



IASBABA'S DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ COMPILATION

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Q.1) Which of the statements given below is not true with reference to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act?

- a) It is mandatory for all NGOs to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.
- b) It is mandatory for all NGOs seeking foreign donations have to open a designated FCRA account at the SBI branch.
- c) Only SBI bank is empowered to report to the Central government within 48 hours the "receipt or utilisation of any foreign contribution" by any NGO.
- d) None

Q.1) Solution (c)

As per the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA Act 2010), all NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.

As per the existing rules, all banks have to report to the Central government within 48 hours the "receipt or utilisation of any foreign contribution" by any NGO, association or person whether or not they are registered or granted prior permission under the FCRA.

Last September (2020), the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, was amended by Parliament and a new provision that makes it mandatory for all NGOs to receive foreign funds in a designated bank account at the State Bank of India's (SBI) New Delhi branch was inserted.

All NGOs seeking foreign donations have to open a designated FCRA account at the SBI branch by March 31. The NGOs can retain their existing FCRA account in any other bank but it will have to be mandatorily linked to the SBI branch in New Delhi.

Article link: [India tightens oversight on funds received by NGOs](#)

Q.2) Which article of the Constitution deals with 'Annual Financial Statement'?

- a) Article 110
- b) Article 112
- c) Article 111
- d) Article 113

Q.2) Solution (b)

Article 110 of Constitution of India deals with 'Definition of Money Bill'.

Article 111 of Constitution of India deals with 'Assent to Bills passed by the Parliament'.

Article 112 of Constitution of India deals with 'Annual Financial Statement'.

Article 113 of Constitution of India deals with 'Procedure in Parliament with respect to estimates'.

Q.3) Consider the statements below in regard to Budget:

1. Constitution provides that “Budget” be laid before both the Houses of Parliament every financial year.
2. The “Budget” is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India in a financial year.
3. Ministry of Finance prepares the Budget.

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.3) Solution (c)

Article 112 of the Constitution refers to the budget as the ‘annual financial statement’. In other words, the term ‘budget’ has nowhere been used in the Constitution. Hence, statement (1) is wrong.

The budget is prepared by the budget division in the Ministry of Finance after consulting with other ministries and the Planning Commission.

Q.4) Which of the following organization is responsible for the preparation of economic survey in India?

- a) Department of Revenue
- b) Department of Information and Broadcasting
- c) Department of Financial Services
- d) Department of Economic Affairs

Q.4) Solution (d)**Economic Survey of India**

The Department of Economic Affairs, Finance Ministry of India presents the Economic Survey in the parliament every year, just before the Union Budget. It is prepared under the guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser, Finance Ministry.

It is the ministry's view on the annual economic development of the country. A flagship annual document of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Economic Survey reviews the developments in the Indian economy over the previous 12 months, summarizes the performance on major development programs, and highlights the policy initiatives of the government and the prospects of the economy in the short to medium term. This document is presented to both houses of Parliament during the Budget Session.

Article reference: [10 major points made by the Economic Survey](#)

Q.5) Who among the following was concerned about the problem of food security in India and sowed the seeds of the Green Revolution in Indian agriculture?

- a) Dr. Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar
- b) C. Subramaniam
- c) Elattuvalapil Sreedharan
- d) Amartya Sen

Q.5) Solution (b)

Chidambaram Subramaniam, an Indian politician and independence activist, was concerned about the problem of food security in India. He sowed the seeds of the Green Revolution in Indian agriculture. Dr. Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar explored space and propounded the concept of black holes, while Mr. Subramaniam championed the cause of science and technology to solve societal problems.

As the Minister for Food and Agriculture, he ushered the Indian Green Revolution, an era of self-sufficiency in food production along with M. S. Swaminathan, B. Sivaraman and Norman E. Borlaug. He was awarded Bharat Ratna, Indian's highest civilian award, in 1998, for his role in ushering Green Revolution.

Article reference: [A champion of science, pro-poor technology](#)

Q.6) Which of the following are treated as Revenue expenditure of the Centre?

- 1. Making interest payments on debt
- 2. Subsidies
- 3. Grants in aid
- 4. All grants given to the State Governments/UTs

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.6) Solution (d)

Revenue expenditure includes expenses incurred in the normal running of Government departments and for rendering of various services, making interest payments on debt, subsidies, grants in aid, etc. All grants given to the State Governments/UTs and others are also treated as revenue expenditure.

Article reference: [Union Budget 2021 | Aiming for better-quality growth](#)

Q.7) Which of the following statements best denote the term “primary deficit”?

- a) It is obtained by knowing the difference between revenue receipts and revenue expenditure.
- b) It is calculated by excluding the grants given by the Centre to States and Union Territories for creation of capital assets.
- c) It is obtained by deducting the interest payments on previous borrowings from the fiscal deficit.
- d) It denotes the extent to which the Centre will have to borrow in the fiscal year to meet the revenue shortfall.

Q.7) Solution (c)

The Budget mentions four types of deficits. The fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, effective revenue deficit and primary deficit.

Fiscal deficit – It is the difference between total receipts (excluding borrowing) and total expenditure. This number captures the essence of the Centre's finances; the extent to which the required expenses are being met by the available income.

The fiscal deficit also denotes the extent to which the Centre will have to borrow in the fiscal year to meet the revenue shortfall.

Revenue deficit – It is the difference between revenue receipts and revenue expenditure and shows if the government is being run within the means available.

Effective revenue deficit – It is calculated by excluding the grants given by the Centre to States and Union Territories for creation of capital assets.

Primary deficit – It is obtained by deducting the interest payments on previous borrowings from the fiscal deficit.

Q.8) Recent Budget has finally proposed the setting up of a bad bank. Which of the following statements best denote the term “bad bank”?

- a) It is a bank that buys the bad loans of other lenders and financial institutions to help clear their balance sheets.
- b) They are banks with poor balance sheet and the Centre has finally laid down a roadmap for privatisation of such banks.
- c) It is a term for the collection of non-bank financial intermediaries that provide services similar to traditional commercial banks but outside normal banking regulations.

- d) It is a bank that is blacklisted by the Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) due to its rising bad loans or NPAs.

Q.8) Solution (a)

A 'bad bank' simply put is a bank that purchases the bad loans of other lenders and financial institutions at market price. Next, the bad bank resolves these bad assets over a period of time. The banks in the process though would be forced to go for write-downs and will be free from the fetters of NPA and can draw a fresh approach toward fresh lending.

Article reference: [FM proposes bad bank to tide over NPAs](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The total demand for gold in India dwindled by 35 per cent in 2020.
2. India is only behind China in overall consumption of gold.

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.9) Solution (d)

In an attempt to boost consumer demand and to keep a check on smuggled imports, Finance Minister recently announced rationalisation of import duty on gold and silver. It has been brought down to 7.5 per cent from 12.5 per cent (brought in during the July 2019 Budget).

The total demand for gold in India dwindled by 35 per cent in 2020 to 446.4 tonnes — lowest in the last 25 years — from 690.4 tonnes in 2019. Even in 2019, it had fallen by about 9 per cent year-on-year.

Do you know?

- India is only behind China in overall consumption.

Article link: [Can reduced import duty trigger gold demand?](#)

Q.10) Recently, the PM addressed 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata', a monthly journal which was started by -

- a) Swami Vivekananda
- b) Mahatma Gandhi
- c) Dr. B R Ambedkar

d) Rabindranath Tagore

Q.10) Solution (a)

The Prime Minister recently addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata', a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order, started by Swami Vivekananda.

Prime Minister said that Swami Vivekananda named the journal Prabuddha Bharata to manifest the spirit of our nation. Swami ji wanted to create an 'Awakened India', beyond just a political or territorial entity. "Swami Vivekananda saw India as a cultural consciousness that has been living and breathing for centuries", said the Prime Minister.

Article reference: [PM addresses 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata'](#)

Q.11) Which of the following are considered as the strategic sectors under the recently unveiled Strategic Disinvestment Policy?

1. Transport and Telecommunications
2. Atomic energy, Space and Defence
3. Banking, Insurance and financial services
4. Petroleum, Coal and other minerals

Choose correct option:

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

Q.11) Solution (d)

Finance Minister recently unveiled the Disinvestment/Strategic Disinvestment Policy and said four sectors — Atomic energy, Space and Defence; Transport and Telecommunications; Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals; and Banking, Insurance and financial services — would be strategic sectors.

In strategic sectors, there will be bare minimum presence of the public sector enterprises.

The remaining CPSEs in the strategic sectors will be privatised or merged or subsidised with other CPSEs or closed. In non-strategic sectors, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed.

Article reference: [Union Budget 2021 | Govt. budgets ₹1.75 lakh cr. from stake sale](#)

Q.12) India had recently acceded to the Hong Kong International Convention (HKC), which is associated with -

- a) global standards for safe and environmentally-sound ship recycling
- b) equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights
- c) governing actions to combat climate change through adaptation and mitigation efforts directed at control of emission of GreenHouse Gases (GHGs)
- d) elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of understanding among all races

Q.12) Solution (a)

The Hong Kong International Convention for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships, or Hong Kong Convention is a multilateral convention adopted in 2009. The conference that created the convention was attended by 63 countries, and overseen by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The Hong Kong Convention recognised that ship recycling is the most environmentally sound way to dispose of a ship at the end of its life, as most of the ship's materials can be reused. However, it sees current methods as unacceptable.

Article link: [Union Budget 2021 | Ship Recycling capacity to double by 2024, generate 1.5 lakh jobs](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements with reference to the Railways' share in overall budget and identify the correct statement:

- a) It has steadily increased since FY18 and in FY22 it saw a marginal increase.
- b) It has steadily increased since FY18 and in FY22 it suffered a marginal decline.
- c) It has steadily decreased since FY18 and in FY22 it saw a marginal increase.
- d) It has steadily decreased since FY18 and in FY22 it suffered a marginal decline.

Q.13) Solution (b)

The Railways' share in overall budget has steadily increased since FY18. However, in FY22 it suffered a marginal decline, accounting for nearly 3.16% of the overall Budget.

THE HINDU

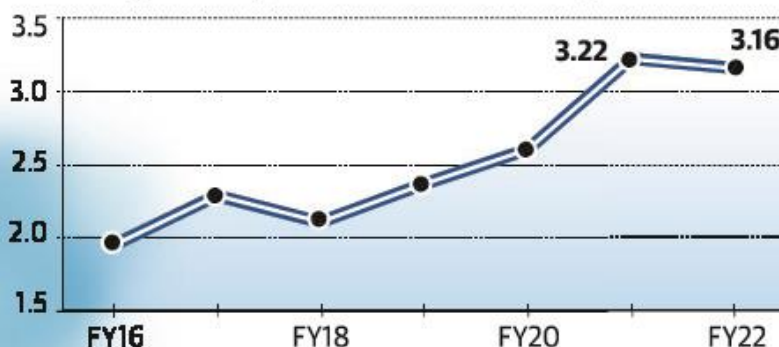
OUTSIDE SUPPORT

The internal revenue generated by the Railways has consistently fallen in the recent years, increasing its dependence on extra-budgetary resources

₹96.15
the amount
the Railways is
estimated to
spend to earn
₹100 in FY22

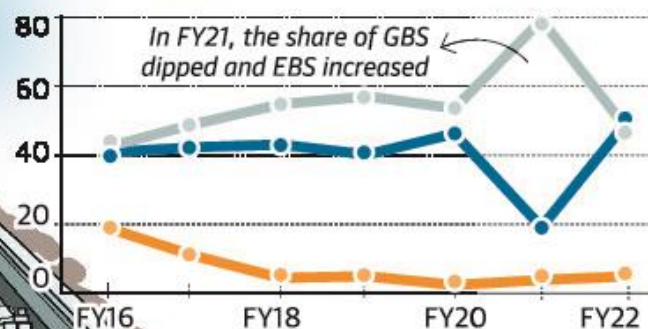
HOLDING STEADY

The Railways' share in overall budget has steadily increased since FY18. However, in FY22 it suffered a marginal decline, accounting for nearly 3.16% of the overall Budget



SEEKING ASSISTANCE | Having consistently failed to meet the expected internal revenue, the Railways' reliance on extra-budgetary resources (EBS) such as LIC funds and market borrowings significantly increased in the last five years. The outlay from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) is estimated to increase in FY22 to match that of EBS

● GBS ● Internal resources ● EBS



The graph shows the % of the Railways' capital expenditure by source

SOURCE:
BUDGET DOCUMENTS

DATA: VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN, SUMANT SEN, NARESH SINGARAVELU

GRAPHICS & DESIGN: KANNAN SUNDAR, B. SRINIVASAN, JOSEPH SATHEESH, A. GANESHAN, S.T. KARTHICK, L. BALAMURUGAN, B. KARTHIKEYAN ILLUSTRATIONS: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI, J.A. PREM KUMAR, R. RAJESH

Q.14) In order to improve agricultural infrastructure in the country, Finance Minister recently announced an Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on which of the following items?

1. Petrol
2. Diesel
3. Apples
4. Alcohol

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.14) Solution (d)

Union Finance Minister proposed the imposition of Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) during her Union Budget 2021 Presentation in the Parliament on February 1, 2021.

The Finance Minister announced Agriculture Infrastructure & Development Cess of Rs 2.5 per litre on petrol and Rs 4 per litre on diesel. The cess is not uniform and will vary from product to product.

The AIDC cess will be levied on other items including alcoholic beverages, Gold & silver Dore bars, Crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil, peas, kabuli chana, apples and Bengal gram etc.

All these items are mostly those that would not have a major impact on a huge part of the population.

Article reference: [‘Consumers will not be burdened by farm cess’](#)

Q.15) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan’ (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme to –

- a) ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers
- b) aimed to replace the existing two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme as well as the Modified NAIS
- c) increase flow of credit and removal of indebtedness from non-institutional sources of lending to farmers
- d) interest subvention scheme to farmers

Q.15) Solution (a)

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers. It comprises the erstwhile Price Support Scheme (PSS) with certain modifications and rolling out of new schemes of Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS). Under PM-AASHA, States/UTs are offered to choose either PSS and PDPS in a given procurement season with respect to particular oilseeds crop for the entire State. Pulses and Copra are procured under PSS. Only one scheme i.e. PSS or PDPS may be made operational in one State with respect to one commodity. Further, states have the option to roll out PPSS on pilot basis in district/selected APMCs of district involving the participation of private stockist for oilseeds. Further, wheat paddy and coarse grains are procured under the existing schemes of Department of Food and Public Distribution and Cotton is procured under the existing schemes of Ministry of Textiles. It is helping farmers in getting increased MSP which provides adequate returns over the cost of production.

Article reference: [Union Budget 2021 | Budget sends mixed signals on farm sector](#)

Q.16) During Budget 2021, Finance Minister had cited this - "Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark." This famous quote was given by -

- a) Rabindranath Tagore
- b) Mahatma Gandhi
- c) Thiruvalluvar
- d) Swami Vivekananda

Q.16) Solution (a)

"Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark," Finance Minister quoted Rabindranath Tagore ahead of presenting the salient points of Budget.

Article link: [Budget 2021: India's win against Australia, Rabindranath Tagore's poem feature in FM's speech](#)

Q.17) Which one among the following is not part of the Nine Missions under the Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)?

- a) Electric vehicle
- b) Waste to Wealth
- c) National Biodiversity
- d) Deep Space Exploration

Q.17) Solution (d)

The following are the Nine Missions under the Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)



Natural Language Translation



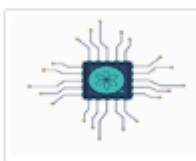
Electric Vehicles



Artificial Intelligence



National Biodiversity Mission



Quantum Frontier



BioScience for Human Health



Waste to Wealth



Deep Ocean Exploration



AGNii

Article reference: [Towards sustainable growth](#)

Q.18) The Global Risks Report is an annual study published by the –

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Q.18) Solution (a)

The Global Risks Report is an annual study published by the World Economic Forum ahead of the Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Based on the work of the Global Risk Network, the report describes changes occurring in the global risks landscape from year to

year. The report also explores the interconnectedness of risks, and considers how the strategies for the mitigation of global risks might be structured.

Article reference: [Towards sustainable growth](#)

Q.19) Recently Sri Lanka decided to scrap a 2019 agreement associated with the development of East Coast Terminal (ECT). Sri Lanka had signed the 2019 Memorandum of Cooperation for the development of ECT with which of the following countries?

1. India
2. China
3. Japan

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.19) Solution (d)

Japan, India and Sri Lanka had signed the Memorandum of Cooperation for the development of East Coast Terminal (ECT) in May 2019. (Tripartite agreement)

The ECT project was expected to showcase India-Japan cooperation in a part of South Asia where Chinese infrastructure projects have been prominent.

Recently, Sri Lanka decided to scrap this 2019 agreement with India and Japan for operating the ECT. Both India and Japan were taken by surprise, given the negotiations thus far, and given that nearly 70% of the transshipment business through ECT is linked to India.

Article link: [After India, Japan reacts sharply to Sri Lankan cancellation of ECT pact](#)

Q.20) New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between –

- a) Iran and USA
- b) North Korea and USA
- c) Russia and USA
- d) China and USA

Q.20) Solution (c)

New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.

New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was to expire in December 2012. It follows the START I treaty, which expired in December 2009; the proposed START II treaty, which never entered into force; and the START III treaty, for which negotiations were never concluded.

The treaty calls for halving the number of strategic nuclear missile launchers. A new inspection and verification regime will be established, replacing the SORT mechanism. It does not limit the number of operationally inactive nuclear warheads that can be stockpiled, a number in the high thousands.

Article link: [U.S. extends New START nuclear arms treaty with Russia](#)

Q.21) Consider the following statements about Integrated Diseases Surveillance Program (IDSP):

1. It is a disease surveillance scheme launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs in India, assisted by the WHO.
2. Under IDSP, data is collected on epidemic prone diseases on weekly basis.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.21) Solution (b)

Integrated Diseases Surveillance Program (IDSP)

- It is a disease surveillance scheme launched in 2004 under the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs in India, assisted by the **World Bank**.
- The scheme seeks to set up a Central Disease Surveillance Unit and a State Surveillance Unit in each State where data is collected and analysed.
- An early warning system has been put into place in order to take timely preventive steps.
- Under IDSP data is collected on epidemic prone diseases on weekly basis.
- Whenever there is a rising trend of illnesses in any area, it is investigated by the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to diagnose and control the outbreak.
- The program covers both communicable as well as non-communicable diseases and there is focus on inter sectoral co-ordination for zoonotic diseases.

Article reference: [A year on, mind the gaps in the pandemic response](#)

Q.22) Consider the following statements with reference to Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):

1. It is a Maternity Benefit Programme that is implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013.
2. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth.

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.22) Solution (c)

Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit program run by the government of India. It was introduced in 2017 and is implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

- It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth.
- It provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices.
- In 2013, the scheme was brought under the **National Food Security Act, 2013** to implement the provision of cash maternity benefit of ₹6,000 (US\$84) stated in the Act.

Article reference: [PMMVY beneficiaries cross 1.75 crore](#)

Q.23) Which of the following statements are NOT correct regarding the 'International Criminal Court' (ICC)?

1. It is primary Judicial Branch of The United Nations.
2. It has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
3. India became first country ever to leave the ICC.

Select the code from below:

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

d) All of the above

Q.23) Solution (c)

International Criminal Court

- It is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force.
- The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document.
- States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC.
- India - Non-state party, non-signatory

Do you know?

- Burundi is the first nation ever to leave the international criminal court (ICC).
- The claim that the international criminal court unfairly targets Africans is gaining significant traction after Burundi, SA and Gambia announced its withdrawal from the ICC.

Article reference: [International Criminal Court convicts Ugandan rebel commander for war crimes](#)

Q.24) Consider the following statements:

1. Chauri Chaura incident led Gandhi to call off the Non Cooperation Movement from Bardoli in 1922.
2. Chauri Chaura incident led Gandhi to start his Dandi March and later talks with the Viceroy Lord Irwin.

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.24) Solution (a)

Chauri Chaura incident led Gandhi to call off the Non Cooperation Movement from Bardoli in February 1922.

The event also led to a Schism in the Congress Party when one faction of the leaders established the Congress-Khilafat-Swarajya Party. Moti Lal Nehru, C R Das, N C Kelkar, GS Gharpade and S Srinivas who founded the Swaraj party were in frustration due to sudden withdrawal of NCM by Gandhi.

Article reference: [Chauri Chaura martyrs have not been given due prominence: PM](#)

Q.25) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Per Drop More Crop' which is a component of –

- a) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- b) Jal Jeevan Mission
- c) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surakshaevem Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)
- d) PM-KISAN

Q.25) Solution (a)

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Per Drop More Crop' component of '**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** (PMKSY-PDMC)' from 2015-16 in all the States of the country which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems. Besides promoting Micro Irrigation, this component also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities to supplement source creation for Micro Irrigation.

Article link: [The Micro Irrigation Fund \(MIF\), with a corpus of Rs. 5,000 crores has been created under NABARD](#)

Q.26) The community volunteer programme Himal Sanrakshak aims to protect which of the following species?

- a) Red Panda
- b) Alpine Musk Deer
- c) Snow Leopard
- d) Himalayan brown Bear

Q.26) Solution (c)

The Indian government had launched **community volunteer programme "HimalSanrakshak"** to protect snow leopards.

Snow Leopard acts as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live.

- Habitat: Higher Himalayan and trans-Himalayan landscape in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Snow Leopard capital of the world: Hemis, Ladakh.
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix I
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule I

Other conservation efforts includes – Project Snow Leopard; SECURE Himalaya; Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme.

Q.27) Consider the following pairs:

| <i>Blue Flag beaches</i> | <i>State</i> |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Kasarkod | Kerala |
| 2. Rushikonda | Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. Radhanagar | Gujarat |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.27) Solution (b)

The 'Blue Flag' is a certification that can be obtained by a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator. It serves as an eco-label. The certification is known as an indication of high environmental and quality standards.

- The certification is awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) with 33 stringent criteria under four major heads for the beaches: (i) Environmental Education and Information (ii) Bathing Water Quality (iii) Environment Management and Conservation and (iv) Safety and Services.
- 8 beaches of India have been awarded the "Blue Flag" by an International Jury comprising of eminent members from UNEP, UNWTO, FEE, IUCN.

- Beaches: Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), **Kasarkod** and Padubidri (**Karnataka**), Kappad (Kerala), **Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh)**, Golden (Puri-Odisha) and **Radhanagar (A&N Islands)**.

Q.28) With reference to IndiGen programme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to encourage development of indigenous defence technology.
2. It is funded by DRDO (Defence Research Development Organisation)

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.28) Solution (d)

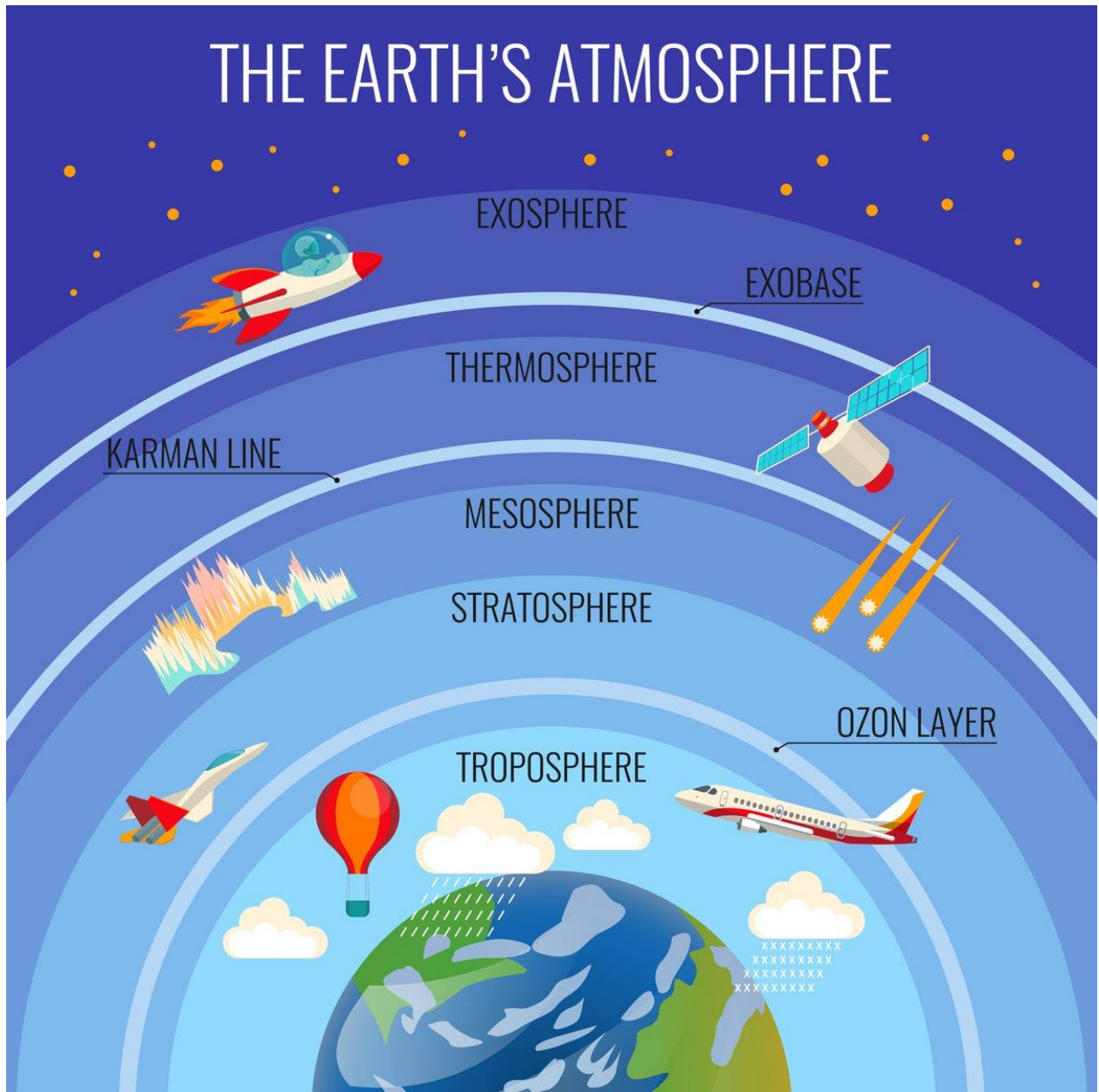
| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|--|
| Incorrect | Incorrect |
| Genomics for Public Health in India (IndiGen) programme aims to undertake whole genome sequencing of a thousand Indian individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India. Its objective is to create a pilot dataset to enable genetic epidemiology of carrier genetic diseases towards enabling affordable carrier screening approaches in India. | It is funded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) which is the largest research and development (R&D) organization in India under Ministry of Science and Technology. Its objective is to create a pilot dataset to enable genetic epidemiology of carrier genetic diseases towards enabling affordable carrier screening approaches in India. |

Q.29) The Karman Line is the internationally recognized boundary between which of the following?

- a) Inner core and outer core
- b) Warm surface water and cold deep water in an ocean
- c) Earth's atmosphere and outer space
- d) Southern Ocean and Indian Ocean

Q.29) Solution (c)

The **Karman line** is the altitude where space begins. It is 100 km (about 62 miles) high. It commonly represents the border between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space.



Q.30) The *Xoo* infection cause huge yield losses to the cultivation of which of the following?

- a) Barley
- b) Rice
- c) Maize
- d) Cotton

Q.30) Solution (b)

- *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae*, or commonly known as **Xoo infection**, cause huge yield losses to rice cultivation throughout the world.
- **Xoo causes a serious bacterial leaf blight disease in rice.** It is also known as Bacterial blight. Xoo is a gram-negative bacteria.
- Centre for Plant Molecular Biology (CPMB) have uncovered the mechanism by which rice is treated with cellulase, a cell wall degrading enzyme secreted by Xoo which induces rice immune responses and protects rice from subsequent infections by Xoo.

Q.31) The point of confluence where the two rivers - Dhauliganga and Alaknanda - joins is known as –

- a) Vishnuprayag
- b) Nandprayag
- c) Karnaprayag
- d) Rudraprayag

Q.31) Solution (a)

The five confluences, known as the Panch Prayag, are all along the Alaknanda. They are, in downstream order,

1. Vishnuprayag, where the Dhauliganga joins the Alaknanda;
2. Nandprayag, where the Nandakini joins;
3. Karnaprayag, where the Pindar joins,
4. Rudraprayag, where the Mandakini joins;
5. Devprayag, where the Bhagirathi joins the Alaknanda to form the Ganges River proper.



Article reference: [Massive flood in Dhauliganga](#)

Q.32) Which of the following statements are correct about 'Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)'?

- a) The acronym GLOF is used for glacier floods caused by the drainage of naturally dammed lakes in the glacier, on or at the margin of glaciers.
- b) GLOF is a flood caused due to sudden ablation of glacier ice due to anthropogenic source.
- c) GLOF is the name given to sudden floods caused by excessive rainfall in mountains.
- d) None of the above

Q.32) Solution (a)

The acronym GLOF is used for glacier floods caused by the drainage of naturally dammed lakes in the glacier, on or at the margin of glaciers.

Glacial lakes form when a glacier retreats, leaving the debris mass at the end of the glacier – the end moraine – exposed.

The moraine wall can act as a natural dam, trapping the meltwater from the glacier and leading to the formation of a lake. The moraine dams are composed of unconsolidated

boulders, gravel, sand, and silt. As with landslide dams, they can eventually break catastrophically, leading to a glacial lake outburst flood or GLOF.

Article reference: [Glacial lake burst or avalanche?](#)

Q.33) The unmanned space probe — named “Al-Amal”, Arabic for “Hope” — blasted off from Japan last year is an ambitious space programme of which of the following country?

- a) Bahrain
- b) Qatar
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) United Arab Emirates

Q.33) Solution (d)

The unmanned space probe — named “Al-Amal”, Arabic for “Hope” — blasted off from Japan last year, is expected to reach Mars’ orbit soon.

The UAE has plans to launch an unmanned rover to the moon by 2024 and is also eyeing future mining projects beyond Earth, as well as space tourism.

Article link: [Arab world’s first probe nears Mars](#)

Q.34) Supreme Court had declared in January 2020 that the right to access the Internet is one of our fundamental rights, under –

- a) Article 21
- b) Article 19
- c) Article 20
- d) Article 16

Q.34) Solution (b)

Currently, Indian laws have vague provisions for suspending telecommunication services, including the Internet, during times of public emergencies, or, if required, for protecting ‘public interest’. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court had declared in January 2020 that the right to access the Internet is one of our fundamental rights, alongside the freedom to carry on any trade, business or occupation over the medium of Internet, under Article 19 of the Constitution.

Article link: [The cost of Internet shutdowns](#)

Q.35) The Kiran (mental health rehabilitation) helpline service was set up by the –

- a) Health and Family Welfare Ministry

- b) Ministry of Women & Child Development
- c) Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry
- d) None of the above

Q.35) Solution (c)

Mental health rehabilitation helpline (Kiran Helpline 1800-599-0019) was launched in September 2020 by the Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE) Ministry.

Article reference: [Ministry's mental health helpline sees most calls from men](#)

Q.36) From the below, identify the incorrect statement about National Monuments Authority (NMA)?

- a) It has been set up as per provision of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 2010.
- b) Director General of Archaeological Survey of India is ex-officio Chairman.
- c) The act provide for NMA to be constituted with Chairperson and up to 5 whole time and 5 part time member.
- d) The act also provide for complete ban on construction in the prohibited area.

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

National Monuments Authority (NMA) under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India has been setup as per provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. Several functions have been assigned to the NMA for the protection and preservation of monuments and sites through management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments.

Some of them are

- Statutory provision for the 'prohibited' and regulated areas.
- Complete ban on construction in the prohibited area.
- Providing statutory procedures for applications seeking permission for construction/repair/renovation.
- The authority shall make necessary scrutiny of the Heritage bye laws and accord approval after inviting objections/suggestions from the public.
- Grading and classification of monuments.

The Act provides for NMA to be constituted with a Chairperson and up to 5 Whole Time and 5 Part Time Members each and a Member Secretary. **DG ASI is an ex officio Member.**

Article reference: [Centre withdraws draft heritage bylaws on Jagannath Temple](#)

Q.37) From the below, identify the correct statement with reference to 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) '?

- a) Under PMMVY, pregnant women and lactating mothers receive ₹5,000 on the birth of their first child in three instalments.
- b) The PMMVY, has crossed 57 crore eligible women till financial year 2020.
- c) This Scheme is implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- d) The incentive given to the beneficiary is in form of Cash.

Q.37) Solution (a)**Explanation:**

Under PMMVY, pregnant women and lactating mothers **receive ₹5,000** on the birth of their first child in three instalments, after fulfilling certain conditionalities.

According to government, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, has **crossed 1.75 crore** eligible women till financial year 2020.

It implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

The incentive given by the government is in form of **Direct Benefit Transfer**.

Basics about PMMVY

Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit program run by the government of India. It was introduced in 2017. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth. It provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices. Scheme was brought to fulfil provision of National Food Security Act, 2013.

Article reference: [PMMVY beneficiaries cross 1.75 crore](#)

Q.38) The term 'Emergency Use Listing (EUL)' is related to which of the following?

- a) FDI allowance
- b) Listing of Companies on the Stock Exchange
- c) Novel invention of Computer and Robotics
- d) Application of unlicensed Vaccines

Q.38) Solution (d)

The **Emergency Use Listing Procedure (EUL)** is a risk-based procedure for assessing and listing unlicensed vaccines, therapeutics and in vitro diagnostics with the ultimate aim of expediting the availability of these products to people affected by a public health emergency. This assist Nations in determining the acceptability of using specific products, based on an essential set of available quality, safety, and efficacy and performance data.

Article link: [Pfizer withdraws Emergency Use Authorisation application for its COVID-19 vaccine in India](#)

Q.39) Consider the following statement regarding Trans Fatty Acids –

1. As per FSSAI, food products shall not contain industrial trans fatty acids more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product from 2022.
2. This rule is for all form of trans fatty acids, either Natural or Industrial.
3. Trans fatty acids are created in an industrial process that adds Oxygen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid, increase shelf life of food items.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.39) Solution (b)

Explanation:

“Revised regulations of FSSAI recently notified that Food products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient shall **not contain industrial trans fatty acids** more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product, on and from 1st January, 2022,” so **there is no restrictions on Natural Trans fatty acids**.

Trans fatty acids are created in an industrial process that adds **hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils** to make them more solid, increase shelf life of food items and for use as an adulterant as they are cheap. They are present in baked, fried and processed foods as well as adulterated ghee. They are the most harmful form of fats as they clog arteries and cause hypertension, heart attacks and other cardiovascular diseases.

Article link: [After oils, FSSAI caps transfats in foods](#)

Q.40) India's first geothermal field development project will be developed in –

- a) Solan
- b) Roorkee
- c) Leh
- d) Jammu

Q.40) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will carry out the first Geothermal Field Development Project in India which will be implemented in Leh, Ladakh.

There are seven geothermal provinces in India : the Himalayas, Sohana, West coast, Cambay, Son-Narmada-Tapi (SONATA), Godavari, and Mahanadi.

Geothermal energy is a renewable source of energy stored beneath the surface of the Earth in the form of heat. This energy is clean, sustainable, carbon free, continuous, uninterrupted and environment-friendly.

Major geothermal energy resources in India



Article reference: [ONGC to carry out India's first geothermal energy project in Ladakh](#)

Q.41) Consider the following statement regarding Private member bills –

1. Only those MPs who are not part of the ruling party are called private members.
2. Private member has to give at least a month's notice for the introduction of Bills.
3. Drafting of private member bill will be the responsibility of the private member concerned.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

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

Members of Parliament (MPs) other than ministers are private members. These can be MPs of ruling party too. Bills introduced by them are called Private member bill. Bills introduced by Ministers are called Government Bills.

The admissibility of a private Bill is decided by the Chairman in the case of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker in the case of the Lok Sabha. The Member must give at least a month's notice, for the House Secretariat to examine it for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation. While a government Bill can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays. Member who is introducing it will only draft it. While in government bill, drafting is the responsibility of concerned department in consultation with the law department.

As per PRS Legislative, no private member's Bill has been passed by Parliament since 1970. To date, Parliament has passed 14 such Bills, six of them in 1956.

Article reference: [Cong MPs from Punjab to move private member's bill in Lok Sabha to repeal farm laws](#)

Q.42) Which of the following statements is correct about Non-Performing Assets of Public Sector Banks in India?

- e) After initiation of Asset Quality Review in 2015, Bank balance sheets showed low incidence NPAs.
- f) The Provisioning Coverage Ratio is the ability of banks to service its debt and meet its financial obligations such as interest payments or dividends.
- g) Gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks is lower than Private Banks.
- h) NPAs are further divided into two categories i.e. substandard assets and doubtful assets.

Q.42) Solution (b)**Explanation**

- Asset quality review (AQR) initiated in 2015 for cleaning up banks' balance sheets revealed high incidence NPAs. As a result of AQR and subsequent transparent recognition by banks, stressed accounts were reclassified as NPAs and expected losses on stressed loans, not provided for earlier under flexibility given to restructured loans, were provided for.

- **Provisioning coverage ratio**

What this is: Banks usually set aside a portion of their profits as a provision against bad loans.

What it means: A high PCR ratio (ideally above 70%) means most asset quality issues have been taken care of and the bank is not vulnerable.

Gross NPAs of PSBs was 6,09,129 crore and NPAs of Private Sector Banks was 1,88,191 crore.

Table 3: NPAs, CRAR, RoE, RoA of Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks
(Amount in ₹ crore; Rates and Ratios in Per cent)

| Reporting Date | Public Sector Banks | | | | Private Sector Banks | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| | Gross NPAs | Capital Ratio (CRAR) | Return on Equity | Return on Total Assets | Gross NPAs | Capital Ratio (CRAR) | Return on Equity | Return on Total Assets |
| Mar-17 | 6,84,732 | 12.14 | -1.92 | -0.12 | 91,915 | 15.53 | 11.79 | 1.27 |
| Mar-18 | 8,95,601 | 11.66 | -14.01 | -0.87 | 1,25,863 | 16.43 | 9.98 | 1.09 |
| Mar-19 | 7,39,541 | 12.20 | -10.97 | -0.66 | 1,80,872 | 16.07 | 5.49 | 0.60 |
| Mar-20 | 6,78,317 | 12.85 | -3.92 | -0.25 | 2,05,848 | 16.55 | 3.20 | 0.35 |
| Sep-20 | 6,09,129 | 13.51 | 4.33 | 0.26 | 1,88,191 | 18.21 | 10.04 | 1.10 |

Source: Offsite Returns, Global Operations, RBI

NPAs are classified into 3 categories ie Substandard Assets(NPA for >= 12 months) ,Doubtful Assets (if remains in substandard category for 12 months), and Loss Assets (uncollectable).

Article reference: [Gross NPAs of PSBs decline to ₹6.09 lakh crore in Sep 2020: Anurag Singh Thakur](#)

Q.43) The term 'Passiflora shervarayensis' is related to -

- New Bird species found in Manipur
- A type of invasive species found in Sheroy Hills
- A medical plant used to treat Cancer
- A new native plant found in the Servarayan Hills

Q.43) Solution (d)

Explanation

A new native plant species belonging to the Passifloraceae — Passion fruit family — has been found by scientists in Servarayan Hills (Tamil Nadu). The genus Passiflora L. belonging to Passifloraceae family contains about 550 species and are distributed mostly in the Americas.

Only about 20 species occur in India, China, Southeast Asia, Australia, and in the islands of Oceania. Of the 20 species only two of them are native to India.

Article link: [New climber plant found in Tamil Nadu](#)

Q.44) Consider the following statement about Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary –

4. This Wildlife Sanctuary has highest density of one horned Rhinoceroses.
5. This is situated on the bank of Manas River.
6. This is also called Mini-Kaziranga due to Rhino population.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.44) Solution (d)

Explanation

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra in Morigaon district in Assam. It was declared in 1987 and covers 38.85 km² providing grassland and wetland habitat for the Indian rhinoceros. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary holds one of the largest Indian rhinoceros populations in Assam.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary harbors world's highest density of rhinoceros, thus also called Mini Kaziranga.

Besides rhinoceros, the other mammals found are Leopard, Leopard cat, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, Feral Buffalo, Wild pigs, Chinese pangolins etc

Article link: [‘Mini Kaziranga’ has 58 waterfowl species](#)

Q.45) Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition, 2020 will not consolidate which of the following Acts –

- a) Factories Act, 1948
- b) Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970
- c) Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952
- d) Mines Act, 1952

Q.45) Solution (c)

Explanation

The Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Code, 2020 is a code to consolidate and amend the laws regulating the Occupational safety and health and working conditions of the persons employed in an establishment. The Act replaces 13 old central labour laws.

Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition will consolidate 13 existing acts which also include Factories Act, 1948, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and Mines Act, 1952. **EPF Act, 1952 will be replaced by Code on Social Security.**

Occupational Safety in India

Constitutional Provisions-

- Three Articles i.e. 24, 39(e) and 42
- Union List- The regulation of labour and safety in mines and oil fields.
- Concurrent List- The welfare of labour including conditions of work, provident funds, employers' invalidity and old age pension and maternity benefit.
- The Union Ministry of Labour and Labour Departments of the States and Union Territories are responsible for safety and health of workers.
- National Safety Council (NSC) –
 - Apex non-profit making to generate, develop and sustain a voluntary movement on Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) at the national level.
 - Works under the overall guidance of Ministry of Labour
 - Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

Article reference: [New labour codes to allow 4-day work week](#)

Q.46) From the below, identify the incorrect statement about Van Dhan Yojana?

- a) It is a component of the Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through MSP & Development of Value Chain for MFP.
- b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal implementing agency at Central level.
- c) It was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.
- d) It is 100% Central Government Funded with TRIFED providing Rs. 15 lakhs for each 300 member Van Dhan Kendra.

Q.46) Solution (b)

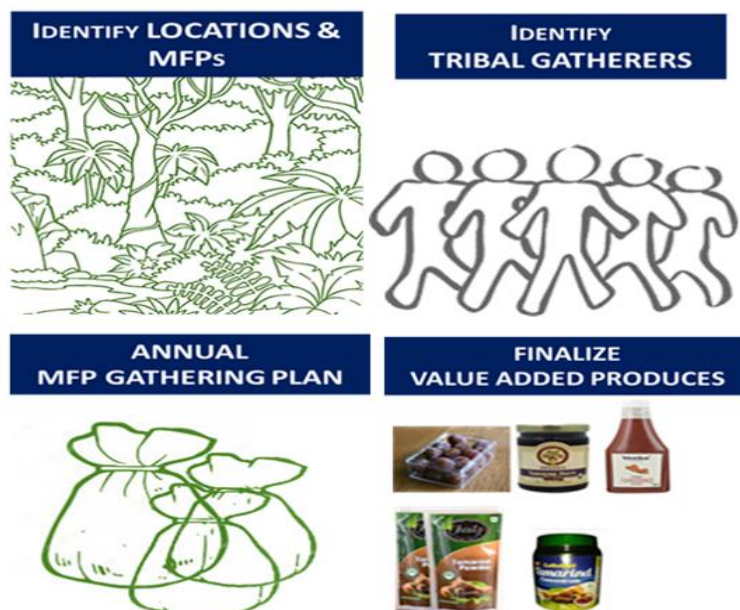
Explanation:

The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. The Van Dhan Yojana or Van Dhan Scheme, a component of the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.

The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level. At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level.

A Kendra shall constitute of 15 tribal SHGs, each comprising of up to 20 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Van Dhan Kendra.

100% Central Government Funded with TRIFED providing Rs. 15 lakhs for each 300 member Van Dhan Kendra.



Article reference: [Van Dhan and TRIFOOD Day at Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav](#)

Q.47) From the below, identify the correct statement with reference to 'The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)'?

- The identified manual scavengers, one from each family, would be eligible for receiving cash assistance of Rs. 4,00,000 immediately after identification.
- Loan up to a maximum cost of Rs. 10 lacs will be admissible under the scheme and Rs. 15 lacs in case of sanitation related projects.
- This Scheme is implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- There is cap on income to be eligible for this scheme.

Q.47) Solution (b)

Explanation:

Statement Analysis

| Statement A | Statement B | Statement C | Statement D |
|--|---|---|---|
| Incorrect | Correct | Incorrect | Incorrect |
| Here, beneficiary is eligible for one time cash assistance of 40,000 and not | This is the provision of scheme, which helps to attain self-employment. | This scheme is implemented by Ministry of Social Justice. | Eligibility of scheme does not contain any cap on income. |

| | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| 400,000. | Loan up to a maximum cost of Rs. 10 lacs will be admissible under the scheme and Rs. 15 lacs in case of sanitation related projects. | | |
|----------|--|--|--|

Additional information:

Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)

SRMS was introduced in January, 2007, with the objective to rehabilitate the remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations by March, 2009. However, Scheme was extended up to March, 2010, with a provision for the coverage of spill-over of beneficiaries even thereafter, if required. As per the updated number, reported by States/UTs, after launch of the Scheme, 1.18 lakh manual scavengers and their dependents in 18 States/UTs were identified for implementation of the Scheme.

After the enactment of 'Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013', SRMS was revised in synchronization with the provision of the Act.

Eligibility

Manual Scavengers, as defined under the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" and their dependents, irrespective of their income, are eligible for assistance under the Scheme.

As per the revised Scheme, identified manual scavengers, one from each family, are provided one-time cash assistance. The identified manual scavengers, one from each family, would be eligible for receiving cash assistance of Rs. 40,000, immediately after identification. The beneficiary is allowed to withdraw the amount in monthly instalments of maximum of Rs. 7000.

Article reference: [Over 66,000 manual scavengers identified across country](#)

Q.48) The term, 'Miyawaki' method is often seen in news. What is it associated with?

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

Q.48) 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.

Miyawaki forests are developed based on a Japanese method of restoration of degraded land, planting species of trees, plants and shrubs, regenerating all layers of original forests in a particular area.

Article reference: [New Miyawaki forest comes up in Chennai](#)

Q.49) Consider the following statement regarding Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) Scheme –

1. This Scheme targets to form and promote 100,000 new FPOs in the country with budgetary provision of Rs 6865 crore.
2. There are 09 implementing agency, which will engage Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to aggregate, registered & provide professional handholding support to each FPO for a period of 5 years.
3. National Project Management Agency (NPMA) has been engaged for providing overall project guidance, coordination, compilation of information.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.49) Solution (c)

In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Government of India had announced formation of **10,000** new **farmer producer organisations** (FPOs) to ensure economies of scale for farmers over the next five years.

There are nine implementing agency - SFAC, National Cooperative Development Corporation, NABARD, NAFED, NERAMAC, Tamil Nadu-Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (TN-SFAC), Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium Haryana (SFACH), Watershed Development Department (WDD)- Karnataka & Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC)- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

At National level, National Project Management Agency (NPMA) has been engaged for providing overall project guidance, coordination, compilation of information relating to FPOs, maintenance of MIS and monitoring purpose.

At district level, a District Level Monitoring Committee (D-MC) is constituted under the Chairmanship of District Collector/ CEO/ Zilla Parishad with representatives of different

related departments and experts for overall coordination & monitoring the implementation of scheme in the district.

FPOs will be provided financial assistance up to Rs 18.00 lakh per FPO for a period of 03 years.

Article link: [Central Sector Scheme “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organizations \(FPOs\)”](#)

Q.50) The term ‘TROPEX 21’ is related to which of the following?

- a) A type of intercontinental ballistic missile
- b) A submarine of Indian Navy
- c) A bilateral military exercise between India and USA
- d) A theatre level exercise of Indian Navy

Q.50) Solution (d)

Indian Navy's largest war game – the biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21) - which commenced in early January, is currently underway with participation of all operational units of Indian Navy including ships, submarines, aircraft as well as units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard. The exercise will culminate by third week of February.

TROPEX is being progressed over distinct phases that also test the Navy's transition from peacetime to hostilities. In the first phase, the Indian Navy had conducted **coastal defence exercise ‘Sea Vigil’** along the entire coastline and Island territories of India.

Article link: [THEATRE LEVEL OPERATIONAL READINESS EXERCISE \(TROPEX 21\) INDIAN NAVY'S LARGEST WAR GAME](#)

Q.51) From the below, identify the incorrect statement about Parliamentary Privilege?

- a) Constitution of India mentions two privileges, i.e. freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.
- b) A member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House.
- c) Privileges Committee exist in both house, i.e. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, with 15 members in each house.
- d) The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.

Q.51) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Parliamentary privilege refers to rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by Parliament as an institution and MPs in their individual capacity, without which they cannot discharge their functions as entrusted upon them by the Constitution.

When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.

The Constitution (Article 105) mentions two privileges, i.e. freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings. Also rulebook of each House governs privilege.

A member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House.

The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges consisting of 15 members as per respective party strengths. In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges, that consists of 10 members

Article reference: [BJP MP Chaudhary issues breach of privilege notice against Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra](#)

Q.52) From the below, identify the incorrect statement with reference to 'National Commission for Women'?

- a) It was set up as statutory body in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- b) It does not have power of Civil Court.
- c) The commission regularly publishes a monthly newsletter, Rashtra Mahila, in both Hindi and English.
- d) It received a large number of complaints and acted suo-moto in several cases to provide speedy justice

Q.52) Solution (b)

Explanation:

The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to:

- Review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women ;
- Recommend remedial legislative measures ;
- Facilitate redressal of grievances and
- Advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour. They have also discussed police abuses against women.

It has taken many suo-moto cases, for example during Covid-19 lockdown- it gave help to many stranded women to reach their home. For such type of cases, NCW have Suo-Motu Cell.

National Commission of Women has power of Civil Court which is

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath.
- Requiring the discovery and production of any document.
- Receiving evidence on affidavits. Requisitioning of any public record or copy thereof from any **court** of office.

The commission regularly brings out a monthly newsletter **Rashtra Mahila** in Hindi and English. NCW publishes its own books from time to time. It also sponsors research studies on various aspects concerning women issues and helps in getting them published.

Article reference: [Punjab Minister asks NCW to intervene for Nodeep Kaur](#)

Q.53) Consider the following statement regarding LPG Pricing in India –

1. LPG price in India is determined on the basis of a formula- import parity price (IPP) which is determined based on LPG price in the international market.
2. IPP does not include ocean freight, insurance and port dues.
3. The price of LPG cylinders in India is reset on a monthly basis, effective from the first of every month.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.53) Solution (c)

Explanation:

- LPG pricing in India is done on the basis of a formula — import parity price (IPP). The IPP is determined based on LPG prices in the international market, assuming that the fuel is imported into the country.
- The IPP, based on Saudi Aramco's LPG price, includes the FOB (free on board) price, ocean freight, insurance, custom duties, port dues, etc. This price, quoted in dollars, is then converted to rupees. To this is added the cost of inland freight, marketing costs and margins charged by the oil companies, bottling charges, dealer commission and the GST. This gives the retail selling price of the non-subsidised LPG cylinder for the Indian customer. The price of LPG cylinders in India is reset on a monthly basis, effective from the first of every month.

- Ergo, an increase in international LPG prices or weakness in the rupee, or both, translates into higher LPG price in India — which we have been seeing over the past few months. International LPG prices tend to move in tandem with the price of crude oil, the key raw material. The recent spike in geopolitical tensions in West Asia could cascade into further hostilities, resulting in a jump in the price of crude oil and LPG.
- The Centre provides subsidy, through direct bank transfer, on 12 LPG cylinders (14.2 kg) a year per household. So, many customers pay a subsidised rate of about ₹530-550 (current price) per cylinder. The subsidy amount changes month-on-month based on international LPG prices and currency fluctuations. On purchases beyond 12 cylinders a year, the household has to pay the non-subsidised price.

Article link: [Subsidy given up on LPG cylinders](#)

Q.54) Consider the following statement regarding 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation' (AMRUT) –

1. It is Central Sector Scheme.
2. The Priority zone of the Mission is water supply followed by sewerage.
3. All cities with more than 10 million population only are eligible for this mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.54) Solution (b)

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects. It is being implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It is a **Central Sponsored Scheme**, being implemented in **500 cities**.

The purpose of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is to

- Ensure that every household has access to a tap with the assured supply of water and a sewerage connection.
- Increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces (e.g. parks) and
- Reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport
- **The Priority zone of the Mission is water supply followed by sewerage.**

Article link: [Projects amounting to ₹78,910 crores grounded under AMRUT](#)

Q.55) “Atal Tinkering Labs” is related to which of the following organisation?

- a) Ministry of Education
- b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) ISRO

Q.55) Solution (c)

Atal Tinkering Labs

It is a component of Atal Innovation Mission, implemented by NITI Aayog.

ATL is a work space where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode; and learn innovation skills. Young children get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

AIM provides grant-in-aid that includes a one-time establishment cost of Rs. 10 lakh and operational expenses of Rs. 10 lakh for a maximum period of 5 years to each ATL

Article link: [ISRO has adopted Atal Tinkering Labs across the country in the field of space education and technology](#)

Q.56) Which of the Following body is responsible for National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)?

- a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- b) National Commission on Agriculture (NCA)
- c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

Q.56) Solution (c)

Explanation:

About NICRA

- National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) is a network project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched in February, 2011.
- The project aims to enhance resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research and technology demonstration.
- The research on adaptation and mitigation covers crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management.
- The project consists of four components viz.
 - Strategic Research,

- Technology Demonstration,
- Capacity Building and
- Sponsored/Competitive Grants.

Article reference: [Effect of Climate Change on Agriculture](#)

Q.57) From the below, identify the incorrect statement with reference to 'leader of opposition'?

- a) The Leader of the opposition is the parliamentary chairperson of the party with the most seats after the government party.
- b) It received statutory recognition from the beginning of Indian Parliament.
- c) The position also existed in former Central Legislative Assembly of British India.
- d) If lower house of parliament does not have recognised leader of opposition, then selection committee of CVC will contain leader of largest party.

Q.57) Solution (b)

Explanation:

The Leader of the Opposition (LoP) is the politician who leads the official opposition in either House of the Parliament of India. The Leader of the opposition is the parliamentary chairperson of the party with the most seats after the government party.

While the position also existed in former Central Legislative Assembly of British India, and holders of it there included Motilal Nehru, it received **statutory recognition through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977** which defines the term "Leader of the Opposition" as that member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha who, for the time being, is the Leader of that House of the Party in Opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised, as such, by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Clause 4 of The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, provides for the leader of the largest opposition party to be inducted as a member of the selection committee in a scenario where the lower house of parliament does not have a recognised leader of the opposition.

Article reference: [Mallikarjun Kharge to be Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha](#)

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) –

1. MGNREGA guarantees hundred days of wage employment in a financial year, to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do skilled manual work.

2. Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant.
3. Construction of AWC building has been included as an approved activity under the MGNREG Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.58) Solution (c)

The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related **unskilled manual work** at the statutory minimum wage. The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments

Key facts

- MGNREGA guarantees hundred days of wage employment in a financial year, to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- Individual beneficiary oriented works can be taken up on the cards of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, small or marginal farmers or beneficiaries of land reforms or beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of the Government of India.
- Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant.
- Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.
- Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which lends to accountability and transparency.
- Construction of AWC building has been included as an approved activity under the MGNREG Act.

Article link: [Highest ever spending of ₹90,500 crore under MNREGA, says Finance Minister](#)

Q.59) Consider the following statement regarding 'Inner Line Permit' –

1. The system is in force today only in three states - Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Restriction under ILP is only for entry and not for staying.
3. Original aim of this was to protect the Crown's own commercial interests by preventing "British subjects" (Indians) from trading within these regions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.59) Solution (b)**Explanation:**

- An Inner Line Permit is a document that allows an Indian citizen to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system. The system is in force today in three North-eastern states — Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram — and no Indian citizen can visit any of these states unless he or she belongs to that state, nor can he or she overstay beyond the period specified in the ILP.
- The concept comes from the colonial area. Under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act, 1873, the British framed regulations restricting the entry and regulating the stay of outsiders in designated areas. This was to protect the Crown's own commercial interests by preventing "British subjects" (Indians) from trading within these regions. In 1950, the Indian government replaced "British subjects" with "Citizen of India". This was to address local concerns about protecting the interests of the indigenous people from outsiders belonging to other Indian states.
- An ILP is issued by the state government concerned. It can be obtained after applying either online or physically. It states the dates of travel and also specifies the particular areas in the state which the ILP holder can travel to.

Article link: [Meghalaya pressure groups slam Amit Shah over Inner-Line Permit](#)

Q.60) Which of the following disease is related to "Nikshay Poshan Yojana" ?

- a) Cancer
- b) Diabetes
- c) Tuberculosis
- d) Epilepsy

Q.60) Solution (c)

Nikshay Poshan Yojana is being implemented from 01st April 2018, wherein 500 rupees per month is being provided to All TB patients towards nutritional support for the duration of their treatment.

This is being implemented under the National TB Elimination Programme.

Article link: [Eradication of TB](#)

Q.61) Consider the following statement about Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) –

1. It is an Asian Development Bank assisted programme.
2. It aims to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).

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.61) Solution (b)

Explanation:

SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) is a **World Bank loan assisted programme** to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).

The scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Article reference: [SANKALP - To promote inclusive growth and strengthen District Skill Committees](#)

Q.62) China's 'Tianwen-1' is space mission to probe -

- a) Moon
- b) Sun
- c) International Space Station
- d) Mars

Q.62) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Tianwen-1: China's first Mars mission

- Tianwen-1 is an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover.
- It will search the Martian surface for water, ice, investigate soil characteristics, and study the atmosphere.
- The Tianwen-1 mission will lift off on a Long March 5 rocket.

- If the mission is successful, China will become the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR and the United States.
- Around the same time in July, NASA will also launch its own Mars mission– 'Perseverance'.
- It aims to collect Martian samples and bring them back to Earth in a two-part campaign.

Article reference: [China's Tianwen-1 probe successfully enters Mars orbit](#)

Q.63) Consider the following statement regarding Agriculture related schemes –

1. Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) is being implemented in original green revolution states viz. Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh only.
2. National Food Security Mission's target in 12th Five year plan was additional production of food grains of 250 million tonnes.
3. Under Kisan Rath scheme, government is providing subsidised transport to FCI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.63) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Basics

- Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), is being implemented in original green revolution states viz. Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh to diversify paddy area towards alternative crops and shifting of tobacco farming to alternative crops/cropping system in tobacco growing states.
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), was launched in October 2007, comprising rice, wheat and pulses to increase the annual production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12). The Mission continued during 12th Five Year Plan with new targets of additional production of food grains of 25 million tonnes of food grains comprising of 10 million tonnes rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat, 4 million tonnes of pulses and 3 million tonnes of coarse cereals.
- Kisan Rath mobile app facilitates farmers, FPOs and traders across India to search and contact the transport service providers for transporting the Agriculture &

Horticulture produce. It connects them with the transport service providers, providing a wide range of trucks and tractor trolleys, and also allows posting the requirements of part-load as well as full-load.

Statement Analysis –

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|--|--|---|
| Incorrect | Incorrect | Incorrect |
| Crop diversification scheme is implemented in original green revolution states and also in tobacco growing states. | National Food Security Mission's target in 12 th FYP was additional production of 25 million tons food grain. | KISAN RATH Mobile App facilitates the farmers and traders across the country for transportation of agri-produce by connecting them with the transporters. |

Article link: [Agri Logistics Systems in the Country](#)

Q.64) Consider the following statement regarding 'Natural disaster' –

1. Unseasonal climate change is not a calamity notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. State government can provide relief from SDRF for disaster not notified under Ministry of Home affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.64) Solution (c)

Unseasonal climate change is not a calamity notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

However, the State Governments are empowered to utilize up to 10 per cent of the funds available under SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State and which are not included in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The States can incur expenditure as per the SDRF/NDRF guidelines, issued by Government of India.

Article link: [Compensation to Farmers for Crop Loss due to Unseasonal Climate](#)

Q.65) Which of the following Ministry organises "Hunar Haat"?

- a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- b) Ministry of Culture
- c) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- d) Ministry of Education

Q.65) Solution (c)**Hunar Haat**

- It is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the minority communities.
- These are organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.
- It aims to provide market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.

Article link: [Union Ministry of Minority Affairs to organise “Hunar Haat”](#)

Q.66) Which of the following organisation implements ‘Sweet Mission’?

- a) Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)
- b) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
- c) National Bee Board
- d) National Horticulture Board

Q.66) Solution (c)**Explanation:**

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission also known as Sweet Mission is being implemented by National Bee Board.

Basics

The main objective of NBHM is to promote holistic growth of beekeeping industry for income & employment generation for farm and non-farm households, to enhance agriculture/ horticulture production, developing infrastructural facilities, including setting up of Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre (IBDC) s/CoE, honey testing labs, bee disease diagnostic labs, custom hiring centres, Api-therapy centres, nucleus stock, bee breeders, etc. and empowerment of women through beekeeping.

It is being implemented under 3 Mini Mission (MM) – MM1, MM2, and MM3.

Article reference: [NBHM aims to achieve the goal of ‘Sweet Revolution’ as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan](#)

Q.67) Brasilia Declaration is related to –

- a) Forest Fire
- b) Climate Change
- c) Public Health
- d) Road Safety

Q.67) Solution (d)

Remarks – UPSC asks different Conventions, which India has signed in past.

Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety

- It was signed at the Second Global High-Level conference on Road Safety held in Brazil.
- It plans to achieve by 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- Main points of the Brasilia Declaration are:
 - Countries should form transport policies in order to favour more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and using public transport.
- It highlights strategies to ensure the safety of all road users,
 - by improving laws and enforcement;
 - making roads safer through infrastructural modifications;
 - ensuring that vehicles are equipped with life-saving technologies;
 - and enhancing emergency trauma care systems.

Article link: [PM approves ex-gratia for Jalgaon accident victims](#)

Q.68) Consider the following statement about 'FASTag' –

1. FASTag cards have limited validity of 1 year.
2. It uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology.
3. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has issued orders making FASTag compulsory at all toll plazas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.68) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Basics of FASTag

FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India, operated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

- It **employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** for making toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it or directly toll owner.
- It is affixed on the windscreen of the vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas without stopping for transactions.
- The tag can be purchased from official Tag issuers or participating Banks and if it is linked to a prepaid account, then recharging or top-up can be as per requirement.
- As per NHAI, FASTag has **unlimited validity**. 7.5% cashback offers were also provided to promote the use of FASTag. Dedicated Lanes at some Toll plazas have been built for FASTag.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has issued orders making FASTag compulsory at all toll plazas from the midnight of February 15, 2021 across the country.

Article reference: [FASTag compulsory at all toll plazas from midnight](#)

Q.69) Consider the following statement regarding 'Polavaram Project' –

1. It is being built on Krishna River.
2. It will facilitate an inter-basin transfer to the Godavari River.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) All of the Above
- d) None of the Above

Q.69) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis**Basics**

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Incorrect | Incorrect |
| It is being built on Godavari River. | It will facilitate an inter-basin transfer to the Krishna River. |

Polavaram Irrigation Project

- It is a multi-purpose irrigation project in state of Andhra Pradesh
- It is being built on Godavari River.
- It will facilitate an inter-basin transfer to the Krishna river basin through its Right canal.
- It has been accorded as National Project Status under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014

Article link: [Families in the Polavaram project area vote in their native places for one last time](#)

Q.70) Which of the following Ministry implements “SAMARTH”?

- a) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- b) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- c) Ministry of Textile
- d) Ministry of Education

Q.70) Solution (c)

Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH) was approved towards addressing the skill gap in textile sector and also to supplement the efforts of textile industry in providing gainful and sustainable employment to the youth.

The objectives of Samarth are as follows:

- i. To provide demand driven, placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving
- ii. To promote skilling and skill upgradation in the traditional sectors of handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and jute
- iii. To enable provision of sustainable livelihood either by wage or self-employment to all sections of the society across the country

The skilling programme under Samarth is implemented through Implementing Partners (IPs) comprising Textile Industry/ Industry Associations, State Government Agencies and Sectoral Organizations of Ministry of Textiles.

Article link: [Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector \(Samarth\)](#)

Q.71) Consider the following statements about Property Tax and identify the correct statement:

- a) Property tax is assessed by central government and collected by state government.

- b) The tax amount is fixed in the state and does not depend on the area of the property.
- c) Property tax comprises taxes like lighting tax, water tax, and drainage tax.
- d) Even the vacant plots of land without an adjoining construction are liable to be taxed.

Q.71) Solution (c)**Property tax in India**

Property tax is the annual **amount paid by a land owner to the local government or the municipal corporation** of his area. The property includes all tangible real estate property, his house, office building and the property he has rented to others.

In India, **the municipal corporation of a particular area assesses and imposes the property tax annually or semi-annually. The tax amount is based on the area**, construction, property size, building etc. so tax amount can differ within states or within municipal corporations too.

The collected amount is mainly used for public services like repairing roads, construction schools; buildings, sanitation.

Central government properties and vacant property are generally exempt. **Property tax comprises taxes like lighting tax, water tax and drainage tax.**

Usually, vacant plots of land without an adjoining construction are not liable to be taxed.

Article reference: [Tax to be paid on fair value of land](#)

Q.72) Consider the following statements about 'Bhimbetka Rock Cut caves' –

- 1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 2. It is inside Ratapani Wildlife sanctuary.
- 3. It does not exhibit Palaeolithic period's evidence.

Form the following options, choose the correct answer:

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

Q.72) Solution (a)**Explanation:**

Bhimbetka Rock shelters

- The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site in central India that **spans the prehistoric Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods**, as well as the historic period.
- It exhibits the earliest traces of human life in India and evidence of Stone Age starting at the site in Acheulian times.
- It is located in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is **inside the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary**, embedded in sandstone rocks, in the foothills of the Vindhya Range.
- **It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that consists of seven hills and over 750 rock shelters distributed over 10 km (6.2 mi).**
- At least some of the shelters were inhabited more than 100,000 years ago.
- The rock shelters and caves provide evidence of a "rare glimpse" into human settlement and cultural evolution from hunter-gatherers, to agriculture, and expressions of prehistoric spirituality.
- Some of the Bhimbetka rock shelters feature prehistoric cave paintings and the earliest are about 10,000 years old (c. 8,000 BCE), corresponding to the Indian Mesolithic.
- These cave paintings show themes such as animals, early evidence of dance and hunting.
- The Bhimbetka site has the oldest-known rock art in India, as well as is one of the largest prehistoric complexes

Article reference: [India and Australia were evolutionary neighbours, a link found in Bhimbetka shows](#)

Q.73) More than 1,000 entities have signed the Paris Call agreement which is led by the French government. However, prominent countries like India, US, China, Russia didn't sign this agreement.

Paris call is associated with –

- a) Cyber Security
- b) Terrorism
- c) Outer Space Security
- d) Road Safety

Q.73) Solution (a)

Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace

The Paris Call is an agreement on nine fundamental cyber security principles and a commitment to work together to promote a safe and secure cyberspace for all. Led by the French government, the call was first launched in November 2018.

It is a PPP organisation. Prominent countries like **India, US, China, Russia** didn't sign the agreement.

The Principles –

1. Protect individuals and infrastructure
2. Protect the Internet
3. Defend electoral processes
4. Defend intellectual property
5. Non-proliferation
6. Lifecycle security
7. Cyber hygiene
8. No private hack back
9. International norms

Article link: [Disinformation is a cybersecurity threat](#)

Q.74) Consider the following statements regarding 'Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project –

4. It will connect the Kolkata seaport with Sittwe in Rakhine State of Myanmar by sea.
5. It includes road as well as sea-connectivity project.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) All of the Above
- d) None of the Above

Q.74) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Basics

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|---|
| Correct | Correct |
| Kaladan project will connect the Kolkata seaport with Sittwe in Rakhine State of Myanmar by sea. | It also includes road project which will connect Sittwe to Mizoram. |

Sittwe –Kaladan Project:

- The project was jointly initiated by India and Myanmar to create a multi-modal platform for cargo shipments from the eastern ports to Myanmar and to the North-eastern parts of the country through Myanmar.
- The Kaladan Road Project is a US\$484 million project connecting the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea. In Myanmar, it will then link Sittwe seaport to Paletwa in Chin State via the Kaladan river boat route, and then from Paletwa by road to Mizoram state in Northeast India.
- This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1328 km and will reduce the need to transport good through the narrow Siliguri corridor.

Article link: [India-Myanmar Kaladan project in final stages: Jaishankar](#)

Q.75) Consider the following statements about diesel/petrol pricing:

1. Tax on diesel and petrol is outside GST taxation.
2. Excise duty and VAT constitute almost 60 per cent of the price of petrol and diesel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- e) 1 only
- f) 2 only
- g) Both 1 and 2
- h) None of the above

Q.75) Solution (a)

Tax on petroleum product is kept outside GST.

Taxes make a major part of the fuel prices in India. Excise duty and VAT constitute almost 63 per cent of the price of petrol and 60 per cent for diesel.

Background – Why Fuel prices are rising?

Since India imports 84 per cent of its domestic demands for crude oil. Therefore, Brent crude prices have a direct bearing on domestic fuel prices. Oil marketing companies revise fuel prices on the basis of international prices. But as India went into lockdown, India's OMCs stopped revising petrol and diesel prices for over 2 months.

As the world economies recuperate from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brent Crude prices have been soaring, and the demand outlook for petroleum products has also improved. So now fuel prices are rising .

Article link: [Petrol and Diesel price today: Why are fuels prices rising in India?](#)

Q.76) Which of the following law regulates and also sought to create a universally accessible adoption law for India?

- a) Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956
- b) Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1986
- c) Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
- d) Central Adoption Resource Authority Act

Q.76) Solution (c)**Child Adoption in India**

Child protection in India is regulated under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Act also sought to create a universally accessible adoption law for India, overtaking the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956) (applicable to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs) and the Guardians and Wards Act (1890) (applicable to Muslims), though not replacing them.

To streamline adoption procedures for orphan, abandoned and surrendered children, the existing Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has been given the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function more effectively. A separate chapter on Adoption provides detailed provisions relating to adoption and punishments for non-compliance. Processes have been streamlined with timelines for both in-country and inter-country adoption including declaring a child legally free for adoption.

There is no act such as Central Adoption Resource Authority Act. CARA has given status of statutory body under Juvenile Justice Act.

Article reference: [Cabinet approves Amendments to the Juvenile Justice \(Care and Protection of Children\) Act, 2015](#)

Q.77) Consider the following statement about 'oil and petroleum sector in India':

- 4. In 2019-20, India's total refinery capacity was 2nd largest in the world.
- 5. India imports 53% of its natural gas needs from foreign countries.
- 6. Kaveri – Godavari basin have good prospects of tight oil and tight gas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.77) Solution (c)**Explanation:****Petroleum and Oil sector in India**

The oil and gas industry in India dates back to 1889 when the first oil deposits in the country were discovered near the town of Digboi in the state of Assam. The natural gas industry in India began in the 1960s with the discovery of gas fields in Assam and Gujarat. As on 31 March 2018, India had estimated crude oil reserves of 594.49 million tonnes (MT) and natural gas reserves of 1339.57 billion cubic meters (BCM).

India imports 85% of its oil needs and aims to bring that down to 67% by 2022 by replacing it with local exploration, renewable energy and indigenous ethanol fuel. India was the third top net crude oil (including crude oil products) importer of 205.3 Mt in 2018.

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 | Statement 3 |
|---|---|--|
| Incorrect | Correct | Correct |
| In 2019-20, India's total refinery capacity was 4 th largest in the world. | India imports 53% of its natural gas and 85% of its oil demand. | Kaveri –Godavari Basin has good prospect of Tight oil, i.e. shale oil. |

Article reference: [PM dedicates to the nation and lays foundation stone of key projects of oil and gas sector in Tamil Nadu](#)

Q.78) Which of the following sector do not get benefitted from the recently approved Production-Linked Incentive scheme?

- a) Pharmaceuticals
- b) White Goods
- c) Telecom
- d) Brown Goods

Q.78) Solution (d)

Basics about Production-Linked Incentive

In order to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills, the central government in March 2020 introduced a scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units. Apart from inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.

The Union Cabinet approved the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 10 sectors on November 11. These are **pharmaceuticals, automobiles and auto components, telecom and networking products, advanced chemistry cell batteries, textile, food products, solar modules, white goods, and specialty steel.**

(**Brown goods** represent electronic items such as televisions, DVD players, stereos, and home entertainment systems. This contrasts with **white goods**, which are **appliances** such as refrigerators, ovens, freezers, and washing or drying machines.)

Article link: [Another initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat - PLI scheme for Telecom Sector](#)

Q.79) Consider the following statement regarding 'India – Mauritius bilateral relation' –

1. The India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa.
2. India is the 1st largest import trading partner of Mauritius.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) All of the Above
- d) None of the Above

Q.79) Solution (a)

Basics

India – Mauritius Trade relation

The India-Mauritius CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa. The Agreement is a limited agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Financial services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas.

Mauritius is an important development partner of India. India had extended a 'Special Economic Package' of USD 353 million to Mauritius in 2016. The new Supreme Court building project is one of the five projects being implemented under this package and was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|---|
| Correct | Incorrect |
| The India-Mauritius CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa. | India is 2 nd largest import trading partner with Mauritius with 13.85% share, while China with 16.69% share is largest trading partner. |

Article link: [Cabinet approves Comprehensive Economic cooperation and Partnership Agreement between India and Mauritius](#)

Q.80) Consider the following statements about 'Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)' –

1. It is a statutory body established under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. It is under jurisdiction of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Q.80) Solution (d)

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), headquartered at Ballabhgarh in Haryana state, is a statutory advisory body advising the Government of India's Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

The Animal Welfare Board of India was established in 1962 under Section 4 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Well-known humanitarian Rukmini Devi Arundale was instrumental in setting up the board and was its first chair.

The Board consists of 28 Members, who serve for a period of 3 years. Its headquarters was in Chennai, which moved to Ballabhgarh in Haryana state in early 2018.

The Board was initially within the jurisdiction of the Government of India's Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In 1990, the subject of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was transferred to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, where it now resides

Some of the functions of the Board include:

- Recognition of Animal Welfare Organisations
- Financial assistance
- Animal welfare Laws and Rules
- Raising awareness

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|--|
| Incorrect | Incorrect |
| Animal Welfare Board of India was established under The Prevention of Cruelty | Initially it was under jurisdiction of Ministry of Food and Agriculture, from where it was |

to Animals Act, 1960, and not under WPA, 1972.

shifted to Ministry of Environment and from it shifted back to Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, where it's current jurisdiction is.

Article link: [AWBI Awards Dedicated for Animal Welfare and Protection-2021 Held](#)

Q.81) Which of the following Ministry implements 'Setu Bharatam' project which aims to make National Highway railway crossing free?

- a) Ministry of Railways
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highway
- d) Ministry of Finance

Q.81) Solution (c)

Setu Bharatam scheme

The Setu Bharatam scheme was launched in 2016 for building rail over bridges and underpasses for safe and smooth travel on national highways.

The scheme was launched to make all the National Highways free of railway level crossings to prevent frequent road accidents and loss of lives at level crossings.

The government had identified around 208 places for the construction of rail over-bridges and underpasses and earmarked funds worth almost Rs 10,200 crore for the implementation of the scheme.

This scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Article reference: [SC makes queries to govt on felling of trees of a certain species, age](#)

Q.82) Consider the following statement about 'Air Quality Index in India' –

1. National Ambient Air Quality Standards includes 12 pollutants, including Carbon dioxide.
2. National Air Quality Index has six category of Air quality.

Form the following options, choose the correct answer:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the Above

Q.82) Solution (b)**Explanation:**

National Air Quality Index (AQI) transforms complex air quality data of eight pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour.

National Air Quality Index (AQI) was launched on 17 October 2014 to disseminate information on air quality in an easily understandable form for the general public. The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants, namely,

- Particulate Matter (size less than 10 μm) or (PM_{10}),
- Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5 μm) or ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$),
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2),
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2),
- Carbon Monoxide (CO),
- Ozone (O_3),
- Ammonia (NH_3), and
- Lead (Pb)

For which short-term (up to 24-hourly averaging period) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed. It may be noted that ambient air quality standards are specified separately in India for around 12 pollutants including the 8 that constitute the Air Quality Index (other four are - Nickel, Arsenic, Benzo (a) Pyrene, and Benzene)

AQI has six categories of air quality. These are: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe.

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|---|
| Incorrect | Correct |
| National Ambient Air Quality Standards is an index of 12 pollutants which does not include Carbon dioxide. | National Air Quality Index has six categories of air quality. These are: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe. |

Article reference: [PM2.5 air pollution claimed 54,000 lives in Delhi last year: study](#)

Q.83) Consider the following statement regarding Gomati river –

1. It originates in state of Uttarakhand.
2. It is a tributary of Yamuna River.

Which of the following options is/are correct?

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

Q.83) Solution (d)

The Gomti River is a tributary of the River Ganga (meets at saidpur, near Varanasi). It is a monsoon- and groundwater-fed river, which originates from Gomat Taal near Pilibhit, **Uttar Pradesh**. It extends 960 kilometres (600 mi) through Uttar Pradesh. A major tributary is the Sai River, which joins the Gomti near Jaunpur. The Markandey Mahadeo temple is at the confluence of the Gomti and the Ganges. Major city on the bank of river is Lucknow.

Article link: [CBI files chargesheet in Gomti river front project case](#)

Q.84) Consider the following statement regarding 'Quad' –

1. India has 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with all other 3 member of Quad.
2. Quad is a formal strategic forum, which is maintained by semi-regular summits, information exchanges and military drills.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) All of the Above
- d) None of the Above

Q.84) Solution (a)

About QUAD

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (also known as the Quad or Asian NATO) is an informal strategic forum between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by semi-regular summits, information exchanges and military drills between member countries.

The forum was initiated as a dialogue in August 2007 by then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan on "seas of freedom and prosperity".

Australia left the group in 2008, which led to hibernation of group, which was revived again during the 2017 ASEAN Summits where all four former members re-joined in negotiations.

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|---|
| Correct | Incorrect |
| India has 2 + 2 ministerial dialogue (cooperation at Defense and Foreign minister level) with Japan, Australia and USA. | QUAD is an informal group, which does not have any formal agreement or secretariat. |

Article link: [Third Quad ministerial meeting to discuss regional, global issues](#)

Q.85) NASA's science rover Perseverance, the most advanced astrobiology laboratory ever sent to another world, survived its perilous descent and arrived within its target zone inside -

- a) Copernicus Crater
- b) Ceres Crater
- c) Tycho Crater
- d) Jezero Crater

Q.85) Solution (d)

NASA's science rover Perseverance, the most advanced astrobiology laboratory ever sent to another world, streaked through the Martian atmosphere and landed safely on the floor of a vast crater, Jezero Crater.

The six-wheeled rover had survived its perilous descent and arrived within its target zone inside Jezero Crater, site of a long-vanished Martian lake bed.

Article link: [NASA's Perseverance rover makes historic Mars landing](#)

Q.86) Tholpavakoothu is a form of shadow puppetry that is practiced in which of the following state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

Q.86) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Tholpavakoothu is a form of shadow puppetry that is practiced in Kerala. It is performed using leather puppets as a ritual dedicated to Bhadrakali and is performed in Devi temples in specially built theatres called koothumadams. This art form is especially popular in the Palakkad, Thrissur and Malappuram districts of Kerala.

It is believed to have originated in the ninth century AD and uses Kamba Ramayana as its basic text.

Article reference: [How Tholpavakoothu emerged out of the shadows](#)

Q.87) Which of the following is incorrect regarding India-Russia relation?

- a) India and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1971.
- b) Russia has built Kudankulam nuclear reactor, jointly with India.
- c) Soviet Union launched India's first two satellites – Aryabhata and Bhaskara.
- d) India's total defence import from Russia has been constant, and hasn't changed much.

Q.87) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Since Independence India enjoyed good relation with Soviet Union (and Now Russia). India and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1971. In 2000, both countries established 'Strategic Partnership'.

Soviet Union helped India develop Nuclear reactor and made supply of Weapon. It also made joint programme for weapon development. Brahmos is an example of that programme. However, India- Russia trade, which is mainly depend on defence deals has shrunk, as **Russia's share of Indian defence imports fell from 79 percent between 2008-2012 to 62 percent between 2013-2017.**

Russia, being a pioneer in space exploration, helped India to launch first two satellites named Aryabhata and Bhaskar.

Article reference: [India, Russia ties strong enough to navigate complexities of present world: Shringla](#)

Q.88) Consider the following statement regarding Wildlife trade –

- 1. TRAFFIC, a wildlife monitoring network is a joint programme of World Wildlife Fund and UNFCCC.
- 2. TRAFFIC is implementing body of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Which of the following options is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the Above

Q.88) Solution (d)

About TRAFFIC

- The TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is a leading non-governmental organisation working on wildlife trade in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- It is a joint program of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- It was established in 1976 and has developed into a global network, research-driven and action-oriented, committed to delivering innovative and practical conservation solutions.

About CITES

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily.
- CITES entered into force in July 1975. Currently there are 183 Parties.
- The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP (The United Nations Environment Programme).
- The Conference of the Parties to CITES, is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its Parties.
- Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws.

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|---|---|
| Incorrect | Incorrect |
| TRAFFIC, a wildlife monitoring network is a joint programme of World Wildlife Fund and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). | <p>The Conference of the Parties to CITES, is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its Parties.</p> <p>TRAFFIC is a non-governmental organization, which work with different stakeholders to conserve and protect wildlife animals.</p> |

Article link: [Global wildlife trade causes decline of species abundance: study](#)

Q.89) Consider the following statement regarding missiles of India –

1. HELINA and Dhruvastra are anti –tank guided missiles.
2. HELINA is the Air force variant while, Dhruvastra is Army variant.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) All of the Above
- d) None of the Above

Q.89) Solution (a)

Anti-Tank Guided Missiles

The Helina and Dhruvastra are third generation, Lock-on-Before-Launch (LOBL) fire and forget ATGMs that can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode. The system has all-weather day-and-night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as with explosive reactive armour.

Helina is the Army variant and Dhruvastra is the Air Force variant of the ALH(from the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)).

Both the ATGM are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|--|
| Correct | Incorrect |
| Helina and Dhruvastra are Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) developed indigenously by DRDO. | Helina is the Army variant and Dhruvastra is the Air Force variant of the ALH(from the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)). |

Article link: [Helina, Dhruvastra ATGMs successfully test fired](#)

Q.90) Who among the following heads the Cabinet Committee on Security?

- a) National Security Advisor
- b) Home Minister
- c) Defence Minister
- d) Prime Minister

Q.90) Solution (d)

Explanation:

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) of the Central Government of India discusses debates and is the final decision-making body on senior appointments in the national security apparatus, defence policy and expenditure, and generally all matters of India's national security. The CCS is chaired by the Prime Minister of India. The CCS consists of the following members:

- Prime Minister
- Minister of Home Affairs
- Minister of Defence
- Minister of External Affairs
- Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

Article link: [Centre clears over ₹1,100 crore for more roads on Arunachal border](#)

Q.91) Consider the following statements about Saint Guru Ravidas –

1. He was contemporary of Tulsidas.
2. His devotional verses are included in both Guru Granth Sahib and Pancha Vani of Dadupanth.

Choose the correct answer form the given option below -

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

Q.91) Solution (b)

Explanation:

Ravidas was an Indian mystic poet-sant of the Bhakti movement and founder of Ravidassia religion during the 15th to 16th century CE. Venerated as a guru (teacher) in the region of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and mainly Punjab and Haryana. He was a poet-saint, social reformer and a spiritual figure.

The life details of Ravidas are uncertain and contested. Scholars believe he was born in 1450 CE, in Chamar caste.

Ravidas's devotional Verses were included in the Sikh scriptures known as Guru Granth Sahib. The Panch Vani text of the Dadupanthi tradition within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Ravidas. He taught removal of social divisions of caste and gender, and promoted unity in the pursuit of personal spiritual freedoms.

Tulsi das and Ravidas were not contemporary as, Ravidas was born in 1450 and died in 1520, while Tulsidas was born in 1520s.

Article reference: [President of India Graces the 'Shri Guru Ravidas Vishva Mahapeeth Rashtriya Adhiveshan-2021'](#)

Q.92) Consider the following statements about Food safety movements –

1. Eat right movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years.
2. Global Food Safety Partnership is an initiative of Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Choose the correct answer form the given option below –

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

Q.92) Solution (a)

Explanation:

Food safety Movement –

Eat Right Movement: It was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years. It also aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.

GFSP (Global Food Safety Partnership) - GFSP, established by the World Bank, is a unique public-private initiative dedicated to improve the safety of food in middle-income and developing countries. FSSAI entered into a partnership with GFSP for cooperation in the areas of food safety.

Statement Analysis

| Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|--|---|
| Correct | Incorrect |
| Eat Right Movement; an awareness movement aims to cut down Salt/Sugar and oil consumption by 30% in 3 years. | Global Food Safety Partnership is an initiative of World Bank, a unique public-private initiative to improve food safety in middle-income and developing countries. |

Article reference: [Vice President calls for a massive national campaign to promote healthy lifestyle and food habits](#)

Q.93) Consider the following statements regarding Black-necked cranes–

1. These birds are endemic to Tibetan Plateau.
2. It is “vulnerable” according to IUCN status.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the Above

Q.93) Solution (c)

Explanation

Both the statements are correct.

Black-necked cranes are **iconic birds of the Tibetan Plateau**, and are of great spiritual and cultural significance to Tibetan Buddhism as well as are integral to the landscape's biophysical ecosystem.

These medium-sized alpine cranes, weighing about 5 kg each and standing about 115 cm tall, have a patch of red on their crowns, grey bodies and a characteristic black-neck. Meadows are their favoured habitat, where they can feed on roots, insects, snails, fish, frogs, small birds and rodents.

They breed exclusively in alpine meadows, at altitudes of 2,600 to 4,900 m, and as a protection from predators nest in marshes where the water is about 30 cm deep. In winter, they migrate to river valleys at lower altitudes, preferably to areas near crop fields.

They are currently listed as '**vulnerable**' in the IUCN Red List.

Article link: [Rare and revered: Black-necked crane visits Assam for the first time, gets a divine name](#)

Q.94) Consider the following statements regarding 'Arbitration in India' –

1. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to establish an independent body called the Arbitration Council of India (ACI).
2. India is a member of Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.94) Solution (c)**Arbitration Council of India**

- **Constitutional Background:** The Constitution of India, **Article 51**, India is obliged to endeavour to Encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration
- **Objective:** The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to establish an **independent body** called the Arbitration Council of India (ACI) for the promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.

The ACI will consist of a Chairperson who is either:

- A Judge of the Supreme Court; or
- A Judge of a High Court; or
- Chief Justice of a High Court; or
- An eminent person with expert knowledge in conduct of arbitration.
- **Other members** will include an eminent arbitration practitioner, an academician with experience in arbitration, and government appointees.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration

- (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization located in The Hague, Netherlands. It is not a court in the traditional sense, but provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member states, international organizations or private parties.
- The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.
- The PCA is constituted through two separate multilateral conventions with a combined membership of 122 states.
- The organization is not a United Nations agency, but the PCA is an official United Nations Observer.

Article link: [Arbitration award issue | Cairn Energy hopeful of acceptable solution](#)

Q.95) “RuPay” is a product of which of the following organization?

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) National Payment Corporation of India

d) Indian Bank Association

Q.95) Solution (c)

Rupay Card

RuPay is a product of the National Payments Corporation of India, an umbrella organisation that facilitates retail payments and acclaimed to be India's first-of-its-kind global card payment with wide acceptance across ATMs, e-commerce platforms and POS machines.

RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. NPCI maintains ties with Discover Financial, JCB to enable RuPay card scheme gain international acceptance.

In 2019, Rupay reported 100 crore (1 billion) transactions through both online and offline payment modes.

Article link: [Railways impetus a major boost for RuPay cards](#)

Q.96) Consider the following statements about Women's participation in Parliament –

1. 17th Lok Sabha has the highest number of elected women since independence.
2. Of the 543 constituencies, more than 250 have never voted a woman MP since 1962.

Choose the correct answer form the given option below -

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

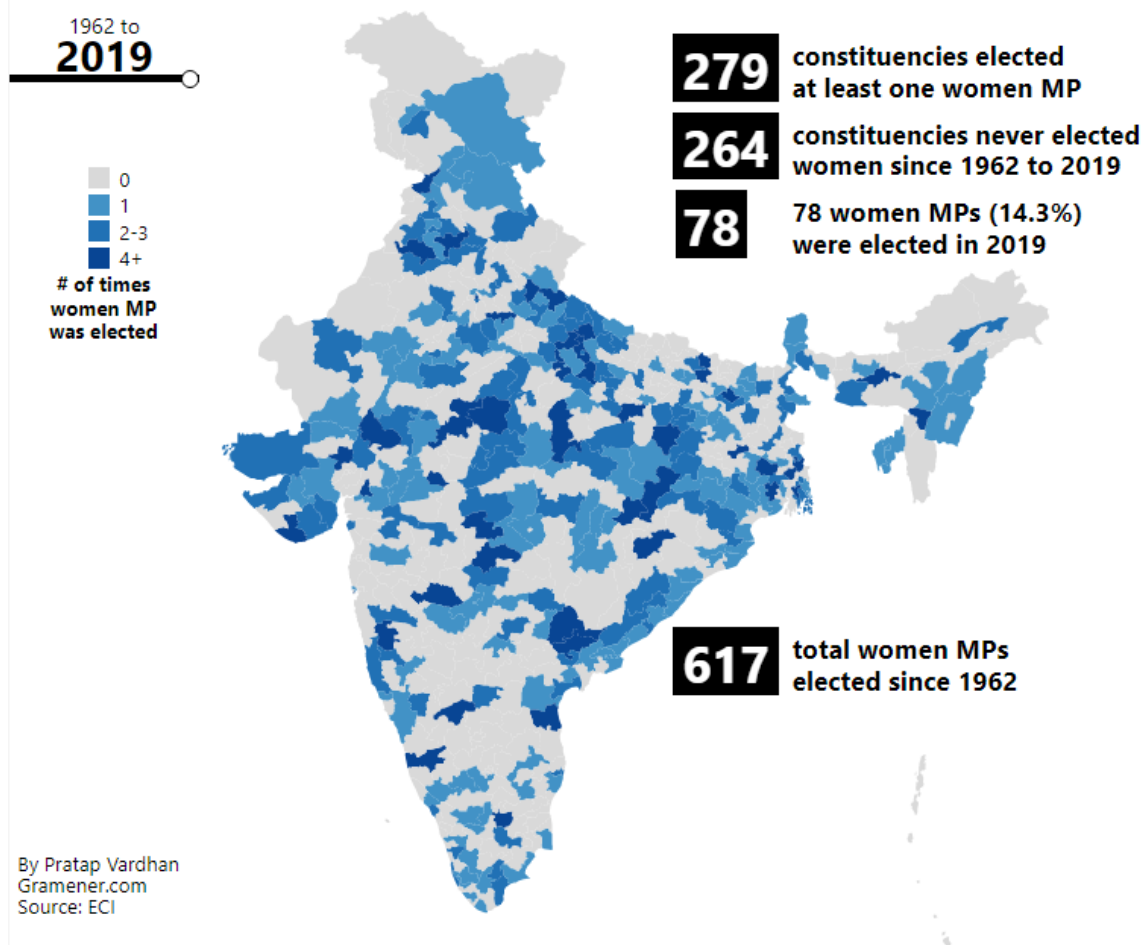
Q.96) Solution (c)

Explanation:

The 17th Lok Sabha also has the highest number of women MPs. Women's representation has steadily increased in the Lok Sabha. In the first-ever election, only 5% of the House consisted of women. Now, that has increased to 14%.

Over 600 women have been legislators since 1962. Of the 543 constituencies, about half (48.4%) have never voted a woman MP since 1962. As many as 280 constituencies have voted at least one woman MP.

A grim picture of Indian Women in Parliament



Note: Constituencies & boundaries have changed multiple times (delimitation). We've mapped the regions to closest approximation of 2019 boundaries.

Article reference: [Vice President calls for ending low representation to women in Parliament and legislatures](#)

Q.97) Consider the following statements about recent launched schemes –

1. National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India.
2. India Urban Data Exchange has been developed by NITI Aayog.

Choose the correct answer form the given option below –

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.97) Solution (a)

Explanation:

National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India, working across the three pillars of people, process, and platform to provide holistic support to cities and towns. It will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2024.

- NUDM is citizen-centric, ecosystem-driven, and principles-based in both design and implementation.
- NUDM has articulated a set of governing principles, and inherits the technology design principles of the National Urban Innovation Stack (NUIS), whose strategy and approach was released by MoHUA in February, 2019.
- The principles in turn give rise to standards, specifications, and certifications, across the three pillars of people, process, and platforms.

India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)

- The India Urban Data Exchange has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- IUDX serves as a seamless interface for data providers and data users, including ULBs, to share, request, and access datasets related to cities, urban governance, and urban service delivery.
- IUDX is an open-source software platform which facilitates the secure, authenticated, and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms, 3rd party authenticated and authorised applications, and other sources.

Article reference: [National Urban Digital Mission \(NUDM\) & Several Digital Initiatives Launched For Transforming Urban Governance](#)

Q.98) Consider the following statements regarding Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) –

1. It is a non-statutory body established by cabinet resolution.
2. It can acquire both movable and immovable property and all incomes from the property shall vest with the corporation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the Above

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

Employees' State Insurance (abbreviated as ESI) is a self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers. The fund is managed by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) according to rules and regulations stipulated in the ESI Act 1948. **ESIC is a Statutory and an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.**

As it is a legal entity, the corporation can raise loans and take measures for discharging such loans with the prior sanction of the central government and **it can acquire both movable and immovable property and all incomes from the property shall vest with the corporation.** The corporation can set up hospitals either independently or in collaboration with state government or other private entities, but most of the dispensaries and hospitals are run by concerned state governments.

Article link: [ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women](#)

Q.99) Consider the following statements regarding 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' (CDRI) –

1. CDRI is an international coalition of countries, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions.
2. It was launched by Indian Prime Minister at BRICS summit in 2019.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) All of the Above
- d) None of the Above

Q.99) Solution (a)**Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international coalition of countries, United Nations (UN) agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- Its objective is to promote research and knowledge sharing in the fields of infrastructure risk management, standards, financing, and recovery mechanisms.

- It was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.
- CDRI's initial focus is on developing disaster-resilience in ecological, social, and economic infrastructure.
- It aims to achieve substantial changes in member countries' policy frameworks and future infrastructure investments, along with a major decrease in the economic losses suffered due to disasters
- The CDRI is the second major coalition launched by India outside of the UN, the first being the International Solar Alliance.
- As of January 2021, the CDRI comprises 19 member countries and four "knowledge and development partners."

Article link: [Climate change a big challenge, disaster resilient infra need of hour: PM Modi](#)

Q.100) Which of the following statements is not true with reference to “Quantum-Matter Heterostructures”?

- a) It will lead to larger energy density in batteries.
- b) Traditionally, heterostructure materials have been built from layers of standard insulators, semiconductors.
- c) Challenges for Quantum Heterostructures are superconducting at very high temperature.
- d) Transistors incorporating quantum heterostructures could pack more power into ever smaller devices.

Q.100) Solution (c)

Quantum Matter Heterostructures

For decades, physicists have appreciated the power of sandwiching layers of different substances to create materials with novel properties. Such sandwiches, called heterostructures because they are not edible, are essential components in a wide range of modern technologies. Heterostructure materials are used in various products relying on transistors, from supercomputers to cell phones, and are crucial materials for such devices as electronic sensors and solar cells.

Traditionally, heterostructure materials have been built from layers of standard insulators, semiconductors and metals composed of such elements as silicon, gallium and aluminium.

Usually super-conducting phenomena are observed only at very low temperatures — near absolute zero, so usage of this phenomenon at sub-atomic level is challenging for Quantum Heterostructures.

Researchers expect quantum matter heterostructures to have numerous intriguing applications. Transistors incorporating quantum heterostructures could pack more power into ever smaller devices. Enhanced quantum matter catalysts could be useful for energy storage and conversion, such as splitting water molecules to make hydrogen fuel. Multi-layered structures based on the high-temperature superconducting cuprates are being designed for use in electric power transmission cables.

Making the most of heterostructures will require improvements in precision manufacturing on the atomic scale. In some cases, the slightest defect would ruin a structure's usefulness.

Article link: [Experts discuss role of emergent electromagnetic phenomena in designer thin films heterostructures & hybrids of quantum materials](#)

Q.101) Mission Indradhanush scheme is related to which of the following area?

- a) Women's science education
- b) Irrigation in rainfed area
- c) Universal Vaccination
- d) Infant Malnutrition

Q.101) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Recently Government launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 to cover children and pregnant women who missed the routine immunisation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mission Indradhanush is a health mission of the Government of India. The scheme this seeks to drive towards 90% full immunisation coverage of India and sustain the same by year 2020.

Vaccination is being provided against eight vaccine-preventable diseases nationally, i.e. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B and meningitis & pneumonia caused by Haemophilus influenza type B; and against Rotavirus Diarrhea and Japanese Encephalitis in selected states and districts respectively.

Article reference: [States roll out immunisation programme Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0](#)

Q.102) Consider the following statements about 'National Statistical Office':

1. This body is result of merger of Central Statistics Office (CSO) and National Sample Survey Office.
2. The Field Operations Division (FOD) of the present NSSO will be an independent office of the MoSPI.

3. All the other divisions of present CSO, NSSO and administrative wing will exist as divisions of MoSPI.

Form the following options, choose the correct answer

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

Q.102) Solution (c)

Explanation:

National Statistical Office

Government ordered formation of an overarching body — **National Statistical Office (NSO)** — through the **merger of the NSSO and CSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

As per the recent order, there will be three Director Generals —DG (Statistics), DG (Coordination, Administration and Policy) and DG (National Sample Survey) — reporting to the Secretary (S&PI) as against DG (Economic Statistics), DG (Social Statistics) and DG (Surveys) earlier.

The Field Operations Division (FOD) of the present NSSO will be a subordinate office of the MoSPI and all the other divisions of present CSO, NSSO and administrative wing will exist as divisions of MoSPI.

The Ministry has also ordered constitution of a committee to recommend the operational level modifications required to give effect to this restructuring.

The order states that the proposed **NSO would be headed by Secretary (Statistics and Programme Implementation)**, but skips any mention of NSC, which has been the overseeing body for all the statistical work done in the country.

Article reference: [12th Technical Group Meeting of National Statistical Offices\(NSOs\) of BRICS Countries for Preparation of Joint Statistical Publication 2021](#)

Q.103) Consider the following statement regarding 'Tigers in India' –

- 1. Indian tigers have the highest genetic variation compared to other subspecies of the feline across the world.
- 2. National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory authority established by Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.103) Solution (a)**Basics**

While Indian tigers have the highest genetic variation compared to other subspecies of the feline across the world, their populations continue to be fragmented by loss of habitat, leading to inbreeding and potential loss of this diversity.

With 70% of the world's tigers living in India, according to study, While genetic diversity across a population improves their chances of survival in the future, population fragmentation of tigers can decrease this variation, and endanger them further.

About NTCA

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 has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees.

Article link: [Study suggests habitat loss is leading to inbreeding of Indian tigers](#)

Q.104) Consider the following statements regarding 'Tuberculosis' –

- 6. It is viral disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis virus.
- 7. National TB Elimination Program, a flagship programme to end TB is a component of National Health mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.104) Solution (b)**Basics****Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease usually caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB)** bacteria. Tuberculosis generally affects the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body. Most infections show no symptoms, in which case it is known as latent tuberculosis. About 10% of latent infections progress to active disease which, if left untreated, kills about half of those affected. The classic symptoms of active TB are a chronic cough with blood-containing mucus, fever, night sweats, and weight loss. It was historically called consumption due to the weight loss. Infection of other organs can cause a wide range of symptoms

The National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) is the Public Health initiative of the Government of India that organizes its anti-Tuberculosis efforts. **It functions as a flagship component of the National Health Mission (NHM)** and provides technical and managerial leadership to anti-tuberculosis activities in the country. As per the National Strategic Plan 2012–17, the program has a vision of achieving a "TB free India", and aims to provide Universal Access to TB control services. The program provides, various free of cost, quality tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment services across the country through the government health system.

Article link: [Prime Minister's Dream of TB Free India by 2025](#)

Q.105) Rashtriya Kaamdhenu Aayog is constituted to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines. Which of the directive principle of state policy is fulfilled by it?

- a) Article 43
- b) Article 44
- c) Article 51
- d) Article 48

Q.105) Solution (d)

Rashtriya Kaamdhenu Aayog

The Government of India has constituted the "Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog" to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and to stop the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.

Further as per **article 48 of Indian Constitution** the state shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall in particular take steps for preserving improving the breed, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle, Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog fulfils it.

The Aayog is a high powered permanent apex advisory body with mandate to help the Central Government to develop appropriate programmes for conservation, sustainable development and genetic upgradation of Indigenous breeds of cows. The Aayog will review existing laws, policies as well as suggest measures for optimum economic utilization of cow wealth for enhanced production and productivity, leading to higher farm income and better quality of life for the dairy farmers. It also aims at transmission and application of improved

technology and management practices at the farmers' doorstep through coordination with dairy cooperatives, farmer producer companies and dairy industry as well as research institutions. Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog will function as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Article link: [Ministry disowns Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog's 'cow science exam'](#)

Q.106) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is a body set up by:

- a) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d) Ministry of Rural Development

Q.106) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Basics about Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- APEDA is an apex body authorised under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India established to promote the export of agricultural commodities and processed food products.
- APEDA was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December 1985.
- It has its headquarters at New Delhi and has set up five Regional Offices at Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Guwahati along with 13 virtual offices.
- APEDA provides comprehensive export service and links Indian exporter to the global market. Additionally, it provides referral services and suggests suitable partners for a joint venture.
- It has marked its presence in almost all Agro potential states in India to provide services to the Agri export community.

Article reference: [Manipur CM Shri N Biren Singh lauds APEDA's role in organizing buyer seller meet for local entrepreneurs in Imphal](#)

Q.107) Consider the following statements about 'Cities Innovation Exchange':

1. This platform is released by NITI Aayog for assessment of cities.
2. This platform will lead to comparison of different cities based on the innovation among people.

Form the following options, choose the correct answer:

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

Q.107) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Cities Innovation Exchange

City Innovation Exchange was launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Designed on the philosophy of 'everyone is an innovator', the platform will bring together Citizen Organisations-Academia- Businesses- Government to co-create for the future of Urban India in a transparent and sustainable manner. The Smart Cities Mission will partner and effectively collaborate with Startup India, Atal Innovation Mission, AGNli and other initiatives in the Indian Innovation ecosystem.

Built on the concept of 'open innovation', the platform will help in the flow of ideas 'outside in and inside out', enhancing the skills and capacity required to deliver smart urban governance. Through interaction with the Academia and Businesses/Start-ups, the platform will benefit cities in the transfer of ideas from 'labs' to real environment. Similarly, by helping urban governments interact with citizens, the platform will ensure adoption of tested solutions that will be impactful and sustainable.

The platform in due time will help our cities in adopting solutions that will enhance the quality of life for its residents and significantly improve the Ease of Doing Business.

The Platform has more than 400 start-ups, 100 smart cities, more than 150 challenges statements and over 215 solutions at the time of launch.

Article reference: [City Innovation Exchange \(CiX\) Launched for Fostering Innovation in Urban Ecosystem](#)

Q.108) As per recent verdicts of Supreme court of India, Government is liable to follow certain conditions to extend reservation to SC/STs in promotion:

1. State has to provide proof for the backwardness of the class benefitting from the reservation.
2. State has to collect quantifiable data showing inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment.
3. State has to show how reservations in promotions would further administrative efficiency.

Which of the above condition should be fulfilled to expand reservation in promotion?

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

Q.108) Solution (b)**Explanation**

Supreme Court in M. Nagaraj vs. Union of India (2006) validated parliament's decision to extend reservations for SCs and STs to include promotions with three conditions:

1. State has to provide proof for the backwardness of the class benefitting from the reservation.
2. State has to collect quantifiable data showing inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment
3. State has to show how reservations in promotions would further administrative efficiency.

Supreme Court in Jarnail Singh v. Lachhmi Narain Gupta (2018) held that the government need not collect quantifiable data to demonstrate backwardness of public employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) to provide reservations for them in promotions.

So now, Government need to follow just two conditions except quantifiable data for backwardness under Nagaraj Case (2006)

Article link: [Ignoring merit in public job selection violation of Constitution: Supreme Court](#)

Q.109) Consider the following statements regarding 'Multi-drug Resistance' –

1. It is caused by over or under antimicrobial treatment.
2. It is also caused by usage of over the counter drugs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) All of the Above
- d) None of the Above

Q.109) Solution (c)**Basics****Multiple drug resistance (MDR)**

Multiple drug resistance is antimicrobial resistance shown by a species of microorganism to at least one antimicrobial drug in three or more antimicrobial categories. Antimicrobial categories are classifications of antimicrobial agents based on their mode of action and specific to target organisms. The MDR types most threatening to public health are MDR bacteria that resist multiple antibiotics; other types include MDR viruses, parasites (resistant to multiple antifungal, antiviral, and ant parasitic drugs of a wide chemical variety).

Causes of Multi-Drug Resistance

- Inappropriate Use - Selection of resistant microorganisms is exacerbated by inappropriate use of antimicrobials.
- Inadequate Diagnostics
- Hospital Use - Heavier use of antimicrobials in critically ill patients can worsen the problem by selecting for antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms.
- Agricultural Use
- Scientists also believe that the practice of adding antibiotics to agricultural feed promotes drug resistance.
- Constant use of Over the counter drugs - may lead to inappropriate composition of drug, which promotes multi-drug resistance.

Article link: [Global travellers exposed to a greater burden of multidrug-resistant bacteria: study](#)

Q.110) 'Cremanthodium indicum' plant species endemic to Himalayas has been discovered in:

- a) Sikkim
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.110) Solution (d)

Cremanthodium indicum, plant species which generally flowers from July to August, is endemic to Penga-Teng Tso Lake of Tawang district, has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.

The alpine plant species is assessed as critically endangered, according to the IUCN guidelines.

It is a perennial herb and stands 16–24 cm tall. Cremanthodium indica grows in boggy soil among mosses along the banks of alpine lake. The new species belongs to the family of Himalayan sunflower.

Article link: [New alpine plant species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh](#)

Q.111) Consider the following statements about the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

1. It is under the administrative control of Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2. It is responsible for approval of new Drugs and conduct of Clinical Trials including the quality control of imported drugs in the country

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.111) Solution (c)

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India. Its headquarter is located at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi and also has six zonal offices, four sub zonal offices, thirteen Port offices and seven laboratories spread across the country.

The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules 1945 have entrusted various responsibilities to central & state regulators for regulation of drugs & cosmetics. It envisages uniform implementation of the provisions of the Act & Rules made there under for ensuring the safety, rights and well being of the patients by regulating the drugs and cosmetics. CDSCO is constantly thriving upon to bring out transparency, accountability and uniformity in its services in order to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of the medical product manufactured, imported and distributed in the country.

Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, CDSCO is responsible for approval of New Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Further CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

Article reference: [Bharat Biotech asked to submit Covid-19 vaccine efficacy data before testing on children](#)

Q.112) “Swiss challenge” sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) Municipal solid waste management
- b) Awarding government contracts for the projects

- c) Replacing conventional energy sources with the solar energy
- d) Gender budgeting

Q.112) Solution (b)

A Swiss Challenge is a method of bidding, often used in public projects, in which an interested party initiates a proposal for a contract or the bid for a project. The government then puts the details of the project out in the public and invites proposals from others interested in executing it. On the receipt of these bids, the original contractor gets an opportunity to match the best bid.

Applied to the ongoing bankruptcy cases, a Swiss Challenge may entail two rounds of bidding for a distressed company or its assets. Assume that Company A wins the first round of bidding by a quoting a price of ₹5,000 crore for a power plant. This will be made public and a second set of bids invited. If Company B quotes ₹5,500 crore, Company A will be offered a second opportunity to match it. If it refuses, Company B would be declared the winning bidder. If Company A steps up, then it will bag the power plant at ₹5,500 crore.

Article reference: [Bad bank may follow Swiss challenge method for price discovery of assets](#)

Q.113) World Press freedom Index is released by which of the following?

- a) Amnesty International
- b) Reporters without Borders
- c) Transparency International
- d) INSEAD and Cornell University

Q.113) Solution (b)

Published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) since 2002, the World Press Freedom Index measures the level of media freedom in 180 countries. It assesses the level of pluralism, media independence, the environment for the media and self-censorship, the legal framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information. It does not evaluate government policy.

The global indicator and the regional indicators are calculated on the basis of the scores registered for each country. These country scores are calculated from the answers to a questionnaire in 20 languages that is completed by experts throughout the world, supported by a qualitative analysis. The scores measure constraints and violations, so the higher the score, the worse the situation. Because of growing awareness of the Index, it is an extremely useful advocacy tool.

India made its debut on this index in 2013 at 140 out of 180 countries. The rankings gradually improved, reaching 136 in 2017. However, the ranking has since slipped back to 142 in the 2020 index. The report claims that violence against journalists, including police violence, attacks by Maoist fighters and retaliation by corrupt politicians and criminal outfits is the current state of press freedom in India.

Article link: [Indiscriminate application of sedition law](#)

Q.114) Consider the following statements with respect to World Customs Organisation (WCO)

1. It is an United Nations body to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations
2. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium
3. It is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.114) Solution (b)

The World Customs Organization (WCO), established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.

As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters and can rightly call itself the voice of the international Customs community.

The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions. Each of the six Regions is represented by a regionally elected Vice-Chairperson to the WCO Council.

Q.115) With reference to the parliament of India, which of the following Parliamentary committees scrutinizes the assurances, promises, undertakings etc. given by ministers from time to time and report to the respective house and see whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose?

- a) Committee on Government Assurances
- b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
- c) Business Advisory Committee
- d) Committee on Public Accounts

Q.115) Solution (a)

Committee on Government Assurances

This committee scrutinizes the assurances, promises, undertakings etc. given by ministers from time to time and to report to the respective house and to see whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose. The committee consists of 15 members in Lok Sabha and 10 members in Rajya Sabha.



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