with respect to 'the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)'.**

1. Its head office is in Basel, Switzerland and it has two representative offices in Hong Kong SAR and in Mexico City.
2. It was established in 1930 by an intergovernmental agreement between the members of the Group of Seven (G7).

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.108) Solution (a)**

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an international financial institution owned by central banks which "fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks". The BIS carries out its work through its meetings, programmes and through the Basel Process – hosting international groups pursuing global financial stability and facilitating their interaction. It also provides banking services, but only to central banks and other international organizations. It is based in Basel, Switzerland, with representative offices in Hong Kong and Mexico City.

The BIS was established in 1930 by an intergovernmental agreement between Germany, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, the United States, and Switzerland.

**Q.109) Which of the following statements with respect to ‘Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS)’ mission is/are correct?**

- a) It was launched by ISRO and Roscosmos.
- b) It was launched to study Earth’s magnetosphere.
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.109) Solution (b)**

**Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission**

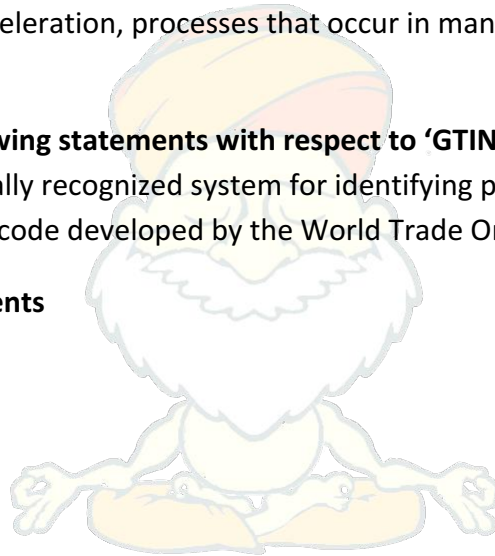
- It is NASA’s robotic space mission launched to study Earth’s magnetosphere.
- It consists of constellation of four identical spacecraft that orbit/fly in tetrahedral formation around Earth through dynamic magnetic system surrounding our planet to study Magnetic reconnection.
- It is also designed to gather information about microphysics of energetic particle turbulence and acceleration, processes that occur in many astrophysical plasmas.

**Q.110) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘GTIN’**

1. It is an internationally recognized system for identifying products.
2. It is a 14-digit long code developed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.110) Solution (a)**

GTIN, or a Global Trade Item Number, is an internationally recognized system for identifying products. It brought together several systems to ensure they all adhere to a common structure.

Helping both in-store barcode readers and online product databases. The non-profit organization GS1 developed the system.

GTINs can be 8, 12, 13, or 14 digits long. They are a numerical representation of the product's barcode. Different types of GTIN exist depending on where in the world the product comes from and the type of product.

**Q.111) ‘West Bank’ is bordered by**

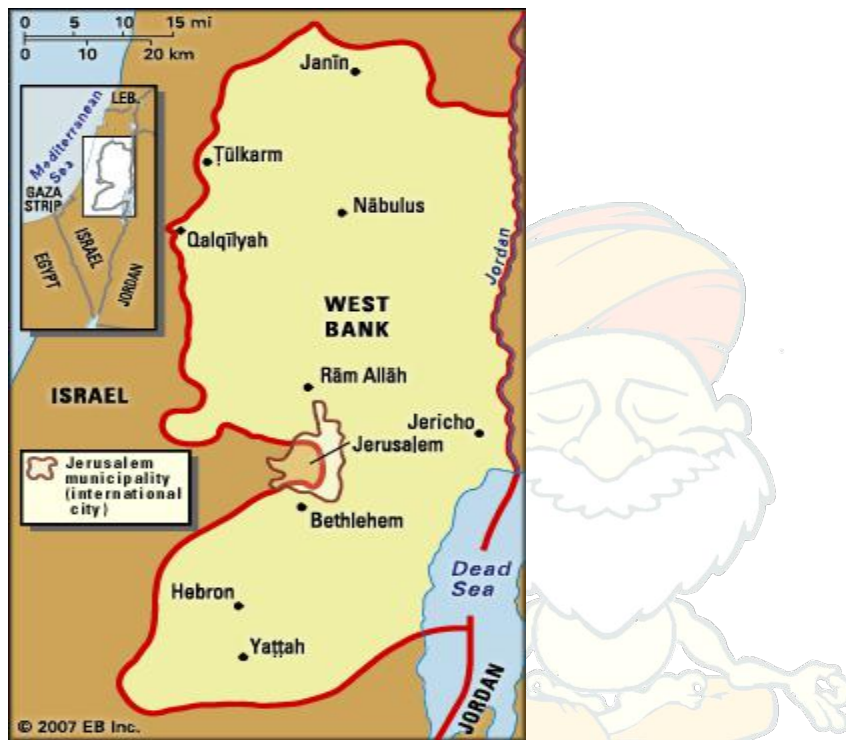
1. Israel
2. Jordan
3. Palestine

Select the correct code:

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

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

West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north.



**Q.112) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Yemen'?**

- 1. It is bordered by two countries only.
- 2. It opens to the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.112) Solution (a)**

Yemen is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north, the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden and Guardafui Channel to the south, and Oman and the Arabian Sea to the east.



Q.113) 'Kvanefjeld project' is located in

- Russia
- Greenland
- Great Britain
- Canada

Q.113) Solution (b)

Greenland currently only has one major mining project, the Kvanefjeld rare earth project launched in 2007. The Kvanefjeld project is thought to be one of the world's biggest undeveloped resources of rare earth elements.

Q.114) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

**Harvest Festival      State**

- Nuakhai – Odisha
- Hareli – Maharashtra
- Tokhu Emong – Manipur

Select the correct code:

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

Q.114) Solution (a)

Nuakhai – Odisha

Hareli – Chhattisgarh

Tokhu Emong – Nagaland

**Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Amazon Fund’.**

1. It aims to raise donations for non-reimbursable investments in efforts to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, as well as to promote the preservation and sustainable use of forests in the Amazon Biome.
2. The fund is a REDD+ mechanism managed by the UN Environment.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.115) Solution (a)**

The Amazon Fund aims to raise donations for non-reimbursable investments in efforts to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, as well as to promote the preservation and sustainable use of forests in the Amazon Biome.

The Amazon Fund is a REDD+ mechanism managed by the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES).

**Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)’**

1. It bans nuclear explosions for military purposes, in all environments but permits for civilian purpose.
2. India is a signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but has not entered into force, as eight specific nations have not ratified the treaty.

India is a non-signatory.

**Q.117) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Shani Shingnapur – Maharashtra
2. Kapil Muni Temple – Odisha
3. Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple – Tamil Nadu

**Select the correct code:**

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

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

Shani Shingnapur – Maharashtra

Kapil Muni Temple – West Bengal

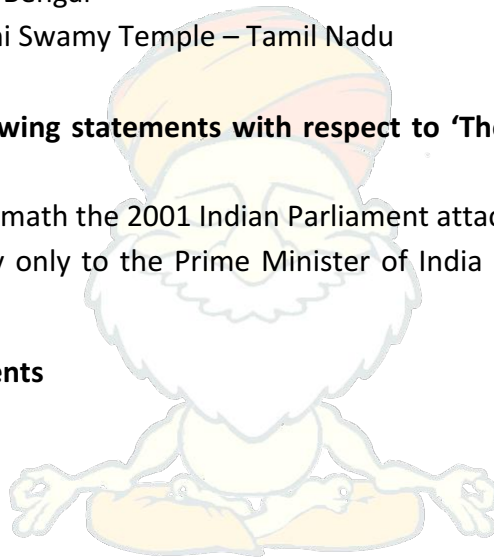
Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple – Tamil Nadu

**Q.118) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘The Special Protection Group (SPG)’.**

1. It was formed aftermath the 2001 Indian Parliament attack.
2. It provides security only to the Prime Minister of India and their immediate family members.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.118) Solution (b)**

The Indian Special Protection Group (SPG) is a special force for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India and members of their immediate families wherever in the world they are. It was formed in 1988 by an act of the Parliament of India.

**Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019 Changes**

- The amendments makes two key changes: SPG will provide security only to Prime Minister of the day and immediate family members residing with him or her.
- The other key change is that former Prime Ministers will be guarded by SPG commandos only for a period of 5 years after demitting office.
- Earlier, it used to provide security to former prime ministers as well but now Z+ security cover has been given to them.

**Q.119) 'Biarritz Declaration' is associated with**

- a) Group of Seven (G7)
- b) MERCOSUR
- c) ASEAN
- d) India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

**Q.119) Solution (a)**

Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership.

The 45th G7 summit was held on 24–26 August 2019, in Biarritz, France.

**Q.120) 'Lima Declaration' is associated with**

- a) International Solar Alliance
- b) Non-Proliferation Treaty
- c) United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**Q.120) Solution (c)**

The General Conference of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) adopted a new Lima Declaration that charted the Organization's development priorities for the coming years, placing special emphasis on inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

**Q.121) World Digital Competitiveness Ranking is given by**

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- c) International Institute for Management Development (IMD)
- d) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

**Q.121) Solution (c)**

- **The World Digital Competitiveness Ranking** produced by the **International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center** measures the capacity and readiness of 63 economies to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society.
- India rose from 48th place in 2018 to 44th rank in 2019 as the country has improved overall in all factors - knowledge, technology and future readiness as compared to the previous year's ranking.



- The US was ranked as the world's most digitally competitive economy, followed by Singapore in the second place. Sweden was ranked third on the list, followed by Denmark and Switzerland in the 4th and 5th place, respectively.

**Q.122) With reference to Niligiri Ibex, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is endemic to southern Western Ghats, found only in the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
2. It is listed as endangered species under IUCN Red list.
3. Mukurthi National Park has the highest Niligiri Ibex population in wild among other national Parks.

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

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
NilgiriTahr / Nilgiri Ibex is <b>endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western Ghats.</b> Found only in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.	Listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as <b>Endangered on IUCN Red List.</b> It is state animal of Tamil Nadu.	An estimated 700-800 Nilgiri Tahr inhabit <b>Eravikulam National Park (Kerala)</b> , making it the largest wild population in the world.

**Q.123) The 'Water Revolution' frequently seen in news is related with**

- a) Pro democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong.
- b) Civil protests are taking place throughout Chile in response to increased cost of living.
- c) Pro-independence demonstrators in the Catalonia region of Spain.
- d) A campaign in the Australia to arrest increasing situation of water stress.

**Q.123) Solution (a)**

- The **pro-democracy demonstrations** that have roiled **Hong Kong in 2019** is came to be known as the **“water revolution”**
- Demonstrators have adhered to a **“be water” strategy** - to be formless, shapeless like water which can flow or it can crash.
- The protests have at times been placid and calm, with millions of citizens flowing peacefully through the streets and then melting away. At other times, they have been whipped into a frenzy as clashes break out between riot police
- **“Umbrella revolution” of 2014** - when idealistic youth occupied parts of central Hong Kong for 79 days calling for universal suffrage in the territory.

**Q.124) Shailesh Nayak Committee gave recommendations for the regulation of**

- a) Crypto currencies in India
- b) The functioning of media
- c) Coastal Regulation Zones
- d) Combination drug or a fixed-dose combination (FDC)

**Q.124) Solution (c)**

- **Coastal regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification of 2018** was based on the recommendations of **Shailesh Nayak committee**.
- The committee has made some recommendations that could dilute several aspects of protection to CRZ areas. For instance, It divides CRZ III (relatively undisturbed areas including rural areas) areas into densely populated rural areas and rural areas with lesser regulation through the reduction of the “no development zone” to 50 metres.

**Q.125) With reference to National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The scheme aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.
2. It is a Public Private Partnership scheme.
3. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the implementing agency for the NEAT programme.

**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.125) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
MHRD has announced a new National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) to use technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education. The <b>scheme aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning</b> more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.	NEAT is a <b>Public Private Partnership scheme</b> . It proposes to create a National Alliance with EdTech Companies working in development of technologies in Adaptive Learning through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.	All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the <b>implementing agency</b> for the NEAT programme.

**Q.126) 'Weddell Gyre' was in news recently. Where is it located?**

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

**Q.126) Solution (b)**

The Weddell Gyre is one of the two gyres that exist within the Southern Ocean. The gyre is formed by interactions between the Antarctic Circumpolar Current and the Antarctic Continental Shelf. The gyre is located in the Weddell Sea, and rotates clockwise. South of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) and spreading northeast from the Antarctic Peninsula, the gyre is an extended large cyclone.

Note – Do revise the concept of gyres.

**THINK!**

- Andrex Project

**Q.127) The 'Global Liveability Index' is released by the**

- a) Economist Intelligence Unit
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Heritage Foundation
- d) INSEAD

**Q.127) Solution (a)**

In India, New Delhi and Mumbai rank 118th and 119th out of 140 cities according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2019.

**Q.128) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Adverse List'.**

1. They are category of voters in Assam who are disenfranchised by the government on the account of their alleged lack of proper citizenship credentials.
2. They are determined by special tribunals under the Foreigners Act.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.128) Solution (d)****Adverse List**

**News:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs has removed the names of 312 Sikhs of Indian origin from an "adverse list", and only two individuals remained on the list.

**About**

- During the separatist movement in the 1980s, some Sikhs left India to avoid being arrested and became foreign nationals. They were placed in the blacklist till 2016, making them ineligible to avail visa services to visit or return to India.
- The Central Adverse List was prepared by the intelligence agencies and was available with various Indian missions abroad.
- Apart from making those on the list ineligible for visas, it also hampered the chances of their family members.
- All categories of asylees who become eligible for issuance of long term Indian visa will also be eligible to apply for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder after they have applied for and held normal visas for a period of two years.

**Q.129) Which of the following countries are not full members of the 'CARICOM Community'.**

1. Jamaica
2. Colombia
3. Mexico
4. Venezuela

**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.129) Solution (b)**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM or CC) is an organisation of fifteen Caribbean nations and dependencies having primary objectives to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members, to ensure that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy.

Full Members - Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Associate Members – Bermuda, British Virgin Island, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands

Observers – Aruba, Colombia, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Venezuela

**Q.130) 'Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala' Judgement is concerned with**

- a) Right to Marry
- b) Right to Internet
- c) Right to Property
- d) Right to Vote

**Q.130) Solution (b)**

Kerala High Court in its judgment titled Faheema Shirin RK Vs State of Kerala and others has taken a giant step forward by declaring clearly, categorically and convincingly that right to access internet is a fundamental right forming part of right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

**Q.131) Sometimes seen in news, the 'Yogyakarta Principles' is related with**

- a) Responsible consumption and production
- b) Human Rights in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity
- c) Water sharing across international borders
- d) Set of rules followed by the Jain monks

**Q.131) Solution (b)**

- **Yogyakarta Principles recognize freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity as part of Human Rights.**
- They were outlined in 2006 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia by a distinguished group of International Human Right experts.
- Supreme Court in Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India Case decriminalised homosexuality by striking off parts of Section 377 of IPC which were held violative of Fundamental Rights of LGBTQ Community.
- Supreme Court stated Yogyakarta Principles in its judgement.

**Q.132) Consider the following statements about NIRVIK scheme:**

1. It aims to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process for exporters and importers.
2. Insurance cover guaranteed will now cover up to 90% of the principal and interest from earlier 60%.
3. Insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit.

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

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

**Q.132) Solution (a)**

- The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) is a fully government-owned company that was established in 1957 to promote exports by providing credit insurance services.
- The Government of India had initially set up Export Risks Insurance Corporation in 1957.
- After the introduction of insurance covers to banks during the period 1962-64, the name was changed to Export Credit & Guarantee Corporation Ltd in 1964.
- Its objective was to promote exports from the country by providing credit risk insurance and related services for exports.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)	It is an insurance cover guarantee that will	The insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment

has introduced the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process for Exporters.	<b>cover up to 90% of the principal and interest.</b> The ECGC earlier provides credit guarantee of up to 60% loss.	<b>credit.</b> The insurance cover is expected to bring down the cost of credit due to capital relief, less provision requirement and liquidity due to quick settlement of claims.
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**Q.133) The term ‘Sycamore’ seen in news in the context of**

- Techniques of removing space debris
- Quantum Supremacy
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Controlled Human Infection Model

**Q.133) Solution (b)**

- **Google’s quantum computer**, named **Sycamore**, claimed ‘supremacy’ because it reportedly did the task in 200 seconds that would have apparently taken a supercomputer 10,000 years to complete.
- Quantum supremacy refers to a problem-solving process by the quantum computer that cannot be solved by a classical computer in its normal lifetime.

**Q.134) With reference to Project Sentinel, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an American plan to protect its nationals visiting to Island regions of Indian Ocean.
2. It was launched following the killing of an American national in the North Sentinel Island of Andaman and Nicobar islands.

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

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

**Q.134) Solution (d)**

- **'Project Sentinel'** is an American plan to protect ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Though Europe needs to keep the Persian Gulf open to guarantee the flow of oil and ensure its economic security, France and Germany have refused to join Project Sentinel of USA.

**Q.135) Pulikali is a folk art of which of the following state?**

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

**Q.135) Solution (c)**

- **Pulikali (Tiger Dance)** is one among the **folk art forms of Kerala**. The term Pulikkali literally means 'play of the tigers'.
- The art is performed on the fourth day of Onam. Performers are painted like tigers.
- The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.

**Q.136) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Peace Forest Initiative'.**

1. It was launched at the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
2. It was brainchild of India.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.136) Solution (a)**

South Korea launched the Peace Forest Initiative, at the ongoing 14th session of Conference of Parties (**COP14**) to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in India.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/korea-for-using-forestry-to-grow-peace-on-borders/article29384871.ece>



**Q.137) 'Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience' Report is brought out by**

- a) Global Commission on Adaptation
- b) UN Environment
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) None of the above

**Q.137) Solution (a)**

The report is jointly by the **Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA)** and the **World Resources Institute (WRI)**.

**Q.138) 'Goldschmidtite', a new mineral was discovered from**

- a) South Africa
- b) Australia
- c) Russia
- d) Canada

**Q.138) Solution (a)**

A new, curious mineral has been discovered inside a diamond unearthed from a mine in South Africa. The mineral has been named goldschmidtite, after Victor Moritz Goldschmidt, the Norwegian scientist acknowledged as the founder of modern geochemistry.

Goldschmidtite has an unusual chemical signature for a mineral from Earth's mantle. While the mantle is dominated by elements such as magnesium and iron, goldschmidtite has high concentrations of niobium, potassium and the rare earth elements lanthanum and cerium.

**Q.139) Consider the following statements with respect to 'AIDA mission'.**

1. It is a joint by project by NASA and ISRO.
2. It aims at studying the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.139) Solution (b)**

It is a joint by project by **NASA and ESA**.

It is a joint research mission to study the viability of diverting an asteroid by crashing a spacecraft into its surface. The project aims to deflect the orbit of one of the two Didymos

asteroids between Earth and Mars, with an observer craft gauging the effect of the impact more effectively than ground-based observers could manage.

NASA will provide the collider, the **Double Asteroid Impact Test (DART)**. It should launch in summer 2021 and will smack into the smaller of the two Didymos asteroids at about 14,764MPH. An Italian cubesat, LICIACube, will study the moment of impact. After that, the ESA will launch a **Hera probe** in October 2024 to study the target asteroid, including the impact crater, mass and a radar probe (the first ever for an asteroid).

**Q.140) The ‘1995 Basel Ban Amendment’ was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) Banking Sector
- b) Ship Recycling
- c) Waste Dumping
- d) Whaling

**Q.140) Solution (c)**

The 1995 Basel Ban Amendment, a global waste dumping prohibition, has become an international law after Croatia ratified it. Croatia became the 97th country to ratify the ban, which was adopted by the parties to the **Basel Convention** in 1995, to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

The Ban Amendment prohibits all export of hazardous wastes, including electronic wastes and obsolete ships from 29 wealthiest countries of the **Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** to non-OECD countries.

**Q.141) India is planning to replicate the Girinka programme of which of the following African countries?**

- a) Nigeria
- b) Gambia
- c) Rwanda
- d) Tanzania

**Q.141) Solution (c)**

- India is planning to replicate the **Girinka programme of Rwanda**.
- It is a unique programme in Rwanda, where the government gives cows to villages with the condition that the first female calf born to the cow will be taken back and given to those who do not have a cow.
- It is Rwanda’s home-grown solutions designed to combat socio-economic challenges.

**Q.142) Hope Island seen in news is a part of which of the following sanctuaries?**

- Pulicat Wildlife Sanctuary
- Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary
- Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary
- Malvan Wildlife Sanctuary

**Q.142) Solution (b)**

- Hope Island**, a part of the **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary** located in coastal Andhra Pradesh.
- Recently a Mangrove Genetic Resources Conservation Centre has been developed in the core area of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary in the Godavari estuary.

**Q.143) Consider the following pairs:**

<i>Military Exercises</i>	<i>Countries involved</i>
1. TSENTR	China
2. MAITREE	Bangladesh
3. KAZIND	Kazakhstan
4. MALABAR	Japan

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

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

**Q.143) Solution (d)**

- MAITREE-2019** will be the third consecutive army engagement between India and **Thailand's** forces.
- The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise **MALABAR**, is scheduled between the navies of **India, Japan and USA** from 26 September to 04 October 2019 off the coast of Japan.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of annual military exercise **KAZIND 2019** between India and **Kazakhstan** army held at Pithoragarh.

- Exercise **TSENTR (CENTRE) 2019** will be conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia. Apart from host Russia, military contingents from **China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan** will also take part in this mega event.

**Q.144) With reference to 'Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)', consider the following statements:**

1. A-WEB is largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.
2. It undertakes election Observation Programmes in various countries.
3. Permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located at Seoul.

**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.144) Solution (d)**

- A-WEB's vision is to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru on 3rd September 2019.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>A-WEB is largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.</b> At present A-WEB have 115 EMBs as Members and 20 Regional Associations /Organisations as Associate Members.	<b>A-WEB undertakes election ICT Programmes, Election Visitor and Observation Programmes in various countries</b> to study various election management practices and share knowledge with other Member of EMBs.	A-WEB was established on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea. <b>Permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located at Seoul.</b>

**Q.145) Consider the following statements about 'International Migrant Stock 2019' report:**

1. It is released by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

2. As per the report India is the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 followed by Mexico.

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

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

**Q.145) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
International Migrant Stock 2019 is a dataset released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). It provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world. "Global Migration Report 2020" has been released by International Organisation for Migration's (IOM).	<b>India is the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with a 17.5 million strong diaspora, followed by Mexico (11.8 million), China (10.7 million), Russia (10.5 million) and Syria (8.2 million). USA hosts largest number international migrants (51 million) followed by Germany and Saudi Arabia hosting 13 million each.</b>

**Q.146) 'Gandan Tegchenling Monastery' was in news recently. Where is it located?**

- a) India
- b) Bhutan
- c) Tibet
- d) Mongolia

**Q.146) Solution (d)**

Gandan Tegchenling Monastery is a prominent centre of Mongolian Buddhists and a treasure house of valuable Buddhist heritage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga today jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha at Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar.

**Q.147) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)'**

1. The PDNA tool is developed by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
2. It is supported by the World Bank, and the European Union.

**Select the correct statements**

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

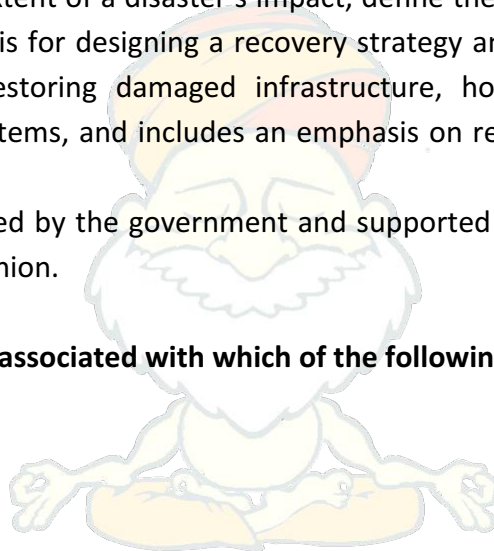
**Q.147) Solution (b)**

The PDNA tool was developed by the UN Development Group, the World Bank and the European Union as one of the key commitments of their 2008 agreement to develop and use common assessment and recovery planning approaches in post-crisis settings. The main goal is to assess the full extent of a disaster's impact, define the needs for recovery, and, in so doing, serve as the basis for designing a recovery strategy and guide donors' funding. A PDNA looks ahead to restoring damaged infrastructure, houses, livelihoods, services, governance and social systems, and includes an emphasis on reducing future disaster risks and building resilience.

The PDNA is an exercise led by the government and supported by UN agencies, the World Bank, and the European Union.

**Q.148) 'Shondol dance' is associated with which of the following regions?**

- a) Terai
- b) Ladakh
- c) Chhota Nagpur
- d) Khandesh



**Q.148) Solution (b)**

Shondol is famous dance, which used to be performed by artists for King of Ladakh on special occasion. It is known as the 'royal dance of Ladakh'.

**Q.149) 'Hangul', can be spotted in which of the following National Parks?**

- a) Namdapha National Park
- b) Dachigam National Park
- c) Galathea National Park
- d) Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

**Q.149) Solution (b)**

The Kashmir stag, also called hangul, is a subspecies of elk native to India. It is found in dense riverine forests in the high valleys and mountains of the Kashmir Valley and northern Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh

In Kashmir, it's found in the Dachigam National Park (and its nearby areas at elevations of 3,035 meters), Rajparian Wildlife Sanctuary, Overa Aru, Sind Valley, and in the forests of Kishtwar & Bhaderwah.

**Q.150) 'Thalweg Principle' was in news recently. What is it associated with?**

- a) Border demarcation between nation states
- b) Extradition Treaties
- c) Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- d) Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes

**Q.150) Solution (a)**

The Thalweg Doctrine defines the border between two states separated by a watercourse or flowing body of water as lying along the thalweg, which is the line of greatest depth of the channel or watercourse.

**THINK!**

- Sir Creek Issue
- Migingo Island Issue – Kenya and Uganda

**Q.151) National Animal Disease Control Programme aims to control and eradicate which of the following diseases amongst livestock?**

1. Anthrax
2. Foot and Mouth Disease
3. Brucellosis
4. Rinder Pest

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

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

**Q.151) Solution (b)**

- The **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)**, aims to control and eradicate the **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock**.
- Objectives of NADCP:
  - To vaccinate more than 500 Million Livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against FMD.
  - To vaccinate 36 Million Female Bovine Calves annually in its fight against Brucellosis disease.
  - To control the livestock diseases by 2025, and eradicate them by 2030.
- The project will be fully funded by the Central Government.
- The PM also launched the National Artificial Insemination Programme and a country-wide workshop in all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) throughout the 687 districts on 'vaccination and disease management, Artificial Insemination and Productivity'.

**Q.152) Which of the following Ministries provide grants under the 'PACEsetter Fund' Programme?**

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) Ministry of Commerce
- c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Q.152) Solution (c)**

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** awards grants to four projects in second round of **PACEsetter Fund programme**.
- The PACEsetter fund was constituted by India and the USA in 2015 as a joint fund to provide early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products, systems, and business models.
- The Fund's main purpose is to improve the viability of off-grid renewable energy businesses that sell small scale (less than 1 Megawatt) clean energy systems to individuals and communities without access to grid-connected power or with limited access.

**Q.153) With reference to 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)', which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field which reports to UN General Assembly and Security Council.



2. India is a founding member of IAEA.
3. IAEA opened world's first Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in its Headquarters.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.153) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
IAEA is widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization within the United Nations family, the <b>IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field.</b> It reports annually to the UN General Assembly and also to the UN Security Council when necessary.	IAEA was created in 1957 in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology. Objective is to promote safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. Total Membership: 171 (as of 5 February 2019). India is a member since 1957 ( <b>India is a founding member of IAEA.</b> )	<b>IAEA has opened world's first low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Oskemen in Kazakhstan.</b> LEU Bank acts as a last resort supply and ensures no disruption to nuclear fuel trade. The IAEA has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

**Q.154) Which of the following tribes can recall the name of their ancestor from 20 generations ago?**

- a) Galos
- b) Nyishi
- c) Apatani
- d) Abor

**Q.154) Solution (a)**

- Members of the **Galo community in Arunachal Pradesh can recall the name of their ancestor from 20 generations ago** i.e. right up to the founder of their clan. This is

made possible by their system of naming- prefixing the second syllable of a father's name to that of a son.

- The Galos belong to the Tani group inhabiting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, besides Tibet. Galos trace their common origin to a primeval ancestor, Abotani.
- Galo community has been recognized as a Scheduled Tribe in the Amendment to the Constitution (ST), Order, 1950, Part-XVIII.
- **Mopin is the main festival** in Galos which is celebrated for the prosperity of the villages. The Galos perform **Popir dance**.

**Q.155) Recently seen in news, INS Nilgiri is**

- A Stealth frigate built under Project 75I
- A Submarine built under Project 75I
- A Stealth frigate built under Project 17A
- A Submarine built under Project 17A

**Q.155) Solution (c)**

- **INS Nilgiri** is first of the Navy's seven **new stealth frigates under Project 17A**. It is designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi.
- It is the first major warship in India which is built using an integrated construction methodology that involves constructing small modules and assembling them together.
- Project 17A frigates are a design derivative and upgrade of the existing Shivalik class frigates with advanced features and indigenous weapons. To be built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

**Q.156) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The "Sustainability, Stability and Security" (3S) Initiative.**

1. It was launched to address the root causes of instability in Africa – in particular migration and conflict related to the degradation of natural resources.
2. It was launched by the 'Asia-Africa Growth Corridor' at the Third India–Africa Forum Summit.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.156) Solution (a)**

The "Sustainability, Stability and Security" (3S) Initiative is an inter-governmental action launched by Morocco and Senegal to address the root causes of instability in Africa – in particular migration and conflict related to the degradation of natural resources – through an innovative approach.

**Q.157) Consider the following statements with respect to 'TReDS' platform.**

1. It is a platform for financing/factoring of trade receivables of MSME Sellers against Corporate Buyers, Govt. Departments and PSUs.
2. It is operated by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.157) Solution (a)**

TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing / discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers. These receivables can be due from corporates and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL), a joint venture between National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been authorised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate the TReDS platform.

**Q.158) 'U.K. Sinha Committee' is associated with**

- a) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- b) Corporate Governance
- c) Digital Payments
- d) Data Privacy

**Q.158) Solution (a)**

The U K Sinha committee was set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to suggest expeditious ways to strengthen MSMEs.

**Q.159) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub (Global AMR R&D Hub)'**

1. The operation of the Global AMR R&D Hub is supported through a Secretariat, established in Berlin

2. India is a member of the Global AMR R&D Hub.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.159) Solution (c)**

India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member.

The Global AMR R&D Hub was launched in May 2018 in the margins of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly, following a call from G20 Leaders in 2017. The Global AMR R&D Hub supports global priority setting and evidence-based decision-making on the allocation of resources for AMR R&D through the identification of gaps, overlaps and potential for cross-sectoral collaboration and leveraging in AMR R&D.

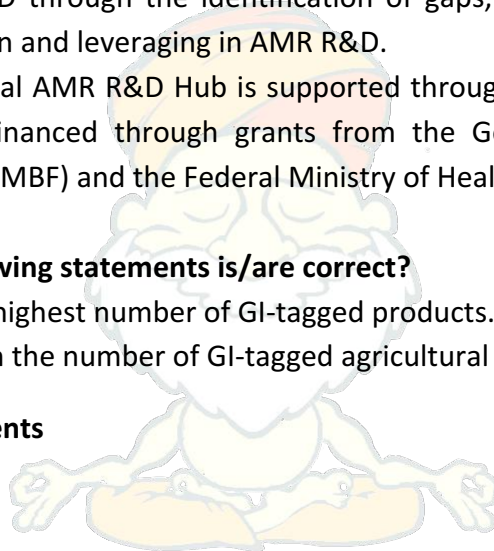
The operation of the Global AMR R&D Hub is supported through a Secretariat, established in Berlin and currently financed through grants from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).

**Q.160) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. Karnataka has the highest number of GI-tagged products.
- 2. Tamil Nadu leads in the number of GI-tagged agricultural products.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.160) Solution (a)**

Karnataka has the highest number of GI-tagged products. However, when geographical area is factored in, Kerala has the highest.

While Tamil Nadu has the highest number of handcraft GIs, Maharashtra leads in the number of GI-tagged agricultural products.

**Q.161) India's first international Women's Trade Centre (iWTC) is established in which of following State/UT?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Maharashtra

- c) Delhi
- d) Gujarat

**Q.161) Solution (a)**

- Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (iWTC), in consonance with the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs), in Kozhikode.

**Q.162) The term '51 Pegasi b' sometimes seen in news in the context of**

- a) Cyber Attacks
- b) Solar Mission
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) Exoplanet discovery

**Q.162) Solution (d)**

- Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz were awarded The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019 for discovering first exoplanet named '51 Pegasi b' orbiting a solar-type star.
- Exoplanet or extrasolar planet is a planet outside the Solar System.
- NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a space telescope designed to search for exoplanet.

**Q.163) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Article 131 of the Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
2. Constitution authorises the President of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court.

**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.163) Solution (d)****Statement 1    Statement 2**

Incorrect      Incorrect

The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court under Article 130. Article 131 deals with original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Constitution authorises the chief justice of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court. He can take decision in this regard only with the approval of the President.

**Q.164) Keeladi is an urban settlement of Sangam Age on the banks of which of the following river?**

- a) Cauvery
- b) Vaigai
- c) Pennar
- d) Ponnaiyar

**Q.164) Solution (b)**

- Keeladi/Keezhadi is a archaeological excavation site belonging to Sangam period located in Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu.
- The excavation study suggested that the second urbanisation (the first being Indus) of the Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in the Gangetic plains.
- Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) published a report titled ‘Keeladi- An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai.’

**Q.165) Consider the following statements about Debug Fresno Project:**

1. Under the project, male anopheles mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia are released into the environment.
2. It uses the approach called Sterile Insect Technique (SIT).
3. It was undertaken in African countries affected by malaria.

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

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

**Q.165) Solution (d)**

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>	<b>Statement 3</b>
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect

Under “Debug Fresno”, the male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia is released into environment to shrink the numbers of the disease-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. *Aedes aegypti* is responsible for spreading zika, dengue and chikungunya. Approach adapted is known as Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) - released male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, made effectively sterile by carrying Wolbachia (a bacterium used to sterilise mosquitoes) Debug Fresno is the USA’s largest release of male mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia. Similar action by Singapore is called “Project Wolbachia”.

**Q.166) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Black softshell turtle’.**

1. It is listed as ‘Critically Endangered’ under the IUCN Red List.
2. In India it can generally be found in Assam.

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

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

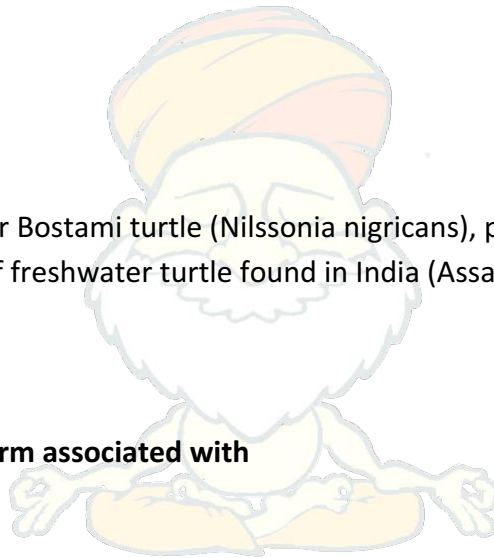
**Q.166) Solution (b)**

The black softshell turtle or Bostami turtle (*Nilssonina nigricans*), previously placed in genus *Aspideretes* is a species of freshwater turtle found in India (Assam) and Bangladesh (Chittagong and Sylhet).

IUCN – Extinct in the Wild

**Q.167) ‘Ambergris’, is a term associated with**

- a) Olive Ridley Turtles
- b) Sperm Whales
- c) Indian Pangolins
- d) Red Sanders



**Q.167) Solution (b)**

Ambergris is formed from an intestinal secretion of the sperm whale. It is highly valued by perfumers as a fixative that allows the scent to last much longer.

**Q.168) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Thylacine’.**

1. Fossilised remains of thylacines have been found across the Indus Valley Civilization sites.
2. It was once the world’s largest marsupial carnivore.

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

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

**Q.168) Solution (b)**

Thylacine now extinct, is one of the largest known carnivorous marsupials, evolving about 4 million years ago. The last known live animal was captured in 1933 in Tasmania. It is commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger because of its striped lower back, or the Tasmanian wolf because of its canid-like characteristics. It was native to Tasmania, New Guinea, and the Australian mainland.

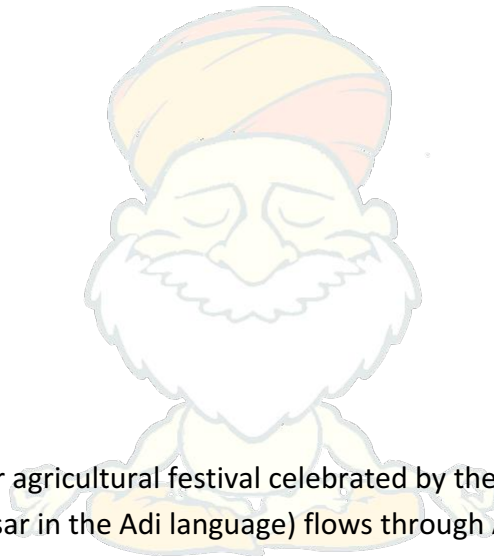
Fossilised remains of thylacines have been found across Australia and Papua New Guinea.

**Q.169) Which of the following is associated with Arunachal Pradesh?**

- 1. Solung Festival
- 2. River Sisseri
- 3. Chapchar Kut

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.169) Solution (a)**

Solung Festival is a popular agricultural festival celebrated by the Adi Tribes of Arunachal. River Sisseri (known as Sissar in the Adi language) flows through Arunachal Pradesh. The Chapchar Kut is a festival of Mizoram.

**Q.170) 'Hershey-Chase experiment' was in news recently. It is concerned with?**

- a) Deoxyribonucleic Acid
- b) Antiretroviral Therapy
- c) Reverse Osmosis
- d) None of the above

**Q.170) Solution (a)**

The Hershey–Chase experiments were a series of experiments conducted in 1952 by Alfred Hershey and Martha Chase that helped to confirm that DNA is genetic material.

**Q.171) Which of the following statement is/are correct about National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)?**



1. NAFED is the national level marketing agency for agricultural products in the Cooperative Sector.
2. NAFED was founded before the establishment of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).
3. NAFED is registered as a society under The Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.171) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<b>NAFED</b> is apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.	<b>NAFED</b> was founded in <b>October 1958</b> to promote trade of agricultural produce and forest resources across the nation. <b>NABARD</b> was established on <b>12 July 1982</b> to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.	<b>NAFED</b> is registered under the <b>Multi State Co-operative Societies Act</b> .

- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) was setup with the object to promote Co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers.
- Agricultural farmers are the main members of NAFED, who have the authority to say in the form of members of the General Body in the working of NAFED.

**Q.172) With reference to 'Forest-PLUS 2.0', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a joint of programme of India and United States of America.
2. It is a 2 year programme focused on forest landscape management.

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.172) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<b>Forest-PLUS 2.0</b> launched by <b>US Agency for International Development (USAID)</b> and <b>Ministry of Environment of India</b> . It was initiated in December, 2018 after Forest-PLUS completed its five years in 2017.	It is a <b>five-year programme</b> that focuses on developing tools and techniques to bolster ecosystem management and harnessing ecosystem services in <b>forest landscape management</b> . It helps India participate in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+).

- The targets of Forest-PLUS 2.0 are
  1. 1,20,000 hectares of land under improved management.
  2. New, inclusive economic activity worth \$12 million.
  3. Measurable benefits accrued to 8 lakh households.

**Q.173) Global Carbon Project is a research project of which of the following?**

- a) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- b) Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research
- c) Future Earth
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat

**Q.173) Solution (c)**

- **Global Carbon Project** is a Global Research **Project of 'Future Earth'** and a research partner of the 'World Climate Research Programme'.
- Formed in 2001 to help the international science community to establish a common, mutually agreed knowledge base that supports policy debate and action to slow the rate of increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- It integrates knowledge of greenhouse gases for human activities and the Earth system.

**Q.174) With reference to Measles-Rubella, which of the following statement is NOT correct?**

- a) Measles is a highly contagious (airborne) infectious disease caused by the measles virus.
- b) Rubella is also known as 'German measles' or 'three-day measles' is an infection caused by the rubella virus.
- c) Rubella has serious consequences if infection occurs in children below 5 years, causing Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS).
- d) Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine is covered under Universal Immunisation Programme of Ministry of Health.

**Q.174) Solution (c)**

- India has resolved to eliminate Measles and control CRS by 2020.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has initiated Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign in the in a phased manner across the nation. **Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine is covered under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).**
- **Measles is a highly contagious (airborne) infectious disease caused by the measles virus.**
- **Rubella is also known as 'German measles' or 'three-day measles' is an infection caused by the rubella virus.**
- Rubella is not the same as measles, though the two illnesses do share some characteristics, including the red rash. However, rubella is neither as infectious nor usually as severe as measles.
- **But Rubella has serious consequences if infection occurs in pregnant women, causing Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), which is a cause of public health concern. Hence statement (c) is incorrect.**
- CRS is characterized by congenital anomalies in the foetus and newborns affecting the eyes (glaucoma, cataract), ears (hearing loss), brain (microcephaly, mental retardation) and heart defects.

**Q.175) The Stockholm Peace Agreement aims end the conflict in which of the following?**

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Syria
- c) Palestine
- d) Yemen

**Q.175) Solution (d)**

- The **Stockholm Peace Agreement** is a voluntary accord between the parties of the **conflict in Yemen**. It was agreed in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13 December 2018.
- The Security Council endorsed the Stockholm agreement under resolution 2451 (2018).

**Q.176) The Munich Agreement was signed among which of the following countries?**

1. Germany
2. Russia
3. United States of America
4. Great Britain

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.176) Solution (c)**

The Munich Agreement was signed among Germany, France, Italy, and Great Britain on September 29-30, 1938.



**Q.177) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Interpol'.**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Lyon, France.
2. India joined the organisation in 2009.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.177) Solution (a)**

The Interpol The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is a 194-member intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Lyon, France. It was formed in 1923 as

the International Criminal Police Commission, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956. India joined the organisation in 1949, and is one of its oldest members.

**Q.178) Which of the following statements with respect to ‘Dadabhai Naoroji’ is/are correct?**

1. He helped found the London Indian Society and the East India Association.
2. He first ran for the British Parliament in 1892.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.178) Solution (a)**

In 1865 and 1866, Naoroji helped found the London Indian Society and the East India Association respectively. The two organisations sought to bring nationalist Indians and sympathetic Britons on one platform.

Naoroji first ran for the British Parliament in 1886, but did not get elected. His second bid in 1892 was successful, when he won the Central Finsbury seat on a Liberal Party ticket.

**Q.179) The ‘Travel & Tourism Competitiveness’ Report is released by**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit
- c) The Lonely Planet
- d) Airbnb

**Q.179) Solution (a)**

The biennial “Travel and Tourism Competitive Report” is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The study scored countries on four indicators — enabling environment; travel and tourism policy and enabling conditions; infrastructure; natural and cultural rankings.

**Q.180) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

**Refineries – State**

1. Numaligarh Refinery - Assam

2. Barauni Refinery - Rajasthan
3. Manali Refinery – Tamil Nadu

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.180) Solution (c)**

Numaligarh Refinery - Assam

Barauni Refinery - Bihar

Manali Refinery – Tamil Nadu

**Q.181) Consider the following statements about Eight Core Industries:**

1. These are main industries which has a multiplier effect on the economy.
2. These industries comprise of more than 50% of the weight of items included in Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
3. Among these industries, refinery products have highest weightage in IIP Index.

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

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

**Q.181) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Core industry can be defined as the main industry which has a multiplier effect on	<b>Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight</b> of items included in the Index of Industrial	The 8 Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: <b>Refinery Products &gt; Electricity &gt; Steel &gt; Coal &gt; Crude</b>

the economy.	Production (IIP).	<b>Oil &gt; Natural Gas &gt; Cement &gt; Fertilizers.</b>
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**Q.182) In which of the following states, Govind Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

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

**Q.182) Solution (d)**

- **Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in Uttarakhand.
- The park lies in the higher reaches of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- The **Snow Leopard Project** started by the Government of India is being managed at this sanctuary.

**Q.183) With reference to Non-Aligned-Movement (NAM), consider the following statements:**

1. It was founded in the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955.
2. Its recent Summit was held in Venezuela.

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

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

**Q.183) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Movement has its origin in the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. "Ten Principles of Bandung", were proclaimed at that Conference was guiding principles of NAM. Six years after Bandung, the	Vice President of India attended the <b>18th NAM Summit in 2019 held in Baku, Azerbaijan</b> . NAM has 120 members comprising 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the

Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was <b>founded at the First Summit Conference of Belgrade</b> , which was held on September 1-6, <b>1961</b> under the leadership of India, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Ghana, and Indonesia.	Caribbean and 2 from Europe (Belarus, Azerbaijan). There are 17 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM.
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**Q.184) Recently seen in news, MOSAiC Mission is an international research expedition to study**

- Outermost part of the Sun's Atmosphere
- Arctic Climate
- Submarine Hydrothermal Vents
- Potentially Habitable Exoplanets

**Q.184) Solution (b)**

- **MOSAiC (The Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate)** is an international research expedition to study the physical, chemical, and biological processes that coupled the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, ocean, and ecosystem.
- It is the largest ever Arctic expedition in history.
- MOSAiC is the first year-round expedition into the central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate system.
- Project has been designed by an international consortium of leading polar research institutions, under the umbrella of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).

**Q.185) Section 124A of IPC (Indian Penal Code) often seen in news lays down punishment for**

- Defamation
- Election offences
- Sedition
- Blasphemy

**Q.185) Solution (c)**

- The Indian Penal Code defines **sedition (Section 124A)** as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or



excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India"

- The word 'disaffection' in this section includes disloyalty and feelings of enmity.
- Sedition is a non-bailable offence. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added.

**Q.186) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) Programme?**

1. It is a digital skill training programme for women members of local governing bodies.
2. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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.186) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
GOAL - Going Online as Leaders is a <b>Digital Skill Training Programme for Tribal Women</b> . The program is aimed at closing the digital gender gap by enabling more women to get online and access digital services. The program will include weekly one-to-one mentoring sessions, focused on a range of skills such as digital literacy, entrepreneurship and online safety. Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp will be part of the training.	<b>Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with Niti Aayog and Facebook are running GOAL</b> . Launched in March 2019, GOAL connects underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills.

**Q.187) World Economic Outlook Report is released by which of the following?**

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d) None of the above

**Q.187) Solution (c)**

- **World Economic Outlook (WEO) 2019** is released by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- It is published twice a year.
- The global economy is projected to grow at 3 percent in 2019 and 3.5 percent in 2020.

**Q.188) Consider the following statements about Guru Ravidas:**

1. He was a Dalit-poet saint from the Bhakti movement era.
2. He was a Saguna saint.
3. Muktabai was a disciple of Guru Ravidas.

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

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

**Q.188) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<b>Guru Ravidas was a Dalit-poet saint from the Bhakti movement era in northern India</b> during the 15th to 16th Century. He belonged to a community whose profession involved processing dead animals and their skins.	The 41 hymns of Guru Ravidas have been included in the Guru Granth Sahib. The famous saint poetess, <b>Mirabai was a disciple of Guru Ravidas</b> . Muktabai or Mukta was a saint in the Varkari tradition in 13th century.	He emphasized on universal brotherhood and tolerance. <b>He abandoned Saguna</b> (with attributes, image) forms of supreme beings, and <b>focussed on the Nirguna</b> (without attributes, abstract) form of worship.

**Q.189) Recently seen in news, Cape Town Agreement is related with which of the following?**

- a) Safety of fishing vessels

- b) Wreck removal and Ship recycling
- c) Marine plastic removal
- d) Oil spills prevention measures

**Q.189) Solution (a)**

- The **Cape Town Agreement** was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2012 to help combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
- The agreement is **aimed at facilitating better control of fishing vessel safety by flag, port and coastal states.**
- India is yet to ratify the Cape Town Agreement for safety of fishing vessels.

**Q.190) In which of the following emerging computer technologies the data is analysed locally, closer to where it is stored, in real-time without latency, rather than sending it far away to a centralised data centre?**

- a) Cloud Computing
- b) Cluster Computing
- c) Edge Computing
- d) Quantum Computing

**Q.190) Solution (c)**

- **Edge computing** enables data to be analysed, processed, and transferred at the edge of a network. Meaning, the data is analysed locally, closer to where it is stored, in real-time without latency.
- The basic difference between edge computing and cloud computing lies in where the data processing takes place i.e. cloud computing means storing and accessing data and programs over the Internet instead of computer's hard drive.
- Edge computing, on the other hand, manages the massive amounts of data generated by Internet of Things (IoT) devices by storing and processing data locally.

**Q.191) In the context of the affairs of which of the following is the phrase “Special and differential treatment (S&DT)” mentioned in the news frequently?**

- a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- b) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
- c) Financial Action Task Force
- d) World Trade Organization

**Q.191) Solution (d)**

- **Special and differential treatment (S&DT)** are provisions which give developing countries special rights and which give developed countries the possibility to treat developing countries more favourably than other **World Trade Organization (WTO)** Members. These special provisions include, for example, longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments or measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries.
- S&DT is given to all developing members due to the uneven level of development between developed and developing Members.

**Q.192) Shirui lily Festival is celebrated in the State of**

- Tripura
- Manipur
- Mizoram
- Meghalaya

**Q.192) Solution (b)**

- **Shirui lily Festival** is being hosted in the Ukhrul district of **Manipur**, where flowers are in full bloom during October.
- Shirui Lily grows at a height of about 8,500 ft above sea level. It was declared as the **State Flower of Manipur** in 1989. The flower is today considered an endangered species.
- The rare, pink-white flower is only found in this area, and is also known as Siroy Lily, or Liliun Macklinae.

**Q.193) Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) device provides which of the following information to fisherman?**

- Disaster warnings
- Forecasts on winds, waves, ocean currents, water temperature
- Probable locations on fish aggregation in the seas

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

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only

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

**Q.193) Solution (d)**

- **Gagan Enabled Mariner’s Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) System** to aid fishermen. The device is developed for effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, Ocean States Forecast (OSF) and mapping of Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) to fishermen.
- PFZ Advisories provide information on the **probable locations on fish aggregation** in the seas, OSF provide the accurate state of the ocean. Ocean State Forecasts include the **forecasts on winds, waves, ocean currents, water temperature**, etc.
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) with Airports Authority of India (AAI) is utilizing the GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite system to transmit the PFZ, OSF and disaster warnings to fishermen with GAGAN system consisting of three geosynchronous satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15).
- Drawback of this device - it only allows one-way communication i.e. fisherman can’t make a call.

**Q.194) Recently seen in news ‘FASTER Principles for Successful Carbon Pricing’ is jointly developed by**

- a) World Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- b) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UN Environment
- c) UN Environment and UNFCCC Secretariat
- d) UNFCCC Secretariat and World Bank

**Q.194) Solution (a)**

- The **FASTER Principles for Successful Carbon Pricing**, a guide jointly developed by the **World Bank** and the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, distils six key characteristics of successful carbon pricing.
- Following are the Six characteristics
  - 1) Fairness
  - 2) Alignment of policies and objectives
  - 3) Stability and predictability
  - 4) Transparency

- 5) Efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- 6) Reliability and environmental integrity

**Q.195) Consider the following statements about Universal Postal Union (UPU):**

1. It is a specialized agency of UN (United Nation).
2. It is the oldest international organization worldwide, established in 1874 by the Treaty of Bern.

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

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

**Q.195) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a specialized agency of UN.</b> India joined the UPU in 1876. UPU's headquarter is located in Bern, Switzerland, and consists of 192 member countries. It frames rules for international mail exchange and performs advisory, mediating and liaison role between postal sector players. It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendation to stimulate growth of the sector.	UPU was established by the <b>Treaty of Bern</b> . It was established in <b>1874</b> and is the <b>second oldest international organization worldwide</b> after International Telecommunication Union (1865).

**Q.196) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):**

1. PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.
2. Entire family irrespective of its size is the beneficiary unit under the scheme.
3. At the national level it is implemented by National Health Authority, an attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy.

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

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

**Q.196) Solution (d)**

- **Ayushman Bharat**, a flagship scheme of Government of India to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) comprising of two inter-related components, which are -
  1. Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
  2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- **Key Features of PM-JAY**
  - PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
  - It **provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
  - Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
  - **PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service**, that is, the hospital.
  - PM-JAY envisions to help mitigate catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment which pushes nearly 6 crore Indians into poverty each year.
  - It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
  - **There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.**
  - All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
  - Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
  - Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
  - Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.
- **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the apex body responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. An **attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy**, NHA is governed by a Governing Board

chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. It is headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, who manages its affairs.

**Q.197) The High Mountain Summit 2019 was organized by**

- a) World Meteorological Organization
- b) Mountain Research Initiative
- c) International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
- d) Mountain Partnership

**Q.197) Solution (a)**

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** convened the **High Mountain Summit** from 29 to 31 October 2019 at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It aims to foster high-level dialogue and engage decision makers and local actors to develop a roadmap to science-based, user-driven knowledge and information systems supporting sustainable development and risk reduction in mountain and downstream regions.

**Q.198) Moscow Declaration sometimes seen in news aims to end**

- a) Neglected Tropical diseases
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Cardiovascular diseases
- d) Mental disorders

**Q.198) Solution (b)**

- **Moscow declaration** emphasis need for fixing multi-sectoral responsibility towards ending **Tuberculosis (TB)** by 2035, the global target. It recognizes need for multi-sectoral accountability framework to end TB, which is both political and technical.
- Moscow Declaration to End TB is the outcome of first global ministerial conference on ending TB, in 2017.

**Q.199) Which of the following are architectural heritage of Mamallapuram?**

1. Descent of the Ganges



2. Olakkanneshvara Temple
3. Brihadeeswara Temple
4. Varaha Cave
5. Pancha Rathas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.199) Solution (c)**

- The **Pallavas** ruled from Kanchipuram and built **Mamallapuram** into a 'paradise city' in the 7th century under the rule of Narasimhavarman (630-688 CE), also known as Mamalla.
- The town has a collection of 7th and 8th century religious monuments that has been declared as a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- Some of important structures include: **Olakkanneshvara Temple, Descent of the Ganges** or Arjuna's Penance, **Varaha Cave Temple** and **Pancha Rathas** (Five Chariots).
- Brihadeeswara Temple is in Thanjavur.

**Q.200) A new trapdoor spider species has been discovered and named 'Idiops nilagiri' after Nilagiri town, is found in which of the following?**

- a) Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Kuldhia Wildlife Sanctuary

**Q.200) Solution (d)**

- A new trapdoor spider species has been discovered in a deciduous forest near Nilagiri town in Odisha. It was found in **Kuldhia Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- This is a medium-size spider that measures about 8-13 mm in length.
- New mygalomorph species has been described based on female specimens and named '**Idiops nilagiri**' after Nilagiri town, from where the spider was recorded.

**Q.201) 'Askot Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Sikkim
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Goa

**Q.201) Solution (c)**

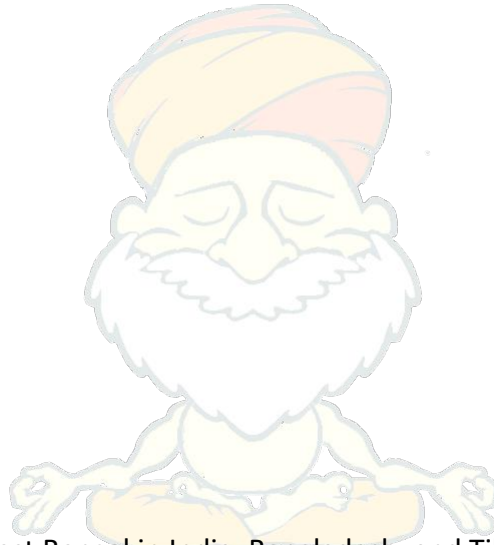
Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary is located 54 km from Pithoragarh near Askot in Uttarakhand state of India. This sanctuary has been set up primarily with the object of conserving the musk deer (*Moschus leucogaster*) and its habitat.

**Q.202) 'Teesta River' flows through**

1. Sikkim
2. West Bengal
3. Bangladesh
4. Tibet
5. Bhutan

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.202) Solution (a)**

It flows through Sikkim, West Bengal in India, Bangladesh, and Tibet.

**Q.203) \_\_\_\_\_ is the nodal agency for Fake Indian Currency Note (FICN) related cases.**

- a) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- c) Directorate of Enforcement (ED)
- d) Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

**Q.203) Solution (a)**

The NIA is the nodal agency for FICN related cases.

**Q.204) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)'**

1. It is responsible for the exploration, production, refining, of petroleum, natural gas, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas in India.
2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG).

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.204) Solution (d)**

Petroleum And Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is a department formed by Government of India under Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to administer Explosives Act 1884, Explosive Substance Act, Petroleum Act 1934, Inflammable substance Act 1952 and Environment Protection Act 1986 to control import, export, transport, storage and usage of explosive materials, flammable materials, pressure vessels, cryogenic vessels, design and installation of all necessary and relevant infrastructure etc.

**Q.205) Consider the following statements**

1. Parts or the whole of the six northeastern States fall under the Sixth Schedule, which makes special provisions for tribal areas.
2. Sixth Schedule provides for separate Regional Councils for each area constituted as an autonomous region.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.205) Solution (b)**

The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.

Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).

The governors of these states are empowered to reorganise boundaries of the tribal areas. Along with ADCs, the Sixth Schedule also provides for separate Regional Councils for each area constituted as an autonomous region.

**THINK!**

- Hajong, Koch, Rabha, Boro and Mann Tribes

**Q.206) 'International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG)' is associated with**

- a) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- b) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- c) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- d) Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)

**Q.206) Solution (b)**

The FATF continually identifies and reviews jurisdictions with strategic AML/CFT deficiencies that present a risk to the international financial system and closely monitors their progress. The FATF's International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) oversees the process.

**Q.207) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Thengar Char – Bangladesh
2. Trak Island – Myanmar
3. Tulagi Island – Japan

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.207) Solution (a)**

Thengar Char – Bangladesh

Trak Island – India

Tulagi Island – Solomon Islands

**Q.208) 'Theyyam', a popular ritual form of worship is associated with which of the following states?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Telangana
- d) Tamil Nadu

**Q.208) Solution (a)**

Theyyam is a popular ritual form of worship in Kerala, India, predominantly in the Kolathunadu area and also in South Canara and Kodagu of Karnataka as a living cult with several thousand-year-old traditions, rituals and customs.

**Q.209) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Anaval Pidi – Kerala
2. Kambala – Karnataka
3. Hori Habba – Maharashtra

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.209) Solution (a)**

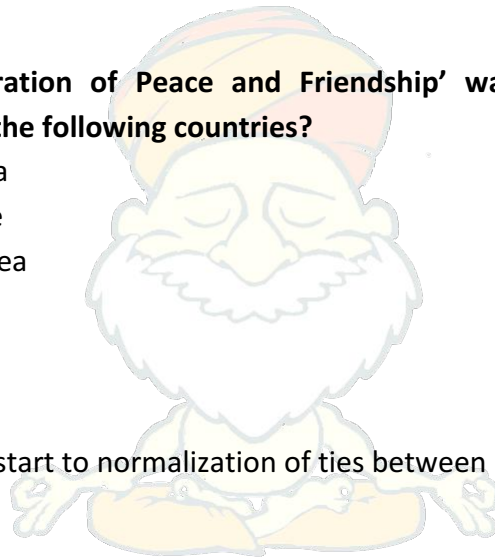
Anaval Pidi – Kerala

Kambala – Karnataka

Hori Habba – Karnataka

**Q.210) The ‘Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship’ was in news recently. It is associated with which of the following countries?**

- a) Ethiopia and Eritrea
- b) Israel and Palestine
- c) USA and North Korea
- d) Taiwan and China



**Q.210) Solution (a)**

The declaration marked a start to normalization of ties between Eritrea and Ethiopia .

**Q.211) ‘Fire Coral fungus’ which was in news recently is not found in**

- a) Australia
- b) India
- c) Japan
- d) Papua New Guinea

**Q.211) Solution (b)**

The fungus was once thought to be only native to Korea and Japan, but recent discoveries have been made in Java, Papua and northern Australia.

**Q.212) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Matua Mahasangha’.**

1. It was launched as a reformation by the followers of Swami Vivekananda.
2. It originated in the North West Frontier Province.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.212) Solution (d)**

Matua Mahasangha or MMS is a religious reformation movement that originated in what is today Bangladesh, with a considerable number of adherents both in Bangladesh as well as in West Bengal in India. Matua is a sect of Vaishnavite Hinduism. The movement was launched as a reformation by the followers of Harichand Thakur.

**Q.213) 'Gossypol' was in news recently. It is associated with which of the following crops?**

- a) Cotton
- b) Mustard
- c) Paddy
- d) Ragi

**Q.213) Solution (a)**

Gossypol is a natural phenol derived from the cotton plant.

**Q.214) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Skandagupta'.**

1. He was the last emperor in India to be given the title of Vikramaditya.
2. He successfully fought the battle against the invading Huns.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.214) Solution (c)**

Skandagupta was the last emperor in India to be given the title of Vikramaditya.

He successfully defeated rampaging herds of Huns from running over India in the fourth century AD.

**Q.215) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bombay blood group'.**

1. The group is deficient in expressing antigen H.
2. Bombay blood group can donate their blood to A,B,O blood types.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.215) Solution (c)**

The Bombay blood group, also called hh, is deficient in expressing antigen H, meaning the RBC has no antigen H. The difference is that the O group has Antigen H, while the hh group does not.

A person with a Bombay blood group can give blood to an ABO blood group person. But they can't receive blood from them. A person can take blood only from its own blood type ie Hh blood type.

**Q.216) The Huns were Nomadic People from which of the following regions?**

- a) Central Asia
- b) Northern Africa
- c) South East Asia
- d) North East Asia

**Q.216) Solution (a)**

The Huns were a nomadic people who lived in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe, between the 4th and 6th century AD.

**Q.217) 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2019-20' Report was released by**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) GST Council

**Q.217) Solution (b)**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the report titled "State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2019-20", an annual publication that provides information, analysis and an assessment of the finances of state governments. This publication has been prepared in the Division of State Finances of the Department of Economic and Policy Research.

**Q.218) 'Rajiv Gauba Committee' is associated with which of the following sectors?**

- a) Telecom Sector
- b) Education Sector
- c) Health Sector
- d) Energy Sector

**Q.218) Solution (a)**

The government has set up a committee of secretaries (CoS) under Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba to suggest measures to mitigate financial stress in the telecom sector, which is looking at a payout of Rs 1.33 trillion to clear statutory dues.

**Q.219) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC)’**

1. The CPLC Secretariat is administered by The World Bank Group.
2. It is a voluntary partnership of national and sub-national governments.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.219) Solution (c)**

The Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) is a voluntary initiative that catalyzes action towards the successful implementation of carbon pricing around the world. The CPLC brings together leaders from government, business, civil society and academia to support carbon pricing, share experiences and enhance the global, regional, national and sub-national understanding of carbon pricing implementation. The CPLC Secretariat is administered by The World Bank Group.

CPLC is a voluntary partnership of 34 national and sub-national governments, over 164 businesses from a range of sectors and regions, and upwards of 85 strategic partners representing civil society organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions.

**Q.220) ‘FASTER principles’ is concerned with**

- a) Electric Vehicles
- b) Carbon Pricing
- c) Banking Regulations
- d) Multilateral Tax Treaties

**Q.220) Solution (b)**

The FASTER principles for successful carbon pricing is developed by OECD and the World Bank Group.

**Q.221) ‘Currency Derivatives’ in Indian Pairs like ‘USDINR’ and ‘GBPINR’ are traded on**



- a) NFO
- b) BSE
- c) MCX
- d) CDS

**Q.221) Solution (d)**

‘Currency Derivatives’ in Indian Pairs like ‘USDINR’ and ‘GBPINR’ are traded on CDS (NSE Currency Derivative Segment).

**Q.222) Recently announced Einstein Challenge, is related to which of the following?**

- a) To ensure the ideals of Gandhi are remembered by future generations.
- b) To build all modules in a timely manner for India’s own Space station.
- c) To develop innovative solutions to the social problems of India.
- d) To make all urban areas within India Open Defecation Free (ODF).

**Q.222) Solution (a)**

- PM Modi announced **Einstein Challenge to ensure the ideals of Gandhi are remembered by future generations.**
- In this he invited thinkers, entrepreneurs and tech leaders to take the lead to spread Gandhi’s ideas through innovation.

**Q.223) Consider the following statements about C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration:**

1. It was unveiled at the WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.
2. Delhi is the only Indian city to sign the declaration.

**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.223) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect

**‘C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration’ was unveiled at the C40 World Mayors Summit.** Through this Declaration, mayors commit to using their power and influence to reduce air pollution and work towards meeting the WHO’s Air Quality Guidelines.

Among 35 cities, **Bengaluru and Delhi** are the two Indian cities signing the C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration. Six Indian cities are currently members of C40: Bengaluru; Chennai; Delhi NCT; Jaipur; Kolkata and Mumbai.

**Q.224) The Future Investment Initiative (FII) is an annual investment forum held in**

- Switzerland
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- South Africa

**Q.224) Solution (b)**

- **The Future Investment Initiative (FII) is an annual investment forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**
- It is held to discuss trends in the world economy and investment environment in the context of the Saudi Vision 2030 program of economic and social reform to diversify the kingdom’s economy and reduce its dependence on petroleum products.
- It is hosted by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF), Saudi Arabia's main sovereign wealth fund.
- The Future Investment Initiative (FII) is widely described as **“Davos in the desert”**. The informal name derives from the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting that is held in Davos, Switzerland, where world leaders discuss agendas for pressing international issues.

**Q.225) Recently seen in news, Phazolicin is**

- A semi-Dirac metal
- An organoid grown in lab
- A new antibiotic discovered
- A cancer drug discovered

**Q.225) Solution (c)**

- **Phazolicin is a new antibiotic discovered in the soil of a tropical rainforest of Mexico.**

- Found in the root nodules of wild beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), this unusual antibiotic is produced by a symbiotic soil bacterium.
- The bacterium that produces phazolicin is an unidentified species of *Rhizobium*.
- The antibiotic phazolicin is a class of peptide produced in the ribosome.
- This has specific application in agriculture.

**Q.226) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the 20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census of India?**

1. It covers all domesticated animals and its headcounts only in rural areas.
2. Uttar Pradesh (UP) has recorded highest livestock population followed by Rajasthan.
3. West Bengal has the highest cattle population among the Indian States.

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

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

**Q.226) Solution (c)**

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has released the 20th Livestock Census report.
- The total Livestock population is **535.78** million in the country showing an increase of **4.6%** over Livestock Census-2012.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Census covers all domesticated animals and its headcounts both in rural and urban areas.</b> Various species of animals (Cattle, Buffalo, Yak, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Donkey Camel, Dog, Rabbit, Elephant etc.)/poultry birds possessed by the households, enterprises and institutions are counted at their site.	State-wise <b>Uttar Pradesh (UP)</b> has recorded <b>highest livestock population</b> in 2019 followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.	In terms of cattle population, <b>West Bengal</b> has the <b>highest</b> population followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra.

**Q.227) As per Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report 2019, the severity of hunger problem of India falls in which of the following category?**

- a) Low
- b) Moderate
- c) Serious
- d) Alarming

**Q.227) Solution (c)**

- In the recently released Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report-2019, **India** was ranked at 102nd position out of 117 countries. **With the score of 30.3, it is listed as country with 'serious' hunger problem.**
- The report is an annual publication that is jointly prepared by the Concern Worldwide (an Irish agency) and the Welt Hunger Hilfe (a German organization).
- The report is based on four GHI indicators namely, undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.

**Q.228) Which of the following global efforts aims to conserve Snow Leopard?**

- 1. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Program
- 2. Global Tiger Initiative
- 3. SECURE Himalaya

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

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

**Q.228) Solution (d)**

- All the 3 programmes aim to protect the Vulnerable (IUCN status) Snow Leopard.
- The 12 Snow Leopard Range countries: India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Program (GSLEP)** is an inter-governmental alliance of all the 12 Snow Leopard range countries.
- The GSLEP is a range-wide effort that unites range country governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the

private sector around a shared vision to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems.

- The **Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)** was launched in 2008 as a global alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society, the conservation and scientific communities and the private sector, with the aim of working together to save wild tigers from extinction. In **2013, the scope was broadened to include Snow Leopards.**
- The **SECURE Himalaya** project is working in select **Snow Leopard** landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim to develop a long-term strategy to conserve the **Snow Leopard** and its ecosystems, by adopting a landscape-based approach.

**Q.229) Sometimes seen in news, Soli Chip Technology is developed by**

- a) Google
- b) Qualcomm
- c) Samsung
- d) Intel

**Q.229) Solution (a)**

- **Google's ATAP (Advanced Technology and Projects) division** has been developing **Soli Chip technology**, which can be used in wearables, phones, computers, cars and IoT devices.
- Recently launched Google Pixel 4 uses a radar-based Soli chip to introduce Motion Sense, a feature that provides similar touchless gesture-based controls.
- Soli is a dedicated radar chip on the front of the Pixel to collect raw data of hand gestures and then interpret them correctly for the right commands.
- Soli relies on a custom-built Machine Learning (ML) model to understand a large range of possible movements.

**Q.230) Consider the following statements:**

1. RBI will setup the framework for Acceptance Development Fund (ADF) to increase acceptance of debit and credit cards in tier II cities.
2. It was recommended by the Nandan Nilekani Committee.

**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.230) Solution (b)**

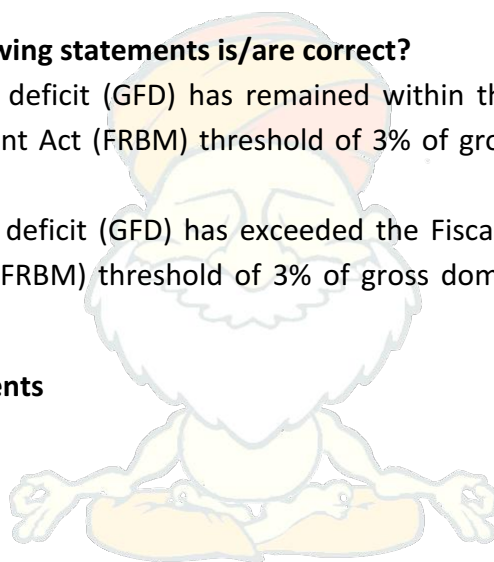
Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
RBI has said that the <b>framework for Acceptance Development Fund (ADF) will be set up to increase acceptance of debit and credit cards in tier III and VI cities.</b>	This was indicated in the Payment System Vision Document 2021 of RBI and <b>also recommended by the Committee</b> on Deepening of Digital Payments (Chaired by <b>Nandan Nilekani</b> ).

**Q.231) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. States' gross fiscal deficit (GFD) has remained within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) threshold of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2017-18
2. States' gross fiscal deficit (GFD) has exceeded the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) threshold of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2018-19.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.231) Solution (a)**

States' gross fiscal deficit (GFD) has remained within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) threshold of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

**Q.232) 'Urban Cooperative Banks' are under the regulation and supervision of**

1. Reserve Bank of India
2. Central Government
3. State Governments

**Select the correct code:**

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

- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.232) Solution (d)**

UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI. While their banking operations are regulated by the RBI, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms, their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies either under the State or Central government.

**Q.233) The term 'Forward guidance' is economic parlance is associated with**

- a) Monetary Policy
- b) Fiscal Slippage
- c) Strategic Disinvestment
- d) Micro Finance Institutions

**Q.233) Solution (a)**

Forward guidance refers to the communication from a central bank about the state of the economy and likely future course of monetary policy.

**Q.234) Consider the following statements**

1. Employment elasticity is a measure of the percentage change in employment associated with a 1 percentage point change in economic growth.
2. Open Unemployment occurs when a worker is shifting from one job to the other.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.234) Solution (a)**

Open unemployment is a situation where in a large section of the labour force does not get a job that may yield them regular income.

Employment elasticity is a measure of the percentage change in employment associated with a 1 percentage point change in economic growth. The employment elasticity indicates the ability of an economy to generate employment opportunities for its population as per cent of its growth (development) process.

**Q.235) The Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) is applicable to**

1. Commercial banks

2. Urban Cooperative banks
3. NBFCs

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.235) Solution (a)**

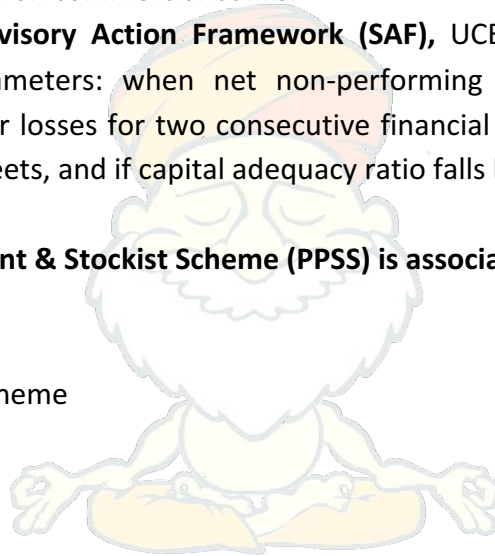
The PCA framework is applicable only to commercial banks and not extended to co-operative banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to impose restrictions on urban cooperative banks (UCBs) for deterioration of financial position, in line with the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework that is imposed on commercial banks.

Under this revised **Supervisory Action Framework (SAF)**, UCBs will face restrictions for worsening of three parameters: when net non-performing assets exceed 6% of net advances, when they incur losses for two consecutive financial years or have accumulated losses on their balance sheets, and if capital adequacy ratio falls below 9%.

**Q.236) Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) is associated with**

- a) PM-AASHA
- b) PM-KISAN
- c) Soil Health Card Scheme
- d) RKVY-RAFTAAR



**Q.236) Solution (a)**

The Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) is part of the wider umbrella of PM-AASHA framed to ensure maximum farmers get the benefit of MSP.

**Q.237) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Photochemical Smog'.**

1. It tends to occur more often in winter.
2. It depends on primary pollutants as well as the formation of secondary pollutants.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.237) Solution (b)**



Photochemical smog is a mixture of pollutants that are formed when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react to sunlight, creating a brown haze above cities. It tends to occur more often in summer, because that is when we have the most sunlight.

The two major primary pollutants, nitrogen oxides and VOCs, combine to change in sunlight in a series of chemical reactions, outlined below, to create what are known as secondary pollutants.

The secondary pollutant that causes the most concern is the ozone that forms at ground level. While ozone is produced naturally in the upper atmosphere, it is a dangerous substance when found at ground level. Many other hazardous substances are also formed, such as peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN).

**Q.238) ‘Tangkhuls’ primarily live in the state of**

- a) Manipur
- b) Mizoram
- c) Nagaland
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Q.238) Solution (a)**

The Tangkhuls are a major ethnic group living in the Indo-Burma border area occupying the Ukhrul district in Manipur, India and the Somra tract hills, Layshi township, Homalin township and Tamu Township in Burma.

**Q.239) Which of the following pairs are incorrectly matched?**

1. Transnistria – Spain
2. Somaliland – Senegal
3. Mindanao – Philippines

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.239) Solution (a)**

Transnistria – Moldova

Somaliland – Somalia

Mindanao – Philippines

**Q.240) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Nuclear Energy Agency’.**

1. It is under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

2. It is an intergovernmental agency that facilitates co-operation among countries with advanced nuclear technology infrastructures to seek excellence in nuclear safety, technology, science, environment and law.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.240) Solution (c)**

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is an intergovernmental agency that facilitates co-operation among countries with advanced nuclear technology infrastructures to seek excellence in nuclear safety, technology, science, environment and law. The NEA, which is under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, is headquartered in Paris, France.

**Q.241) Recently launched SUMAN initiative aims for**

- a) Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths
- b) Reducing the Double burden of Malnutrition
- c) Livelihood Promotion of Urban Poor
- d) Reducing illiteracy among Scheduled Tribes

**Q.241) Solution (a)**

- Union Minister for Health along with several State Health Ministers launched **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative (SUMAN) initiative for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths.**
- Under it, pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to avail free healthcare benefits.
- The government will also provide free transport from home to health institutions.
- The pregnant women will have a zero expense delivery and C-section facility in case of complications at public health facilities.

**Q.242) Ghoramara Island is located in which of the following coastal States?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) West Bengal

d) Gujarat

**Q.242) Solution (c)**

- **Ghoramara Island** is located in the Ganga estuary of West Bengal.
- It is a part of the Sundarban Delta complex of the Bay of Bengal.
- It is slowly being submerged by rising sea levels, forcing people to migrate in large numbers – also sometimes referred to as sinking island

**Q.243) Consider the following pairs:**

<i>Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)</i>	<i>Category of AIF</i>
1. Angel Funds	Category I
2. Infrastructure Funds	Category II
3. Hedge Funds	Category III

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

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

**Q.243) Solution (c)**

- Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) comprises pooled investment funds which invest in venture capital, private equity, hedge funds, managed futures, etc.
- AIF can be established in the form of a company or a corporate body or a trust or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).
- As per the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012 (AIF Regulations), Category I AIF are: those AIFs with ‘positive spillover effects’ on the economy, for which certain incentives or concessions might be considered by SEBI or the Government of India or other regulators in India.
- **Category I AIF** shall include Venture Capital Funds (Including **Angel Funds**), SME Funds, Social Venture Funds, **Infrastructure Funds** and such other Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) as may be specified.
- **Category II AIF** – Investment in equity and debt securities
- **Category III AIF** - Investment aimed at short-term returns achieved by complex strategies. Eg. **Hedge Funds**.

**Q.244) With reference to 'Go Blue' Campaign, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims at promoting the sustainable fishing practices around the world.
2. It is a joint initiative of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and UN Environment.

**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.244) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Under 'Go Blue' campaign, the landmark buildings around the world lit up blue to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to show support for child rights.	United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) undertook the 'Go Blue' campaign.

**Q.245) Which of the following statements about Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique (BOLD-QIT) Project is/are correct?**

1. It is a project under CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system).
2. Under the project technical systems are installed along India-Bangladesh border.

**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.245) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>

<p>Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique <b>(BOLD-QIT) Project</b> <b>(Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system)</b> implemented along India-Bangladesh border. Information and Technology Wing of Border Security Force (BSF) is the Implementing Agency of BOLD-QIT Project.</p>	<p><b>BOLD-QIT is the project to install technical systems which enable BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders</b> with different kind of sensors in the unfenced riverine area of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Under it, the entire span of River Brahmaputra is covered with data network generated by Microwave communication, OFC Cables, DMR Communication, day and night surveillance Cameras and intrusion detection system.</p>
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**Q.246) 'Riyadh Agreement' was in news recently. It primarily deals with which of the following countries?**

- Yemen
- Iran
- Iraq
- Syria

**Q.246) Solution (a)**

Yemen's Saudi-backed government and southern separatists signed an agreement to end a power struggle in the south of Yemen that risked opening a new front in the multifaceted conflict.

**Q.247) Which of the following acts is administered by the 'Reserve Bank of India'?**

- Government Securities Regulations, 2007
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
- Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005
- Factoring Regulation Act, 2011

**Select the correct statements**

- 1, 2 and 3
- 2, 3 and 4
- 1, 3 and 4
- All of the above

**Q.247) Solution (d)**

The following acts are administered by the RBI

- Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- Public Debt Act, 1944/Government Securities Act, 2006
- Government Securities Regulations, 2007

- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
- Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Chapter II)
- Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005
- Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- Factoring Regulation Act, 2011

**Q.248) 'Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others (1992)' Judgment is associated with**

- Tenth Schedule
- Right to Property
- Sedition
- Personal Laws

**Q.248) Solution (a)**

**Kihoto Hollohan case**

- The law covering the disqualification of legislators and the powers of the Speaker in deciding such matters became part of the statute book in 1985 when the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution was adopted.
- A constitutional challenge to the Tenth Schedule was settled by the apex court in Kihoto Hollohan.

**Q.249) The term 'Spaghetti bowl effect' is concerned with**

- Human Development Index
- Free Trade Agreements
- Pumping and Dumping Stocks
- Global Warming

**Q.249) Solution (b)**

The spaghetti bowl effect is the multiplication of free trade agreements (FTAs), supplanting multilateral World Trade Organization negotiations as an alternative path toward globalization. The term was first used by Jagdish Bhagwati in 1995 in the paper: "US Trade policy: The infatuation with free trade agreements", where he openly criticized FTAs as being paradoxically counter-productive in promoting freer and more opened global trades. According to Bhagwati, too many crisscrossing FTAs would allow countries to adopt discriminatory trade policies and reduce the economic benefits of trade.

**Q.250) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)'**

1. ETFs are traded on stock exchanges like shares.

2. The expenses ratio of ETFs is generally on the higher side compared to mutual funds.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.250) Solution (a)**

Exchange Traded Funds are listed and traded on stock exchanges like shares. Index ETFs are created by institutional investors swapping shares in an index basket, for units in the fund. Usually, ETFs are passive funds where the fund manager doesn't select stocks on your behalf. Instead, the ETF simply copies an index and endeavours to accurately reflect its performance. The expense ratio of ETFs is way lesser than that of mutual funds.

**Q.251) With reference to Core Investment Companies (CIC), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a non-banking financial company carrying on the business of acquisition of shares and securities.
2. It trades in its investments in shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.
3. A CIC registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has an asset size of above Rs 500 crore.

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

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

**Q.251) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Core Investment Company (CIC) is a non-banking financial company carrying on the business of acquisition of shares and	CIC does not trade in its investments in shares, bonds, debentures, debt	A Core Investment Company

<p><b>securities</b> and which satisfies the following conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CICs, which are allowed to accept public funds, should hold not less than 90% of their net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.</li> <li>2. Investments of CIC in the equity shares in group companies constitute not less than 60% of its net assets.</li> </ol>	<p><b>or loans in group companies</b> except through block sale for the purpose of dilution or disinvestment. This Concept was originated in order to safeguard NBFCs which are formed for group investments from stringent RBI procedures</p>	<p>registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has an <b>asset size of above Rs 100 crore.</b></p>
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**Q.252) Which of the following State topped the list of large-medium States in the overall justice delivery as per India Justice Report 2019?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

**Q.252) Solution (a)**

- **India Justice Report 2019 was released by the Tata Trusts** in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, among others.
- This is the first-ever ranking of Indian States on justice delivery. The report is based on publicly available data from different government entities on the four pillars of justice delivery — police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.
- Key findings of Report:
  - **Maharashtra has topped the list of 18 large-medium States in the overall justice delivery**, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana. In this category, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom.
  - Even the best performing States scored less than 60% in their performance on capacity across all four parameters.
  - The country has about 18,200 judges with about 23% sanctioned posts vacant
  - Prisons are over-occupied at 114%, where 68% are undertrials awaiting investigation, inquiry or trial.
  - India's per capita expenditure on free legal aid is 75 paisa per annum.



**Q.253) Consider the following states:**

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Manipur
3. Nagaland
4. Mizoram

**With reference to the States mentioned above, in terms of total forest cover, which one of the following is the correct descending order?**

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

**Q.253) Solution (c)**

- Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).
- Total forest cover in terms of area, Mizoram (18,006 sq km) , Arunachal Pradesh (66,688 sq km), Meghalaya (17,119 sq km), Manipur (16,847 sq km), Nagaland (12,486 sq km). Thus correct answer is **Arunachal Pradesh > Mizoram > Manipur > Nagaland.**

**Q.254) Recently seen in news, the Bougainville region is located within which of the following?**

- a) Indonesia
- b) Philippines
- c) Papua New Guinea
- d) Madagascar

**Q.254) Solution (c)**

- People of Bougainville to cast their votes in a **referendum** on whether they should seek independence from Papua New Guinea.

- Politically, **Bougainville** is currently an **autonomous region within Papua New Guinea**

**Q.255) Consider the following statements about the maiden Tiger Triumph Exercise:**

- It is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise between India and USA.
- The 2019 Exercise is conducted off the Malabar Coast in Kerala.

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

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

**Q.255) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Tiger Triumph' is the <b>maiden India USA joint Tri services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise</b> . The Exercise is aimed to developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations.	2019 exercise is conducted off <b>Visakhapatnam and Kakinada coasts</b> in Andhra Pradesh.

**Q.256) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'STREAM'.**

- It is the first large-scale, multi-country clinical trial to examine shortened regimens for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).
- It seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
- It is a newly launched Over the Top (OTT) service by Government of India
- It provides 32 High Quality Educational Channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24X7 basis.

**Q.256) Solution (a)**

STREAM is the first large-scale, multi-country clinical trial to examine shortened regimens for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). It is also the first phase III trial to test the

efficacy and safety of bedaquiline, a new drug with a ‘novel mechanism of action’[1], within a shortened treatment regimen.

**Q.257) ‘Cytochrome b6f’ is crucial for which of the following process?**

- a) Photosynthesis
- b) Pyrolysis
- c) Methanogenesis
- d) Blending of ethanol

**Q.257) Solution (a)**

Cytochrome b6f provides the electrical connection between the so-called photosystem I and photosystem II reaction centers of oxygenic photosynthesis, which are two light-powered chlorophyll-proteins within the plant cell chloroplast that convert sunlight into chemical energy. The protein complex, the researchers say, serves as a sort of “proton battery” for storing energy.

**Q.258) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

**Places in News      Country**

1. Qeshm Island – United Arab Emirates
2. Baqoura – Jordan
3. Natanz – Iran

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.258) Solution (b)**

Qeshm Island – Iran

Baqoura – Jordan

Natanz – Iran

**Q.259) ‘Supreme Court of India v. Subhash Chandra Agarwal’ deals with**

- a) Right to Information
- b) Right to Property
- c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
- d) Right against exploitation

**Q.259) Solution (a)**

The Court found that the Chief Justice’s office is a “public authority” within the meaning of the Right to Information (RTI) Act as it performs numerous administrative functions in addition to its adjudicatory role. Access to information it held was therefore regulated by the Act. The Court emphasized that information pertaining to submitted declarations and their contents constitutes “information” within the meaning of Section 2 (f) of the Act.

**Q.260) Which of the following statements with respect to ‘constitutional morality’ is/are correct?**

1. It may refer to the conventions and protocols that govern decision-making where the constitution vests discretionary power or is silent.
2. The term ‘constitutional morality’ is well defined in the Constitution of India.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.260) Solution (a)**

In contemporary usage, constitutional morality has come to refer to the substantive content of a constitution. To be governed by a constitutional morality is, on this view, to be governed by the substantive moral entailment any constitution carries. For instance, the principle of non-discrimination is often taken to be an element of our modern constitutional morality. In this sense, constitutional morality is the morality of a constitution.

Constitutional morality refers to the conventions and protocols that govern decision-making where the constitution vests discretionary power or is silent.

*Please note that the term ‘constitutional morality’ has various definitions. It is a very broad term.*

The term ‘constitutional morality’ has not been defined in the Constitution.

**Q.261) Consider the following Indian cities:**

1. Mumbai
2. Chennai
3. Kolkata
4. Gandhinagar
5. Hyderabad

**Which of the above are included under UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network?**

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

**Q.261) Solution (b)**

- UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network (UCCN) created in 2004 aims towards a common objective of placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.
- Network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- Indian cities in UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network are
  - **Mumbai** (Films Creative)
  - **Hyderabad** (Gastronomy)
  - **Chennai** and **Varanasi** (Music)
  - **Jaipur** (Crafts and Folk Arts)

**Q.262) Consider the following statements about Operation Muskaan:**

1. It aims at rehabilitating missing children.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**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.262) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>Operation Muskaan</b> / Operation Smile is a dedicated campaign for a month where several activities are taken up by the State Police personnel to trace and rescue the missing children and reunite them with	It is an <b>initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)</b> to <b>rescue/rehabilitate missing children.</b>

their families.	
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**Q.263) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Geographic region</b>	<b>State</b>
1. Sukinda valley	Chhattisgarh
2. Kalapani	Uttarakhand
3. Araku valley	Jharkhand

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

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

**Q.263) Solution (c)**

- **Sukinda valley in Odisha** has 90% of India's chromate reserves.
- **Araku valley is in Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Kalapani** is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of **Uttarakhand**, laid claim by Nepal. It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.

**Q.264) Which of the following released the 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report?**

- a) Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) World Bank

**Q.264) Solution (b)**

- According to the **Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report**, the overall environment for financial inclusion has improved globally with India, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico having the most favourable conditions for inclusive finance.
- For promoting digital financial inclusion, the report identified four basic enablers
  1. Allowing non-banks to issue e-money

2. Presence of financial service agents
3. Proportionate customer due diligence
4. Effective financial consumer protection

**Q.265) Kerala government's 'K-Fon project' aims to**

- a) Pay the difference between official Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the rate at which farmers sell their crops.
- b) Provide drinking water to all households in rural Kerala.
- c) Conditionally transfer the cash for school girls.
- d) Provide free high-speed Internet connection.

**Q.265) Solution (d)**

- Kerala government has recently cleared the K-Fon project to provide free high-speed Internet connection to over 20 lakh BPL families in the state.
- Project envisages a State-wide optical fiber network to link houses and offices.
- It also provides Net connectivity at affordable rate for families that do not fall in the BPL bracket.

**Q.266) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)'.**

1. The establishment of this cooperation was initiated by Thailand.
2. It is a cooperation framework among CLMV countries and Thailand to utilize member countries' diverse strengths and to promote balanced development in the subregion.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.266) Solution (c)**

The Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS is a cooperation framework among Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam to utilize member countries' diverse strengths and to promote balanced development in the subregion. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand initiated the establishment of this cooperation framework in April 2003. The areas of cooperation include, among others, transport, and trade and investment facilitation.

**Q.267) 'System for Transfer of Financial Messages' is primarily associated with which of the following countries?**

- a) China
- b) Russia
- c) United States of America
- d) India

**Q.267) Solution (b)**

It is a Russian equivalent of the SWIFT financial transfer system, developed by the Central Bank of Russia.

India, Russia and China are exploring an alternative to the US-dominated SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) payment mechanism in a bid to smoothen trade with countries facing American sanctions.

Russia's financial messaging system SPFS will be linked with the Chinese cross-border interbank payment system CIPS. While India still does not have a domestic financial messaging system, it plans to link the Central Bank of Russia's platform with a service that is under development.

**Q.268) 'Budapest Convention' was in news recently. It deals with**

- a) Cybercrime
- b) Extradition
- c) Double Taxation
- d) Transboundary Movements of Medicines

**Q.268) Solution (a)**

The Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention, is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.

**Q.269) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ecological fiscal transfers (EFTs)'.**

1. The world's largest ecological fiscal transfer system was established by India in 2015.
2. EFTs involve higher levels of government distributing funds to lower levels of government based on ecological indicators.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.269) Solution (c)**

Ecological fiscal transfers (EFTs) involve higher levels of government distributing funds to lower levels of government based on ecological indicators.

The world's largest ecological fiscal transfer system was established by India in 2015 when India's 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission added forest cover to the formula that determines the amount of tax revenue the Union government distributes annually to each of India's states, alongside historical population, recent population, poverty and area.

**Q.270) 'Descriptio Indiae', a circumstantial description of the twenty-two provinces of India was written by**

- Joseph Tiefenthaler
- William Finch
- Montgomery Martin
- Jean-Baptiste Tavernier

**Q.270) Solution (a)**

Joseph Tiefenthaler wrote a Descriptio Indiae, a circumstantial description of the twenty-two provinces of India, of its cities, fortresses, and the most important smaller towns, together with an exact statement of geographical positions, calculated by means of a simple quadrant.

**Q.271) The Mihir Shah Committee constituted to draft new**

- National Water Policy
- National Forest Policy
- Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy
- National Mineral Policy

**Q.271) Solution (a)**

- Mihir Shah Committee** constituted by Union Water Resources Ministry to **draft a new National Water Policy (NWP)**.
- The committee has 10 principal members, chaired by Mihir Shah who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert.

**Q.272) Consider the following pairs:**

<i>Tiger reserve</i>	<i>State</i>
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1. Satkosia	Rajasthan
2. Buxa	West Bengal
3. Palamau	Odisha

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

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

**Q.272) Solution (c)**

- **Palamau** is the only Tiger reserve in the state of **Jharkhand**, India.
- **Buxa** Tiger reserve is in **West Bengal**.
- **Satkosia** Tiger reserve is in **Odisha**.

**Q.273) Consider the following statements about International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO):**

1. It is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency.
2. Chicago Convention established the core principles permitting international transport by air and led to the creation of the ICAO.
3. It is headquartered in Chicago.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.273) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<b>International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)</b> is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency established in 1944. It laid the	Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed in <b>Chicago</b> . <b>Convention</b> established the core principles permitting	It has 193 members (including India) and <b>headquartered</b>

foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.	international transport by air and <b>led to the creation of the ICAO.</b>	in <b>Montreal,</b> Canada.
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**Q.274) The PUNCH Mission of NASA is to**

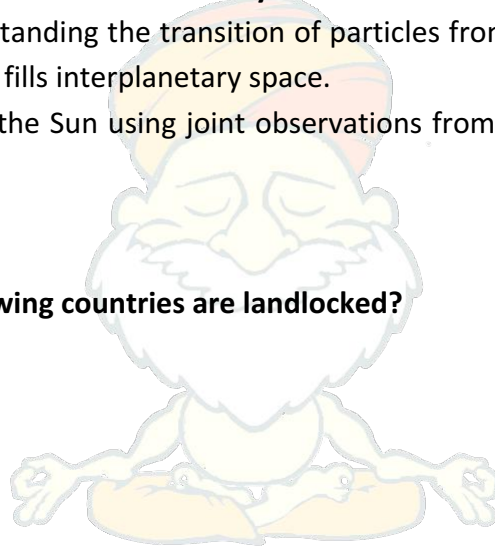
- Remove space debris
- Study waves in the lower atmosphere
- Discover potentially Habitable Exoplanets
- Study the Sun's outer Corona

**Q.274) Solution (d)**

- **PUNCH Mission “Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere,”** is a **NASA’s Mission** for understanding the transition of particles from the Sun’s outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.
- Plan is to observe the Sun using joint observations from PUNCH and Indian mission Aditya L1.

**Q.275) Which of the following countries are landlocked?**

- Colombia
- Cambodia
- Bolivia
- Ethiopia
- Armenia



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

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

**Q.275) Solution (b)**

- **Bolivia, Ethiopia and Armenia** are landlocked countries.

**Q.276) ‘Kail Podh’ Festival is associated with which of the following states?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Karnataka
- c) Goa
- d) Sikkim

**Q.276) Solution (b)**

Kailpodh, the harvest festival is the time for the Kodavas to feast after involving in hard labour of the ploughing, sowing and transplanting of rice. It is one of the two festivals that only Kodavas celebrate, the other being 'Puttari' during December.

The Kodavas (Kodava, anglicised as Coorgs), are considered a patrilineal ethno-lingual tribe from the region of Kodagu, (in Karnataka state of southern India), who natively speak the Kodava language.

**Q.277) The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) was in news recently. Which of the following countries were participants of the exercise?**

- 1. India
- 2. Australia
- 3. Japan
- 4. USA

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.277) Solution (d)**

The National Investigation Agency is hosting the first counter-terrorism exercise for the "Quad" countries -- India, the US, Japan and Australia.

The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) is first such engagement among the Quad countries on regional and global issues of common interest and also in the domain of counter-terrorism and cooperation.

**Q.278) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)'.**

- 1. It was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2001 to finance projects relating to: adaptation; technology transfer and capacity building; energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and economic diversification.
- 2. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been entrusted to operate the SCCF.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.278) Solution (c)**

Housed at the GEF, the SCCF was established in 2001 to support climate change projects in all developing country parties to the UNFCCC through four funding windows: adaptation, technology transfer, sector-specific projects, and assistance with diversification of fuel-dependent economies.

**Q.279) ‘Danakil Depression’ was in news recently. Where is it located?**

- a) Indonesia
- b) Ethiopia
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Russia

**Q.279) Solution (b)**

The Danakil Depression is the northern part of the Afar Triangle or Afar Depression in Ethiopia, a geological depression that has resulted from the divergence of three tectonic plates in the Horn of Africa.

The Danakil Depression lies at the triple junction of three tectonic plates and has a complex geological history. It has developed as a result of Africa and Asia moving apart, causing rifting and volcanic activity. Erosion, inundation by the sea, the rising and falling of the ground have all played their part in the formation of this depression. Sedimentary rocks such as sandstone and limestone are unconformably overlain by basalt which resulted from extensive lava flows.

**Q.280) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI)’.**

1. It is a mechanism for foreign currency exchange in times of emergency.
2. It was launched by the ASEAN+6 countries.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.280) Solution (a)**

The Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) is a multilateral currency swap arrangement among the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China (including Hong Kong), Japan, and South Korea.

Originally, the Chiang Mai Initiative was established in 2001 as a tool for regional financial cooperation, drawing on the lessons learned from the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Starting out as a bunch of swap agreements, the mechanism became the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralism (CMIM) in 2009, after the region was hit once again, this time by the Global Financial Crisis.

**Q.281) 'Make in India Mittelstand' (MIIM) Programme aims to facilitate investment in India by which of the following?**

- a) France
- b) Germany
- c) Netherland
- d) United Kingdom

**Q.281) Solution (b)**

- 'Make in India Mittelstand' (MIIM) Programme aiming to facilitate investment by German SMEs into India.

**Q.282) Consider the following pairs:**

<b><i>Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) systems of India</i></b>	<b><i>State</i></b>
1. Koraput	Sikkim
2. Pampore	Uttarakhand
3. Kuttanad	Kerala

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

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

**Q.282) Solution (a)**

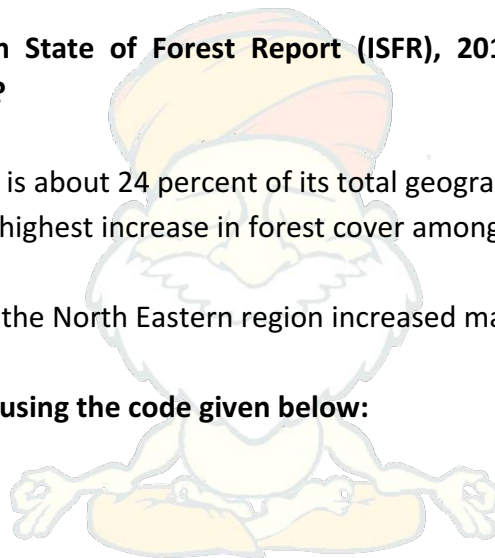
- **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)** are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- GIAHS programme was started by **FAO** in 2002 when it began awarding such designations to selected sites across the world.
- Aim of GIAHS programme is to identify and safeguard eco-friendly **traditional farm practices** and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities.
- Three agricultural systems from India have got GIAHS status.
  - i. **Koraput (Odisha)** - cultivation of traditional varieties of paddy, pulses, millets, oilseeds, and vegetables.
  - ii. **Pampore (Kashmir Valley)** - Saffron Heritage Site
  - iii. **Kuttanad (Kerala)** - lowland rice cultivation, below sea level.

**Q.283) As per the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019 which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. India's forest cover is about 24 percent of its total geographic area.
2. Karnataka saw the highest increase in forest cover among the other States compared to last assessment.
3. The forest cover in the North Eastern region increased marginally.

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

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



**Q.283) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
As per Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019, <b>total forest cover</b> is <b>21.67%</b> of the geographical area of the country. The <b>tree cover</b> is <b>2.89%</b> of geographical area. Thus	The <b>top five States in terms of increase in forest cover:</b> Karnataka (1,025 sq km), Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km), Kerala (823 sq km), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq	Total forest cover in the <b>North Eastern region</b> is 65.05% of its geographical area. The current <b>assessment shows a decrease of forest cover to the extent</b> of 765 sq km (0.45%) in the region. Except Assam and Tripura, all the

total forest and tree cover is 24.56%. Hence statement is incorrect.	km) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km).	States in the region show decrease in forest cover.
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**Q.284) The term 'Arrokoth' seen in news is related with**

- Cyber Physical System
- Particle Physics
- Kuiper Belt Flyby Object
- Human Genome Project

**Q.284) Solution (c)**

- The International Astronomical Union and Minor Planets Center, the global body for naming **Kuiper Belt objects**, has officially named the New Horizons Kuiper Belt Flyby Object as '**Arrokoth**'.
- Arrokoth is one of the thousands of known small icy worlds in the Kuiper Belt, the vast "third zone" of the solar system beyond the inner terrestrial planets and the outer gas giant planets.

**Q.285) Consider the following statements about innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative:**

- iDEX is an ecosystem to foster innovation and indigenous technology development in Defence and Aerospace.
- iDEX will be funded and managed by a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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

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

**Q.285) Solution (a)**

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>



An innovation for Defence Excellence (**iDEX**) initiative was launched in 2018 by Defence Ministry. iDEX is **an ecosystem to foster innovation and indigenous technology development in Defence and Aerospace** by engaging innovators and entrepreneurs to deliver technologically advanced solutions for modernizing Indian Military.

iDEX provides funding/grants to MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovator, R&D institutes and academia to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption. **iDEX will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)'** which has been formed as a 'not for profit' company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013. DIO is funded by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

**Q.286) The 'Dampier-Hodges Line' is associated with which of the following regions?**

- Western Ghats
- Aravallis
- Sundarbans
- Konkan Coast

**Q.286) Solution (c)**

In India, the Dampier-Hodges Line created by the British in 1828 is considered the northern boundary which include forested as well as densely populated parts of Sundarbans.

**Q.287) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- Sasthamkotta Lake – Kerala
- Kanjli Wetland – Uttarakhand
- Surinsar-Mansar Lakes – Punjab

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.287) Solution (a)**

Sasthamkotta Lake – Kerala

Kanjli Wetland – Punjab

Surinsar-Mansar Lakes – Jammu & Kashmir

**Q.288) The 'Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)' is under the aegis of**

- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Science and Technology

d) Ministry of Jal Shakti

**Q.288) Solution (a)**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

**Q.289) Which of the following are surveillance acts of India?**

1. Indian Telegraph Act, 1885,
2. Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000
3. Central Bureau of Investigation Act, 1965

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.289) Solution (a)**

The laws governing this are the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, which deals with interception of calls, and the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, which deals with interception of data. Under both laws, only the government, under certain circumstances, is permitted to conduct surveillance, and not private actors.

**Q.290) India has Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with**

1. Japan
2. USA
3. South Korea

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.290) Solution (c)**

The major FTAs that India has signed and implemented so far include South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), India-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and India-Japan CEPA.

**Q.291) Consider the following statements about Indian Air Quality Interactive Repository (IndAIR)?**

1. It is the India's first web repository, documenting air quality studies done in the last 60 years.
2. It is launched by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) along with the National Informatics Centre (NIC)

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.291) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<b>Indian Air Quality Interactive Repository (IndAIR)</b> is the <b>India's first web repository</b> , documenting air quality studies done in the last 60 years. It aims to provide the history of air pollution research and legislation.	It is <b>launched by</b> National Environmental Engineering Research Institute ( <b>NEERI</b> ) along with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research ( <b>CSIR</b> ).

Q.292) Recently seen in news, Nangrahar is a province of which of the following?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Myanmar
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Tanzania

Q.292) Solution (c)

- **Nangrahar or Ningrahar**, is one of the 34 provinces of **Afghanistan**, located in the eastern part of the country.
- The Nangrahar province territory fell to the Maurya Empire, which was led by Chandragupta Maurya, who introduced Hinduism and Buddhism.

Q.293) Which of the following services are covered under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme?

1. Pre-school non-formal education
2. Supplementary Nutrition
3. Immunization
4. Health check-up

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.293) Solution (d)**

- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by state governments and union territories.
- It aims at providing supplementary nutrition, immunization and pre-school education to the children.
- The beneficiaries include Children of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- It offers a **package of six services** such as Supplementary Nutrition, **Pre-school non-formal education**, Nutrition and health education, **Immunization**, **Health check-up** and Referral services.
- The services are offered at Anganwadi Centres through Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHS) at grassroots level.
- All components of ICDS except Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) are financed through a 60:40 ratio (central:state). The SNP component was funded through 50:50 ratio. The North East states have a 90:10 ratio.

**Q.294) With reference to Dhanush Artillery Gun, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is the first indigenous artillery gun of India.
2. It is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India.

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.294) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Dhanush Artillery Gun</b> is the <b>first indigenous artillery gun of India</b> . Developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Kolkata and referred to as Desi Bofors.	<b>It is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India (range of 38 km)</b> . It is equipped with a navigation- based sighting system and night direct firing system.

**Q.295) Which of the following is the smallest of all rhino species?**

- a) Black Rhino
- b) White Rhino
- c) Javan Rhino
- d) Sumatran Rhino

**Q.295) Solution (d)**

- **Sumatran Rhino is the smallest of all rhino species.**
- It is Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- The Sumatran rhinoceros has become extinct in Malaysia, after the death of the last rhino in the country.

**Q.296) Which of the following countries took Myanmar to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for committing genocide?**

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) China
- c) Turkey
- d) Gambia

**Q.296) Solution (d)**

Gambia's filing asks the ICJ to find Myanmar guilty of committing genocide— of failing to prevent and punish genocide. Gambia's request asks the ICJ to demand that Myanmar cease genocidal acts, provides reparations and punishes the perpetrators (including senior government officials and military officers).

**THINK!**

- Genocide Convention

**Q.297) 'The rule of negative (or reverse) consensus' is associated with**

- World Bank
- World Trade Organization
- International Solar Alliance
- BIMSTEC

**Q.297) Solution (b)**

It is associated with the WTO dispute settlement case.

Read More -

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/disp\\_settlement\\_cbt\\_e/c6s3p1\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/disp_settlement_cbt_e/c6s3p1_e.htm)

**Q.298) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)'.**

- It is the proportion of high liquid assets set aside to meet short-term obligations.
- It was prescribed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.298) Solution (c)**

In the backdrop of the global financial crisis that started in 2007, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) proposed certain reforms to strengthen global capital and liquidity regulations with the objective of promoting a more resilient banking sector. In this regard, the Basel III rules text on liquidity – “Basel III: International framework for liquidity risk measurement, standards and monitoring” was issued in December 2010 which presented the details of global regulatory standards on liquidity. Two minimum standards viz. Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) for funding liquidity were prescribed by the Basel Committee for achieving two separate but complementary objectives.

The LCR promotes short-term resilience of banks to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring that they have sufficient high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs) to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days. The NSFR promotes resilience over longer-term time horizons by requiring banks to fund their activities with more stable sources of funding on an ongoing basis.

**Q.299) The term 'Clawback Mechanism' was in news associated with**

- Non-Performing Assets

- b) EXIM Scrips
- c) National Agriculture Market (eNAM)
- d) Committee of Creditors (CoC)

**Q.299) Solution (a)**

A clawback provision is a contractual clause typically included in employment contracts by financial firms, by which money already paid to an employee must be paid back to the employer under certain conditions.

RBI has tightened the guidelines for compensation packages of whole-time directors (WTDs) and chief executive officers (CEOs) of private and foreign banks, and asked them to put in place a clawback mechanism to address the misconduct risk and under-reporting of bad loans.

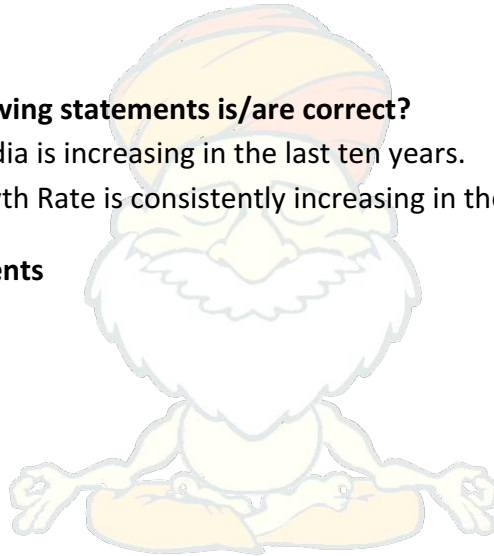
**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/to-tackle-npa-under-reporting-and-misconduct-rbi-asks-private-banks-to-set-clawback-mechanism-6103260/>

**Q.300) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

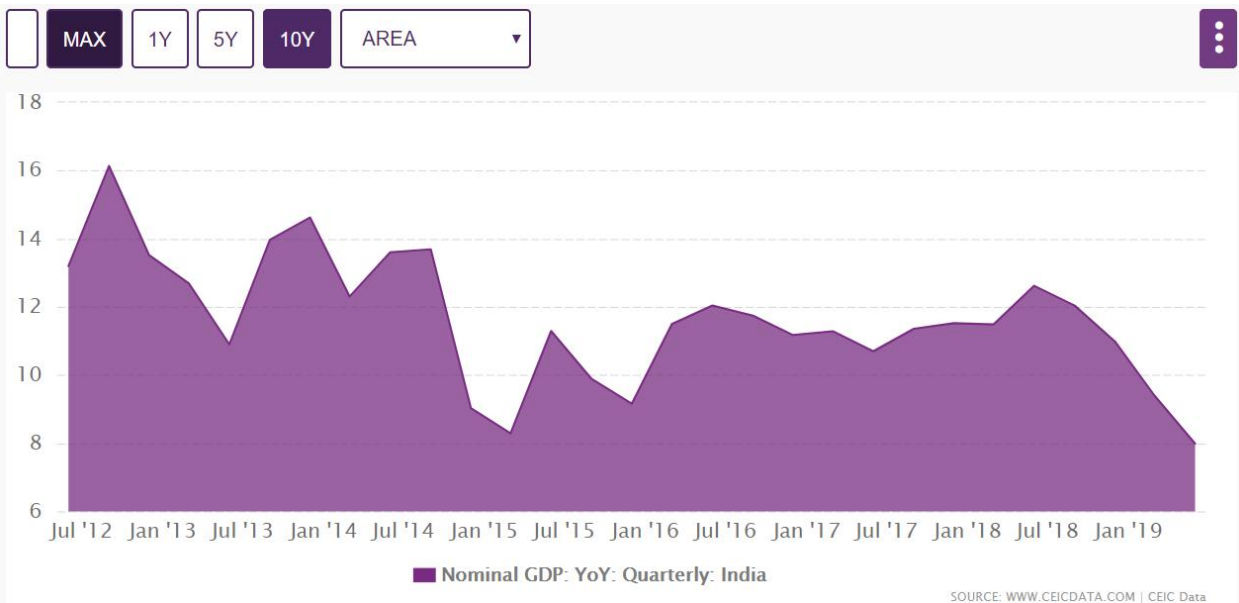
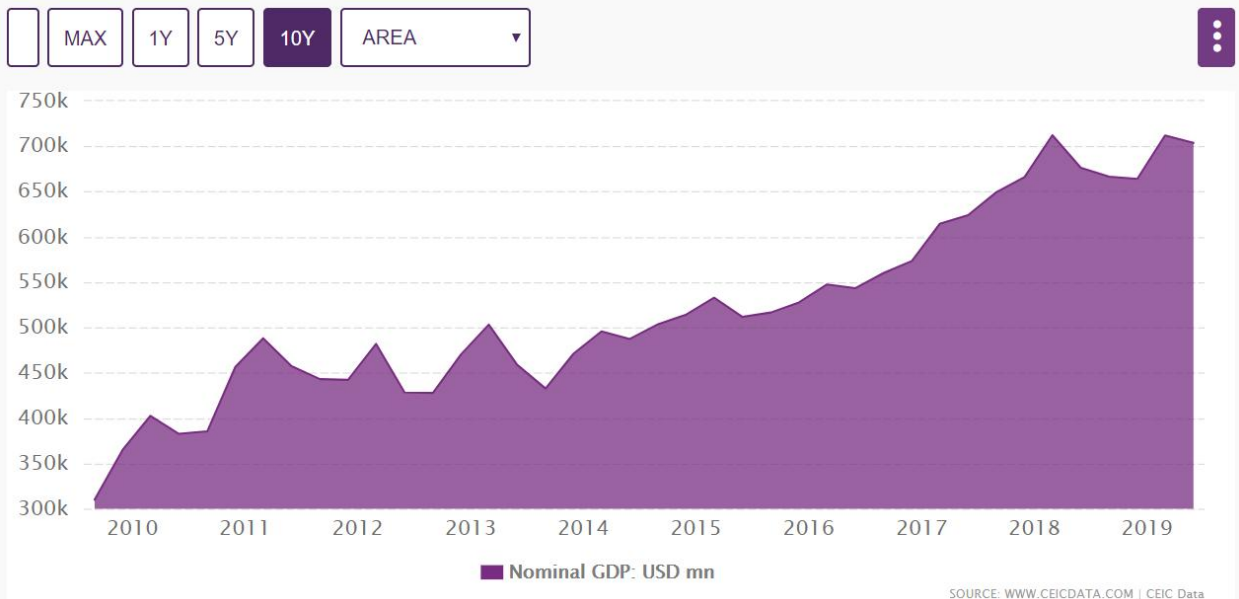
1. Nominal GDP of India is increasing in the last ten years.
2. Nominal GDP Growth Rate is consistently increasing in the last ten years.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.300) Solution (a)**

Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect.



**Q.301) Consider the following statements about 'Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India':**

1. The objective of the scheme is to document and archive the country's languages that have become endangered or likely to be endangered in the near future.
2. The Scheme was instituted by Ministry of Culture.

**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.301) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The <b>sole objective</b> of the 'Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India' is <b>to document and archive the country's languages that have become endangered or likely to be endangered in the near future.</b>	Scheme was instituted by <b>Ministry of Human Resource Development</b> . The scheme is monitored by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) located in Mysuru, Karnataka.

**Q.302) The Global Climate Risk Index is released by**

- a) United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)  
b) Germanwatch  
c) Climate Action Network (CAN)  
d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

**Q.302) Solution (b)**

- The **Global Climate Risk Index** was released by international environmental think tank **Germanwatch**.
- It assessed 181 countries and quantified impacts of climate change through economic losses, losses to GDP and fatalities to arrive at a ranking.
- India's rank has worsened from 14th spot in 2017 to 5th most vulnerable country to climate change in 2018. Japan topped the list followed by the Philippines and Germany.

**Q.303) With reference to interstellar object 'BORISOV' consider the following statements:**

1. It is the first interstellar object to be identified till date to have passed through our solar system.
2. It follows an elliptical path.

**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.303) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>COMET 2I/BORISOV has become the second interstellar object to be identified</b> till date to have passed through our solar system. The first one was 1I/'Oumuamua'. The name Borisov honours its discoverer, astronomer Gennady Borisov from Crimea.	Objects born in our solar system are trapped in elliptical orbits around the sun while <b>interstellar bodies follow the hyperbolic path</b> . It was confirmed that 2I/Borisov has a more hyperbolic path than any other comet which has been studied to date.

**Q.304) Which of the following country imposes Digital Services Tax (DST) known as 'GAFA' Tax?**

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

**Q.304) Solution (c)**

- France's **Digital Services Tax (DST)** is a 3% tax on the turnover of digital companies with global turnover of at least €750 million, of which €25 million is generated in France.
- France's DST is known informally as the **"GAFA" tax** after the initials for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.

**Q.305) With reference to Industrial Security Annex (ISA), which of the following statements is/are NOT CORRECT?**

1. It is a part of the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) signed between India and USA.
2. It will facilitate the exchange of classified military information between Indian and the U.S. defense industries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

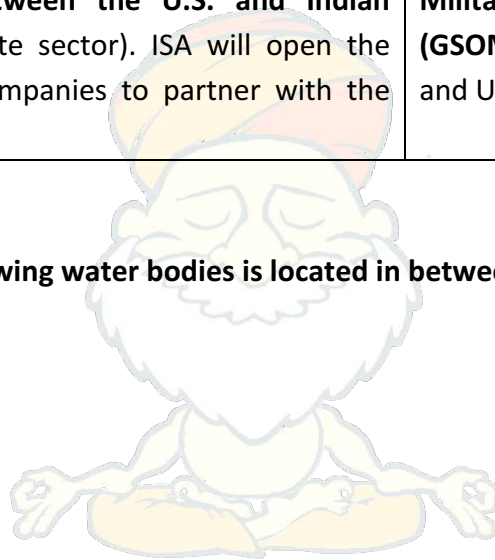
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.305) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Industrial Security Annex (ISA) will provide a framework for exchange and protection of classified military information between the U.S. and Indian defence industries (private sector). ISA will open the door for U.S. defence companies to partner with the Indian private sector.</b>	<b>Industrial Security Annex (ISA) is a part of the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) signed between India and USA.</b>

Q.306) Which of the following water bodies is located in between Crimean Peninsula and Russia?

- a) Sea of Azov
- b) Dnieper River
- c) Sea of Marmara
- d) Gulf of Bothnia



Q.306) Solution (a)



**Q.307) India's 'Four balance sheet challenge' includes**

1. Infrastructure companies
2. Banks
3. NBFCs
4. Real Estate Companies
5. Telecom Companies

**Select the correct code:**

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

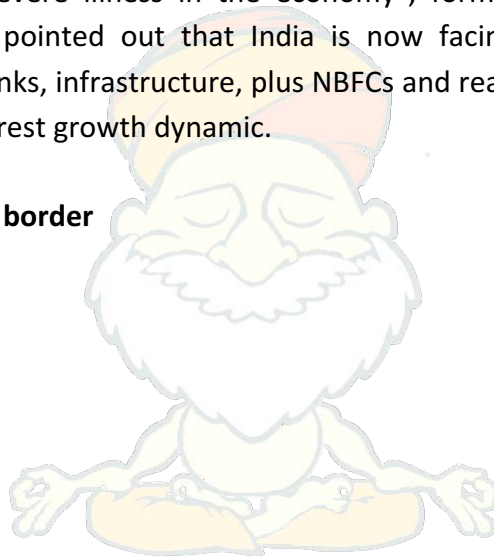
**Q.307) Solution (a)**

Citing reasons for the "severe illness in the economy", former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian has pointed out that India is now facing a "Four Balance Sheet" challenge -- comprising banks, infrastructure, plus NBFCs and real estate companies -- and is trapped in an adverse interest growth dynamic.

**Q.308) 'Somalia' does not border**

- a) Kenya
- b) Djibouti
- c) Eritrea
- d) Ethiopia

**Q.308) Solution (c)**





**Q.309) Which of the following statements with respect to 'QR Code' is/are correct?**

1. Characters and special characters can be stored in a QR Code.
2. QR Code can store up to 7089 digits.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.309) Solution (c)**

Up to 7089 digits or 4296 characters, including punctuation marks and special characters, can be entered in one Code. In addition to numbers and characters, words and phrases (e.g. Internet addresses) can be encoded as well. As more data is added to the QR Code, the Code size increases and the Code structure becomes more complex.

**Q.310) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Saptamatrikas'**

1. They are a group of seven female deities worshipped in Hinduism as personifying the energy of their respective consorts.
2. Nataraja sculpture at Ravana Phadi cave, Aihole is surrounded by larger-than-life-size depictions of the saptamatrikas.

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

**Q.310) Solution (c)**

Saptamatrikas are a group of seven female deities worshipped in Hinduism as personifying the energy of their respective consorts.

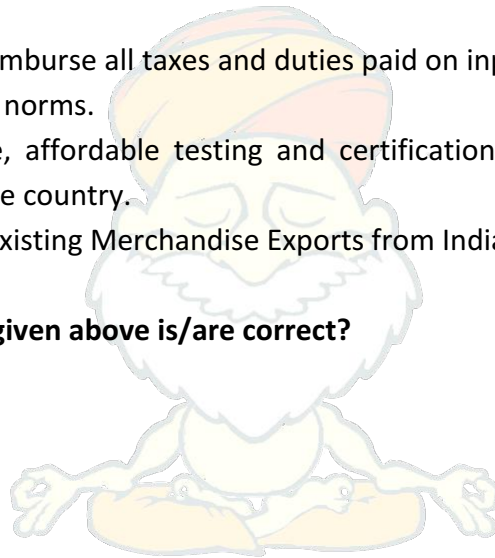
Early Chalukyan activity takes the form of rock-cut caves while later activity is of structural temples. The earliest is probably the Ravana Phadi cave at Aihole which is known for its distinctive sculptural style. One of the most important sculptures at the site is of Nataraja, surrounded by larger-than-life-size depictions of the saptamatrikas: three to Shiva's left and four to his right.

**Q.311) With reference to Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It is designed to reimburse all taxes and duties paid on inputs consumed in exports in sync with the WTO norms.
2. Under the scheme, affordable testing and certification will be made available to exporters within the country.
3. It will replace the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).

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

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

**Q.311) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product <b>(RoDTEP) scheme is designed to reimburse all taxes and duties paid on inputs consumed in exports in sync with the WTO</b>	Also by adapting to RoDTEP scheme, Indian exporters will be able to meet the international standards for exports as <b>affordable testing and certification will be made available to exporters within the country</b> instead of relying on	<b>RoDTEP scheme will replace the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and create a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the GST to help increase exports in India. MEIS was not WTO rules</b>

norms.

international organizations.

compliant.

**Q.312) Which of the following National Park are located in the state of Andhra Pradesh?**

1. Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park
2. Papikonda National Park
3. Mrugavani National Park
4. Sri Venkateswara National Park

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

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

**Q.312) Solution (b)**

- **Papikonda National Park** and **Sri Venkateswara National Park** are located in Andhra Pradesh.
- National Parks in Telangana: Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park, Mahaveer Harina Vanasthali National Park and Mrugavani National Park.

**Q.313) Recently, which of the following has launched 'Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize' to promote the Gandhi's ideals?**

- a) Portugal
- b) Ireland
- c) Congo
- d) Kenya

**Q.313) Solution (a)**

- **Portugal** has **launched Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize** in order to promote Gandhi's ideals.
- Every year, the prize would be inspired by Gandhi's thoughts and quotes. The first edition of the prize would be dedicated to animal welfare.

**Q.314) Which of the following is/are benefits of the Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi) technology?**

1. Shorter call connection time
2. Superior call quality
3. No extra charges apply for user

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

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

**Q.314) Solution (d)**

- Bharti Airtel has introduced **Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)**, a first for India. It uses high speed Internet connection, available via broadband, to **make and receive high definition (HD) voice calls**.
- **Benefits of VoWiFi :**
  - Calls made over VoWiFi provides users with a **shorter call connection time** along with **superior call quality** compared to calls made over VoLTE or any existing cellular technology.
  - Users **don't have to pay extra** for these calls as it is using a Wi-Fi network.

**Q.315) Recently seen in news, the 'Operation Clean Art' is related with**

- a) Cleaning the important monument sites of India
- b) Illegal wildlife trade
- c) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
- d) Tax compliance norms

**Q.315) Solution (b)**

- **Operation Clean Art** is the first pan India operation to **crackdown on Illegal Trade in Mongoose Hair** in the country.
- It was conceived by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) with the singular aim of ensuring that the mongoose hair brush trade should be closed down across the country.

Brushes made of mongoose hair are preferred because they are superior and hold colour better.



**Q.316) 'Tarun Ramadorai committee' was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) Fiscal Slippage
- b) Household finance
- c) Monetary Policy Transmission
- d) Bad Banks

**Q.316) Solution (b)**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted Dr. Tarun Ramadorai committee to study various facets of household finance in India.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/savings-with-a-bonus-financial-peace-of-mind/article30300289.ece>

**Q.317) India has ratified which of the following ILO Conventions?**

- 1. Night Work (Women) Convention, 1919
- 2. Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919
- 3. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
- 4. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.317) Solution (a)**

All the conventions mentioned above are ratified by India except for 'Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention'

**Read More -** <https://labour.gov.in/lcandilasdivision/india-ilo>

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/new-rules-old-problems/article30390884.ece>

**Q.318) 'Jarnail Singh vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta Case' is associated with**

- a) Reservation in Promotion
- b) Right to Property
- c) Right to Speech
- d) Judicial Activism

**Q.318) Solution (a)**

Jarnail Singh vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta case - Question of whether the concept of 'creamy layer' should apply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes job promotions following a request from the Union government.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/why-does-government-wants-supreme-court-to-reconsider-stand-on-scst-creamy-layer/article30233041.ece>

**Q.319) The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) is brought out by**

- a) International Organization for Migration
- b) Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) International Labour Organization

**Q.319) Solution (b)**

The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID). The annual flagship report synthesises the latest statistics, country/situation assessments, thematic and policy analyses. Each year it presents the most up-to-date estimates of new displacements by conflict and disasters, and the total cumulative numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) worldwide.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) is the world's authoritative source of data and analysis on internal displacement. Since its establishment in 1998 as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council, IDMC offered a rigorous, independent and trusted service to the international community.

It states that of the 30.6 million people displaced in 2017, 18.8 million were disaster-related. The U.S. ranked sixth among the top 10 countries with nearly 1.7 million people moving due to disaster-related displacements in 2017 alone. That year, China topped the list with 4.5 million, followed by the Philippines with 2.5 million people displaced due to climate-related disasters.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/californias-new-climate-refugees/article30306988.ece>

**Q.320) Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?**

1. Chloroquine – Tuberculosis
2. Isoniazid – Malaria
3. Ivermectin – Strongyloidiasis

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.320) Solution (c)**

Chloroquine – Malaria

Isoniazid – Tuberculosis

Ivermectin – Strongyloidiasis

**Source:**

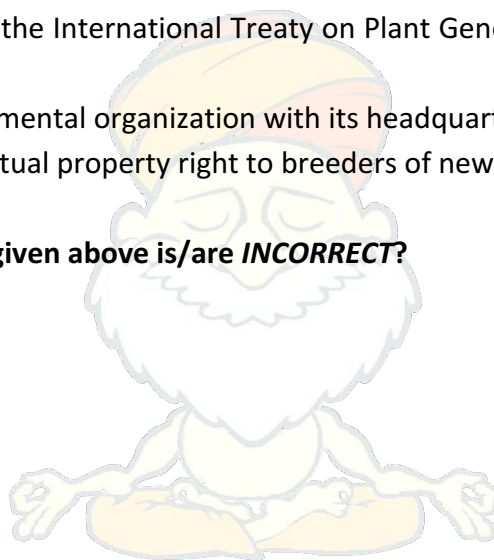
- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/combo-therapy-using-malaria-drug-quickly-clears-tb/article30124928.ece>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/controlling-tuberculosis-by-sniffing-in-a-vaccine/article29362218.ece>

**Q.321) Consider the following statements about International Union for Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV):**

1. It is established by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
2. It is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Geneva.
3. It grants an intellectual property right to breeders of new plant varieties.

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

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

**Q.321) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>UPOV is established by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention).</b> The Convention provides the basis for members to encourage plant breeding by granting breeders of new plant varieties an intellectual property right: the breeder's right.	International Union for Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV) is an <b>intergovernmental organization, with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.</b>	In the case of a variety protected by an authorization of the breeder is required to propagate the variety for commercial purposes. <b>The breeder's right is granted by the individual UPOV members.</b>

**Q.322) In which of the following state the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) Mizoram

**Q.322) Solution (b)**

- **Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated close to the India Myanmar border in **Nagaland**.
- Hornbill, the most popular bird in Nagaland also abundantly found in the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Q.323) The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action is related with**

- a) Persons with Disabilities
- b) Reducing Gender inequality
- c) Environmental Refugees
- d) Human Trafficking

**Q.323) Solution (a)**

- The **Biwako Millennium Framework for Action** towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for **persons with disabilities** in Asia and the Pacific.
- It provides policy guidelines for the Asian and Pacific region.

**Q.324) National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is the appellate tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by which of the following?**

1. National Company Law Tribunal
2. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
3. Competition Commission of India

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.324) Solution (d)**

- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** was constituted under Section 410 of the **Companies Act, 2013** to hear appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- NCLT is a **quasi-judicial body** that adjudicates issues relating to companies.
- Any person aggrieved by any order of the NCLAT may file an appeal to the Supreme Court.
- NCLAT is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by –
  - i. **National Company Law Tribunal(s)** under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)
  - ii. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
  - iii. **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013

**Q.325) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Hotspots of threatening locust activity are identified by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. Southwest Asia is one of the three Hotspots of threatening locust activity.

**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.325) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The <b>Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</b> of the United Nations identifies <b>Hotspots of threatening locust activity</b> .	FAO currently identified <b>three hotspots of threatening locust activity</b> , where the situation has been called “extremely alarming” — the <b>Horn of Africa, the Red Sea area, and southwest Asia</b> .

**Q.326) KP Krishnan Committee was in news recently. It is associated with**

- a) Cross-Border Insolvency
- b) Corporate Social Responsibility
- c) Corporate Governance
- d) Equal Remuneration

**Q.326) Solution (a)**

The committee was constituted to recommend rules and regulatory framework for the smooth implementation of cross-border insolvency provisions under the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has now expanded the terms of reference of this panel headed by retired IAS officer KP Krishnan to cover aspects relating to enterprise group insolvency on a cross-border basis.

It will study and analyse the Uncitral Model Law for 'enterprise group insolvency' and make recommendations in the context of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC).

**Q.327) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Air India' is/are correct?**

- a) Air India was nationalised in 1991.
- b) It was founded by J. R. D. Tata as Tata Airlines in 1932.
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.327) Solution (b)**

The airline was founded by J. R. D. Tata as Tata Airlines in 1932.

After World War II, regular commercial service was restored in India and Tata Airlines became a public limited company on 29 July 1946 under the name Air India.

In 1953, the Government of India passed the Air Corporations Act and purchased a majority stake in the carrier from Tata Sons though its founder J. R. D. Tata would continue as Chairman till 1977. The company was renamed as Air India International Limited and the domestic services were transferred to Indian Airlines as a part of a restructuring.

**Q.328) As a common rule of thumb, 'Recession' is defined as**

- a) Recession is two quarters of negative GDP growth.
- b) When the stock market falls over 40% in two weeks.
- c) When the employment rate in the country is over 10%
- d) When the global GDP falls by 10%.

**Q.328) Solution (a)**

A recession is characterised as a period of negative economic growth for two consecutive quarters. In a recession, unemployment will rise, output fall and government borrowing increase.

**Q.329) The Human Development Index (HDI) measures average achievement in which of the following dimensions?**

1. Life expectancy
2. Education
3. Per capita income

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.329) Solution (d)**

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistic composite index of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development.

**Q.330) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Velocity of Money'.**

1. It is taken as the number of times that a unit of currency is used to purchase goods and services in a defined period.
2. The velocity of money formula divides the gross domestic product (GDP) of an economy by the money supply.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.330) Solution (c)**

The velocity of money is the rate at which consumers and businesses spend money in an economy. Generally, the velocity of money is taken as the number of times that a unit of currency is used to purchase goods and services in a defined period.

The velocity of money formula divides the gross domestic product (GDP) of an economy by the money supply, as demonstrated in the calculation below:

Velocity of money =  $\text{GDP} \div \text{money supply}$

**Q.331) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana:**

1. It aims to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity and provide enhanced livelihood for tribals.
2. It is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program.
3. At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by 30 SHGs forming Van Dhan Vikas 'Samuh'.

**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.331) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<b>Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program</b> targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of forest. The implementation will be done through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) as Nodal Agency at the National Level.	<b>It aims to tap into traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribals by adding technology and IT to upgrade it at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity and provide enhanced livelihood</b> to about 45 lakhs tribal gatherers in one year.	<b>At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by 10 SHGs having about 30 members each forming Van Dhan Vikas 'Samuh'.</b> Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVKs) will be established for providing capacity building training and skill upgradation and value addition facility and setting up of primary processing.

**Q.332) Index of Economic Freedom is released by**

- a) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- d) None of the above



**Q.332) Solution (d)**

- **Index of Economic Freedom** measures jurisdictions against each other in terms of trade freedom, tax burden, judicial effectiveness, and so on.
- The most widely referenced index of economic freedom is produced by the **Heritage Foundation**, US based think tank.
- It ranks countries based on score ranging 0 (least free) to 100 (most free).

**Q.333) Which of the following statements about Belum caves is/are correct?**

1. It is the longest natural cave of India.
2. It is located in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

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.333) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Belum cave is the second-longest natural cave in the Indian subcontinent.</b> Longest natural cave KremLiatPrah caves in Meghalaya.	<b>Belum caves are located in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.</b> Recently Andhra Pradesh Government hosted the Belum Caves festival to popularise the Belum caves.

**Q.334) International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships is known as**

- a) Barcelona Convention
- b) London Convention
- c) Hong Kong Convention
- d) MARPOL Convention

**Q.334) Solution (c)**

- India has recently acceded to the **Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships**.
- It was adopted by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2009 to ensure that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health and safety and the environment.

**Q.335) Which of the following States are protected under Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime?**

1. Manipur
2. Mizoram
3. Meghalaya
4. Nagaland
5. Arunachal Pradesh

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

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

**Q.335) Solution (c)**

- Inner Line Permit (ILP) is a special permit that citizens from other parts of India require to enter a state protected by the ILP regime.
- It is issued by the concerned State government for a limited period
- It is based on the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act, 1873.
- States having ILP system: **Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram**

**Q.336) The term 'Ring Fencing' was in news recently is associated with**

- a) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)
- b) Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs)
- c) Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)
- d) Fiscal Stimulus

**Q.336) Solution (a)**

Cabinet cleared a proposal to promulgate an Ordinance to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to “ring-fence” successful new bidders of stressed assets from criminal proceedings against offences committed by previous management/promoters.

**Q.337) What are the possible implications of ‘Operation Twist’ by RBI?**

1. Yields of Government bonds drops
2. Reduced interest rate on long term borrowing
3. Better monetary transmission

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.337) Solution (d)**

RBI purchased the bond and price of bond paper moved up and the yield dropped. This leads to long term liquidity in the market which helps in reducing interest rate on long term borrowing.

Liquidity was abundant at the shorter end but not so much at the longer end. But by making liquidity available at the long end, the move will help in monetary transmission.

**Q.338) ‘Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)’ is under**

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) Ministry of Communications
- c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

**Q.338) Solution (b)**

The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 giving statutory status to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was passed by both Houses of Parliament in December 2003.

The Rules for administration of the Fund known as Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004 were notified on 26.03.2004. As per the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (as amended in 2003, 2006), the Fund is to be utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.

It is under the Ministry of Communications.

**Q.339) Which of the following are the ‘Original Principles of The Washington Consensus’?**

1. Development of property rights

2. Market determined interest rates
3. Low government borrowing
4. Liberalization of inward foreign direct investment

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.339) Solution (d)**

The Washington Consensus refers to a set of free-market economic policies supported by prominent financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the U.S. Treasury. A British economist named John Williamson coined the term Washington Consensus in 1989.

These are the ten specific principles originally set out by John Williamson in 1989:

- Low government borrowing. The idea was to discourage developing economies from having high fiscal deficits relative to their GDP.
- Diversion of public spending from subsidies to important long-term growth supporting sectors like primary education, primary healthcare, and infrastructure.
- Implementing tax reform policies to broaden the tax base and adopt moderate marginal tax rates.
- Selecting interest rates that are determined by the market. These interest rates should be positive after taking inflation into account (real interest rate).
- Encouraging competitive exchange rates through freely-floating currency exchange.
- Adoption of free trade policies. This would result in the liberalization of imports, removing trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas.
- Relaxing rules on foreign direct investment.
- The privatization of state enterprises. Typically, in developing countries, these industries include railway, oil, and gas.
- The eradication of regulations and policies that restrict competition or add unnecessary barriers to entry.
- Development of property rights.

**Q.340) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Overall Mitigation of Global Emissions (OMGE)’.**

1. It is stipulated under sub-article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement
2. It calls to ensure a net reduction in emissions, rather than just offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> released in one country with savings elsewhere.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.340) Solution (c)**

Unlike the carbon-trading arrangements under Kyoto, Article 6.4 markets are required to ensure an “overall mitigation in global emissions” (OMGE). This means they should ensure a net reduction in emissions, rather than just offsetting CO2 released in one country with savings elsewhere.

**Q.341) JAGA Mission of Odisha protects the rights of which of the following?**

- a) Women victims
- b) Tribals
- c) Slum dwellers
- d) Manual Scavengers

**Q.341) Solution (c)**

- **Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission (OLHM) or JAGA Mission** is Odisha state government’s initiative to grant land **rights to thousands of slum dwellers**.
- Under the programme 1,725 slums were surveyed using drones and GIS technology, while door-to-door household survey also conducted to grant land rights certificates (LRCs) to 52,682 families.
- Exercise also involved community mobilisation to get the slum dwellers to agree and cooperation in the exercise.
- JAGA Mission won the bronze at World Habitat Awards given by World Habitat, a UK-based organisation in partnership with UN-Habitat.

**Q.342) Consider the following statements about Typbar TCV vaccine:**

1. It is a typhoid vaccine developed by National Institute of Immunology.
2. It is a conjugate vaccine made using a combination of two different components.

**Which of the statements given above is/are *NOT* correct?**

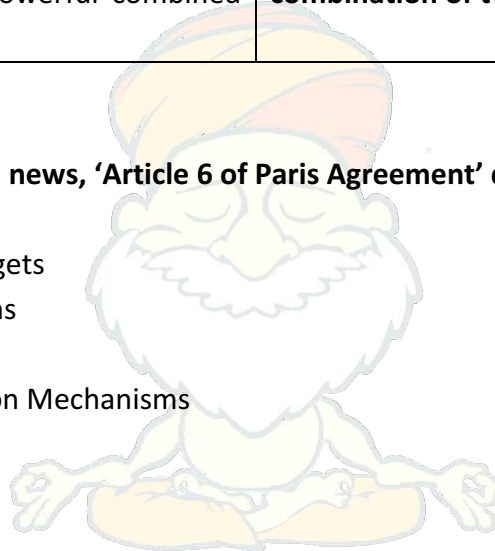
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.342) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Bharat Biotech has developed a typhoid vaccine (Typbar TCV)</b> has better efficacy than the previously used vaccinations in preventing typhoid fever. Typbar TCV, an antigen is chemically linked to a carrier protein to create more powerful combined immune response.	<b>It is a type of conjugate vaccine</b> which has already been pre-qualified by the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (WHO-SAGE). <b>Conjugate vaccines are made using a combination of two different components.</b>

**Q.343) Sometimes seen in news, 'Article 6 of Paris Agreement' deals with**

- a) Climate Action Targets
- b) Transparency norms
- c) Loss and Damage
- d) Climate Cooperation Mechanisms

**Q.343) Solution (d)**

- **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** aims at promoting integrated, holistic and balanced approaches that will assist governments in implementing their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) through **voluntary international cooperation**.
- Article 6 could also establish a policy foundation for an emissions trading system, which could help lead to a global price on carbon.
- Under this mechanism, countries with low emissions would be allowed to sell their exceeding allowance to larger emitters, with an overall cap of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, ensuring their net reduction.

**Q.344) Which of the following are advantages of the Light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology?**

1. Data can be collected quickly and with high accuracy

2. Can be used day and night
3. Can be used to map inaccessible and featureless areas
4. It is not affected by extreme weather

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.344) Solution (d)**

- **Light detection and ranging (LiDAR)** is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges to the Earth.
- The technology is used to map the land and is used to measure seafloor and riverbed elevations.

**Advantages of using LiDAR**

- **Data can be collected quickly and with high accuracy:** LiDAR is an airborne sensing technology which makes data collection fast and comes with extremely high accuracy as a result of the positional advantage.
- **Capable of collecting elevation data in a dense forest:** LiDAR technology is capable of collecting elevation data from a densely populated forest thanks to the high penetrative abilities. This means it can map even the densely forested areas.
- **Can be used day and night:** LiDAR technology can be used day and night thanks to the active illumination sensor. It is not affected by light variations such as darkness and light. This improves its efficiency.
- **It is not affected by extreme weather:** LiDAR technology is independent of extreme weather conditions such as extreme sunlight and other weather scenarios. This means that data can still be collected under these conditions and sent for analysis.
- Does not have any geometry distortions
- It can be integrated with other data sources
- It has minimum human dependence
- Surface data has a higher sample density
- Can be used to map inaccessible and featureless areas

**Disadvantages of LiDAR**

- High operating costs in some applications
- Ineffective during heavy rain or low hanging clouds
- Degraded at high sun angles and reflections

- Unreliable for water depth and turbulent breaking waves
- No International protocols
- Elevation errors due to inability to penetrate very dense forests
- The laser beams may affect human eye in cases where the beam is powerful
- Inability to penetrate thick vegetation
- Requires skilled data analysis techniques
- Low operating altitude of between 500-2000m

**Q.345) Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD):**

1. The IOD is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.
2. It is a Track 1.5 discussion involving both officials and non-officials.
3. The recent Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was held in Chennai.

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

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

**Q.345) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The IOD is a <b>flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)</b> . Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region. The Association has 22 member states and 9 dialogue partners.	<b>It is a Track 1.5 discussion</b> , encouraging an open and free flowing dialogue by academia and officials on strategic issues of the Indian Ocean Region. Track 1.5 diplomacy <b>involves both officials and non-officials</b> (business leaders, business organizations and all possible non diplomats).	<b>The 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was held in Delhi.</b>

**Q.346) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Front of Packet Labelling (FoPL)'.**



1. It was included within the draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2019.
2. It is aimed at making consumers aware of food products that are high in fat, sugar and salt content.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.346) Solution (c)**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) recently introduced draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2019.

The most important part of the draft rules is the Front-of-Pack (FoP) labelling and 'red-coloured' warning symbol to help identify foods high in calories, saturated fats, trans fats, added sugar and salt. The proposed FoP label will depict information on number of calories and quantity of salt, added sugar and fats per serve. The label will also include how much of the RDA is exhausted by eating one serve of the packaged food. If salt, added sugar and fats in a packaged food exceeds a certain threshold level, the red warning symbol will appear on the package.

Red-coloured warning symbol is a very powerful approach to help consumers identify junk foods. It is a much-needed intervention for India as it will help overcome literacy and language barriers.

**Q.347) A couple of US firms were sued for deaths of child labourers in which of the following countries?**

- a) Mexico
- b) DR Congo
- c) Pakistan
- d) Lesotho

**Q.347) Solution (b)**

Five U.S. tech giants, including Apple, Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet, have been named in a lawsuit over the death of child labourers in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Impoverished but mineral-rich DR Congo is the world's largest producer of the rare metal, which is crucial for making batteries used in mobile phones and electric vehicles.

India is second largest importer of Cobalt from Dr Congo.

**Q.348) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Material – Country**

1. Lithium – Australia
2. Graphite – South Africa
3. Manganese – India

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.348) Solution (a)**

Lithium – Australia

Graphite – China

Manganese – South Africa

**Q.349) Which of the following countries are members of the ‘East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF)’.**

1. Cyprus
2. Israel
3. Italy
4. Palestine
5. Egypt

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- b) 1, 3 and 5
- c) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- d) All of the above



**Q.349) Solution (d)**

Members - Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt. The East Med Gas Forum is evolving into a permanent organisation, with the support of the European Union and the encouragement of the US and France.

HQ – Cairo

**Q.350) ‘Provisions for reservations for SCs/STs and Anglo- Indians’ are extended under**

- a) Article 334
- b) Article 331
- c) Article 333

d) Article 131

**Q.350) Solution (a)**

Provisions for reservations for SCs/STs and Anglo- Indians are extended under Article 334 (a) and (b) of the Constitution.

**Q.351) Consider the following findings of the recent India Skills Report:**

1. Less than 50% of students were found employable or ready to take up jobs.
2. Female employability witnessed an upward trend while that of male workforce declined.
3. Share of gig workers in the economy has increased.

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

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

**Q.351) Solution (d)**

- **India Skills Report** is a joint initiative by PeopleStrong, a Global Talent Assessment Company, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) along with partners like UNDP, AICTE, and Association of Indian Universities.
- **Key findings of the report**
  - **About 46.21% students were found employable or ready to take up jobs** in 2019, compared with 47.38% in 2018 and 33% in 2014.
  - **Female employability witnessed an upward trend** at 47% in 2019 from 46 % in 2018 and 38 % in 2017, **while that of male workforce declined** from 47.39% in 2019 to 46% this year.
  - **Rising share of gig workers in the economy at 13%** share in the overall hiring intent by employment type.
  - Top 5 skills that Employers emphasize on are domain knowledge, adaptability to the environment, learning agility and positive attitude and interpersonal skills.
- **Hence all the statements given are correct.**

**Q.352) The Good Friday Agreement, sometimes seen in news is a peace agreement between which of the following?**

- Serbia and Montenegro
- USA and Afghanistan
- United Kingdom and Ireland
- China and Hong Kong

**Q.352) Solution (c)**

- The **Belfast Agreement** is also known as the **Good Friday Agreement**, because it was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998.
- It was a **peace agreement between the British and Irish governments**, and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, on how Northern Ireland should be governed.

**Q.353) Consider the following statements about Hoolock gibbon:**

- Hoolock gibbon is endemic to India.
- The Western Hoolock gibbon has a much wider range than Eastern Hoolock gibbon in India.
- Both Eastern and Western species are categorized as Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

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

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

**Q.353) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<b>Hoolock gibbon</b> is the only ape found in India. <b>Native to</b>	<b>The western hoolock gibbon has a much wider range</b> , as it is found in all the states of the	Categorised into two types - Western and Eastern hoolock gibbon. Of the two, the <b>western</b>

<p><b>eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India and Southwest China.</b> Hence not endemic to India.</p>	<p>north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra river and east of the Dibang river. The eastern hoolock gibbon inhabits specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India.</p>	<p><b>hoolock</b> is listed as <b>Endangered</b> in the IUCN Redlist, while the <b>eastern hoolock</b> is listed as <b>Vulnerable</b> in the IUCN Redlist. Both are listed on Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.</p>
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**Q.354) UNO Stabilization Mission in which of the following country is commonly known as MONUSCO?**

- South Sudan
- Yemen
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Somalia

**Q.354) Solution (c)**

- **UNO Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) or commonly known as MONUSCO**, an acronym based on its French name.
- It is a UN peacekeeping force in the DRC which was established by UN Security Council in resolutions 1279 (1999) and 1291 (2000) to monitor the peace process of the Second Congo War.

**Q.355) The term 'Vyommitra' seen in news in the context of**

- Cyber Swachhta Kendra
- Gaganyaan Mission
- Fake news identifier machine
- Solid Waste Management

**Q.355) Solution (b)**

- **ISRO announced Vyommitra, a Female Robot who will accompany other astronauts in the Gaganyaan mission of India.**
- She can detect and give out warnings if environmental changes within the cabin get uncomfortable to astronauts and change the air condition.
- She can also take up postures suited for launch and tasks and take commands.

**Q.356) 'Mathikettan Shola National Park' is located in**

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

**Q.356) Solution (a)**

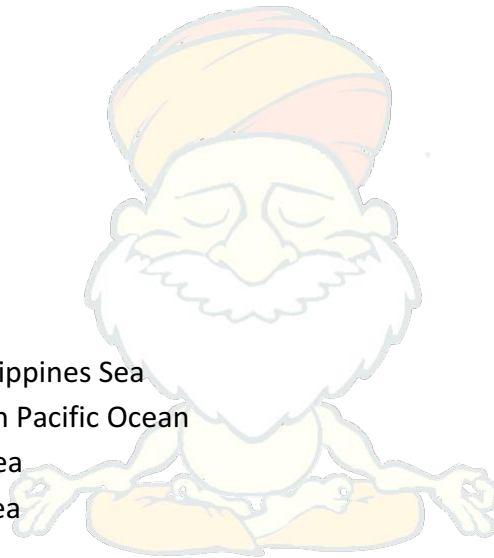
It is national park in Poopara village of Udumbanchola taluk in Idukki district of Kerala.

**Q.357) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Typhoon Nakri – West Philippines Sea
2. Typhoon Halong – Indian Ocean
3. Cyclone Maha – Bay of Bengal
4. Cyclone Kyaar – Arabian Sea

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.357) Solution (c)**

Typhoon Nakri – West Philippines Sea

Typhoon Halong – Western Pacific Ocean

Cyclone Maha – Arabian Sea

Cyclone Kyaar – Arabian Sea

**Q.358) 'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between**

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

**Q.358) Solution (c)**

'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between the ground forces of the UAE and the United States.

**Q.359) 'Double Fortified Salt (DFS)' includes**

1. Iodine
2. Iron

3. Potassium
4. Phosphorus

Select the correct code:

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

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**Q.359) Solution (a)**

Dual fortification of salt with iodine and iron could be a sustainable approach to combat iodine and iron deficiencies.

**Q.360) Which of the following countries open to 'Gulf of Aden'**

1. Oman
2. Yemen
3. Djibouti
4. Ethiopia

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.360) Solution (b)**



**Q.361) 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.361) 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.362) Which of the following Constitutional Amendments modified Article 312 to include an All India Judicial Service?**

- 24<sup>th</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act
- 38<sup>th</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act
- 44<sup>th</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act

**Q.362) 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.363) 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.363) 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.364) Yuelu Proclamation aims to protect and promote which of the following?**

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

**Q.364) 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.365) India's first Super Fab Lab was inaugurated in which of the following cities?**

- Pune
- Hyderabad
- Bengaluru
- Kochi

**Q.365) 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.366) 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.366) Solution (b)**

Patola Saree – Gujarat

Dhanu Jatra – Odisha

Lai Haroba – Tripura

**Q.367) 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.367) 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.368) ‘Servants of the People Society’ was founded by**

- a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- b) Lokmanya Tilak

- c) Vinoba Bhave
- d) Lala Hansraj

**Q.368) 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.369) 'Dasarathi Satakam' was written by**

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

**Q.369) 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.370) 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.370) 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.371) 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.371) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The <b>strategy aims to strengthen the ecosystem for various modes of digital financial services in all Tier-II to Tier VI centers</b> and to create the necessary infrastructure to move towards a less-cash society by March 2022.	National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) is released by <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b> for the period 2019-2024.	Some of other <b>objectives in NSFI</b> : 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 PM Jan Dhan Yojana, be enrolled under an insurance scheme and a pension scheme by March 2020; <b>To make the Public Credit Registry fully operational by March 2022.</b>

**Q.372) The One Trillion Trees Initiative was launched recently by which of the following?**

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

**Q.372) 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.373) India signed the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement with which of the following?**

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

**Q.373) 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.374) 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.374) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
TrueNat Test is an indigenous molecular diagnostic tool	TrueNat is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test that, by assaying the genes present in the TB bacteria,

<b>for tuberculosis diagnosis.</b> It was developed by Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics, which WHO endorsed recently.	can not only detect the presence of the bacteria <b>but can also detect drug resistance with the use of chips.</b> TrueNat test can easily and cost-effectively be done in the primary health care setup.
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**Q.375) Consider the following pairs:**

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

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

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

**Q.375) Solution (a)**

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

**Q.376) 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**

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

**Q.376) 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.377) 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.377) 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.378) 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.378) 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.379) 'N Chandrasekaran Committee' was constituted to look into**

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

**Q.379) Solution (a)**

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

**Q.380) 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.380) 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.381) 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.381) 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.382) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Cities in News</b>	<b>Country</b>
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.382) 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.383) 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.383) Solution (a)**

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Mugger Crocodile is an egg-laying and hole-nesting species. It is mainly restricted to the Indian subcontinent.	<b>IUCN status: Vulnerable.</b> 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.384) The Zo Kutpui is a festival of which of the following tribes?**

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

**Q.384) 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.385) 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.385) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
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. <b>Indradhanush Gas Grid</b>

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.386) 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.386) 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.387) 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.387) Solution (a)**

Ashdod – Israel

Taal Volcano – Philippines

Hulhumale – Maldives

**Q.388) ‘Sahyog-Kaijin’ is a joint exercise between Coast Guards of India and**

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

**Q.388) Solution (a)**

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

**Q.389) 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.389) 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.390) ‘Reskilling Revolution’ is an initiative by**

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

**Q.390) 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.391) 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.391) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
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.392) 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.392) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the <b>global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.</b> 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. <b>It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom, London.</b> 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. <b>It covers accidental and operational oil pollution along with different types of pollution by chemicals, goods in packaged form, sewage, garbage and air pollution.</b>

**Q.393) Recently seen in news, the ‘biorock or mineral accretion technology’ is related with which of the following?**

- a) Coral reef restoration
- b) Carbon capture and storage
- c) Biomining of metallic nodules
- d) De-contaminate the polluted water

**Q.393) 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.394) The ‘Cyber Safe Women’ initiative launched by the Government of which of the following?**

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

**Q.394) 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.395) 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?**

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

**Q.395) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Nilavembukudineer is a Siddha medicine</b> recommended for prevention and management of 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.	<b>It acts as immunostimulant and immunomodulator</b> , which boosts immunity and modulates defence response in the body. It contains herbal ingredients, which have antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and immunomodulatory actions.

**Q.396) 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.396) 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.397) 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.397) 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.398) ‘Yarrabubba crater’ was in news recently. Where is it located?**

- a) Australia
- b) Mexico
- c) Mongolia
- d) Portugal

**Q.398) Solution (a)**

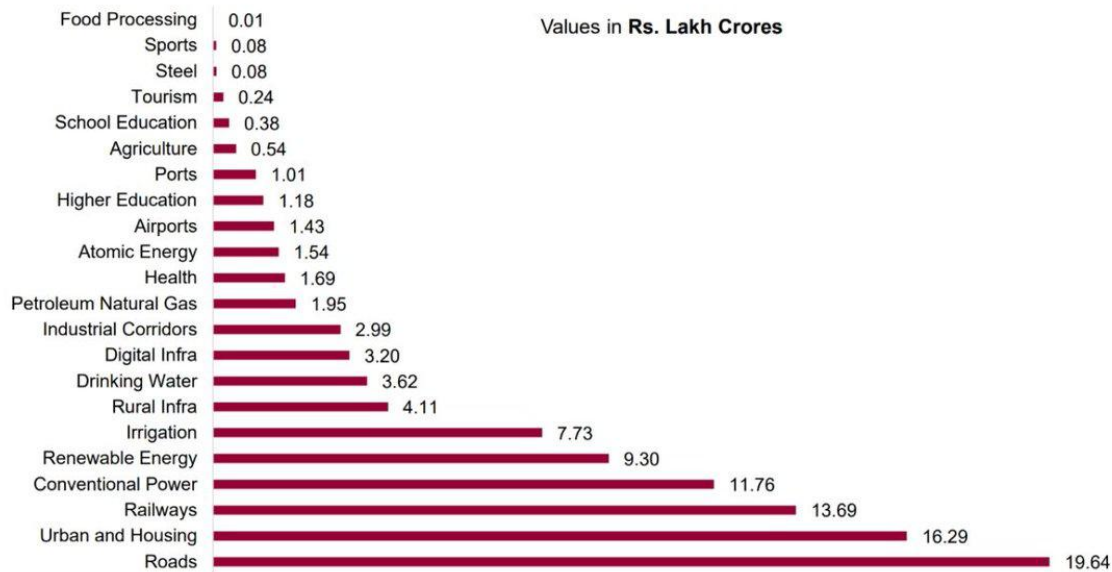
The Yarrabubba crater is an impact structure, the eroded remnant of a former impact crater, situated in the northern Yilgarn Craton near Yarrabubba Station between the towns of Sandstone and Meekatharra, Mid West Western Australia. It is Earth’s oldest known impact structure.

**Q.399) Which of the following sectors has received maximum allocation under the ‘National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)’?**

- a) Renewable Energy
- b) Urban and Housing
- c) Railways
- d) Roads

**Q.399) Solution (d)**

## Sector-wise break-up of the NIP



**Note – Energy (All included) is 24%.**

**Q.400) 'New and Emerging Strategic Technologies (NEST)' is under the aegis of**

- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council

**Q.400) 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.401) 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.401) 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.402) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Sanctuaries in news</b>	<b>State</b>
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.402) Solution (b)**

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

**Q.403) Which of the following is the home port of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya?**

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

**Q.403) 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.404) 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.404) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<b>Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies established by States</b>	The zonal councils aim at promoting cooperation and coordination between states, union territories and	<b>The Union Home Minister is the chairman of all Zonal Councils. Each zonal council consists of</b>

<p><b>Reorganization Act of 1956.</b> 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 Centre. They discuss and make recommendations regarding matters like economic and social planning, linguistic minorities, border disputes, inter-state transport, and so on. <b>They are only deliberative and advisory bodies.</b></p>	<p>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>
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**Q.405) 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.405) 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.406) 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.406) 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.

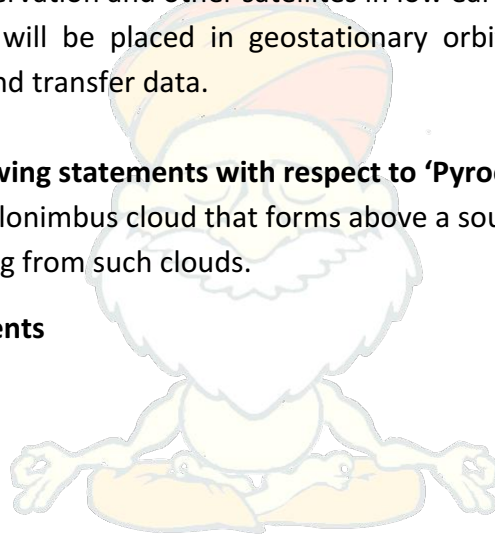
The two IDRSS satellites will be placed in geostationary orbit, enabling the satellite to satellite communication and transfer data.

**Q.407) 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.407) 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.408) 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.408) Solution (b)**

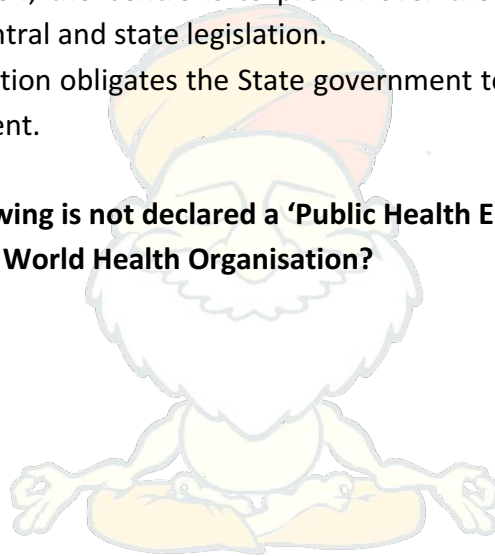
Article 249 empowers Parliament to make laws even on state subjects in the national interest.

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.409) 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.409) 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.410) '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.410) Solution (a)**

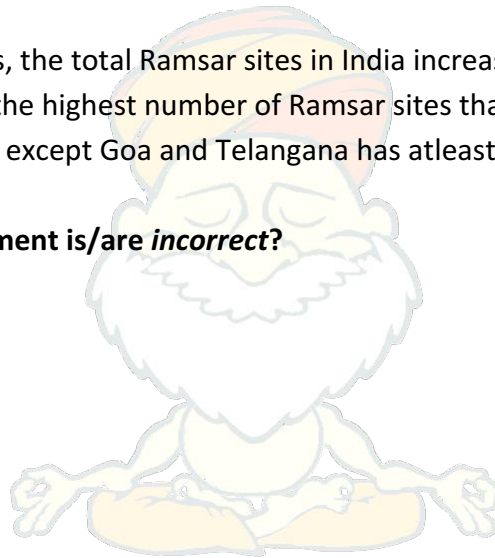
Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/vo-chidambaram-pillai-s-entire-writings-to-be-published-in-two-volumes/article30552885.ece>

**Q.411) 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.411) 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 <b>total of 37 sites in the India</b> have been recognised under the international treaty.	<b>Uttar Pradesh with 7 sites is the State has the highest number of Ramsar sites,</b> followed by Punjab with 6 sites.	<b>In southern State, there is no Ramsar site in Karnataka, Goa and Telangana.</b> Kerala has 3 (Ashtamudi Wetland, Sasthamkotta Lake Vembanad-Kol Wetland), Tamil Nadu (Point Calimere), Maharashtra (Nandur Madhameshwar) and Andhra Pradesh (Kolleru) has one each.
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**Q.412) 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.412) 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.413) The term 'Drosophila' seen in news is a**

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

**Q.413) 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.

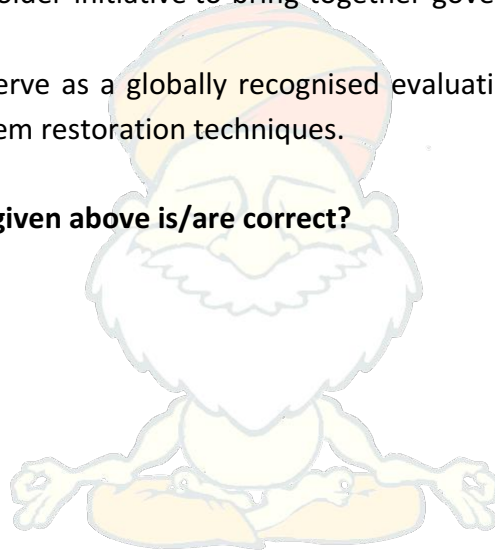
- It is a biennial conference and it aims to promote the interaction of Drosophila researchers in the Asia-Pacific region with their peers in the rest of the world.
- Drosophila is a genus of two-winged flies commonly known as fruit flies. **Drosophila is one of the most widely-used and preferred model 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.414) 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.414) 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 Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. It will be led by the US along with Japan and Australia.	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, environmental standards, labour standards etc.

**Q.415) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Multilateral Conference</b>	<b>Host country</b>
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.415) Solution (d)**

<b>Pair 1</b>	<b>Pair 2</b>	<b>Pair 3</b>
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Raisina Dialogue of India is designed on the lines of <b>Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.</b>	<b>Raisina Dialogue 2020</b> is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community, held annually in <b>New Delhi.</b>	<b>Sagarmatha Sambaad</b> is an initiative of the Government of <b>Nepal</b> 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.416) '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.416) 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.417) The 'Shatrughan Chauhan Supreme Court Judgement is associated with**

- a) Mercy Petitions
- b) Right to Marry
- c) Right to Property
- d) Right to Privacy

**Q.417) 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.418) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)’**

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

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.418) 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.419) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Biological Weapons Convention’.**

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

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.419) 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.420) 'Tal Chhapar Sanctuary' is located in**

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

**Q.420) Solution (c)**

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

**Q.421) 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.421) Solution (a)**



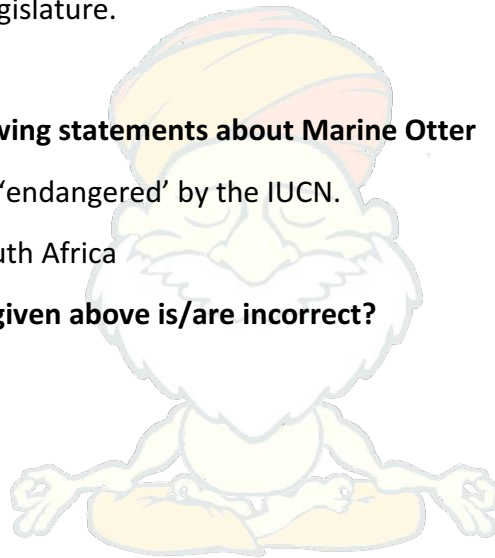
- NeVA aims to make all the Legislatures of the country paperless by making the proceedings of the Houses digital.
- NeVA is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme and **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry'** for its implementation in all the 31 States/ 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.422) 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.422) 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.423) 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.423) 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.424) 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.424) Solution (c)**

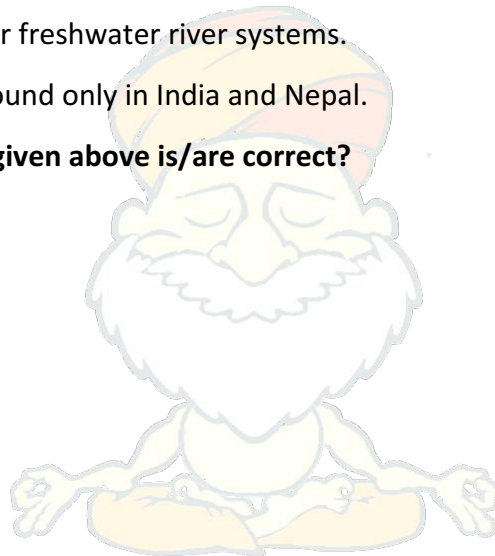
- Rani-ki-Vav is an exceptional example of a distinctive form of subterranean water architecture of the Indian subcontinent, the stepwell, which is **located on the banks of the Saraswati River in Patan (Gujarat)**.
- Stepwells in Patan, Gujarat , is the only stepwell tagged as a UNESCO World Heritage 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.425) 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.425) 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.426) 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.426) 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.427) '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.427) 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.428) 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.428) 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.

**Read**

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

**Q.429) 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.429) 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.430) ‘TIGR2ESS’ is concerned with**

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

**Q.430) 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?

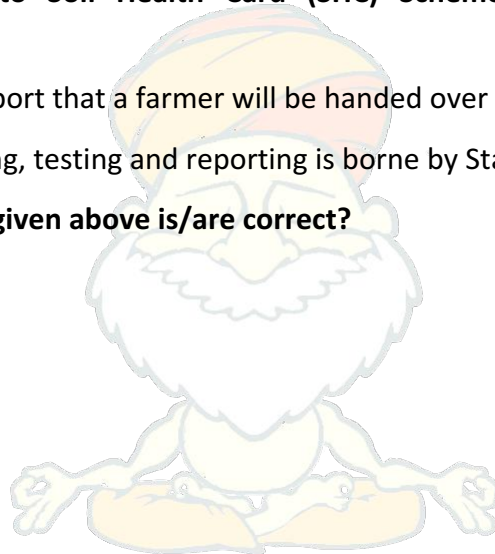
To further strengthen collaboration, specifically in agriculture research, he announced a fellowship programme that will soon be rolled out with India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR). The fellowship will facilitate 30 Indian researchers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

**Q.431) 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



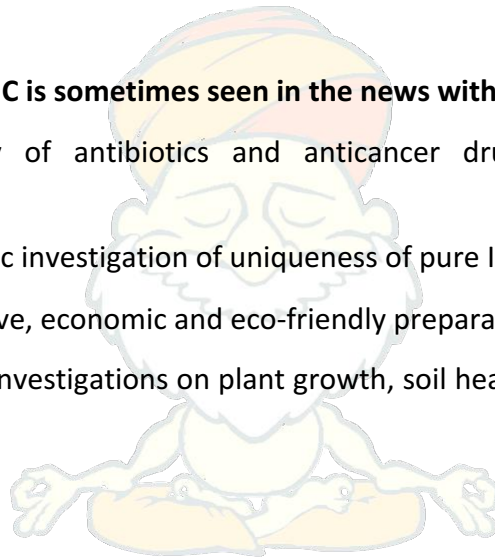
**Q.431) Solution (b)**

- 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.432) The term SUTRA PIC is sometimes seen in the news with reference to**

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



**Q.432) 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.433) 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.433) 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.434) 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.434) 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.435) 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.435) 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.436) 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.436) 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.437) 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.437) Solution (a)**

Indian wolf is the keystone species of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Q.438) 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.438) 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.439) ‘Muktoshri — also called IET 21845’ is a**

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

**Q.439) 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.440) ‘NLRP3’ is a protein which was in news recently. It is found in which of the following species?**

1. Humans
2. Bats
3. Mice

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.440) Solution (d)**

It is found in all of the above species.

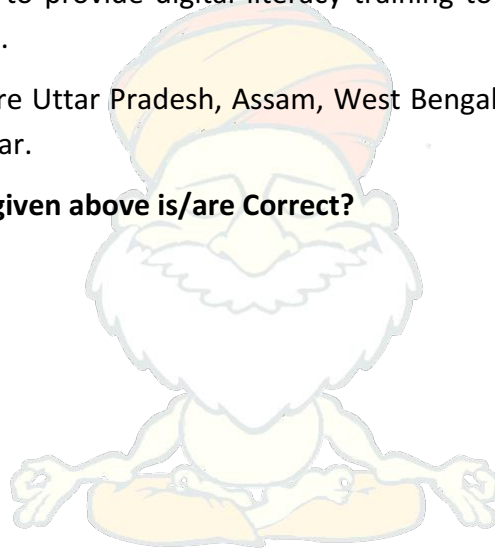
Read More - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/how-bats-harbour-several-viruses-yet-not-get-sick/article30711334.ece>

**Q.441) With reference to “We Think Digital”, Consider the following statements:**

1. “We Think Digital” is Google India’s digital literacy program.
2. 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.441) 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.442) 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.442) 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.

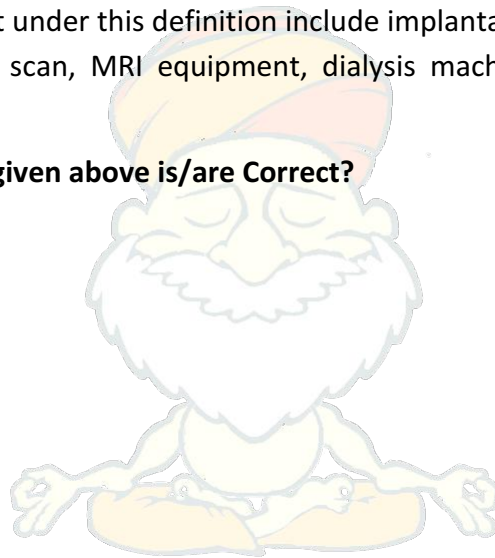
- As per a WHO study, TDS levels below 300 mg per litre are considered to be excellent, while 900 mg per litre is said to be poor and above 1200 mg is unacceptable.
- The de-mineralization of water is not required if the input water has Total Dissolved Salts (TDS) less than 500 mg/litre.
- If the TDS count is not more than 500mg/liter, and if needed for water purification system, then UV and UF water purifier are best.

**Q.443) 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.443) 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.

- **CDSO** 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.444) 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.444) 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.445) 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.445) 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.446) 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.446) 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.447) 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.447) Solution (a)**

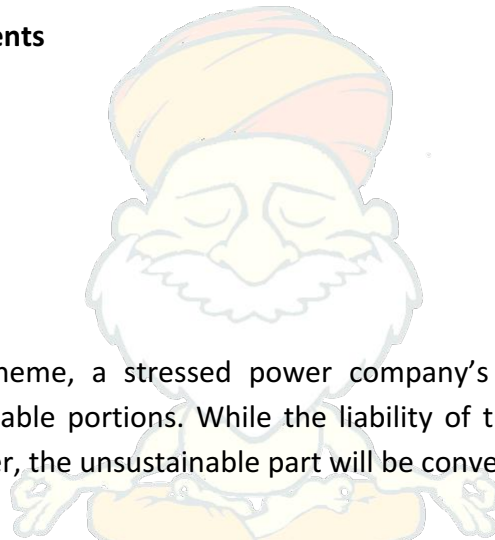
Turant Customs, which is aimed at speedy clearance of goods at air and sea ports, which in turn will benefit ease of doing business in India is being launched by The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

**Q.448) 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.448) 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.449) 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.449) 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.450) The 'Single Convention' which was in news recently deals with**

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

**Q.450) Solution (a)**

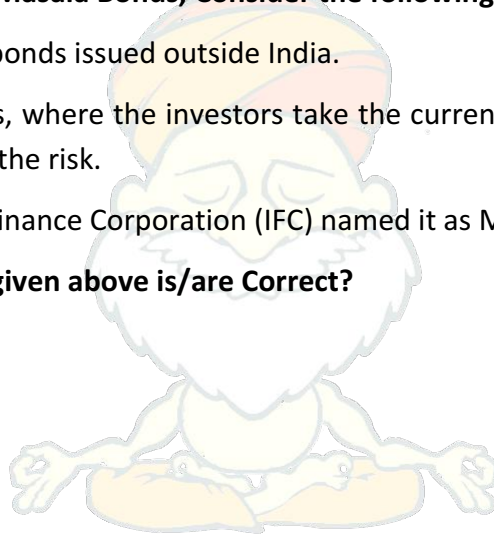
The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 is an international treaty to prohibit production and supply of specific (nominally home otic) drugs and of drugs with similar effects except under licence for specific purposes, such as medical treatment and research. India is a party.

**Q.451) 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.451) 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.**

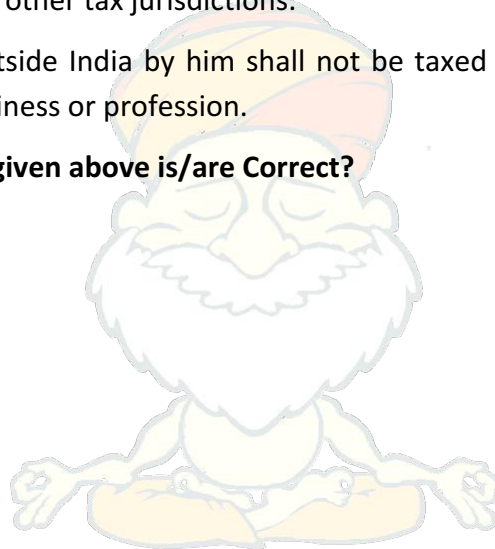
- The first Masala bond was issued by the World Bank- backed IFC in November 2014 when it raised 1,000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India.
- Later in August 2015 International Financial Cooperation for the first time issued green masala bonds and raised Rupees 3.15 Billion to be used 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.452) 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.452) 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.453) With reference to National War Memorial, Consider the following statements:**

1. The National War Memorial draws inspiration from the 'Chakravyuh' 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.453) 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 'Chakravyuh' 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.454) 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.454) 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.455) 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.455) 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 begin 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.456) 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.456) 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.

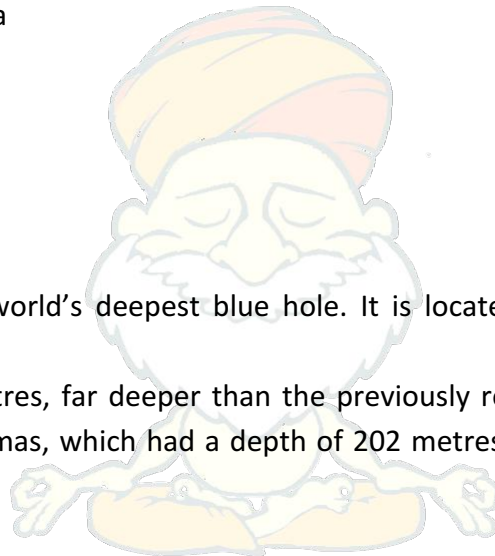
**Q.457) ‘Yongle Blue Hole’ was in news recently. Where is it located?**

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

**Q.457) 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.458) Which of the following countries is India’s largest trading partner?**

- a) United Arab Emirates
- b) China
- c) USA
- d) United Kingdom

**Q.458) Solution (c)**

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

**Q.459) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary – Assam
2. Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary – Karnataka
3. Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary – Kerala



Select the correct code:

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

**Q.459) Solution (c)**

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

**Q.460) 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.460) 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.461) 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.461) 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.462) 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.

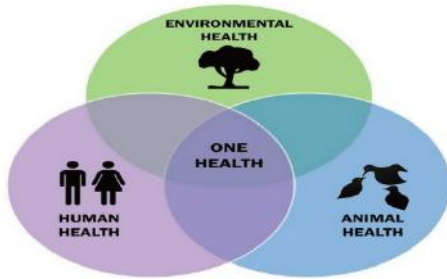
**Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?**

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

**Q.462) 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.463) 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.463) 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).

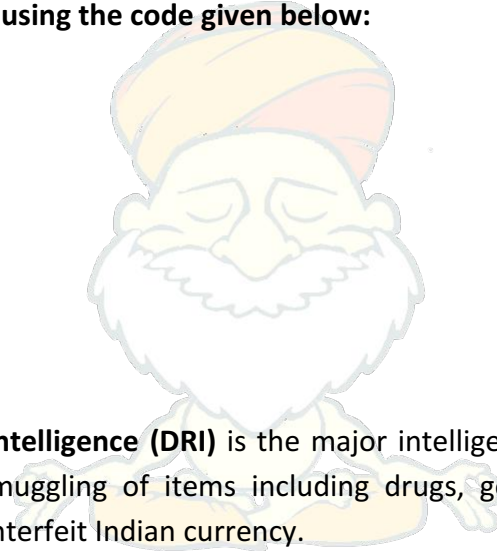
- The objective of the programme was to lay emphasis on the recharge of groundwater resources and improve the exploitation of the groundwater resources, with the involvement of people at the local level.
- Half of the cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government, while the other half will be **funded by the World Bank** in the form of a loan.

**Q.464) 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.464) Solution (c)**

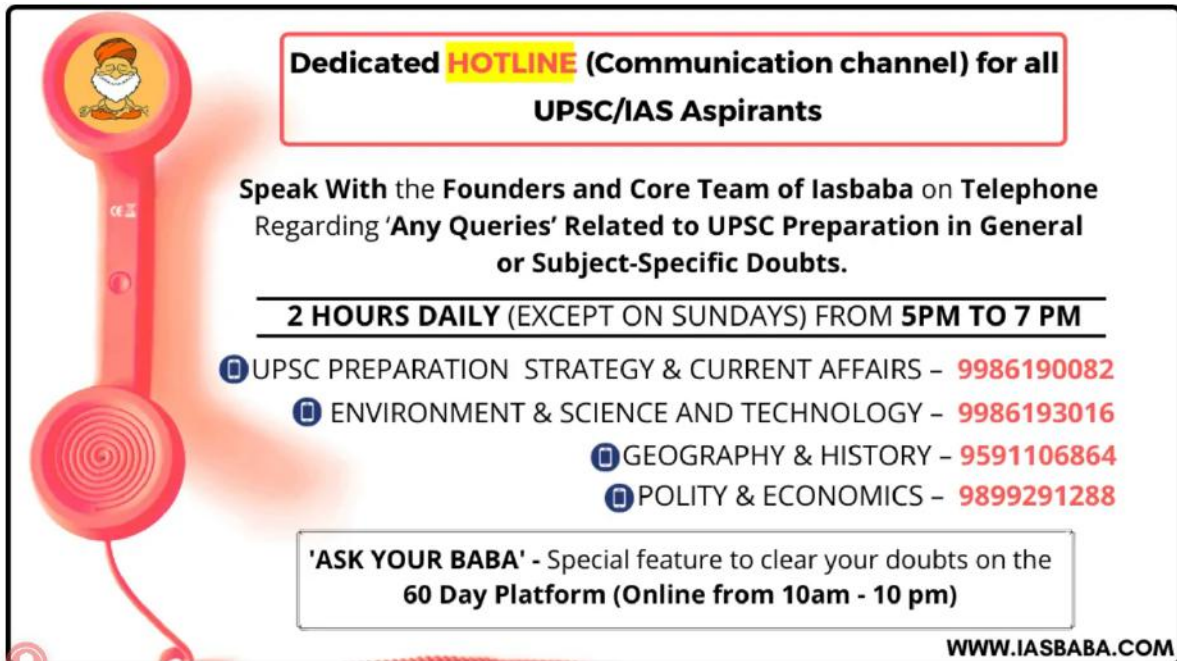
**Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** is the major intelligence agency which enforces the prohibition of the smuggling of items including drugs, gold, diamonds, electronics, foreign currency, and counterfeit Indian currency.

**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



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

- 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.
- It is the operation launched by Indian Navy to assist the population of Madagascar affected by Cyclone Diane.
- It is the operation against fighting the vanilla thieves of Madagascar launched by government of Madagascar.
- It is an operation of Indian Air Force to bring back the Indians stuck in China due to Covid 19

**Q.465) 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.466) 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.466) 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.

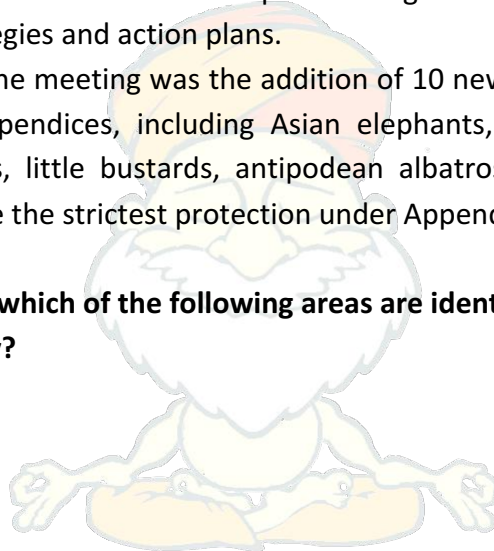
The Declaration also recognizes the importance of synergies and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, and that their role should be clearly reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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.467) 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.467) 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.468) 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.468) 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.469) 'India Economic Strategy to 2035 (IES 2035)' is associated with which of the following countries?**

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

**Q.469) Solution (b)**

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

**Q.470) '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. 470) 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.

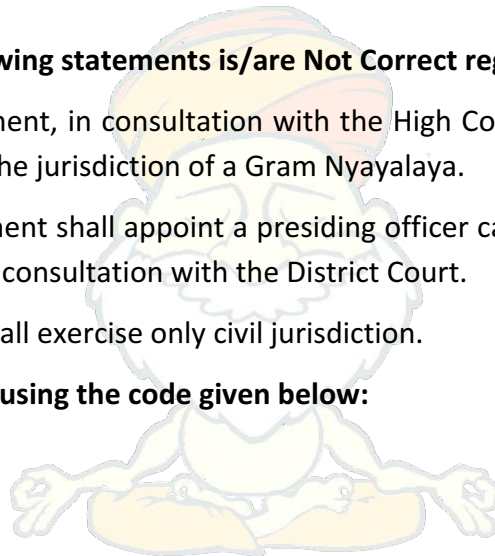
The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.

**Q.471) 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.471) 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.472) 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.472) 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.473) 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.473) 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.

**Q474) 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.474) 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 diiseases 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.475) Pakke Tiger Reserve is situated in which of the following state:**

- a) Assam
- b) Arunanchal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

**Q.475) Solution (b)**

- Pakke Tiger Reserve is situated in the state of Arunanchal 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.476) 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**

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

**Q.476) 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.477) Which of the following statements**

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

**Select the correct statements**

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.477) 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.478) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project – Karnataka
2. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – Maharashtra
3. 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.478) Solution (a)**

Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project – Karnataka

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – Telangana

Paithan Hydroelectric Power Plant – Maharashtra



**Q.479) The 'Neur' and 'Dinka' communities were in nrws recently. They belong to**

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

**Q.479) Solution (d)**

They belong to 'South Sudan'.

**Q.480) 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.480) 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.

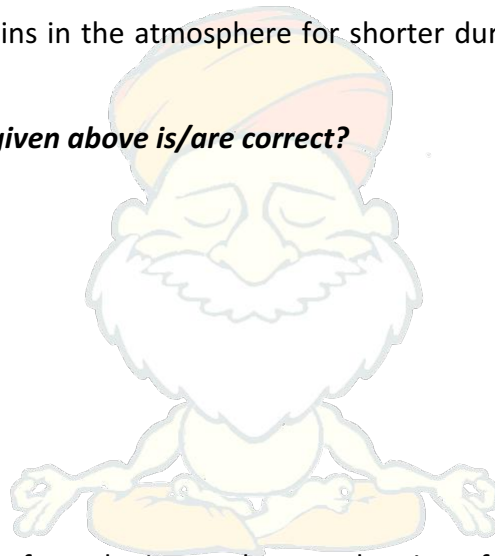
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-browning-east-the-hindu-editorial-on-climate-change-impact-on-the-eastern-ghats/article30935306.ece>

**Q.481) With reference to Black Carbon, Consider the following statements:**

1. Black Carbon is produced both naturally and by human activities.
2. India is the largest emitter of black carbon in the world.
3. Black Carbon remains in the atmosphere for shorter duration when compared with CO<sub>2</sub>.

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

- e) 1 only
- f) 1, 2 and 3 only
- g) 1 and 3 only
- h) 2 only

**Q.481) Solution (c)**

- Black carbon results from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass. BC is **produced both naturally and by human activities** as a result of the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biofuels, and biomass.
- Primary sources include emissions from diesel engines, cook stoves, wood burning and forest fires.
- The fine particles absorb light and about a million times more energy than carbon dioxide.
- Black carbon is the second largest contributor to climate change after CO<sub>2</sub>.
- But **unlike CO<sub>2</sub>, which can stay in the atmosphere for years together, black carbon is short-lived and remains in the atmosphere only for days to weeks before it descends as rain or snow.**
- Black carbon absorbs solar energy and warms the atmosphere.

- India is the **second largest emitter** of black carbon in the world.
- Black carbon is the most solar energy-absorbing component of particulate matter and can absorb one million times more energy than CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Black carbon not only has impacts on human health, it also affects visibility, harms ecosystems, reduces agricultural productivity and exacerbates global warming.
- Black carbon and its co-pollutants are key components of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) air pollution, the leading environmental cause of poor health and premature deaths.

**Q.482) Consider the following statements about Colistin**

1. Colistin is a chemical used for artificial fruit ripening.
2. The WHO considers colistin as a ‘highest priority critically important antimicrobial’ for humans.

**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.482) Solution (b)**

- **Colistin is an antibiotic for therapeutic purpose in veterinary.** But the drug is highly misused in poultry industry as a growth promoter for prophylactic purpose. One of the reason for antibiotic resistance in India is due to unwanted use of Colistin in poultry industry.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) notified the prohibition of sale, manufacture and distribution of colistin and its formulations in food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements. The move is expected to help regulate antibiotic misuse in these animals and contain antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) considers colistin as a ‘highest priority critically important antimicrobial’ for humans.**
- AMR – antibiotic resistance in particular – is a global public health crisis, which is believed to heavily impact India. Antibiotics are becoming ineffective as bacteria are getting resistant to the antibiotics used to kill them. Bacterial infections, therefore,



are now either difficult to treat or are untreatable. Since a huge proportion of overall produced antibiotics are used in rearing animals for food, such misuse is one of the key reasons for rising AMR.

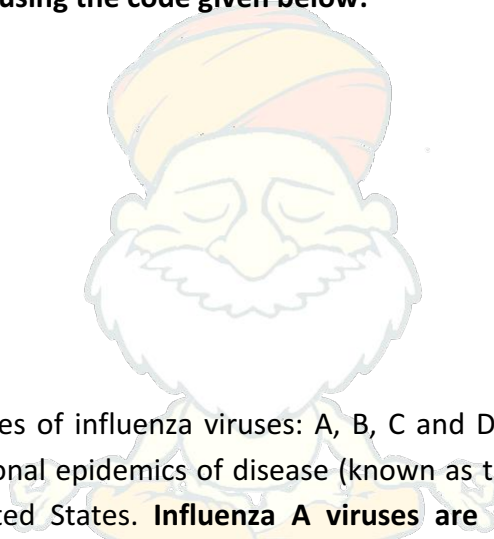
- It also directs the manufacturers of colistin and its formulations to label “Not to be used in food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements” in a conspicuous manner on the package insert and promotional literature.

**Q.483) Which of the following statements is/are Not Correct regarding Influenza Viruses?**

1. *Influenza A viruses are the only influenza viruses known to cause flu pandemics.*
2. *Flu vaccines will protect against infection and illness caused by other viruses that also can cause influenza-like symptoms.*

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

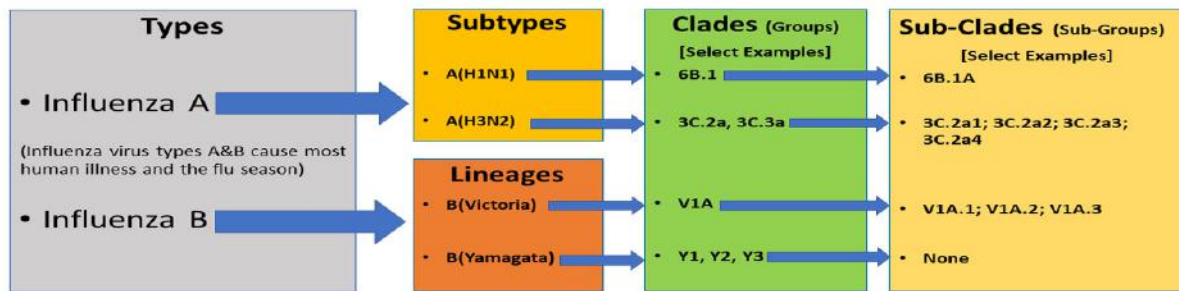
- a) *1 only*
- b) *2 only*
- c) *Both 1 and 2*
- d) *Neither 1 nor 2*



**Q.483) Solution (b)**

- There are four types of influenza viruses: A, B, C and D. Human influenza A and B viruses cause seasonal epidemics of disease (known as the flu season) almost every winter in the United States. **Influenza A viruses are the only influenza viruses known to cause flu pandemics, i.e., global epidemics of flu disease.** A pandemic can occur when a new and very different influenza A virus emerges that both infects people and has the ability to spread efficiently between people.
- Influenza type C infections generally cause mild illness and are not thought to cause human flu epidemics.
- Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people.

## Human Seasonal Influenza Viruses



This graph above shows the two types of influenza viruses (A,B) that cause most human illness and that are responsible for the flu season each year. Influenza A viruses are further classified into subtypes, while influenza B viruses are further classified into two lineages: B/Yamagata and B/Victoria. Both influenza A and B viruses can be further classified into specific clades and sub-clades (which are sometimes called groups and sub-groups).

### What Is the Bird Flu?

- The avian influenza virus causes bird flu. Birds can be infected by influenza A viruses and all of its subtypes. Birds are not capable of carrying either type B or C influenza viruses.
- An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of a new influenza A virus.

### Q.484) Consider the following statements

- It is important to turn off electric devices when traveling on a plane to eliminate micro waves that pose a risk to avionics technology on planes.
- According to Indian rules, the Pilot-in-Command may permit the access of Internet services by passengers on board in flight, through Wi-Fi on board.

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

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

### Q.484) Solution (b)

- The Pilot-in-Command may permit the access of Internet services by passengers on board in flight, through Wi-Fi on board. This service will be given to passengers on the flight after the permit by the Pilot-in-Command. The passengers onboard can

avail in-flight WiFi services for their smartphones, laptops, tablets, e-readers or smartwatches given that the devices are on airplane mode or flight mode, provided that the Director-General shall certify the aircraft for usage of Internet service in flight through Wi-Fi on board.

- In December 2018, the Government of India announced the licenses for In-Flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC) that allows broadband Internet services while flying over the Indian skies and sailing in Indian waters, both for international and Indian aircraft and vessels.
- The IFMC license is a key initiative of the Telecom Ministry, a move to liberalise satellite communication services in India.
- According to the government official, the wifi service can only be availed once the flight has taken off and all the doors are closed. The usage of internet service in-flight shall be certified by the Director-General.
- It is important to turn off electric devices when traveling on a plane **to eliminate radio waves** that pose a risk to avionics technology on planes. This is one of the reasons that travelers are asked to turn off electronic devices before take-off.
- It turns out that the ban on wireless devices in flight has a lot more to do with possible interference for ground networks, rather than any danger posed to aircraft systems. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) banned in-flight use of most cell phones and wireless devices in 1991, citing the reason of ground network interference.

**Q.485) With reference to Anchor investors, Consider the following statements:**

1. Anchor investors are institutional investors who are offered shares in an IPO a day before the offer opens.
2. The anchor investor is not allowed to sell his/her share for at least one year after the allotment.
3. No merchant banker, promoter or their relatives can apply for shares under the anchor investor category.

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

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

**Q.485) Solution (c)**

- Anchor investors are institutional investors who are offered shares in an IPO **a day before the offer opens**. As the name suggests, they are supposed to ‘anchor’ the issue by agreeing to subscribe to shares at a fixed price so that other investors may know that there is demand for the shares offered.
- Each anchor investor has to put a minimum of ₹10 crore in the issue.
- Up to 30 per cent of the total issue size can be allotted to anchor investors.
- **No merchant banker, promoter or their relatives can apply for shares under the anchor investor category.**
- In offers of size less than ₹250 crore, there can be a maximum of 15 anchor investors, but in those over ₹250 crore, SEBI recently removed the cap on number of anchor investors. Now, there could be 10 additional investors for every extra ₹250 crore allocation, subject to minimum allotment of ₹5 crore per anchor investor.
- It is a concept launched by Securities Exchange Board of India in 2009.
- **The anchor investor is not allowed to sell his/her share for at least 30 days after the allotment.**
- One of the main features of anchor investment is, the allotment is done a day before an IPO opens.

**Q.486) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Himalayan red pandas are native to Nepal, India, Bhutan and Tibet.
2. Chinese red pandas are found only in China.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.486) Solution (a)**

Chinese red pandas are found in northern Myanmar as well as south-eastern Tibet, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in China, while Himalayan red pandas are native to Nepal, India, Bhutan and southern Tibet in China.

**Q.487) ‘Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS)’ is taken up by**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Central Statistics Office

d) National Sample Survey Office

**Q.487) Solution (b)**

The Reserve Bank has been conducting Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis.

The survey seeks quantitative information on order books, inventories and capacity utilisation, such as, pending order books, backlog order books, total inventories, finished goods inventories, work in progress inventories, installed capacity, quantity produced, capacity utilisation, value of production, etc., from companies involved in the manufacturing activities. The information on installed capacity, quantity produced, value of production, etc., is used for calculating the capacity utilisation at industry as well as at an all India level. The survey has been providing a significant input to the Reserve Bank in monetary policy formulation.

**Q.488) Consider a scenario wherein the Indian government would start raising a part of its gross borrowing programme through sovereign bonds. If the exchange rate is expected to worsen,**

- a) Sovereign bonds denominated in domestic currency (INR) are preferable.
- b) Sovereign bonds denominated in foreign currency are preferable.
- c) The exchange rate won't have any effect on the bonds.
- d) All the above statements are wrong, since sovereign bonds can only be denominated in domestic currency.

**Q.488) Solution (a)**

The difference between issuing a bond denominated in rupees and issuing it in a foreign currency (say US dollar) is the incidence of exchange rate risk. If the loan is in terms of dollars, and the rupee weakens against the dollar during the bond's tenure, the government would have to return more rupees to pay back the same amount of dollars. If, however, the initial loan is denominated in rupee terms, then the negative fallout would be on the foreign investor.

Imagine two 10-year sovereign bond issues by India: one for \$100 in the US, and the other for Rs 7,000 in India. For the sake of simplicity, suppose the exchange rate is Rs 70 to a dollar. As such, at the time of issue, both values are the same. Now suppose the exchange rate worsens for India and falls to Rs 80 a dollar at the end of the tenure. In the first case, the Indian government would have to pay Rs 8,000 (instead of Rs 7,000 that it got initially) to meet its dollar-denominated obligation. In the second case, it would pay Rs 7,000 and the lender would be short-changed as these Rs 7,000 will be equal to just \$87.5 at the end of tenure. That is why, if the exchange rate is expected to worsen, sovereign bonds denominated in domestic currency are preferable.

**Q.489) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)’.**

1. The goal of the SDO is to understand the influence of the Sun on the Earth and near-Earth space by studying the solar atmosphere.
2. It is the first satellite under the Living with a Star (LWS) program at ISRO.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.489) Solution (a)**

The Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) is a NASA mission which has been observing the Sun. Launched on February 11, 2010, the observatory is part of the Living With a Star (LWS) program.

The goal of the SDO is to understand the influence of the Sun on the Earth and near-Earth space by studying the solar atmosphere on small scales of space and time and in many wavelengths simultaneously.

The two new sunspots, designated as NOAA 2753 and 2754, were seen on Dec. 24 by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory.

**Q.490) The ‘Hubballi-Ankola railway line project’ passes through**

- a) Kali Tiger Reserve
- b) Mysore Elephant Reserve
- c) Bhadra Tiger Reserve
- d) Biligiriranga Swamy Tiger Reserve

**Q.490) Solution (a)**

KARNATAKA

## Hubballi-Ankola railway line gets clearance despite opposition



**Q.491) Which of the following is/are Correctly matched regarding Nari Shakti Puruskar awards?**

1. Rani Rudramma Devi Award - Best Panchayat /Village Community
2. Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Award - Best Urban Local body for providing services and facilities to women.
3. Mata Jijabai Award - Best State for improving Child Sex Ratio (CSR).
4. Rani Lakshmi Bai Award - Best Institution for R&D in the field of women empowerment.

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

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

**Q.491) Solution (a)**

- From the year 2016, 20 Nari Shakti Puruskars shall be conferred every year. The awards will be conferred on 8th March on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD) by the President of India.

- The award shall be applicable to institutions and individuals who have rendered distinguished services to the cause of women especially belonging to the vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society.
- The Ministry of Women & Child Development, celebrates International Women's Day every year on 8th March as it is the nodal Ministry for the issues related to women.
- The recipients of the Puruskars shall be declared every year on 20th February and awards will be conferred on 8th March on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD).
- The Puruskars shall not be presented posthumously.

**The category of Awards shall be as follows:**

- **Rani Rudramma Devi Award for Best Panchayat /Village Community which have done outstanding work for women welfare**
- **Mata Jijabai Award for Best Urban Local body for providing services and facilities to women.**
- **Kannagi Devi Award for Best State which has appreciably improved Child Sex Ratio (CSR).**
- **Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang Award for Best Civil Society Organization (CSO) doing outstanding work for the welfare and well-being of women.**
- **Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Award for Best Private Sector Organization/Public Sector Undertaking in promoting the well-being and welfare of women.**
- **Rani Lakshmbai Award for Best Institution for Research & Development in the field of women empowerment.**

**Q.492) Operation Spring Shield was a cross-border military operation conducted by**

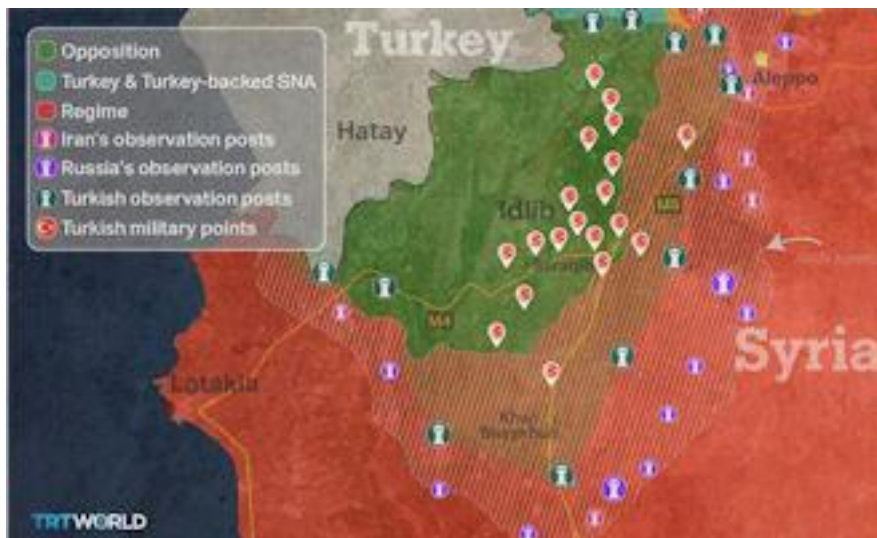
- a) Russian Armed Forces against the Turkish Armed Forces
- b) Turkish Armed Forces against the Syrian Armed Forces
- c) Saudi Arabian Armed Forces against the Yemen Armed Forces
- d) Russian Armed Forces against the Syrian Armed Forces

**Q.492) Solution (b)**

- Operation Spring Shield was a cross-border military operation conducted by the Turkish Armed Forces against the Syrian Armed Forces in the Idlib District of northwest Syria.



- A cross-border military operation was launched by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) on 27 February 2020, in Idlib.
- The operation was launched in response to the Balyun attack.
- Turkey's National Defense Minister said that the purpose of the operation was within the framework of Astana, to ensure a ceasefire agreement in Sochi and to prevent migration from Idlib towards the Turkish border.
- On 5 March Turkey and Russia signed a ceasefire agreement in Moscow.



**Q.493) With reference to Additional Tier-1 Bonds, Consider the following statements:**

1. The holders of AT-1 bonds can get their investments back by selling them in the secondary debt market unless the issuer redeems them.
2. Interest on these bonds can be paid only at the discretion of the issuing body and that too out of annual profit.
3. If the RBI feels that a bank is tottering on the brink and needs a rescue, it can simply ask the bank to cancel its outstanding AT-1 bonds without consulting its investors.

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

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

**Q.493) Solution (d)**

- In India, banks must maintain capital at a minimum ratio of 11.5 per cent of their risk-weighted loans. Of this, 9.5 per cent needs to be in Tier-1 capital and 2 per cent in Tier-2.
- Tier-1 capital refers to equity and other forms of permanent capital that stays with the bank, as deposits and loans flow in and out.
- AT-1 bonds are annual coupon bearing bonds which have no fixed maturity date. The interest rate on these bonds is higher than fixed deposit rates which make them attractive investment option.
- **The holders of these bonds can get their investments back by selling them in the secondary debt market unless the issuer redeems them.**
- The issuer of these bonds does not have legal obligations to redeem them. **Interest on these bonds can be paid only at the discretion of the issuing body and that too out of annual profit.**

#### Unusual features of AT-1 bonds

- These bonds are perpetual and carry no maturity date. Instead, they carry call options that allow banks to redeem them after five or 10 years. But banks are not obliged to use this call option and can opt to pay only interest on these bonds for eternity.
- Banks issuing AT-1 bonds can skip interest payouts for a particular year or even reduce the bonds' face value.
- **If the RBI feels that a bank is tottering on the brink and needs a rescue, it can simply ask the bank to cancel its outstanding AT-1 bonds without consulting its investors.**

AT-1 bonds carry a face value of ₹10 lakh per bond. There are two routes through which retail folk have acquired these bonds — initial private placement offers of AT-1 bonds by banks seeking to raise money; or secondary market buys of already-traded AT-1 bonds based on recommendations from brokers.

#### **Q.494) Consider the following statements:**

1. Stock swap is the exchange of one equity-based asset for another associated with the circumstances of a merger or acquisition.
2. A stock swap occurs when shareholders ownership of the target company's shares are exchanged for shares of the acquiring company.
3. Swap ratio is the ratio at which an acquiring company will offer its own shares in exchange for the target company's shares during a merger or acquisition.

**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.494) Solution (d)**

- **Stock swap is the exchange of one equity-based asset for another associated with the circumstances of a merger or acquisition.**
- **A stock swap occurs when shareholders ownership of the target company's shares are exchanged for shares of the acquiring company.**
- **Swap ratio is the ratio at which an acquiring company will offer its own shares in exchange for the target company's shares during a merger or acquisition.**
- To calculate the swap ratio, companies analyze financial ratios such as book value, earnings per share, profits after tax, and dividends paid.
- A swap ratio tells the shareholders of a target company how many shares of the acquiring company's stock they will receive for every one share of target company stock they currently own. For example, if an acquiring company offers a swap ratio of 1.5:1, it will provide 1.5 shares of its own company for every 1 share of the target company. A shareholder of the target company will end up with 50% more shares than they had before, but their new shares will be for the acquiring company and have the price of the acquiring company. Shares of the target company may cease to exist.

**Q.495) The trilateral joint naval exercise “Marine Security Belt” was conducted between which of the following nations?**

- a) USA, India and Thailand
- b) Iran, Russia and China
- c) India, Malaysia and Thailand
- d) Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia

**Q.495) Solution (b)**

- The trilateral joint naval exercise of Iran with two major world powers Russia and China.

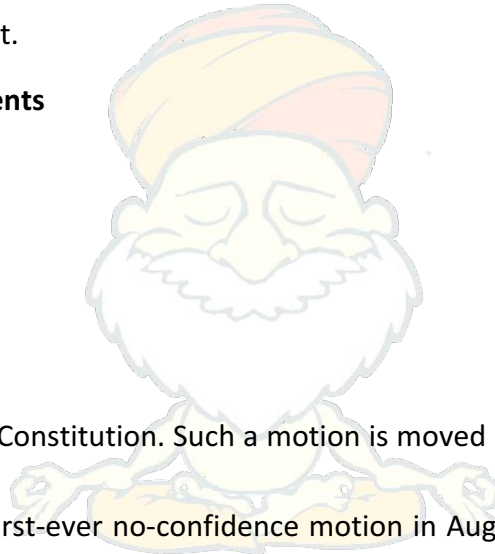
- Four-day joint maritime drill by Iran, Russia, and China, codenamed "Marine Security Belt", which includes tactical exercises such as rescuing frigates under attack.
- It began in the port city of Chabahar in southeastern Iran and is due to continue in northern parts of the Indian Ocean.
- The Sea of Oman is a particularly sensitive waterway as it connects to the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 30% of the world's crude oil passes and which in turn connects to the Persian Gulf.
- The message of this exercise is peace, friendship and lasting security through cooperation and unity

**Q.496) Consider the following statements with respect to 'no-confidence motion'.**

1. It is exclusively mentioned under the Article 75 of Indian Constitution.
2. J.B. Kripalani moved the first-ever no-confidence motion in 1971 against the Indira Gandhi government.

**Select the correct statements**

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



**Q.496) Solution (d)**

It is not mentioned in the Constitution. Such a motion is moved under Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure.

J.B. Kripalani moved the first-ever no-confidence motion in August 1963 against the Nehru government after the India-China war.

**Q.497) 'Sessa Orchid Sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Sikkim

**Q.497) Solution (b)**

Sessa Orchid Sanctuary is located in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Q.498) Which of the following rivers flow through Germany?**

1. Danube
2. Oder

## 3. Elbe

Select the correct code:

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

**Q.498) Solution (d)**

**Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal**

- The Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal intends to connect the Danube, Oder and Elbe rivers and thus provide another navigable link from the Black Sea to the North and Baltic Seas.

**Danube**

- It is Europe's second longest river, after the Volga.
- It is located in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Originating in Germany, the Danube flows southeast for 2,850 km, passing through or bordering Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine before draining into the Black Sea.

**Elbe**

- It is one of the major rivers of Central Europe.
- It rises in the Krkonoše Mountains of the northern Czech Republic before traversing much of Bohemia (western half of the Czech Republic), then Germany and flowing into the North Sea at Cuxhaven, 110 km northwest of Hamburg.

**Oder**

- It is a river in Central Europe and Poland's third-longest river after the Vistula and Warta.
- It rises in the Czech Republic and flows 742 kilometres through western Poland, later forming 187 kilometres of the border between Poland and Germany as part of the Oder–Neisse line.

**Q.499) 'International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)' which was in news recently is associated with?**

- a) NATO
- b) SCO
- c) OIC
- d) IMCTC

**Q.499) Solution (a)**

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was a NATO-led military mission in Afghanistan, established by the United Nations Security Council in December 2001 by Resolution 1386, as envisaged by the Bonn Agreement. Its main purpose was to train the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding key government institutions, but was also engaged in the War in Afghanistan (2001–14) against the Taliban insurgency.

**Q.500) The term 'Arr-Rinam' was in news recently and is associated with which of the following communities?**

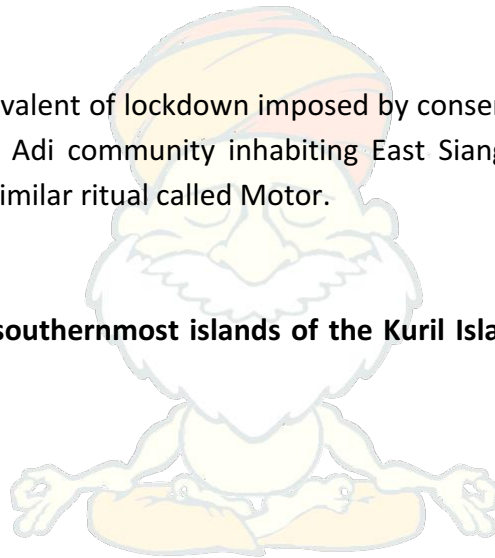
- a) Galo Community
- b) Dhangar Community
- c) Mishmi Community
- d) Sentinelese Community/Tribe

**Q.500) Solution (a)**

Arr-Rinam is the Galo equivalent of lockdown imposed by consensus for 48 hours whenever an epidemic strikes. The Adi community inhabiting East Siang and Lower Dibang Valley districts too performed a similar ritual called Motor.

**Q.501) Arrange the four southernmost islands of the Kuril Islands starting from north to south:**

1. Habomai Island
2. Shikotan Island
3. Etorofu Island
4. Kunashiri Island

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

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

**Q.501) Solution (b)**

- The four southernmost islands of the Kuril chain - Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and Habomai and - have been disputed between Moscow and Tokyo since the end of World War II.
- It stretches approximately 1,300 km (810 mi) northeast from Hokkaido, Japan to Kamchatka, Russia, separating the Sea of Okhotsk from the north Pacific Ocean.
- All the islands are under Russian administration.
- Japan claims the four southernmost islands, including two of the three largest ones (Etorofu and Kunashiri), as part of its territory as well as Shikotan and the Habomai islands, which has led to the ongoing Kuril Islands dispute.
- The disputed islands are known in Japan as the country's "Northern Territories"



**Q.502) Consider the following statements:**

1. A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
2. Central Government and State Governments issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities.

**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.502) Solution (a)**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a separate channel called “Fully Accessible Route (FAR)” to enable non-residents to invest in specified Government of India dated securities.
- ‘Specified securities’ shall mean Government Securities as periodically notified by the Reserve Bank for investment under the FAR route.

- The RBI has said that all new issuances of Government securities (G-secs) of 5-year, 10-year, and 30-year tenors will be eligible for investment as specified securities.
- Non Resident investors can invest in specified government securities without being subject to any investment ceilings.

**Benefits of the Scheme:**

- This would facilitate inflow of stable foreign investment in government bonds.
- Being part of the global bond indices would help Indian G-secs attract large funds from major global investors
- This will ease the access of non-residents to Indian Government Securities Markets.
- **A G-Sec is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.**
- It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.
- Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- In India, the Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while **the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities**, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

**Q.503) With reference to whale shark, Consider the following statements:**

1. The whale sharks are the biggest fish and shark in the world.
2. Like human fingerprints, each whale shark has its own individual spot pattern, no two are exactly alike.
3. The whale sharks are notorious for attacking humans.

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

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

**Q.503) Solution (b)**

- The whale shark is the biggest fish and shark in the world and is graceful and **harmless**. The Whale sharks eat tiny plankton and fish eggs, which they filter feed as



they swim slowly along with their giant mouths wide open. They are one of only three species of filter feeding sharks.

- Whale sharks are docile fish and sometimes allow swimmers to hitch a ride.
- **Like human fingerprints, whale sharks have a unique pattern of spots which allow individual sharks to be identified.**
- Whale sharks are highly valued on international markets. Demand for their meat, fins and oil remains a threat to the species.
- Whale sharks tend to like warmer areas and are found in tropical waters all over the world.
- Most whale sharks — 75 percent — are found in the Indian and Pacific oceans; 25 percent in the Atlantic, according to IUCN. Whale sharks are classified as endangered.
- The whale shark is not thought to be able to breach at all, unlike the basking shark.

**Q.504) Which of the following countries is/are not the part of regional network of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)?**

1. Afghanistan
2. Maldives
3. Myanmar
4. Pakistan
5. Thailand

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

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

**Q.504) Solution (b)**

- **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), a Regional network is comprised of eight countries in South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**

- SAWEN is regional inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support body of South Asian Countries. It was launched in January, 2011 in Paro, Bhutan. Its secretariat is in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- It aims at working as a strong regional inter-governmental body for combating wildlife crime by attempting common goals and approaches for combating illegal trade in the region.

**Q.505) Consider the following statement based on the Pollution Index developed by MoEFCC for industrial sectors:**

1. Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above are categorized under Red category
2. No Red category of industries shall be permitted in the ecologically fragile area / protected area.
3. Industries like milk & dairy products are included in the White category.

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

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

**Q.505) Solution (a)**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has developed the criteria of categorization of industrial sectors based on the Pollution Index which is a function of the emissions (air pollutants), effluents (water pollutants), hazardous wastes generated and consumption of resources.

**The following are the four category:**

1. Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above - Red category
  2. Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 41 to 59 – Orange category
  3. Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 21 to 40 – Green category
  4. Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score including &upto 20 - White category
- No Red category of industries shall normally be permitted in the ecologically fragile area / protected area.

- White' category industries will not require environmental clearance.
- The purpose of the categorization is to ensure that the industry is established in a manner which is consistent with the environmental objectives.
- Industries falling under 'White' category include LED and CFL bulb assembly, power generation using solar photovoltaic technology, wind power generating units, hydel units less than 25 MW, products made from rolled PVC sheets using automatic vacuum forming machines, cotton and woolen hosiers using dry processes etc.
- Industries like integrated automobile manufacturing, airports and commercial air strips, and milk & dairy products are included in the 'Red' category.

#### What is Pollution Index?

- Pollution Index (PI) measures the level of 'emissions' that cause air pollution, 'effluents' that contaminate water, 'hazardous wastes' which includes dangerous chemicals and 'consumption of resources' which excessively use natural resources.

#### Q.506) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PM CARES Fund'.

1. The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
2. Donations to PM CARES Fund does not qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013.
3. Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
4. PM CARES Fund cannot accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

#### Select the correct statements

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

#### Q.506) Solution (c)

Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (Prime Minister) shall have the power to nominate three trustees to the Board of Trustees who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy. Any person appointed a Trustee shall act in a pro bono capacity.

The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.

Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961. Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013

PM CARES Fund has also got exemption under the FCRA and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries. This is consistent with respect to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). PMNRF has also received foreign contributions as a public trust since 2011.

**Q.507) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Kr00k'.**

1. It is a security vulnerability that allows some WPA2 encrypted WiFi traffic to be decrypted.
2. It only affects wearable devices.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.507) Solution (a)**

Kr00k is a security vulnerability that allows some WPA2 encrypted WiFi traffic to be decrypted.

It was discovered while the firm called EEST was conducting research into KRACK, a series of attacks on WiFi devices that was detected last year.

WiFi chips manufactured by Broadcom and Cypress are vulnerable to attack, as long as the device is connected to a WiFi network and the hacker is within the range of the same network.

**Read More** - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/slovak-firm-spots-vulnerability-in-16-devices/article30965469.ece>

**Q.508) The 'SEIR model' which was in news recently is associated with**

- a) Infectious Diseases
- b) Price Deficiency Payment Mechanism
- c) Aquaponics and Hydroponics
- d) Quantum Computing

**Q.508) Solution (a)**

SEIR is a model, a technique, fundamental to the science of epidemiology—the branch of medicine that investigates the start, spread and control of diseases. It's medicine, but not a clinical pursuit like surgery or ophthalmology; instead, it delves into the data about a disease and looks for patterns. Epidemiologists do this by mathematically modelling the disease. One way to do so is to “compartmentalize” the population that's been affected by the disease. The idea is that each compartment has similar characteristics as far as the disease is concerned, and we can draw conclusions about each one, as well as about how they relate to the others.

**Q.509) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Sukhna Lake – Himachal Pradesh
2. Otteri Lake – Tamil Nadu
3. Vellayani Lake – Kerala

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.509) Solution (b)**

Sukhna Lake – Chandigarh

Otteri Lake – Tamil Nadu

Vellayani Lake – Kerala



**Q.510) The 'Bonphool' brand which was in news recently is associated with**

- a) Honey
- b) Jaggery
- c) Rice
- d) Milk

**Q.510) Solution (a)**

The West Bengal Forest Department has created a separate brand for selling this honey named Bonphool (Flower of the Forest). The honey extracted from mangrove forest will be called Bonphool Wild Honey — harvested from traditional honey collectors from mangrove forest of Sunderbans.

**Q.511) Consider the following statements:**

1. Viruses such as coronavirus, influenza-causing viruses, Ebola, Zika have their genetic material encased in a layer of fat called the lipid envelop.
2. Soap contains fat-like substances known as amphiphiles which compete with the lipids in the virus membrane and break the lipid envelope of the virus.
3. Viruses such as rotavirus, poliovirus does not have the lipid envelop.

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

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

**Q.511) Solution (d)**

**How does washing with soap help get rid of the coronavirus?**

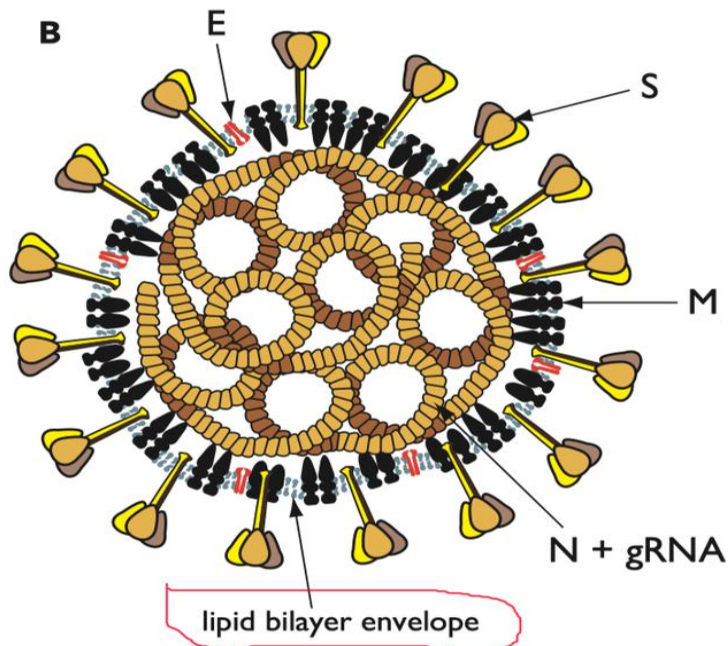
- **Viruses such as coronavirus, influenza-causing viruses, Ebola, Zika have their genetic material encased in a layer of fat called the lipid envelop.**
- Soap molecules are pin-shaped with one end of the molecule (head) is attracted to water and repelled by fats and proteins. The other side of the molecule (tail) is attracted to fats and is repelled by water. The tail portion of the molecule competes with the lipids in the virus envelope.
- Since the chemical bonds holding the virus together are not very strong, the long tail gets inserted into the envelope of virus and breaks the lipid envelope of the virus.
- The tail also competes with the bond that binds the RNA and the lipid envelop thus dissolving the virus into its components which are then removed by water.

**Do all viruses have the lipid layer?**

- **Certain viruses do not have the lipid envelop and are called the non-enveloped viruses. Rotavirus which causes severe diarrhoea, poliovirus, adenovirus that cause pneumonia does not contain the lipid envelop.**
- The tail of the soap molecule also disrupts the bond that binds dirt and non-enveloped viruses to the hand.

**How do alcohol-based hand sanitizers help get rid of coronavirus?**

- Like soap, the alcohol present in hand sanitizers dissolve the lipid envelop, thus inactivating the virus.
- Need a very high concentration of alcohol to achieve the same effect as soap. To be effective, the sanitisers should contain at least 60% alcohol.



**Q.512) With reference to The Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Consider the following statements:**

1. Under this act, the government can fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an essential commodity.
2. If the Central government thinks that it is necessary to maintain or increase supplies of any essential commodity, it can regulate or prohibit the production, supply, distribution and sale of that commodity.

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

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

**Q.512) Solution (d)**

- Department of Consumer Affairs administers 'The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act)' and 'Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (PBMMSEC Act)'.

- The ECA was enacted in 1955. It has since been used by the Government to regulate the production, supply and distribution of a whole host of commodities it declares ‘essential’ in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.
- Additionally, the government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”.
- Under the EC Act of 1955, if the Central government thinks that it is necessary to maintain or increase supplies of any essential commodity or make it available at fair prices, it can regulate or prohibit the production, supply, distribution and sale of that commodity.
- Some of the essential commodities listed out in the schedule to this Act are foodstuffs including edible oils and oilseeds, drugs, fertilizers, petroleum and petroleum products.
- But the Centre has the power to add or remove any commodity in public interest from this list, and that’s what it has done with masks and hand sanitizers during coronavirus outbreak.
- Bringing masks and sanitizers under the EC Act will enhance the availability of these products to the public, at fair prices.

**Q.513) Consider the following statements:**

1. A Review petition should be circulated to the same bench that delivered the judgment.
2. A Curative petition and it is guaranteed under Article 145 of the Constitution of India.

**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.513) Solution (a)**

**Review Petition**

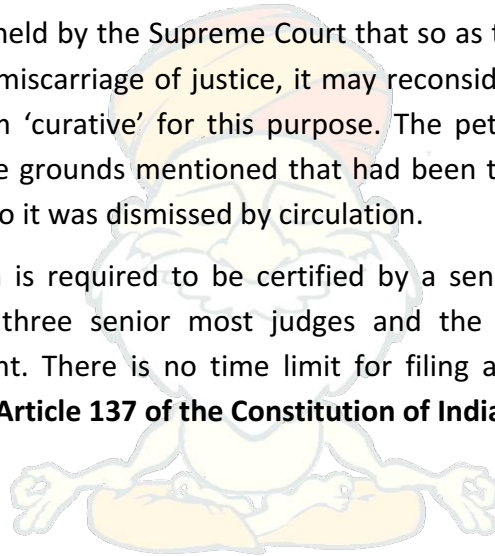
- In India, a binding decision of the Supreme Court/High Court can be reviewed in a review petition. A review petition can be filed by the parties aggrieved by the decisions of Supreme Court.



- As per Article 137 of the Constitution of India and the rules made under Article 145, the Supreme Court of India has the power to review its judgment pronounced by it. As per Supreme Court rules, 1966 such a petition is to be filed within 30 days of the **pronouncement of judgment or order and that petition should be circulated without oral arguments to the same bench that delivered the judgment.**
- Furthermore, if a review petition is dismissed by the Supreme Court, it may consider a curative petition filed by the petitioner so as to prevent abuse of process

### Curative petition

- The Supreme court of India evolved the concept of curative petition in the landmark case of Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra and Anr. (2002) where a question was raised that whether an aggrieved person is entitled to any relief against the final order/judgment of the Supreme Court after dismissal of review petition.
- In this case it was held by the Supreme Court that so as to prevent abuse of process as well as to cure miscarriage of justice, it may reconsider its judgments. The court has devised a term 'curative' for this purpose. The petitioner is required to state specifically that the grounds mentioned that had been taken in the review petition filed earlier and also it was dismissed by circulation.
- A curative petition is required to be certified by a senior advocate and then it is circulated to the three senior most judges and the judges who delivered the impugned judgment. There is no time limit for filing a curative petition and it is guaranteed **under Article 137 of the Constitution of India.**



### Mercy petition

- In the context of Indian Judicial System, Mercy Petition is the last resort. When a person has lost all the remedies available to him/her under all the prevailing laws as well as under the Constitutional remedies, he may file a mercy petition before the President of India under Article 72 of the Indian Constitution or the Governor of the state under Article 161 of the Indian Constitution. Then the petition of his will be treated on mercy not on the legality of the case.
- In accordance with Article 72 of the Indian Constitution, President is empowered to reprieve, respite or remit punishment pronounced by the Apex court i.e. the Supreme Court of India. However, the power to grant pardon is not discretionary as any decision is reached by consulting with the council of ministers.
- In accordance with Article 161 of the Indian Constitution, Governor of the State shall have the power to reprieve, respite or remit punishment of any person convicted of any offence.

**Q.514) Which of the following statements is/are Not Correct regarding Cess in India?**

1. If the cess collected in a particular year goes unspent, it will be allocated for other purposes.
2. The central government should share the cess with the state government.
3. The cess can be levied on indirect taxes only.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.514) Solution (d)**

- In the backdrop of outbreak of COVID-19, numerous measures are being taken by the Government to give relief to workers. To support unorganized construction workers who sustain their livelihood on daily wages, all State Governments/UTs have been advised to transfer funds in the account of construction workers through DBT mode from the Cess fund collected by the Labour Welfare Boards under the BOCW cess Act.

Cess is a form of tax charged/levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.

- A cess is usually imposed additionally when the state or the central government looks to raise funds for specific purposes. For example, the government levies an education cess to generate additional revenue for funding primary, secondary, and higher education.
- Cess is not a permanent source of revenue for the government, and it is discontinued when the purpose levying it is fulfilled.
- **It can be levied on both indirect and direct taxes.**
- The government can impose cess for purposes such as disaster relief, generating funds for cleaning rivers, etc. For example, after Kerala floods in the year 2018, the state government imposed a 1% calamity cess on GST and became the first state to do it.
- Cess may initially go to the CFI but has to be used for the purpose for which it was collected. **If the cess collected in a particular year goes unspent, it cannot be**

**allocated for other purposes.** The amount gets carried over to the next year and can only be used for the cause it was meant for.

- **The central government does not need to share the cess with the state government either partially or in full, unlike some other taxes.**

#### Types of cess in India

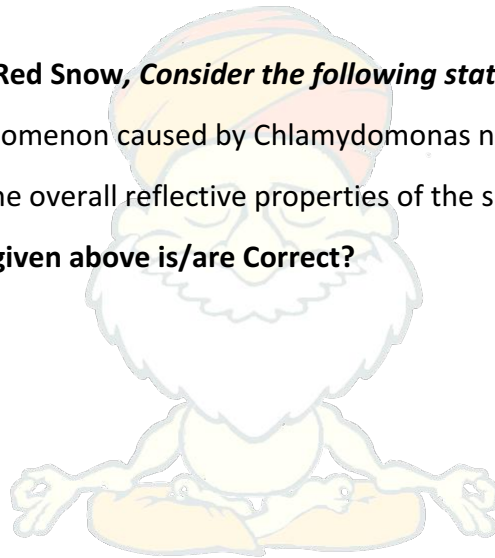
- Education Cess
- Health and education cess
- Swachh Bharat Cess
- Krishi Kalyan Cess
- Infrastructure Cess

**Q.515) With reference to Red Snow, Consider the following statements:**

1. Red snow is a phenomenon caused by *Chlamydomonas nivalis*.
2. Red algae lowers the overall reflective properties of the snow.

**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.515) Solution (c)**

- Watermelon snow, also called snow algae, pink snow, red snow, or blood snow, is a **phenomenon caused by *Chlamydomonas nivalis***, a species of green algae containing a secondary red carotenoid pigment (astaxanthin) in addition to chlorophyll.
- Unlike most species of fresh-water algae, it is cryophilic (cold-loving) and thrives in freezing water.
- The more the algae packed together, the redder the snow. And the darker the tinge, the more the heat absorbed by the snow. Subsequently, the ice melts faster.

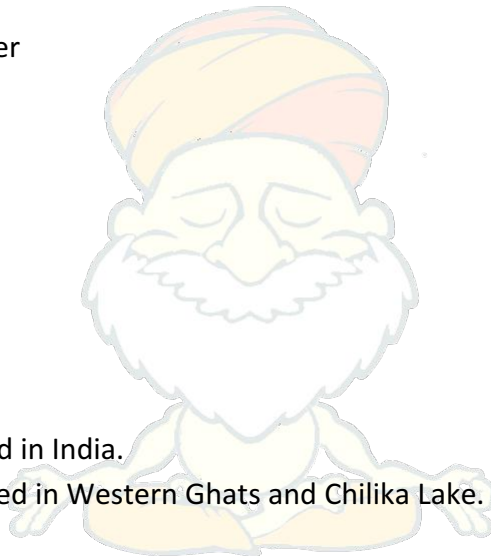
- While the melt is good for the microbes that need the liquid water to survive and thrive, it's bad for glaciers that are already melting from a myriad of other causes, the study said.
- These algae change the snow's albedo — which refers to the amount of light or radiation the snow surface is able to reflect back. Changes in albedo lead to more melting.
- Bright white snow reflects sunlight, but when this red algae begins to spread in an area, it lowers the overall reflective properties of the snow, welcoming more heat to be absorbed, prompting additional melting, and sparking the growth of even more algae.

**Q.516) Which of the following species of otters can be sighted in India?**

1. Eurasian otter
2. Small-clawed otter
3. Smooth-coated otter

**Select the correct code:**

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



**Q.516) Solution (d)**

All the three can be spotted in India.

Eurasian otters were spotted in Western Ghats and Chilika Lake.

**Q.517) Which of the following countries do not open to 'Aegean Sea'?**

1. Turkey
2. Greece
3. Albania
4. Croatia

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.517) Solution (b)**



**Q.518) Which of the following is the first country to recognize Rights of Nature in its Constitution?**

- a) India
- b) Bolivia
- c) New Zealand
- d) Ecuador



**Q.518) Solution (d)**

Ecuador is the first country to recognize Rights of Nature in its Constitution.

**Q.519) The 'KhariaSavar' community primarily lives in**

- a) North East India
- b) Central India
- c) Southern India
- d) Western India

**Q.519) Solution (b)**

KhariaSavar community are an Austroasiatic tribal ethnic group from central India.

**Q.520) 'Nolamba dynasty' was primarily spread over**

- a) Maharashtra and Gujarat
- b) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Assam and Meghalaya

**Q.520) Solution (b)**

Nolamba Pallava kings ruled the southern parts of present Anantapur district, Kolar and Chitradurg districts in Karnataka and south-western parts of Chittoor district, and there is a rich architectural heritage left behind by them.

Nolamba dynasty kings flourished from the early 9th century during the regime of Rashtrakutas (whose rule spread from the Ganges to Kanyakumari), their downfall began when Ganga dynasty king Marasimha overpowered them in the late 10th century. These Nolambas were Kannada kings and got several temples constructed with architectural finesse that can be seen even today in the black-stone idols of several Hindu and Jain deities.

**Q.521) Consider the following statements:**

1. NASSCOM Foundation launched 'Innovate for Accessible India' campaign along with Google.
2. The major objective of this campaign is to empower divyaang people with Apple Cloud, AI and other latest technologies.

**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.521) Solution (d)**

- Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation launched the 'Innovate for Accessible India' campaign.
- The initiative has been launched in partnership with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Science and Technology and ERNET, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and other departments.

- The major objective of ‘Innovate for Accessible India’ campaign is to empower divyaang people with the tools and technology.
- This campaign wants to equip divyaang people with a technology that can help them to make their life easier.
- Innovate for Accessible India campaign will use Microsoft cloud, AI and other latest technologies that can sort out the issues faced by divyaang people.
- Microsoft and NASSCOM are working together in this initiative to provide better employment opportunities, education, rehabilitation and other government services.
- This campaign will include social impact organizations, students and citizens with social work impact.
- It will prepare some solutions that can address issues faced by people with disabilities.
- There are 21 officially recognized disabilities and this campaign is working on all of them.

#### **Persons with Disabilities in India**

- The data of the Indian Census 2011 shows that the total population of disabled people in the country is about 2% of the total population.

**Q.522) Which of the following statements is/are Correct regarding Convalescent plasma therapy?**

1. Plasma can also be taken from people infected with HIV, hepatitis or syphilis.
2. The whole blood or plasma from such people is taken, and the plasma is then injected in critically ill patients so that the antibodies are transferred and boost their fight against the virus.
3. WHO guidelines mandate the donor’s permission before extracting plasma.

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

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

**Q.522) Solution (b)**

- Convalescent plasma therapy seeks to make use of the antibodies developed in the recovered patient against the virus.
- The whole blood or plasma from such people is taken, and the plasma is then injected in critically ill patients so that the antibodies are transferred and boost their fight against the virus.
- If the plasma is injected at an early stage, it can possibly help fight the virus and prevent severe illness.

**How often has it been used in the past?**

- The United States used plasma of recovered patients to treat patients of Spanish flu (1918-1920).
- Hong Kong used it to treat SARS patients in 2005.
- In 2009, H1N1 patients were treated with plasma.
- In 2014, the World Health Organization released guidelines to treat Ebola patients with convalescent whole blood and plasma.
- In 2015, plasma was used for treating MERS patients.

**How is it done?**

- The process to infuse plasma in a patient can be completed quickly. It only requires standard blood collection practices, and extraction of plasma.
- If whole blood is donated (350-450 ml), a blood fractionation process is used to separate the plasma.
- Otherwise, a special machine called aphaeresis machine can be used to extract the plasma directly from the donor.
- While blood is indeed extracted from the donor, the aphaeresis machine separates and extracts the plasma using a plasma kit, and the remaining blood components are returned into the donor's body.
- **WHO guidelines in 2014 mandate a donor's permission before extracting plasma.**
- **Plasma from only recovered patients must be taken, and donation must be done from people not infected with HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, or any infectious disease.**
- If whole blood is collected, the plasma is separated by sedimentation or centrifugation, then injected in the patient.
- If plasma needs to be collected again from the same person, it must be done after 12 weeks of the first donation for males and 16 weeks for females.



**Q.523) Earth Hour is an annual event organized by**

- a) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- b) World Wildlife Fund
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) World Nature Organization

**Q.523) Solution (b)**

- Every year, Earth Hour is observed on the last Saturday of March at 8:30 pm.

**What is Earth Hour?**

- Earth Hour is an annual event **organized by the World Wildlife Fund** that promotes conservation and sustainable energy.
- During this time, civilians are encouraged to switch off their lights for one hour to help reduce the effect of global warming and raise awareness for climate change and wildlife conservation.
- In 2007, we encouraged people around the world to switch off their lights to call attention to climate change.
- Today, Earth Hour aims to spark global conversations on protecting nature not only to combat the climate crisis, but to ensure our own health, happiness, prosperity and even survival.
- **Earth Hour is the world's biggest switch off event** – a moment millions come together for nature, people and the planet.
- It was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007.

**What's the difference between Earth Hour and Earth Day?**

- Whereas Earth Hour stands as a climate change initiative where people reduce their electricity usage, **Earth Day (April 22)** celebrates our natural environment by inspiring people to plant trees, recycle regularly and keep the planet tidy.

**Q.524) Which of the following is/are Correctly matched regarding Traditional New Year?**

1. Vaisakhi – Punjab
2. Bohag Bihu – Odisha
3. Puthandu – Tamil Nadu

## 4. Pana Sankranti – Assam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.524) Solution (a)**

According to Hindu New Year or Vikram Samvat, the month of Chaitra (usually falls between the months of March and April) marks the New year or first month of Hindu calendar.

The great king of Ujjain, Vikramaditya, first established the new Hindu year.

**Gudi Padwa - Maharashtra, Goa**

- Gudi Padwa is the first day of the Chaitra month, beginning of the New year celebrated in Maharashtra. A gudi with stick displayed in out of a window or households in the state.

**Ugadi - Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**

- Ugadi is the New Year's day that begins with the month of Chaitra celebrated in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka state. Gudi Padwa and Ugadi are celebrated on the same day.

**Vishu - Kerala, Karnataka**

- Vishu festival marks the beginning of the harvest year. celebrated in the Indian state of Kerala. The festival of light and fireworks is the most important event in Kerala and devotees visit the Sabarimala Ayyappan Temple and Guruvayur Krishna temple.

**Vaisakhi - Punjab**

- Vaisakhi or Baisakhi is the most religious festival in Sikhism, marks the Sikh new year. This harvest festival happened in the Punjab region and people gather to socialize and share festive foods.

**Pohela Boishakh - West Bengal, Tripura**

- Pohela Baishakh in the Bengali New Year, celebrated with grandeur and colours in the state of West Bengal. The Bengali New Year is also considered to be an auspicious time for marriages.

**Puthandu - Tamil Nadu**

- Puthandu known as Tamil New Year is celebrated on the first month of the Tamil solar calendar in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. There are list of famous festivals are held at Tiruchirapalli, Kanchipuram, Tiruvidaimarudur near Kumbakonam.

#### **Bohag Bihu - Assam, North East**

- Bohag Bihu also called Rangali Bihu is the harvest festival celebrated in the state of Assam and north eastern India, marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.

#### **Pana Sankranti - Odisha**

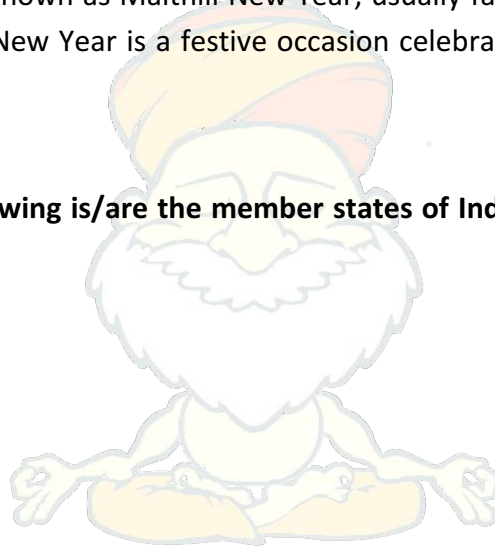
- Pana Sankranti or Maha Vishuva Sankranti marks the beginning of the New Year in the Odia calendar, generally falls on the 14th or 15th of April. Pana Sankranti is similar to New Year festivals such as Vaisakhi, Maithili New Year, Bisu Parba and Cheti Chand.

#### **Jude Sheetal - Bihar, Jharkhand**

- Jude Sheetal also known as Maithili New Year, usually falls on 14 April on Gregorian calendar. Maithili New Year is a festive occasion celebrated by the Maithils in Bihar and Nepal.

**Q.525) Which of the following is/are the member states of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)?**

1. Maldives
2. South Africa
3. Oman
4. Sri Lanka
5. Indonesia



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

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

**Q.525) Solution (d)**

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997. The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995

- IORA is a dynamic inter-governmental organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 22 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners.
- 22 member states are Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, and Yemen.

The objective of the Blue Economy is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and employment opportunities within the Indian Ocean region's maritime economic activities.

The IORA Secretariat has identified the following six priority pillars in the blue economy

- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Renewable Ocean Energy
- Seaports and Shipping
- Offshore Hydrocarbons and Seabed Minerals
- Marine Biotechnology, Research and Development
- Tourism
- 19th IORA Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting was held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) under the theme of **“Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean”**.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has assumed the position of Chair while Bangladesh will be Vice-Chair of the IORA for the period of 2019-2021.

**Q.526) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Methanotrophs’**

1. They are obligate aerobes that use methane as a sole carbon and energy source.
2. They are generally bacteria and can grow aerobically only.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.526) Solution (a)**

Methanotrophs (sometimes called methanophiles) are prokaryotes that metabolize methane as their only source of carbon and energy. They can be either bacteria or archaea and can grow aerobically or anaerobically, and require single-carbon compounds to survive.

**Q.527) 'Modified New Pricing Scheme -III (NPS-III) primarily deals with**

- a) Sugarcane
- b) Cotton
- c) Urea
- d) Paddy

**Q.527) Solution (c)**

It provides incentives to the domestic urea manufacturers, encouraged investment in urea production sector, reduced urea imports. It mainly aimed to achieve self-sufficiency in urea production.

**Q.528) 'Tectaria macrodonta' was in news recently in the context of**

- a) Algal Bloom
- b) Whiteflies
- c) COVID-19
- d) Neglected Tropical Diseases

**Q.528) Solution (b)**

The leaf extract of an edible fern *Tectaria macrodonta* causes toxicity to the whitefly.

**Q.529) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Fourth Branch Institutions'**

1. They are independent bodies, which are charged with performing vital functions of oversight.
2. All these institutes are non-constitutional bodies.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.529) Solution (a)**

**Fourth Branch Institutions**

- The complexity of governance and administration in the modern world has necessitated the existence of a set of independent bodies, which are charged with performing vital functions of oversight.
- Some of these bodies are constitutional bodies — established by the Constitution itself. These include, for instance, the Election Commission and the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

- Others have been established under law: for example, the Information Commission under the Right to Information Act, and Human Rights Commissions under the Protection of Human Rights Act.

**Q.530) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Production Linked Incentive (PLI)' scheme.**

1. It will help wooing the large companies to invest in India in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components.
2. It will give India the ability to be as agile as countries like China and Vietnam with respect to manufacturing of products.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.530) Solution (c)**

**Govt allocates Rs. 48,042 crore in three key schemes to compete with China, Vietnam in electronics manufacturing**

**Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)**

- It will provide financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for the select electronic goods that comprise downstream value chain of electronic products, i.e., electronic components, semiconductor/ display fabrication units, ATMP units, etc.
- The scheme will also be applicable to expansion of capacity modernization and diversification of existing units along with investments in new units.

**Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**

- It will help wooing the large companies come to India, invest here in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.
- They will get 4-6% incentive on the final manufacturing.
- The scheme will also help in creating 2-4 "champion Indian companies.

**Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) 2.0**

- It will act as a pull for large companies to come to India bringing along their entire components manufacturing ecosystem.
- The scheme will provide financial assistance upto 50% of the project cost subject to ceiling of Rs.70 crore per 100 acres of land and For Common Facility Centre (CFC),

financial assistance of 75% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.75 crore will be provided.

- The government has earmarked a budgetary outlay of Rs. 3,762.25 crore for this scheme over a period of 8 years.

**Q.531) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Reserve Bank of India has put in place a central fraud registry, which is a searchable database to help banks detect instances of fraud by borrowers.
2. Frauds of ₹ 5 crore and above will be monitored by the Central Fraud Monitoring Cell (CFMC) of the central bank.

**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.531) Solution (c)**

- Frauds of ₹ 100,000 and above but below ₹ 5 crore will be monitored by the respective regional office of the RBI under whose jurisdiction the head office of the reporting bank falls, RBI said in its notification.
- **Frauds of ₹ 5 crore and above will be monitored by the Central Fraud Monitoring Cell (CFMC) of the central bank.**
- RBI has asked banks to provide flash reports in fraud cases of ₹ 5 crore and above to the Department of Banking Supervision along with the CFMC.
- Earlier cases involving a sum of ₹ 1 crore and above had required flash reports to be given to RBI.
- The aggregated fraud data will be published to educate customers on emerging risks.
- The central fraud registry was proposed earlier both in the Nandan Nilekani committee report and RBI's payments vision document 2019 to 2021.
- The registry, apart from improving monitoring standards and analysis of the frauds, would also help the central bank collate periodic data for customer awareness.
- Under RBI's Banking Ombudsman Scheme, customers can lodge a complaint with the Banking Ombudsman against banks, for non-adherence to RBI's instructions regarding mobile/electronic banking services.

**Q.532) With reference to Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020, Consider the following statements:**

1. The Act provides a mechanism for resolution of pending tax disputes related to both income tax and corporation tax.
2. Every order passed under this act (regarding determining the amount payable under this act) shall be conclusive and no matter covered by such order shall be reopened under any law, including the income tax act.
3. This mechanism will not cover disputes involving undisclosed foreign income or assets.

**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.532) Solution (d)**

- **The Act provides a mechanism for resolution of pending tax disputes related to income tax and corporation tax.**
- Every order passed under sub-section (1), determining the amount payable under this Act, shall be conclusive as to the matters stated therein and no matter covered by such order shall be reopened in any other proceeding under the Income-tax Act or under any other law for the time being in force or under any agreement, whether for protection of investment or otherwise, entered into by India with any other country or territory outside India.
- This mechanism will not cover disputes involving undisclosed foreign income or assets.

**Q.533) With reference to Marakkars, Consider the following statements:**

1. The leaders of Marakkar clan were naval chieftains of the Zamorin of Calicut during the 16th and 17th centuries.
2. The Marakkars were mostly muslims.



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

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

**Q.533) Solution (d)**

**Why was a petition filed against the film in the High Court?**

- A petition was filed in the Kerala High Court against the film, Marakkar: The Lion of the Arabian Sea, alleging ‘distortion of history’ and demanding a stay on the release. It is said to be the most expensive Malayalam film ever made.
- Marakkar clan, whose leaders were naval chieftains of the Zamorin of Calicut during the 16th and 17th centuries.
- The Zamorin, Samoothiri in Malayalam, was the title given to rulers of the Calicut kingdom on the Malabar coast.
- The Marakkars fought against Portuguese invaders for nearly a century.

**Who were the Marakkars?**

- By some accounts, they were of Arab origin and had migrated from Tunisia to Panthalayani near Koyilandy in present-day Kozhikode, and later moved to the region around present-day Kottakkal and Thikkodi near Payyoli. By other accounts, the Marakkars were descendants of affluent businessman from the Cochin kingdom who migrated later to Calicut.
- ‘Marakkar’ could have originated from maram or marakkalam, meaning ship, as these families lived along the coast and used ships. Alternatively, it could have originated from the Arabic word markaba, meaning those who migrated via ships.
- **“The Marakkars were mostly Muslims**, but in some parts, they have been found to be Hindus as well.

**What was the war against the Portuguese about?**

- Faced with invading Portuguese ships, the Zamorin reached out to the Marakkars to defend the coast. They were led in succession by four Marakkars, chief admirals who were appointed by the Zamorin with the title of Kunjali.
- Related by bloodline, they were Kuttyali Marakkar (Kunjali Marakkar I, appointed in 1507), Kutty Pokker (Kunjali Marakkar II), Pathu Marakkar (Kunjali Marakkar III) and Muhammad Ali Marakkar (Kunjali Marakkar IV, appointed in 1595).

**Q.534) With reference to Epidemic Act 1897, Consider the following statements:**

1. Any person disobeying any regulation or order made under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 195 of the Indian Penal Code.
2. The law also safeguards officials and gives them overarching superintendence of power who acts under the provisions of this law to contain the outbreak.
3. According to Section 4 of the act, no suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything done in good faith under the act.

**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.534) Solution (c)**

- The Centre has decided to invoke Epidemic Act 1897, an act to provide for prevention of the spread of “dangerous epidemic diseases,” to combat novel coronavirus in India.
- All the states and union territories of India are advised to invoke the provisions of Section 2 of the Epidemic Disease Act 1897. The section includes special measures to be taken by the Centre to “prescribe regulations as to dangerous epidemic disease.” It also includes the detention of people or any vessel that come from international shores and are seen potent to spread the epidemic in the country.
- Section 2 of the Act states: “When at any time the State Government (now Centre) is satisfied that the State or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, the State Government, if it thinks that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient for the purpose, may take, or require or empower any person to take, such measures and, by public notice, prescribe such temporary regulations to be observed by the public or by any person or class of persons as it shall deem necessary to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof, and may determine in what manner and by whom any expenses incurred (including compensation if any) shall be defrayed.”
- The Act was formulated pre-independence mainly to control plague in the late 1800s.

- The provisions of the Act state that the government can fine people or imprison them for violating rules and regulations that will be set to contain the outbreak.
- Section 3 of the Act states: "Any person disobeying any regulation or order made under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under **section 188 of the Indian Penal Code** (45 of 1860).
- The law also safeguards officials and gives them overarching superintendence of power who act under the provisions of this law to contain the outbreak.
- **According to Section 4 of the act, no suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything done in good faith under the act.**
- The Act can be used to restrict the movement of suspected coronavirus patients to prevent further spread of the disease. The officials said the need to invoke the Act was felt to empower the central government to tackle the outbreak.

**Q.535) With reference to Disaster Management Act, Consider the following statements:**

1. It defines a disaster as a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising only from natural causes, which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering.
2. It also provides for one year's imprisonment for anyone circulating a false alarm.
3. The act allows government to get access to the National Disaster Response Fund, the State Disaster Response Fund and the District Disaster Response Fund.

**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.535) Solution (c)**

- The Disaster Management Act provides the administrative framework to take measures to deal with such incidents and allows the government to access funds set up for this purpose.
- It defines a disaster as "a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising **from natural or man made causes**, or by accident or negligence which

results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area."

- This would ordinarily be understood to include incidents such as an earthquake, flood or fire, rather than a disease. However, on 14 March, the home ministry declared the coronavirus outbreak as a "notified disaster", thus bringing into play the provisions of the Disaster Management Act.

#### **Punitive measures**

- Sections 51 to 60 of the Act lay down penalties for specific offences. Anyone found obstructing any officer or employee from performing their duty will be imprisoned for a term which may extend to one year or fined, or be both. Further, if such an act of obstruction leads to loss of lives or imminent danger, then the person can be jailed for up to two years.
- The Disaster Management Act is also being used to rein in the circulation of fake news, which has been on an overdrive since the outbreak began. Section 52 of the Act states that people intentionally making false claims to get benefits from the government can be imprisoned for up to two years. **Section 54 provides for one year's imprisonment for anyone circulating a "false alarm."**

#### **Efficacy in context of disease outbreaks**

- The Act has been used in tandem with the Epidemic Diseases Act, with the latter providing the basis for containment measures such as restrictions on flights landing in India, and prohibiting gatherings beyond a certain number of people.

**Q.536) 'Multi-party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA)' was in news recently. It is associated with?**

- a) European Union
- b) World Trade Organisation
- c) World Bank
- d) ASEAN

#### **Q.536) Solution (b)**

In a significant breakthrough, 16 Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), covering a large share of world trade, have announced an arrangement on the settlement of trade disputes between them. Known as the Multiparty Interim Appeal-Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA), the arrangement bridges a crucial gap in the WTO system that results from the WTO Appellate Body's temporary inability to hear appeals. The MPIA uses Article 25 of the WTO

Dispute Settlement Undertaking to enable appeals within the existing WTO framework and, in so doing, preserves binding WTO dispute settlement between the MPIA parties.

Read More - <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/eu-china-propose-interim-dispute-settlement-system/articleshow/74878948.cms>

**Q.537) Which of the following Acts was amended to bring in the concept of “Significant Economic Presence” for establishing “business connection” in the case of non-resident in India?**

- a) Income-tax Act, 1961
- b) Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
- c) Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
- d) Companies Act, 2013

**Q.537) Solution (a)**

The government had introduced the concept of significant economic presence (SEP) in line with its plan to tax digital companies in the Finance Act, 2018. SEP was defined to mean, among other things, systematic and continuous soliciting of business activities or engaging in interaction with such number of users as may be prescribed in India through digital means.

Section 9(1)(i) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (‘the Income-tax Act’) was amended to bring in the concept of “Significant Economic Presence” for establishing “business connection” in the case of non-resident in India.

**Q.538) ‘Guindy National Park’ is located in**

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

**Q.538) Solution (a)**

Guindy National Park is a protected area of Tamil Nadu, located in Chennai, India, is the 8th-smallest National Park of India and one of the very few national parks situated inside a city.

**Q.539) The ‘Gormati Art’ which was in news recently is associated with which of the following communities?**

- a) Dhangar
- b) Banjara
- c) Gonds
- d) Bhils

**Q.539) Solution (b)**

It is associated with the Banjara Community.

**Q.540) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?****Places in News - Country**

1. Jizan – Iran
2. Wonsan – China
3. Latakia – Syria

**Select the correct code:**

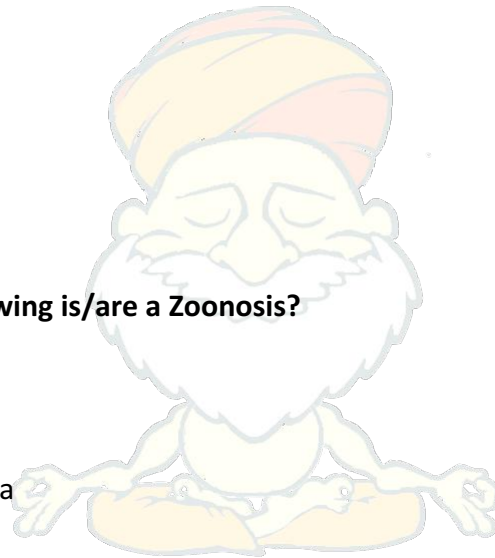
- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.540) Solution (c)**

Jizan – Saudi Arabia

Wonsan – North Korea

Latakia – Syria

**Q.541) Which of the following is/are a Zoonosis?**

1. Cat scratch fever
2. Swine flu
3. Fish tank granuloma
4. Q fever

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

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

**Q.541) Solution (d)**

1. Cat scratch fever, also called cat scratch disease (CSD), is a bacterial infection. The disease gets its name because people contract it from cats infected with Bartonella henselae bacteria.

2. Swine flu is an infection caused by a virus. It's named for a virus that pigs can get. In 2009 a strain of swine flu called H1N1 infected many people around the world. The virus is contagious and can spread from human to human.
3. Fish tank granuloma is a skin condition caused by *Mycobacterium marinum*, characterized by a skin lesion that presents roughly three weeks after exposure.
  - Zoonosis is another name for a zoonotic disease.
  - Diseases, transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water, and the environment, are commonly referred to as “zoonosis.”
  - Zoonoses may be bacterial, viral, or parasitic, or may involve unconventional agents.
  - Antimicrobial resistance in human pathogens is another major public health threat which is partly impacted by use of antibiotics in animal husbandry and agriculture.

**Zoonoses can be transmitted in various ways:**

- through the air
  - by eating contaminated meat or produce
  - through close contact with an infected animal
  - by touching an area or surface that an infected animal touched
  - through insect bites like mosquitoes or ticks
1. Vectorborne: e.g. being bitten by a tick, a mosquito, a flea. Diseases that can be transmitted in this way include malaria, West Nile virus and Lyme disease.
  2. Direct contact or close proximity. Coming into contact with the saliva, blood, urine, mucous, faeces or other body fluids of an infected animal; or with areas where animals live and roam, or objects or surfaces that have been contaminated with germs.

Diseases that are mainly transmissible to other animals or humans in this way include:

- Avian influenza, a highly contagious viral disease which occurs primarily in poultry and wild water birds.
- Q fever, a disease caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*. It has been reported in a wide range of species, including cattle, sheep and goats. People can get infected by breathing in dust contaminated with bacteria from the placenta and birth fluids or faeces of infected animals.
- Salmonella infections, which can originate from contact with infected reptiles and amphibians such as pet snakes, iguanas and frogs or their environment.
- Verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), which can be acquired through contact with infected farm animals.

- These diseases can also be transmitted through the environment, e.g. Verotoxin-producing E. coli in contaminated swimming water.
- Salmonellosis and listeriosis – are caused by eating contaminated food or drinking water

**Q.542) With reference to Ayushman Bharat Scheme, Consider the following statements:**

1. It will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families providing coverage for primary, secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
2. It provides a cover of rupees 5 lakh per family per year for medical treatment in empanelled public hospitals only.

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

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

**Q.542) Solution (c)**

**The Central government has decided to provide free testing and treatment of Coronavirus under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.**

- Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year **for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.**
- It provides a cover of 5 lakh per family per year for medical treatment in **empanelled hospitals, both public and private.**
- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes - Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
- It provides cashless and paperless service to its beneficiaries at the hospital.
- E-cards are provided to the eligible beneficiaries based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011).
- There is no restriction on family size, age or gender.
- All previous medical conditions are covered under the scheme.
- It covers 3 days of hospitalisation and 15 days of post hospitalisation, including diagnostic care and expenses on medicines.



- The scheme is portable and a beneficiary can avail medical treatment at any PM-JAY empanelled hospital outside their state and anywhere in the country.
- States would need to have State Health Agency (SHA) to implement the scheme.

**Q.543) Consider the following statements:**

1. Inter-State migration and quarantine are under the Concurrent List.
2. The prevention of infectious diseases moving from one State to another is under the Union List.

**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.543) Solution (d)**

Kerala-Karnataka border issue poses questions on restrictions, relations during a pandemic – COVID19.

- **Inter-State migration and quarantine are under the Union List, while the prevention of infectious diseases moving from one State to another is under the Concurrent List.**
- This means that while States have the power to impose border restrictions, the responsibility to prevent a breakdown of inter-State relations over such disputes is on the Centre.
- The Kerala High Court took the view that denying emergency medical aid amounts to a violation of the right to life and liberty.
- **Article 21:** Denying emergency medical aid amounts to a violation of the **right to life and liberty.**

Earlier the Kerala Governor promulgated the 'Kerala Epidemic Diseases Ordinance, 2020' to arm itself with extraordinary powers to deal with the pandemic. One of its clauses says the State can seal its borders for such period as necessary, while another empowers it to restrict the duration of essential or emergency services, including health, food supply and fuel.

**Q.544) Which of the following is/are Correctly matched:**

1. COVSACK - COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk developed by Indian Railways.
2. CovidGyan – a website for scientifically accurate COVID-19 related content launched by IISc, TIFR Centres, Tata Memorial Centre and others.
3. Jeevan - low-cost ventilator prototype for Covid-19 patients manufactured by DRDO.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.544) Solution (b)**

The Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed the 'COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk' (COVSACK) to combat the coronavirus.

- The COVSACK is a kiosk through which healthcare workers can take coronavirus samples from suspected infected patients. The patient walks into the kiosk and a nasal/oral swab is taken by healthcare professional from outside through the built-in gloves, according to a statement.
- The kiosk is automatically disinfected without the need for human involvement, making the process free of infection spread. The shielding screen of the kiosk cabin protects the healthcare worker from the aerosols/droplet transmission while taking the sample. This reduces the need of frequent PPE change by healthcare workers.

**CovidGyan, a website dedicated to scientifically accurate COVID-19 related content and resources, has been launched as a joint initiative of multiple institutions including IISc, various TIFR Centres, Tata Memorial Centre, India Bioscience, the Bangalore Life Science Cluster (NCBS, inStem & C-CAMP) and Vigyan Prasar.**

**Indian Railways, has manufactured a low-cost ventilator prototype 'Jeevan' for Covid-19 patients.**

- Jeevan can be utilised as an emergency ventilator and its production is easy, which can be done with the smaller size components or locally sourced components. The body of the ventilator has been made from the train coach components. The cost of this device will be a fraction of what the regular ventilators cost.

CSIR constituent Lab in Bengaluru, CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), along with MAF Clothing, Bengaluru has developed and certified the overall protective coverall suit. The polypropylene spun laminated multi-layered non-woven fabric-based coverall can be used to ensure the safety of doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and healthcare workers working round the clock on COVID-19 mitigation.

**Q.545) With reference to Compensation cess, Consider the following statements:**

1. It is a relief for States for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.
2. It is levied only on five products considered to be sin or luxury goods.
3. Firstly, the collected compensation cess flows into the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

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

**Q.545) Solution (d)**

- Compensation cess was introduced as relief for States for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.
- States, in lieu of giving up their powers to collect taxes on goods and services after local levies were subsumed under the GST, were guaranteed a 14 per cent tax revenue growth in the first five years after GST implementation by the Central government. States' tax revenue as of FY16 is considered as the base year for the calculation of this 14 per cent growth. Any shortfall against it is supposed to be compensated by the Centre using the funds specifically collected as compensation cess.
- **Compensation cess is levied on five products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods.** For example, SUV vehicles (more than 4 metres) are charged 50 per cent GST, of which the GST tax rate is 28 per cent and the compensation cess is 22 per cent. **The collected compensation cess flows into the Consolidated Fund of India**, and then transferred to the Public Account of India, where a GST compensation cess account has been created. States are compensated bi-monthly from the accumulated funds in this account.

- Select vehicles, tobacco and aerated drinks, apart from coal, are levied a compensation cess.

**Q.546) The term 'Compulsory Licensing' is mentioned in which of the following?**

- a) Companies Act 2013
- b) Indian Patent Act, 1970
- c) Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
- d) Information Technology Act, 2000

**Q.546) Solution (b)**

**Compulsory licensing**

- It is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself. It is one of the flexibilities in the field of patent protection included in the WTO's agreement on intellectual property — the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement.
- This concept is recognised at both national as well as international levels, with express mention in both (Indian) Patent Act, 1970 and TRIPS Agreement. There are certain pre-requisite conditions, given under sections 84-92, which need to be fulfilled if a compulsory license is to be granted in favour of someone.

**Q.547) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. India is the world's third-largest importer of crude oil.
2. India is the world's largest importer of Liquefied Natural Gas.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.547) Solution (a)**

India is the world's third-largest importer of crude oil and the fourth largest importer of LNG.

**Q.548) 'United for Biodiversity' Coalition has been launched by**

- a) MERCOSUR
- b) BIMSTEC
- c) European Commission
- d) Climate Vulnerable Group

**Q.548) Solution (c)**

The European Commission (EC) launched the 'United for Biodiversity' coalition made up of zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks, and natural history and science museums from around the world, on World Wildlife Day 2020.

**Q.549) Consider the following statements**

1. Bal Gangadhar Tilak in his newspaper, 'Kesari', had criticised measures adopted by the government to tackle the plague epidemic in Maharashtra.
2. Chapekar brothers assassinated the plague commissioner of Poona/Pune.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.549) Solution (c)****Epidemic Diseases Act**

- It was first drafted to deal with bubonic plague that swept Maharashtra in 1897.
- The Act prohibited public gatherings, and regulated travel, routine screening, segregation, and quarantine.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was described as the 'father of Indian unrest' by Valentine Chirol of The Times (London). His newspaper, Kesari, had criticised measures adopted by the government to tackle the epidemic.
- Damodar Hari Chapekar and Balkrishna Hari Chapekar, assassinated W.C. Rand, the plague commissioner of Poona, and Lieutenant Charles Egerton Ayerst, an officer of the administration.

**Q.550) The 'Mighty Five' countries is often discussed in the context of**

- a) Manufacturing Sector
- b) IT and services Sector
- c) Climate Mitigation
- d) Passport Strength

**Q.550) Solution (a)**

Mighty 5 or MITI-V is not the name of a new team of superheroes, rather it is the acronym for Malaysia, India, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam – five nations predicted to be among the 15-most competitive manufacturing countries in the world by 2020.

**Q.551) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding Jim Corbett National Park?**

1. It is the first national park in India.
2. It is named after British hunter Jim Edward Corbett.
3. It is situated in the state of Arunanchal Pradesh.

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

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

**Q.551) Solution (b)**

- Jim Corbett National Park lies in the Nainital district of **Uttarakhand**.
- Vigilance at Dehradun's zoo has also been increased following confirmation of Corona virus positive in tigress in the United States. At the same time, two isolation wards have been made in Jim Corbett National Park.
- The Union government has asked the Chief Wildlife Wardens (CWWs) of all states to be on high alert, after a four-year-old Malayan tiger at Bronx zoo in New York, United States was found to have the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
- Three tier sanitization system have been set up
- The staffs arriving at zoo are first sanitized at the entry gate then after moving closer to animals. Apart from this, entry is being given only after sanitizing the food vehicle of the animals. After this, the meat and green fodder are separately sanitized. At the same time, before feeding the wild animals, it is washed and dried with potassium permanganate.
- **In 1934, the then Governor Sir William Hailey advocated that the area must be protected for wildlife. Eminent hunter and later wildlife observer, Jim Edward Corbett, was assigned the responsibility of determining its limits.**
- On 8 August 1936, under the United Provinces National Park Act, it became **the first national park in India as Hailey National Park**. It was then named Ramganga National Park. In 1956, the name of the park was changed from Ramanganga National Park to Jim Corbett National Park after Jim Edward Corbett died in 1955, who freed the people of this region from the man-eating tiger.

**Q.552) The term Wormivet is sometimes seen in the news with reference to:**

- a) It is an herbal oral medication which paralyzes the adult tapeworm in human body.
- b) It is a protective suit used to ensure the safety of healthcare workers working round the clock on COVID-19 mitigation.
- c) It is an indigenous herbal medication to treat endoparasite (worm) infestation among livestock.
- d) *It is the scientific investigations on plant growth, soil health and providing immunity in plant system.*

**Q.552) Solution (c)**

- National Innovation Foundation India (NIF) has developed "wormivet," an indigenous **herbal medication (dewormer) in the form of commercial products for livestock owners.**
- The product will be an alternative to the chemical method of treatment of worm.
- Wormivet is a medication to treat endoparasite (worm) infestation among livestock.
- Internal parasite is a significant health problem as it causes diarrhoea, loss in body weight, anaemia, reproductive health concern thereby limiting productivity and growth.

**National Innovation Foundation (NIF)**

- It was set up in March 2000, Ahmedabad, Gujarat with the assistance of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- It is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge.
- Its mission is to help India become a creative and knowledge-based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators.
- Grassroots innovations are essentially solutions generated by people at the grassroots levels to tide over persistent problems, the solutions to which are either not available or not affordable by a large section of the consumer masses in developing countries like India.

**Q.553) Which of the following is/are Correctly matched regarding bill of lading (BOL):**

1. On-board BOL - denotes that merchandise has been physically loaded onto a shipping vessel.

2. Straight BOL - denotes that merchandise has been received.
3. Order BOL – is used when payment has been made in advance of shipment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.553) Solution (a)**

- An **on-board bill of lading** denotes that merchandise has been physically loaded onto a shipping vessel, such as a freighter or cargo plane.
- A **received-for-shipment bill of lading** denotes that merchandise has been received.
- A **straight bill of lading** is used when payment has been made in advance of shipment and requires a carrier to deliver the merchandise to the appropriate party.
- An **order bill of lading** is used when shipping merchandise prior to payment, requiring a carrier to deliver the merchandise to the importer.
- The bill of lading is a required document to move a freight shipment.
- The bill of lading (BOL) works as a receipt of freight services, a contract between a freight carrier and shipper.
- The bill of lading is a legally binding document providing the driver and the carrier all the details needed to process the freight shipment and invoice it correctly.
- A bill of lading is a legal document issued by a carrier to a shipper that details the type, quantity, and destination of the goods being carried.
- A bill of lading is a document of title, a receipt for shipped goods, and a contract between a carrier and shipper.
- If managed and reviewed properly, a bill of lading can help prevent asset theft.

**Q.554) With reference to New Development Bank (NDB), Consider the following statements:**

1. The bank was established by the SAARC countries.
2. Each member country has an equal share and no country has any veto power.
3. The headquarters of the NBD is located at New Delhi, India.



Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

**Q.554) Solution (c)**

- Multilateral development banks are essentially global financial institutions backed by governments to provide long-term finance for sustainable infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports, power and telecommunications. This is usually done in the form of loans, equity, guarantees and other financial instruments.
- **New Development Bank (NDB) was established in July 2015 by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).**
- **It is headquartered at Shanghai, China**
- The aim of the bank is to mobilize funding for infrastructure and sustainable development.
- It's ownership structure is unique, as the BRICS countries **each have an equal share and no country has any veto power.**
- Investment in new sustainable infrastructure is falling significantly short of the levels required to keep pace with economic growth. New Development Bank (NDB) was created to help fill this funding gap in the BRICS economies, and was intended to grow its global scope over time.
- The NDB plans to increase the stock of green infrastructure in its portfolio, which involves prioritizing investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable waste management and clean transportation.
- According to the Agreement on the NDB, "the Bank shall support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments."

**Q.555) With reference to plant microneedles, Consider the following statements:**

1. It was designed by a team of engineers from IIT Madras.
2. It is made of silk used in human-grade patches.
3. It is used to treat diseases that affect the circulatory systems in plants and cannot be treated with pesticides.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.555) Solution (b)**

- The microneedles, which the researchers call phytoinjectors, can be made in a variety of sizes and shapes, and can deliver material specifically to a plant's roots, stems, or leaves, or into its xylem (the vascular tissue involved in water transportation from roots to canopy) or phloem
- **MIT engineers designed** microneedles that can be placed on the stem, leaves, roots or other parts of larger plants, delivering substances such as pesticides directly into their vascular systems.
- Depending on the specific pesticide, taking such an approach can be much more effective than simply spraying a solution onto the leaves and waiting for it to be absorbed.
- When compared to giving the plant a traditional hypodermic injection, using the patches is less fiddly, and not as harmful to the plant.
- Although the plant microneedles are still made of silk, **it's not the same type of silk as that used in human-grade patches.** This is because plants typically have less water inside of them than we do, so the needles need some help in dissolving.
- Phloem can be targeted, the vascular tissue that transports food, to carry the compound into the roots.

**Q.556) 'Sanjhi Paper Art' was in news recently. It is primarily associated with which of the following states?**

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

**Q.556) Solution (c)**

Sanjhi Art from Mathura, is a truly unique craft form that features exquisite designs and intricate picture motifs, cut into paper.

The art grew in the 16th and 17th centuries, when the walls and floors of temples were decorated with Sanjhi motifs. The term Sanjhi is derived from the Hindi word sandhya, the

period of dusk with which the art form is typically associated. The art depicts Indian mythological stories in numerous forms, with predominant focus on Krishna's Leela.

**Q.557) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNli)'**

1. It is spearheaded by a dedicated team under the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.
2. It provides support to government laboratories for commercialization of their market ready inventions.
3. AGNli only accepts innovations from companies/organizations registered in India.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.557) Solution (d)**

Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations or AGNli is a national initiative under the guidance and support of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. It aims to support the ongoing efforts to boost the innovation ecosystem in the country by connecting innovators across industry, individuals and the grassroots to the market and helping commercialize their innovative solutions thereby helping propel India into a new era of inclusive economic growth.

AGNli provides a platform for innovators to scale up their market ready products by creating pathways for licensing, technology transfer and market access. Further, AGNli collaborates closely with other stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem to support and augment their innovation and technology commercialisation initiatives. However, AGNli is not a funding agency and does not provide direct financial support to innovators.

**Services**

- Identify and provide commercialization support to market-ready indigenous innovations.
- Collaborate with existing innovation programs.
- Support to government laboratories for commercialization of their market ready inventions.
- Capacity building of scientists, innovators and technology transfer offices
- Bridging the gap between industry and academia

AGNli only accepts innovations from companies/organizations registered in India. However foreign companies are welcome to register as buyers and explore the marketplace for potential acquisitions.

**Q.558) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)’.**

1. It is part of Basel III capital adequacy norms.
2. The CCyB is supposed to be in the form of equity capital.
3. According to RBI, scheduled banks are required to maintain a CCyB of 1%.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.558) Solution (b)**

Following Basel-III norms, central banks specify certain capital adequacy norms for banks in a country. The CCyB is a part of such norms and is calculated as a fixed percentage of a bank’s risk-weighted loan book.

CCyB works to help a bank counteract the effect of a downturn or distressed economic conditions. With the CCCB, banks are required to set aside a higher portion of their capital during good times when loans are growing rapidly, so that the capital can be released and used during bad times, when there’s distress in the economy.

The CCCB is supposed to be in the form of equity capital, and if the minimum buffer requirements are breached, capital distribution constraints such as limits on dividends and share buybacks can be imposed on the bank.

Although the RBI had proposed the CCCB for Indian banks in 2015 as part of its Basel-III requirements, it hasn’t actually required the CCCB to be maintained, keeping the ratio at zero per cent ever since. This is based on the RBI’s review of the credit-GDP gap, the growth in GNPA, the industry outlook assessment index, interest coverage ratio and other indicators, as part of the first monetary policy of every financial year.

**Q.559) ‘Hayat Tahrir al-Sham’ was in news recently. It primarily operates in**

- a) Syria
- b) Yemen
- c) Nigeria
- d) Libya

**Q.559) Solution (a)**

Commonly referred to as Tahrir al-Sham, is an active Sunni Islamist militant group involved in the Syrian Civil War. It primarily operates in Syria.

**Q.560) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Milk Tea Alliance’.**

1. It is an intergovernmental organization of countries which border the South China Sea.
2. It is aimed at a collective stand against China for violating the territorial rights in the South China Sea.

**Select the correct statements**

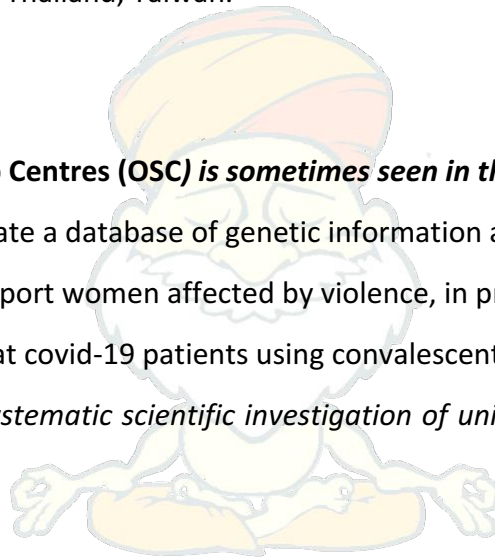
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.560) Solution (d)**

The 'Milk Tea Alliance' is an informal term coined by social media users because in the region, tea is consumed in many nations with milk, with the exception of China. Countries active in this – Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan.

**Q.561) The term One Stop Centres (OSC) is sometimes seen in the news with reference to:**

- a) It is a centre to create a database of genetic information and gene modification.
- b) It is a centre to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces.
- c) It is a centre to treat covid-19 patients using convalescent plasma therapy.
- d) It is a centre for *systematic scientific investigation of uniqueness of pure Indigenous Indian cows.*



**Q.561) Solution (b)**

- One Stop Centres (OSC) are intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace. Women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse, irrespective of age, class, caste, education status, marital status, race and culture will be facilitated with support and redressal.
- Aggrieved women facing any kind of violence due to attempted sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, honour related crimes, acid attacks or witch-hunting who have reached out or been referred to the OSC will be provided with specialized services.

**The objectives of the Scheme are:**

- To provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof.
- To facilitate immediate, emergency and non - emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counselling support under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women.
- State Government/ UT Administration is the implementing Agency
- The Scheme will be funded through Nirbhaya Fund . The Central Government will provide 100% financial assistance to the State Government /UT Administrations under the Scheme

### **Nirbhaya Fund**

The Nirbhaya Fund Framework provides for a non-lapsable corpus fund for safety and security of women to be administered by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of India.

### **Q.562) Consider the following statements:**

1. World Meteorological Organization maintains rotating lists of names which are appropriate for each Tropical Cyclone basin.
2. Tropical cyclones can last for a week or more; therefore there can be more than one cyclone at a time.

### **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.562) Solution (c)**

- WMO World Meteorological Organization maintains rotating lists of names which are appropriate for each Tropical Cyclone basin. If a cyclone is particularly deadly or costly, then its name is retired and replaced by another one.
- Tropical cyclones can last for a week or more; therefore there can be more than one cyclone at a time. Weather forecasters give each tropical cyclone a name to avoid confusion. Each year, tropical cyclones receive names in alphabetical order.
- A storm with a name which begins with A would be the first storm to occur in the year.

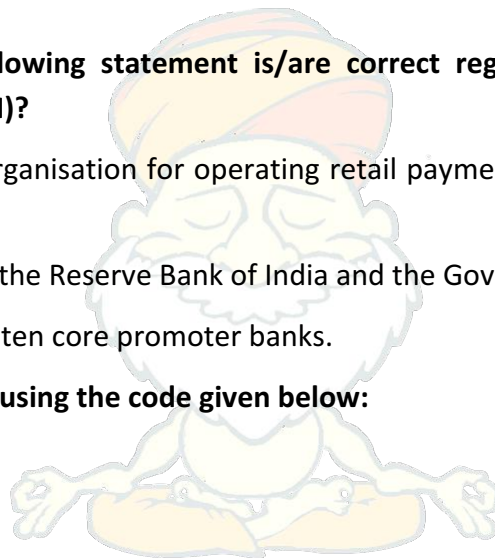
- Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization. Six lists are used in rotation. Thus, the 2019 list will be used again in 2025.
- The only time that there is a change in the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity. If that occurs, then at an annual meeting by the WMO Tropical Cyclone Committees (called primarily to discuss many other issues) the offending name is stricken from the list and another name is selected to replace it. Infamous storm names such as Mangkhut (Philippines, 2018), Irma and Maria (Caribbean, 2017), Haiyan (Philippines, 2013), Sandy (USA, 2012), Katrina (USA, 2005), Mitch (Honduras, 1998) and Tracy (Darwin, 1974) are examples for this.

**Q.563) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?**

1. It is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India
2. It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India.
3. Presently NPCI has ten core promoter banks.

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

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



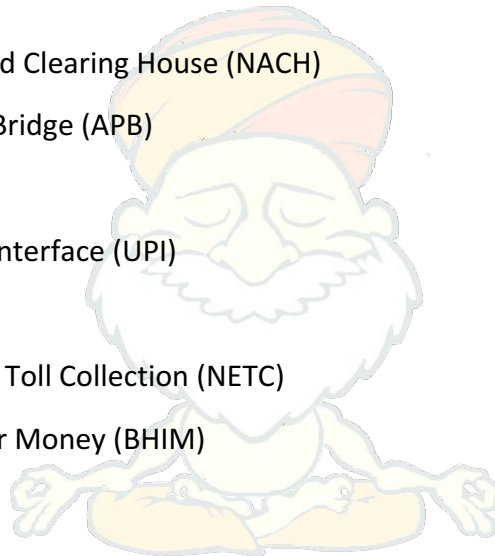
**Q.563) Solution (b)**

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an initiative of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**
- It is an umbrella organisation for **operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.**
- **NPCI has ten core promoter banks**—State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Citibank, HSBC, and ICICI Bank.

- The organisation functions under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 in order to create robust payments and settlement infrastructure for India.
- It is a non-profit organisation
- NPCI aims to provide infrastructure to the whole banking industry, both physical and electronic payment and settlements system.

The products of NPCI are:

- National Financial Switch (NFS)
- Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)
- Aadhaar-enabled Payment Service (AePS)
- Cheque Truncation System (CTS)
- RuPay
- National Automated Clearing House (NACH)
- Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB)
- \*99#
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Bharat BillPay
- National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC)
- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
- BharatQR
- BHIM Aadhaar Pay
- National Electronic Toll Collection



**Q.564) With reference to Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Consider the following statements:**

1. ASHA will be trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system.
2. ASHA must primarily be a woman resident of the village preferably in the age group of 25 to 45 years.

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

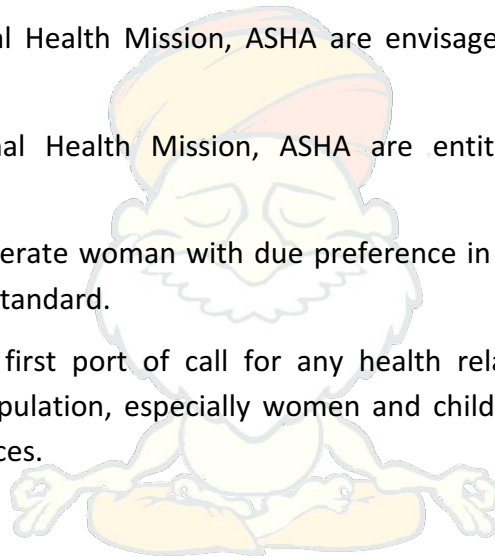
- a) 1 only



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

**Q.564) Solution (c)**

- One of the key components of the National Rural Health Mission is to provide every village in the country with a trained female community health activist ASHA or Accredited Social Health Activist.
- ASHA must primarily be **a woman resident of the village married/ widowed/ divorced, preferably in the age group of 25 to 45 years.**
- Selected from the village itself and accountable to it, the ASHA will be trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system.
- Under the National Health Mission, ASHA are envisaged to be community health volunteers.
- Under the National Health Mission, ASHA are entitled to task/activity based incentives.
- She should be a literate woman with due preference in selection to those who are qualified up to 10 standard.
- ASHA will be the first port of call for any health related demands of deprived sections of the population, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services.

**Q.565) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding Malabar Civet?**

1. This species is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
2. They feed on small animals, eggs and some vegetable matter.
3. It is listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List.

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

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

**Q.565) Solution (b)**

- Malabar Civet is endemic to the Western Ghats of India, being recorded in southern India from Kanyakumari in the extreme south, to Honnavar in Karnataka in the north.
- The Malabar civet once inhabited lowland forests, lowland swamp and riparian forests. However, now that natural forests have disappeared, the species now appears to be largely confined to thickets in cashew plantations and to highly degraded lowland forests in northern Kerala.
- Listed as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- They likely feed on small animals, eggs and some vegetable matter.

**Q.566) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Khudai Khidmatgars'.**

1. It did not participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement.
2. It was formed by Abbas Tayabji and Mohammed Yasin Khan.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.566) Solution (d)**

The Khudai Khidmatgar was a non-violent movement against British occupation of the Indian subcontinent led by Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a Pashtun freedom fighter, in the North-West Frontier Province.

Some Muslim groups, such as the Jamaat i-ulema-i-Hind, State of Kashmir and Khudai Khidmatgars participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement but overall the participation of Muslims was nowhere near the level of the Khilafat agitation.

**Q.567) Consider the following statements**

1. Under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, states are mandated to keep their fiscal deficit at 3% of gross domestic product.
2. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act allows RBI to subscribe to the primary issues of central government securities under emergency situations.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.567) Solution (c)**

Under the fiscal responsibility and budget management (FRBM) act, the states are mandated to keep their fiscal deficit under 3% of their respective gross state domestic product (GSDP).

The centre had relaxed the limit to 3.5% of GSDP for FY20, but states now want higher relaxation (4%) in the limit for FY21.

The Centre's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act allows RBI to subscribe to the primary issues of central government securities under emergency situations. This facility is not available for approved state borrowing as of now.

**Q.568) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Spotlight Initiative'**

1. It is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations
2. It is aimed at elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.568) Solution (c)**

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative is responding to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

**Q.569) 'Generalised Entropy Index' which was in news recently is a measure of**

- a) Unemployment
- b) Inequality
- c) Inflation
- d) Monetary Policy Transmission

**Q.569) Solution (b)**

The generalized entropy index has been proposed as a measure of income inequality in a population.

**Q.570) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Meru Jatra festival - Telangana
2. Ambubachi festival – Assam
3. Thrissur Pooram – Kerala

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.570) Solution (b)**

Meru Jatra festival - Odisha

Ambubachi festival – Assam

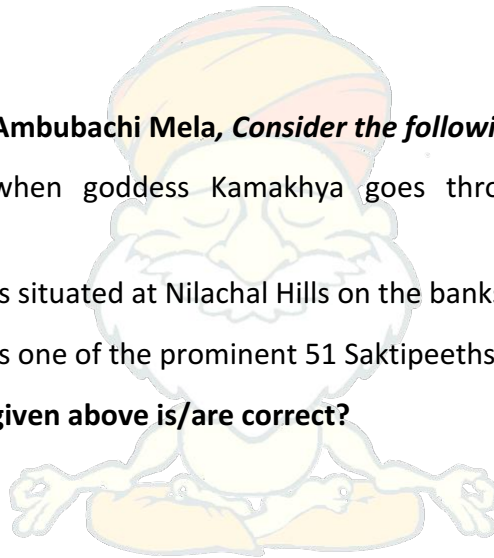
Thrissur Pooram – Kerala

**Q.571) With reference to Ambubachi Mela, Consider the following statements:**

1. It is celebrated when goddess Kamakhya goes through her annual cycle of menstruation.
2. Kamakhya temple is situated at Nilachal Hills on the banks of the River Ganges.
3. Kamakhya temple is one of the prominent 51 Saktipeeths spread across South Asia.

**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



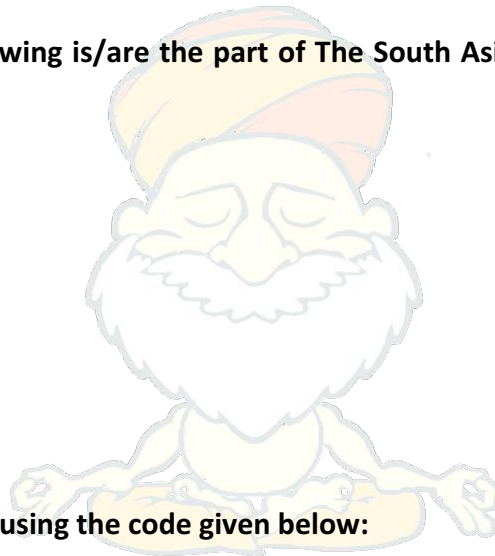
**Q.571) Solution (a)**

- Ambubachi Mela Celebrated in June every year at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, during which the goddess is believed to go through the annual cycle of menstruation.
- Ambubachi Mela, also known as Ambubasi festival, is closely related to the tantric cult and is also known as Kamkhya Devi Puja.
- Kamakhya temple is situated at Nilachal Hills on the **banks of the Brahmaputra River**

- During Ambubachi Mela Temples across the region remain shut for three days and agricultural work like digging, plowing, and sowing of crops are forbidden.
- Kamakhya temple is one of the prominent 51 Saktipeeths spread across South Asia, with each representing a body part of Sati, Lord Shiva's consort.
- The sanctum sanctorum at Kamakhya houses the yoni or the female genital represented by a rock, considered one of the most important centers of Tantric worship.
- When the temple doors are opened, the devotees wait outside the temple to receive the unique 'prasada' which is small bits of cloth, which is supposedly moist with the menstrual fluid of Goddess Kamakhya. It is considered highly auspicious and powerful.

**Q.572) Which of the following is/are the part of The South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF)?**

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan
4. Myanmar
5. Thailand



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

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

**Q.572) Solution (a)**

- The South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) was established in 2010 and is coordinated by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- It covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- The main activity during all the SASCOFs was the preparation and issuing of a consensus outlook for the southwest monsoon rainfall over South Asia.

**The main objectives of SASCOF are the following:**

- To review the progress made in understanding and long range prediction of South Asian monsoons both regionally and globally
- To assess the available information on climate variability in South Asia and the associated predictions and prepare consensus-based seasonal outlooks for dissemination
- To provide a platform for the stakeholders to share and exchange experience and knowledge on South Asian monsoons and their prediction
- To initiate capacity building/human resource development activities for the South Asian region, particularly in seasonal prediction
- To build collaboration and partnerships among the members of SASCOF for mutual benefit
- To identify needs of user sectors through a dialogue among different groups.

**Q.573) Consider the following statements:**

1. Lift irrigation is a method of irrigation in which water is not transported by natural flow but is lifted with pumps or other mechanical means.
2. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project.

**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.573) Solution (c)**

- Lift irrigation is a method of irrigation in which water instead of being transported by natural flow (as in gravity-fed canal systems) requires external energy through animal, fuel based or electric power using pumps or other mechanical means.
- Lift irrigation schemes must accomplish two main tasks: first, to carry water by means of pumps from the water source to the main delivery chamber, which is situated at the top most point in the command area. Second, they must distribute

this water to the field of the beneficiary farmers by means of a suitable and proper distribution system.

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, Telangana, India to harness the flood waters of the Godavari, is aimed at making Telangana drought-proof.

- **The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project.**
- Waters of the Godavari will be tapped by reverse pumping and storage, thereby facilitating agriculture on over 38 lakh acres, including creating about 18 lakh acres of new ayacut, helping rejuvenate thousands of tanks, providing water for industries, and supplying drinking water including to Hyderabad and Secunderabad by creating a series of storage tanks and a network of pipelines.
- Till date, the biggest lift schemes in the world were the Colorado lift scheme in America and the Great Manmade River in Egypt. The capacities of these schemes are in horsepower.
- The Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project, an Indian lift scheme has become the world's biggest in terms of capacities.
- Built across Godavari river, KLIP will lift the water to a height of half-a-kilometer.
- It is designed to irrigate 45 lakh acres for two crops in a year, meet the drinking water requirement of 70 percent of the state and also cater to the needs of the industry.

**Q.574) The term *New Umbrella Entities (NUE)* is sometimes seen in the news with reference to:**

- a) It is a proposed organization under smart cities mission.
- b) It is a proposed digital retail payments organization set up by the Reserve Bank of India.
- c) It is a proposed organization by Government of India to bring all social sector schemes under it
- d) None of the above

**Q.574) Solution (b)**

- **The Reserve Bank of India is proposing to set up an alternative digital retail payments organisation** as it aims to prevent a monopoly in a system that's currently dominated by National Payments Corporation of India Ltd.

- The ‘new umbrella entities’ (NUE) will set up, manage and operate new payment systems, especially in the retail space. This can comprise of but not limited to ATMs, White Label PoS, Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services.
- This has been necessitated for the prevention of “concentration risk” in India’s burgeoning digital payment landscape where the mandate of issuing and governing payment channels is largely monopolized by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Only those entities with at least three years of experience operating as payment operator or service providers can apply as a promoter group.
- These entities can either be ‘for profit’ or be registered as a non-profit company like NPCI.
- The NUE should also maintain a minimum net-worth of Rs 300 crore always.
- The NUE will also be given a mandate to develop new payment methods, standards and technologies and operate clearing and settlement systems.
- The proposed entity will also have an RBI appointed independent director on the board.
- Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), will be the final authority on issuing authorisation for setting up NUE.

**Q.575) With reference to National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), Consider the following statements:**

1. It is the investment plan unveiled by the Central Government for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors for a period of five years from 2020-25.
2. It includes both economic and social infrastructure projects.
3. The funding of the NIP will be jointly made by the Centre, states and the private sectors.

**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.575) Solution (d)**



- National Infrastructure Pipeline is the investment plan unveiled by the Central Government for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors for a period of five years from 2020-25.
- NIP will enable a forward outlook on infrastructure projects which will create jobs, improve ease of living, and provide equitable access to infrastructure for all, thereby making growth more inclusive. **NIP includes economic and social infrastructure projects.**
- **The funding of the National Infrastructure Pipeline will be jointly made by the Centre, states and the private sector in the proportion of 39:39:22** (39 % each by the centre and states and 22% by the private sector).
- The Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline that chaired by Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF) submitted a detailed report on the infrastructure plan.
- Main function of the task force was to identify technically feasible and financially/economically viable infrastructure projects that can be initiated in fiscals 2020 to 2025.
- The task force observed that by 2030, around 42% of India's population would be urbanised from the current 31%. Hence, urban infrastructure is also to be modernised.

**Q.576) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Agasthyavanam Biological Park – Tamil Nadu
2. Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary – Assam
3. Tropical butterfly conservatory – Kerala

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.576) Solution (b)**

Agasthyavanam Biological Park – Kerala

Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary – Assam

Tropical butterfly conservatory – Tamil Nadu

**Q.577) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser’.**

1. India has had a Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) since 1999.
2. The term of the PSA is three years.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.577) Solution (a)**

India has had a Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) since 1999.

- Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was the first PSA from 1999—2001
- Dr. R. Chidambaram succeeded Dr. Kalam and was the PSA from 2001-2018.
- Professor K. VijayRaghavan succeeded Dr. Chidambaram on April 3, 2018 and is the current PSA.

**Q.578) Mekong River does not flow through**

- a) Malaysia
- b) Laos
- c) Vietnam
- d) Cambodia

**Q.578) Solution (a)**

The river runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

**Q.579) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Monetising deficit’.**

1. It refers to the exercise of RBI purchasing government bonds directly in the primary market and financing this debt by printing more money.
2. It may shoot up inflation and lead to devaluation or weakening of the Indian Rupee.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.579) Solution (c)**

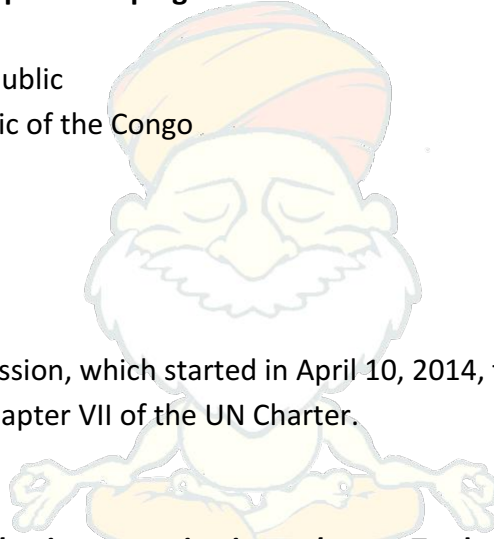
Monetised deficit is the monetary support the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extends to the Centre as part of the government's borrowing programme. In other words, the term refers to the purchase of government bonds by the central bank to finance the spending needs of the government.

Also known as debt monetisation, the exercise leads to an increase in total money supply in the system, and hence inflation, as RBI creates fresh money to purchase the bonds. The same bonds are later used to bring down inflation as they are sold in the open market. This helps RBI suck excess money out of the market and rein in rising prices.

The rationale is that aggressive Deficit Monetization could devalue the currency, causing foreign investors to lose confidence and pull out money, putting the existing fiscal financing plan at risk.

**Do Read This** - <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/view-monetisation-of-deficits-fetters-are-more-in-our-mind/articleshow/75159905.cms>

**Q.580) 'MINUSCA' is a UN peacekeeping mission associated with which of the following countries?**

- 
- Central African Republic
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Burkina Faso
  - Sierra Leone

**Q.580) Solution (a)**

It is a UN peacekeeping mission, which started in April 10, 2014, to protect Central African Republic civilians under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

**Q.581) Which of the following organization releases Trade and Development Report (TDR)?**

- WHO
- UNCTAD
- UNIDO
- World Bank

**Q.581) Solution (b)**

**The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) releases TDR.**

- The Trade and Development Report (TDR), launched in 1981, is issued every year for the annual session of the Trade and Development Board.

- The Report analyses current economic trends and major policy issues of international concern, and makes suggestions for addressing these issues at various levels.

The World Development Report is an annual report published since 1978 by the World Bank.

**Q.582) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding White Label ATM?**

1. ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called white label ATMs.
2. These ATMs display the logo of the sponsored bank.
3. TATA launched the first white label ATM in India under the brand name of Indicash.

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

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

**Q.582) Solution (b)**

**White label ATMs**

- **ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called white label ATMs.**
- Cash in ATMs is provided by the sponsored bank while ATM machine does not have any branding of Bank.
- **These white label ATMs will not display logo of any particular bank. TATA launched the first white label ATM in India under the brand name of Indicash.**
- The operators are entitled to receive a fee from the banks for the use of ATM resources by the bank's customers and are not permitted to charge bank customer directly.
- These white label Companies have to separately get license/permission from RBI to run business.

**Brown Label ATM**

- Brown Label ATM are those Automated Teller Machines where hardware and the lease of the ATM machine is owned by a service provider—but cash management and connectivity to banking networks is provided by a sponsor bank .

- The private company owns & operates the ATM machine, pays office rent.
- The bank (which has outsourced this work) provides cash for that ATM.
- ATM has logo of that bank (which has outsourced this work).
- RBI not involved directly. These outsourcing companies have contractual obligation with their respective banks.
- Green Label ATM – ATM is provided for Agricultural Transaction
- Orange Label ATM – Provided for Share Transactions
- Yellow Label ATM – Provided for E-commerce
- PINK label ATM – Such ATM are monitored by guards who ensure that only women access these ATM. The sole purpose of such ATM is to mitigate the problem of women standing in long queues of ATM
- Biometric ATM – ATMs which uses security features like fingerprint scanner and eye scanner of the customer to access the bank details.

**Q.583) With reference to Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Consider the following statements:**

1. It is an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. The main objective of STPI is the promotion of software exports from the country.
3. STPI in collaboration with Govt. of Telangana, has setup a STPI Semiconductor Measurement Analysis & Reliability Test (SMART) Lab at Hyderabad.

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

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

**Q.583) Solution (a)**

- Software Technology Parks of India was set up in 1991 as an **autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- STPI's main objective has been the **promotion of software exports from the country**.

- STPI in collaboration with Govt. of Karnataka has setup a STPI Semiconductor Measurement Analysis & Reliability Test (SMART) Lab at Bangalore.
- The services rendered by STPI for the software exporting community have been statutory services, data communications services, incubation facilities, training and value added services.
- STPI has played a key developmental role in the promotion of software exports with a special focus on SMEs and startup units.
- STPI has been implementing the Software Technology Park (STP) scheme and the Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) scheme for the promotion of IT/ITES industry.
- STP Scheme is a unique scheme, designed to promote the software industry and growth of startups and SMEs without any locational constraints.
- STPI has designed and developed state-of-the-art High-Speed Data Communication (HSDC) network called SoftNET for software exporters.
- STPI is the nodal agency for implementation of India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion scheme (NEBPS) under Digital India Initiative.

**Q.584) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding Aarogya Setu app?**

1. The app does not use the GPS feature of smartphones and relies only on the data provided by users to track Covid-19 infection.
2. The government has launched the app in 11 different languages.
3. The mobile app has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC)

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

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

**Q.584) Solution (c)**

- Aarogya Setu app was launched by the Government of India to track the cases of COVID-19 and alert the citizens of the country to keep safe.
- It is a COVID-19 tracking app that uses GPS and Bluetooth features of smartphones to track the infection.

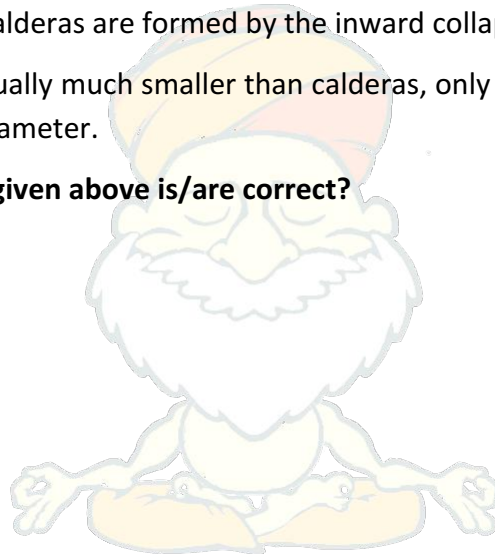
- The government **has launched the app in 11 different languages.**
- The mobile app has **been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC)** which comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- The Government launched this app to connect essential health services with the citizens of India.
- It helps in determining whether the person has been in close contact with any other infected person or not.
- Through Aarogya Setu people will be able to know or track the infection in close vicinity more accurately and effectively.

**Q.585) Consider the following statements:**

1. Craters are formed by the outward explosion of rocks and other materials from a volcano whereas calderas are formed by the inward collapse of a volcano.
2. Craters are also usually much smaller than calderas, only extending to a maximum of one kilometer in diameter.

**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.585) Solution (c)**

- A caldera is a depression created after a volcano releases the majority of the contents of its magma chamber in an explosive eruption.
- Without any structural support below, the land around the erupting volcanic vent or vents collapses inwardly, creating the bowl-shaped caldera.
- A caldera-causing eruption is the most devastating type of volcanic eruption. It permanently alters the environment of the surrounding area.
- A caldera is not the same thing as a crater.
- Craters are formed by the outward explosion of rocks and other materials from a volcano.
- Calderas are formed by the inward collapse of a volcano.

- Craters are usually more circular than calderas. (Calderas may have parts of their sides missing because land collapses unevenly.)
- Craters are also usually much smaller than calderas, only extending to a maximum of one kilometer (less than a mile) in diameter.

### **Calderas in Space**

- Earth isn't the only planet that has calderas. Other planets have them as well, including Venus and Mars. The moon also has calderas.

### **Q.586) Which of the following countries is not part of the 'Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)'?**

1. United States
2. China
3. India

### **Select the appropriate code:**

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

### **Q.586) Solution (c)**

#### **Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)**

- It is a decade-long partnership between the United States, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam to advance sustainable economic growth in the region.
- The initiative supports collaboration among member countries through programs that address shared challenges in the region.

### **Q.587) 'Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP)' is launched by**

- a) UN Environment
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Bluedot Network
- d) Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank

### **Q.587) Solution (a)**

UN Environment launched the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) in 2018 as a platform to promote and support integrated approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development.



**Q.588) The “6+2+1” group is mentioned in the news in the context of which of the following issues?**

- South China Sea
- Peace in Afghanistan
- ASEAN and RCEP
- Vulnerability of Island nations due to rising sea levels

**Q.588) Solution (b)**

**“6+2+1” group on regional efforts to support peace in Afghanistan**

- It includes six neighbouring countries: China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; global players the United States and Russia, and Afghanistan itself.

**Q.589) The Ozone hole in the Arctic ozone layer is closed primarily due to**

- Reduced Pollution
- Weakening of Polar Vortex
- Weakening of Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.589) Solution (c)**

The ozone hole’s closing was because of a phenomenon called the polar vortex, and not because of reduced pollution levels due to Covid-19 lockdowns around the world.

Read This - <https://www.euronews.com/2020/04/24/largest-ever-hole-in-the-ozone-layer-above-arctic-finally-closes>

**Q.590) Consider the following statement with respect to ‘Cytokines’.**

- Cytokines are proteins produced by the body that sound the alarm when there’s an infection.
- When the cytokines become abundant, it causes intense inflammation.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.590) Solution (c)**

What's referred to as a "cytokine storm" is a severe immune response to an infection. Cytokines are proteins produced by the body that sound the alarm when there's an infection. This is generally helpful to ward off illness. Cytokines are also responsible for some of the pro-inflammatory symptoms we feel when sick, like fever.

When the body encounters a new virus and doesn't know how to react, the immune system can go haywire, produce higher levels of cytokines and cause intense inflammation.

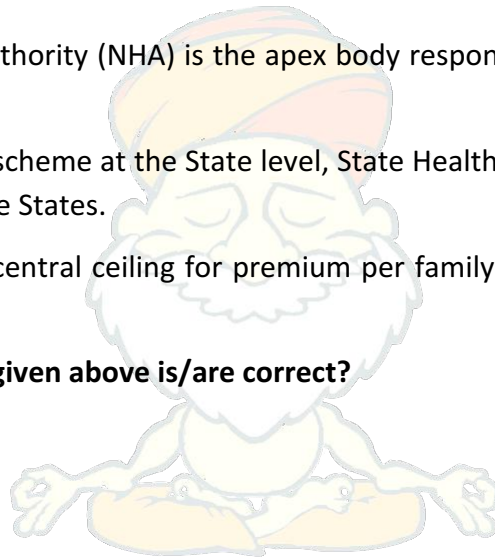
Hyper-inflammation can cause severe damage to the lungs, where the body is primarily fighting the virus. However, the virus infects cells all over the body. Inflammation can also cause hyper-coagulation, leading to troublesome blood clots

**591) With reference to National Health Authority (NHA), Consider the following statements:**

1. National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing PM-JAY.
2. To implement the scheme at the State level, State Health Agencies (SHAs) have been set up by respective States.
3. It determines the central ceiling for premium per family per year to be provided to the States/UTs.

**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.591) Solution (d)**

- National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana" at national level.
- National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency.
- NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. It is headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, who manages its affairs.

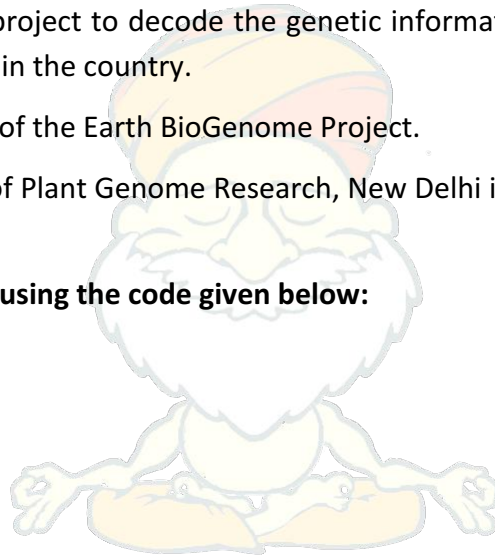
- To implement the scheme at the State level, State Health Agencies (SHAs) in the form of a society/trust have been set up by respective States.
- It acts as apex body for State Health Agencies that have been set up to implement **PM-JAY**
- **It determines the central ceiling for premium per family per year to be provided to the States/UTs and review it from time to time.**
- NHA functions as prevention, detection and control of frauds and abuse of the scheme.

**Q.592) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding Indian Initiative on Earth BioGenome Sequencing (IIEBS)?**

1. It is a nationwide project to decode the genetic information of all known species of plants and animals in the country.
2. This Project is part of the Earth BioGenome Project.
3. National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi is the coordinating centre of this project.

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

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



**Q.592) Solution (d)**

- The Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has been selected as one of the Biological Knowledge and Resource Centre of the Indian Initiative on Earth BioGenome Sequencing (IIEBS).
- IIEBS is part of the Earth BioGenome Project, an international initiative to catalogue life on the planet.
- The whole genome sequencing of 1,000 species of plants and animals will be taken up in the initial phase of IIEBS to be completed over a period of five years at an estimated cost of ₹440crore.
- National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi is the coordinating centre for the nationwide project involving a total of 24 institutes.

- Earth BioGenome Project (EBP) is an initiative that aims to sequence the genetic codes of all of earth's eukaryotic biodiversity over a period of 10 years.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

- The digital repository of genome sequences is expected to provide the critical infrastructure for better understanding of ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity.
- It expected to provide development of new treatments for infectious and inherited diseases, agricultural products, biomaterials and biological fuel.
- India's participation in the EBP would provide a boost for the field of genomics and bioinformatics within the country.
- The project will enable collection and preservation of endangered and economically important species.
- The decoded genetic information will also be a useful tool to prevent bio-piracy.

**Q.593) Which of the following statement is/are not correct regarding Ways and Means Advances (WMA)?**

1. It is the temporary loan facility provided by the RBI to the central and the state governments.
2. The return time period for the WMA is 2 years.
3. If the WMA exceeds 2 years, it would be treated as an overdraft.

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

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

**Q.593) Solution (c)**

- WMA is a temporary liquidity arrangement with the central bank, which enables the Centre and states to borrow money up to 90 days from the RBI to tide over their liquidity mismatch.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gives temporary loan facilities to the central and state governments. This loan facility is called Ways and Means Advances (WMA).

- The Ways and Means Advances scheme was introduced in 1997.
- The Ways and Means Advances scheme was introduced to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.
- The government can avail of immediate cash from the RBI, if required. But it has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing repo rate.
- **If the WMA exceeds 90 days**, it would be treated as an overdraft (interest rate on overdrafts is 2 percentage points more than the repo rate).
- The limits for Ways and Means Advances are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically.
- There are two types of Ways and Means Advances — normal and special.
- Special WMA or Special Drawing Facility is provided against the collateral of the government securities held by the state. After the state has exhausted the limit of SDF, it gets normal WMA. The interest rate for SDF is one percentage point less than the repo rate.
- The number of loans under normal WMA is based on a three-year average of actual revenue and capital expenditure of the state.

**Q.594) Consider the following statements:**

1. The place of effective management (POEM) is a place where key management and commercial decisions that are necessary for the conduct of the business are made.
2. The company qualifies as a resident of India in any previous years if the company's POEM during the financial year is in India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

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

**Q.594) Solution (d)**

As per the amended provisions of section 6 (3) of the Income Tax Act, as effective from 1 st April 2016, the company qualifies as a resident of India in any previous years, if –

1. The company is an Indian Company, or
2. The company's place of effective management during the financial year is in India.

**Place of Effective Management**

- The definition of place of effective management as provided under the Act means a place where key management and commercial decisions that are necessary for the conduct of the business of an entity as a whole are, in substance, made.
- The concept of the place of effective management is internationally accepted and various tax treaties entered into by India even speak about the concept of a place of effective management for the purpose of deciding the residential status of any company.

The company shall be said to be engaged in 'active business outside India', if the following factors are satisfied:

1. Passive income of the company is not more than 50% of its total income, and
2. Out of the total assets of the company less than 50% are situated in India, and
3. Out of the total number of employees, less than 50% are situated in India or less than 50% are resident in India, and
4. Out of the total payroll expenses incurred by the company less than 50% of payroll expenditure is incurred for such employee.

**Q.595) With reference to Swamitva Yojana, Consider the following statements:**

1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Property Cards will be prepared and given to respective land owners under this scheme.

**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.595) Solution (c)**

- Swamitva Yojana is meant to create a record of land ownership in rural areas using modern technology.
- The scheme is piloted by the **Panchayati Raj ministry** of the Union government and has been launched on April 24 2020, the Panchayati Raj Diwas.

- The Swamitva scheme helps to map rural inhabited lands using drones and latest survey methods.
- The scheme will ensure streamlined planning, revenue collection and provide clarity over property rights in rural areas.
- Disputes related to property would also be settled through the title deeds allotted through this scheme.
- ‘Swamitva Yojana’ or Ownership Scheme to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones.
- The scheme aimed to revolutionise property record maintenance in India was launched on the Panchayati Raj Diwas.
- Swamitva Yojana is aimed to fill the above gap to provide ownership rights to people in the villages.
- The residential land in villages will be measured using drones to create a non-disputable record. It is the latest technology for surveying and measuring of land.
- The scheme will be carried out in close coordination with the Central Panchayati Raj ministry, Survey of India, Panchayati Raj departments and Revenue departments of various states.
- Drones will draw a digital map of every property falling within the geographical limits of a village and demarcate the boundaries of every revenue area.
- **Property card for every property in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping.**
- The delivery of property rights through an official document will enable villagers to access bank finance using their property.
- The property records for a village will also be maintained at the Panchayat level, allowing for the collection of associated taxes from the owners. The money generated from these local taxes will be used to build rural infrastructure and facilities.

**Q.596) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) coming from which of the following countries is allowed only through "Government Approval Route"?**

1. China
2. Nepal
3. Bhutan

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.596) Solution (d)**

Earlier, all the FDI coming from Bangladesh or Pakistan was allowed only through "Government Approval Route".

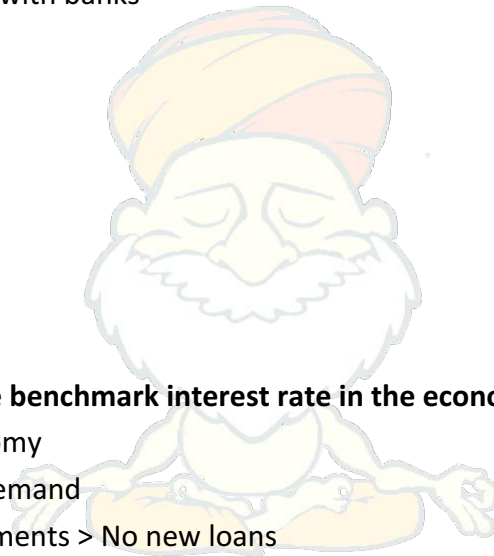
Now this has been extended to all the countries sharing land border with India. So, now all the FDI coming from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar will be only through "Government Approval Route".

**Q.597) Unlike in the past, when the RBI used its repo rate as the main instrument to tweak the interest rates, recently, it is the reverse repo rate that is effectively setting the benchmark. What are the reasons for reverse repo rate becoming the benchmark interest rate in the economy?**

1. Decelerating Economy
2. Lower consumer demand
3. Too much liquidity with banks

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.597) Solution (d)**

**Reverse repo rate became benchmark interest rate in the economy – Broad Reasons**

- Decelerating Economy
- Lower consumer demand
- Lower fresh investments > No new loans
- High NPAs > Diminished banks' demand for fresh funds from the RBI
- Banks are not lending in spite of reduced repo rate and CRR > Banks are too risk-averse to lend and partly because the overall demand from the businesses has also come down.
- Too much liquidity with banks > So they are parking money with the RBI.

Recognising this, the RBI has cut the reverse repo rate more than the repo twice in the space of the last three weeks. The idea is to make it less attractive for banks to do nothing with their funds because their doing so hurts the economy and starves the businesses that genuinely need funds.

**Q.598) The terms 'NL63, OC43 and HKU1' were in news recently. What are they?**

- a) Malware and Spyware
- b) Coronaviruses



- c) Proteins used in Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)
- d) Recently discovered exoplanets

**Q.598) Solution (b)**

229E: One of the first coronaviruses strains to be described in the mid-60s, possibly by D Hamre and JJ Procknow in their 1966 paper titled, “A new virus isolated from the human respiratory tract”, published in Experimental Biology and Medicine.

OC43: Discovered in 1967 according to the Journal of Virology. However, a paper in Virology Journal has described it as the first human coronavirus to be discovered in 1965, citing a 1966 paper written by Tyrrell and Bynoe who worked with the nasal swab titled B814.

NL63 and HKU1: First identified in the Netherlands in 2004, probably after it was isolated from a seven-month-old infant showing respiratory symptoms. During this time, there was an increase in research on human coronaviruses, which led to the discovery of NL63 and HKU1 in Hong Kong in early 2005.

SARS-CoV: 2003 in China (animal source not yet known, bats thought to have given it to other animals, probably civet cats)

MERS: 2012 in Saudi Arabia (transmitted by dromedary camels)

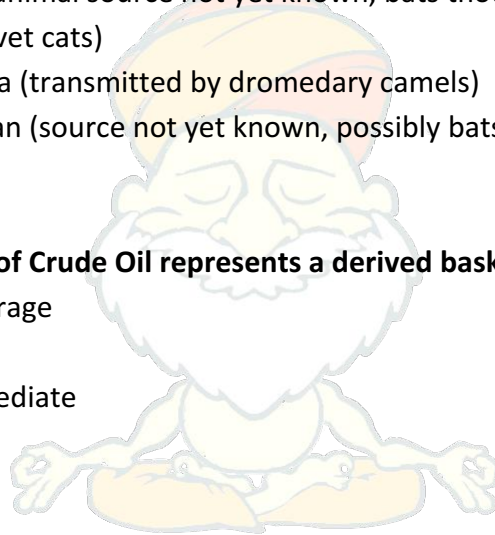
SARS-CoV-2: 2019 in Wuhan (source not yet known, possibly bats, pangolins, leaked from a Chinese virology lab)

**Q.599) The Indian basket of Crude Oil represents a derived basket comprising of**

1. Oman & Dubai average
2. Brent Crude
3. West Texas Intermediate

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.599) Solution (a)**

Indian Basket (IB), also known as Indian Crude Basket, is weighted average of Dubai and Oman (sour) and the Brent Crude (sweet) crude oil prices.

It is used as an indicator of the price of crude imports in India and Government of India watches the index when examining domestic price issues.

The Indian Basket is weighted average of daily prices and is updated daily on the website of the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

**Q.600) India has a currency swap agreement with**

1. UAE

2. Japan
3. USA

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.600) Solution (a)**

India has a currency swap line with Japan, UAE and SAARC. India is discussing an agreement with USA.

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