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PRELIMS 2021

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Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Central Zoo Authority (CZA):

1. It is a statutory body constituted under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. An expert from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi is appointed as a chairperson of the CZA.
3. It identifies endangered species of wild animals for purposes of captive breeding.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.1) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It was constituted in 1992 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.	The Authority consists of Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as Chairperson , ten members and a Member Secretary. Recently, the MoEFCC has reconstituted the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) to include an expert from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and a molecular biologist.	Functions of CZA: Evaluate and assess the functioning of the zoos with respect to the prescribed standards or norms; To recognize or derecognize zoos; To identify endangered species of wild animals for purposes of captive breeding and assigning responsibility in this regard to a zoo; To coordinate the acquisition, exchange and loaning of animals for breeding purpose; To provide technical and other assistance to zoos for their proper management and development on scientific lines.

Q.2) Identify the painting based on the following description.

It is a traditional Indian painting mostly done by women. Cotton wrapped around bamboo stick is used as brush to paint both mythology and natural objects. It belongs to Eastern Indian region.

- a) Pattachitra
- b) Paitkar Painting
- c) Madhubani painting
- d) Kalighat Painting

Q.2) Solution (c)

Madhubani painting is a traditional Indian painting. Madhubani literally means “forests of honey”.

Madhubani belongs to Mithila region in the areas of Indo-Nepal border across Bihar.

Madhubani paintings include both mythology and natural objects like sun, moon, plants etc. Mostly done by women.

In Madhubani paintings, cotton wrapped around bamboo stick is used as brush.

In Madhubani paintings, the work is done on freshly plastered mud walls. Now a days, for commercial purposes, it is done on cloth and paper also.

In Madhubani, different colours are obtained in different ways. For e.g. black from mixture of soot and cow dung, white from mixture of rice powder etc. It has got GI tag.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Mission to Mars</i>	<i>By</i>
1. Mars 2020	European Space Agency (ESA)
2. Hope Mission	UAE
3. Tianwen1	China

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q.3) Solution (b)

MARS ventures of 2020

1. Tianwen1 – China
2. Mars 2020 - United States (NASA)
3. Emirates Mars Mission/ Hope probe mission - UAE

Q.4) Artificial Intelligence-based platform, ASEEM Portal will bridge demand-supply gap of which of the following?

- a) Skilled workforce
- b) Electricity generated
- c) Coal
- d) Food grains

Q.4) Solution (a)

Explanation:

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched **Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)** portal and App to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- ASEEM portal is Artificial Intelligence-based platform which will map details of workers based on regions and local industry demands and **will bridge demand-supply gap of skilled workforce across sectors.**
- ASEEM portal will provide employers a platform to assess the availability of skilled workforce and formulate their hiring plans.
- It is developed and managed by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with Bengaluru-based company Betterplace.

Q.5) With reference to Scheme for Promotion of Medical Device Parks, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. Maximum grant-in-aid for one Medical Device Park will be limited to Rs 1000 crore.
3. It will be implemented by a State Implementing Agency (SIA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Scheme for Promotion of Medical Device Parks is a Central Sector Scheme , with a total financial outlay of Rs. 400 Crore, which will support establishment of 4 Medical Device Parks. State Government shall be responsible for submission of Project Report and providing all project related clearances. A State Government can make only one proposal of Medical Device Park.	One-time grant-in-aid will be provided for creation of common infrastructure facilities in selected Medical Device Park proposed by a State Government. It will be 90% of the project cost in case of North-East and hilly States and UTs and 70% in case of other States. Maximum grant-in-aid for one Medical Device Park will be limited to Rs 100 crore.	The Scheme for Promotion of Medical Device Parks will be implemented by a State Implementing Agency (SIA).

Q.6) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to 'eSanjeevani'?

- a) It is a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution.
- b) It is an initiative to promote traditional medicines.
- c) It is an initiative to promote mechanized agriculture.
- d) It is portal to file Income Tax returns.

Q.6) Solution (a)

It is a national telemedicine service that offers tele-consultations enabling patient to doctor consultations from the confines of their home, as well as doctor to doctor consultations.

This eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.

Q.7) With reference to Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), consider the following statements:

1. MPI is developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank.
2. All 10 indicators of MPI have equal weightage in calculating the index.
3. A person is multidimensionally poor if she/he is deprived in one half or more of the weighted indicators.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
2020 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human	MPI uses three dimensions and ten indicators which are: 1) Education: Years of schooling and child enrollment (1/6 weightage each, total 2/6); 2) Health: Child mortality and nutrition (1/6 weightage each, total 2/6); 3) Standard of living: Electricity, flooring, drinking water,	A person is multi-dimensionally poor if she/he is deprived in one third or more (means 33% or more) of the weighted indicators (out of the ten indicators). Those who are deprived in one half or more of the weighted

Development Initiative (OPHI).	sanitation, cooking fuel and assets (1/18 weightage each, total 2/6).	indicators are considered living in extreme multidimensional poverty.
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Q.8) Which of the following port city of Iran occupies a strategic position on the narrow Strait of Hormuz?

- a) Bandar-e Jask
- b) Chabahar
- c) Bandar-e Lengeh
- d) Bandar-e Abbas

Q.8) Solution (d)

Bandar Abbas is a port city of Iran, on the Persian Gulf. The city occupies a strategic position on the narrow Strait of Hormuz.

Bandar-e-Jask is a port town situated on the Gulf of Oman. Iran has offered interests to China in this port located just 350km away from Chabahar.



Q.9) The terms 'Blackrock, Xerxes, LokiBot' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are

related to

- a) Exo-planets
- b) Crypto-currency
- c) Malwares
- d) Mini satellites

Q.9) Solution (c)

Explanation:

- Blackrock is a new malware which can steal information like passwords and credit card information from about 377 smartphone applications, including Amazon, Facebook, Gmail etc.
- BlackRock is a banking Trojan and said to be an enhanced version of existing Xerxes malware which itself is a variant of the LokiBot Android trojan.
- Malware is the collective name for a number of malicious software variants, including viruses, ransomware and spyware.

Q.10) With reference to International Comparison Program (ICP), consider the following statements:

1. It tries to make different countries comparable by calculating net carbon emissions and assess implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
2. It is managed by the World Bank.
3. NITI Aayog is the National Implementing Agency (NIA) for India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.10) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect

<p>The International Comparison Program (ICP) is the largest worldwide data-collection initiative, under the guidance of UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), with the goal of producing Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) which are vital for converting measures of economic activities to be comparable across economies. Along with the PPPs, the ICP also produces Price Level Indices (PLI) and other regionally comparable aggregates of GDP expenditure. The ICP tries to make different countries GDPs comparable by calculating them in PPP both currency converters and spatial price deflators.</p>	<p>It is managed by the World Bank under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and relies on a partnership of international, regional, sub-regional, and national agencies. Recently World Bank released new PPPs for the reference year 2017, under the ICP. The next ICP comparison will be conducted for the reference year 2021.</p>	<p>India has participated in almost all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is National Implementing Agency (NIA) for India, which has the responsibility of planning, coordinating and implementing national ICP activities. India is also proud to have been a co-Chair of the ICP Governing Board along with Statistics Austria for the ICP 2017 cycle.</p>
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Q.11) Who among the following heads the Cabinet Committee on Security?

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

Q.11) 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

Q.12) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is associated with –

- a) providing housing loan to poor people at cheaper interest rates
- b) skill development initiative scheme of the Government of India
- c) promoting financial inclusion in the country
- d) providing financial help to the marginalized communities

Q.12) Solution (b)

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a skill development initiative scheme of the Government of India for recognition and standardisation of skills.

The aim of the PMKVY scheme is to encourage aptitude towards employable skills and to increase working efficiency of probable and existing daily wage earners, by giving monetary awards and rewards and by providing quality training to them.

Q.13) In the line of 'One Nation – One Scheme' theme, the Government of India had launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY). Which of the following are the objectives of this scheme?

1. To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
2. To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
3. To ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY), which is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme was launched in 2016.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
- To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- To ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Implemented by: Empanelled general insurance companies.

Administered by: Ministry of Agriculture

The scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan /KCC account for notified crops and voluntary for others.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN):

1. It is a credit protocol infrastructure.
2. It would democratise lending and enable small borrowers to avail funds easily.
3. It will act as a common language for lenders and marketplaces to utilise and create innovative, financial credit products at scale.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.14) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct

Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN) is a credit protocol infrastructure , which will mediate the interactions between loan service providers, usually fintech and mainstream lenders, including all large banks and NBFCs. It is developed by a think tank, Indian Software Products Industry Round Table (iSPIRT).	OCEN will democratise credit and enable small borrowers to avail funds easily. With this, a credit will become more accessible for a large number of entrepreneurs and small businesses in the country.	OCEN will act as a common language for lenders and marketplaces to utilise and create innovative, financial credit products at scale.
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Q.15) Consider the following pairs:

Channel or Strait	Separates
1. Sombrero Channel	Great Nicobar and Little Nicobar islands
2. Ten Degree Channel	Andaman and Nicobar islands
3. Duncan Passage	Great Andaman and Little Andaman islands

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

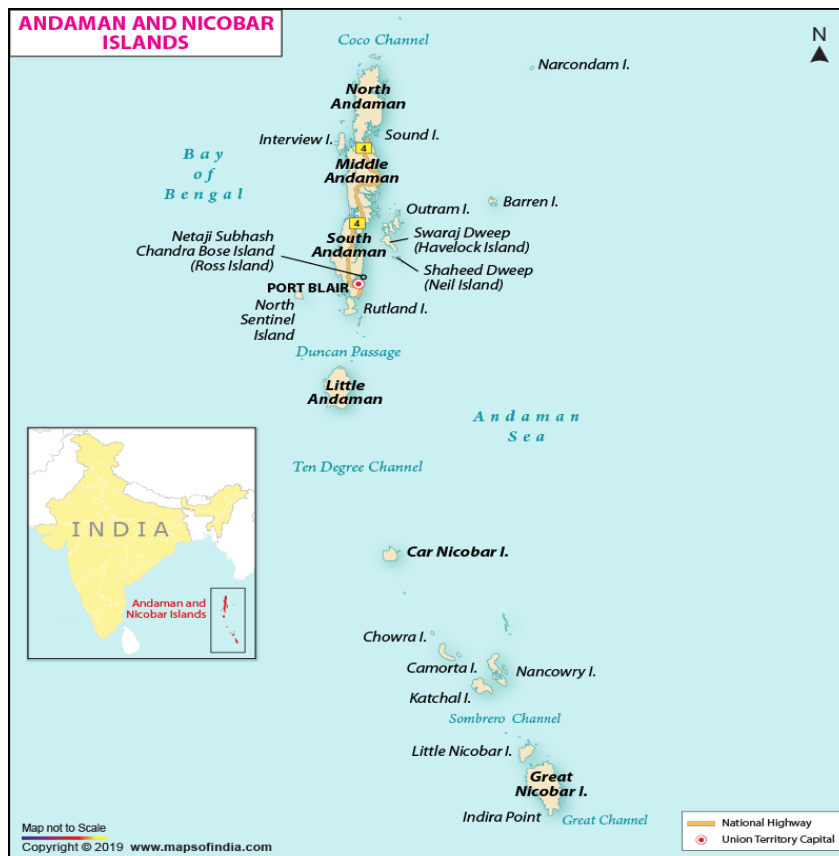
- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.15) Solution (c)

The **Ten Degree Channel** is a channel that separates the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands from each other in the Bay of Bengal.

Duncan Passage is a strait in the Indian Ocean. It separates Rutland Island (part of Great Andaman) to the north, and Little Andaman to the south.

Sombrero Channel separates the central and south groups of the Nicobar Islands. It lies north of Little Nicobar Island.



Q.16) Consider the following statements about Red Sanders:

1. Red Sanders is an endemic tree of South India.
2. They are found in Tropical Moist Deciduous forest.
3. IUCN has put it under the category of Endangered (EN) species in the Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Pterocarpus santalinus or Red Sanders is an endemic tree of South India . Red Sanders usually grow in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and hot and dry climate.	They are found in Tropical Dry Deciduous forest of the Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.	The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has put it under the category of Near Threatened (NT) from earlier Endangered (EN) species in the Red List. It is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Q.17) Which of the following protected area is often referred as 'The Amazon of East'?

- a) Khangchendzonga National Park
- b) Manas Tiger Reserve
- c) Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Namdapha National Park

Q.17) Solution (c)

Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam is referred as '**The Amazon of East**'. Dehing is the name of the river that flows through this forest and Patkai is the hill at the foot of which the sanctuary lies.

The Sanctuary is a part of the Dehing-Patkai Elephant Reserve, along with the Stillwell Road and the oldest refinery of Asia in Digboi and 'open cast' coal mining at Lido.

Q.18) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)?

1. It is an intergovernmental organization.
2. It was established by the international treaty called 'The Rome Statute'.
3. India is not a member of PCA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.18) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States.	PCA was established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague in 1899. International Criminal Court (ICC) is governed by an international treaty called 'The Rome Statute'.	The PCA has a three-part organizational structure consisting of: Administrative Council- to oversee its policies and budgets; Members of the Court- a panel of independent potential arbitrators, and International Bureau- its Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General. The PCA has 121 member states. India is a party of the PCA.

Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PM SVANidhi Scheme'.

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It aims at facilitating collateral free working capital loans to street vendors.
3. Only public scheduled commercial banks can provide loans under this scheme.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.19) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
It was launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs under the ambit of 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.	It aims at facilitating collateral free working capital loans upto Rs 10,000 of 1-year tenure, to about 50 lakh street vendors in the urban areas, including those from the surrounding peri-urban/rural areas, to resume their businesses post COVID-19 lockdown.	PM SVANidhi Scheme envisages bringing 'Banks at the door steps' of these 'nano-entrepreneurs' by engaging the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and the Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) as lending institutions in addition to Scheduled Commercial Banks - Public & Private, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Banks, SHG Banks etc.

Q.20) The producer support estimate (PSE), an indicator of the annual monetary value of gross transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers, are updated and published annually by –

- a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- b) Food and Agriculture Organization
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Department of Economic Affairs

Q.20) Solution (a)

The **producer support estimate (PSE)** is an indicator of the annual monetary value of gross transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers, measured at the farm gate

level, arising from policy measures that support agriculture, regardless of their nature, objectives or impacts on farm production or income. Examples include market price support, and payments based on output, area planted, animal numbers, inputs, or farm income.

PSEs, which are updated and published annually by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, can be expressed in monetary terms: as a ratio to the value of gross farm receipts valued at farm gate prices, including budgetary support (percentage PSE); or, as a ratio to the value of gross farm receipts valued at world market prices, without budgetary support.

OECD's Producer Support Estimate (PSE) is the only available source of internationally comparable information on support levels in agriculture.

Q.21) The 'State of the World Population 2020' report is released by which of the following?

- a) Population Action International
- b) Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- c) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- d) World Bank

Q.21) Solution (c)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released the 'State of the World Population 2020' report, titled 'Against my will: defying the practices that harm women and girls and undermine equality'.

- UNFPA is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establish its mandate.
- UNFPA is not supported by the UN budget, instead, it is entirely supported by voluntary contributions of donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, foundations and individuals.
- 'The World Population Prospects report' is published by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

Q.22) Which of the following are the most likely places to find the Black Panther in its natural habitat?

1. Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Keibul Lamjao National Park
3. Askot wildlife sanctuary
4. Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.22) Solution (d)

Recently, a Black Panther was spotted in **Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary**, Karnataka.

In India, the Black Panthers are rarely spotted, and hence are also called 'ghosts of the forest'.

Black Panther refers to large felines (family of cats) that are characterized by a coat of black fur or large concentrations of black spots. A melanistic leopard is often called black panther.

Areas where black panther has been spotted earlier: Periyar Tiger Reserve (Kerala); Bhadra Tiger Reserve, Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve (Karnataka); Achanakmar Tiger Reserve (Chhattisgarh); **Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary** and Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary (Goa); Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu); Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)

Q.23) With reference to recently launched Green-Ag Project, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring farms under sustainable land and water management.
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the national executing agency of the project.
3. The Green Climate Fund provides funds for the project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Q.23) Solution (a)

The Union government has launched the **Green-Ag Project** in Mizoram, to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices. Mizoram is one of the five states where the project will be implemented. Other states include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Green-Ag Project aims to bring at least 104,070 ha of farms under sustainable land and water management and ensure 49 million Carbon dioxides equivalent sequestered or reduced through sustainable land use and agricultural practices.	The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare is the national executing agency. Other key players involved in its implementation are Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).	It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Q.24) Consider the following statements about RAISE national programme:

1. It aims to ensure cleaner and greener office spaces in the country.
2. It is a joint initiative of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and US Agency for International Development's (USAID).

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)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>“Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency” (RAISE) national programme focuses on improving indoor air quality, thermal comfort, and energy efficiency in air conditioning system. It can potentially alleviate the issue of bad air quality in workspaces across the nation and pioneer ways to make them healthier and greener.</p>	<p>RAISE initiative is a joint initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and the US Agency for International Development’s (USAID).</p>

Q.25) The term BELYO, recently seen in news is related to

- a) Blockchain platform
- b) Extra-terrestrial object
- c) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- d) Satellite Launch Vehicle

Q.25) Solution (a)

BELYO is **country’s first COVID-19 blockchain platform** which will convert COVID-19-related clinical and vaccination data of citizens currently from the physical form into digital assets.

It is developed by BelfricsBT, a global blockchain start-up, along with YoSync, a start-up incubated at IIIT Bangalore.

Q.26) Consider the following pairs:

Mega Food Park	State
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1. Greentech	Rajasthan
2. Zoram	Assam
3. Paithan	Maharashtra

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

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

Q.26) Solution (b)

Greentech Mega Food park, Ajmer, Rajasthan

Zoram Mega Food Park, Kolasib, Mizoram.

Paithan Mega Food Park, Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

Q.27) With reference to Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a statutory body.
- 2. It can recall goods or withdraw services that are dangerous, hazardous or unsafe.
- 3. It has suo moto powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.27) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is being constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Hence CCPA is a Statutory Body . The objective of the CCPA is to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.	Under the act, CCPA will have powers to recall goods or withdrawal of services that are "dangerous, hazardous or unsafe; pass an order for refund the prices of goods or services so recalled to purchasers of such goods or services; and discontinuation of practices which are unfair and prejudicial to consumer's interest".	The CCPA will have the powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisement.

The CCPA can file complaints of violation of consumer rights or unfair trade practices before the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

The CCPA will issue safety notices to alert consumers against dangerous or hazardous or unsafe goods or services.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations
2. It publishes the World Drug Report

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q.28) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a UN office that was established in 1997. It is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and not a specialized agency of the UN.	UNODC acts as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations Office at Vienna. It publishes the World Drug Report.

The main themes that UNODC deals with are: Alternative Development, anti-corruption, Criminal Justice, Prison Reform and Crime Prevention, Drug Prevention, -Treatment and Care, HIV and AIDS, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, Money Laundering, Organized Crime, Piracy, Terrorism Prevention.

Q.29) Recently declared Indigenous Mango Heritage Area, Kannapuram is located in which of the following State?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
b) Karnataka
c) Kerala
d) Tamil Nadu

Q.29) Solution (c)

Recently, **Kannapuram Panchayat in Kannur town in Kerala** has been declared as Indigenous Mango Heritage Area. Kannapuram is home to over 200 varieties of mangoes including various indigenous mango varieties.

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board has identified the area as heritage zone in coordination with the Kannapuram grama panchayat.

Q.30) Match the following components of Accelerate Vigyan scheme launched recently to strengthen scientific research mechanisms in the country:

Components	Deals with
1. SANGOSHTI	A. Research Internships
2. VRITIKA	B. Organisation of workshops
3. KARYASHALA	C. High-End Workshops
4. SAYONJIKA	D. Catalogue the capacity building activities

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 – D; 2 – C; 3 – A; 4 – B
- b) 1 – B; 2 – C; 3 – A; 4 – D
- c) 1 – D; 2 – A; 3 – C; 4 – B
- d) 1 – B; 2 – A; 3 – C; 4 – D

Q.30) Solution (d)

Recently, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) launched '**Accelerate Vigyan**' scheme to push scientific research.

It is an attempt to boost research and development in the country by enabling and grooming potential PG/PhD students by means of developing their research skills in selected areas across different disciplines or fields.

Components of the 'Accelerate Vigyan' scheme:

- ABHYAAS: To enable and groom potential PG/PhD students by developing their research skills in selected areas across different disciplines or fields.
 - **KARYASHALA** - High-End Workshops

- **VRITIKA** - Research Internships
- **SAMMOHAN** programme: To encourage, aggregate and consolidate all scientific interactions in the country under one common roof.
 - **SAYONJIKA** – to catalogue capacity building activities in science and technology supported by all government funding agencies.
 - **SANGOSHTI** – to facilitate the scientific community to establish an interaction with other individuals and research groups to enhance knowledge exchange.

Q.31) 'Mitakshara' is associated with

- a) Yajnavalkya
- b) Poetics
- c) Grammar
- d) Drama

Q.31) Solution (a)

The Mitākṣarā is a vivṛti (legal commentary) on the Yajnavalkya Smṛiti best known for its theory of "inheritance by birth."

Why was this question asked? - SC's verdict on Hindu women's inheritance rights

Q.32) Which of the following country launched Innovation Challenge Fund in India which aims to support scientists to tackle the most acute global challenges like Covid-19?

- a) Japan
- b) USA
- c) United Kingdom (UK)
- d) Netherlands

Q.32) Solution (c)

United Kingdom (UK) launched £3 million **Innovation Challenge Fund** in India.

- The Innovation Challenge Fund aims to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the most acute global challenges like Covid-19 and the threat to the environment.
- Grants under the Fund are part of initiative under the Tech Partnership known as Tech Clusters. Tech Clusters will support the development of Indian Tech Clusters by breaking down barriers to growth, including building international links.

Q.33) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Festival</i>	<i>Celebrated in</i>
1. Nuakhai Juhar	Odisha
2. Pulikkali	Tamil Nadu
3. Thumbimahotsavam	Kerala

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural festival to welcome the new crop of the season and is celebrated in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and areas of neighbouring states.

Pulikkali is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala. It is performed by trained artists to entertain people on the occasion of Onam, an annual harvest festival.

Thumbimahotsavam 2020 is first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala.

Q.34) The National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system is launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Rural Development
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q.34) Solution (d)

A prototype of the **National GIS-enabled Land Bank System** was e-launched by **Commerce and Industry Ministry** for six States based on which land can be identified for setting up industries.

It is being developed by integration of Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS Systems. IIS aims to provide details of logistics, land, rail & air connectivity, tax incentives, drainage system, power supply and raw material availability from portal on various industrial belts.

The initiative has been supported by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), National Centre of Geo-Informatics (NCoG), Invest India, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG), and Ministry of Electronics and Informational Technology.

Q.35) 'Indian Society of Oriental Art' was founded by

- a) Rabindranath Tagore
- b) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- c) Swami Vivekananda
- d) Abinindranath Tagore

Q.35) Solution (d)

Abanindranath Tagore was the principal artist and creator of the "Indian Society of Oriental Art". His brother Gaganendranath Tagore also helped him with this.

Q.36) Nation-wide plantation drive Harit Bharat Sankalp was recently undertaken by which of the following?

- a) Indian Railways
- b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- c) Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

- d) Indian Institute of Forest Management

Q.36) Solution (b)

Nation-wide plantation drive, **Harit Bharat Sankalp**, under which **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of National Highways.

NHAI has developed a mobile App called 'Harit Path' to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of its field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.

Q.37) India's first International Women's Trade Centre will be setup in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Kerala
- c) Goa
- d) Delhi

Q.37) Solution (b)

Kerala will set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC), in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at Angamaly.

It aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing women with a safe place to start new businesses, and get their products marketed globally.

Q.38) With reference to TRIFOOD Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Under this scheme Minor Forest Produce tertiary processing units will be set up.
2. It is implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Ministry of Food Processing.

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.38) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
TRIFOOD Scheme is a joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. Being implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Ministry of Food Processing (MoFPI), TRIFOOD aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and value addition to the MFPs collected by the tribal forest gatherers.	Under this scheme Minor Forest Produce tertiary processing units will be set up. Recently Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) launched the tertiary processing centres of Trifood Project, in Raigad (Maharashtra) and Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh).

Q.39) Nationally Determined Contributions- Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC- TIA) project that aims to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport engages which of the following countries?

1. India
2. China
3. Russia
4. Japan
5. Vietnam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.39) Solution (b)

Nationally Determined Contributions- Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC- TIA) project aims at promoting a coherent strategy of effective policies for decarbonising transport that are co-ordinate among various sector ministries, civil society and the private sector.

- Project engages in **China, India and Vietnam** over the period 2020-24.
- NITI Aayog is the implementing partner in India.
- It is a joint project of seven organisations including World Resources Institute, International Transport Forum, and International Council on Clean Transportation etc.

Q.40) Recently the longest river ropeway was constructed on which of the following rivers?

- a) Indus
- b) Narmada
- c) Brahmaputra
- d) Sutlej

Q.40) Solution (c)

The Assam government has inaugurated a **1.8-km ropeway across the Brahmaputra River**.

- It is being described as India's longest river ropeway.
- It Connects KachariGhat (Guwahati) to DolGovinda Temple on the northern bank.
- It passes the famous Umananda temple on a small island.
- The ropeway uses a "twin-track, single-haul, bi-cable double reversible jig back" system.

Q.41) With reference to Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Commerce and Industry releases the Index.
2. Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan has topped the index followed by Telangana.

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.41) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) report 2020 to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states. The structure of the EPI includes 4 pillars: Policy; Business Ecosystem; Export Ecosystem; Export Performance and 11 sub-pillars.	Overall, most of the Coastal States are the best performers. Gujarat has topped the overall EPI 2020 followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan has topped the index, followed by Telangana and Haryana. Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand topped the index, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh. Across Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best.

Q.42) The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) is centered around which of the following pillars?

1. Trade connectivity and maritime transport
2. Maritime security
3. Disaster risk reduction and management
4. Climate resilience and Sustainability
5. Science and Technology cooperation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.42) Solution (b)

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) is an initiative launched by Prime Minister at the East Asia Summit in Thailand in November 2019.

- The initiative is centred around seven pillars including **maritime security**; maritime ecology; maritime resources; capacity building and resource sharing; **disaster risk reduction and management**; **science, technology, and academic cooperation**; and **trade connectivity and maritime transport**.
- Recently India has called on Vietnam to partner on one of the seven pillars of the IPOI.

Q.43) With reference to National Recruitment Agency (NRA), consider the following statements:

1. It is registered as a society under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. It is a testing agency which would conduct the Common Eligibility Examination (CET) for gazetted Group B and C posts.
3. NRA conducts CET in all the 22 scheduled languages.

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

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

Q.43) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will be a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 , headed by a Chairman of the rank of the Secretary to the Government of India.	NRA is a testing agency which would conduct the Common Eligibility Examination (CET) for non-gazetted Group B and C posts .	The examinations will be conducted in 12 languages and will be based on a common curriculum. CET will be held twice a year with different CETs for graduate level, 12th Pass level and 10th pass level to facilitate recruitment to vacancies at various levels. CET score will be valid for three years.


Q.44) Consider the following statements about Warli Paintings:

1. It is a traditional art form of Maharashtra.
2. It depicts mythological characters or images of deities.

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.44) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>Warli is a traditional art form of Maharashtra whose roots can be traced to as early as the 10th century A.D.</p> 	<p>Warli Paintings expresses daily and social events of Warli tribe of Maharashtra. These paintings do not depict mythological characters or images of deities, but depict social life. Images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life are created in a loose rhythmic pattern. These paintings are mainly dominated by basic geometric shapes like circles, triangles and squares. Women are mainly engaged in the creation of these paintings.</p>

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. It provides short to medium term debt financing facility.
3. Only post harvest management projects are eligible for finances under it.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q.45) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) is a Central Sector Scheme, under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. The Scheme will be operational from 2020-21 to 2029-30. Beneficiaries include farmers, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects etc.</p>	<p>AIF provide medium - long term debt financing facility through interest subvention and credit guarantee for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.</p>	<p>Eligible projects include: Post Harvest Management Projects like: Supply chain services including e-marketing platforms, Warehouses, Silos, Sorting & grading units, Cold chains, Logistics facilities etc. Building community farming assets like Organic inputs production, Infrastructure for smart and precision agriculture, supply chain infrastructure for clusters of crops including export clusters etc.</p>

Q.46) The Galapagos Islands is a part of which of the following country?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) Colombia
- d) Ecuador

Q.46) Solution (d)

- The **Galapagos Islands**, spread over almost 60,000 sq km, are a part of **Ecuador**, and are located in the Pacific Ocean around 1,000 km away from the South American continent.
- The giant tortoises found here – ‘Galápagos’ in old Spanish– give the islands its name.

- Ecuador made a part of the Galapagos a wildlife sanctuary in 1935, and the sanctuary became the Galapagos National Park in 1959. In 1978, the islands became **UNESCO's first World Heritage Site**.
- The Galapagos Islands host a wide array of aquatic wildlife, including marine iguanas, fur seals, and waved albatrosses.



Q.47) Recently, for the first time in our country, which of the following states has declared a particular mangrove as 'State mangrove tree'?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Odisha
- c) Maharashtra
- d) West Bengal

Q.47) Solution (c)

- **Maharashtra is the first Indian state to declare *Sonneratia alba* as state mangrove tree as symbol of conservation.**
- *Sonneratia alba* or mangrove apple is an evergreen mangrove species found along the Maharashtra's coastline.
- Maharashtra already has the state tree (mango), state animal (giant squirrel), state bird (green pigeon), state butterfly (Blue Mormon), and state flower (jarul).

Q.48) Which of the following Convention of International Labour Organization (ILO) has become the first international labour standard ever to achieve universal ratification?

- a) Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
- b) Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)
- c) Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
- d) Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)

Q.48) Solution (b)

- All 187 countries that are members of the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) have now ratified a **convention No. 182** to protect children from the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, prostitution and trafficking. The Pacific island nation Tonga became the final country to ratify the treaty.
- Thus Convention No. 182 has become the first international labour standard ever to achieve universal ratification.

Q.49) With reference to 6th schedule of Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Tribal areas constituted as autonomous districts fall outside the executive authority of the State concerned.
2. The Governor of the State is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
3. Majority of the members of Autonomous District Council are elected on the basis of adult franchise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.49) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The Constitution, under Sixth Schedule, contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The tribal areas have been constituted as autonomous districts. But, they do not fall outside the executive authority of the state concerned.	The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. Thus, he can increase or decrease their areas or change their names or define their boundaries and so on.	Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members , of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise . The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.

Q.50) Which of the following statements regarding National Council for Transgender Persons is *NOT* correct?

- It is a statutory body.
- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment is the ex-officio Chairman of the Council.
- Both transgender community and experts from non-governmental organisations are represented in the Council.
- The members of the council shall hold office for a term of five years.

Q.50) Solution (d)

- The National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP) is the **statutory body** of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting transgender persons. It was established in 2020 under the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- The Council will be headed by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment (ex-officio)** and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment will be Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio).

- The council will have joint secretary-level members from the Ministries of Health, Home, Minority Affairs, Education, Rural Development, Labour And Law. In addition, there will be a member from the department of pensions, NITI Aayog, National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women.
- **Five representatives from the transgender community and five experts, from non-governmental organisations.**
- Representatives from five states or Union Territories, on a rotational basis, will be members of the commission. The first such clutch comprises Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tripura and Gujarat.
- **The members of the council other than the ex officio members, shall hold office for a term of three years.** Hence Option (d) is incorrect.

Q.51) Consider the following pairs:

Mangrove sites	States
1. Coringa, East Godavari, Krishna	Andhra Pradesh
2. Achra-Ratnagirii, Vaitarna	Gujarat
3. Bhitarkanika and Subernarekha	Odisha
4. Pichavaram and Pulicat	Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q.51) solution (a)

Explanation

Important mangrove sites and their location

State/Union Territories	Mangrove Sites
1. West Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunderbans
2. Orissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhaitarkanika • Mahanadi • Subarnarekha • Devi-Kauda • Dhamra • Mangrove Genetic Resources Centre • Chilka
3. Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coringa • East Godavari • Krishna
4. Andaman & Nicobar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Andaman Nicobar
5. Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pichavaram • Muthupet • Ramnad • Pulicat Kaznuveli
6. Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vembanad • Kannur

7. Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coondapur • Dakshin Kannada/ Hannavar • Karwar • Mangalore Forest Division
8. Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achra-Ratnagiri • Dev garh-Vijay • Durg • Veldur • Kundalika-Revdnada • Mumbra-Diva • Vikroli • Shreevardhan • Vaitarna • Vasai-Manori • Malvan
9. Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulf of Kutchh • Gulf of Khambhat • Dumas-Ubhrat

Q.52) Consider the following pairs:

Sea Port	Country
1. Sabang	Myanmar
2. Duqm	Iran
3. Changi	Malaysia

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.52) Solution (d)

Sabang Port – Indonesia

Duqm port – Oman

Port of Changi – Singapore

Q.53) Which of the following is the Cleanest capital city as per the Swachh Survekshan 2020?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Panaji
- c) Bengaluru
- d) Gandhinagar

Q.53) Solution (a)

Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards are an annual ranking exercise taken up by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

- It seeks to assess urban areas of country on their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in a timely & innovative manner.
- Indore emerged as the cleanest Indian city fourth time in a row followed by Surat.
- Cleanest State of India (> 100 Urban Local Bodies category) : Chhattisgarh.
- Cleanest State of India (<100 ULB category) : Jharkhand
- Cleanest town along the banks of river Ganga: Varanasi
- **Cleanest capital city: New Delhi** (Union Territory of New Delhi) and the NDMC.
- Cleanest city with over 40 lakh population: Ahmedabad

Q.54) Which of the following is/are the advantages/benefits of constituting an independent Fiscal Council?

1. Boost accuracy of fiscal projections and helps countries stick to fiscal rules better
2. Discourage populist shift of Government Expenditure
3. Helps to raise the level of debate in Parliament

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.54) Solution (d)

A Fiscal Council is an independent fiscal institution (IFI) with a mandate to promote stable and sustainable public finances. The council assist in calibrating sustainable fiscal policy by making an objective and scientific analysis.

14th Finance Commission had recommended the establishment of an independent Fiscal Council.

Merits of Fiscal Council

1. Watchdog of Public Finance: **An unbiased report to Parliament helps to raise the level of debate** and brings in greater transparency and accountability.
2. Reduces Populism: Costing of various policies and programmes can help to promote transparency over the political cycle to **discourage populist shifts in fiscal policy and improve accountability.**
3. Public Awareness: Scientific estimates of the cost of programmes and assessment of forecasts could help in raising public awareness about their fiscal implications and make people understand the nature of budgetary constraint.
4. Presence of an independent fiscal council **tends to boost accuracy of fiscal projections and helps countries stick to fiscal rules better.** In this way, the fiscal council will work as a conscience keeper in monitoring rule-based policies.
5. International Trend: According to IMF, there were 36 countries with IFIs in 2014 and more have been established in recent years

Q.55) The Abraham Accords is a normalization agreement between which of the following countries?

- a) USA and Afghanistan
- b) UAE and Israel
- c) Israel and Palestine
- d) Syria and USA

Q.55) Solution (b)

The Israel–United Arab Emirates normalization agreement, officially the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty of Peace, Diplomatic Relations and Full Normalization Between the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel, was initially agreed to in a joint statement by the United States, Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on August 13, 2020, officially referred to as the Abraham Accords.

The UAE thus became the third Arab country, after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, to agree to formally normalize its relationship with Israel, as well as the first Persian Gulf country to do so.

The deal states that UAE would recognise the state of Israel and establish formal diplomatic relations with it, while Israel would halt its controversial plan to annex swathes of the Palestinian West Bank.

Q.56) With reference to Kalinga school of Temple Architecture, consider the following statements:

1. It is a sub-style of Vesara temple architecture.
2. In this style, a temple is made in two parts, a tower called 'jagmohan' and a hall called 'deul'.
3. Lingaraj Temple of Bhubaneswar is an example of this style.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.56) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
Kalinga architectural style is a sub-style of Nagara architecture , flourished in the ancient Kalinga region - present state of Odisha, West Bengal and northern Andhra Pradesh.	In Kalinga Architecture, basically a temple is made in two parts, a tower and a hall. The tower is called deul and the hall is called jagmohan . It is the deul or deula which makes three distinct types of temples in Kalinga Architecture - Rekha Deula, Pidha Deula and Khakhara Deula.	Examples of Kalinga architecture are Lingaraj Temple , Mukteshwar Temple and Rajarani temple of Bhubaneswar; Konark Sun Temple; Kishakeshwari Temple in Mayurbhanj district.

Q.57) A programme of Kerala named 'Namath Basai' is related to which of the following?

- a) Rehabilitation of flood affected
- b) Social security for unorganized sector
- c) Water conservation
- d) Tribal education

Q.57) Solution (d)

Namath Basai, the Kerala State government's unique programme of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.

- The programme is being implemented by the SamagraShiksha Kerala (SSK). SSK is a programme for the school education sector (pre-school to class 12).
- Namath Basai offers pre-recorded classes through a YouTube channel. It is available in three tribal languages of the Irula, Muduka and Kurumba tribes.

Q.58) With reference to National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. DigiDoctor and Health Facility Registry (HFR) are some of the key building blocks of the NDHM.
2. National Health Authority will design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM.
3. Components like Health ID and Digi-Doctor are owned and operated by private players.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.58) Solution (a)

National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) is a voluntary healthcare programme that aims to reduce the gap among stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals, citizens etc by connecting them in an integrated digital health infrastructure.

Its vision is to create a national digital health ecosystem that supports universal health coverage in an efficient, accessible, inclusive, affordable, timely and safe manner.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Six key building blocks or digital systems of NDHM are: HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry (HFR), Personal Health Records (PHR), e-Pharmacy & Telemedicine.	National Health Authority (NHA) , the attached office of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country.	The Government of India will own, operate and maintain the core building blocks of NDHM such as Health ID, Digi-Doctor and HFR. Components, like Personal Health Records (PHR) and Electronic Medical Records (EMR) solutions can be developed by private players, in line with the official guidelines issued by the government.

Q.59) With reference to 'Boreal Summer Intra Seasonal Oscillation (BSISO)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting waves along coasts, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. BSISO is the transfer of heat from western Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean during the monsoon period.
2. The active phase of BSISO enhances surface waves.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.59) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Boreal Summer Intra Seasonal Oscillation (BSISO) is the transfer of heat from Indian Ocean to western Pacific Ocean roughly every 10-50 days during the monsoon (June-September).	BSISO represents the monsoon's 'active' and 'break' periods, in which weeks of heavy rainfall give way to brilliant sunshine before starting all over again. The active phase enhances monsoon winds and hence the surface waves.

Q.60) Which of the following WHO region is yet to be certified as free of wild poliovirus?

- a) Eastern Mediterranean
- b) South-East Asia Region
- c) African Region
- d) Western Pacific Region

Q.60) Solution (a)

World Health Organization (WHO) has certified African region free of wild polio. **With this five of six WHO regions, except Eastern Mediterranean** which includes Afghanistan and Pakistan, are certified free of wild poliovirus.

- For certification, all countries in WHO Region need to have no case of wild polio for 3 consecutive years.
- Other WHO regions which are declared free of wild polio along with year in bracket are: Region of the Americas (1994); Western Pacific Region (2000); European Region (2002) and South-East Asia Region (2014). India is in South-East Asia Region of WHO

Q.61) With reference to Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has diversified its supply risk across a clutch of supplying nations.
2. Japan has mooted the SCRI as a trilateral approach to trade, with India and Australia as the key-partners.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.61) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) aims to reduce the dependency on a single nation. It is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has diversified its supply risk across a clutch of supplying nations instead of being dependent on just one or a few. Objective is to attract FDI to turn the Indo-Pacific into an economic powerhouse and build a mutually complementary relationship among partner countries.	Japan has mooted the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) as a trilateral approach to trade, with India and Australia as the key-partners.

Q.62) With reference to recently flight tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), consider the following statements:

1. It is an unmanned scramjet vehicle.
2. India became the fourth country to have demonstrated this technology.

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.62) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently successfully flight tested the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV). HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet vehicle with a capability to travel at six times the speed of sound. The test was conducted from Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.	The indigenous development of the technology will also boost the development of the systems built with hypersonic vehicles at its core, including both offensive and defensive hypersonic cruise missile systems and also in the space sector. India became the fourth country to have demonstrated this technology after the USA, Russia and China.

Q.63) The National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) for the period 2020-2025 has been prepared by which of the following?

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) Department of Financial Services
- c) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- d) National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE)

Q.63) Solution (d)

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE): 2020-2025.
- NSFE intends to empower various sections of the population to develop knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour which are needed to manage their money better and to plan for their future.
- NSFE recommends multi-stakeholder-led approach for creating a financially aware and empowered India.
- **NSFE for the period 2020-2025 has been prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE)** in consultation with all the Financial Sector Regulators viz. RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA etc. under the aegis of the Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIFL).

Q.64) Consider the following pairs:

Naval Exercise of Indian Navy	Country involved
1. INDRA	France
2. PASSEX	USA
3. JIMEX	Japan

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

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

Q.64) Solution (b)

INDRA 2020 is a bilateral naval exercise India and Russia.

- The Indian and the Australian navies are undertaking Passage Exercise or **PASSEX** exercises in the Indian Ocean.
- The 4th edition of India - Japan Maritime bilateral exercise **JIMEX**, will be held in North Arabian Sea.

Q.65) The Osaka declaration sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Digital Economy
- b) Carbon Capture and Storage
- c) Biodiversity Conservation
- d) Sustainable Modes of Transport

Q.65) Solution (a)

India recently refused to become a signatory to the Osaka declaration on digital economy which proposes the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT).

- **Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy** was signed at the sidelines of the G20 summit in 2019, by some G20 leaders and other countries who are currently participating in the informal plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce at the World Trade Organization.
- Osaka Track relates to finalizing international rules for trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the WTO.

Q.66) With reference to Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM), consider the following statements:

1. GTAM will provide an exclusive platform for long-term trading of Renewable Energy.
2. Transactions through GTAM will be bilateral in nature.
3. Energy scheduled through GTAM contract shall be considered as deemed Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) compliance of the buyer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.66) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) is an alternative new model introduced for selling off the power by the renewable developers in the open market without getting into long term PPAs. It will provide an exclusive platform for short-term trading of Renewable Energy.	Transactions through GTAM will be bilateral in nature with clear identification of corresponding buyers and sellers; there will not be any difficulty in accounting for Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).	GTAM contracts will be segregated into Solar RPO & Non-Solar RPO as RPO targets are also segregated. Energy scheduled through GTAM contract shall be considered as deemed RPO compliance of the buyer.

Q.67) India has launched Green Strategic Partnership for delivering sustainable solutions with which of the following country?

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

Q.67) Solution (d)

- **India** and the Kingdom of **Denmark** have launched the **Green Strategic Partnership** for delivering sustainable solutions to India.
- The Partnership will focus on expanding economic ties, green growth, and cooperation on global challenges such as climate change.
- Danish companies with niche technologies and expertise have offered to help India in meeting its air pollution control targets, Covid-19 pandemic and cooperation in water efficiency and water loss.
- The creation of India-Denmark energy parks in areas with large numbers of Danish firms and an India-Denmark skill institute to train Indian manpower has been proposed.

Q.68) With reference to State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Constitutional Fund.
2. Majority of SDRF allocation is contributed by the Central Government.
3. States can spend upto 50 percent of SDRF for COVID-19 relief.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.68) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) was constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. It is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.	The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).	Recently, the limit of using the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for COVID-19 specific infrastructure has been increased from 35% to 50%. The decision will help States have more finances at their disposal to fight the virus.

Q.69) Which of the following regions is recently declared as Protected Special Agriculture Zone?

- a) Lower Gangetic Plain Region
- b) Cauvery Delta
- c) Krishna Godavari Basin
- d) Punjab Plain

Q.69) Solution (b)

- **Tamil Nadu CM declared Cauvery Delta as Protected Special Agriculture Zone (PSAZ).** The protected zone will include Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam districts and delta regions of Trichy, Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Pudukkottai.
- State government enacted the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development (TNPAZD) Act, 2020, with objectives to use the available agricultural lands for sustainable development of agriculture and ensure that the agricultural activities were not unduly constrained by non-agricultural use or other development objectives.
- PSAZ is aimed at protecting the Cauvery delta region for the future, fulfilling TN's food requirements and ensuring the welfare of delta farmers. It has recognised farmer concerns about hydrocarbon exploration and accorded primacy to food security.

Q.70) With reference to Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs), which of the following statements is *INCORRECT*?

- a) D-SIIs shall be listed on a biennial basis.
- b) D-SIIs are identified by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- c) D-SIIs are subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision.
- d) Distress or failure of D-SIIs would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

Q.70) Solution (a)

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and The New India Assurance Co. as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2020-21.
- D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.
- D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are too big or too important to fail. Such a perception and the expectation of government support may amplify risk taking, reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions and increase the possibility of distress in future.

- The three public sector insurers shall raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture. As D-SIIs, they will also be subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision. **D-SIIs shall be listed on an annual basis. Hence Option (a) is incorrect.**
- Size in terms of total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets under management are among the parameters on which the insurers are identified.
- Their continued functioning is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy.

Q.71) The Mission Karmayogi is the national programme for which of the following?

- a) Doubling Farmer Income
- b) Universal Vaccination against COVID19
- c) Civil Services Capacity Building
- d) Labour Welfare Reforms

Q.71) Solution (c)

'Mission Karmayogi' - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building aims to transform capacity-building in the bureaucracy through institutional and process reforms.

The Programme will be delivered by setting up an Integrated Government Online Training-iGOT Karmayogi Platform.

Q.72) Which of the following categories is/are eligible for finance under Priority Sector Lending (PSL)?

1. Loans to farmers both for installation of solar power plants
2. Loans for setting up compressed biogas plants
3. Bank finance to start-ups up to Rs. 500 crore

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.72) Solution (b)

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines to align with emerging national priorities and also bring sharper focus on inclusive development.

Some of the salient features of revised PSL guidelines are:

- Fresh categories included in the PSL category:
 - i. **Bank finance of up to ₹50 crore to start-ups.**
 - ii. **Loans to farmers both for installation of solar power plants** for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps.
 - iii. **Loans for setting up compressed biogas (CBG) plants.**
- Higher weightage has been assigned to incremental priority sector credit in 'identified districts' where priority sector credit flow is comparatively low.
- The credit limits for renewable energy, health infrastructure, including the projects under 'Ayushman Bharat', have been doubled.
- It seeks to address the issues concerning regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit at district level which includes:
 - Ranking districts on the basis of per capita credit flow to the priority sector.
 - Building an incentive framework for districts with comparatively low flow of credit and a disincentive framework for districts with comparatively high flow of priority sector credit.
- The targets prescribed for 'small and marginal farmers' and 'weaker sections' are being increased in a phased manner.
- Higher credit limit has been specified for farmer producer organisations (FPOs)/farmers producers companies (FPCs) undertaking farming with assured marketing of their produce at a pre-determined price.
- Loan limits for renewable energy have been doubled.

Q.73) Consider the following statements regarding Nairobi Convention:

1. It is part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.
2. India is a party to the Convention.

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.73) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Nairobi Convention is a partnership between governments, civil society and the private sector, working towards a prosperous Western Indian Ocean Region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans. It entered into force in 1996 and is part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.	The Convention offers a regional legal framework and coordinates the efforts of the member states to plan and develop programmes that strengthen their capacity to protect, manage and develop their coastal and marine environment. Parties to the Convention are Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and South Africa. India is not a party to the Convention.

Q.74) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under which of the following Acts?

- a) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- b) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- d) None of the above as CGWA is not a statutory body

Q.74) Solution (c)

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate and control development and management of ground water resources in the country.

Q.75) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Index</i>	<i>Released by</i>
1. Human Capital Index	World Bank
2. Global Innovation Index	World Intellectual Property Organization
3. Economic Freedom Index	Economist Intelligence Unit

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.75) Solution (a)

World Bank released the **Human Capital Index (HCI)** report for 2020. India has been ranked at the 116th position in the HCI 2020.

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). India is at the 48th position in the list of top 50 innovative countries.

Economic Freedom Index 2020 - Canada's Fraser Institute. India slips 26 spots to 105th position.

Q.76) SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for Hospitality Industry) initiative is launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Culture
- c) Ministry of Tourism
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Q.76) Solution (c)

Ministry of Tourism has partnered with the Quality Council of India (QCI), to assist the Hospitality Industry through an initiative called **SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for Hospitality Industry)**.

It seeks to sensitize the industry on the COVID regulations by the government and instill confidence amongst the staff and guests that the hospitality unit has exhibited intent towards ensuring safety and hygiene at the workplace.

Q.77) Which of the following statements regarding the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body constituted under National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
2. It frames policies for the regulation of medical professionals and institutions for Indian System of Medicine.
3. It ensures the coordination among the Board of Homoeopathy, Medical Assessment and Rating Board and Ethics and Medical Registration Board.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.77) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) is a statutory body constituted under the National Commission	Functions of NCISM are to frame policies for the regulation of medical professionals and institutions for Indian System of Medicine and	Other functions of NCISM is to ensure that the State Medical Councils of Indian System of Medicine adhered to the regulations laid down by the NCISM Act and to ensure that the autonomous boards (Board of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa, Medical

for Indian System of Medicine Act (NCISM), 2020. The NCISM will consist of 29 members, appointed by the central government.	to assess the human resources and infrastructure required in relation to healthcare.	Assessment and Rating Board and Ethics and Medical Registration Board) set up under the NCISM Act worked in coordination with each other. These functions related to Homoeopathy are done by National Commission for Homoeopathy.
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Q.78) Which of the following State government is developing 'Sanskrit Grams' to teach people to use Sanskrit regularly?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Q.78) Solution (a)

The Uttarakhand Government has decided to develop 'Sanskrit Grams' across the state to teach people to use Sanskrit regularly.

Several villages were selected according to the availability of Sanskrit schools so that teachers may visit the villages often and motivate residents to learn and use Sanskrit.

Villages were selected at the meeting of the Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy, chaired by the Uttarakhand Chief Minister.

The Academy shall also be renamed as Uttaranchal Sanskrit Sansthanam Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

Q.79) Which of the following is/are types of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs)?

- 1. Intrauterine Insemination
- 2. Gamete IntraFallopian Transfer
- 3. In Vitro Fertilization

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.79) Solution (d)

Assisted reproductive technology (ART) includes medical procedures used primarily to address infertility.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) (Regulation) Bill, 2020 defines ART to include all techniques that seek to obtain a pregnancy by handling the sperm or the oocyte (immature egg cell) outside the human body and transferring the gamete or the embryo into the reproductive system of a woman.

Different Types of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART):

- a) **In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)** - It is the most common form of ART that is used by maximum patients. In this, woman's eggs are combined with man's sperm in a laboratory. The fertilised egg is then placed inside the woman's uterus in a procedure called embryo transfer.
- b) **Gamete IntraFallopian Transfer (GIFT)** - Ovum collected from the donor is transferred to the fallopian tube of the recipient along with the sperm. Fertilization occurs inside a woman's body in GIFT treatments and not in a lab.
- c) **Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)** - it involves insertion of the male partner's (or a donor's) sperm into a woman's uterus at or just before the time of ovulation by long narrow tube.
- d) In **Gestational Surrogacy**, the child is not biologically related to the surrogate mother, who is often referred to as a gestational carrier. Instead, the embryo is created via IVF, using the eggs and sperm of the intended parents or donors, and is then transferred to the surrogate.

Q.80) The Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952 and Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 are consolidated under which of the following Labour codes?

- a) Code on Wages
- b) Industrial Relations Code

- c) Social Security Code
- d) Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code

Q.80) Solution (d)

Labour Code	Labour Acts replaced/consolidated/subsumed
Code on Wages	Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Payment of Wages Act, 1936; Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
Industrial Relations Code	Industrial Disputes Act, 1974; Trade Unions Act, 1926; Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
Social Security Code	Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952; Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.
Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code	Factories Act, 1948; Mines Act, 1952; Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

Q.81) With reference to World Trade Organization's Agreement on Rules of Origin which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Under the agreement, WTO members agreed to negotiate harmonized preferential rules of origin.
2. The agreement established a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin under the auspices of the World Customs Organization.
3. The agreement provides general principles for prescribing rules of origins.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.81) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
World Trade Organization's Agreement on Rules of Origin aims at long-term harmonization of non preferential rules of origin and to ensure that such rules do not themselves create unnecessary obstacles to trade. Non-preferential rules of origin are those which apply in the absence of any trade preference - that is, when trade is conducted on a most-favoured nation basis. Preferential rules of origin apply in reciprocal trade preferences or in non-reciprocal trade preferences. In the Agreement on Rules of Origin, WTO members agreed to negotiate harmonized non-preferential rules of origin.	It sets out a work programme for the harmonization of rules of origin, negotiations for which are still ongoing. The Agreement establishes a Committee on Rules of Origin within the framework of the WTO, open to all WTO Members. A Technical Committee on Rules of Origin is created under the auspices of the World Customs Organization.	The agreement also provides general principles for prescribing rules of origins, such as transparency, positive standards, administrative assessments, judicial review etc., which shall also apply to preferential rules of origin.

Q.82) The 'SAROD-Ports' launched by Ministry of Shipping is related to which of the following?

- a) Special Purpose Vehicle of Sagarmala Project
- b) Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency
- c) Single Window Clearance System Portal
- d) Affordable Dispute Redressal Mechanism

Q.82) Solution (d)

- Union Ministry of Shipping launched '**SAROD-Ports**' (**Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports**) will help in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours.

- It is established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 with following objectives: Affordable and timely resolution of disputes in fair manner. Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism with panel of technical experts as arbitrators.
- It will also cover disputes between granting authority and Licensee/ Concessionaire/ Contractor and also disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors

Q.83) The United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation is known as which of the following?

- a) Hong Kong Convention
- b) New York Convention
- c) Singapore Convention
- d) Vienna Convention

Q.83) Solution (c)

- The **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation** also known as the **Singapore Convention** on Mediation is the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.
- Convention applies to international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, concluded by parties to resolve a commercial dispute.
- It will allow businesses to seek enforcement of a mediated settlement agreement across borders by applying directly to courts of countries that have signed and ratified the treaty.
- Currently, Convention has 53 signatories, including India, China, and US.

Q.84) Consider the following statements:

1. Medicanes are tropical-like cyclones formed over the Mediterranean Sea.
2. The cores of Medicanes are colder in comparison to that of tropical cyclones.

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.84) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Medicanes (MEDiterranean hurriCANES) refer to tropical storm like cyclone observed across the Mediterranean Sea. Recently a medicane named Ianos made landfall along the coast of Greece. With the surrounding dry climate and the relatively shallow waters of the sea, the occurrence of tropical-like cyclones is infrequent. They typically form in the fall or winter months and occur once or twice a year.	Medicanes occur more in colder waters than tropical cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons. Hence, the cores of these storms are colder in comparison to the warm cores of tropical cyclones . These are typically smaller in diameter and have lower wind speeds than true tropical cyclones.

Q.85) The Leuser Ecosystem recently seen in news is located in which of the following island?

- a) Sumatra
- b) Borneo
- c) Sulawesi
- d) New Guinea

Q.85) Solution (a)

- **Leuser Ecosystem** is a forest area on the island of **Sumatra, Indonesia**.
- It is among the most ancient and life-rich ecosystem ever documented by science.
- It is a world-class hotspot of biodiversity and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It is widely acknowledged to be among the most important areas of intact rainforest left in all of Southeast Asia.
- The ecosystem stretches across the province of Aceh and North Sumatra, Indonesia.
- An investigation by the global watchdog Rainforest Action Network (RAN) has shown that various food, cosmetics and finance companies have links with companies which are responsible for the destruction of the Leuser Ecosystem.

Q.86) Arrange the following States in descending order as per their ranking in 4th edition of Ease of Doing Business Rankings based on the State Business Reform Action Plan.

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Telangana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.86) Solution (b)

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the 4th edition of Ease of Doing Business Rankings based on the State Business Reform Action Plan (State BRAP).
- Top Performers: **(1) Andhra Pradesh; (2) Uttar Pradesh; (3) Telangana; (4) Madhya Pradesh;** (5) Jharkhand.
- Worst performers: (1) Tripura; (2) Sikkim; (3) Odisha
- BRAP aims to achieve the larger objective of attracting investments and increasing Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in each State by introducing an element of healthy competition through a system of ranking.

Q.87) The Five Star Villages scheme is launched under which of the following Ministry?

- a) Ministry of Communications
- b) Ministry of Rural Development
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Q.87) Solution (a)

- **Five Star Villages** scheme has been launched recently by the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications**.
- It seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.
- It aims to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country. Schemes covered under this include: Savings Bank accounts, Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts, Postal Life Insurance Policy/ Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy etc.
- One Scheme is equal to one star of rating. Therefore, if a village attains universal coverage for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status and so on.

Q.88) Consider the following statements regarding Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF 2.0):

1. It is launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. Climate Centre for Cities supports in implementation of CSCAF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.88) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF 2.0) is a first-of-its-kind assessment framework on climate relevant parameters	Its objective is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing

launched in 2019 by **Ministry of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**. The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely; (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Management and (v) Waste Management.

their actions, including investments; (2) To inculcate a climate sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India. **Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.**

Q.89) Vyttila-11 variety of pokkali seedlings is native to which of the following region?

- a) Konkan
- b) Malabar
- c) Coromandel
- d) Sundarbans

Q.89) Solution (b)

- **Pokkali** is a unique variety of rice known for its saltwater resistance and is cultivated in the districts of Alappuzha, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts of **Kerala**.
- The Pokkali has received a GI tag.
- Vyttila-11 is the latest variety of pokkali developed by the Kerala Agricultural University.
- Farmers in West Bengal are experimenting with the pokkali variety of rice to tide over a crisis-like situation created by severe seawater incursion into paddy fields in the Sundarbans.

Q.90) The scheme of setting up of Plastic Parks with a state-of-the-art infrastructure through cluster development approach is an initiative of which of the following Ministries?

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
- c) Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
- d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Q.90) Solution (c)

- The **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** has approved setting up of **10 Plastic Parks** in the country.
- The Plastic Parks are being set up in the states of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.
- A Plastic Park is an industrial zone devoted to plastic enterprises and its allied industries.
- Implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which shall complete the setting up of the Plastic Park in a period of three years from the date of final approval.

Q.91) The terms 'Imperial Eagle, Abhyas, Ghatak' sometimes mentioned in the news are related to

- a) Bilateral Military Exercises
- b) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- c) Offshore Patrol Vessels of Indian Coast Guard
- d) Anti Tank Guided Missiles

Q.91) Solution (b)

- **Abhyas** is a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) which is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment under DRDO.
- It is an unmanned aerial vehicle based on microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) navigation system.
- It uses indigenously developed MEMS-based navigation system for its navigation and guidance.
- The **Imperial Eagle** is an Indian light-weight mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)
- **Ghatak** is an autonomous stealthy unmanned combat air vehicle (UCAV).

Q.92) With reference to Code on Industrial Relations, 2020 consider the following statements:

1. All industrial establishments with 100 workers or more must prepare standing orders.
2. Trade union having more than 51% of the workers as members would be recognised as the sole Negotiating Union.

3. In case no trade union is eligible as sole Negotiating Union, then a Negotiating Council will be formed consisting of representatives of unions that have at least 10% of the workers as members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.92) Solution (b)

- Code on Industrial Relations, 2020 combines the features of Trade Unions Act 1926, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- It is required for an establishment having at least 300 workers to seek prior permission of the government before closure, lay-off, or retrenchment.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
All industrial establishments with 300 workers or more must prepare standing orders on the matters relating to classification of workers, manner of informing workers about work hours, holidays, paydays, and wage rates, termination of employment, and grievance redressal mechanisms for workers.	If there are more than one registered trade union of workers functioning in an establishment, the trade union having more than 51% of the workers as members would be recognised as the sole Negotiating Union.	In case no trade union is eligible as sole negotiating union, then a Negotiating Council will be formed consisting of representatives of unions that have at least 20% of the workers as members.

Q.93) Recently NITI Aayog has signed Statement of Intent on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda' with which of the following country?

- a) Belgium
- b) Ireland

- c) Germany
- d) Netherlands

Q.93) Solution (d)

NITI Aayog and Embassy of the **Netherlands**, New Delhi, signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) on 28 September 2020 to support the **Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy**.

Under the Sol, the partners will co-create innovative technological solutions. This is to be achieved through exchange of knowledge and collaborative activities.

Q.94) Consider the following statements:

1. Snow Leopard is a Schedule I animal under Wildlife Protection Act of India.
2. Snow Leopard is listed as "Vulnerable" in IUCN Red list.
3. India's first snow leopard conservation centre will be established in Himachal Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.94) Solution (a)

In India, Snow Leopard inhabits the Himalayas at elevations ranging from 3,000 to 4,500 metres across Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Snow Leopard is a Schedule I animal under Wildlife Protection Act of India.	Snow Leopard is listed as "Vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of	India's first snow leopard conservation centre will be established in Uttarakhand.

	Nature.	
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Q.95) With reference to Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM), consider the following statements:

1. It will be implemented jointly by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. Under the scheme, 1,000 SC youth would be identified with start-up ideas through the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in various higher educational institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.95) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the 'Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)' under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. The ASIIM initiative will be implemented by the Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SCs) which was set up in 2016 with the Fund size of Rs. 500 Cr.	1,000 SC youth would be identified in the next 4 years with start-up ideas through the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in various higher educational institutions. They will be funded @ Rs. 30 lakhs in 3 years as equity (investment) funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.

Q.96) Which of the following organisation/institution recently launched Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- d) None of the above

Q.96) Solution (d)

- **Global Initiative to Reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef Program was launched at Environment Ministerial Meeting of the G20 countries.**
- The Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally, taking into account possible implications on the achievement of other SDGs and adhering to the principle of doing no harm.
- The Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at creating a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, innovation and capacity building in all facets of coral reef conservation, restoration, and adaptation, and strengthen ongoing efforts and commitments made to enhance coral reefs conservation and their further degradation.

Q.97) The 'KRITAGYA' hackathon aims to promote potential technology solutions for which of the following?

- a) SMART Cities
- b) Farm mechanization
- c) Clean and Renewable Energy
- d) Financial Inclusion

Q.97) Solution (b)

- A hackathon named **"KRITAGYA"** has been planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
- Its objective is **to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization** with special emphasis on women friendly equipment.

Q.98) The Rogan Art is practiced in which of the following State of India?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Telangana

Q.98) Solution (b)

- **Rogan art** (hand painting on cloth) which origin in Persia, came to Kutch around 300 years ago. This rare craft is practised by a lone Muslim family, the **Khatris of Nirona Village, Gujarat**.
- Rogan is a form of textile painting which uses a rich, brightly coloured paint made from castor oil and natural colors.
- The intricate motifs – geometric flowers, peacocks, the tree of life, etc. – are drawn from the history and folk culture of the Kutch region. The 'Tree of Life' design is the most famous design in Rogan painting.
- Rogan art (hand painting on cloth) was recently in news because it is facing an unprecedented challenge due to pandemic.

Q.99) Consider the following statements:

1. Djibouti Code of Conduct is an intergovernmental grouping on maritime matters.
2. India recently joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) as a member.
3. Jeddah Amendment to DCOC expanded the scope of maritime security issues.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.99) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Djibouti Code of Conduct is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East Coast of Africa and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region. The DCOC was established in January 2009. It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).	Under the code, the signatories agreed to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships. India joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) as an observer. Japan, Norway, the UK and the US are also the Observers to the DCOC.	Jeddah Amendment to DCOC was made in 2017 to cover other illicit maritime activities, including human trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to build national and regional capacity to address wider maritime security issues, as a basis for sustainable development of the maritime sector.

Q.100) The terms 'Rules of Origin', 'Certificate of Origin' often seen in news in the context of which of the following?

- a) Global warming
- b) Disaster risk reduction
- c) International trade
- d) Cyber threats

Q.100) Solution (c)

- The Department of Revenue has recently notified the 'Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020'.
- **Rules of Origin** are the criteria prescribed to determine the national origin of an imported product in a country. Their importance is derived from the fact that duties and restrictions in several cases depend upon the source of imports.
- **Certificate of Origin (CO)** is an important international trade document that certifies that goods in a particular export shipment are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in a particular country.

Q.101) With reference to The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The Act allows inter-state trade of farmers produce outside the physical premises of APMC market.
2. The Act provides a framework for electronic trading of agricultural produce.
3. The Act empowers State governments to collect market fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.101) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and other markets notified under the state APMC Acts.	The Act permits the electronic trading of scheduled farmers' produce in the specified trade area. An electronic trading and transaction platform may be set up to facilitate the direct and online buying and selling of such produce through electronic devices and internet.	The Act prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.

Q.102) World's largest tropical wetland, Pantanal, borders which of the following countries?

- a) Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay
- b) Brazil, Peru and Bolivia

- c) Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina
- d) Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay

Q.102) Solution (a)

- **Pantanal, Brazil is the world's largest tropical wetland and sprawls over more than 150,000 sq km in Brazil and also extends into Bolivia and Paraguay.**
- It is burning as vegetation compacted under the marshy flood water during the wet season dries out as ponds and lagoons evaporate, leaving flammable deposits underground.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Q.103) With reference to Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
2. The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by India at the United Nations General Assembly.

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.103) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. It consists of 27 member nations from Asia including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India etc. For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.	The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by Kazakhstan in October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Secretariat: Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The CICA Summit is convened in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities. The first CICA summit was held on 4 June 2002 with participation of 16 Member States and Almaty Act, the charter of the CICA, was adopted.

Q.104) Which of the following statements regarding Brucellosis is *NOT* correct?

- a) Brucellosis is a bacterial zoonotic disease.
- b) Brucellosis mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs.
- c) Humans generally acquire the Brucellosis disease through direct contact with infected animals.
- d) Brucella abortusS19 delta per vaccine is developed by National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Q.104) Solution (d)

- Brucellosis is a bacterial zoonotic disease caused by various Brucella species.

- It is also known as Malta fever or Mediterranean fever and it mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs.
- Brucellosis disease causes production losses in livestock. The disease induces abortion at the last stage of pregnancy, infertility and other reproductive problem which causes losses in production of milk and meat.
- Humans generally acquire the disease through direct contact with infected animals, by eating or drinking contaminated animal products, or by inhaling airborne agents.
- **Brucella abortusS19 delta per vaccine was developed recently by ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI)** through a Network project on Brucellosis supported by Department of Biotechnology.

Q.105) The Global Biodiversity Outlook report is published by which of the following?

- a) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- b) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- c) Convention on Biological Diversity
- d) Conservation International

Q.105) Solution (c)

Recently, **Fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) report** was released. It is a flagship publication of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.

- It is a periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the CBD.
- GBO-5 provides global summary of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and is based on a range of indicators, research studies and assessments as well as the national reports provided by countries on their implementation of the CBD.

Q.106) With reference to Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.

2. Supporting basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering is its primary mandate.
3. It offers JC Bose National Fellowship for brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament (The Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008).	Promoting basic research in Science and Engineering and to provide financial assistance to persons engaged in such research, academic institutions, research and development laboratories, industrial concerns and other agencies for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto are the primary and distinctive mandate of the Board.	The Board offers JC Bose National Fellowship to scientists and engineers for their outstanding performance and contributions and RAMANUJAN Fellowship for brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions in India, especially those scientists who want to return to India from abroad.

- Board also provides financial assistance for presenting research paper in international scientific event (conference/ seminar/ symposium/ workshop etc.) held abroad.
- Board also gives special attention to young scientists below the age of 35 years (relaxable by 5 years in the case of SC/ST/OBC, woman and physically handicapped category) to undertake independent research in newly emerging and frontier areas of science and engineering.

- High priority areas are supported in through the “Intensification of Research in High Priority Area “(IRHPA) Program.
- Scientific And Useful Profound Research Advancement (SUPRA) Scheme of SERB seeks to explore new scientific breakthroughs, with long-term impact on fundamental scientific understanding, and offer disruptive technologies at the cutting edge.

Q.107) Consider the following statements regarding National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) programme:

1. It is an umbrella program pioneered by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
2. It supports aspiring entrepreneurs for pursuing a promising technology business idea with a subsistence grant up to Rs 2 lakh per month to each Entrepreneur in Residence.

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.107) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
NIDHI (National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations), an umbrella program is pioneered by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) , Government of India, for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.	NIDHI supports aspiring entrepreneurs for pursuing a promising technology business idea over a period up to 18 months with a subsistence grant up to Rs 30000 per month with a maximum cap for total support of Rs 3.6 lakh to each EIR over a maximum of 18 months.

NIDHI-EIR Brochure featuring Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIR) was launched recently.

The NIDHI-EIR programme provides tremendous opportunities for innovative entrepreneurs to expand their networks and get critical feedback on their ventures in order to promote their entrepreneurial career goals and aspirations.

Q.108) The 'Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0' provides greater flexibility to state-owned banks in purchasing bonds of which of the following?

- a) Non-Banking Financial Companies
- b) Co-operative Societies
- c) Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks
- d) Urban Co-operative Banks

Q.108) Solution (a)

- The government has extended the scope of the **Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0** to provide greater flexibility to state-owned banks in purchasing bonds and Commercial Papers (CPs) of **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.
- The PCGS was announced in July 2019, allowing public sector banks to purchase high-rated (BBB+ or above) pooled assets from financially sound NBFCs and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).
- As a part of the Aatmanirbhar initiative, the scheme was extended in May 2020 (PCGS 2.0) to cover primary market issuance of bonds/CPs by NBFCs, HFCs and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) with low credit ratings.
- The Centre provided 20% first loss sovereign guarantee to public sector banks for purchase of bonds/CPs, resulting in liquidity infusion of Rs. 45,000 crore into the system.
- The scheme covered papers with ratings of AA and below, including unrated papers, aimed at providing access to fresh liquidity support to non-bank lenders.

Q.109) The Convention on Road Traffic is commonly known as which of the following?

- a) Geneva Convention
- b) Brasilia Convention
- c) Singapore Convention
- d) Warsaw Convention

Q.109) Solution (a)

- The **Convention on Road Traffic** is commonly known as the **Geneva Convention on Road Traffic**.
- It is an international treaty promoting the development and safety of international road traffic by establishing certain uniform rules among the contracting parties.
- The convention addresses minimum mechanical and safety equipment needed to be on board.
- It defines an identification mark to identify the origin of the vehicle.
- The Convention was prepared and opened for signature by the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport held at Geneva from 23 August to 19 September 1949. It came into force on 26 March 1952.

Q.110) Recently Renati Chola Era inscription has been unearthed in which of the following state of India?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Telangana
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Q.110) Solution (c)

- A rare inscription dating back to the **Renati Chola era** has been unearthed in a remote village of **Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh** that has kindled interest among the fraternity of archaeology and history.
- The inscription was found engraved on a dolomite slab and shale, which are part of a fragmentary pillar excavated from a farmer's field.
- The inscription was written in archaic Telugu. It was assigned to the 8th Century AD, when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.
- The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region, the present day Kadapa district.

Q.111) Consider the following statements:

1. Sandalwood Spike Disease is an infectious disease caused by phytoplasma.
2. The only option to prevent the spread of this disease is to cut down the infected tree.

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.111) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Sandalwood Spike Disease is an infectious disease which is caused by phytoplasma. Phytoplasmas are bacterial parasites of plant tissues - which are transmitted by insect vectors and involved in plant-to-plant transmission.	There is no cure as of now for the infection. Presently, there is no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease.

Q.112) Consider the following pairs:

GI Tagged Handlooms	State
1. Uppada Jamdani Sarees	Andhra Pradesh
2. Maheshwar Sarees & Fabrics	Karnataka
3. Chendamangalam Dhoties & Set Mundu	Tamil Nadu

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.112) Solution (a)

- Uppada Jamdani Sarees – Andhra Pradesh.
- Chendamangalam Dhoties & Set Mundu – Kerala.
- Maheshwar Sarees & Fabrics – Madhya Pradesh.

Q.113) With reference to 'Madrid Principles' sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements:

1. These are series of pragmatic suggestions for settling the conflict in the Syria peacefully.
2. Principles are proposed by the UNSC.

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.113) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Madrid principles are series of pragmatic suggestions for settling the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh peacefully. It calls for Armenia to withdraw its military from Nagorno-Karabakh in exchange for Azerbaijan granting de-facto autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh.	The Madrid principles were proposed by the Minsk Group in 2007. Minsk Group is the only internationally agreed body to mediate the negotiations for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It is chaired by France, Russia and the US.

Q.114) With reference to Nagar Van scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to develop 100 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years.

2. Warje Urban Forest in Chandigarh will be considered as a role model for the Scheme.
3. The scheme will be funded by the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.114) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Nagar Van (Urban Forests) aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years. The Scheme enforces people's participation and collaboration between the Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates and local citizens.	Warje Urban Forest in Pune (Maharashtra) will be considered as a role model for the Scheme. Recently, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) selected Arunachal Pradesh capital (Itanagar) for implementation of the 'Nagar Van' or Urban Forest scheme.	CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) will fund the Nagar Van scheme or the Urban Forests scheme. CAMPA is the Management and Planning Authority for Compensatory Afforestation Fund.

Q.115) Recently held VAIBHAV Summit 2020 is associated with which of the following?

- a) Showcasing the rich Indian Culture and Heritage
- b) Conference on geopolitics and geo-economics of Indo-Pacific region
- c) Sustainable solutions to environmental problems
- d) Enhancing the knowledge-base of Indian Research and Academic Institutions

Q.115) Solution (d)

Global Summit of NRI Researchers called Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit is being organised aimed at developing mechanisms for involving Indian Diaspora working in top universities and R&D organisations across the world, to further enhance the knowledge-base of Indian Research and Academic Institutions.

- It is a global summit of Overseas and Resident Indian scientists and academicians.
- Key areas of discussion: Quantum technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning, communications technologies, computational and data sciences and aerospace technologies, etc.

Q.116) With reference to Commission on Status of Women (CSW), consider the following statements:

1. It is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality.
2. It is a functional commission of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

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

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

Q.116) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Commission on Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.	It is a functional commission of the ECOSOC. It was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946. 45 member states of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any one time. India has been elected as the member of the CSW for four years (2021 to 2025).

Q.117) With reference to Question Hour, which of the following statements is correct?

- a) Question Hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.
- b) In an unstarred question, a member seeks an oral answer.
- c) Short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days.
- d) Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session without any exception.

Q.117) Solution (c)

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour where Members of Parliament raise questions about any aspect of administrative activity.
- **In a starred question, a member seeks an oral answer** from the concerned minister and this can be followed by supplementary questions, whereas in the case of unstarred questions, a written answer is provided, and no supplementary question can be asked.
- **Short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days.** It is answered orally. Ministries receive the questions 15 days in advance so that they can prepare their ministers for Question Hour.
- The presiding officers of the both Houses (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.
- Question Hour is regulated according to parliamentary rules. **It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.**
- **Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session. But there are two days when an exception is made (Day of President's address & During Budget presentation).**

Q.118) Recently launched 'Krishi Megh' is related to which of the following?

- a) Cloud seeding project in drought prone area
- b) Data recovery centre
- c) Cold chain infrastructure facility
- d) E-commerce platform for horticultural products

Q.118) Solution (b)

- **Krishi Megh** is the **National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services**.
- It aims to protect the precious data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad.
- The data recovery centre at NAARM is synchronized with the data centre at the main data centre of the ICAR is at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) Delhi.
- Krishi Megh has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank.

Q.119) Consider the following statements regarding The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020:

1. The Amendment Act adds cereal, pulses, oilseed, edible oil, onion and potatoes to the list of essential commodities.
2. Central Government may impose a stock limit only if there is a 100 percent increase in retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.

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.119) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Government regulates the production, supply and distribution of certain commodities it declares 'essential' in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices. Essential Commodities	Amendment Act requires that imposition of any stock limit on agricultural produce must be based on price rise. A stock limit may be imposed only if there is: (i) a 100%

(Amendment) Act, 2020 amends the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. **The Amendment Act removes cereal, pulses, oilseed, edible oil, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.**

increase in retail price of horticultural produce; and (ii) a 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.

Q.120) With reference to Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services (BEAMS) program which of the following statements is/are *NOT* correct?

1. It is an eco-label under ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project.
2. It is prepared by the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.120) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services (BEAMS) program is India's own eco-label under ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project.	BEAMS has been prepared by the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The objectives of BEAMS program is to Abate pollution in coastal waters, Promote sustainable development of beach facilities, Protect & conserve coastal ecosystems & natural resources, Strive and maintain high standards of cleanliness, Hygiene & safety for beachgoers in accordance with coastal environment & regulations.

Q.121) The *Xoo infection* cause huge yield losses to the cultivation of which of the following?

- a) Barley

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

Q.121) 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.122) With reference to Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) survey, consider the following statements:

1. It is conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) under NITI Aayog.
2. It ranks Indian States for their preparedness to build a robust data protection regime.

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.122) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) survey is conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office	DGQI survey assesses different Ministries /Departments' performance on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS)

(DMEO) under NITI Aayog. Six Major themes of DGQI are Data Generation; Data Quality; Use of Technology; Data Analysis, Use and Dissemination; Data Security and HR Capacity & Case Studies.

and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Its objective is to assess data preparedness of Ministries / Departments on a standardized framework to drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning from best practices.

Q.123) In which one of the following State *Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary* is located?

- a) Odisha
- b) West Bengal
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Q.123) Solution (c)

- A special drive to uproot the invasive Lantana bushes in the **Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan's Udaipur district** has been carried out along with the plantation of native species on the cleared patches of land.
- Lantana camara is a small perennial shrub, which forms extensive, dense and impenetrable thickets and is native to Central and South America.

Q.124) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Tunnel</i>	<i>State/UT</i>
1. Zozila	Jammu and Kashmir
2. Atal	Himachal Pradesh
3. Nechipu	Arunachal Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.124) Solution (c)

Pair 1	Pair 2	Pair 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Zoji La Tunnel is a road tunnel under Zoji La pass in the Himalayas in Kargil district of the Ladakh , which is currently under construction. It will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh (Ladakh plateau) on NH-1	Atal Tunnel is a highway tunnel built under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas on the Leh-Manali Highway in Himachal Pradesh . This is World's longest Highway tunnel (9.2km).	Nechiphu Tunnel shall be constructed on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh by Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Q.125) The report titled 'Stacked Odds' that highlights the scenario around the globe on modern slavery was released by

- a) United Nations (UN)
- b) Human Rights Watch
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) Amnesty international

Q.125) Solution (a)

On the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child, 2020 (11 October), the **United Nations (UN) released a report titled "Stacked Odds"** that highlights the scenario around the globe on modern slavery.

- One in every 130 females globally is living in modern slavery.
- 99 per cent of women/ girls are victims of forced sexual exploitation, 84 per cent are victims of forced marriage and 58 per cent are victims of forced labour.

Global estimates were studied and reported by **Walk Free and two UN agencies** - the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Q.126) Which of the following two Central Asian Countries share border with Caspian Sea?

- a) Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
- b) Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- c) Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
- d) Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic

Q.126) Solution (c)

India holds India-Central Asia Dialogue with five Central Asian countries- Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Countries bordering Caspian Sea are – **TARIK (Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Iran and Kazakhstan).**



Q.127) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India grows all four species of cultivated cotton.
- 2. India is the largest organic cotton producer.
- 3. India's premium cotton would be known as Deccan Cotton in the world trade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.127) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
India is the 2nd largest cotton producer (produces 23% of the world cotton) and the largest consumer of cotton in the world. India produces about 51% of the total organic cotton production of the world. (Largest organic cotton producer)	India grows all four species of cultivated cotton - Gossypiumarboreum and herbaceum (Asian cotton), G.barbadense (Egyptian cotton) and G. hirsutum (American Upland cotton).	India's premium Cotton would be known as Kasturi Cotton in the world cotton Trade. Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.

Q.128) The SMART flight which has been successfully tested recently is related to which of the following?

- a) First Solar powered flight of India
- b) Multiple Independently targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV)
- c) The Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment under Gaganyaan Mission
- d) Anti-Submarine Warfare

Q.128) Solution (d)

- **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** has been successfully flight tested by DRDO from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

- All the mission objectives including missile flight upto the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone, release of Torpedo and deployment of Velocity Reduction Mechanism (VRM) have been met perfectly.
- **SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range.** This launch and demonstration is significant in establishing Anti-Submarine warfare capabilities.

Q.129) The Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) is a quality system to ensure the safety of various industrial chemicals usage. Consider the following statements about GLP.

1. GLP system has been evolved by Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
2. National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA) established by Department of Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals is the National body which grants GLP certification to test facilities (TFs) conducting safety studies.

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.129) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) is a quality system, which has been evolved by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to ensure that safety data generated on various chemicals like industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals (Human and Veterinary), agrochemicals, cosmetic	The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, established the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA) in 2002. NGCMA is the National body which grants GLP certification to test facilities (TFs) conducting safety studies on new chemicals of the above-mentioned categories in accordance with OECD Principles of GLP and OECD Council norms. The Grant of the first GLP

products, food/ feed additives, and medical devices, etc., can be relied upon by regulatory authorities.

certificate by NGCMA in 2004 was a milestone. Recently India designated Vice-Chair of OECD Working Group on GLP.

Q.130) The *KAPILA campaign* sometimes seen in the news aims at creating awareness in the field of which of the following?

- a) Cyber threats
- b) Indentured Labour
- c) Covid19 vaccination
- d) Intellectual Property

Q.130) Solution (d)

The Ministry of Education launched the '**KAPILA**' (**Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness**) **campaign** on the 89th birth anniversary Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention and they will be aware of their rights.

Q.131) The 100% natural Pakur Honey, is gathered by tribes in which of the following State?

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

Q.131) Solution (b)

India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, **Tribes India E-Marketplace** was launched by Union Minister.

Minister also launched **Pakur Honey** by Trifed & Tribes India. It is 100% natural honey which is Multi Floral, Forest Fresh, gathered by **Santhal Tribals and Vulnerable Pahadhiya tribes from Pakur, Jharkhand**.

Q.132) The Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA) initiative was launched by which of the following ?

- a) International Organization for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- b) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- c) International Organization for Sustainable Development (IOSD)
- d) International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Q.132) Solution (d)

The Third Assembly of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** approved the initiatives of the ISA Secretariat in institutionalizing ISA's engagement with the private and public corporate sector through the **Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA)**.

Q.133) With reference to Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, consider the following statements:

- 1. Child mortality is one of the indicators used in calculating the GHI.
- 2. India is placed under 'alarming' hunger category.
- 3. India is ranked lowest among the SAARC countries in GHI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.133) Solution (a)

Global Hunger Index is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels. GHI is published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
GHI scores are based on the values of 4 indicators - Undernourishment, Child wasting, Child stunting and Child mortality .	Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming. With a Hunger score of 27.2 on a 100 point scale to India is in the "serious" category of hunger.	India has been ranked 94 on the GHI 2020, lower than neighbours like Sri Lanka (64), Nepal (73), Bangladesh (75) and Pakistan (88). Afghanistan is ranked at 99 behind India.

Q.134) Recently seen in news, the 'Tamswada Pattern' is related with

- a) Digital village connectivity
- b) SHG based Women empowerment
- c) Water conservation
- d) Open Defecation Free Plus Plus (ODF++)

Q.134) Solution (c)

- **'Tamswada Pattern' of water conservation** project taken up in Nagpur and Wardha district in which rain water harvesting, conservation and groundwater recharge works were done in order to increase the water storage capacity of natural water bodies situated in these two districts of Eastern Vidarbha.
- Maharashtra's **'Buldhana Pattern'** of water conservation has won national recognition and the NITI Aayog is in the process of formulating National Policy on water conversation based on it.

Q.135) With reference to Asan Conservation Reserve (ACR), consider the following statements:

1. It is Uttarakhand's first Ramsar Site.
2. It is located near the confluence of two perennial rivers Asan and Ramganga.

3. The endangered Golden Mahseer is found here.

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

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

Q.135) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Asan Conservation Reserve (ACR) is declared as a site of international importance under RAMSAR Convention and is the Uttarakhand's first Ramsar Site .	It is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of Uttarakhand i.e. near the confluence of two perennial rivers Asan and Yamuna.	It supports 330 bird species including the critically endangered red-headed vulture, white-rumped vulture and Baer's pochard (Aythya baeri). More than 1% of the biogeographical populations of red-crested pochard (Netta rufina) and ruddy shelduck (Tadorna ferruginea) have been recorded. The 49 fish species are also found including the endangered Putitora mahseer (Tor putitora or Himalayan mahseer, or golden mahseer), which is the state fish of Uttarakhand.

Q.136) The Exercise Bongosagar is a bilateral exercise between India and which of the following BIMSTEC country?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Thailand
- d) Sri Lanka

Q.136) Solution (b)

The second edition of **Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar** was held in Northern Bay of Bengal on 03 October 2020.

It aims to develop interoperability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.

Q.137) With reference to the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an intergovernmental organization.
2. It coordinated in designing the MOSAiC expedition to study the Arctic climate.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.137) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non-governmental organization which is composed of international science groups participating in arctic science research. IASC's main aim is to initiate, develop, and coordinate leading edge scientific activity in the Arctic region, and on the role of the Arctic in the Earth system. It also provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Arctic Council and other organizations on issues of science affecting the management of the Arctic region.	The Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) is an international research expedition to study the physical, chemical, and biological processes that coupled the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, ocean, and ecosystem. The project has been designed by an international consortium of leading polar research institutions, under the umbrella of the IASC.

Q.138) The 'Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) Movement' was launched by which of the following?

- a) Women for Women International
- b) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- c) United Nations
- d) Beijing Platform for Action

Q.138) Solution (c)

- The **Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) Movement** was launched by **United Nations** during the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010.
- It is a global movement that mobilizes and intensifies international and national action by governments, the private sector, and civil society to address the major health challenges facing women, children, and adolescents around the world.

Q.139) The Artsakh region sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following?

- a) South Caucasus
- b) West Asia
- c) Eastern Africa
- d) Mesoamerica

Q.139) Solution (a)

The decades old conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh region has resurfaced.

Nagorno-Karabakh (also known as Artsakh) region in South Caucasus is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists.



Q.140) Which of the following islands of Oceania are **NOT** a part of Melanesia sub region?

1. Fiji
2. Tonga
3. New Caledonia
4. Caroline
5. Kiribati

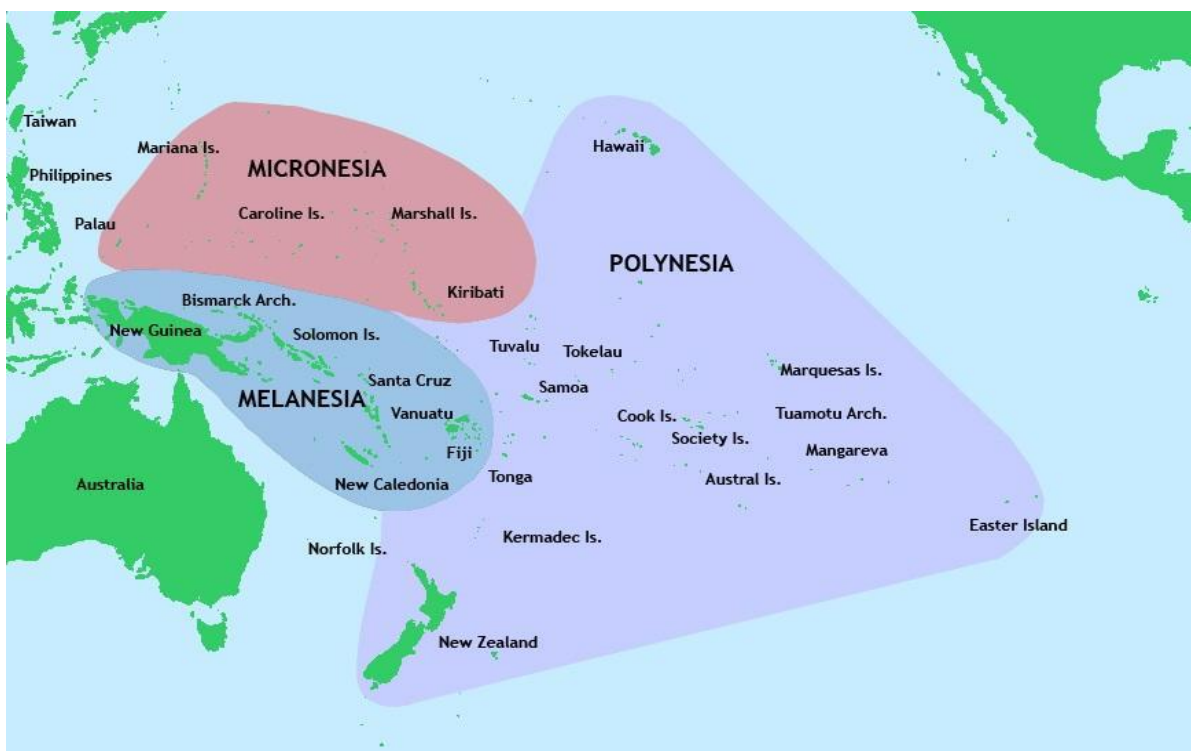
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.140) Solution (b)

The French territory of **New Caledonia** voted against independence from France in a referendum held recently. The referendum was a part of a decolonisation plan agreed in 1998, known as the **Noumea Accord**.

New Caledonia archipelago, part of the Melanesia subregion. Hence using elimination method one can arrive at the correct answer here.



Q.141) With reference to Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW), consider the following statements:

1. It is compiled by the Labour Bureau.
2. Base year used to calculate CPI-IW is same as that of CPI-Combined.
3. Food & Beverages has highest weightage followed by Fuel & Light in calculating CPI-IW.

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

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

Q.141) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The CPI-IW is mainly used for determining dearness allowance (DA) paid to central/state government employees and workers in the industrial sectors. CPI-IW is compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau , an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.	The new series of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW) with base year 2016 and has replaced the existing series with base 2001. The base year for the CPI-Combined is 2011-12 and is published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO).	Following the change in base year, the CPI-IW index will give 39.17% weight to food and beverage consumption of workers followed by spending on housing with 16.87% weight. Clothing & Footwear (6.08%), Fuel & Light (5.5%).

Q.142) The community volunteer programme *HimalSanrakshak* aims to protect which of the following species?

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

Q.142) Solution (c)

- The Indian government has launched **community volunteer programme “HimalSanrakshak” to protect snow leopards** on International Snow Leopard Day (23 October).
- 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.143) Consider the following statements about Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme:

1. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
2. It would support India's vision of becoming "Atmanirbhar".

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.143) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).	It is aimed at ensuring the quality of life to the last man in the line and strengthening tribal entrepreneurship. It would optimise the contribution of the tribal community to the growing economy of the country and support India's vision of becoming "Atmanirbhar".

Q.144) The 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune' report was released by which of the following organisation?

- a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- b) Oxfam International
- c) Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

d) World Bank

Q.144) Solution (d)

- The report titled **“Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune”** was recently released by **World Bank**.
- Report examines how the COVID19 crisis, compounding the risks posed by armed conflict and climate change, is affecting poverty trends, inclusive growth, and the characteristics of the poor around the world.

Q.145) 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.145) 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.146) 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.146) 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.147) India has released a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination to mark 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Consider the following statements regarding FAO:

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. Its goal is to achieve universal food security.
3. It is the depository of International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

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.147) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security. It was founded in October 16 th , 1945 and is headquartered in Rome.	The Goal of FAO is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.	The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a 1951 multilateral treaty deposited with the FAO that aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and to control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.

Q.148) With reference to Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a defence pact signed between India and USA.
2. It gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refueling and replenishment.
3. With this, India has signed all the four foundational agreements that the US signs with close partners.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.148) Solution (b)

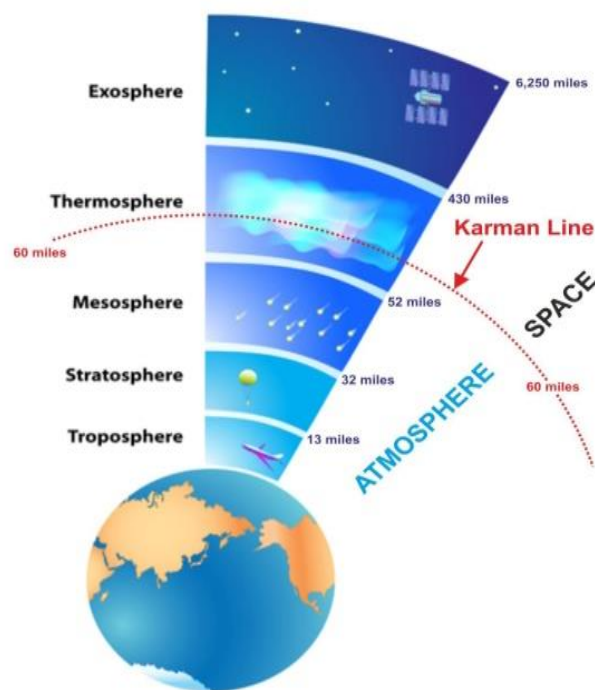
Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) largely pertain to geospatial intelligence, and sharing information on maps and satellite images for defence. It is a defence pact that the US signs with close partners.	Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) for Geospatial Intelligence will allow India and US militaries to share geospatial and satellite data with each other. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refueling and replenishment.	India and the United States signed the BECA during the third round of 2 + 2 India-US ministerial dialogue. With this India has signed all the four foundational agreements. Other three are LEMOA, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)

Q.149) 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.149) 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.150) Consider the following statements regarding Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States -STARS project:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme covering all the States to support in strengthening the school education system.
2. It is partially funded by the New Development Bank (NDB).
3. The focus and components of the STARS project are aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.150) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The STARS Project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MOE). The project covers 6 States (not all) namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.	The STARS project seeks to support the states in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes. It is partially funded by the World Bank.	The overall focus and components of the STARS project are aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of Quality Based Learning Outcomes.

Q.151) With reference to Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission (ASIIM), consider the following statements:

1. It aims at promoting entrepreneurship among women with special preference to scheduled caste women.
2. Under the mission, 100000 initiatives would be identified and funded up to Rs. 30 lakhs in three year as equity to translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.
3. It is launched by Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

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

Q.151) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect

Objectives of ASIIM are (i) Promoting entrepreneurship among SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs; (ii) Support innovative ideas till 2024 through Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) (iii) Support, promote, hand-hold the start-up ideas till they reach commercial stage and (iv) Incentivise students with innovative mind-set to take to entrepreneurship with confidence.	Under ASIIM, 1,000 initiatives of SC youth would be identified and funded up to Rs. 30 lakhs in three year as equity.	ASIIM is launched by Ministry of Social Justice under Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC) to promote innovation and enterprise among Scheduled Castes (SC) students studying in higher educational institutions (HEI).
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Q.152) The ISA-CARES Initiative of International Solar Alliance (ISA) aims at which of the following?

- a) Attract investment in developing solar technology
- b) Promote research in storage technologies like battery
- c) Deployment of solar energy in healthcare sector
- d) Establish chain of solar parks across its member countries

Q.152) Solution (c)

In the wake of the global pandemic, International Solar Alliance (ISA) in its 3rd Assembly set up **ISA CARES**. It is an **initiative dedicated to deployment of solar energy in healthcare sector** in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) ISA Member countries.

Q.153) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>
1. Oromia	Ethiopia
2. Mindanao	Indonesia
3. Oaxaca	Mexico

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

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

Q.153) Solution (b)

- Recently Indian Prime Minister made a reference to the region of Oaxaca (pronounced O-aa-ha-ka) in Mexico where Khadi was being manufactured.
- **Oaxaca region - Southern Mexico.**
- **Oromia region – Ethiopia.**
- **Mindanao** is the second-largest island in the **Philippines**.

Q.154) Which of the following statements regarding Fishing Cat is/are correct?

1. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red data book.
2. It is a symbolic species of floodplains, deltas and coastal wetlands restricted to South Asia.
3. It is the state animal of Andhra Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.154) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
In India, Fishing Cat is largely	Wetlands are the favorite	It is the state animal of

restricted to the floodplains of Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Sundarbans Delta and smaller coastal wetlands along the Bay of Bengal formed by Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna rivers. IUCN Status : 'Vulnerable'	habitats of the Fishing Cat (<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>). It is a symbolic species of floodplains, deltas and coastal wetlands of South and Southeast Asia . They have a patchy distribution from Sind in Pakistan to Cambodia.	West Bengal. Blackbuck is the state animal of Andhra Pradesh.
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Q.155) Consider the following statements:

1. The MACS 6478 is new high yielding wheat variety helping farmers to double their yield.
2. It is developed by Indian agricultural Research Institute (IARI).

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.155) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
A new wheat variety MACS-6478 has helped farmers in a village in Maharashtra to double their yield. The farmers are now getting a yield of 45 to 60 quintal per hectare with the new variety compared to earlier average yield ranging 25 to 30 quintal per hectare.	It is developed by Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology. It is also called high yielding Aestivum, matures in 110 days and is resistant to most races of leaf and stem rust.

Q.156) The Ghar Tak Fibre Scheme aims to connect villages with high-speed optical fibre internet in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Bihar
- c) Odisha
- d) Jharkhand

Q.156) Solution (b)

Ghar Tak Fibre Scheme aims to connect all 45,945 villages of Bihar with high-speed optical fibre internet by 31st March 2021.

- Under the scheme, Bihar has to provide at least five fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connections per village and at least one WiFi hotspot per village.
- The Scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Q.157) Arrange the following Northern African countries from East to West:

1. Algeria
2. Egypt
3. Morocco
4. Libya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.157) Solution (d)

- Recently rival parties in Libya announced a historic ceasefire followed by five days of the 5+5 Libyan Joint Military Commission (JMC) talks in Geneva. This gives way to the possibility that the long-drawn conflict might be coming to an end.
- As per this new agreement facilitated by the UN, all foreign mercenaries and armed forces will have to withdraw within the next 90 days.

- Correct sequence of Northern African countries from East to West: **Egypt – Libya – Algeria – Morocco.**



Q.158) With reference to RUDRAM missile of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.
2. It is an air-to-air missile with operational range of more than 100 km.
3. Along with Sukhoi-30 MKI, it can be adapted for launch from other fighter jets also.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.158) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
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Correct	Incorrect	Correct
RUDRAM is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile. Anti-radiation missiles are designed to detect, track and neutralise the rival's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources.	RUDRAM is an air-to-surface missile designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The missile has an operational range of more than 100 km.	Rudram was successfully flight-tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI jet off the east coast. Along with Sukhoi-30 MKI, it can be adapted for launch from other fighter jets too.

Q.159) With reference to World Food Programme (WFP), consider the following statements:

1. WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.
2. It was founded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
3. It is a member of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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.159) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 was awarded to World Food Programme (WFP) for "its efforts to combat hunger, bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict". WFP is the food-assistance	The WFP is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. It was founded in 1961 by the FAO and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with its	It is a member of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and works in close tandem with the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

branch of the United Nations.

headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Q.160) Which of the region are most affected by the Asian Dust or yellow dust storms?

- a) Arabian peninsula
- b) Central Asia
- c) Korean Peninsula
- d) Siberia

Q.160) Solution (c)

Asian Dust is also known as yellow dust, yellow sand, yellow wind or China dust storms.

- It is **actually sand from deserts in China and Mongolia** that **high speed surface winds carry into both North and South Korea** during specific periods every year.
- The sand particles tend to mix with other toxic substances such as industrial pollutants. Thus, it is known to cause a number of respiratory ailments.



Q.161) With reference to International Barcode of Life (iBOL), consider the following statements:

1. It is a research alliance involving nations to enable expansion of the global DNA reference database.

2. It is a Canadian not-for-profit corporation.
3. It signed a MoU with Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) for further efforts in DNA barcoding.

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.161) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
iBOL is a research alliance involving nations that have committed both human and financial resources to enable expansion of the global reference database. Its objective is to transform biodiversity science by building the DNA barcode reference libraries, the sequencing facilities, the informatics platforms, and the analytical protocols.	iBOL is a Canadian not-for-profit corporation which was established in 2008. iBOL maintains the Barcode of Life Data System (BOLD).	Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and iBOL have come together for further efforts in DNA barcoding , a methodology for rapidly and accurately identifying species by sequencing a short segment of standardized gene regions and comparing individual sequences to a reference database. The MoU will enable ZSI to participate at the Global level programmes like Bioscan and Planetary Biodiversity Mission.

Q.162) Recently the asafoetida (Heeng) cultivation was introduced in India for the first time in which of the following?

- a) Neora valley, West Bengal
- b) Lahaul valley, Himachal Pradesh
- c) Araku valley, Andhra Pradesh

d) Narmada valley, Gujarat

Q.162) Solution (b)

- Heeng is one of the widely used spices in Indian cuisine but the spice is not produced in the country. India imports around 1,200 tons of raw heeng annually from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan. India has taken up Heeng cultivation for the first-ever time, in an attempt to become self-reliant in the production of the spice and curb its imports.
- It is endemic to Iran and Afghanistan, which are also the main global suppliers of it. It thrives in dry and cold desert conditions.
- The first **Heeng (Asafoetida) plantation was done in the cold and dry region of Lahaul valley in Himachal Pradesh.**
- CSIR constituent laboratory, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, recently made history by introducing Heeng cultivation in Indian Himalayan region.

Q.163) With reference to ESG Funds, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. These are portfolios of equities and/or bonds for which economical, social and governance factors have been integrated into the investment process.
2. It is a kind of mutual fund and is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
3. The first ESG mutual fund was launched by the Yes Bank.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.163) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
ESG funds are portfolios of	ESG is a combination of three	The first ESG mutual

<p>equities and/or bonds for which environmental, social and governance factors have been integrated into the investment process. This means the equities and bonds contained in the fund have passed stringent tests over how sustainable the company or government is regarding its ESG criteria. Its investing is used synonymously with sustainable investing or socially responsible investing.</p>	<p>words - Environment, Social and Governance. The ESG fund focuses on companies with environment-friendly practices, ethical business practices and an employee-friendly record. It is a kind of mutual fund and is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).</p>	<p>fund was launched by the State Bank of India - SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund.</p>
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Q.164) Which of the following country is *NOT* a member of Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)?

- a) Armenia
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Kyrgyzstan
- d) Uzbekistan

Q.164) Solution (d)

- Russian Navy along with Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) members has begun military exercises in the central waters of the Caspian Sea north of the Azerbaijani capital Baku.
- CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance that was signed on 15 May 1992. This is also referred to as the “Tashkent Pact” or “Tashkent Treaty”.
- Current CSTO members are **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan**. Afghanistan and Serbia hold observer status in the CSTO.

Q.165) Recently discovered two new species of pipeworts, *Eriocaulonparvicephalum* & *Eriocaulonkaraavalense* are from which of the following region?

- a) Eastern Himalayas
- b) Andaman and Nicobar islands
- c) Western Ghats
- d) Sundarban National Park

Q.165) Solution (c)

- Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute, Pune have **recently discovered two new species of pipeworts from the Western Ghats of Maharashtra & Karnataka.**
- Researchers have named the species found in Maharashtra as Eriocaulonparvicephalum for its distinct minute inflorescence size. Karnataka counterpart has been named Eriocaulonkaraavalense indicating the Karaavali coastal region in the state.
- Pipeworts is a type of wetland plant belongs to genus Eriocaulon.
- Some of the previously-discovered plant species have medicinal values. They also have anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial and anti-cancerous properties.
- Some 111 species exist in India, most of which are endemic to the Western Ghats and eastern Himalayas.

Q.166) With reference to SVAMITVA scheme consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
3. Rural inhabited area would be mapped using drone by Indian Institute of Surveying and Mapping (IISM).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.166) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India , engaging the latest Drone Surveying technology, for demarcating the inhabitant (Aabadi) land in rural areas.	It is a Central Sector Scheme (100% by Union Government) implemented by Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj.	It aims to update the 'record-of-rights' in the revenue/property registers and issue property cards to the property owners in rural areas. Rural inhabited area would be mapped by Survey of India using drone.

Q.167) India's first Multi-Modal Logistic Park is coming up in which of the following State?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Kerala

Q.167) Solution (c)

The **Multi Modal Logistic Park (MMLP) at Jogighopa in Assam** is the country's first international Multi-Modal Logistic Park under the Bharatmala Project of the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India.

Q.168) With reference to Global Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) Budget, consider the following statements:

1. It is an international collaboration between the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. Highest growth rates in N₂O emissions come from western industrialized economies.

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.168) Solution (d)

- Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) is a long-lived greenhouse gas (GHG) and an ozone-depleting substance. It is the third most important GHG, leading human-driven climate change, after carbon dioxide and methane.
- Human emissions of N₂O increased by 30 per cent between 1980 and 2016. N₂O global concentration levels have increased from 270 parts per billion (ppb) in 1750 to 331 ppb in 2018, a jump of 20 per cent.

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The Global N₂O Budget was conducted through an international collaboration between the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) and the Global Carbon Project of Future Earth , a partner of the World Climate Research Programme. They have also created a new activity and international consortium of scientists to establish and improve global N ₂ O budget, trends and variability.	Dominant cause of increase is use of Nitrogen fertilizers in agriculture, including organic fertilizers from manure produced by livestock. Agricultural production contributed almost 70% to global anthropogenic N ₂ O emission (2007-2016). Highest growth rates in emissions come from emerging economies, particularly Brazil, China, and India, where there have been large increases in crop production and livestock numbers. Emissions from Europe have decreased over the past two decades through policies to limit excess of fertilizer applications.

Q.169) The first-ever Ministerial Meeting of the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) was hosted by which of the following G20 member?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Australia
- c) Japan
- d) France

Q.169) Solution (a)

- G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group was established in June 2010 at the Toronto Summit of G-20.
- Its objective is to prepare comprehensive recommendations on how the G20 could continue to make practical and valuable contributions to international efforts to combat corruption.
- It is responsible for updating and implementing the G20 Anti-corruption Action Plan.
- It actively works with the World Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and other important Organisations.
- **Saudi Arabia hosted the first-ever Ministerial Meeting of the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) virtually in 2020.**

Q.170) Which of the following is/are benefits of Aquaponics?

1. It is water efficient.
2. It allows continuous production of food.
3. Its products alone are enough to ensure a balanced diet.
4. No reliance on mined and manufactured fertilizers.
5. It can be used on non-arable land.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.170) Solution (c)

- Aquaponics is an ecologically sustainable model that combines Hydroponics with Aquaculture i.e. it is a combination of aquaculture, which is growing fish and other aquatic animals, and hydroponics.

- With Aquaponics both fish and plants can grow in one integrated ecosystem. Fish waste from the aquaculture portion of the system is broken down by bacteria into dissolved nutrients that plants utilize to grow in a hydroponic unit.
- A pilot Aquaponics facility developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary University (GADVASU), Ludhiana.

Benefits of Aquaponics	Limitations of Aquaponics
i. It uses less than 10% of the water normally required for fish farming and plant production.	i. The very high initial start-up costs compared to both hydroponics and soil production systems.
ii. There is no toxic run-off from either hydroponics or aquaculture and creates little waste.	ii. It requires deep expertise in the natural world - knowledge of fish, bacteria and plant production.
iii. It can be used on non-arable land such as deserts, degraded soil or salty, sandy islands.	iii. It has fewer management options (an issue developed ahead) compared with stand-alone aquaculture or hydroponics;
iv. It allows continuous production of food and produces both a protein and vegetable crop.	iv. Mistakes managing the system can quickly cause its collapse;
v. Both fish and plants can be used for consumption and income generation.	v. Daily management is needed, which means the organization is crucial;
vi. All natural fertilizer sources from fish waste and no reliance on mined and manufactured fertilizers.	vi. It's energy demand, which means it has energy costs;
vii. Produce is free of pesticides and herbicides. It saves labour and time.	vii. Fish feed needs to be purchased on a regular basis;
	viii. The products of aquaponics alone aren't enough to ensure a balanced diet;

Q.171) With reference to India Energy Modelling Forum, consider the following statements:

1. It was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and International Energy Agency (IEA).
2. Its governing structure will consist of an inter-ministerial and a steering committee.

3. The steering committee will comprise representatives of the Government, Industry Associations, Academia, Policy research organizations, think tanks and funding agencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.171) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership. IEMF is part of the Sustainable Growth pillar of US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).	The governing structure of IEMF will consist of an inter-ministerial and a steering committee. Inter-ministerial committee will review the studies/modelling activities and provide directions and new areas of research.	The steering committee will comprise representatives of the Government, Industry Associations, Academia, Policy research organizations, think tanks and funding agencies and will shortlist policy issues to be taken up for study and might form various taskforces depending on the specific studies/modelling exercises to be carried out.

Q.172) With reference to Nutri-Sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) programme which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It promotes family farming linking agriculture to nutrition, nutri-smart villages for enhancing nutritional security.
- 2. It is started by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.172) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The objective of the NARI programme is to promote family farming linking agriculture to nutrition, nutri-smart villages for enhancing nutritional security . Under it, location specific nutrition garden models are being developed and promoted by KVKs to ensure access to locally available, healthy and diversified diet with adequate macro and micronutrients.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has started Nutri-Sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) programme.

Q.173) Which of the following country is *NOT* a part of 'Five Eyes', a global intelligence alliance?

- a) Canada
- b) United Kingdom
- c) New Zealand
- d) France

Q.173) Solution (d)

- **'Five Eyes' is a global alliance on intelligence issues comprising of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and the US.**
- It is an international agreement under which these five countries cooperate and share signals intelligence, military intelligence, and human intelligence.
- India and Japan joined the 'Five Eyes' alliance and issued a joint international statement addressed to all tech companies to ensure end-to-end encrypted chats and provide access to the same.
- It marks an expansion of the "Five Eyes" group of nations to include India and Japan.

Q.174) With reference to Ayushman Sahakar Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It assists in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
2. It is formulated by National Health Authority (NHA).
3. It is launched by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.174) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
It is a unique scheme to assist cooperatives to play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives.	It is formulated by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), the apex autonomous development finance institution under the Ministry of Agriculture.	The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Ayushman Sahakar, a scheme to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. It is in line with the National Digital Health Mission and National Health Policy, 2017.

Q.175) The OSOWAG Initiative aims to facilitate global cooperation in which of the following area?

- a) Climate Action
- b) Human Trafficking
- c) Renewable Energy
- d) Tackling Terrorism Financing

Q.175) Solution (c)

- **The One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative** was proposed by India to set up a framework for facilitating global cooperation which aims at building a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources that can be easily shared.
- Its objective is to build global consensus about sharing solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South-East Asia.
- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the parent body.

Q.176) With reference to OSCE Minsk Group, consider the following statements:

1. It is internationally agreed body to mediate the negotiations for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
2. It proposed Madrid principles for settling the conflict.

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.176) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group created in 1992 is the only internationally agreed body to mediate the negotiations for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict . It is chaired by France, Russia and the US.	The Madrid principles were proposed by the Minsk Group in 2007 which are series of pragmatic suggestions for settling the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh peacefully. It calls for Armenia to withdraw its military from Nagorno-Karabakh in exchange for Azerbaijan granting de-facto autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Q.177) Bundi was the erstwhile capital of Hada Rajput province. Which of the following styles of temple architecture can be seen in Bundi?

1. Nagara style
2. Vesara style
3. Elevated Temple styles

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.177) Solution (b)

- The Ministry of Tourism's DekhoApnaDesh Webinar series titled "Bundi: Architectural Heritage of a Forgotten Rajput Capital" focused on Bundi, Rajasthan recently.
- Bundi is a district in the Hadoti region of Rajasthan and was the erstwhile capital of Hada Rajput province. It is also known as City of stepwalls, blue city.
- It was also known as Chotti Kashi owing to presence of over hundred temples within and around the hada capital.
- Temples constructed in early phase of Bundi's growth were in classical **Nagara style**.
- In later phases new temple typologies emerged from amalgamation of architectural form of traditional haveli with the classical Nagara style.
- **Jain temples** formed third type of temple type constructed
- A fourth temple type emerged in the form of a **raised or elevated temple**.
- Absence of monumentality in their scale is a distinctive feature of temples in Bundi.

Q.178) Which of the following has become the first 'Har Ghar Jal' state in India?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Goa
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Q.178) Solution (b)

Goa has earned itself the unique distinction of becoming **first 'Har Ghar Jal' State** in the country as it successfully provides 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in the rural areas covering 2.30 lakh rural households.

Harnessing the immense benefits of efficiently utilising the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) which aims to improve the quality of life and bring 'ease-of-living' to rural communities.

Q.179) Recently seen in news the Castellorizo, officially known as Megisti is an island in which of the following seas?

- a) Mediterranean Sea
- b) South China Sea
- c) East China Sea
- d) Caribbean Sea

Q.179) Solution (a)

Kastellorizo or Castellorizo, officially known as **Megisti is a Greek island** and municipality of the Dodecanese in the **Eastern Mediterranean**.

Recently, Turkey's redeployment of the Oruc Reis survey vessel for new energy exploration around Kastellorizo has reignited tensions over sea boundaries between Greek islands, Cyprus and Turkey's southern coast.

Q.180) The Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT) developed Bio-Pesticide Formulation for insect control in seed spice crops has which of the following advantages?

1. It has good shelf life
2. It is safe to user and environment
3. It may be effectively used for controlling different agricultural insects

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.180) Solution (d)

Recently, Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has developed **Bio-Pesticide Formulation for insect control in seed spice crops**.

- Formulation is based on entomo-pathogenic fungus *Verticillium lecanii*.
- **The formulation has good shelf life, safe to user & environment and it may be effectively used for controlling different agricultural insects especially in seed spice crops.**

Q.181) India is a member of which among the following?

1. Indian Ocean Rim Association
2. Indian Ocean Commission
3. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.181) Solution (a)

Indian Ocean Rim Association is a regional forum established in 1997 that seeks to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through a consensus-based, evolutionary and non-intrusive approach.

- IORA has 22 member states, including Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, **India**, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, and Yemen.

Indian Ocean Commission is the inter-governmental organization that coordinates maritime governance in the south-western Indian Ocean. It consists of Madagascar, Comoros, La Réunion (French overseas territory), Mauritius and Seychelles. **India is an observer to IOC.**

The 'Indian Ocean Naval Symposium' (IONS) is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.

- There are 36 littoral in the Indian Ocean which has been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions - South Asian Littorals, West Asian Littorals, East African Littorals and South East Asian and Australian Littorals.
- **India** along with Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles and Sri Lanka forms South Asian Littorals group.

Q.182) Consider the following statements:

1. Any registered political party can have 40 star campaigners.
2. Expenditure incurred on campaigning by such notified star campaigners is exempt from being added to the election expenditure of a candidate in all circumstances.

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.182) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Star campaigners are nominated by political parties to campaign in a given set of constituencies. List of star campaigners must be communicated to Chief Electoral Officer and ECI within a week from the election	Expenditure incurred on campaigning by such notified star campaigners is exempt from being added to the election expenditure of a candidate. However, this only applies when a star campaigner limits herself to a general

notification date as required under section 77(1) of Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951. **A recognised political party can have 40 Star campaigners and an unrecognized (but registered) political party can have 20.**

campaign for the political party she represents. If a candidate or her election agent shares stage with a star campaigner at a rally, then the entire expenditure on that rally, other than the travel expenses of star campaigner, is added to candidate's expenses.

Q.183) Sometimes seen in news, the *Apophis* is

- a) An exoplanet in goldilocks zone
- b) An asteroid which may hit Earth
- c) A newly discovered black hole closer to Earth than any other
- d) A new star cluster in our Milky Way galaxy

Q.183) Solution (b)

Asteroid Apophis may hit the Earth in 2068 due to a phenomenon called Yarkovsky effect. This effect has eventually accelerated the asteroid's flow and also changed its path.

The **Yarkovsky effect** describes a small but significant force that affects the orbital motion of meteoroids and asteroids smaller than 30-40 kilometers in diameter. It is caused by sunlight; when these bodies heat up in the Sun, they eventually re-radiate the energy away as heat, which in turn creates a tiny thrust.

Before the discovery of Yarkovsky effect, the possibility of the collision was impossible. The detection of this effect acting on Apophis means that the 2068 impact scenario is still a possibility.

Q.184) With reference to INS Vagir, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Kalvari-class diesel electric attack submarine.
- 2. It is developed under the *Project 75I* of Indian Navy.

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.184) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Indian Navy's fifth Kalvari-class Diesel Electric attack submarine INS Vagir was launched at Mazgaon Dock in Mumbai. It is the fifth among the six Kalvari-class submarines. The other vessels in the class are INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela and INS Vagsheer. Of these Kalvari and Khanderi have been commissioned in 2017 and 2019. Vela and Karanj are undergoing sea trials. Vagsheer is under construction.	Project-75 is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Scorpene Class attack submarines. The Public shipbuilder Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL) is manufacturing six Scorpene submarines with technology assistance from Naval Group of France. The Project 75I-class submarine is follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarine under which Indian Navy intends to acquire six diesel-electric submarines, which will also feature advanced air-independent propulsion systems.

Q.185) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Tiger Reserve</i>	<i>State/UT</i>
1. Manas	Assam
2. Dampha	Tripura
3. Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.185) Solution (c)

- **Pilibhit** Tiger Reserve (PTR) in **Uttar Pradesh** won TX2 Award for doubling its population. TX2 is the global award which was set up in 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia by international organizations working for tiger conservation like WWF, UNDP, IUCN, Global Tiger Fund (GTF), CATS and The Lion's Share.
- Transboundary Manas Conservation Area straddling the India-Bhutan border has received the TX2 Conservation Excellence Award for 2020. **Manas National Park is in Assam.**
- **Dampha** Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve of western **Mizoram**.

Q.186) With respect to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which of the following statement is *NOT* correct?

- a) India has a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN spanning goods, services and investment.
- b) Bangkok Declaration is the founding document of ASEAN.
- c) India's trade deficit with ASEAN has been narrowing in the last decade.
- d) India became a Strategic Partner of ASEAN in 2012.

Q.186) Solution (c)

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation. It was established on 8th August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The current Ten Members are: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- **India became a Strategic Partner of ASEAN in 2012**, after progressing from its earlier roles of Sectoral Partner (1992), Dialogue Partner (1996) and Summit Level Partner (2002).
- **India has a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN spanning goods, services and investment.** India-ASEAN trade and investment relations have been growing steadily, with ASEAN being India's fourth largest trading partner.

- The two-way trade between India and ASEAN is tilted towards ASEAN with the trade gap expanding rapidly. India's trade deficit with ASEAN rose from less than US\$ 8 billion in 2009-10 to about US\$ 22 billion in 2018-19.



Q.187) With reference to Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an international partnership between the USA, Canada, Japan, China, and India.
2. It is being installed at Hanle, Ladakh.

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.187) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Thirty-meter telescope (TMT)	TMT project being installed at Maunakea in Hawaii,

project is an international partnership between CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India; through the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

which can revolutionized the understanding of the universe and the enigmas in it. It will also allow to see deeper into space and observe cosmic objects with unprecedented sensitivity. The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment Telescope (MACE), ground-based gamma-ray telescope is placed in Hanle, Ladakh.

Q.188) The *Water Risk Filter 2020* report is released by which of the following?

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- c) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- d) NITI Aayog of India

Q.188) Solution (c)

WWF Water Risk Filter is a practical online tool that enables companies and investors to explore, assess value and respond to water risks worldwide. It has been developed by WWF and the German finance institution DEG.

According to the scenarios in the WWF Water Risk Filter, 100 cities in world including 30 Indian cities that are expected to suffer the biggest rise in water risk by 2050 are home to 350 million people.

Q.189) The World's first nuclear energy partnership centre, Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) is located in which of the following?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) France
- c) Australia
- d) India

Q.189) Solution (d)

Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) is World's first nuclear energy partnership centre at Kheri Jasaur village in Jhajjar district of Haryana.

- GCNEP will help in capacity building, in association with the interested countries and the IAEA, involving technology, human resource development, education & training and giving a momentum to R&D in Nuclear Energy.
- The centre will house following 5 schools to carry out its objectives – School of Advanced Nuclear Energy System Studies (SANESS), School of Nuclear Security Studies (SNSS), School on Radiological Safety Studies (SRSS), School of Nuclear Material Characterization Studies (SNMCS) and School for Studies on Applications of Radioisotopes and Radiation Technologies (SARRT).

Q.190) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest cultivator of bamboo.
2. India has the world's largest fields of bamboo.
3. The eight North-eastern States grow more than 60 percent of India's bamboo.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.190) Solution (c)

The National Bamboo Mission, under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, has been initiated to provide a boost to livelihood and environmental acreage.

Recently, 22 bamboo clusters in 9 states were virtually inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and a logo for the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has also been released.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
India is the world's second-largest cultivator of bamboo	India has the world's largest fields of	Northeast consists 60% of India's reserve of Bamboo. The eight North-

after China , with 136 species and 23 genera spread over 13.96 million hectares, according to the State of Environment report 2018.	bamboo . It grows on nearly 13% of the country's forest land.	eastern States – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura – grow 67% of India's bamboo and have 45% of global bamboo reserves.
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Q.191) Consider the following statements with respect to telemedicine service platforms of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

1. eSanjeevani is a doctor to doctor telemedicine system, being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme.
2. eSanjeevaniOPD was launched amid the Covid-19 pandemic to enable patient-to-doctor tele-consultations.
3. These platforms are developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.191) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
eSanjeevani is a doctor to doctor telemedicine system, being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme. AB-HWCs are envisaged to be the platform for delivery of	eSanjeevaniOPD was launched amid the Covid-19 pandemic to enable patient-to-doctor tele-consultations. Offered at no cost, this e-health service has made it convenient for the people to avail of the health services	Both the platforms have been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) which is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R&D

an expanded range of primary health care services closer to the communities. It seeks to connect all 1,50,000 HWCs using the hub-and-spoke model by December 2022.	without having to travel. It enables two-way interaction and even generates a prescription slip. It is hosting over 40 online Out Patient Department (OPD) services.	in IT, Electronics and associated areas.
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Q.192) The “Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure” (Viability Gap Funding Scheme) was introduced by

- a) Department of Expenditure
- b) Department of Economic Affairs
- c) Department of Disinvestment
- d) Department of Financial Services

Q.192) Solution (b)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Continuation and Revamping of the Scheme for Financial Support to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme till 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs. 8,100 crore.

The **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance** introduced “the Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure” (Viability Gap Funding Scheme) in 2006.

The revamped Scheme is mainly related to introduction of following two sub-schemes for mainstreaming private participation in social infrastructure:

Sub scheme–1

- This would cater to Social Sectors such as Waste Water Treatment, Water Supply, Solid Waste Management, Health and Education sectors etc.
- The projects eligible under this category should have at least 100% Operational Cost recovery.
- The Central Government will provide maximum of 30% of Total Project Cost (TPC) of the project as VGF and State Government/Sponsoring Central Ministry/Statutory Entity may provide additional support up to 30% of TPC.

Sub scheme-2

- This Sub scheme will support demonstration/pilot social sectors projects.
- The projects may be from Health and Education sectors where there is at least 50% Operational Cost recovery.
- In such projects, the Central Government and the State Governments together will provide up to 80% of capital expenditure and upto 50% of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs for the first five years.

Q.193) The Pampore region known for growing one of the spices is in which of the following State/UT?

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

Q.193) Solution (b)

Saffron is a plant whose dried stigmas (thread-like parts of the flower) are used to make saffron spice. It is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pampore region, commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir, is the main contributor to saffron production. Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir is one of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS) recognised sites in India.

The saffron bowl, which was so far confined to Kashmir, may soon expand to the North East of India. Plants which were transported from Kashmir to Sikkim, acclimatized there and are now flowering in Yangyang in the Southern part of Sikkim.

Q.194) With reference to Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental political, economic and military organization.
2. The Heads of Government Council (HGC) is the highest decision-making body in the SCO.
3. All five central Asian countries are members of SCO.

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

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

Q.194) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental political, economic and military organization founded in Shanghai in 2001. Regional development and security issues (terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism) are its main focus. Russian and Mandarin are presently used as official and working languages in the SCO.	Heads of State Council (HSC) is the highest decision-making body in the SCO. Heads of Government Council (HGC) is SCO's second-highest body that deals with the grouping's trade and economic agenda besides approving its annual budget. Russian President chaired the 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State. India extended full support to observing the 20th anniversary of SCO in 2021 as the "SCO Year of Culture."	Currently, the SCO comprises 8 member states, namely India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia are Observer states. Turkmenistan, a central Asian country is not a member of SCO.

Q.195) Recently seen in news Luhri Hydro Power Project is located on which of the following rivers?

- a) Chenab
- b) Jhelum
- c) Sutlej
- d) Beas

Q.195) Solution (c)

The cabinet has approved the Rs 1810 crore Investment Proposal of **210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Power Project located on river Sutlej** which is situated in Shimla & Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh.

It is being implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis with active support from Government of India and the State Government.

Q.196) Consider the following statements about variants of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

1. PSLV-DL has 4 strap-on boosters with 12 tonne propellant load on them.
2. PSLV-G uses 6 Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) based solid strap-on motors.
3. The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and Chandrayaan 1 were launched using XL variant of the PSLV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.196) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
PSLV-DL variant has only two strap-on boosters with 12 tonne propellant load on them. PSLV-C44 on 24 January 2019 was the first flight to use PSLV-DL variant of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. PSLV-C49 carrying EOS-01 on November 07, 2020 is the 2nd	PSLV-G uses 6 Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) based solid strap-on motors of 9 tonnes each and PSLV-XL uses 6 extended strap-ons of 12 tonnes each, the PSLV-CA (core alone version) does not	The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and Chandrayaan 1 (2008) were launched using XL variant of the PSLV. PSLV in 'XL' configuration has 6

flight of PSLV in 'DL' configuration.	use any strap-on motors.	solid strap-on motors.
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Q.197) The term Asian Premium, sometimes seen in news is a

- a) Extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil
- b) Aggregate domestic agriculture subsidy provided by Asian countries
- c) Additional levy on Asian exports by the European Union
- d) None of the above

Q.197) Solution (a)

Asian Premium is the extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries. India has been voicing its dissent against this practice.

It has its roots in the establishment of market oriented crude pricing in 1986.

Q.198) With reference to Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed at incentivizing the creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid-19 economic recovery phase.
2. All new employee joining employment in any establishments with monthly wages less than Rs. 15,000 are eligible for incentives under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.198) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
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Correct	Incorrect
Union Minister for Finance announced a new scheme of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 economic recovery phase . Central Govt. will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new eligible employees. The scheme will be effective from October 1, 2020 and operational till 30th June 2021.	Any new employee joining employment in EPFO registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs.15,000 and EPF members drawing monthly wage of less than Rs.15,000 who exited from employment during COVID Pandemic from 1st March to 30th September, 2020 and is employed on or after 1st October, 2020 are targeted beneficiaries under the scheme.

Q.199) Which of the following vulture species of India are Critically Endangered (CR) as per IUCN Red list?

1. Long-billed Vulture
2. Red-headed Vulture
3. Himalayan Vulture
4. Oriental white-backed Vulture

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.199) Solution (b)

Ministry Of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has launched Vulture Action Plan 2020-25.

Critically-endangered (CR) vulture species of India are: **Oriental white-backed Vulture, Long-billed Vulture** (Gyps Indicus), **Slender-billed Vulture** and **Red-headed Vulture**.

Egyptian Vulture is Endangered (EN).

Near threatened (NT) vulture species of India are: **Himalayan Vulture**, Bearded Vulture and Cinereous Vulture.

Q.200) With reference to Conference on Disarmament (CD) consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral disarmament forum established by the international community to negotiate arms control and disarmament agreements.
2. Under it the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) is being negotiated.

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.200) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is a multilateral disarmament forum established by the international community to negotiate arms control and disarmament agreements based at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Conference was first established in 1979 as the Committee on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.	Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) that is being negotiated in CD. FMCT is a proposed international agreement that would prohibit the production of the two main components of nuclear weapons: highly-enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium.

Q.201) With reference to G20, consider the following statements:

1. Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP.
2. One of its objectives is to create a new international financial architecture.

3. Its permanent secretariat located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.201) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies. It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union. Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population.	The objectives of the G20 are: a) Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth; b) to promote financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises; and c) to create a new international financial architecture.	The G20 does not have a permanent secretariat: its agenda and activities are established by the rotating Presidencies, in cooperation with the membership. A "Troika", represented by the country that holds the Presidency, its predecessor and its successor, works to ensure continuity within the G20.

Q.202) The Great Barrington Declaration often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Implementation of Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- b) An alternative approach to the COVID-19 pandemic
- c) Establish rule based global governance
- d) Prevent and reduce plastic pollution to protect marine biodiversity

Q.202) Solution (b)

The Great Barrington Declaration is a statement that advocates an alternative approach to the COVID-19 pandemic that involves "Focused Protection" of those most at risk and seeks to avoid or minimize the societal harm of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

- It is authored by three public health experts from Harvard, Stanford, and Oxford.
- It encourages governments to lift lockdown restrictions on young and healthy people while focusing protection measures on the elderly.
- The approach balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity and to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. This is called Focused Protection.

Q.203) The technology of desalination plant has been experimented in which of the following States of India?

1. Kerala
2. Gujarat
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Maharashtra
5. Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.203) Solution (c)

- Recently, Maharashtra announced the setting up of a desalination plant in Mumbai.
- The plant will process 200 million liters of water daily (MLD), and will help in overcoming the water shortage faced by Mumbai in the months of May and June.
- **Maharashtra will be the fourth state to experiment with Desalination Plants.** In India, **Tamil Nadu** has been the pioneer in using this technology, setting up two desalination

plants near Chennai in 2010 and then 2013. The other states that have proposed these plants are **Gujarat** and **Andhra Pradesh**.

Q.204) Consider the following pairs:

Marine Protected Area	Ocean associated
1. Ross sea	Southern Ocean
2. Phoenix Islands	Pacific Ocean
3. Tristan da Cunha	Indian Ocean

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.204) Solution (a)

- Recently **Tristan da Cunha** was declared the largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The **Ross Sea** region is a deep bay of the **Southern Ocean** in Antarctica contains the world's largest marine protected area (MPA).
- The **Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA)** is located in the Republic of Kiribati, an ocean nation in the central Pacific approximately midway between Australia and Hawaii. PIPA is one of the largest marine protected areas (MPA), and one of the largest protected areas of any type (land or sea) on Earth.

Q.205) Which of the following sectors are included in Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities?

- 1. Telecom and Networking Products
- 2. Automobiles Components
- 3. Food products

4. Speciality Steel

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.205) Solution (d)

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to introduce the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in the following 10 key sectors for Enhancing India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports.

Sectors and Implementing Ministry/Department are as follows

1. Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery: NITI Aayog and Department of Heavy Industries
2. Electronic/Technology Products: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
3. **Automobiles & Auto Components**: Department of Heavy Industries
4. Pharmaceuticals drugs: Department of Pharmaceuticals
5. **Telecom & Networking Products**: Department of Telecom
6. Textile Products (MMF segment and technical textiles): Ministry of Textiles
7. **Food Products**: Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
8. High Efficiency Solar PV Modules: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
9. White Goods (ACs & LED): Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
10. **Speciality Steel**: Ministry of Steel.

Notified PLI schemes are already available in the following sectors:

1. Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components: MEITY.
2. Critical Key Starting materials/Drug Intermediaries and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients: Department of Pharmaceuticals.
3. Manufacturing of Medical Devices: Department of Pharmaceuticals

Q.206) Match the following technologies in Drinking Water and Sanitation which were recommended recently by the Technical Committee:

<i>Methods</i>	<i>Technology</i>
1. A solar energy based water treatment plant based on ultra-filtration	A. Johkasou technology
2. An inbuilt sewage and Kitchen and bath water treatment system	B. FBTec
3. An Internet of things (IoT) based electric vehicle	C. GrundfosAQpure
4. A decentralised sewage treatment system using fixed filter media	D. Janajal Water on Wheel

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 – A; 2 – C; 3 – D; 4 – B
- b) 1 – A; 2 – C; 3 – B; 4 – D
- c) 1 – C; 2 – A; 3 – D; 4 – B
- d) 1 – C; 2 – A; 3 – B; 4 – D

Q.206) Solution (c)

The Ministry of Jal Shakti gives importance to the infusion and deployment of innovative technological solutions to realize the objective of the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural home by 2024.

A multi-disciplinary Technical Committee in the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has recommended five technologies in Drinking Water and Sanitation to provide Field Level Solutions to the States.

1. **GrundfosAQpure**, a solar energy based water treatment plant based on ultra-filtration.
2. **Janajal Water on Wheel**, an IoT based electric vehicle based on GPS location to enable delivery of safe water to the doorstep of households.
3. **Presto Online Chlorinator**, a non-electricity dependent online chlorinator for disinfection of water for removal of bacterial contamination.
4. **Johkasou technology** recommended is an inbuilt sewage and Kitchen and bath water treatment system having advanced anaerobic-aerobic configuration that can be installed underground.

5. The last innovative technology is **FBTec**, a site assembled in a decentralised sewage treatment system using fixed filter media.

Q.207) Which of the following State government passed a resolution to recognise Sarna religion and include it as a separate code in the Census of 2021?

- a) Orissa
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Jharkhand

Q.207) Solution (d)

The Jharkhand government has passed a resolution to send the Centre a letter to recognise Sarna religion and include it as a separate code in the Census of 2021.

- The followers of Sarna faith believe in praying to nature. The motto of the faith is "Jal, Jungle, Zameen".
- Its followers pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.
- It is believed that 50 lakhs tribals in the entire country put their religion as 'Sarna' in the 2011 census, although it was not a code.

Q.208) With reference to M dwarfs consider the following statements:

1. These are the stars that have masses more than 50 percent of the Sun's mass.
2. More than 70 percent of all stars in our Galaxy are M dwarfs.
3. These are often referred to as "failed stars".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.208) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
M dwarfs, also known as Red Dwarfs, are the tiniest of the stars that have masses ranging from about 8 percent to about 50 percent of the Sun's mass.	More than 70% of all stars in our Galaxy are M dwarfs, dominating the stellar populations by number.	Brown dwarfs are far less luminous than even red dwarfs. They are considered "substellar objects" whereas red dwarfs are full stars. Brown dwarfs, often referred to as "failed stars" because they do not sustain hydrogen fusion in their cores.

Q.209) Which of the following is the first country in the world to make period products free for all?

- a) Ireland
- b) Costa Rica
- c) Scotland
- d) Norway

Q.209) Solution (c)

- The Scottish Parliament unanimously passed **The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act** which makes it legally mandatory for all public institutions to provide period products, including tampons and pads to all those who need them.
- It is the first law of its kind in the world to make access to menstrual products a right.

Q.210) The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) replaces which of the following organisation?

- a) National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- b) Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority (EPCA)
- c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- d) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

Q.210) Solution (b)

- The central government has notified an Ordinance to constitute a Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas.
- CAQM will supersede all existing bodies, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as well as state governments in matters of air pollution mitigation
- The **CAQM replaces 22 year old Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)** and envisages to streamline the public participation, the inter-State cooperation, the expert involvement and persistent research and innovation.
- Only the National Green Tribunal (NGT), and not civil courts, is authorised to hear cases where the Commission is involved.

Q.211) Consider the following pairs:

Indus valley site	State
1. Baror	Punjab
2. Kotada Bhadli	Rajasthan
3. Rakhigarhi	Haryana

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

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

Q.211) Solution (b)

- Recently, a study by Indian and Canadian archaeologists has found that dairy products were being produced by the Harappans as far back as 2500 BCE. The finding reveals the earliest evidence of dairy production.

- The results are based on molecular chemical analysis of residue of pottery found at **Kotada Bhadli, in Gujarat**. The researchers were able to identify that cattles were used for dairy through a process called stable isotope analysis.
- **Rakhigarhi** is a village in Hisar District in the state of **Haryana** in India.
- **Baror** is an archeological site belongs to ancient Indus Valley Civilization in Sri Ganganagar district of **Rajasthan**, India.

Q.212) The Tigray region of Ethiopia borders with which of the following country?

- a) South Sudan
- b) Eritrea
- c) Somalia
- d) Djibouti

Q.212) Solution (b)

- The Tigray Region is the northernmost of the nine regions (kililat) of Ethiopia. It is the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama peoples.
- It is also known as Region 1 according to the federal constitution. Its capital and largest city is Mekelle.
- It is bordered by **Eritrea to the north**, Sudan to the west, the Amhara Region to the south and the Afar Region to the east and south east.



Q.213) Consider the following statements about KALA-AZAR:

1. It is a neglected tropical disease.
2. It is caused by a Leishmania bacterium.
3. It is endemic to southern States of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.213) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
KALA-AZAR or Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) is a neglected tropical disease characterised by irregular fever, weight loss, anaemia and swelling of the spleen and liver.	It is caused by a protozoan Leishmania parasite and is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected female sandflies. Kala Azar is the 2nd largest parasitic killer in the world after Malaria.	According to WHO, globally, about 7 to 10 lakh new cases occur annually. India accounts for about two-thirds of the total global cases, and the disease is endemic to Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Q.214) India's first green energy Convergence Project will be implemented in which of the following State?

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Goa
- d) Gujarat

Q.214) Solution (c)

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power and Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), **Goa**, have signed a MOU to implement **India's first Convergence Project in the State**.
- Under the MoU, EESL and DNRE will carry-out the feasibility studies and subsequent implementation of decentralized solar energy projects.

Q.215) With reference to WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL), consider the following statements:

1. It is a risk based procedure to assess and list unlicensed vaccines during public health emergencies.
2. It was introduced during the COVID-19 outbreak.
3. The ChAdOx 1 nCoV19 (Covishield) vaccine is the first ever vaccine to be listed in WHO EUL.

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

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

Q.215) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) is a risk based procedure to assess and list unlicensed vaccines during public health emergencies , such as polio and COVID. Its objective is to make these medicines, vaccines and diagnostics available faster to address the emergency.	It was introduced during the West Africa Ebola outbreak of 2014-2016.	The novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) , vaccine that has proven useful in treatment of Vaccine derived polio virus (VDPV) strain has become the first ever vaccine to be listed in WHO's EUL.

Q.216) Consider the following statements:

1. CPI represents consumer baskets better than the other measures
2. CPI provides information on price movements in services sector also
3. CPI excludes food inflation which is a critical part of price stability

Which of the above statements is/are the correct reasons for choosing Consumer price Index (CPI) as measure of Inflation?

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

Q.216) Solution (a)

- CPI measures the inflation levels at the level of the consumer expenditure. By virtue of its construction, it has following advantages:
 - i. **CPI represents consumer baskets better than the other measures** like WPI.
 - ii. **CPI provides information on price movements in services sector also.**
 - iii. **CPI includes Food Inflation which is a critical part of price stability** objective in emerging markets like India. (Statement 3 is incorrect)

Q.217) With reference to 'Sahakar Pragya', consider the following statements:

1. It aims to impart training to artisans, cottage industry workers in rural areas.
2. It is fully funded by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

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.217) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
'Sahakar Pragya' was recently launched by the Ministry of Agriculture. Its objective is to impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas . It will address the need for training of Primary cooperatives, FPO-Cooperatives and Self Help Groups federating.	There will be 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya. Training is imparted by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy (LINAC). Sahakar Pragya shall enhance NCDC's training capacity by 18-fold through an elaborate network of 18 Regional Training Centres across the country by the dedicated LINAC set up and fully funded by NCDC .

Q.218) The Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) was recently signed between which of the following two QUAD countries?

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

Q.218) Solution (d)

- **Japan and Australia have signed Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)**, a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.
- The pact allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other's countries and conduct training and joint operations.
- The two sides also agreed on the need for a framework to allow Japanese military to protect Australian forces if needed.

Q.219) With reference to Lonar lake consider the following statements:

1. It is an endorheic basin on the Deccan Plateau.

2. It is a wetland of international importance.
3. It is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- e) 1 and 2 only
- f) 1 and 3 only
- g) 2 and 3 only
- h) 1, 2 and 3

Q.219) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Lonar lake wetland on the Deccan Plateau is an endorheic or closed basin, almost circular in shape, formed by a meteorite impact onto the basalt bedrock.	Recently Lonar lake and the Soor Sarovar at Agra have been declared Ramsar sites. Lonar lake is the second Ramsar site in Maharashtra after Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary. The lake is part of Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary which falls under the unified control of the Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR).	It is also known as Lonar crater and is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument. Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight to earth's evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.

Q.220) Recently seen in news, the Athena SWAN Charter aims at

- a) Enhancing gender equity in science and technology
- b) Reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disasters
- c) Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- d) Sustainable restoration of swamp ecosystems on Earth

Q.220) Solution (a)

- Department of Science and Technology, under new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, is incorporating a system of grading institutes depending on the enrolment of women and advancement of careers of women faculty and scientists.
- This concept is borrowed from Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) program of UK.
- **Athena SWAN Charter** is an evaluation and accreditation programme in the UK enhancing gender equity in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM).

Q.221) Which of the following fuel production is promoted under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative?

- a) Methanol
- b) Hydrogen Compressed Natural Gas
- c) Compressed Bio-Gas
- d) Biodiesel

Q.221) Solution (c)

- Under the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative**, the government is looking at setting up 5,000 **compressed bio-gas or CBG plants** by 2023-24 with a production target of 15 million tonnes.
- To boost the availability of affordable and clean transport fuel, an agreement was signed for setting up 900 compressed bio-gas or CBG plants by companies such as Adani Gas and Torrent Gas.
- SATAT provides for generating gas from municipal waste as well as forest and agri waste. Animal husbandry and marine wastes are also included.

Q.222) Which of the following labour code for the first time in Indian law attempted to define 'platform work' outside of the traditional employment category?

- a) Code on Wages.
- b) Industrial Relations Code.
- c) Social Security Code.
- d) Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.

Q.222) Solution (c)

- The **Code on Social Security, 2020**, for the first time in Indian law, attempted to define 'platform work' outside of the traditional employment category.
- Platform Work (as defined by the Code) means a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment.

Q.223) Consider the following pairs:

Folk Arts	State
1. Bhavai	Gujarat
2. Naman - Khele	Rajasthan
3. Therukoothu	Kerala

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.223) Solution (b)

- India's Films Division (FD) is organising Lok Virsat, a festival of films on folk art and painting.
- The films being streamed include:
 - The Kingdom of God: It is a film on the great Indian heritage of art and culture with focus on various folk art traditions.
 - **Bhavai** - Fading Memories: A film on Bhavai which is a folk art of **Gujarat**.
 - **Naman - Khele**: A film on the ancient folk art performed in Ratnagiri, **Maharashtra**.

- SahiJata - The Fusion Cult: A film on the unique fusion of muscle and music in the form of folk art on the back-drop of the ancient Orissa town of Puri
- **Therukoothu** - Dancing For Life: A film depicting the age old **Tamil** folk art.

Q.224) Which of the following countries are members of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)?

1. Mexico
2. China
3. Indonesia
4. Ecuador
5. India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.224) Solution (a)

- Recently, a virtual meeting of the 21-member **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** forum was held. The meeting was hosted by Malaysia.
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation was established in 1989.
- Member Nations: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, **China**, Hong Kong, **Indonesia**, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, **Mexico**, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States.
- Its 21 member economies are home to around 2.8 billion people and represented approximately 59% of world GDP and 49% of world trade in 2015.
- India is not a Member of APEC.



Q.225) Recently the places Antaragange Betta, Aadi Narayana Swamy Betta and Mahima Ranga Betta are declared as

- a) Deemed forest areas
- b) Conservation Reserves
- c) Wildlife Sanctuaries
- d) Biodiversity Heritage sites

Q.225) Solution (d)

- The Karnataka Biodiversity Board has decided to declare four more areas in the State as biodiversity heritage sites.
- A resolution is passed to declare
 - **Antaragange Betta** in Kolar; It has a unique and perennial water source flowing all through the year
 - **Aadi Narayana Swamy Betta** in Chickballapur; had many dry-belt species protected by locals.
 - **Mahima Ranga Betta** in Nelamangala, Bengaluru; it is a prominent lung space surviving in Bengaluru.

- Urumbi area on the Kumaradhara river basin in Dakshina Kannada as biodiversity heritage sites has a fragile environmental system and is located on the banks of the river Kumaradhara.
- Biodiversity heritage sites are considered unique and fragile ecosystems that can be marine ecosystems, coastal and inland waters, or terrestrial areas.
- Notifying an area as biodiversity heritage site will help protect the rich and unique ecosystem in a particular area from further destruction.

Q.226) The 'Garima Greh' is a shelter home for which of the following?

- a) Women victims of difficult circumstances
- b) Manual scavengers
- c) Abandoned senior citizens
- d) Transgender persons

Q.226) Solution (d)

- A 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' was recently e-inaugurated in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- Under the Scheme of 'Shelter Home for Transgender Persons', the Ministry for Social Justice & Empowerment has decided to set up shelter homes for transgender persons who have been forced to leave their homes or abandoned by the family.
- They will be run by transgender community-led organisations. These shelters will also provide skill training to connect the community members with livelihood opportunities.

Q.227) The MQ9B Sea Guardian unarmed drones which are recently inducted by the Indian Navy are procured from which of the following country?

- a) USA
- b) Israel
- c) Russia
- d) France

Q.227) Solution (a)

- Recently, two **American MQ9B Sea Guardian unarmed drones** have been inducted by the Indian Navy.
- MQ9B Sea Guardian is the maritime variant of the Predator MQ9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and has a maximum endurance of 40 hours and a maximum flying altitude of 40,000 feet.
- It has 3600 maritime surveillance radar and optional multimode maritime surface search radar.

Q.228) With respect to *One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance*, which of the following statements is/are *NOT* correct?

1. It is a collaborative effort of the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
2. It was created in response to a recommendation from the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.228) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance was launched by Food and Agriculture Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health and World Health Organization. This 20-member group comprises heads of states, current and former ministers of different countries, leaders from the private sector and civil society.	It was created in response to a recommendation from the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG) that submitted its report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in April 2019. The group will elevate the need to prioritize best practices to address AMR at global, regional, and national levels.

Q.229) The only Cherry Blossoms festival in India is hosted by which of the following Capital city?

- a) Kohima
- b) Shillong
- c) Gangtok
- d) Imphal

Q.229) Solution (b)

- India **International Cherry Blossom Festival** is the calendar event of Meghalaya which attracts a large number of tourists annually in **Shillong**. It is the only Cherry Blossoms festival in India.
- It was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Q.230) With reference to World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS), consider the following statements:

1. Its components are recognised by the International Navigation Association.
2. Recently India has become only third country in the world to have its Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) recognised as a part of the WWRNS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.230) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been accepted as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the	India has become the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation

Indian Ocean Region by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

This will enable merchant vessels to use IRNSS for obtaining position information similar to GPS and GLONASS to assist in the navigation of ships in ocean waters within the area covered by 50°N latitude, 55°E longitude, 5°S latitude and 110°E longitude.

satellite system recognised by the IMO as a part of the WWRNS. The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the US, Russia and China.

Q.231) Consider the following pairs:

Military Exercise	Country Involved
1. SIMBEX-20	Singapore
2. SITMEX-20	Thailand
3. SLINEX-20	Srilanka

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.231) Solution (d)

- **SIMBEX-20:** The 27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise
- **SITMEX-20:** The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between IN, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- **SLINEX-20:** The 8th edition of annual India – Sri Lanka bilateral naval maritime exercise.

Q.232) The Moscow Declaration recently seen in news was adopted by which of the following organization?

- a) G20

- b) BRICS
- c) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- d) Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

Q.232) Solution (b)

The 2020 BRICS Summit was held virtually under the chairmanship of Russia, which adopted the motto for the year as 'BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth'.

- The **Moscow Declaration was adopted by BRICS** which reflects the five countries' consolidated approach to the further development of the association.
- Two pillars of this year's summit are the economy and counterterrorism - Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2020-2025 and The BRICS counter-terrorism strategy.

Q.233) Consider the following statements:

1. La Nina is the cold phase of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
2. La Nina occurs less frequently than El Nino.
3. Strong La Nina events contribute to weaker monsoons and even droughts in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.233) Solution (a)

- Recently, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has announced the arrival of La Nina in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean after nearly a decade's absence.
- La Nina is the unusual cooling of sea surface temperatures. In a La Nina year the easterly winds blow much stronger; this makes the water near the equator a few degrees colder than normal. Thus upwelling is enhanced. Also this change in the ocean's temperature impacts the weather across the world.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
El Nino and La Nina are opposite phases of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). La Nina is sometimes referred to as the cold phase of ENSO and El Nino as the warm phase of ENSO.	La Nina and El Nino usually last between 9 and 12 months. While their frequency is fairly irregular, they take place every two to seven years. Typically, El Nino occurs more frequently than La Nina.	In the 'La Nina year', rainfall associated with the summer monsoon in Southeast Asia tends to be greater than normal , especially in northwest India and Bangladesh. Strong El Nino events contribute to weaker monsoons and even droughts in India.

Q.234) With reference to Negative-yield bonds, consider the following statements:

1. These are debt instruments that offer to pay the investor a maturity amount higher than the purchase price of the bond.
2. These are issued by private companies only.
3. These bonds attract investments during times of stress and uncertainty.

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

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

Q.234) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
Negative-yield bonds are debt instruments that offer to pay the investor a maturity	These are generally issued by central banks or governments, and investors pay interest to the borrower to keep their money with them. Recently, China sold	Negative-yield bonds attract investments during times of stress and uncertainty as investors look to protect their capital from significant erosion. During Covid-19 pandemic

amount lower than the purchase price of the bond.	negative-yield debt for the first time, and this saw a high demand from investors across Europe.	interest rates in developed markets across Europe are much lower, investors are looking for relatively better-yielding debt instruments to safeguard their interests.
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Q.235) The 'AIM–Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0' is a bilateral youth innovation initiative between India and which of the following?

- a) Switzerland
- b) Netherland
- c) UK
- d) Russia

Q.235) Solution (d)

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Russia's Sirius (Scientific International Research In Unique Terrestrial Station) launched '**AIM–Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0**'.
- It is a 14-day virtual programme for Indian and Russian schoolchildren.
- The first **Indo-Russian bilateral youth innovation initiative**, the AIM–Sirius programme seeks to develop technological solutions (both web- and mobile-based) for the two countries.

Q.236) Consider the following statements regarding All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC):

1. It was founded after Non-cooperation Movement was launched.
2. It was formed to provide labour representation for India at the International Labor Organization (ILO).
3. N M Joshi was the first general secretary of the AITUC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Q.236) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Non-cooperation movement was launched on 4 September 1920 by Mahatma Gandhi with the aim of self-governance and obtaining Purna Swaraj. AITUC was founded on 31 October 1920.	AITUC was formed in 1920 by leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Narayan Malhar Joshi, Joseph Baptista, Diwan Chaman Lal etc. to provide labour representation for India at the International Labor Organization (ILO).	Lala Lajpat Rai was elected as the first president of AITUC and Dewan Chaman Lal as the first general secretary.

Q.237) The *Roridomyces phyllostachydis*, a bioluminescent variety of mushroom was recently discovered in which of the following region?

- a) Northeast India
b) Western Ghats
c) Andaman and Nicobar islands
d) Lakshadweep Islands

Q.237) Solution (a)

- A mushroom documentation project in the forests of **Northeast India** has led to a new discovery: **a bioluminescent (light emitting) variety of mushroom.**
- The new species - named ***Roridomyces phyllostachydis*** - was first sighted in August in Meghalaya's Mawlynnong in East Khasi Hills district and later at KrangShuri in West Jaintia Hills district.
- It is now one among the 97 known species of bioluminescent fungi in the world. The new species is important because it is the first mushroom in the *Roridomyces* genus to be found in India. It was the only member in its genus to have light emitting from its stipe or stalk.

- Bioluminescence is the property of a living organism to produce and emit light. Animals, plants, fungi and bacteria show bioluminescence.

Q.238) With reference to Param Siddhi, consider the following statements:

1. It is the high performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer established under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
2. It is ranked within Top 100 most powerful distributed computer systems in the world.
3. It is developed jointly by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.238) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Param Siddhi is the high performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer established under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).	Param Siddhi has achieved global ranking of 63 in TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. In a non-distributed (or co-located) system, all the parts of the system are in the same physical location. In a distributed system, parts of the system exist in separate locations.	It is developed by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.

Q.239) The GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India was recently launched by which of the following ministry?

- a) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- c) Ministry of Food Processing
- d) Ministry of social justice and empowerment

Q.239) Solution (c)

- **The Ministry of Food Processing launched the GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India.**
- The digital ODOP map provides detailed information about ODOP products to all states and facilitates the stakeholders.
- The digital map also has indicators for tribal, SC, ST, and aspirational districts. It will enable stakeholders to make concerted efforts for its value chain development.

Q.240) With reference to UN Sanitation and Hygiene Fund consider the following statements:

1. It is a global financing mechanism for countries with high burden of diseases stemming from lack of sanitation services.
2. It is hosted by the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.240) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
UN Sanitation and Hygiene Fund will fund	The fund is hosted by the UN Office for

countries with high burden of diseases stemming from lack of sanitation services and have the least ability to respond to them.

Project Services, which provides technical advice and project implementation to the UN and its partners.

Q.241) The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is collaboration between which of the following countries?

1. India
2. Bangladesh
3. Myanmar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.241) Solution (b)

The **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** connects Sittwe Port in Myanmar to the India-Myanmar border.

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.



Q.242) In which one of the following States, the Rupri Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

Q.242) Solution (a)

A **Himalayan serow** has been sighted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region of Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Wildlife officials believe this particular animal may have strayed into the Spiti valley from the **Rupri Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary**, Himachal Pradesh.

- Himalayan Serow resembles a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig.
- They are herbivores and are typically found at altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres (6,500 to 13,000 feet).
- They are known to be found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas, but not in the Trans Himalayan region.
- IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable

- It is listed under Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which provides absolute protection.

Q.243) Consider the following statements regarding ASTRA Mk-I Missile:

- It is an air-to-surface Missile.
- It has a range of over 300 km.
- It can be launched from Sukhoi-30 and LCA Tejas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.243) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
ASTRA Mk-I Missile is first Beyond Visual Range air-to-air Missile designed to be mounted on a fighter aircraft and is also designed to engage and destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aircraft.	Astra has a range of over 70 km and speed of over 5,555 km per hour. It is indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).	It can be launched from Sukhoi-30, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Mig-29 and Mig-29K.

Q.244) With reference to Better Than Cash Alliance, consider the following statements:

- It is a partnership of governments only.
- Its members are committed to digitizing payments.
- India is a founding member of the alliance.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

Q.244) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
Based at the United Nations, the Better Than Cash Alliance is a partnership of governments, companies, and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to responsible digital payments to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.	The Alliance has 75 members which are committed to digitizing payments in order to boost efficiency, transparency, women's economic participation and financial inclusion, helping build economies that are digital and inclusive. It was launched by the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Citigroup, the Ford Foundation, the Omidyar Network, and Visa Inc.	It was created in 2012. India became a member of the alliance in 2015 to digitize payments to achieve financial inclusion and to share success stories from Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the world's largest financial inclusion program.

Q.245) Which of the following organisation released a report titled "Realizing the Future of Learning: From learning poverty to learning for everyone, everywhere"?

- a) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN)
- d) Education Development Center (EDC)

Q.245) Solution (b)

Recently **World Bank** released a report titled "Realizing the Future of Learning: From learning poverty to learning for everyone, everywhere".

Learning Poverty is defined as the percentage of 10-year-olds who cannot read and understand a simple story.

To support efforts to improve foundational learning, World Bank has also launched a global target: to cut the Learning Poverty rate - at least in half by 2030.

Q.246) Consider the following pairs:

Traditional Toys	State/UT
1. Etikoppaka Toys	Andhra Pradesh
2. Kinnal Craft	Karnataka
3. Nirmal Toys	Maharashtra

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.246) Solution (b)

- **Etikoppaka Toys of Andhra Pradesh** are made of soft wood and lacquer color. The way of toy making is also known as turned wood lacquer craft.
- **Kinnhal Toys or Kinnal Craft** is a traditional wooden craft local to the town of Kinnhal, or Kinnal, in Koppal District, North **Karnataka**.
- **Nirmal Toys** are traditional Indian wooden toys made in the town of Nirmal in the Adilabad district in the state of **Telangana**.

Q.247) The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) works under which of the following Ministry?

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- b) Ministry of AYUSH

- c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Q.247) Solution (b)

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has been established by Government of India to coordinate with all matters relating to Medicinal Plants and Support Policies and Programs for growth of trade, export, conservation and cultivation.

The board is **working under Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH)**.

Q.248) The first Honey Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) has been registered in which of the following State of India?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Q.248) Solution (a)

- Recently, the Honey Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Programme of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) was virtually inaugurated.
- The programme has been launched under the Formation and Promotion of FPOs.
- It is a new Central Sector Scheme for the promotion of 10,000 new FPOs.
- NAFED has initiated the formation and promotion of FPOs of beekeepers and honey collectors in 5 states of India: East Champaran (Bihar), Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and Sunderbans (West Bengal).
- **The first Honey FPO has been registered in the state of Madhya Pradesh.**

Q.249) With reference to Planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index (PHDI), consider the following statements:

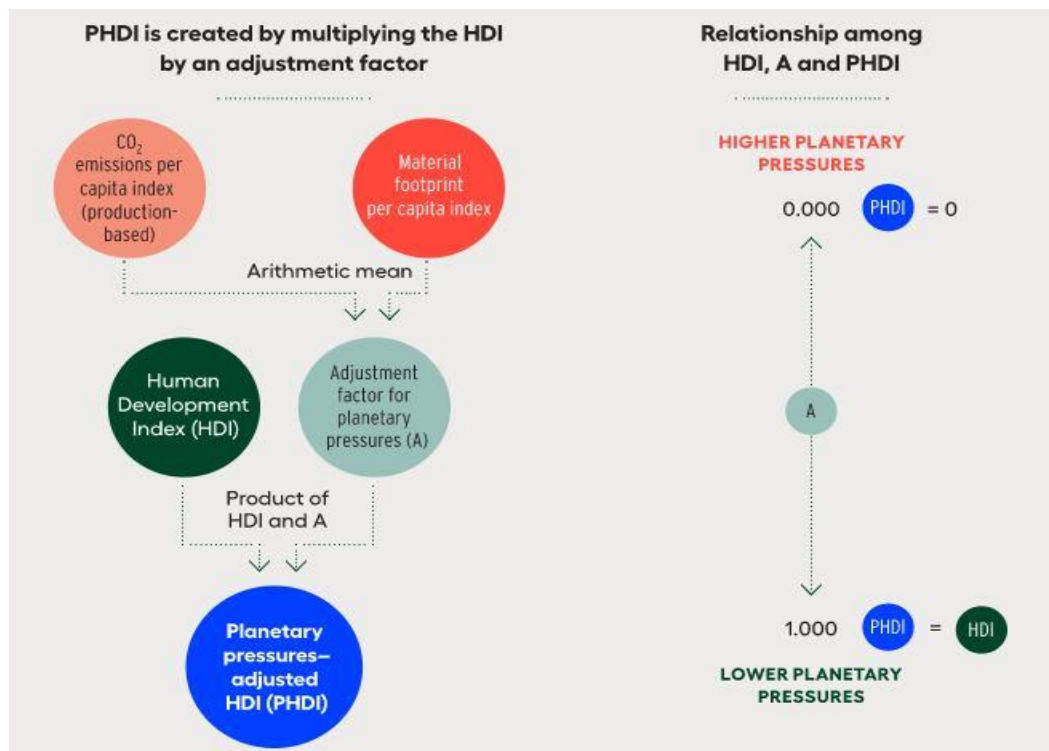
1. It is released by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).
2. PHDI is the level of human development adjusted by carbon dioxide emissions per person and material footprint per capita.
3. As pressures on the planet increase, the PHDI falls below the Human Development Index (HDI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.249) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The Human Development Report (HDR) 2020 Report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has introduced Planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index (PHDI).	The PHDI is the level of human development adjusted by carbon dioxide emissions per person (production-based) and material footprint per capita to account for the excessive human pressure on the planet. It is computed as the product of the HDI and (1 – index of planetary pressures) where (1 – index of planetary pressures) can be seen as an adjustment factor.	In an ideal scenario where there are no pressures on the planet, the PHDI equals the HDI. However, as pressures increase, the PHDI falls below the HDI.



Q.250) Consider the following statements:

1. Australia is the largest producer of lithium in the world.
2. India's first Lithium refinery will be set up in Gujarat.

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.250) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Australia is the largest producer of	India's first Lithium refinery which will process

lithium in the world i.e. 52.9% of global production in 2019. Chile (21.5%) and China (9.7%) are ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material will be set up in **Gujarat**. The refinery will be importing Lithium ore from Australia as it is not usually found in India.

Q.251) Consider the following statements:

1. European Union is an economic and political union involving 28 European countries.
2. For any country to come out of European Union, it has to negotiate a settlement deal with EU.

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.251) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
European Union (EU) is an economic and political union involving 27 European countries. It allows free trade and free movement of people, to live, trade and work in whichever country they choose. With Brexit, EU strength has reduced to 27 from 28.	For any country to come out of European Union, it has to negotiate a settlement deal with EU. Article 50 of Lisbon Treaty provides for exit of member countries from European Union. United Kingdom and the European Union have agreed to a post-Brexit free trade deal i.e. The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA).

Q.252) A new web portal 'E-Sampada' was recently launched by which of the following Ministry?

- a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries

- b) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- c) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Q.252) Solution (d)

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** launched a new web portal and mobile app, **e-Sampada** to boost transparency and accountability while ensuring ease of living for the citizens of India.
- The new application provides a single window for all these services including allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, office space allotment to government organisations, etc.
- In its endeavour to provide 'One Nation, One System', the erstwhile four websites (gpra.nic.in, eawas.nic.in, estates.gov.in, holidayhomes.nic.in), and two Mobile Apps (m-Awas & m-Ashoka5) of the Directorate of Estates have been integrated into one.

Q.253) Consider the following statements:

1. RNA vaccines carry inactivated pathogen to stimulate an immune response.
2. RNA vaccines are non-infectious.
3. RNA vaccines can be produced more rapidly than conventional vaccines.
4. RNA vaccines require refrigeration as it cannot be stored at room temperature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.253) Solution (b)

- India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate, HGCO19, has received approval from Indian Drug regulators to initiate Phase one and two human clinical trials.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Incorrect	Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Instead of injecting a weakened form of a virus or bacteria into the body, RNA vaccines use part of the virus' own genes to stimulate an immune response. In other words, they carry the genetic instructions for the host's cells to make antigens.	RNA vaccines are not made with pathogen particles or inactivated pathogen, so are non-infectious. RNA does not integrate itself into the host genome and interact with our DNA. The RNA strand in the vaccine is degraded once the protein is made.	RNA Vaccines can be produced more rapidly in the laboratory in a process that can be standardised, which improves responsiveness to emerging outbreaks.	They can be stored at room temperature without losing their activity and more stable than conventional vaccines in warm climates if kept dry and/or sterile at pH8.

Q.254) Consider the following pairs:

Geographic region	Known for
1. Ziro valley	Kiwi fruit
2. Pangl valley	Hazelnut
3. Araku valley	Coffee

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.254) Solution (d)

- The **kiwis** that grow wild in Arunachal Pradesh's **Ziro Valley** are the only certified organic fruit of their kind in India.
- **Pangl ki Thangi** is a type of hazelnut which grows in **Pangl valley** located in the northwestern edge of Himachal Pradesh. It is known for its unique flavour and sweetness.

- **Araku valley Arabica coffee** has a GI tag. Araku Valley is a hill station in Visakhapatnam district in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Q.255) Which of the following Indian cities are included in the list of UNESCOs world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme?

1. Gwalior
2. Jaipur
3. Hyderabad
4. Ahmedabad
5. Varanasi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.255) Solution (b)

- **Gwalior and Orchha** in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of UNESCO's world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme. Before this, **Varanasi**, Ajmer-Pushkar and **Hyderabad** were included among the pilot cities for Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) recommendation based planning in the year 2015.
- Ahmedabad and Jaipur are two Indian cities in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

Q.256) Consider the following statements:

1. Postal Ballot is a type of voting whereby Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Papers (ETPB) are distributed to electors and returned by post.
2. Representation of the People Act, 1951 has to be amended by the Parliament to extend Postal ballot facility to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

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.256) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Postal Ballot is a type of voting whereby Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Papers (ETPB) are distributed to electors and returned by post. Under ETPBS, the postal ballot is dispatched electronically and returned via ordinary mail and it is currently only available to service voters like member of the armed Forces, person employed by govt outside India etc.	Recently the Election Commission (EC) approached the Law Ministry to permit NRIs to cast their votes from overseas through postal ballots. To extend postal ballot service to overseas voters, government only needs to amend the Conduct of Election Rules 1961. It doesn't require Parliament's nod.

Q.257) Which of the following statements regarding the Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) is/are correct?

1. It is an inter-ministerial Committee headed by Union Minister of Environment.
2. It operates as a National Authority to regulate carbon markets in India under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
3. It provides guidance to private sector for aligning their climate actions with national priorities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.257) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) under the chairmanship of Secretary, MoEFCC. Senior officials from fourteen ministries will serve as Members to AIPA who will oversee the progress in implementation of India's NDC.	Key functions of AIPA: (1) Operate as a National Authority to regulate carbon markets in India under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; (2) Formulate guidelines for consideration of projects or activities under Article 6; (3) Issue guidelines on carbon pricing, market mechanism, and other similar instruments that have a bearing on climate change and NDCs.	Its purpose is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). It will take note of the contributions of the private sector as well as multi-/bi-lateral agencies in the field of climate change and provide guidance for aligning their climate actions with national priorities.

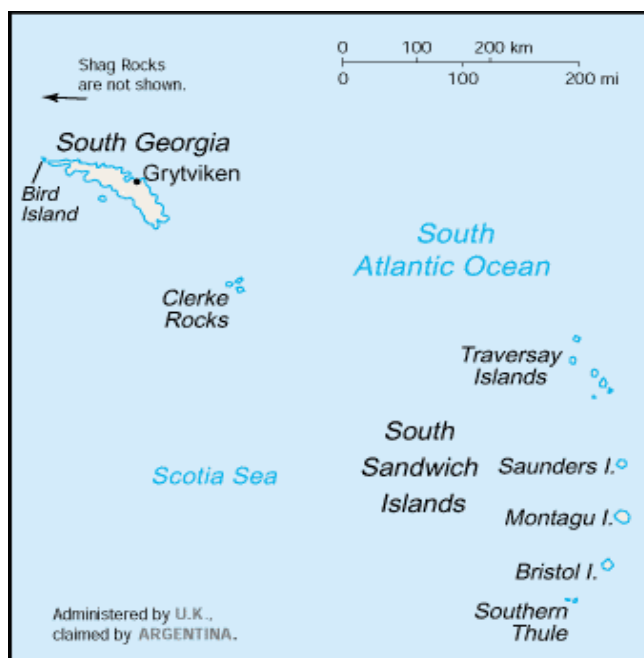
Q.258) The South Georgia recently seen in news, is an island in which of the following Oceans?

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

Q.258) Solution (c)

- **South Georgia** (Spanish: Isla San Pedro) is an island in the **southern Atlantic Ocean** that is part of the British Overseas Territory of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The main settlement is Grytviken.

- Iceberg A68a, which calved from Antarctica in 2017, has been floating off the coast of South Georgia island. This has prompted fears about the impact the iceberg could have on the island's abundant wildlife.



Q.259) The Invest India won 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award. In this context, consider the following statements regarding Invest India:

- It is the national investment promotion and facilitation agency.
- It is a for-profit company registered under the Companies Act, 2013.
- It partners with multilateral organizations and brings in global best practices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.259) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Invest India is India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency. It focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.	It was set up in 2009 as a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	It partners with substantial investment promotion agencies and multilateral organizations and also actively works with several Indian states to build capacity as well as bring in global best practices in investment targeting, promotion and facilitation areas.

Q.260) With reference to Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) ecosystem, consider the following statements:

1. Public Data Offices (PDOs) will establish, maintain, and operate only the WANI compliant Wi-Fi access points to deliver broadband services.
2. A central registry will perform the function of authorization and accounting of the numerous PDOs.
3. There shall be minimum license fee for providing Broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks.

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

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

Q.260) Solution (b)

- Union Cabinet has approved Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) to elevate wireless internet connectivity in the country.
- PM-WANI eco-system will be operated by different players such as Public Data Office (PDO); Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA); App Provider; Central Registry.

- The app provider will develop the app to register users and discover PM-WANI compliant WiFi hotspots nearby.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Public Data Offices (PDOs) will establish, maintain, and operate only the WANI compliant Wi-Fi access points to deliver broadband services to its subscribers. These PDOs will either provide internet on their own or will lease from some other Internet Service Provider (ISP).	PDO Aggregators (PDOAs) will perform the function of authorization and accounting of the numerous PDOs. A central registry will be set-up which will maintain details of all app providers, PDOAs and PDOs. The registry will be handled by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT).	There shall be no license fee for providing Broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks. A customer wanting to access the network from a PDO's premise can do so only after an eKYC authentication.

Q.261) Which of the following are sources of Ammonia emissions?

1. Agriculture
2. Vehicular emissions
3. Forest fires
4. Decomposition of organic waste

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.261) Solution (d)

- Ammonia (NH₃) is a colourless gas and is used as an industrial chemical in the production of fertilisers, plastics, synthetic fibres, dyes and other products.

- Sources of Ammonia emissions:
 - The largest source of NH₃ emissions is **Agriculture**, including animal husbandry and NH₃-based fertilizer applications.
 - Other sources of NH₃ include industrial processes, **vehicular emissions**, volatilization from soils and oceans, **decomposition or breakdown of organic waste**, forest fires, animal and human waste, nitrogen fixation processes.

Q.262) With reference to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), consider the following statements:

1. It came into being in 1997 through the New Delhi Declaration.
2. All the members of BIMSTEC are littoral states of Bay of Bengal.
3. Its permanent secretariat is located in Dhaka.

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

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

Q.262) Solution (a)

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation of seven nations of South Asia and Southeast Asia, housing 1.5 billion people and having a combined Gross Domestic Product of \$3.5 trillion (2018).

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
7 member States of BIMSTEC came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. Initially, it was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. Nepal and Bhutan		Leadership is rotated in alphabetical order of country names. The permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

are landlocked countries Lanka and Thailand Economic
and not littoral. Cooperation).

Q.263) Which of the following warships are built under Project 17A of Indian Navy?

- a) Submarines
- b) Torpedo launch vessels
- c) Stealth frigates
- d) Amphibious transport docks

Q.263) Solution (c)

- **Himgiri**, the first of the three **stealth frigates** being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, under Project 17A for the Navy, was launched recently.
- INS Nilgiri is the first ship of the Project-17A.
- Under Project 17A program, a total of seven ships are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

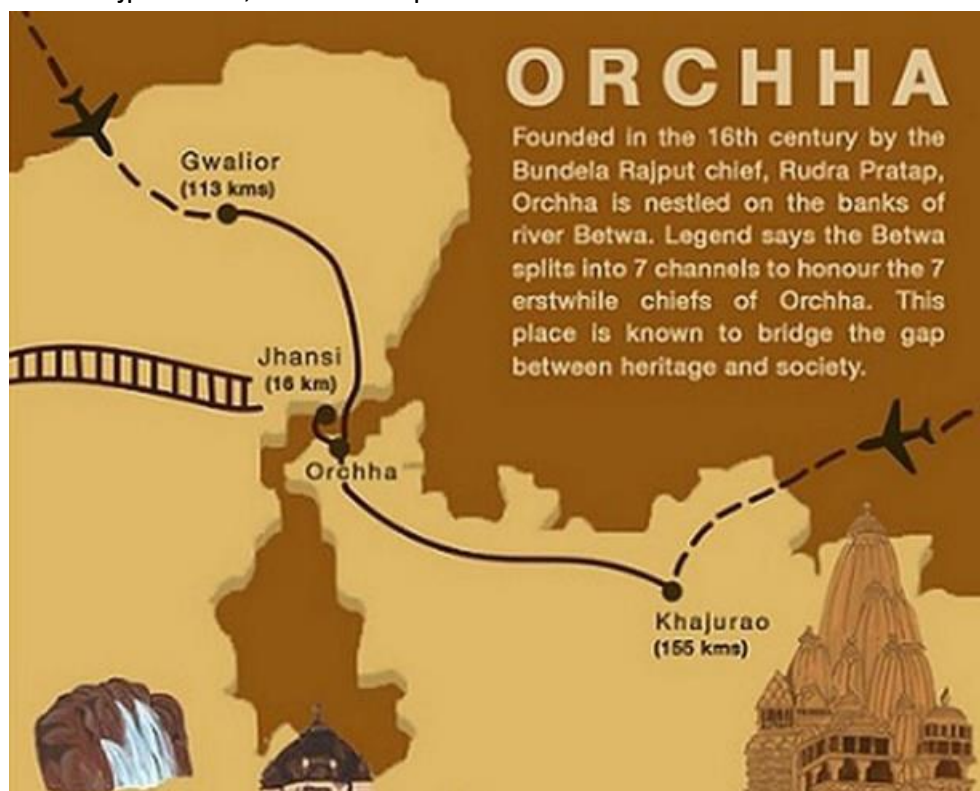
Q.264) Orchha, the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century is nestled on the banks of which of the following rivers?

- a) Betwa
- b) Ken
- c) Chambal
- d) Sind

Q.264) Solution (a)

- Orchha is popular for its temples and palaces and was the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.
- The famous spots in the town are Raj Mahal, Jehangir Mahal, Ramraja Temple, Rai Praveen Mahal, and Laxminarayan Mandir.

- Orchha located in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. The historic town of **Orchha**, nestled on the banks of river Betwa, was founded in the 16th century by the Bundela Rajput Chief, Rudra Pratap.



Q.265) Consider the following pairs:

Country

1. Estonia
2. Eritrea
3. Dominican Republic

Sea associated with

- North Sea
- Red Sea
- Caribbean Sea

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.265) Solution (c)

- Recently the Cabinet approved opening of 3 Indian Missions in Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic.



Q.266) With reference to Blue Flag certification, consider the following statements:

- It is awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under its 'Clean Seas' Programme.
- It can be obtained by a beach or marina only.
- Environmental, educational, access and safety related criteria should be satisfied to qualify for the Blue Flag certificate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.266) Solution (b)

Statement 1

Statement 2

Statement 3

Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Blue Flag is an eco-label and blue flag beaches should provide clean and hygienic bathing water, along with basic infrastructure for tourists. The Blue Flag Certification is awarded by a non-profit organization called the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).	The certification is awarded to beaches, marinas (which are small ports or harbours designed for pleasure yachts or boats) and sustainable boat tourism operators in FEE member countries.	To qualify for the Blue Flag certificate, a series of stringent requirements or criteria should be satisfied. The criteria are environmental, educational, access and safety related.

Q.267) With reference to National Family Health Survey (NFHS), consider the following statements:

1. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai is the nodal agency for the NFHS survey.
2. NFHS survey is conducted once in every five years.
3. These surveys are completely funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

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

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

Q.267) Solution (c)

Statement 1 Correct	Statement 2 Incorrect	Statement 3 Incorrect
The NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. The	The first phase of the fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has been released recently for which data was collected in the second half of	Along with MoHFW many international agencies provide funds to carry out the NFHS. They are United States Agency for

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has designated the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, as the nodal agency for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey. 2019 covered 17 states and five Union Territories. The first four NHFS were conducted in 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2015-16, respectively. **MoHFW has decided to conduct integrated NFHS with a periodicity of three years in lieu of different surveys from 2015-16 onwards.** International Development (USAID), The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Q.268) With reference to Narrow Band-Internet of Things (NB-IoT), consider the following statements:

1. NB-IoT is a low power wide area technology to connect wide range of new IoT devices.
2. NB-IoT doesn't operate in the licensed Long-Term Evolution construct.
3. Worlds' first satellite-based NB-IoT network will be established in India.

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.268) Solution (d)

Statement 1
Correct

Narrow Band-Internet of Things (NB-IoT) is a wireless communication standard for the Internet of Things (IoT). **It is a Low Power Wide Area (LPWA) technology** that

Statement 2
Correct

NB-IoT doesn't operate in the licensed Long-Term Evolution (LTE) construct. Instead, it works in one of three ways: (1) Independently; (2) In unused 200-kHz bands that have previously been used for GSM (Global System

Statement 3
Correct

BSNL, in partnership with Skylotech India, announced **worlds' first satellite-based Narrow Band-Internet of Things (NB-IoT) network in India.** This is indigenously developed by Skylo. It will

was developed to enable for Mobile Communications) and connect with BSNLs satellite-
wide range of new (3) On LTE base stations allocating ground infrastructure and
internet of things a resource block to NB-IoT provide PAN-India coverage,
devices. operations or in their guard bands. including Indian seas.

Q.269) The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant is located in which of the following country?

- a) Israel
- b) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- c) Iran
- d) Kazakhstan

Q.269) Solution (c)

- **Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP)** is an Iranian underground uranium enrichment facility located 20 miles northeast of the Iranian city of Qom, near Fordow village.
- It is the second Iranian uranium enrichment facility, the other one being that of Natanz.

Q.270) Consider the following statements regarding Saguna Rice Technique:

1. It is a method of cultivation of rice and related rotation crops.
2. It is a zero till technique.
3. In this technique, puddling and hoeing is to be done to control weeds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.270) Solution (a)

Statement 1

Statement 2

Statement 3

Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Saguna Rice Technique is a unique new method of cultivation of rice and related rotation crops without ploughing, puddling and transplanting (rice) on permanent raised beds.	This zerotill technique is a unique Conservation Agriculture (CA) type of cultivation method evolved at SagunaBaug, District Raigad, Maharashtra.	Saguna Rice Technique insists that all roots and small portion of stem should be left in the beds for slow rotting. No ploughing, puddling and hoeing is to be done to control weeds. Weeds are to be controlled with weedicides and manual labor.

Q.271) Arrange the following Capital cities from North to South?

1. Vientiane
2. Bangkok
3. Hanoi
4. Phnom Penh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.271) Solution (b)

Correct sequence : Hanoi (Vietnam) – Vientiane (Laos) – Bangkok (Thailand) - Phnom Penh (Cambodia)



Q.272) With reference to web-based application 'Digital Ocean', consider the following statements:

1. It is a new state of the art data platform for Ocean Data Management.
2. It is developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
3. It provides access to information only to Institutes of National Importance.

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.272) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 2
Correct	Correct	Incorrect

Digital Ocean is a new state of the art data platform for Ocean Data Management. It is the first such platform to provide ocean data related services at one place. It includes a set of applications developed to organize and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology.	It has been developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).	'Digital Ocean' will help to share knowledge about the ocean with a wide range of users. It also provides free access to information to the general public and the common man.
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Q.273) Consider the following statements:

1. Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is published by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. India is one of the Top 10 countries in the index.

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

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

Q.273) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is published by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network. It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.	CCPI assesses countries' performance in four categories: GHG emissions (40%), renewable energy (20%), energy use (20%) and climate policy (20%). India ranked 10th in the latest edition of the CCPI and scored 63.98 points out of 100.

Q.274) With reference to Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It extends health coverage to the residents of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
2. The scheme provides free of cost insurance cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per family.

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.274) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Recently the Prime Minister has launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme via video-conferencing to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).	The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K. It provides financial cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.

Q.275) Which of the following Union Territory was recently announced completely organic?

- a) Lakshadweep
- b) Daman and Diu
- c) Andaman and Nicobar
- d) Puducherry

Q.275) Solution (a)

- **Entire Lakshadweep group of islands** has been declared as an organic agricultural area under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India.
- Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.

Q.276) Japan's Hayabusa2 is the Sample Return Mission to which of the following asteroids?

- a) Psyche
- b) Flyby
- c) Bennu
- d) Ryugu

Q.276) Solution (d)

- Six years after **Japan's Hayabusa2 mission** was launched, it is set to return back to Earth. It will be carrying samples from the **Ryugu asteroid** that orbits the Sun.
- Ryugu is classified as a Potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs).
- NASA's OSIRIS-REX mission also brought back samples from asteroid Bennu late in October, 2020.


Q.277) Consider the following statements regarding Zari-Zardozi crafts:

1. It is an embroidery work done in white thread on cloth.
2. Bhopal is one of the main zari production centres in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.277) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>Zardozi or Zari or kalabattu is an embroidery work done in metal wires. Zardozi, a more elaborate version of zari, involves the use of gold threads, spangles, beads, seed pearls, wire, gota and kinari.</p> 	<p>The main zari production centres are Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. Recently Madhya Pradesh Government organized 'Raag-Bhopali' exhibition to promote Zari-Zardozi crafts of Bhopal. Varanasi, Lucknow, Surat, Ajmer and Hyderabad are other important centres for zari work.</p>

Q.278) Sometimes seen in news, the Bhashan Char Island belongs to which of the following country?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Thailand

Q.278) Solution (c)

- Recently, Bangladesh has transported more than 1,600 Rohingya refugees to a low-lying **Bhashan Char island** in the first phase of a controversial planned relocation of 1,00,000 people.
- The uninhabited island is located around 30 kilometres east of Hatiya island in South-East Bangladesh.
- Bhashan Char is a flood-prone island that emerged from the sea 20 years ago.

Q.279) Which of the following financial instruments is/are traded in spot markets?

1. Securities
2. Currencies
3. Commodities

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.279) Solution (d)

- **The spot market is where financial instruments, such as commodities, currencies and securities, are traded for immediate delivery.** Delivery is the exchange of cash for the financial instrument.
- A futures contract, on the other hand, is based on the delivery of the underlying asset at a future date.
- Spot markets are also referred to as “physical markets” or “cash markets” because trades are swapped for the asset effectively immediately.
- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has recently launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities - "BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd. (BEAM)" - through its subsidiary BSE Investments.
- With BEAM, farmers in one state will be able to reach out to markets in other states and auction their produce.

Q.280) Consider the following statements:

1. India's leopard population has increased by about 60 percent from the 2014 estimation as per the Status of Leopards in India, 2018 Report.
2. Karnataka has the highest concentration of the leopard among States in India.
3. Rajasthan was first state to launch a Project Leopard to mitigate human-leopard conflicts and conserving the leopard population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.280) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Recently Status of Leopards in India, 2018 Report was released by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The leopard population has been estimated using camera trapping method. There are 12,852 leopards in India as of 2018 as compared to the previous estimate of 7910 conducted in 2014, an increase of 60% in 4 years.	The highest concentration of the leopard in India is estimated to be in Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690). As for region-wise distribution, the highest number of 8,071 leopards were found in central India and Eastern Ghats. In the northeast hills, there are just 141 leopards.	Rajasthan was first state to launch a Project Leopard to mitigate human-leopard conflicts and conserving the leopard population.

Q.281) With reference to Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a high performance intelligent software system that provides Global Maritime Situational Picture and Marine planning tools.
2. It is indigenously developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q.281) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS) is high performance intelligent software system that provides Global Maritime Situational Picture, Marine planning tools and Analytical capabilities to Indian Navy. It provides Maritime Operational Picture from Naval HQ to each individual ship in sea to enable Naval Command and Control.	It is indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR), Bengaluru of DRDO and Indian Navy has jointly conceptualised and developed the product and the BEL, Bengaluru has implemented it.

Q.282) Consider the following pairs:

Ramsar site	State/UT
1. Kabartal Wetland	West Bengal
2. Keetham lake	Uttar Pradesh
3. Tso Kar Wetland	Jammu and Kashmir

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

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

Q.282) Solution (d)

- **Kabartal Wetland** also known as **Kanwar Jheel**, it covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the Begusarai district of **Bihar**.
- **Soor Sarovar** Lake also known as **Keetham lake** situated within the Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary alongside river Yamuna in Agra, **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Tso Kar Wetland** Complex is India's 42nd Ramsar site and a second one in **Ladakh** after Tso Moriri.

Q.283) With reference to Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), consider the following statements:

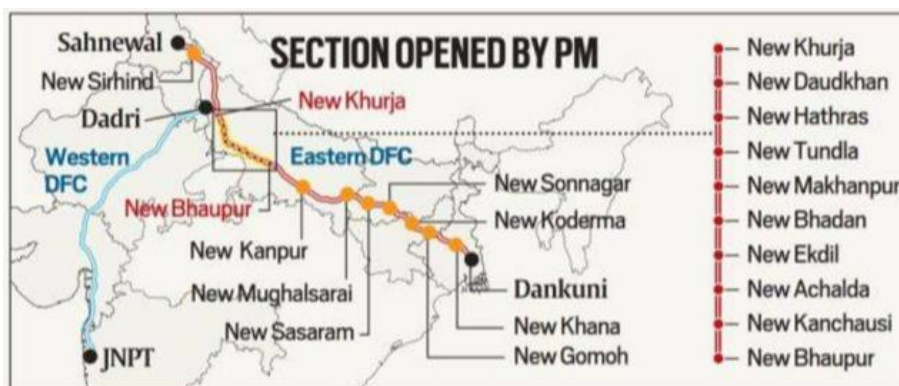
1. It will run across six States of India.
2. It is implemented by a special purpose vehicle established by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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.283) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) will be the 1,856 km long from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni in West Bengal having double electrified tracts. It will run across six States i.e starts in Punjab, and passes through the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Haryana before finally ending at West Bengal.	The project is being implemented by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), a special purpose vehicle established by the Ministry of Indian Railways for the construction, operation and maintenance of the dedicated freight corridors. DFCCIL is also responsible for planning, development, mobilisation of financial resources and operation of the DFCs.



Q.284) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 50,000.
2. The loan under the scheme is provided without any collateral.
3. A programme of Socio-Economic Profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries is one of its components.

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.284) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), for providing	The loan is repayable in monthly installments within a year. The loans would be provided	A programme of Socio-Economic Profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their

affordable working capital loan up to 10 thousand rupees to Street Vendors for facilitating resumption of their livelihoods adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.	without collateral and there will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.	families was recently launched as an additional component of PM SVANidhi Scheme.
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Q.285) Who among the following started first-ever infanticide prohibition home in India called Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha?

- a) Ramabai Ranade
- b) Tarabai Shinde
- c) Dhondo Keshav Karve
- d) Savitribai Phule

Q.285) Solution (d)

In 1863, **Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule** started the first-ever infanticide prohibition home in India called **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha**. It helped pregnant Brahmin widows and rape victims deliver children.

Q.286) Which of the following Countries have successfully retrieved lunar samples?

- 1. Russia
- 2. USA
- 3. China
- 4. India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.286) Solution (a)

- China's Chang'e 5 lunar mission returned to Earth carrying around 2 kilograms of the first fresh rock samples from the moon.
- With this, **China became the third country after the United States and the Soviet Union, to collect lunar samples.**

Q.287) The Zou people or Zomi are an indigenous community living in which of the following State of India?

- a) Assam
- b) Tripura
- c) Mizoram
- d) Manipur

Q.287) Solution (d)

- **Manipur's Zomi ethnic group** has renewed its demand for the creation of Zoland Territorial Council (ZTC) under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, a self-administered zone on the lines of the Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam.
- The Zou people or Zomi are an indigenous community living along the frontier of India and Burma. They are a sub-group of the Zo people (Mizo-Kuki-Chin).

Q.288) Which of the following film media units are recently merged with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)?

1. Directorate of Film Festivals
2. Film and Television Institute of India
3. National Film Archives of India
4. Children's Film Society, India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.288) Solution (c)

- Union Cabinet has approved to merge four of its film media units, namely **Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society, India** with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. by expanding the Memorandum of Articles of Association of NFDC, which will then carry out all the activities hitherto performed by them.
- The merger of Film Media Units under one corporation will lead to convergence of activities and resources and better coordination, thereby ensuring synergy and efficiency in achieving the mandate of each media unit.

Q.289) The San Isidro Movement by artists and activists demanding greater freedom of expression was started in which of the following country?

- a) Cuba
- b) China
- c) Venezuela
- d) France

Q.289) Solution (a)

- **In Cuba, a campaign by artists and activists demanding greater freedom of expression** has been in news recently.
- Cuba has been under an authoritarian communist regime for more than 60 years.
- The Movimiento San Isidro, or the **San Isidro Movement (MSI)**, started two years ago to protest state censorship of artistic works.
- It started in September 2018, when the Cuban government sought to enforce Decree 349 which is a law that would have given powers to the nation's Culture Ministry to restrict cultural activity it did not approve of.
- To protest against the decree, artists, poets, journalists and activists gathered in San Isidro, It is a Black-majority locality that is among Havana's poorest yet most culturally active wards, and which also forms part of the Old Havana UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Q.290) The Sustainable Mountain Development Summit is organized by which of the following organisation?

- a) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- b) The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- c) Central Himalayan Institute for Nature & Applied Research
- d) Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI)

Q.290) Solution (d)

- The 9th edition of **Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS)** was held in Dehradun. It was organized by **Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI)**.
- The summit seeks to deliberate on issues such as migration, water security, climate resilience and innovative solutions for the farm sector, and disaster risk reduction in the Indian Himalayas.
- The theme for this year is Emerging Pathways for Building a Resilient Post COVID-19 Mountain Economy, Adaptation, Innovation and Acceleration.
- The first edition was organized in 2011 in Nainital.

Q.291) With reference to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), consider the following statements:

1. WADA is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee.
2. Scientific Research is one of the key activities of WADA.
3. WADA monitors the provisions of World Anti-Doping Code.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.291) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports. It was established in 1999 and head quartered at Montreal, Canada.	Its key activities include scientific research, education, and development of anti-doping capacities. India has recently pledged a sum of USD 1 million to the WADA towards the agency's scientific research budget.	WADA monitors the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) – the document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries. Provisions of World Anti-Doping Code are enforced by the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.

Q.292) Consider the following pairs:

Wildlife Sanctuary	State/UT
1. Singalila	Odisha
2. Pobitora	Assam
3. Shoolpaneshwar	Maharashtra

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.292) Solution (b)

- **Singalila wildlife sanctuary** is part of the eastern Himalayas in Darjeeling, **West Bengal**.
- **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam** is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' because of similar landscape and a sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.
- **Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary** is a protected area in India's **Gujarat** state, located in the western Satpura Range south of the Narmada River.

Q.293) The Vanchit Ikai Samoooh Aur Vargon Ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) Yojana is an interest subvention scheme for financial empowerment of which of the following marginalized groups?

1. Scheduled Castes (SC)
2. Scheduled Tribes (ST)
3. Other Backward Classes (OBC)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.293) Solution (c)

- **Vanchit Ikai Samoooh Aur Vargon Ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) Yojana** is an Interest subvention Scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for financial **empowerment of economically marginalized OBC/SC SHGs & Individuals.**
- The scheme will benefit OBC/SC SHGs with loans up to Rs.4 Lakh and OBC/SC individuals with loan up to Rs.2 Lakh with a quick interest subvention benefit of 5% directly into the standard accounts of borrowing beneficiaries.
- Recently, National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) entered in to MoA with Central Bank of India for implementation of VISVAS Yojana.

Q.294) Consider the following statements regarding 'Pneumosil' vaccine:

1. It is India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.
2. It is developed by National Institute of Virology, Pune.

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.294) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Pneumasil is India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). A conjugate vaccine is a substance that is composed of a polysaccharide antigen fused (conjugated) to a carrier molecule. This enhances the stability and the effectiveness of the vaccine.	It is developed by Serum Institute of India in collaboration with partners like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Pneumasil targets the pneumococcal bacterium, which causes pneumonia and other serious life threatening diseases such as meningitis and sepsis.

Q.295) The 'Swadhinata Sarak' is a road route that connects India with which of the following neighbouring country?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Pakistan
- d) Bangladesh

Q.295) Solution (d)

- **The Swadhinata Sarak is a road route that connects Bangladesh with India.** It originates from the Mujibnagar district of Bangladesh.
- The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh has informed that 'Swadhinata Sarak' between Bangladesh and India will be opened on March 26, 2021. He added that the road remains functional in India while it will be connecting through Meherpur, Mujibnagar district in Bangladesh.

Q.296) Consider the following pairs:

Indigenous Games	Origin
1. Kalaripayattu	Kerala
2. Gatka	Punjab
3. Thang-Ta	Manipur

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.296) Solution (d)

- The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four Indigenous Games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana. The games include: Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba.
- **Kalaripayattu** has its origin from **Kerala** and has practitioners all over the world.
- Mallakhamba has been well-known across India. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been the hotspots of this sport.
- **Gatka** originates from the State of **Punjab**. This traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh Warriors is used both as self-defense and a sport.
- **Thang-Ta** is a **Manipur** martial art which has passed into oblivion in the recent decades.

Q.297) The Emissions Gap Report is an annual report released by which of the following?

- a) German Watch
- b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Q.297) Solution (c)

- **Emissions Gap Report is an annual report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).**

- The annual report from UNEP measures the gap between anticipated emissions and levels consistent with the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming this century to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C.

Q.298) The Tharu tribes live mostly in which of the following States of India?

1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Uttarakhand
3. Uttar Pradesh
4. Bihar
5. Jharkhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.298) Solution (d)

- The community of Tharu people belongs to the Terai lowlands. The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live **mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.**
- They speak various dialects of Tharu, a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.
- Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
- Tharus worship Lord Shiva as Mahadev, and call their supreme being "Narayan", who they believe is the provider of sunshine, rain, and harvests.

Q.299) India's largest renewable energy generation park is situated in which of the following State?

- a) Rajasthan

- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Karnataka

Q.299) Solution (b)

- The Hybrid Renewable Energy Park near Vighakot village in the district of Kutch in Gujarat will be the World's largest renewable energy generation park.
- This 30,000 megawatt capacity hybrid renewable energy park will be built along the Indo-Pak border at Khavda using both wind and solar energy.

Q.300) The National Mission on Inter-Disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) is implemented by which of the following?

- a) Department of Science & Technology (DST)
- b) Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR)
- c) Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)
- d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT)

Q.300) Solution (a)

- **National Mission on Inter-Disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** is implemented by **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.
- NM-ICPS covers entire India which includes Central Ministries, State Governments, Industry and Academia.
- It would address technology development, application development, human resource development & skill enhancement, entrepreneurship and start-up development in Cyber Physical System (CPS) and associated technologies.
- The mission aims at establishment of 15 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), six Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and four Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP).



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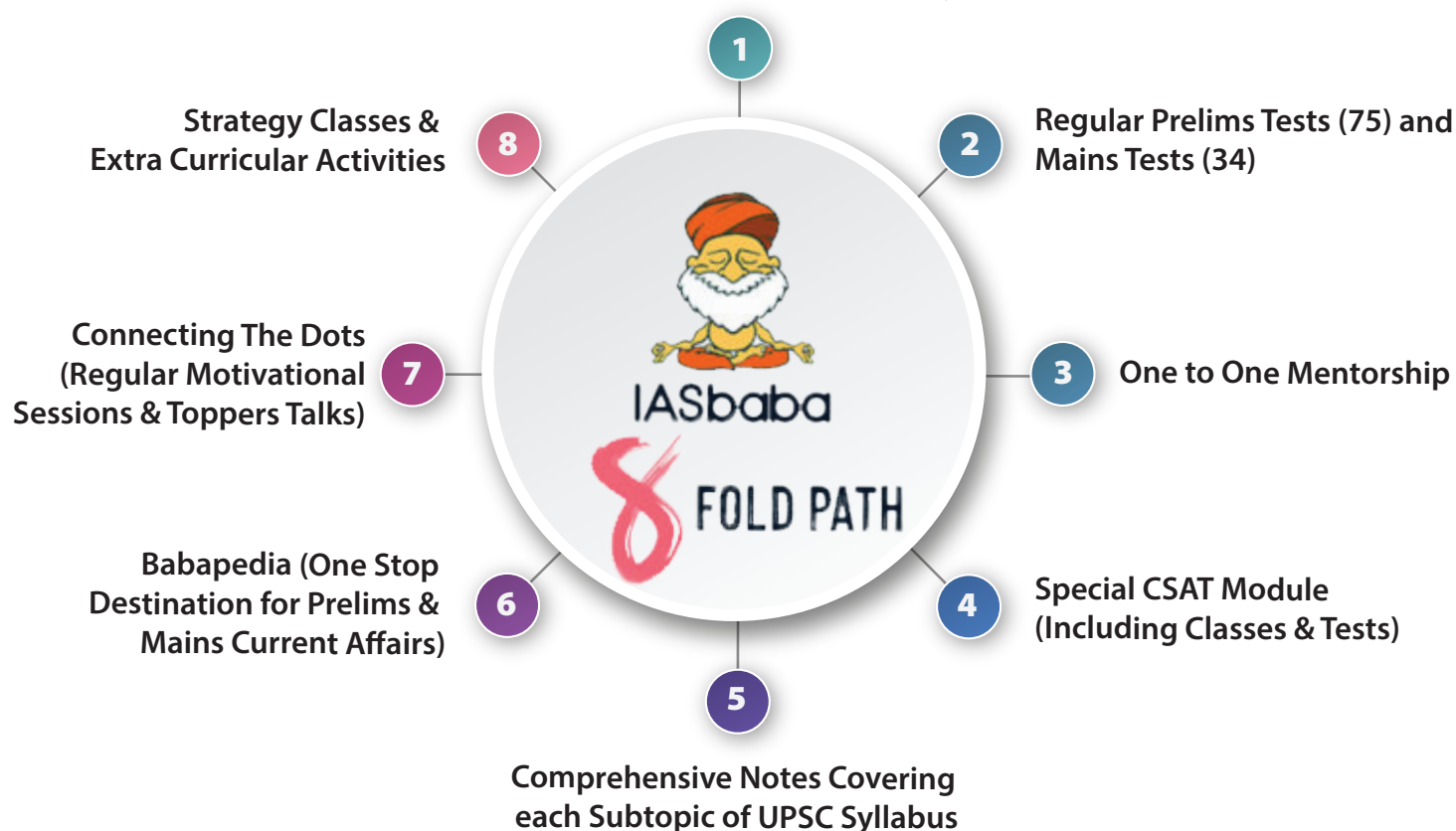


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