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**IASBABA'S**

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**60 DAYS PLAN**

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**PRELIMS 2021**

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**COMPILATIONS**

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**CURRENT AFFAIRS  
PART 2**

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is held on January 9 as it was on this day in 1916 Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.
2. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention being held every year is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs.

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

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

**Q.1) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9th January to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. <b>It is held on January 9 as it was on this day in 1915</b> , Mahatma Gandhi (the greatest Pravasi) returned to India from South Africa and led the country's freedom struggle.	<b>PBD Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs</b> and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians. PBD conventions were held every year since 2003. Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the <b>PBD Convection once every two years</b> . The theme of 16th PBD Convention 2021: "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

**Q.2) The 'NAVARITI' is a certification course on which of the following?**

- a) Acknowledging Traditional Skills
- b) Energy Efficient technology
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) Construction Technology

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

Prime Minister released a certification course on innovative construction technologies named **NAVARITI** (**New, Affordable, Validated, Research Innovation Technologies for Indian Housing**).

He also laid the foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC) - at six sites across six states.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) Project:**

1. Except Russia all other BRICS countries are taking part in NCAVES Project.
2. The NCAVES Project is funded by the World Bank.
3. It is implemented by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 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.3) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) Project is jointly implemented by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).	The NCAVES Project is funded by the European Union (EU) through its Partnership Instrument and aims to assist the five participating	In India, the NCAVES Project is being implemented by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the National

India is one of the five countries taking part in this project. The other countries being Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico.	partner countries.	Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). NCAVES India Forum 2021 was organised by the MoSPI.
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**Q.4) The SANRAKSHAN KSHAMTA MAHOTSAV is a is a campaign organised by which of the following organisation?**

- a) Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
- b) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)
- c) Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)
- d) Nature Conservation Foundation

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

**SAKSHAM (SANrakshan KSHAmta Mahotsav) is a is a campaign organised by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) to sensitize the masses about conservation and efficient use of petroleum products which will lead towards better health and environment.**

It will convince consumers to switch to cleaner fuels and bring in behavioral change.

**Q.5) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Festival</b>	<b>Celebrated in</b>
1. Magh Bihu	Assam
2. Makara Chaula	West Bengal
3. Poush Sankranti	Odisha

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

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

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

Sankranti is celebrated in almost all parts of India with distinct names. Here are some examples.

- Thai Pongal (Tamilnadu)
- Uttarayan (Gujarat)
- Lohri (Punjab)
- **Poush Sankranti (Bengal)**
- Makara Sankramana (Karnataka)
- **Makara Chaula (Odisha)**
- Maghi Sankrant (Maharashtra and Haryana)
- **Magh/Bhogali Bihu (Assam)**
- Shishur Saenkraat (Kashmir)
- Khichdi Parv (UP and Bihar)

**Q.6) Which of the following international organisations are part of Intergovernmental Negotiations framework (IGN)?**

1. G4 nations
2. African Union
3. Arab League
4. European Union

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

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

**Q.6) Solution (b)**

The **Intergovernmental Negotiations framework (IGN)** is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), 15-member top organ of the world body.

The IGN is composed of several different international organizations, namely: (1) The **African Union**; (2) The **G4 nations** (India, Brazil, Japan and Germany); (3) The **Uniting for Consensus Group (UfC)**; (4) The **L.69 Group of Developing Countries**; (5) **The Arab League**; (6) The **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**.

Each group represents a different set of positions vis-a-vis reforming the United Nations Security Council.

**Q.7) The only species of Indian turtle which is listed as 'Critically Endangered' in IUCN Red Data List is**

- a) Green sea turtle
- b) Hawksbill sea turtle
- c) Loggerhead sea turtle
- d) Leatherback sea turtle

**Q.7) Solution (b)**

Five species of Indian turtles along with their IUCN status are as follows:

1. Olive Ridley – Vulnerable
2. Green turtle – Endangered
3. Loggerhead – Vulnerable
4. **Hawksbill – Critically Endangered**
5. Leather back – Vulnerable

They are protected in Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, under Schedule I.

**Q.8) Consider the following parameters:**

1. Knowledge Workers
2. Safety and Legal Environment
3. Social Capital
4. Knowledge Diffusion

**Which of the parameters given above are used to measure India Innovation Index?**



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

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

NITI Aayog, along with the Institute for Competitiveness released the second edition of the India Innovation Index 2020.

The innovation inputs were measured through five enabler parameters, and the output through two performance parameters.

- Enabler Parameters: '**Human Capital**', '**Investment**', '**Knowledge Workers**', '**Business Environment**', '**Safety and Legal Environment**'.
- Performance Parameters: '**Knowledge Output**' and '**Knowledge Diffusion**'.

The states have been bifurcated into three categories:

- Major states: Top performers are Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana.
- North-east and hill states: Top performers are Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur.
- UTs and City States: Top performers are Delhi, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu.

**Q.9) The Global Investment Trend Monitor Report is released by which of the following organisation?**

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- d) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

**Q.9) Solution (c)**

**Global Investment Trend Monitor Report is released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).**

- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.

- Some of the reports published by UNCTAD are: Trade and Development Report; World Investment Report and The Least Developed Countries Report.

**Q.10) Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up in the recent past due to human activities?**

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Chad

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

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

**Q.10) Solution (d)**

**Aral Sea** is a saltwater lake of Central Asia (between Kazakhstan to the north and Uzbekistan to the south). From 1960s, the Aral Sea began shrinking quite rapidly, with the lake's level dropping 20-35 inches yearly.

Lake Chad is a historically large, shallow, endorheic lake in central Africa, which has varied in size over the centuries. One of Africa's largest freshwater bodies, **Lake Chad**, has shrunk by 90 per cent.

**Q.11) Subhash Chandra Bose was elected as President of the Indian National Congress in which of the following two sessions?**

1. Haripur Session
2. Ramgarh Session
3. Faizpur Session
4. Tripuri Session



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.11) Solution (d)**

- On 23rd January, 2021, India celebrated the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as 'Parakram Divas.'
- **Subhash Chandra Bose was twice elected President of the Indian National Congress, i.e. 1938-Haripur and 1939-Tripuri.**
- Owing to political differences, he resigned from the Congress Presidentship in 1939 and organised the All India Forward Bloc a faction within the Congress in Bengal.
- 1937-Faizpur Session presided by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- 1940-Ramgarh Session presided by Abul Kalam Azad.

**Q.12) Which of the following are reasons behind increasing human wildlife conflicts in recent past?**

1. Loss of Habitat
2. Adverse climatic events
3. Over grazing

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.12) Solution (d)**

- Some of the causes of human wildlife conflict are:

- i. Expanding human settlement resulting **Habitat loss** and fragmentation
- ii. Agricultural expansion and deforestation
- iii. Illegal grass collection and **over grazing** by livestock
- iv. Global warming and Climate change
- v. **Adverse climatic events** such as droughts, floods

**Q.13) Changalikodan is a banana variety originated and cultivated in which of the following State of India?**

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

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

- **Changalikodan Nendran Banana** or famously known as Changalikodan is a banana variety originated and cultivated in Chengazhikodu village of **Thrissur District in Kerala**.
- Changalikodan, now are cultivated on the banks of the Bharathapuzha river.
- Changalikodan got Geographical indication registration from the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.
- Recently scientists have come up with a new product, banana grit or granules, developed from raw Nendran bananas. Banana grit is an ideal ingredient for a healthy diet; it can be used for making a wide range of dishes.

**Q.14) With reference to the South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a high-level group for South Asia energy security.
2. It has been set up under the Ministry of External Affairs.

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

- a) 1 only

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Central Government has set up South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE), a <b>high-level group to build a South Asia-focused energy security architecture</b> . It will be headed by former Union Power Secretary Ram Vinay Shahi. Its objective is to achieve a balanced and optimal development of energy infrastructure through mutual understanding and cooperation	<b>SAGE has been set up under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)</b> -run think tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

**Q.15) Which of the following Acts empowered the Government to notify the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017?**

- a) National Security Act, 1980
- b) Information Technology Act, 2000
- c) Indian Telegraph Act of 1885
- d) Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971

**Q.15) Solution (c)**

- The Section 5(2) of **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885** allows central and state governments to prevent the transmission of messaging during a “public emergency or in the interest of public safety”, or “in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state”.
- Under the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, only the Home Secretary of the central or the state government can pass orders to enforce an Internet shutdown in any area.
- In August 2017, the Centre promulgated the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. Before these rules, the internet shutdowns were imposed largely under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

**Q.16) Consider the following research stations:**

1. Bharati
2. Dakshin Gangotri
3. Maitri
4. Himadri

**Which of the research stations given above are operational in Antarctica?**

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

**Q.16) Solution (c)**

- The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was flagged off on January 05, 2021, from Mormugao Port, Goa. The chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin has been chosen for the prestigious 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA) mission journey and will reach Antarctica in 30 days.
- The Indian Antarctic expeditions began in 1981.
- The Indian Antarctic programme has now been credited to have built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica—named Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri, and Bharati.
- As of today, **India has two operational research stations in Antarctica named Maitri and Bharati.**
- Himadri is India's first permanent Arctic research station located at Spitsbergen, Svalbard, Norway.

**Q.17) Consider the following statements:**

1. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) is the ratio of provisioning to gross non-performing assets.
2. A high PCR ratio means that the bank is more vulnerable.

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.17) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Provisioning Coverage Ratio (PCR) is the percentage of bad assets that the bank has to provide for from their own funds i.e. <b>ratio of provisioning to gross non-performing assets</b> . In other words, it is the ability of banks to service its debt and meet its financial obligations such as interest payments or dividends.	The higher the coverage ratio, the easier it is to make interest payments on debt or pay dividends i.e. <b>a high PCR ratio (ideally above 70%) means most asset quality issues have been taken care of and the bank is not vulnerable.</b>

Q.18) The West bank territory of Western Asia borders with which of the following country?

- a) Lebanon
- b) Syria
- c) Jordan
- d) Egypt

Q.18) Solution (c)

- The **West Bank** is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, **bordered by Jordan** and the Dead Sea to the east and by Israel to the south, west and north.





**Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the Aqua Rejuvenation Plant (ARP):**

1. It is an Integrated Waste Water Rejuvenation Model which has two-stage purification profile for comprehensive treatment of waste water.
2. The filtered sludge generated is utilized as manure.
3. It facilitates an organic farming model through treated waste water.

**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.19) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Aqua Rejuvenation Plant (ARP) is an Integrated Waste Water Rejuvenation	The used filtration media have been specially developed to handle Indian Sewage Water	CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur (West



Model which has <b>Six-Stage purification profile</b> for comprehensive treatment of Waste Water, based upon diverse purification parameters.	Parameters and based upon Geographical Variations they may be modified. The system has dual benefit. While the treated water is being used for irrigation purpose, the <b>filtered sludge generated is also utilized as manure / fertilizer.</b>	Bengal) unveiled the first-ever Waste Water Treatment Technology Model which purifies Waste Water for Irrigation/Farming purposes. <b>It facilitates an Organic Farming Model through treated Waste Water.</b>
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**Q.20) The PREZODE initiative aims to keep the risk of which of the following?**

- a) Nuclear weapons
- b) Zoonotic diseases
- c) Climate Change
- d) Ocean pollution

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

- **The PREZODE**, a first-ever international initiative to prevent future pandemics is an initiative to **prevent emerging zoonotic risks and pandemics**, was announced on the occasion of the One Planet Summit 2021.
- The PREZODE initiative aims to keep the risk of emerging zoonoses and pandemics in check. It is built on and strengthens existing cooperation between the regions of the world that are most exposed to emerging zoonotic diseases.
- PREZODE is designed to incorporate and reinforce networks on human health, animal welfare and the environment. In line with the One Health concept, it aims to better evaluate and detect emerging zoonotic threats and develop preventive measures with all players to protect humans, the planet, and socio-ecosystems. And in doing so, PREZODE reduces the threat of pandemics.

**Q.21) The G-7 is a bloc of industrialized democracies. Which of the following countries are members of G-7?**

1. United States
2. Germany

3. Russia
4. Italy
5. Japan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

- **G-7 is a bloc of industrialized democracies i.e. France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Canada.**
- Russia belonged to the forum from 1998 through 2014, when the bloc was known as the Group of Eight (G8), but was suspended following its annexation of Crimea.
- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975. The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- The United Kingdom has invited India, Australia and South Korea as a guest to attend the 47th G7 summit that is scheduled to be held in June 2021.

**Q.22) Which of the following are the most likely places to find the Caracal, a medium-sized wild cat in its natural habitat?**

1. Sariska Tiger Reserve
2. Simlipal Tiger Reserve
3. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve
4. Buxa Tiger Reserve

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.22) Solution (c)**

- The **caracal** is a medium-sized wild cat native to Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and India.
- It is typically nocturnal and lives mainly alone or in pairs.
- The caracal is a carnivore and is highly secretive and difficult to observe
- IUCN Red List: Least Concern since 2002.
- CITES status: (1) African caracal populations - Appendix II; (2) Asian populations - Appendix I.
- The caracal could be earlier found in arid and semi-arid scrub forest and ravines in Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Today, its presence is restricted to Rajasthan, Kutch, and parts of MP.
- In **Sariska Tiger Reserve and Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve** of Rajasthan one can find caracal.

**Q.23) Consider the following statements:**

1. The cost of issuing green bonds in India has generally remained lower than other bonds.
2. Green bonds constituted about 10 percent of all the bonds issued in India since 2018.
3. Most of the green bonds in India are issued by the public sector units or corporates with better financial health.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct as per recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study?**

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

**Q.23) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
As per a recent study by the Reserve	<b>Green bonds</b>	Most of the green bonds in

Bank of India (RBI), the cost of issuing green bonds has generally remained higher than other bonds in India, largely due to asymmetric information.	constituted only 0.7% of all the bonds issued in India since 2018.	India are issued by the public sector units or corporates with better financial health.
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**Q.24) Risa is a customary handwoven cloth worn by tribal women of which of the following State?**

- a) Assam
- b) Tripura
- c) Manipur
- d) Mizoram

**Q.24) Solution (b)**

- Tripura State Government is now eyeing to promote Risa as the signature textile of Tripura nationally.
- **Risa is a customary handwoven cloth used by Tripura's indigenous tribal communities.**
- It is used as a head gear, stole, female upper cloth or presented to honour a distinguished recipient.
- Risa is one of the three parts of customary Tripuri female attire, the other two being the Rignai and Rikutu.

**Q.25) Consider the following statements:**

1. National Atomic Timescale is the authorized body to realize and maintain the Indian Standard Time.
2. The National Environmental Standards Laboratory measures the performance of various air ambient and emission pollution monitoring equipment.

**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.25) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<b>CSIR - National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is the National Measurement Institute of India and authorized (by an act of Parliament) to realize and maintain the Indian Standard Time (IST).</b> The National Atomic Timescale generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanoseconds.	In order to develop requisite testing and calibration facility for air pollution monitoring equipment, CSIR-NPL is establishing a state of art ' <b>National Environmental Standard Laboratory</b> ' for measuring the performance of <b>various air ambient &amp; emission pollution monitoring equipment</b> like Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Equipment (OCEMS), Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) etc. with the financial assistance provided by the MoEF&CC.

**Q.26) Who among the following acts as Chairperson of the National Startup Advisory Council?**

- a) Prime Minister of India
- b) Union Minister for Commerce & Industry
- c) CEO of NITI Aayog
- d) None of the above

**Q.26) Solution (b)**

The Government has set up a **National Startup Advisory Council** to advise the Centre on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and start-ups in the country.

Composition of the National Startup Advisory Council:

- **Chairman: Minister for Commerce & Industry.**
- Convener of the Council: Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.



- Ex-officio Members: Nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/ Organisations not below the rank of Joint Secretary.
- Non-official members, to be nominated by the Central Government, from various categories like founders of successful startups, veterans who have grown and scaled companies in India, persons capable of representing the interests of investors into startups, etc. The term of the non-official members will be for a period of two years.

**Q.27) With reference to International Energy Agency (IEA), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
2. It was established in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
3. India is not a member of IEA.

**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.27) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation. <b>IEA is not a specialized agency of UN.</b> IEA mainly focuses on its energy policies which include economic development, energy security and environmental protection.	It was established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <b>in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.</b>	The IEA is made up of 30 member countries. Also, the IEA family includes eight association countries which include Brazil, China, and India. <b>India became an Associate member of IEA</b> in March 2017 and recently, India has inked a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the IEA.



**Q.28) The Ratle Hydro Electric Project is located on which of the following rivers?**

- a) Jhelum
- b) Chenab
- c) Ravi
- d) Rapti

**Q.28) Solution (b)**

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the investment of Rs.5281.94 crore for 850 MW **Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project**.
- It will be **located on river Chenab**, in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It will be implemented by a new Joint Venture Company (JVC) to be incorporated between National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC) with equity contribution of 51% and 49% respectively.

**Q.29) The Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1, India Report was recently released by which of the following Ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

**Q.29) Solution (c)**

- **Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1, India Report was recently released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- LASI will provide an evidence base for national and state level programmes and policies for elderly population.
- A unique feature of LASI is the coverage of comprehensive biomarkers. No other survey in India collects detailed data on health and biomarkers together with information on family and social network, income, assets, and consumption.

- LASI is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population ageing in India.
- The LASI, Wave 1 covered a baseline sample of 72,250 individuals aged 45 and above and their spouses including 31,464 elderly persons aged 60 and above and 6,749 oldest-old persons aged 75 and above from all States and Union Territories (UTs) of India (excluding Sikkim).
- It is India's first and the world's largest ever survey that provides a longitudinal database for designing policies and programmes for the older population.
- The evidence from LASI will be used to further strengthen and broaden the scope of National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly.

**Q.30) Recently, the Ministry of Environment has released the Report on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) for Protected Areas. In this context consider the following statements:**

1. MEE is assessment of how well National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries are being managed.
2. The assessment process was adopted from UNEP framework of MEE.
3. The present MEE exercise evaluated 903 Protected Areas 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.30) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
MEE is assessment of how well National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries	Assessment process of India's MEE for Protected Areas was <b>adopted from</b>	India has a network of 903 Protected Areas. <b>The present MEE exercise included 146 National</b>

(NP&WLS) are being managed—primarily, whether they are protecting their values and achieving the goals and objectives agreed upon.	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) framework of MEE.	Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in five regions viz Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and North-eastern, covering 29 states and Union Territories of India.
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**Q.31) The Digital Payments Index is constructed by which of the following?**

- a) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- b) Payment Council of India
- c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- d) Digital Economy & Digital Payment Division of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

**Q.31) Solution (c)**

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constructed a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.**

- The RBI-DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period.
- The DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 work out to 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth.
- The RBI-DPI comprises five broad parameters: Payment Enablers, Payment Infrastructure –Demand-side factors and Supply-side factors, Payment Performance and Consumer Centricity.

**Q.32) The Desert Knight-21 is a bilateral exercise between India and which of the following country?**

- a) France
- b) Australia
- c) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- d) Saudi Arabia

**Q.32) Solution (a)**

**Desert Knight-21** is a bilateral Air exercise between **Indian** Air Force and **French** Air and Space Force.

**Q.33) With reference to Arctic Council, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an intergovernmental body set up in 1996 by the Ottawa declaration.
2. It addresses issues faced by indigenous people of the Arctic.
3. India is not a member of the Arctic Council.

**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.33) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental body set up in 1996 by the Ottawa declaration.	It is mandated to protect the Arctic environment and promote the economies and social and cultural well-being of the indigenous people whose organizations are permanent participants in the council.	It comprises <b>8 member states</b> - Canada, Denmark, Finland, Russia, USA, Iceland, Norway, Sweden are member states. <b>India is not a member</b> and became an Observer nation in 2013.





**Q.34) The Tirthan wildlife sanctuary is located in which of the following States?**

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

**Q.34) Solution (c)**

**Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary** and Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP) in **Himachal Pradesh** have performed the best among the 146 surveyed protected areas by the Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under its Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Protected Areas.

**Q.35) The National Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) is released by which of the following institutions?**

- a) NITI Aayog

- b) Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

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

Recently, the draft of 5th **National Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP)** was released by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

This Policy will replace the Science Technology and Innovation Policy of 2013.

**Q.36) The “Not Many, But One”, a translated book of poems of which of the following social reformers?**

- a) B. R. Ambedkar
- b) Sree Narayana Guru
- c) Keshab Chandra Sen
- d) Atmaram Pandurang

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

- Vice President of India launched a book of poems, **“Not Many, But One”** (Two Volumes), an English translation of **poems of Sree Narayana Guru** by Prof G.K. Sasidharan.
- Narayana Guru (1855 – 1928) was a philosopher, spiritual leader and social reformer in India. He was born into a family that belonged to the Ezhava caste.
- He led a reform movement against the injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala in order to promote spiritual enlightenment and social equality.
- Shri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (also known as SNDP Yogam) is an Indian spiritual organization that was formally founded by Dr. Padmanabhan Palpu in 1903, with the guidance of Shri Narayana Guru.

**Q.37) The Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021 was held recently. In this context consider the following statements:**



1. The summit aims to accelerate, innovate, and scale up the world's efforts in adapting to the effects of climate change.
2. It was hosted online by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat.

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.37) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<b>Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021 aims to accelerate, innovate, and scale up the world's efforts in adapting to the effects of climate change.</b> CAS 2021 is set to deliver an Adaptation Action Agenda as a roadmap for a decade of transformation towards a climate-resilient future by 2030.	Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021 was <b>hosted online by Netherlands</b> and convened global leaders and local stakeholders.

**Q.38) Recently formed G Kishan Reddy Committee is related to which of the following?**

- a) Personal Data Protection regime
- b) Digital Lending platforms
- c) Protect culture of a region
- d) Review of three Farm Acts

**Q.38) Solution (c)**

Centre has decided to form a **committee to protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh** and ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development.

The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home **G Kishan Reddy** and will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, central government, and the Ladakh administration.

**Q.39) The 'Great Reset Initiative' in the post Covid world was recently launched by which of the following organisation?**

- a) World Economic Forum's (WEF)
- b) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- c) World Bank
- d) World Health Organization (WHO)

**Q.39) Solution (a)**

The **World Economic Forum's (WEF)** annual meeting in Davos (Switzerland) i.e. the Davos Dialogues agenda 2021 marks the launch of the **WEF's Great Reset Initiative** in the post Covid world.

The 'Great Reset Initiative' aims to jointly and urgently build the foundations of global economic and social system for a more fair, sustainable and resilient future.

**Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):**

- 1. It is a statutory body.
- 2. It is an apex body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**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.40) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India <b>under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act</b> passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.	APEDA is an <b>apex body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b> , Government of India, responsible for the export promotion of agricultural products.

**Some of the functions of APEDA are as following:**

- i. Promotion of exports of agricultural and processed food products.
- ii. Promotion of export oriented production and development of the Scheduled products.
- iii. To make Improvement in numerous areas such as packaging, marketing for the Scheduled products outside India.
- iv. Setting standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports.
- v. Financial assistance, reliefs and subsidy to the relating industries.
- vi. To provide training in the related areas

**Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding leafletted leaf-nosed bat:**

1. It is endemic to India.
2. It is found only in the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
3. It is a 'Critically Endangered' species as per IUCN Red List.

**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.41) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
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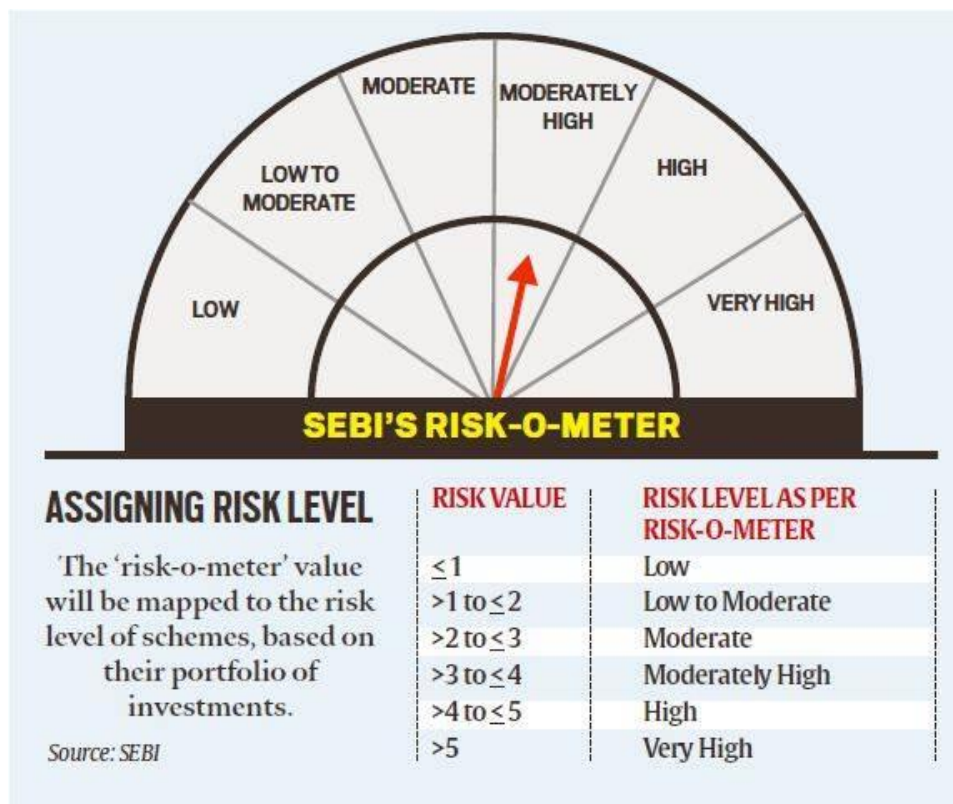
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Kolar leaf-nosed bat or leafletted leaf-nosed bat is a species of bat in the family Hipposideridae. <b>It is endemic to India.</b>	Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests and caves. It is <b>found only in one cave in Hanumanahalli village in the Kolar district of Karnataka.</b>	Its population is less than 200 individuals and is <b>'Critically Endangered (CR)' in IUCN Red List.</b>

**Q.42) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s Risk-O-Meter assesses risk levels associated with which of the following?**

- a) Foreign Currency Bonds
- b) Debentures
- c) Debt Funds
- d) Mutual Funds

**Q.42) Solution (d)**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made it mandatory for mutual fund houses to characterize the risk level of their schemes on a six-stage scale from "Low" to "Very High".
- Fund houses are required to disclose the risk-o-meter risk level along with the portfolio disclosure for all their schemes.
- All mutual funds shall, beginning January 1, assign a risk level to their schemes at the time of launch, based on the scheme's characteristics.



**Q.43) With reference to 'SAHAYAK-NG', consider the following statements:**

1. It is India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container.
2. It has capability to carry a payload that weighs upto 50 kg.
3. Its successful maiden test trial is conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Indian Air Force.

**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.43) Solution (b)**



Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<b>SAHAYAK-NG</b> is India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy).	It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores. SAHAYAK-NG is an advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I. The newly developed GPS aided air dropped container is having the <b>capability to carry a payload that weighs upto 50 kg</b> and can be dropped from heavy aircraft.	Defence Research and Development Organisation ( <b>DRDO</b> ) <b>along with Indian Navy conducted</b> the successful <b>maiden test trial</b> of 'SAHAYAK-NG' off the coast of Goa.

**Q.44) India recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Partnership in "Specified Skilled Worker" with which of the following country?**

- a) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Japan
- d) Australia

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

- Cabinet recently approved signing of **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on Partnership in "Specified Skilled Worker"**.
- The present MoC would set an institutional mechanism for partnership and cooperation between India and Japan on sending and accepting skilled Indian workers, who have qualified the required skill and Japanese language test, to work in fourteen specified sectors in Japan.
- These Indian workers would be granted a new status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker" by the Government of Japan.

**Q.45) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has found promising concentrations of vanadium for the first time in which of the following regions of India?**

- a) North East India



- b) Chota Nagpur Plateau
- c) Deccan Plateau
- d) North Western Mineral Belt

**Q.45) Solution (a)**

- Vanadium is a chemical element with the symbol V and atomic number 23. It is a hard, silverygrey, malleable transition metal. The elemental metal is rarely found in nature.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) found promising concentrations of vanadium in the palaeoproterozoic carbonaceous phyllite rocks in the **Depo and Tamang areas of Papum Pare district in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- This was the first report of a primary deposit of vanadium in India, with an average grade of 0.76% V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [vanadium pentoxide].
- The largest deposits of vanadium in the world are in China, followed by Russia and South Africa. China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumed 44% of the metal in 2017.

**Q.46) With reference to One Planet Summit, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to promote worldwide ecological transformation.
2. It has been co-organized by France, United Nations and 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.46) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The One Planet summit is an international event that focused on biodiversity to mobilize	It has been organised by France in cooperation with the United Nations and

commitments to protect the ecosystems and make links to human health. **The Summit aims to promote worldwide ecological transformation.**

**the World Bank.** "Let's act together for nature" is the theme of One Planet summit 2021.

**Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding Patharughat uprising:**

1. It is a tribal movement against the transfer of their lands to outsiders.
2. It occurred before the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

**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.47) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
In 1893, the British government decided to increase agricultural land tax reportedly by 70- 80 per cent in Assam. The unarmed <b>peasants were protesting against the increase in land revenue</b> levied by the colonial administration, when the military opened fire. In Patharughat, despite these gatherings being democratic, the British perceived them as "breeding grounds for sedition" and opened fire.	<b>Patharughat peasant uprising took place on January 28, 1894 in Assam</b> i.e. after 1857 revolt.

**Q.48) As per the new 'School Bag Policy, 2020', school bags should not be more than**

- a) 5% of the bodyweight of students
- b) 10% of the bodyweight of students
- c) 15% of the bodyweight of students
- d) 20% of the bodyweight of students

**Q.48) Solution (b)**

- The Directorate of Education has issued a circular asking schools to follow the new **'School Bag Policy, 2020'** released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- It lays down the guidelines on homework and weight of school bags for classes I to XII.
- Provisions of Policy
  - i. As per the new policy, **school bags should not be more than 10% of the bodyweight of students across classes I to X** and there should be no bags in pre-primary students.
  - ii. It recommends no homework up to class II and a maximum of two hours per week for classes III to V, one hour a day for classes VI to VIII and two hours a day for classes IX and above.
  - iii. The policy will also require schools to introduce infrastructural changes as students will not be able to carry many books daily.
  - iv. The schools need to provide lockers right from preschool to senior secondary to enable children to leave books in school and carry home only what is required.

**Q.49) Which of the following country has the unique distinction of being the only country in the world producing all Five major types of silk?**

- a) India
- b) China
- c) Brazil
- d) Thailand

**Q.49) Solution (a)**

- **India has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the five kinds of silk** namely, Mulberry, Eri, Muga, Tropical Tasar and Temperate Tasar. Among them, mulberry silk is the most popular variety, which contributes around 79% of the country's silk production.
- Silk varieties and their major growing areas are:
  - Mulberry silk mainly in Karnataka;
  - Temperate tussar silk in Maharashtra, WB, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh;

- Tropical tussar silk in sub-himalayan belt ( Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya,etc);
- Muga silk in Assam and
- Eri silk in Assam, Odisha, Bihar.

**Q.50) With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:**

1. All the members of ADB are Asian countries.
2. ADB is modelled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system.
3. ADB is headquartered at Shanghai, China.
4. Among its members, China holds the largest proportion of its shares.

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

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

**Q.50) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 19 December 1966. The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries. <b>ADB now has 68 members, 49 from within Asia.</b>	The bank promotes social and economic development in Asia. <b>It is modelled closely on the World Bank,</b> and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.	ADB is Headquartered at Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.	As of 31 December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are <b>Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares),</b> the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

**Q.51) The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) does not measure the monthly change in international prices of which of the following commodity?**

- a) Oilseeds
- b) Pulses
- c) Sugar
- d) Dairy products

**Q.51) Solution (b)**

- The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- **It measures changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.**
- Base Period: 2014-16.

**Q.52) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is home to both Himalayan red panda and the Chinese red panda.
2. The Teesta River in Sikkim splits the red panda into these two subspecies.

**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.52) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have concluded that <b>India is home to</b>	<b>The Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh splits the red panda into these two phylogenetic species.</b>



**both the subspecies** - Himalayan red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) and the Chinese red panda (*Ailurus styani*).

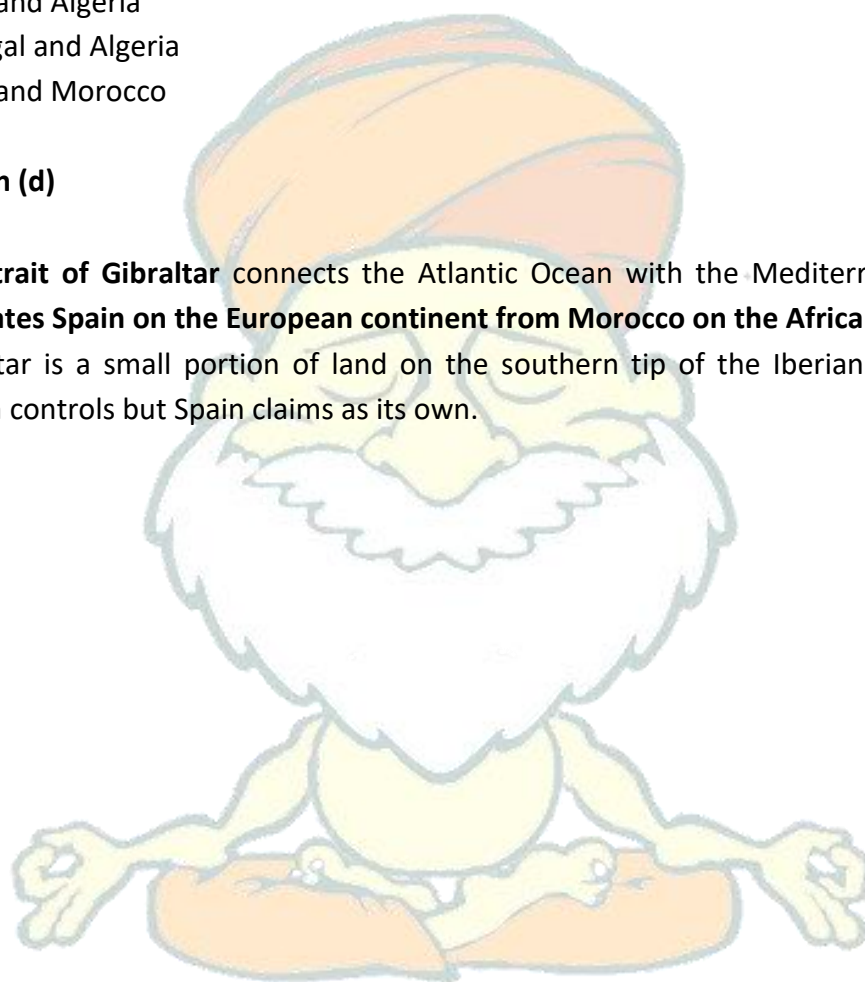
The red panda is a mammal species native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

**Q.53) The Strait of Gibraltar separates which of the following two countries?**

- a) Portugal and Morocco
- b) Spain and Algeria
- c) Portugal and Algeria
- d) Spain and Morocco

**Q.53) Solution (d)**

- The **Strait of Gibraltar** connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea and **separates Spain on the European continent from Morocco on the African continent.**
- Gibraltar is a small portion of land on the southern tip of the Iberian peninsula that Britain controls but Spain claims as its own.





**Q.54) With reference to Bare Necessities Index (BNI), consider the following statements:**

1. BNI is an attempt to quantify the “basic needs” approach to economic development
2. BNI is constructed at both at the rural and urban level.
3. The BNI has been created for all States using data from Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011.

**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.54) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<b>The Bare Necessities Index (BNI) is an attempt to quantify the “basic needs” approach to economic development</b> using data from National Statistical Office (NSO). It is created for all States/Union Territories by employing data at State Level.	Economic Survey 2020-21 constructs a <b>Bare Necessities Index (BNI)</b> at the rural, urban and all India level. The BNI summarises 26 indicators on five dimensions viz., water, sanitation, housing, micro-environment, and other facilities.	<b>The BNI has been created for all States for 2012 and 2018 using data from two NSO rounds viz., 69th and 76th on Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition in India.</b>

**Q.55) With reference to Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The Fund subsidises deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-2 cities.
2. The Fund will be operational for five years effective from January 1, 2021.
3. The entire initial corpus to the Fund is contributed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**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.55) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
Objective of the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme is to <b>subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 cities</b> , with a special	<b>The fund will be operational for three years effective from January 1, 2021</b> and may be extended for two more years. The implementation of targets shall be monitored by the RBI with assistance from card networks,	<b>The PIDF presently has a corpus of Rs 345 crore, with Rs 250 crore contributed by the RBI and Rs 95 crore by the major authorised card networks in the country. The</b>

focus on the north-eastern states of the country.	the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Payments Council of India (PCI).	authorised card networks shall contribute in all Rs 100 crore.
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**Q.56) The REPLACE action framework sometimes seen in news, aims to eliminate which of the following?**

- a) Antimicrobial resistance
- b) Industrially produced transfats
- c) Psychotropic substances
- d) Chronic undernutrition

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

- WHO released **REPLACE action framework** which is a roadmap for countries to implement the prompt, complete and sustained **elimination of industrially produced transfats from the food supply by 2023.**
- REPLACE provides six strategic actions to ensure the prompt, complete, and sustained elimination of industrially-produced transfats from the food supply.

**Q.57) With reference to The North East Venture Fund, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the only dedicated Venture Fund for the North Eastern Region with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crores.
2. The fund primarily targets to invest in infrastructure projects.

**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.57) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
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Correct	Incorrect
<b>The North East Venture Fund (NEVF) is the first and the only dedicated Venture Fund for the North Eastern Region with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crores.</b> The main focus of North East Venture Fund (NEVF) is for mostly the enterprises involved in Food Processing, Healthcare, Tourism, segregation of services, IT, etc.	The fund targets to invest in Start-Ups and unique business opportunities to provide resources for new entrepreneurships. The Venture Fund Scheme launched by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) intended to promote growth of business ventures and skill development in the region.

**Q.58) The Gavipuram Cave Temple, an example of rock-cut architecture, is located in which of the following State?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Maharashtra

**Q.58) Solution (c)**

- **Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple is also known as Gavipuram Cave Temple** is an example of Indian rock-cut architecture.
- This cave temple is dedicated to Shiva and cut into a monolithic stone and is **located in Bangalore, Karnataka.**
- It was built in the 16th century by Kempe Gowda I, the founder of the city.
- The temple is famous for its mysterious stone discs in the forecourt and the exact planning allowing the sun to shine on shrine in certain time of the year.
- Lakhs of devotees come in mid January every year on Makar sankranti Day to this temple.
- This is a special day when the sun's rays fall on the Shivalinga for one hour as it passes between the horns of the Nandi.

**Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:**

1. It is legally binding international agreement.



2. It is yet to come into force.
3. It prohibits the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
4. India is a signatory to this treaty.

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

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

**Q.59) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, is the first <b>legally binding international agreement</b> to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination.	It was adopted on 7 July 2017, opened for signature on 20 September 2017, and <b>entered into force on 22 January 2021.</b>	It prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon related activities, such as undertaking to develop, test, produce, manufacture, acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. <b>It also prohibits the use or threat of use of these weapons as well.</b>	All of the nuclear weapon states (US, Russia, China, Britain, France, <b>India</b> , Pakistan, North Korea and Israel) and all NATO members except the Netherlands <b>did not vote.</b>

**Q.60) The Sigur plateau is a part of which of the following Biosphere Reserve?**

- a) Nokrek Biosphere Reserve
- b) Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve
- c) Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
- d) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

**Q.60) Solution (d)**

- **Sigur Plateau** is a plateau in the north and east of Nilgiri District in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.
- It connects the Western and the Eastern Ghats and sustains elephant populations and their genetic diversity. It has the Nilgiri Hills on its southwestern side and the Moyar River Valley on its north-eastern side.
- It is an **ecologically fragile area within Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** and forms part of Elephant corridor. The elephants cross the plateau in search of food and water.

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

1. NeVA enables automation of entire law making process.
2. NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together in one platform.
3. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as a nodal ministry provides 100 percent funding for the NeVA project.

**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.61) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<b>NeVA enables automation of entire law making process</b> , tracking of decisions and documents, sharing of information. NeVA is a device neutral and member centric	<b>NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform</b> thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications. Citizens	e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures. <b>The funding of NeVA is on the pattern of Central</b>

application created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly.	would also gain access to this information at their fingertips.	<b>Sponsored Scheme</b> i.e. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs. The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA.
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**Q.62) The DIWALI Alliance between India and Netherlands aims to find solutions for which of the following?**

- a) Smart Urban Landscape
- b) Water related challenges
- c) Climate Adoption and Mitigation
- d) Sustainable Waste Management

**Q.62) Solution (b)**

- **Dutch Indian Water Alliance for Leadership Initiative (DIWALI) was established recently between India and Netherlands to find solutions for water related challenges.**
- The experts from both countries would explore the potential and sustainability of Dutch Solutions to resolve challenges in specific water-challenged sites in India.
- Scalable, sustainable, and affordable solutions shall be given importance.
- Led by: Dutch consortia titled “Water for Change. Integrative and Fit-for-Purpose Water Sensitive Design Framework for Fast-Growing Livable Cities” and IIT Roorkee as the lead and other consortia members - MANIT, Bhopal; CEPT University, Ahmedabad; IIT Gandhinagar; CWRDM, Calicut.

**Q.63) The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) will be an array of antennas strategically designed and set up in which of the following countries?**

1. China
2. South Africa
3. United Kingdom
4. Australia
5. United State of America

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.63) Solution (b)**

- The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) project spans two continents and involves the participation of 20 countries.
- **The SKA is not a single telescope but will be an array of antennas strategically designed and set up in South Africa and Australia.** It is expected to be ready for carrying out observations towards the end of this decade.
- The SKA will be built in the southern hemisphere, with cores in South Africa and Australia, where the view of the Milky Way Galaxy is the best and radio interference at its least.
- Goals: Studying the universe and its evolution, the origin and evolution of cosmic magnetism, and dark energy and evolution of galaxies.
- The headquarters of the project are located at the Jodrell Bank Observatory in the UK.
- The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, India is participating in SKAO Project.

**Q.64) Which of the following city of India has been recently awarded as one of the 'Tree Cities of the World'?**

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Guwahati
- d) Bengaluru

**Q.64) Solution (b)**

- **Hyderabad has won a green contest among cities in India, and emerged one of the 'Tree Cities of the World'.**
- It is awarded by Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

- Hyderabad has maintained urban forestry under its Haritha Haram programme and its Urban Forest Parks plan.
- The city was evaluated on five metrics: 'Establish Responsibility', 'Set the Rules', 'Know What You Have', 'allocate the Resources', and 'Celebrate the Achievements'.

**Q.65) With reference to UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), consider the following statements:**

1. It was created by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1948 post adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. It is made up of 47 UN Member States which are elected by the UNGA.
3. Members of the Council serve for three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election.

**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.65) Solution (b)**

- The UN Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) serves as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council. OHCHR is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. It	The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are	Members of the Council serve for three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving



replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by UNGA in 1948.	<b>elected by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).</b> The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution.	two consecutive terms. India has been elected to the UNHRC for three years beginning January 1, 2019. India had previously been elected to the UNHRC for the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017 terms.
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**Q.66) The Kyoto Convention was concluded under the aegis of which of the following organisation?**

- a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- c) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- d) World Customs Organization (WCO)

**Q.66) Solution (d)**

- **The International Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (the Kyoto Convention), concluded under the aegis of the World Customs Organization (WCO),** contains an Annex on rules of origin.
- The International Convention on the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures (as amended), known as the Revised Kyoto Convention is the blueprint for modern and efficient Customs procedures in the 21st century. The revised Kyoto Convention entered into force on February 3, 2006.
- The revised Kyoto Convention promotes trade facilitation and effective controls through its legal provisions that detail the application of simple yet efficient procedures.

**Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch) Portal:**

1. It is a job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks with regard to requirements of MSMEs.
2. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
3. The portal is not an all India portal.

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.67) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<b>SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch)</b> is a job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks with regard to requirements of MSMEs and other industries all across the country. Its objective is to directly connect Shramiks with MSMEs and facilitate their placement. The portal will help eliminate labour contractors.	<b>Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)</b> has launched <b>SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch)</b> . TIFAC is an autonomous organization under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.	The portal shall help identification of skill proficiency level and development of Skill Cards for Shramiks. The portal uses algorithm and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for availability of Shramiks. <b>The portal was initially launched in two districts and is now being launched as an all India portal.</b>


**Q.68) Consider the following statements regarding Tholpavakoothu:**

- 1. It is a form of rod puppetry.
- 2. It is practiced in the state of Kerala.

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.68) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p><b>Tholpavakoothu is a form of shadow puppetry.</b> It is performed using leather puppets as a ritual dedicated to Bhadrakali. It is performed in Devi temples in specially built theatres called koothumadams.</p> 	<p><b>It is practiced in Kerala, India.</b> For the first time, Tholpavakkoothu, the famous shadow leather puppets will tell stories of the epic Ramayana with the help of robots.</p>

**Q.69) Recently seen in news, the Jezero Crater is on which of the following celestial body?**

- a) Moon
- b) Saturn
- c) Mars
- d) Mercury

**Q.69) Solution (c)**

- On 18th February, 2021, NASA's MARS 2020 Perseverance Rover has landed successfully on Mars.
- **Landing site of Perseverance Rover is Jezero Crater** (an ancient river delta that has rocks and minerals that could only form in water).
- Perseverance rover will begin its two-year-long investigation in Jezero Crater to better understand the geology of Mars and seek signs of ancient life of the Red planet.

**Q.70) The “Skill training on Gender Sensitisation and Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) at the workplace” Project is launched by which of the following Ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Q.70) Solution (d)**

- **The Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the “Skill training on Gender Sensitisation and Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) at the workplace”.**
- This was launched in partnership with Management and Entrepreneurship and Professional Skill Council (MEPSC) as the Implementation Agency for the project.
- The six-month project will be implemented in 15 districts across 3 states of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab to train 1800 trainees and 240 training professionals.

**Q.71) With reference to Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2015, consider the following statements:**

1. Act allows to trail the juveniles aged between 16 and 18 who are in conflict with law as adults for any crimes committed by them.
2. The nature of the crime and whether the juvenile should be tried as a minor or a child is determined by the district Child Welfare Committee.
3. Act provided statutory status to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).

**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.71) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct

Under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2015, the <b>juveniles charged with heinous crimes (not any crime)</b> and who are between the ages of 16-18 years would be tried as adults and processed through the adult justice system.	<b>The nature of the crime, and whether the juvenile should be tried as a minor or a child, was to be determined by a Juvenile Justice Board</b> (set up in every district). Also Child Welfare Committees must be set up in every district.	The Act streamlined adoption procedures for orphans, abandoned and surrendered children and the existing Central <b>Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)</b> has been given the <b>status of a statutory body</b> to enable it to perform its function more effectively.
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- The proposed amendments to JJ Act 2015 are:
  - i. It seeks to include a word called “serious crime” thereby differentiating it from heinous crimes in order to remove ambiguities. This means that for a juvenile to be tried in heinous crime as an adult, punishment for the crime should be minimum 7 years which pertains mostly to sexual offences and violent sexual crimes.
  - ii. Heinous crimes with a minimum imprisonment of seven years pertain mostly to sexual offences and violent sexual crimes. Crime like the possession and sale of an illegal substance, such as drugs or alcohol, will now fall under the ambit of a “serious crime”.
  - iii. It has also mentions that district magistrates (DM’s) along with additional DMs will monitor the functioning of various agencies under the JJ Act in every district.

**Q.72) The Neptune Declaration recently seen in news is associated with which of the following sector?**

- a) Maritime industry
- b) Space sector
- c) Medical Technology
- d) Electronics Manufacturing

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

- **Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change** is a declaration released by the global maritime industry recently.



- The Neptune Declaration was signed by more than 450 organizations which primarily focus on recognising seafarers as key workers by all governments worldwide.

**Q.73) With reference to difference between a one-person company and sole proprietorship, consider the following statements:**

1. For one-person company, the person and the company are considered as same legal entities.
2. In a sole proprietorship set-up the owner has unlimited liability.

**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 (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
A one-person company is a company that can be formed by just one person as a shareholder. A single-person company and sole proprietorship differ significantly in how they are perceived in the eyes of law. <b>For one-person company, the person and the company are considered separate legal entities.</b> In sole proprietorship, the owner and the business are considered the same.	In a one-person company, the sole owner's liability is limited to that person's investment. <b>In a sole proprietorship set-up, however, the owner has unlimited liability</b> as they are not considered different legal entities.

**Q.74) The Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam recently seen in news in the context of which of the following country?**

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Afghanistan

- c) Bhutan
- d) Pakistan

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

- **MoU was signed for the construction of the Lalandar [Shatoot] Dam between India and Afghanistan recently.**
- The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan which will meet the drinking water needs of people in Kabul, provide irrigation water to nearby areas and rejuvenate irrigation and drainage networks.
- This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam].

**Q.75) Consider the following statements regarding Carbon Watch App:**

1. The App assesses the carbon footprint of an individual and helps in making people climate-smart citizens.
2. The App has been launched for the first time in India by the union territory of Chandigarh.

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

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

**Q.75) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Carbon Watch application that can be downloaded on mobile focuses on individual's actions and calculates the carbon footprint based on four parameters: Water, Energy, Waste Generation and	Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an

Transport (Vehicular movement). It will also provide information such as the national and world average of the emission, and the individual's level of emission generation and thus **encourages people to be Climate-Smart Citizens.**

individual. Carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases- especially carbon dioxide-released into the atmosphere by a particular human activity.

**Q.76) Arrange the following cities of India from East to West:**

1. Jabalpur
2. Raiganj
3. Jhansi
4. Rajkot

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

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

**Q.76) Solution (c)**

- Archaeological Survey of India, an attached office of Ministry of Culture, Government of India has established Six new Circles by bifurcation of its existing Circles as per details given below:-
  - i. Rajkot Circle, Gujarat – by bifurcation of Vadodara Circle.
  - ii. Jabalpur Circle, Madhya Pradesh – by bifurcation of Bhopal Circle.
  - iii. Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) Circle, Tamil Nadu – by bifurcation of Chennai & Thrissur Circle.
  - iv. Meerut Circle, Uttar Pradesh – by bifurcation of Agra circle
  - v. Jhansi Circle, Uttar Pradesh – by bifurcation of Lucknow Circle.
  - vi. Raiganj Circle, West Bengal – by bifurcation of Kolkata Circle.
- **Correct sequence (East to West)**
  - Raiganj (West Bengal) - 25.62°N 88.12°E
  - Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) - 23°10'N 79°56'E

- Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) - 25°26'N 78°34'E
- Rajkot (Gujarat) - 22.30°N 70.78°E

**Q.77) The 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' is an initiative under which of the following policy/mission?**

- a) National Food Security Mission
- b) Neighbourhood First Policy
- c) Smart Cities Mission
- d) New Education Policy

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

- **The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge is a 3-year initiative aimed at supporting early childhood-friendly neighbourhoods under the government's Smart Cities Mission.**
- The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, announced 25 shortlisted cities for the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' cohort, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner WRI India.
- The cohort will receive technical assistance, capacity building and scale-up support to experiment, and implement trials and pilots over the next six months to demonstrate early wins, solicit citizen participation, and build consensus around their proposals.

**Q.78) With reference to United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), consider the following statements:**

1. It provides public and private finance work for the poor in the least developing countries (LDCs).
2. It was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

**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.78) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<b>The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 46 least developed countries (LDCs).</b> The original UNCDF mandate from the UN General Assembly (UNGA) is to "assist developing countries in the development of their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital assistance by means of grants and loans". The mandate was modified in 1973 to serve first and foremost but not exclusively the LDCs.	<b>UNCDF was established by UN's General Assembly in 1966</b> as an autonomous UN organization affiliated with UNDP. It provides access to microfinance and investment capital. UNCDF programmes help to empower women, and are designed to catalyze larger capital flows from the private sector, national Governments and development partners, for maximum impact towards the internationally agreed developments goals.

**Q.79) In which one of the following State the *Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary* is located?**

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

**Q.79) Solution (a)**

- **Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary located in Kalahandi district and a popular tourist attraction of Odisha in India.**
- Recently, six elephants died of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) in Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS) is a disease which infects animals that come in contact with contaminated water or soil by a contagious bacteria (*Pasteurella multocida*). In this



disease the respiratory tract and lungs of the animals are affected, leading to severe pneumonia.

**Q.80) Consider the following statements regarding Nai Roshni scheme:**

1. It is a scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from minority communities.
2. It is being implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations enrolled 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.80) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<b>Nai Roshni is a scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women</b> is being implemented across India by Ministry of Minority affairs. Nai Manzil is a scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from minority communities.	Nai Roshni aims to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools, and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks, and other institutions at all levels. This includes empowerment of the trainee women so that they become independent and confident members of society. <b>The Scheme is being implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) enrolled under the Nai Roshni Scheme.</b>

**Q.81) The 'Intensified Mission Indradhanush' launched by the Government of India pertains to:**

- a) Resolving Non-performing Assets in Public Sector Banks

- b) Construction of smart cities across the country
- c) Immunization of children and pregnant women
- d) COVID19 vaccine development programme

**Q.81) Solution (c)**

- Health and Family Welfare Minister launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0, (IMI 3.0) to expand immunization coverage across the country.
- **IMI 3.0 is aimed to accelerate the full immunization of children and pregnant women through a mission mode intervention.**
- It will have two rounds starting from the 22nd of this month and the 22nd of March 2021 and it will be conducted in pre-identified 250 districts and urban areas across 29 States and UTs in the country. Both rounds will be for 15 days each.
- A portal of IMI 3.0 has also been launched besides releasing the Operational Guidelines and the awareness material of the campaign.
- IMI 3.0 will build on the gains of previous phases of the campaign and make lasting gains towards Universal Immunization.

**Q.82) India recently signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with which of the following African country?**

- a) South Africa
- b) Nigeria
- c) Mauritius
- d) Tanzania

**Q.82) Solution (c)**

- **India and Mauritius signed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA).**
- CECPA is the first trade agreement signed by India with a country in Africa.
- It is a limited agreement that will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons etc.

**Q.83) Kotia cluster of villages are rich in mineral resources like gold, platinum, manganese, bauxite, graphite and limestone. These villages are disputed between Odisha and which of the following State?**

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Jharkhand
- d) West Bengal

**Q.83) Solution (b)**

- Andhra Pradesh held panchayat elections in three villages in the **Kotia cluster**, which is **at the centre of a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**. This is the first time Andhra has held panchayat polls in any of these villages.
- In the early 1980s, Odisha filed a case in the Supreme Court demanding right and possession of jurisdiction over the 21 villages.
- In 2006 however, the court ruled that since disputes belonging to the state boundaries are not within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the matter can only be resolved by Parliament and passed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

**Q.84) With reference to New START Nuclear Treaty, consider the following statements:**

1. It was signed in 1991.
2. It is a treaty on measures for the complete elimination of strategic offensive arms.
3. It is a treaty between the NATO Alliance and the Russian Federation.

**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.84) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
The New START Nuclear Treaty was <b>signed in 2010</b> by US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and was brought into effect in 2011. Recently USA has extended this treaty with Russia for five years.	New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control is a treaty on <b>measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms (not complete elimination)</b> . The treaty restricts the number of nuclear warheads that can be deployed by Russia and the United States to 1,550.	New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) Nuclear Treaty is a <b>treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation.</b>

**Q.85) In the context of Defence of India, the 'Dhruvastra' and 'Helina' are**

- a) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- b) Anti-Tank Guided Missiles
- c) Torpedo Launch Vessels
- d) Aerial Refuelling Tankers

**Q.85) Solution (b)**

- Joint User Trials for the 'Helina', and 'Dhruvastra' have been carried out from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) platform in desert ranges.
- **Helina is helicopter-launched version of the Nag anti-tank guided missile. 'Dhruvastra' is its Air Force variant.**
- Helina is a third-generation, Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system. It has all-weather day and night operational capabilities.
- Helina can defeat battle tanks with conventional and explosive reactive armour (ERA) and can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.
- Dhruvastra has similar properties as well.

**Q.86) The World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 was held in which of the following city?**

- a) New Delhi
- b) Rio de Janeiro
- c) Nairobi
- d) Kunming

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

- The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- It is the **20th edition of World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) was held in New Delhi, India.**
- The theme of the 2021 Summit was 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'.
- The Summit will bring together a wide number of governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth, and civil society in the fight against climate change.

**Q.87) Consider the following statements:**

1. Guru Ravidas is a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet Kabir.
2. The hymns of Guru Ravidas have been included in the Guru Granth Sahib.
3. Guru Ravidas abandoned saguna forms of supreme beings.

**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.87) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Guru Ravidas (1450-1520) is	Guru Ravidas was a Dalit-poet	Guru Ravidas abandoned



believed to be a disciple of the bhakti saint-poet Ramananda and a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet Kabir. One of his famous disciples was the saint, Mirabai.	saint belonged to the Bhakti movement era. He belonged to a leather-working Chamar community. The 41 hymns of Guru Ravidas have been included in the Guru Granth Sahib.	saguna (with attributes, image) forms of supreme beings, and focussed on the nirguna (without attributes, abstract) form of supreme beings.
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**Q.88) Which of the following are the beneficiary state(s) under Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project?**

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Bihar
3. Jharkhand
4. West Bengal
5. Odisha

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

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

**Q.88) Solution (d)**

- Prime Minister recently dedicated to the nation the LPG import terminal, 348 km Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section. The section is part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.
- Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project is a gas pipeline project which aims to provide piped cooking gas to millions of people in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.



**Q.89) With reference to Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF), consider the following statements:**

1. MGNF is a two-year academic programme with an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.
2. For the national roll out of MGNF, the Ministry of Skill Development is seeking academic partnership with only the IIMs.

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

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

**Q.89) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
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Correct	Correct
With the successful launch of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) in the first pilot (MGNF) which had 69 fellows working across 69 districts, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is now expanding MGNF to all remaining districts in the country. <b>MGNF is a two-year academic programme comes with an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.</b>	The fellows under MGNF will acquire academic expertise and technical competency in understanding the overall skill ecosystem along with being attached to District Skill Committees (DSCs). For retaining the standard of academic excellence and reputation in MGNF, the <b>Ministry is seeking academic partnership with only the IIMs</b> and have roped in nine IIMs namely for the national roll out of MGNF.

**Q.90) Which of following country is the leading producer in global seaweed production?**

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

**Q.90) Solution (a)**

- Out of the global seaweed production of ~32 million tons fresh weight valued around 12 billion US dollars. **China produces ~57 %, Indonesia ~28% followed by South Korea, whereas India is having a mere share of ~0.01-0.02%.**
- Despite several advantages, commercial seaweeds cultivation has not been taken place in India at an appropriate scale, as being practiced in South-East Asian countries.

**Q.91) Which of the following is/are the newly introduced criteria by the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission to determine the share of states?**

- 1. Income Distance
- 2. Tax effort
- 3. Demographic Performance

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

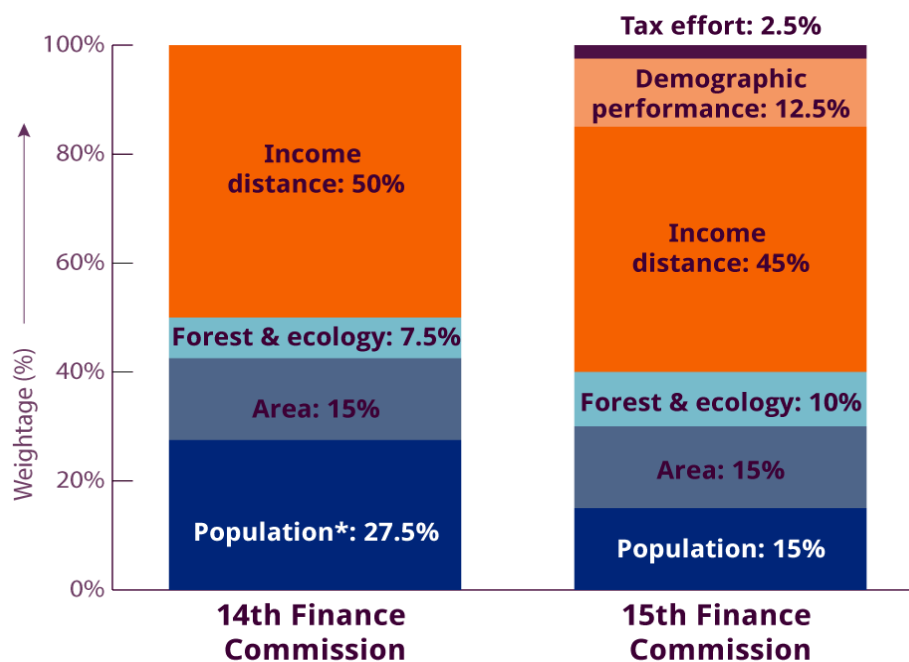
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.91) Solution (b)**

The 15th Finance Commission used the following criteria while determining the share of states: (i) 45% for the income distance, (ii) 15% for the population in 2011, (iii) 15% for the area, (iv) 10% for forest and ecology, (v) 12.5% for demographic performance, and (vi) 2.5% for tax effort.

**Demographic Performance and Tax effort** are the two newly introduced criteria by the 15th Finance Commission.

**Revenue-sharing formulas in the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions**



**Q.92) Which of the following risk has been ranked as number one in the list of 'risks by impact' in the Global Risk Report, 2021?**

- a) Climate Action Failures
- b) Weapons of Mass Destruction
- c) Infectious Diseases
- d) Biodiversity Loss

**Q.92) Solution (c)**

- The World Economic Forum recently released the 16th edition of the Global Risks Report, 2021. The report was released based on the Global Risks Perception Survey undertaken by more than 650 members of World Economic Forum.
- The **top three risks by impact** are **infectious diseases**, climate action failures and weapons of mass destruction. The risk posed by infectious diseases has been ranked as no. 1 on the list of risks by impact, while in 2020 was listed at 10th place.
- The **top three risks by likelihood** that are to happen in the next ten years are extreme weather, climate action failure, and human environmental damage.

**Q.93) Which of the following article of the Constitution empower Parliament to create legislatures for the Union Territories (UTs)?**

- a) Article 239
- b) Article 239A
- c) Article 239AA
- d) Article 240

**Q.93) Solution (b)**

- **Article 239A was originally brought in, by the 14th Constitutional amendment Act, 1962 to enable Parliament to create legislatures for the UTs** (objective was to fulfil the democratic aspirations of people in UTs through providing legislatures & Council of Ministers).
- Under this article, the parliament enacted the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963.
- The aftermath of this law is that a simple amendment in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 can create a legislature with more than 50% nominated members.
- Article 239 – Administration of UTs



- Article 239AA – Special provisions with respect to Delhi (The 69th Amendment Act, 1992).
- Article 240 – Power of President to make regulations for certain UTs

**Q.94) Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) will permit and oversees which of the following activities of non-government private entities?**

1. Building of launch vehicles and satellites
2. Sharing of space infrastructure under the control of ISRO
3. Usage of spacecraft data and rolling out of space based services

**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.94) Solution (d)**

- **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe)** is an independent nodal agency under Department of Space (DOS) for allowing space activities and usage of DOS owned facilities by non-government private entities (NGPEs) as well as to prioritise the launch manifest.
- IN-SPACe is to be established as a single window nodal agency, with its own cadre, which will permit and oversee the following activities of NGPEs.
  - i. Space activities including **building of launch vehicles and satellites** and providing space based services as per the definition of space activities.
  - ii. **Sharing of space infrastructure and premises under the control of ISRO** with due considerations to on-going activities.
  - iii. Establishment of temporary facilities within premises under ISRO control based on safety norms and feasibility assessment
  - iv. Establishment of new space infrastructure and facilities, by NGPEs, in pursuance of space activities based on safety norms and other statutory guidelines and necessary clearances.

- v. Initiation of launch campaign and launch, based on readiness of launch vehicle and spacecraft systems, ground and user segment.
- vi. Building, operation and control of spacecraft for registration as Indian Satellite by NGPEs and all the associated infrastructure for the same.
- vii. **Usage of spacecraft data and rolling out of space based services** and all the associated infrastructure for the same.

**Q.95) The E-Chhawani portal and mobile app was launched recently by which of the following Ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Defence
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

**Q.95) Solution (a)**

- **E-Chhawani portal and mobile app was launched recently by the Ministry of Defence.**
- Objective: To provide online civic services to over 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonment Boards across India.
- Through the portal, the residents of cantonment areas will be able to avail basic services like renewal of leases, application for birth & death certificates, water & sewerage connections, etc.
- Developed by: eGov Foundation, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) and National Informatics Centre (NIC).

**Q.96) Tapovan Vishnugad Hydropower Project is being constructed on which of the following rivers?**

- a) Rishiganga
- b) Ramganga
- c) Dhauliganga
- d) Alaknanda

**Q.96) Solution (c)**

- **Tapovan Vishnugad Hydropower Project** is a 520 MW run-of-river hydroelectric project being constructed on Dhauliganga River in Chamoli District, Uttarakhand.
- It is impacted by the recent Uttarakhand Flash Flood due to glacial break in the Tapovan-Reni area of Chamoli District.

**Q.97) The special operations like LESKNOW, BIRBIL, THUNDERSTORM aims at which of the following?**

- a) To increase the chance of precipitation in semi-arid and arid regions
- b) To enhance interoperability between security forces
- c) To combat organized wildlife crime
- d) To counter insurgency and militancy activities

**Q.97) Solution (c)**

- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020 awarded by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- WCCB got the award twice in three years. It has been awarded this year under the Innovation category.
- The WCCB is a statutory (under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972) multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.
- WCCB has developed an online Wildlife Crime Database Management System to get real time data to analyse trends in wildlife crimes across India.
- This system has been successfully used for carrying out operations such as Operation Save Kurma, Thunderbird, Wildnet, Lesknow, Birbil, Thunderstorm, Lesknow-II etc resulting in huge seizures of Tiger/Leopard Skin/bones, Rhino Horn, Elephant Ivory etc.

**Q.98) Pattachitra painting is based in which of the following states of India?**

1. Jharkhand
2. West Bengal

3. Odisha
4. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

- Pattachitra is a picture painted on a piece of cloth. Patta means cloth, and Chitra means picture.
- **It is based in the states of West Bengal and Odisha.**
- Bengal tradition: It is centered around Kalighat (in Kolkata). The theme is Not much devotional.
- Odisha tradition: It is centered around Puri. Almost all of the Chitrakar community hails from a small village in Puri district called Raghurajpur.
- Odisha paintings are based on Hindu mythology and are especially inspired by Jagannath and the Vaishnava sect.
- All colors used in the Paintings are natural.

**Q.99) Consider the following statements:**

1. A 'Gilt Account' means an account opened and maintained for holding Government securities.
2. Only institutional investors are allowed to open gilt accounts with the Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.99) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
A "Gilt Account" means an account opened and maintained for holding Government securities, by an entity or a person including 'a person resident outside India' with a "Custodian" permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to open and maintain Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger Account with the Public Debt Office of the Reserve Bank of India.	The g-sec market is dominated by institutional investors such as banks, mutual funds, and insurance companies. Recently RBI allowed the Retail investors to directly open their gilt accounts with RBI, and trade in government securities. The central bank has proposed to provide retail investors with online access to the government securities market - both primary and secondary - directly through the Retail Direct platform.

**Q.100) The Democracy Index is released by which of the following organisation?**

- a) Reporters Without Borders
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

**Q.100) Solution (b)**

- **Democracy Index is released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** giving insight into the current state of democracy worldwide for 167 countries.
- India slipped two places to 53rd position in 2020 Democracy Index while Norway topped the index.
- India has been classified as a 'flawed democracy' along with countries US, France, Brazil etc.



**Q.101) The 'Nord Stream 2' sometimes seen in news is gas pipeline running under which of the following Sea?**

- a) North Sea
- b) Norwegian Sea
- c) Baltic Sea
- d) Adriatic Sea

**Q.101) Solution (c)**

- Nord Stream 2 is a nearly constructed 1,200-kilometre pipeline from Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea.
- It will run alongside the already constructed Nord Stream and will double the amount of gas being funnelled through the Baltics to 110 billion cubic meters per year.
- Nord Stream 2 has drawn criticism from the US, where it is believed that the project would increase Europe's dependence on Russia for natural gas.



**Q.102) The recently launched open platform 'SmartCode' aims to address which of the following?**

- a) Inter-State Migration
- b) Fake News Menace
- c) Gender Inequality
- d) Urban Challenges

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

- SmartCode platform is launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **SmartCode** is a platform that enables all ecosystem stakeholders to contribute to a repository of open-source code for various solutions and applications for urban governance.
- It is designed to address the challenges that urban local bodies (ULBs) face in the development and deployment of digital applications.
- It shall enable cities to take advantage of existing codes and customising them to suit local needs, rather than having to develop new solutions from scratch. The source code will be free to use without any licensing or subscription fees.

**Q.103) With reference to Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM), consider the following statements:**

1. ATSM will protect the country from any sudden or dramatic increase in imports.
2. Under this mechanism a country can impose safeguard duties on imports automatically at any point of time.

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

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) is a special safeguards mechanism included in the agreements like Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA). <b>This will protect the country from any sudden or dramatic increase in imports.</b>	<b>Under this mechanism, if the imports of a product are rising alarmingly, then after reaching a certain threshold (not at any point of time), a country can impose safeguard duties on imports from another country automatically.</b> The same provision applies to Indian imports as well in other country which is a party to the agreement.

**Q.104) Which of the following Ministry has decided to set up a Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)?**

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- d) Ministry of Communication

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

- **The Ministry of Communications has decided to set up a Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) as a nodal agency to deal with complaints of unsolicited commercial communication (UCC) and cases of financial fraud, especially in the digital payments space.**
- DIU will coordinate with various law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and telecom service providers in investigating any fraudulent activity involving telecom resources.
- Apart from the DIU a Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAFMCP) will also be set up at all the 22 license service area levels.

**Q.105) With reference to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an international cyber security standards body.
2. It was established by the INTERPOL.

3. India is one of its members.

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.105) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an international food standards body.	It was established jointly by the Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 1963 with the objective of protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in food trade.	Currently the CAC has 189 Codex Members made up of 188 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization (The European Union). India became the member of Codex Alimentarius in 1964.

Q.106) World's smallest adult reptile was recently discovered in which of the following Hotspots of Biodiversity?

- a) Indo-Burma
- b) Western Ghats and Srilanka
- c) Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
- d) Southwest Australia

Q.106) Solution (c)

A chameleon discovered in Madagascar by scientists from Germany and Madagascar may be the world's smallest adult reptile.

**Q.107) With reference to Indian modern history, consider the following events:**

1. Vaikom Satyagraha
2. Chauri Chaura incident
3. Moplah rebellion
4. Bardoli Satyagraha

**Arrange the above events in their correct chronological order.**

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

**Q.107) Solution (c)**

- The **Chauri Chaura incident** took place on **4 February 1922** at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province (modern Uttar Pradesh) in British India.
- Prime Minister inaugurated the Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, on 4th February 2021.
- Moplah rebellion - 1921
- Vaikom Satyagraha - 1924–25.
- Bardoli Satyagraha - 1928.

**Q.108) India's first 'Metro-Neo', a Mass Rapid Transit System will be adopted in which of the following State/UTs?**

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

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



- **India's first Metro-Neo will be adopted in Maharashtra's Nashik.** It is a Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) that aims to provide a comfortable, rapid, energy-efficient and less noisy transport medium in the city of Nashik. The project will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (Maha-Metro).
- The central government recently urged all state governments to consider using MetroNeo technology in their tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- The MetroNeo service consists of electric bus coaches – their lengths varying from 18 to 25 meters – with a carrying capacity of 200 to 300 passengers at a time.
- The buses will have rubber tyres and draw power from an overhead electric wire with 600-750 V DC supply, similar to railways or trams.

**Q.109) The Maguri Motapung wetland is an Important Bird Area located near which of the following National Park?**

- a) Dibru Saikhowa National Park
- b) Dachigam National Park
- c) Sunderban National Park
- d) Bhitarkanika National Park

**Q.109) Solution (a)**

- Mandarin duck was recently spotted in the Maguri-Motapung beel (wetland) in Assam.
- Mandarin duck is considered the most beautiful duck in the world and its IUCN Status is Least Concern.
- The migratory duck breeds in Russia, Korea, Japan and north-eastern parts of China. The duck, however, rarely visits India as it does not fall in its usual migratory route.
- **The Maguri Motapung wetland is located close to the Dibru Saikhowa National Park in Upper Assam.** It is an Important Bird Area.

**Q.110) Consider the following statements regarding the National Safety Council:**

1. It aims to generate, develop and sustain a voluntary movement on Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) at the national level.
2. It is an autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

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.110) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
National Safety Council is a non-profit, self-financing apex body at the national level in India. <b>Its objective is to generate, develop and sustain a voluntary movement on Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) at the national level.</b>	<b>It is an autonomous body which was set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment on 4 March 1966.</b> It was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and subsequently, as a Public Trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950.

**Q.111) With reference to Global Partnerships on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), consider the following statements:**

1. GPAI aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on Artificial Intelligence.
2. GPAI is built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.
3. India is a founding member of GPAI.

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.111) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative which <b>aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI</b> by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.	<b>Built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence</b> , GPAI brings together engaged minds and expertise from science, industry, civil society, governments, international organisations and academia to foster international cooperation.	GPAI is the fruition of an idea developed within the G7, under the Canadian and French presidencies. <b>GPAI's 15 founding members</b> are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, <b>India</b> , Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. They were joined by Brazil, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain in December 2020.

**Q.112) Which of the following institutions has recently launched the 'Seaweed Mission' for commercial farming of seaweeds?**

- Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)
- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT)

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

- Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has launched a Seaweed Mission for commercial farming of seaweeds** and its processing for value addition towards boosting national economy.
- TIFAC is an autonomous organization under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- The Mission shall undertake following activities:
  - Establishing model demonstration farms over one hectare for cultivation of economically important seaweeds in nearshore and onshore along the Indian coasts.

- Establishment of seaweed nurseries for supplying seed material for large scale farming
- Onshore cultivation for (i) Seedling supply facility (ii) Seaweed cultivation for processing
- Setting up of processing plant for production of plant growth stimulants (sap) and industrially important cell wall polysaccharides such as agar, agarose, carrageenan and alginates from fresh seaweeds.

**Q.113) With reference to Leatherback sea turtle, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the smallest of the seven species of sea turtles.
2. It is found only in Indian and Pacific Ocean.
3. It is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

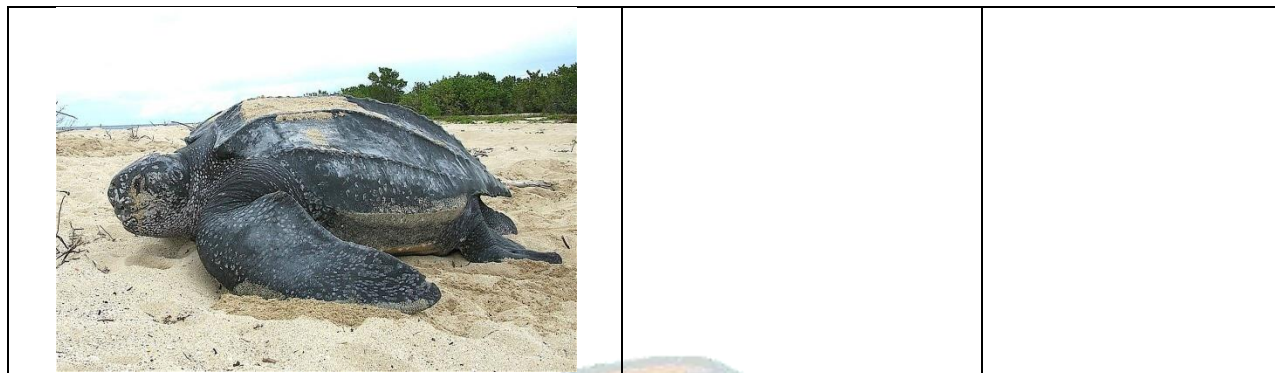
**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.113) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The seven existing species of sea turtles are the green sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, olive ridley sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, flatback sea turtle, and leatherback sea turtle. Leatherback sea turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) is the largest of the seven species of sea turtles.	<b>It is found in all oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic.</b> Within the Indian Ocean, they nest only in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.	They are listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. It is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.





**Q.114) India's first full-fledged international cruise terminal "Sagarika" is located in which of the following State?**

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

**Q.114) Solution (d)**

- **Sagarika, the International Cruise Terminal in Kochi** was inaugurated recently by the Prime Minister of India.
- It is India's first full-fledged international cruise terminal.

**Q.115) The draft of National Strategy on Blockchain is released by which of the following?**

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- d) Both (a) and (b)

**Q.115) Solution (c)**

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has prepared a draft **National Strategy on Blockchain**, a framework for the use of blockchain technology in



government services and intends to use it in the areas of property record keeping, digital certificates, power distribution, health records as well as supply chain management.

- All the applications of blockchain technology are likely to be explored by the government under the leadership of the IT ministry.
- The National Strategy on Blockchain is also likely to explore the possibility of use of the technology for vaccine and medical supplies logistics management for future purposes.

**Q.116) Recently the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) settled a \$400 million currency swap facility from the RBI. In this context, consider the following statements:**

1. Currency swap agreement is an arrangement between two countries to involve in trading in their own local currencies.
2. A currency swap agreement reduces the risk of volatility against the third currency.

**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.116) Solution (c)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Currency swap agreements involve trade in local currencies, where countries pay for imports and exports at pre-determined rates of exchange without the involvement of a third country currency like the US dollar.	Currency swap agreements reduces the risk of volatility against the third currency and does away with the charges involved in multiple currency exchanges.

**Q.117) The historic martyr town of Dhekiajuli in Assam is associated with which of the following Indian independence movement?**

- a) Non Cooperation Movement
- b) Anti-Simon Commission Movement
- c) Civil Disobedience Movement
- d) Quit India Movement

**Q.117) Solution (d)**

- Dhekiajuli was home to possibly the youngest martyr of the Indian freedom struggle. **Dhekiajuli is associated with the Quit India Movement of 1942.**
- On September 20, 1942, as part of the Quit India movement, processions of freedom fighters marched to various police stations across several towns in Assam.
- These squads, which were known as 'Mrityu Bahini', or death squads, had wide participation - including women and children - and set out to unfurl the tricolor atop police stations, seen as symbols of colonial power.
- The British administration came down heavily on them. In Dhekiajuli, at least 15 people were shot dead, three of them women, including the 12-year-old Tileswari Barua.
- Recently, the Dhekiajuli police station was accorded heritage status and restored by the Assam government.

**Q.118) Arrange the following Islands of Indian Ocean from North to South?**

1. Comoros
2. Mauritius
3. Maldives
4. Seychelles

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

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

**Q.118) Solution (a)**

**Correct sequence is:** Maldives – Seychelles – Comoros – Mauritius.



**Q.119) The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan aims to provide vocational training to which of the following?**

1. Non-literates
2. Neo-literates
3. School drop-outs

**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.119) Solution (d)**

- **Jan Shikshan Sansthan aims to provide vocational training to non-literates, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs in rural regions** by identifying skills that have a relevant market in that region.
- The objective of JSS is to uplift this rural population economically by imparting essential skills training, thereby enabling local trades to grow and creating new opportunities for the natives of the region.
- The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth is implemented through a network of NGOs in the country since March 1967. The first Shramik Vidyapeeth was established in Mumbai [Worli].
- The scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan was transferred from Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) to Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in July 2018.
- At present 248 Jan Shikshan Sansthans in 27 States and 2 UTs are active out of which 17 JSSs are not functional. A decision of setting up of 83 new Jan Shikshan Sansthans is under consideration.
- JSS Scheme is implemented by Directorate of JSS which is a sub-ordinate office of MSDE.

**Q.120) The "Go Electric" Campaign has been launched recently by which of the following Ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- b) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- c) Ministry of Power
- d) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

**Q.120) Solution (b)**

**"Go Electric" Campaign was launched recently by the Union Ministry for Road Transport & Highways** to spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure and electric cooking in India.

**Q.121) Consider the following statement about 'State Election Commissioner (SEC)':**

1. SEC is appointed by Governor of state, but can only be removed by President only.
2. SEC has superintendence, direction and control over all the election happening in state.
3. Constitution has defined the condition of tenure and service of office of the SECs.

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

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

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

**Explanation**

**About State Election Commissioner (SEC) (Article 243K)**

- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the Panchayat bodies in the State shall be vested in a SEC.
- Power of superintendence, direction and control of election to the legislative assembly to the state and General Election of country is vested in Election Commission of India. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- SEC is to be appointed by the Governor.
- Subject to the provisions of any law made by the Legislature of a State, the conditions of services and tenure of office of the SEC shall be such as the Governor may by rule determine. **(So, statement 3 is incorrect)**
- SEC shall not be removed from his/her office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.
- According to Article 243ZA, Elections to the Municipalities is also vested in SEC

**Q.122) Consider the following statements regarding 'National Food Security Act, 2013':**

1. Under it, nearly 66% of the population is covered, based on SECC, 2011.
2. Most vulnerable family, under Antyodaya Anna Yojana are provided food free of cost.
3. Central issued price, under which food is provided, will not be more than Minimum Support Price to farmer.

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

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



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

**Q.122) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSA), 2013**

- NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to "eligible households" to grains at Central Issue Price/CIP under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- Present CIPs: Rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Rs 1/kg.
- **Coverage:** 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population (overall 81.35 crore people) **based on the census 2011** and these beneficiaries were frozen in 2013. **(So, statement 1 is incorrect)**
- Eligible households:
  - Priority households: Entitled to receive 5 kg of food grains per person per month.
  - Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana: Entitled to 35 kg/person per month **at same prices. (So, statement 2 is incorrect)**
- Food grains under NFSA were to be made available at subsidized prices of Rs.3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively for an initial period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act (July 13, 2013). Thereafter, **prices were to be fixed by the Central Government from time to time, but not exceeding MSP. (So, statement 3 is correct)**

**Q.123) Consider the following statements regarding 'fuel pricing in India':**

1. Price of Petrol is fluctuating in India as Prices has been determined based on Crude Oil prices.
2. The formula to determine fuel prices assumes that 80% of oil is imported to India.

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

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

**Q.123) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**How is fuel price determined in India?**

- Price of petrol and diesel in India is not determined by the actual costs incurred by PSU refiners but rather by a formula trade parity price (TPP).
- It assumes that 80% of petrol and diesel is imported into India and 20% is exported.
- **So, petrol and diesel prices in India are determined based on prices of these fuels in the international market- and not on the basis of crude oil prices.(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**

TPP in dollars is then converted to rupees. To this, other costs and margins of the oil companies, dealer commission are added.

Then, since it has been kept out of the goods and services tax (GST) net, Centre imposes excise duty; states impose sales tax or Value Added tax (VAT).

**Q.124) Consider the following statements regarding Land Ports:**

1. A land port houses the customs and border protection, and other inspection agencies responsible for the enforcement of country's laws pertaining to such activities.
2. Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) is an executive body working under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
3. LPAI manages Integrated Check Posts.

**Which of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q.124) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1:** Land Ports also called border stations for import and export. A land port houses the customs and border protection, and other inspection agencies responsible for the enforcement of country's laws pertaining to such activities. The land port of entry consists of the land, the buildings, and the on-site roadways and parking lots that the port of entry

occupies. (Hence, statement 1 is correct)

**Statement 2:** The Land Ports Authority of India or LPAI is a statutory body (created through the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010) working under the Ministry of Home Affairs; Government of India is responsible for creating, upgrading, and maintaining and managing border infrastructure in India. (Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect)

**Statement 3** It manages several Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) all across Borders of India. (Hence, Statement 3 is correct)

S. No.	ICP Location	State	Borders with
1	Attari (Amritsar)	Punjab	Pakistan
2	Agartala	Tripura	Bangladesh
3	Petrapole	West Bengal	Bangladesh
4	Raxaul	Bihar	Nepal
5	Jogbani	Bihar	Nepal
6	Moreh	Manipur	Myanmar
7	Dawki	Meghalaya	Bangladesh

**Q.125) Arctic monitoring satellite Arktika M has been launched by:**

- a) United States
- b) China
- c) India
- d) Russia

**Q.125) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**About Arktika M**

- This is Russia's first Arctic monitoring satellite to monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic region.
- The Arctic has warmed more than twice as fast as the global average over the last three decades.
- This opens up opportunities for huge oil and gas reserves that are being eyed by countries including the United States, Russia, Canada etc.

**Q.126) Consider the following statements about 'Least developed country':**

1. For evaluation of Sustainable Development Goals, Country can self-certify themselves as Least Developed Countries.
2. Highest number of LDCs is in African Continent.

**Which of the given statement are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Least developed country (LDCs)**

- LDCs are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets.
- There are total 46 LDCs out of which 33 are in Africa, 9 in Asia, 1 in Caribbean and 3 in the Pacific Ocean. (So, Statement 2 is correct)
- 3 Identification criteria for LDCs:
  1. Per capita income,
  2. A human assets index and
  3. An economic vulnerability index.
- For graduation, at least two of the three criteria at two consecutive triennial reviews are required.

- United Nation Community Development Policy (CDP), a subsidiary of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is mandated to review the category of Least Developed Country (LDC-First introduced in 1971 by UN) every 3 years and monitor their progress after graduation from the category.
- CDP advises the Council on issues that are relevant for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The proposal will be sent to the ECOSOC for endorsement and final approval by the UN General Assembly. Countries don't self-certify for the evaluation under SDG goals. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**

**Q.127) Consider the following rivers:**

1. Vaigai
2. Vellar
3. Gundar
4. Cauvery

**Which of the following state come under basin of all rivers?**

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

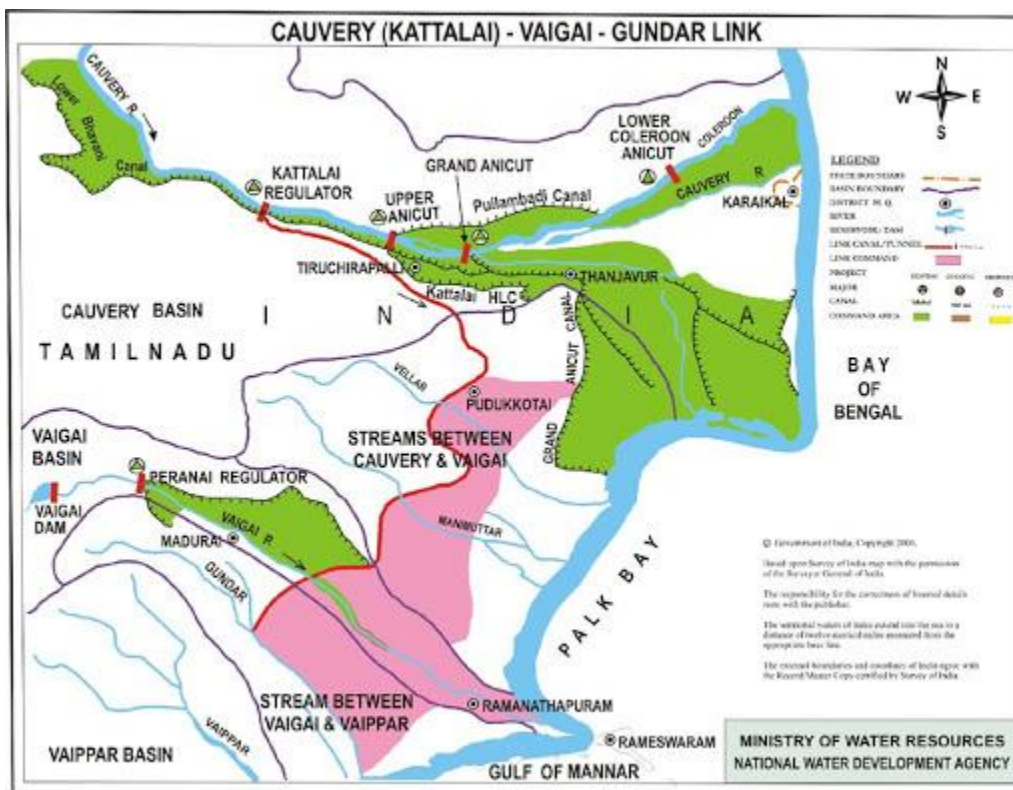
**Q.127) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

Cauvery – Vaigai – Vellar – Gundar River Linking Project

- It is 262-km river-linking project which is implemented under the Centre's river-linking project to utilise surplus Kaveri water.
- Project does not involve construction of any large dam but involves only construction of a diversion structure.
- Benefits: To create employment opportunities for local population; divert 6,300 cubic feet of surplus water during floods and increase the groundwater levels.
- Tamilnadu is only state where river basin of all four given river are situated.





**Q.128) Consider the following agency related to 'IN-SPACE':**

1. IN SPACE is a commercial arm of ISRO which will facilitate private agency in space sector.
2. IN-SPACE is incorporated under Companies Act, 2013.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

Both the given statement is correct regarding NSIL, and not about IN-SPACE.

**IN-SPACE**

- IN-SPACE is an independent nodal agency under Department of Space (DoS).

- It allows space activities and usage of DoS owned facilities by Non-Government-Private-Entities as well as to prioritise the launch manifest.
- IN-SPACe hand-hold, promote and guide private sector through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment.

#### NSIL

- **NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO** with the primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high technology space related activities.
- It is also responsible for promotion and commercial exploitation of the products and services emanating from the Indian space programme.
- **NSIL is incorporated under Companies Act 2013 and it is wholly owned Government of India Company, under the administrative control of DOS.**
- NSIL work with IN-SPACe and enable industry consortia to take on some of the activities of ISRO.

**Q.129) Consider the following statements about 'Himalayan Serow':**

1. This Serow is found all over the Himalayas and even in Trans-Himalayas.
2. They are carnivores animal, especially dependent on dead animal's bodies.
3. Their status according to IUCN's Red list is critically endangered.

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

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

**Q.129) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**About Himalayan Serow**

- There are several species of serows, and all of them are found in Asia.
- Himalayan Serow is typically found at **altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres.**

- They are known to be found in **eastern, central, and western Himalayas**, but not in the **Trans Himalayan region**. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- Himalayan Serows are herbivores. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- IUCN status: Vulnerable. **(So, Statement 3 is incorrect)**

**Q.130) CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME) is released by:**

- a) Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour
- b) National Sample Survey Office
- c) Central Statistical Organisation
- d) NITI Aayog

**Q.130) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**CPI for Urban Non-manual Employees, CPI (UNME)**

- An urban non-manual employee is defined as one who derives 50 per cent or more of his or her income from gainful employment on non-manual work in the urban non-agricultural sector.
- The current CPI (UNME) series with base 1984-85, introduced in November 1987, derives the weighting pattern from the family living survey conducted during 1982-83 in 59 selected urban centres.
- Centres were selected keeping in view, (a) concentration of the UNME population at the centre, (b) inclusion of State capital cities, and (c) regional representation.
- The centres were allocated to different States broadly in proportion to their 1981 urban population with the limitation that not more than five centres were allotted to any State.
- For compilation of CPI (UNME), retail prices in respect of the selected items and services from selected markets in the 59 centres are collected by FOD on a monthly basis.
- **The index is being released by CSO with a time lag of about two weeks.**
- Some of the State Governments, public and private sector undertakings, foreign embassies, etc. are making use of this index for purposes of regulating Dearness Allowance.
- The index is also used for computing the advance tax liability of tax payers from capital gains by the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

**Q.131) Consider the following statements with reference to "CAFÉ Regulations":**

1. Source of this regulation is National Road Transport Policy, 2016.
2. It covers emission of all greenhouse gases, also covered in Basel Norms.
3. CAFE regulations are in power for all the engines. Diesel, Petrol as well as CNG.

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

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

**Q.131) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) regulations**

- CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency/Economy) norms aim at lowering fuel consumption (or improving fuel efficiency) of vehicles.
- The CAFE regulations are in place in many advanced as well as developing nations, including India. *(It is an international regulation and so its source is not the National Road Transport Policy.)* **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- CAFE regulations in India came into force from April 1, 2017.

**Purpose of CAFE regulations**

- The CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) regulations aim to reduce the overall CO<sub>x</sub> (Carbon Oxides) from the exhaust of the vehicle.
- The reduced carbon footprint leads to increased fuel economy.
- These regulations were first implemented on 1st April 2017 with the introduction of BS4 exhaust emission norms.
- It was decided the highest carbon footprint allowed was 130gm per km till 2022. After that, till will be further reduced to 113gm per km.
- CAFE regulations are in power for all the engines. Diesel, Petrol as well as CNG. **(So, Statement 3 is correct)**



- CAFE majorly focuses on CO<sub>x</sub> emissions. BS6, on the other hand, focuses on overall emissions which include NO<sub>x</sub> (Nitrogen Oxides), SO<sub>x</sub> (Sulphur Oxides). **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**

**Q.132) Consider the following statements:**

1. Ease of Living Index is released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, while Municipal Performance Index is released by Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
2. Better performance in Ease of Living index will lead to more allocation of funds from state government.
3. Ease of Living Index has four parameter including Citizen's perception.

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

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

**Q.132) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

Ease of Living Index (EoLI) & Municipal Performance Index (MPI)

- Both were released by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- 111 cities participated in EoLI and MPI was released for 111 municipalities and 3 municipal corporations.

Ease of Living Index (EoLI)

- EoLI is an assessment tool that evaluates the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development.
- It provides a comprehensive understanding of participating cities across India based on Quality of life, Economic-ability of a city, Sustainability and Citizen's perception. **(So, Statement 3 is correct)**
- First edition of the index was launched in 2018.



- There is no provision of funding based on performance in this index. It's an evaluation and assessment to drive competition within cities. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**

#### Municipal Performance Index

- MPI was launched in 2019, as an accompaniment to the EOLI
- MPI seeks to assess and analyse performance of Indian municipalities based on their defined set of functions.
- It covers 20 varied sectors vis. Education, Health, Water & Wastewater, SWM & Sanitation, Registration & Permits, Infrastructure, Revenue Management.

#### Q.133) Consider the following statements with reference to “Red Rice”:

1. It is rich in Iron.
2. It is grown in laterite soils of Gujarat and some areas of Eastern Ghats.

#### Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

#### Q.133) Solution (a)

#### Explanation:

#### About Red Rice

- It is a **deep-water paddy** that produces a particular type of **iron-rich red rice**. **(So, Statement 1 is correct)**
- The rice variety exported is referred as ‘**Bao-dhaan**’, which is an integral part of the **Assamese food**.
- It is an **iron rich rice** which is grown in **Brahmaputra valley of Assam**, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- It is generally grown in areas having **higher land submergence** that are unsuitable for other varieties of paddy.
- Unlike other rice varieties, its **seeds do not fall off** easily.
- The red colour is conferred by **anthocyanin pigments**.

- They are rich in micronutrients like **iron and zinc, Vitamin A and antioxidants.**

**Q.134) Consider the following statements about 'Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC):**

1. It is a not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise established by Department of Biotechnology.
2. One of its strategies is to enable commercialisation of discovery.
3. It provides funding to other private organisation to bring innovation excellence.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs. **(So, statement 1 is correct)**

BIRAC is an industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives, **be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes** that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive. **(So, Statement 3 is correct)**

**Key Strategies**

- Foster innovation and entrepreneurship
- Promote affordable innovation in key social sectors
- Empowerment of start-ups & small and medium enterprises
- Contribute through partners for capability enhancement and diffusion of innovation
- **Enable commercialization of discovery(So, Statement 2 is correct)**

- Ensure global competitiveness of Indian enterprises

**Q.135) Tinku Mittal is a foreign national of Australia and has his roots in India. Now he wants to apply for Overseas Indian Card. Consider the following case:**

1. He was born in March 1952 in Delhi and left country in 1960.
2. His Indian parent have fought Indian Freedom struggle and have been elected as Chief Minister of State.
3. He has married an Indian girl, whose both parents are Indian at her birth.
4. Meanwhile, he has accepted Citizenship in Bangladesh, as he has invested much there.

**In which of the above condition, he will be able to get OCI card?**

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

**Q.135) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**About Overseas Citizen of India**

A person registered as OCI cardholder under section 7A of Citizenship Act, 1955.

Eligibility: A foreign national who

- Was eligible to be citizen of India on 26th January, 1950
- is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen
- Spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder with certain conditions etc.

Citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh or other country notified by Central Government are not eligible.

- **Statement 1:** He is eligible to become Indian Citizen, so He can get OCI card.
- **Statement 2:** As any Indian Citizen can only be Chief Minister, so by being a child of Indian Parent, he can get OCI Card.
- **Statement 3:** As being a spouse of an Indian Citizen, he will be eligible for OCI card.(Having both parents as Indian will certify his spouse as either Indian citizen)
- **Statement 4:** As he has accepted Bangladesh Citizenship, So he will not able to get OCI card.

**Q.136) Consider the following statement about “The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021”:**

1. This rule divide social media intermediary into two categories, categorising on audio-video type.
2. The social media platform has to follow court order to remove or disable access to information.

**Form the following options, choose the correct answer.**

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

**Q.136) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**

The rules, which **categorise intermediaries as social media intermediary and significant social media intermediary based on number of users**, said significant social media intermediaries providing messaging services would “enable the identification of the first originator of the information. (So, statement 1 is incorrect)

**On receiving a court order or being notified by the appropriate government agency, an intermediary will need to remove or disable access to information any unlawful information “as early as possible, but in no case later than 36 hours”. (So, Statement 2 is correct)**

The intermediary will also have to provide information or assistance to authorised government agency for “investigative or protective or cyber security activities, for the purposes of verification of identity, or for the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution, of offences under any law for the time being in force, or for cyber security incidents” within 72 hours of the receipt of an order.

Such an order would “only be passed for the purposes of

- prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of India,
- the security of the State,
- friendly relations with foreign States, or
- public order, or
- Of incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material, punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years."

The intermediaries need to appoint a Grievance Officer to deal with complaints and share the name and contact details of such an officer

**Q.137) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is situated in two states.
2. Park named on the river cut it into two equal parts: eastern and western.
3. Recently it was awarded with title of best managed tiger reserves in the country.

**Which of the following Tiger Reserve is being talked about?**

- a) Periyar Tiger Reserve
- b) Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve
- c) Rajaji Tiger Reserve
- d) Pench Tiger Reserve

**Q.137) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**About Pench Tiger Reserve**

- It is located in Seoni and Chhindwara, districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- It shares a boundary with Maharashtra.
- It has two divisions: Priyadarshini National Park and Mowgli Pench Sanctuary.
- The river- Pench divides it in almost 2 equal halves (eastern and western).
- This place has been mentioned in "The Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling.
- Flora: Mahua, White Kulu, Salai, Saja, Bijiyasal, Dhaora, Amaltas etc.
- Fauna: Sher Khans (Bengal Tigers), Chital, Jungle Cat, Wolf, Indian Leopard, Gaur, Crow Pheasant, Indian Roller, Red-Vented Bulbul.



- Madhya Pradesh's Pench sanctuary and Kerala's Periyar sanctuary emerged as the best managed tiger reserves in the country, according to an evaluation of India's 50 tiger sanctuaries released along with the 4th National Tiger Estimation (Tiger census).

**Q.138) Helinski Rule and Berlin rules sometimes seen in news are related to:**

- a) To Counter-terrorism Measures
- b) To combat money laundering
- c) For use of water Resources
- d) To define post-Soviet order

**Q.138) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Helsinki Rules of 1966**

- The Helsinki Rules on the **Uses of the Waters of International Rivers** is an international guideline regulating how rivers and their connected groundwaters that cross national boundaries may be used
- It was adopted by the International Law Association (ILA) in Helsinki, Finland in August 1966
- It led to the creation of the United Nations' Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses
- It is applicable to all drainage basins that cross national boundaries, except where other agreement between bordering nations exists
- In spite of its adoption by the ILA, there is no mechanism in place that enforces the rules
- In 2004, it was superseded by the **Berlin Rules on Water Resources**

**Q.139) Which of the following Organisation has released Food Waste Index Report, 2021?**

- a) Food and Agriculture Organisation
- b) World Food Programme
- c) Food Corporation of India
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

**Q.139) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Food Waste Index Report, 2021**

- Report is released by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- As per it, an estimated 931 million tonnes of food equalling 17% of total food available to consumers in 2019 globally wasted.
- For India, waste in kg/capita/year was 50, lower than Nigeria producing waste at 189 kg / capita/year. Report suggests reducing food waste would improve food security, address climate change, save money and lower pressures on the environment.

**Q.140) Consider the following statement regarding Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme:**

1. Sovereign Gold Bonds are directly issued by Ministry of Finance.
2. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) can also invest in this bonds.
3. Capital gain tax will be applied after maturity of bonds.

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

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

**Q.140) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1:** Sovereign gold bonds are issued by the RBI on behalf of the government. They are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. (Hence, statement 1 is incorrect)

**Statement 2:** The Bonds is restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions. So NRIs can't invest in Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme. (Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect)

**Statement 3:** It is tax efficient as no capital gains is charged in case of redemption on maturity. (Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect)

Basics about Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- The sovereign gold bond was introduced by the Government in 2015.
- Government introduced these bonds to help reduce India's over dependence on gold imports.
- The move was also aimed at changing the habits of Indians from saving in physical form of gold to a paper form with Sovereign backing.
- The bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram. The tenor will be for a period of 8 years with exit option from the 5th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- Bonds can be used as collateral for loans. The loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by the Reserve Bank from time to time.

**Q.141) Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan-aushadhi Yojana (PMBJP):**

1. It was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It provides free of cost medicine to poor and disadvantaged people.
3. It promotes Generic medicine.

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

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

**Q.141) Solution (b)**

**About Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan-aushadhi Yojana (PMBJP)**

- In 2008, Jan Aushadhi Scheme was launched by Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. In 2015, it was recalibrated as PMBJP. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- Its objective is making quality medicines available **at affordable prices for** all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets "Jan Aushadhi Medical Store", so as to reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- It is being implemented by Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India.

**Objectives of the Scheme**

- To make available quality medicines consumables and surgical items at affordable prices for all and thereby reduce out of pocket expenditure of consumers/patients.
- To popularize generic medicines among the masses and dispel the prevalent notion that low priced generic medicines are of inferior quality or are less effective. **(So, Statement 3 is correct)**
- Generate employment by engaging individual entrepreneurs in the opening of PMBJP Kendras

**Q.142) Recently UNESCO has included Hoysala Monuments in Tentative list of Heritage sites. These monuments are found at:**

- a) Hampi and Hosper
- b) Halebid and Belur
- c) Mysore and Bangalore
- d) Sringeri and Dharwar

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

**Explanation:**

**Hoysala Monuments**

The Hoysala era is one that contributed enormously to the development of several creative fields as well as spiritual and humanistic thought. During their reign, the Hoysalas built more than 1500 temples all across their empire of which only a little over 100 survive today. Art historians recognize the exceptionally intricate sculptural artistry of the **Chennakeshava temple at Belur** and the **Hoysaleswara temple at Halebid** to be among the masterpieces of South Asian art making the name of Hoysala synonymous with artistic achievement.

In addition to supporting both Shaivite and Vaishnavite sects of Hinduism, the Hoysala rulers gave court recognition and status to Jainism, a religion that prescribes a path of non-violence and self-control as paths to spiritual liberation and emphasizes the equality of all beings. They were not only inclusive of the plural religious following but the sacred ensembles were important agents in the development of the spiritual beliefs of Vaishnavism, Shaivism, and Jainism through interpretations in sculpture, poetry, music, classical dance, and Kannada literature.

**Q.143) Consider the following statement about 'Cyber Volunteer Programme':**

1. It has been launched by NITI Aayog.
2. It has aimed to bring together citizens to contribute in the fight against cybercrime in the country.
3. I4C will be its nodal agency to coordinate at national level.

**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) All of the above

**Q.143) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Cyber Volunteer programme**

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed that a CVP has been rolled out for cyber hygiene promotion (So, Statement 1 is incorrect)
  - **to Bring together citizens to contribute in the fight against cybercrime in the country**
  - Assist State/UT LEAS (law enforcement agencies) to curb cyber crimes.
- CVP is envisaged by Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- **14C, under MHA, act as a nodal point at National level in the fight against cybercrime.**
- It brings together academia, industry, public and government in prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes

**Q.144) Consider the following pairs of places recently seen in news:**

- | Places              | : | Countries   |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. Senkakus Islands | : | South Korea |
| 2. Mongla Port      | : | Bangladesh  |
| 3. Salda Lake       | : | Turkey      |

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

- a) 1 and 2 only



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

**Q.144) Solution (c)**

**Explanation**

**Senkakus/ Diaoyu Islands**

- These islands have been an object of territorial **disputes between China and Japan.**
- New report highlights increased Chinese activity in the region. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**

**Mongla Port, Bangladesh**

- It is the second largest sea port in Bangladesh.
- India and Bangladesh had signed MoU on the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports in 2015.
- It envisaged transit of goods from Mongla port to north eastern states of India through waterways, roads and railways. **(So, Statement 2 is correct)**

**Salda Lake, Turkey**

- Scientists hunting for signs of ancient life on the distant planet are using data gathered from Salda lake.
- Salda lake, a mid-size crater lake, is located in southwestern Turkey, within Burdur Province.
- It has an extremely high concentration of magnesium ions, and it is highly alkaline. **(So, Statement 3 is correct)**

**Q.145) Consider the following Pairs of Military exercise of India:**

Military Exercise	:	Country
1. Yudh Abhyash	:	France
2. Vajra Prahar	:	United States
3. DUSTLIK II	:	Uzbekistan

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

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

**Q.145) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Military Exercise:**

- Yudh Abhyas – India and United States
- Vajra Prahar – India and United States
- Dustlik II – India and Uzbekistan

**Q.146) Consider the following statement regarding 'Index of Eight Core Industries' –**

1. Base year of Index of Eight Core Industries is 2014-15.
2. Total weightage of Electricity is higher than Fertilizers in index.

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

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

**Q.146) Solution (b)**

**Explanation - Base Year of Index of Eight Core Industries is 2011-12. Weight of Electricity is 19.85% while fertiliser's weight is 2.62%.**

**Basics**

**Core Sector Industries**

- The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity
- The eight core industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

Industry	Weight (In percentage)
Petroleum & Refinery	28.04
Electricity	19.85
Steel	17.92
Coal	10.33
Crude Oil	8.98
Natural Gas	6.88
Cement	5.37
Fertilizers	2.63

**Q.147) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is a tiger reserve situated in East India.
2. This protected area is situated in the Basin of Subarnarekha River.
3. This protected area is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

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

- a) Palamu Tiger Reserve
- b) Satkosia Tiger Reserve
- c) Simlipal Tiger Reserve
- d) Buxa Tiger Reserve

**Q.147) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**About Simlipal National Park**

- Simlipal National Park is a national park and a tiger reserve in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha covering 2,750 km<sup>2</sup> (1,060 sq mi).
- It is part of the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve, which includes three protected areas — Simlipal Tiger Reserve, Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Simlipal National Park derives its name from the abundance of red silk cotton trees growing in the area.
- It is the 7th largest national park in India.
- The park is home to Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, gaur, and chausingha along with some of the beautiful waterfalls like Joranda and Barehipani Falls.
- At least 12 rivers cut across the plain area. The prominent among them are Budhabalanga, Palpala Bhandan, Kharkai River and Deo. (Among which Kharkai and Deo are prominent tributary of Subarnarekha river)
- This protected area is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.

**Q.148) Which of the following ministry is implementing Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY)?**

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Rural Development
- c) Ministry of Labour & Employment
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Q.148) Solution (c)**

**Explanation**

**Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY)**

- Ministry of Labour and Employment has initiated Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY) Scheme.
- It has been to incentivize creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic.
- This scheme being implemented through the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries including MSMEs and encourages them to hire more workers.
- Under ABRY, Government of India is crediting for a period of two years both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers share' (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments.
- As on 17.02.2021 benefits are to be provided to 8.42 lakh beneficiaries through 38,320 establishments.

**Q.149) 'Secure Application for Internet' is related to:**

- a) Cyber warfare machinery to secure free speech
- b) Security measure to save internet from terrorism
- c) Messenger application developed by Army
- d) Measure to counter spread of fake news

**Q.149) Solution (c)**

In the quest for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', Indian Army has developed a simple and secure messaging application named the "Secure Application for Internet (SAI)". The application supports end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platform over internet. The model is similar to commercially available messaging applications like Whatsapp, Telegram, SAMVAD and GIMS and utilises end to end encryption messaging protocol. SAI scores over on security features with local in-house servers and coding which can be tweaked as per requirements.

The application has been vetted by CERT-in empaneled auditor and Army Cyber Group. SAI will be utilised pan Army to facilitate secure messaging within the service.

**Q.150) Which of the following subjects do not fall under government of NCT?**

- 1. Public Health
- 2. Public Order
- 3. Police
- 4. Land

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

**About Article 239AA**



- 69th Amendment 1991 inserted the Article 239AA in the Constitution.
- It granted special status to Delhi among Union Territories (UTS) by providing Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to such Assembly.
- **Public order, Police and Land in NCT of Delhi fall within the domain of Union Government.**
- For remaining matters of State List or Concurrent List, in so far as any such matter is applicable to UTS, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for NCT of Delhi.

**Q.151) Consider the following statements about 'Bamiyan Buddha':**

1. It is situated in the Bamiyan valley of Pakistan.
2. It is representation of Gandhara school of Art.
3. It is included in UNESCO world heritage site.

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

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

**Q.151) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**About Bamiyan Buddha**

- Bamiyan Buddha Date back to the 5th century AD and were once the tallest standing Buddha in the world.
- They were locally known as Salsal meaning "light shines through the universe" and Shamama means "Queen Mother".
- The statues were representation of Gandharan School in Buddhist art in the Central Asian region.
- Draped in roman draperies and with two different mudras, Bamiyan Buddha were great examples of a confluence of Gupta,
- Bamiyan valley is situated along the Bamiyan River in the Hindu Kush Mountains in the central highlands of Afghanistan.
- UNESCO included remains of Bamiyan Valley in the list of world heritage sites in 2003.

**Q.152) Which of the following product are exempted from GST?**

1. All kind of Alcohol
2. Natural Gas
3. Elasticity
4. Aviation Turbine Fuel

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

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

**Q.152) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

There is no GST on alcoholic liquor for human consumption but these goods would be subject to existing State levies.

Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength is liable to GST at the rate of 18 per cent. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**

**Excluded categories from GST:** Alcohol for human consumption, Petroleum products like crude oil, petrol, Aviation Turbine Fuel High Speed Diesel and Natural Gas; Electricity.

**Q.153) Consider the following statements about 'Kumbha Mela':**

1. It is organised every 12 years at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nasik and Ujjain.
2. The dates of the event are determined according to the Shaka Samvat calendar.
3. It is included in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

**About Kumbh Mela**

- The Kumbh Mela is celebrated every 12 years, at four river-bank pilgrimage sites: the Prayagraj (Allahabad) (Ganges-Yamuna Sarasvati rivers confluence), Haridwar (Ganges), Nashik (Godavari), and Ujjain (Shipra).
- The dates for pilgrimage are determined according to the Vikram Samvat calendar. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- It has been inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Q.154) Pabbi-Antiterror-2021 is a military exercise of:**

- a) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- b) India – Uzbekistan
- c) India - Kazakhstan
- d) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO)

**Q.154) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**"Pabbi-Antiterror-2021"**

The Joint exercise is organised by Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) (a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism).

Members who will participate in Joint exercise are: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

India for the first time jointly participated in military exercise with Pakistan in SCO's 1<sup>st</sup> military exercise in 2018.

**Q.155) Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Sewa Nidhi':**

1. It is a non-lapsable fund administered by Ministry of Finance.
2. Accruals from the fund will also be used in National Health Mission.
3. It is funded by Health and Education cess under Finance act 2007.

Which of the given statement is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)**

- PMSSN is created as a special fund for share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Finance Act, 2007.
- 2018-19 budget replaced 3% Education Cess by 4% Health and Education Cess to raise extra funds for health needs of rural and below poverty line families.

**Salient features of PMSSN**

- It will be a non-lapsable reserve fund in Public Account and will be administered by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Accruals into PMSSN will be utilised for flagship schemes, including Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission, PM Swasthya Suraksha Yojana etc. schemes.
- Funds will also be used for emergency and disaster preparedness and for any future
- Benefit: Enhanced access to health care through availability of earmarked ensuring amount does not lapse at the end of financial year.

**Q.156) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is one of the modern religions, established in the 19th century and initially developed in Persia and parts of the Middle East.
2. It celebrates first day of the first year of the calendar as 'Náw-Rúz'.
3. Lotus Temple of New Delhi is their house of worship in India.

**Which Faith is here talked about?**

- a) Zoroastrianism
- b) Judaism

- c) Taoism
- d) Baha'ism

**Q.156) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Baha'ism**

- The Baha'i Faith is a new religion teaching the essential worth of all religions and the unity of all people.
- Established by Baha'u'llah in the 19th century, it initially developed in Persia and parts of the Middle East, where it has faced on-going persecution since its inception.
- The religion is estimated to have over five million adherents, known as Baha'is, spread throughout most of the world's countries and territories.
- Baha'ism Philosophy
  - According to the Bahá'í teachings, God is single and all-powerful.
  - Bahá'u'lláh taught that religion is revealed in an orderly and progressive way by Manifestations of God, who are the founders of major world religions throughout history; Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad are noted as the most recent of these before the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.
  - Bahá'ís regard the major religions as fundamentally unified in purpose, though varied in social practices and interpretations.
  - The Bahá'í Faith stresses the unity of all people, explicitly rejecting racism and nationalism.
  - At the heart of Bahá'í teachings is the goal of a unified world order that ensures the prosperity of all nations, races, creeds, and classes.
- The Bahá'í New Year corresponds to the traditional Iranian New Year, called Naw Rúz, and occurs on the vernal equinox, near 21 March, at the end of the month of fasting. Bahá'í communities gather at the beginning of each month at a meeting called a Feast for worship, consultation and socializing.
- The largest Bahá'í community in the world is in India, with 2.2 million Bahá'ís.
- The Lotus Temple, located in New Delhi is a Bahá'í House of Worship that was dedicated in December 1986. Like all Bahá'í Houses of Worship, the Lotus Temple is open to all, regardless of religion or any other qualification.



**Q.157) Consider the following dams built on the river basin:**

1. Mettur Dam
2. Harangi Dam
3. Amaravati Dam
4. Banasura Sagar Dam

**On which River basin these entire dams have been built?**

- a) Godavari
- b) Cauvery
- c) Pennar
- d) Krishna

**Q.157) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Mettur Dam is one of the largest dams in India and also the largest in Tamil Nadu, located across the river Cauvery where it enters the plains. Built in 1934, it took 9 years to complete. It creates Stanley Reservoir.
- The Harangi Reservoir is located in Kodagu district of Karnataka. The reservoir is formed by a masonry dam built across the river Harangi, a tributary of the Kaveri.
- The Amaravathi Dam is a dam constructed across the Amaravathi River. It is located in the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tirupur district of Tamil Nadu. The Amaravathi River is the longest tributary of Kaveri River.
- Kabini River, which is one of the tributary of Cauvery. It is the largest earth dam in India and the second largest of its kind in Asia. The dam is made up of massive stacks of stones and boulders.

**Q.158) Consider the following statement about a Tiger Reserve:**

1. It is situated on the Indo-Nepal Border and thus represents Terai Ecosystem.
2. It has the largest number of barasinghas in the country.
3. It was established in 1958 as a wildlife sanctuary for Swamp Deer.

**Which of the following Tiger Reserve is being discussed here?**

- a) Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
- b) Amangarh Tiger Reserve
- c) Valmiki Tiger Reserve
- d) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

**Q.158) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is a protected area in Uttar Pradesh that stretches mainly across the Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich districts and comprises the Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. It covers an area of 1,284.3 km<sup>2</sup> and includes three large forest fragments amidst the matrix dominated by agriculture. It shares the north-eastern boundary with Nepal and so represent Terai ecosystem, which is defined to a large extent by the Mohana River.

Dudhwa became a tiger reserve in 1979. The area was established in 1958 as a wildlife sanctuary for swamp deer.

**Major attractions of Dudhwa National Park** are the tigers (population 98 in 1995) and swamp deer (population over 1,600).

- Billy Arjan Singh successfully hand-reared and reintroduced zoo-born tigers and leopards into the wilds of Dudhwa.
- Some rare species inhabit the park. Hispid hare, earlier thought to have become extinct, was rediscovered here in 1984. In the mid-1980s, Indian rhinoceros was reintroduced into Dudhwa from Assam and Nepal.
- The other animals to be seen here include swamp deer, sambar deer, barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer, tiger, Indian rhinoceros, sloth bear, ratel, jackal, civets, jungle cat, fishing cat, leopard cat.
- Dudhwa National Park is a stronghold of the barasingha. Around half of the world's barasinghas are present in Dudhwa National Park.

**Q.159) Terms 'Messier 61', 'Sagittarius A\*', 'Messier 32' sometimes seen in news is type of:**

- a) Super Earth
- b) Moon of Jupiter
- c) Dwarf Planets
- d) Black Holes

**Q.159) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

Astronomers have spotted a supermassive black hole (SMBH) moving on its own. That is, the SMBH is moving with a velocity different from that of its surrounding galaxy.

This is surprising because supermassive black holes usually are not expected to move with respect to the galaxies in whose centres they reside, according to what is known about them so far. Supermassive black holes have masses millions of times the solar mass and inhabit the centres of galaxies. The one at the centre of the Milky Way is named Sagittarius A\*.

Messier 32 is a black hole in the Andromeda Galaxy, which is the nearest black hole to the earth. Messier 61 is also part of this cluster of galaxy.

**Q.160) Which of the following scheme is part of 'core of core centrally sponsored scheme'?**

1. National Social Assistance Programme
2. MGNREGA
3. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana
4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
5. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

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

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

**Q.160) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Core of the Core Scheme**

1. National Social Assistance Programme
2. MGNREGA
3. Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes
4. Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Tribes

5. Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities
6. Umbrella Scheme for Development of Backward Classes, Differently Abled and other Vulnerable

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana , Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) are also Centrally sponsored scheme, which comes under core category.

**Q.161) Buldhana Pattern' has won national recognition recently. What is this term related to?**

- a) It is a Japanese method of afforestation to reduce global warming.
- b) It is a method of water conservation.
- c) It is a method of in situ conservation of wild Animals.
- d) It was a pattern of Ancient petroglyph painting.

**Q.161) Solution (b)**

**About Buldhana Pattern of Water Conservation:**

- The Synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation was achieved for the first time in Buldhana district, by using soil from the water bodies, nallas and rivers.
- This consequently lead to the increase in capacity of water for the first time in Buldhana. storage across the water-bodies in Buldhana district and it came to be known as 'Buldhana Pattern'. • The cost efficient 'Buldhana pattern of road-construction nationwide, especially in the regions which are facing problem of water scarcity.
- Another '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.
- Creation of State Water Grid and adopting water Conservations works under 'Buldhana Pattern will increase the agriculture production and bring prosperity in farmer's economic life in Vidarbha.

**Q.162) Recently “Whitsun reef” was in news, consider the following statements with respect to Whitsun Reef.**

1. It is a part of South China Sea.
2. It is disputed between China and Vietnam.

Which of the following statement given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.162) solution (a)**

**Explanation**



Recently, Philippines reported 200 Chinese vessels at this disputed reef. The boomerang shaped reef is also called Julian Felipe and is claimed by both China and Philippines. It is located in South China Sea.

**Q.163) consider the following statement about the functions of national pharmaceutical pricing authority:**

1. To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995/2013.
2. To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.



3. To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.

**Which of the following statement 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.163) solution (d)**

**Explanation**

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority was set up as an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (now Department of Pharmaceuticals since July, 2008) on 29th August 1997. It has been entrusted inter-alia, with the following functions

1. To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995/2013 in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
2. To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/formulations.
3. To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
4. To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations.
5. To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.
6. To render advice to the Central Government on changes/revisions in the drug policy.
7. To render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to the drug pricing.

**Q.164) Word happiness report has been published amid Covid-19 assessing the happiness among the nations: Who publishes the report.**

- a) United Nations Development Program
- b) United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- c) World economic forum
- d) World Bank

**Q.164) solution (b)**

**Explanation**

### World Happiness Report 2021

- World Happiness Report 2021 focuses on the effects of COVID-19 on happiness and how countries have differed in their success in reducing the deaths and maintaining connected and healthy societies.
- Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world followed by Iceland, Denmark.
- India ranked 139 (out of 149 countries) while neighboring countries like Pakistan is on 105th, Bangladesh on 101st and China on 84th.
- India ranked 140th in 2019 and 144th in 2020.

### Key highlights of the report

- Trust and the ability to count on others are major supports to life evaluations, especially in the face of crises.
- Factors supporting successful COVID-19 strategies include confidence in public institutions.

**Q.165) Recently the terms “Heptachlor, Tetradifon, Aldicarb, Metoxuron,” has been in news with respect to -**

- a) Migratory birds along the Asian flyway.
- b) Pesticides Banned for manufacture, import and use.
- c) Invasive species of Western Ghats.
- d) Extinct birds native to north eastern states.

**Q.165) solution (b)**

### Explanation

**'Draft Order Banning of Insecticides Order 2020'**

The draft released in May 2020, provided for banning import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of 27 pesticides which are also declared extremely hazardous by World Health Organization.

However, draft was criticized by both industry and farmers. > The Indian pesticide industry is estimated at 219,000 crores, while exports are pegged at 21,000 crores. The list of chemicals account for about a fifth of the total industry. > Also, banning these affordable chemicals would affect food security by increasing the cost of cultivation.

**About pesticide regulation –**

- A pesticide is any substance used to kill, repel, or control certain forms of plant or animal life that are considered to be pests. > Pesticide Includes herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, disinfectants and compounds.
- Of the Pesticides notified for the ban, eight are fungicides, 12 insecticides and seven are herbicides.

**Regulation –**

- Currently, pesticides are regulated under Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Insecticides Rule, 1971.
- Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level' scheme- under which samples of Vegetables, fruits and other crops are collected from the retail outlets, markets, and farm-gate. etc. and analyzed by enlisted NABL laboratories for pesticide residues.

**Q.166) Recently the Helium has been a matter of debate in India; consider the following statement with respect to Helium in India:**

1. India has been self-sufficient in its need and does not import helium at all.
2. One of the most important applications of helium is in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

**Which of the following statement given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.166) solution (b)**

**Explanation**

India has been a net importer of helium and US has been the main supplier catering to India's demand However, U.S. is planning to switch off export of helium from 2021. • One alternative is India's Rajmahal volcanic basin is the store house of helium that can meet country's requirement.

**About Helium:**

It is colorless, odorless, tasteless, inert and a noble gas. Application includes: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and, in rockets, in nuclear reactors, production of fiber optics cable etc.

**Q.167) Recently Suez Canal has been in news. Which of the following ocean/sea has not been connected to the Suez Canal?**

- a) Red sea
- b) Mediterranean sea
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Baltic sea

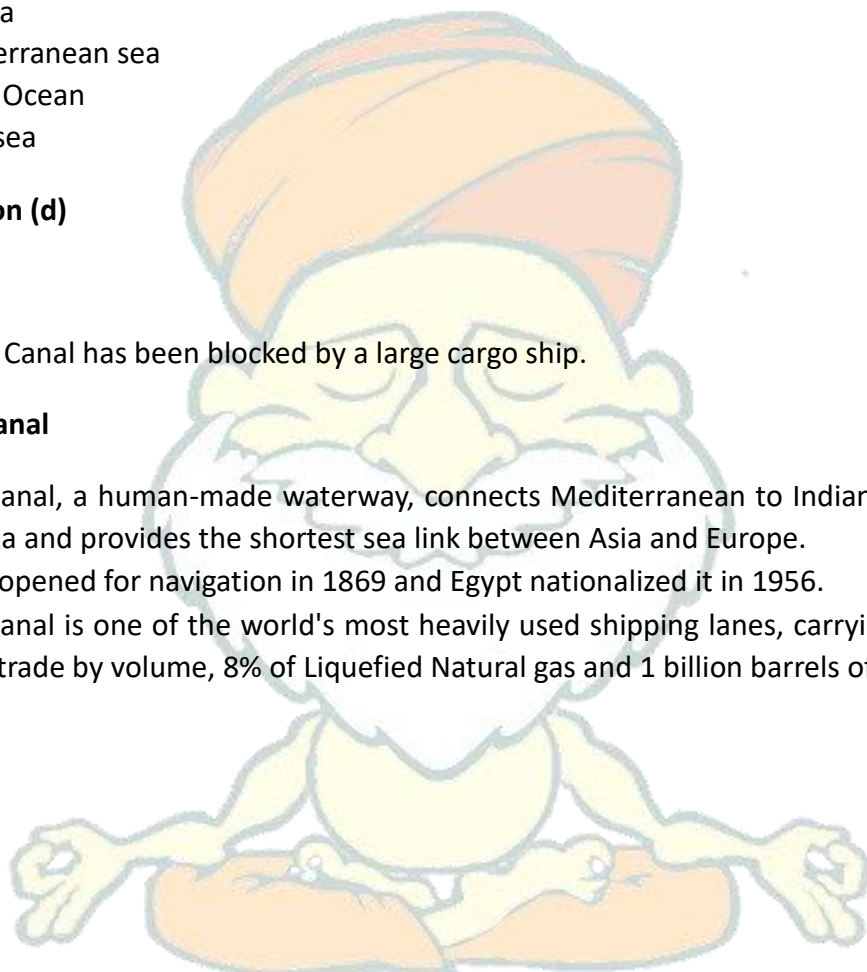
**Q.167) solution (d)**

**Explanation**

Recently Suez Canal has been blocked by a large cargo ship.

**About Suez Canal**

- Suez Canal, a human-made waterway, connects Mediterranean to Indian Ocean via the Red Sea and provides the shortest sea link between Asia and Europe.
- It was opened for navigation in 1869 and Egypt nationalized it in 1956.
- Suez Canal is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes, carrying over 12% of world trade by volume, 8% of Liquefied Natural gas and 1 billion barrels of oil (everyday).







**Q.168) Recently the campaign 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' has been launched. Consider the following statement with respect to it:**

1. The Campaign will be undertaken across the rural areas in the limited identified districts of the country.
2. Gram Sabhas will take 'Jal Shapath' for water conservation.
3. It is launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at the grass-roots level through people's participation.

**Which of the following statement 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.168) solution (b)**

**Explanation**

Indian Prime Minister launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign on World Water Day i.e. on 22nd March 2021.



### About the campaign

- The Campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban areas.
- **Theme:** "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls".
- It will be implemented from 22nd March 2021 to 30th November 2021 – the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods in the country.
- It is launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at the grass-roots level through people's participation.
- It is intended to encourage all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.
- After the event, Gram Sabhas will be held in all Gram Panchayats of each district (except in the poll-bound states) to discuss issues related to water and water conservation.
- Gram Sabhas will also take 'Jal Shapath' for water conservation.

**Q.169) The terms "Jaapi, Xorai and Gamosa" has been in news recently with respect to:**

- a) These are local handicraft products of Assam region.
- b) Tribal groups inhabiting north eastern region.
- c) Butterflies recently identified in the central Indian region.
- d) Products identified under programme "one district one products" in Uttar Pradesh.

**Q.169) Solution (a)**

### Explanation

Decorative jaapis (field hats), hand-woven gamosas and bell-metal xorais are making frequent appearances in Assam due to upcoming Assembly elections.

### About the products

**Jaapi:** It is a conical hat made of bamboo and covered with dried tokou (a palm tree found in rainforests of Upper Assam) leaves. Today, the bulk of Assam's jaapis are made by artisans based in a cluster of villages in Nalbari district.

**Gamosa:** It has wide-ranging uses. It can be used at home as a towel (uka gamosa) or in public functions (phulam/floral gamosa) to felicitate dignitaries or celebrities.

**Xorai:** It is made of bell-metal. It essentially is a tray with a stand at the bottom, with or without a cover. It can be found in every Assamese household.

**Q.170) Consider the following statement about the MSP for MFP scheme:**

1. The responsibility of purchasing MFP on MSP will be with State designated agencies.
2. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the Ministry with technical help of TRIFED.
3. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

**Which of the following statement 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.170) Solution (d)**

MFP through Minimum Support Price (MSP)

This was a measure towards social safety for MFP gatherers, who are primarily members of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) most of them in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas.

The scheme had Rs. 967.28 crore as Central Government share and Rs. 249.50 crore as the States share for the current Plan period.

**Coverage:**

- Earlier, the scheme was extended only to Scheduled Areas in eight states and fixed MSPs for 12 MFPs. Later expanded to all states and UTs.
- Total number of MFPs covered under the list include 49.

**Implementation:**

- The responsibility of purchasing MFP on MSP will be with State designated agencies.
- To ascertain market price, services of market correspondents would be availed by the designated agencies particularly for major markets trading in MFP.
- The scheme supports primary value addition as well as provides for supply chain infrastructure like cold storage, warehouses etc.

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the Ministry with technical help of TRIFED.

**Q.171) Consider the following statements with respect to appointment of Chief justice of India.**

1. There is no specific provision in the Constitution for appointing the Chief Justice.
2. Seniority at the apex court is determined by age.

**Which of the following statement given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.171) Solution (a)**

**Appointment of CJI**

- **Article 124:** Manner of appointing judges to the SC.
- CJI should be the senior most judge of the SC.
- Law Minister has to seek recommendation of the outgoing CJI for appointment of new CJI at an appropriate time.
- **Article 124(2):** Consultation with other Judges to be made In case of doubt about the fitness of the senior-most Judge to hold office of CJI.
- Law Minister then puts up recommendation to Prime Minister (PM) who will advise the President on appointment.
- But there is no specific provision in the Constitution for appointing the Chief Justice.
- Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by the date a judge was appointed to the SC.
- If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day, (1) the one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another; (2) if both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would 'win' in the seniority stakes; (3) an appointment from the bench would 'trump' in seniority an appointee from the bar.

**Q.172) Main objective of the recently launched Co-WIN App has been to -**

- a) To handle minute details for India's Covid-19 immunization programme.

- b) To co-ordinate the vaccine manufacturing programme in India.
- c) To help the start-ups and MSMEs destroyed due to Covid-19.
- d) To create the database of civil society and NGOs working for Covid-19 relief.

**Q.172) Solution (a)**

**Explanation**

COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN)

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the launching of "CoWIN", a Grand Challenge for strengthening the COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) system, a digitalised platform to be used to effectively roll out and scale up the mechanism for COVID Vaccine Distribution System, nationally.

**About the App**

- Co-WIN, a cloud-based IT platform, is supposed to handle minute details for India's Covid-19 immunisation programme, including registering beneficiaries, allocating vaccination centres, sending text messages with name of their vaccinator to beneficiaries and live monitoring of vials in cold storage.

**Q.173) Innovators growth platform has been related to:**

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India)
- c) Security and exchange board of India.
- d) Ministry of corporate affairs

**Q.173) Solution (c)**

Securities and Exchange Board of India launched 'Innovators Growth Platform'.

Erstwhile known as 'Institutional Trading Platform' for listing of issuers which are in intensive use of technology, information technology, intellectual property, data analytics, bio-technology or nano-technology to provide products, services or business platforms with substantial value addition.

It is a platform on stock exchanges where start-ups can list and trade on their shares.

It is a platform where listing norms such as IPO norms, pre-issue capital etc are eased for startup.

**Q.174) Consider the following statement with respect to National bank for financing Infrastructure and development.**

1. NBFID will have both financial as well as developmental objectives.
2. Initially, central government will own 100% shares which may subsequently be reduced up to 26%.
3. NBFID may borrow money from: Central government, RBI, scheduled commercial banks, mutual funds, and multilateral institutions like World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Which of the following statement 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.174) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

NBFID- National bank for financing Infrastructure and development

- It will be set up as a corporate body with authorized share capital of one lakh crore rupees.
- Initially, central government will own 100% shares which may subsequently be reduced up to 26%.

Financial objective

- To lend, invest, or attract investments for infrastructure projects located entirely or partly in India.

Developmental objectives

- Extending loans and advances for infrastructure projects, > Attracting investment from private sector. > Facilitating foreign participation in infrastructure projects.
- Facilitating dispute resolution and providing consultancy services in Infrastructure financing.

NBFID may borrow money from:

- Central government, RBI, scheduled commercial banks, mutual funds, and multilateral institutions like World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Management of NBFID

- NBFID will be governed by a Board of Directors. Chairperson appointed by the central government in consultation with RBI A body constituted by central government will recommend candidates for post of Managing Director and Deputy Managing Directors

Support from central government



- Central government will provide grants worth Rs 5,000 crore. Also, guarantee at a concessional rate of up to 0.1% for borrowing from multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds etc. will be provided.

**Q.175) The scheme DSIR-PRISM has been related with.**

- a) To promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.
- b) Development of effective medicine to fight Covid-19 by department of scientific and Industrial research.
- c) To revive the economy by focusing on labour intensive sectors.
- d) To organize the hackathon to find solution for the oxygen deficiency.

**Q.175) Solution (a)**

#### **About DSIR-PRISM Scheme**

It is an initiative of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

It is aimed at transforming an individual innovator into a successful technopreneur by promoting, supporting, and funding implementable and commercially viable innovations created for the society.

Under the initiative, an innovator of Indian nationality i.e. student, professional and common citizen, is provided technical, strategic, and financial assistance for idea development, prototype development and pilot scaling, and patenting.

The innovation movement by DSIR-PRISM making synergy with three National Initiatives like Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Smart India Hackathon and Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) is unique.

**Q.176) consider the following statements with respect to objectives of the Mission NISAR.**

1. Tracking subtle changes in the Earth's surface,
2. Spotting warning signs of imminent volcanic eruptions,
3. Helping to monitor groundwater supplies, and
4. Tracking the rate at which ice sheets are melting.

**Which of the following statement given above is/are correct?**

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

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q.176) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing a satellite called NISAR, which will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.

**What is NISAR?**

It's an SUV-sized satellite that is being jointly developed by the space agencies of the US and India. The partnership agreement was signed between NASA and ISRO in September 2014, according to which NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem. ISRO, on the other hand, will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services.

**Q.177) Consider the following statements with respect to Climate data service portal.**

1. It has been developed by IPCC for better targeting the climatic pattern.
2. It has user-friendly platforms for climate data management and supply to the users.

**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.177) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

The Climate Data Service Portal serves as a integrated platform to render weather and climate services of India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

This central hub, functions as a repository to acquire and disseminate the climate data of the Indian sub-continent region. This is enabled by automatic ingestion and first level quality control management in addition to monitoring, messaging / mailing response and acceptance. A dual communication facility and a secondary level quality control and quality assured procedures are ensured prior to permanent archival.

Incorporating rapid advancements in data technology and applications, this portal serves to skill

the future workforce on new-age resources to ensure inclusive economic growth and social development through climate services.

**Q.178) 'Tribal TB Initiative has been the initiative of**

- a) Ministry of tribal affairs.
- b) Ministry of social justice and empowerment
- c) Ministry of health and family welfare
- d) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

**Q.178) Solution (c)**

**Explanation**

Union Health Minister launched the "Tribal TB Initiative" as a step towards achieving 'TB Mukta Bharat' by 2025.

**About the Initiative:**

The Health Minister stated that India has over 104 million tribal population lives in India, across 705 tribes, accounting for 8.6 % of the country's population.

Around 177 tribal districts were identified as high-priority districts where poor living conditions, physical remoteness, malnutrition and lack of awareness contribute to the vulnerability of the tribal population to TB.

The activities of the joint plan will initially focus on 161 districts across 18 identified States. The activities include deploying improved vulnerability mapping techniques and organization of sensitization and capacity-building workshops for volunteers.

There would also be periodic TB active case finding drives and provision of TB Preventive Therapy (IPT) to the identified vulnerable population and develop long-term mechanisms for vulnerability reduction.

He also mentioned that the linkage of the NIKSHAY Portal of MoHFW and Swasthya Portal of the M/o Tribal Affairs will boost data compilation on Tuberculosis and pave way for efficient and convergent actions.

**Q.179) The Heart of Asia summit has been related to:**

- a) Summit of the nations to draw the plan for development of Afghanistan Post US-withdrawal.
- b) To develop the cultural relation and people to people contact among the Asian nations.
- c) To focus on harnessing the oil based opportunities in west Asia.
- d) It is a platform for sincere and results-oriented regional cooperation by placing

Afghanistan at its center.

**Q.179) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**About The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP):**

- It was founded in November, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- It provides a **platform for sincere and results-oriented regional cooperation by placing Afghanistan at its center**, in recognition of the fact that a secure and stable Afghanistan is vital to the prosperity of the Heart of Asia region.
- This platform was established to **address the shared challenges and interests of Afghanistan and its neighbors and regional partners**.
- The Heart of Asia comprises 15 participating countries, 17 supporting countries, and 12 supporting regional and international organizations.
- **India is a participating country.**
- Since its inception the process has become a cardinal element in regional cooperation and has created a **platform for Afghanistan's near and extended neighbors, international supporters and organizations to engage in constructive dialogue** and to **address the existing and emerging regional challenges** through regional cooperation with Afghanistan at its core.

**Q.180) consider the following statement with respect to Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020:**

1. The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 are Advisories and are not mandatory.
2. The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 are notified under the new Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

**Which of the following statement given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q.180) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 are Mandatory and are not Advisory.



**Salient features of the rules:**

- It aims to protect the rights of consumer by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumers' disputes.
- The rules will be applicable to all electronic retailers registered in India or abroad but offering goods and services to Indian consumers.
- The violation of the rules will attract penal action under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The e-commerce players will have to display the total price of goods and services offered for sale along with the break-up of other charges.
- They are also required to mention the 'expiry date' of goods offered for sale and the 'country of origin' of goods and services that are necessary for enabling the consumer to make an informed decision at the pre-purchase stage.
- It empower the central government to act against unfair trade practices in e-commerce and direct selling. They require e-tailers to facilitate easy returns, address customer grievances and prevent discriminating against merchants on their platforms.
- Marketplaces as well as sellers would be required to have grievance officers who have to respond in a time-bound manner.
- The new rules do not permit any inventory e-commerce entity to "falsely represent itself as a consumer and post reviews about goods and services or misrepresent the quality or the features of any goods and services".

**Q.181) Which of the following statements with reference to Global Gender Gap report is correct:**

1. It is published by World Economic forum.
2. India's rank has consistently improved.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.181) Solution (a)**

**Explanation**

Global Gender Gap Report 2021 was released recently.

- Released by: World Economic Forum



- India has fallen 28 places
- It is now one of the worst performers in South Asia,
- It is ranked below neighbouring countries – Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.
- India's rank: 140 among 156 countries.
- South Asia incidentally is one of the worst performing regions, followed only by the Middle East and northern Africa.
- Overall, many countries have fared worse in this year's rankings compared to last year's, on account of economic performance.
- On its current trajectory, it will now take 135.6 years to close the gender gap worldwide.
- Women represent only 26.1% of some 35,500 parliament seats and just 22.6% of over 3,400 ministers worldwide
- In 81 countries, there has never been a woman head of state, as of January 15, 2021.

**Q.182) Consider the following statements with reference to National Policy on Electronics, 2019:**

1. Its objective is to produce 1 trillion mobile handset in India by 2022.
2. It envisions to create a sovereign patent fund for the promotion, development and acquisition of Intellectual Property (IPs) in Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector.
3. It was launched by NITI Aayog.
4. This was the first time a Policy has been launched especially for electronics sector.

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

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

**Q.182) Solution (a)**

### **Explanation**

#### **National Policy on Electronics 2019**

Recognizing the electronics sector's unique dynamics, significant opportunities, and structural challenges, the Ministry of Electronics & IT and notified the National Policy on Electronics in

2012 (NPE 2012), which provided a road map for the development of electronics sector in the country. Hence, statement 3 and 4 is incorrect.

National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019) supplants the NPE, 2012.

**Main features:**

- The policy envisions to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally.
- Promote domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM for economic development to achieve a turnover of USD 400 billion by 2025, this will include targeted production of 1.0 billion (100 crore) mobile handsets by 2025. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- Improve ease-of-doing Business for the ESDM industry.
- Provide fiscal incentives and support for export-led growth, including significantly enhancing economies of scale in electronics manufacturing.
- Create Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF) to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in ESDM sector. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- Set up framework for creation of an ecosystem for promoting design and IP in the country.
- Promote Industry-led R&D and innovation in all sub-sectors of electronics, including grass root level innovations and early stage Start-ups in emerging technology areas such as 5G, IoT/ Sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Virtual Reality (VR), Drones, Robotics, Additive Manufacturing, Photonics, Nano-based devices, etc.
- Provide attractive package of incentives for promoting export of electronics goods, thereby empowering the exporters by facilitating global market access.
- Promote trusted electronics value chain initiatives to improve national cyber security profile.

**Q.183) Consider the following statement about HSN Code recently in news:**

1. It is a 14 digit uniform code that classifies more than 5000 products.
2. It was developed by WTO for promotion of harmonized trade.

**Which of the above given statement is / are correct from the given option?**

- a) 1 only

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

**Q.183) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**HSN Code**

- HSN code stands for “Harmonized System of Nomenclature”. This system has been introduced for the systematic classification of goods all over the world.
- HSN code is a 6-digit uniform code that classifies 5000+ products and is accepted worldwide.
- It was developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and it came into effect from 1988.

**HSN in India**

- India is a member of World Customs Organization (WCO) since 1971.
- It was originally using 6-digit HSN codes to classify commodities for Customs and Central Excise.
- Later Customs and Central Excise added two more digits to make the codes more precise, resulting in an 8 digit classification.

**Q.184) Which of the following statement is correct about Flexible Inflation Targeting adopted by India for controlling inflation?**

1. It was adopted by Monetary Policy Committee of RBI in 2016.
2. Under it the primary target of RBI is to keep retail CPI at 4%.
3. If RBI failed to keep inflation within tolerance limit for 3 consecutive quarters, it is answerable to Government of India.

**Select the correct answer from the given code:**

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

**Q.184) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Inflation Targetting India**

The Centre has decided to retain the inflation target of 4%, with a tolerance band of +/- 2 percentage points for the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

- RBI in its report had stressed that the current numerical framework for defining price stability was appropriate for the next five years.
- The amended RBI Act of 2016 provided for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with RBI, once in every five years.
- Inflation targeting is a monetary policy system wherein the central bank of a country has a specific target inflation rate for the medium-term and publicises this rate. This is done by the MPC in India.
- The central bank and the government agreed in 2015 on a policy framework that stipulated a primary objective of ensuring price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for a FTI framework.
- If RBI failed to keep inflation within tolerance limit for 3 consecutive quarters, it is answerable to Government of India.

**Q.185) Which of the following releases Wind pattern and Ventilation Index forecasts?**

- a) Ministry of Earth sciences
- b) Ministry of Environment forest and climate change
- c) TERI
- d) Niti Aayog

**Q.185) Solution (a)**

**Explanation –**

Wind Pattern and Ventilation Index Forecasts.

- Published by: Ministry of Earth Science.

Other similar initiatives launched by ministry

- MAUSAM APP: Forecast weather conditions of around the past 24 hours and seven days. 450 cities, which will show the weather conditions of > MEGHDOOT APP: provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages.
- DAMINI APP: It is developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ITM) for Lightning Warning

**Q.186) Bandavgarh Tiger reserve is located in -**

- a) Odisha
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

**Q.186) Solution (b)**

**Explanation –**

Bandhavgarh National Park is spread at vindhya hills in Madhya Pradesh.

- Bandhavgarh National Park consists of a core area of 105 sq km and a buffer area of approximately 400 sq km of topography varies between steep ridges, undulating, forest and open meadows.
- Bandhavgarh National Park is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers.
- The density of the Tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India.

**Q.187) Consider the following statements with reference to BIMSTEC group:**

1. It was established by Bangkok declaration of 1997 to promote rapid economic development
2. Bangladesh, China and Maldives are its member countries.
3. Its headquarter is located in Kathmandu, Nepal

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

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



d) 1 and 3 only

**Q.187) Solution (a)**

**Explanation –**

BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)

- It is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia.
- Established in 1997 in Bangkok through Bangkok Declaration.
- Established as a grouping of four nations — India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — through the Bangkok Declaration of 1997 to promote rapid economic development, BIMSTEC was expanded later to include three more countries — Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.
- Headquarters is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The main objective of BIMSTEC is technological and economic cooperation among south Asian and south east Asian countries along the coast of the bay of Bengal . Commerce, investment, technology, tourism, human resource development, agriculture, fisheries, transport and communication, textiles, leather etc. have been included in it.
- China and Maldives are not its members.

**Q.188) Consider the following statement about National Policy on rare diseases 2021**

1. It categorises rare diseases under three categories based on treatment needs.
2. Under the Policy, ICMR will maintain a list of rare diseases.
3. The assistance of Rs 15 lakh will be provided to patients suffering from rare diseases that require a one-time curative treatment

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

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

**Q.188) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

### National Policy on rare diseases 2021

- It has recently been by the Union Health Ministry.
- The government, in its policy paper, has proposed financial support of up to ₹15 lakh under an umbrella scheme of the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for those rare diseases that require a one-time treatment.
- Beneficiaries for such financial assistance would not be limited to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, but extended to 40% of the population eligible as per the norms of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, for their treatment in government tertiary hospitals only.
- India does not have a definition of rare diseases because there is a lack of epidemiological data on their incidence and prevalence.
- According to the policy, rare diseases include genetic diseases, rare cancers, infectious tropical diseases, and degenerative diseases.
- In India, roughly 450 rare diseases have been recorded from tertiary hospitals, of which the most common are Haemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle-cell anemia, auto-immune diseases, Gaucher's disease, and cystic fibrosis.
- Among other measures, the policy intends to kickstart a registry of rare diseases, which will be maintained by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- Under the policy, there are three categories of rare diseases — requiring one-time curative treatment, diseases that require long-term treatment but where the cost is low, and those needing long-term treatments with high cost.

**Q.189) Which of the following country is going to launch world's first climate change rules?**

- a) Britain
- b) Chile
- c) France
- d) New Zealand

**Q.189) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

- New Zealand became the first country to introduce a law that will require financial firms (like Banks, insurers and fund managers) to explain how they would manage climate-related risks and opportunities.

- The country wants to be carbon neutral by 2050 and says the financial sector needs to play its part.
- This law will bring climate risks and resilience into the heart of financial and business decision-making.
- It has become the first country to do so.

**Q.190) Which of the following has launched “Sankalp se Siddhi” - Village & Digital Connect Drive?**

- a) TRIFED
- b) FSSAI
- c) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- d) Ministry of Coal

**Q.190) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

“Sankalp se Siddhi” - Village & Digital Connect Drive , launched recently.

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched “Sankalp se Siddhi” - Village and Digital Connect Drive.
- It is a 100 day drive which was started from April 1, 2021.
- It will entail 150 teams visiting ten villages each.
- Its main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in the villages.
- The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for clustering as TRIFOOD, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries- (SFURTI) units as larger enterprises.
- TRIFOOD aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and value addition to the Minor Forest Produce collected by the tribal forest gatherers.

**Q.191) Consider the following statement about Stand-up India Scheme-**

1. It was launched by Ministry of MSMEs
2. It facilitates bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 Crore.
3. It does not support Greenfield enterprises.

Choose the correct answer from the given below options-

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

**Q.191) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

***About Stand-Up India scheme***

- Scheme was launched on April 5, 2016 **under Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.**
- **It facilitates bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 Crore** to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and at least one-woman borrower per Loans for enterprises in Activities allied to bank branch for setting up a **Greenfield enterprise.**
  - **Green field signifies first time venture of beneficiary in manufacturing, services or the trading sector.**
- In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or woman entrepreneur.
- Borrower should not be in default to any bank/financial institution. > Loan is repayable in 7 years with a maximum moratorium period of 18 months.
- It covers all Scheduled Commercial banks.
- Borrower shall be required to bring in minimum of 10% of the project cost as own contribution
- It also provides for Creation of a credit guarantee mechanism through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).

To widen the Stand-Up India Scheme Union Budget 2021 brings certain changes:

- The extent of margin money to be brought by the borrower may be reduced from 'upto 25%' to 'upto 15%' of the project cost. However, the borrower will continue to contribute at least 10% of the project cost as own contribution.
- loans for enterprises in activities allied to agriculture' e.g. pisciculture, beekeeping, poultry livestock, rearing, grading, sorting, aggregation agro industries, dairy, fishery, agridinic and agribusiness centers, food & agro-processing, etc. (excluding crop loans,

land improvement such as canals, irrigation, wells) and services supporting these, shall be eligible for coverage under the Scheme.

**Q.192) Consider the following statement regarding Integrated Health Information Platform.**

1. It is the next generation highly refined version of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (ISP).
2. It is world's biggest online disease surveillance platform.
3. It is in sync with National Digital Health Mission.

**Choose the correct answer from given below options:**

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

**Q.192) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

*In news:* Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) was recently launched.

- It was launched by Ministry of Health.
- IHIP is the **next generation highly refined version of the presently used Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).**
- India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system.
- It will house the data entry and management for India's disease surveillance program.
- In addition to tracking 33 diseases now as compared to the earlier 18 diseases, it shall ensure near-real-time data in digital mode.
- It is also the **world's biggest online disease surveillance platform.**
- It is **in sync with the National Digital Health Mission.**

**Q.193) Consider the following statements about PM Kisan Scheme :**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.
2. All farmer families are eligible for the scheme.



3. Income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal instalments is provided under the scheme.

Choose the correct answer from given below options:

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

**Q.193) Solution (b)**

**Explanation –**

*In News ;-* Amid the surge in Covid-19 cases, the payment of the first installment of PM-Kisan for the installation financial year 2021-22, is getting longer.

**PM Kisan Scheme:-**

- PM Kisan is a **Central Sector scheme** with 100% funding from Government of India. **(Hence statement 1 is incorrect)**
- State Government and UT administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.
- Providing income support to all landholding farmers' families (irrespective of the landholdings) in the country.
- Supplementing financial needs of farmers for procuring various inputs related to Significance agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs.
- **Income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided (through Direct Benefit Transfer) to all land holding farmer families in three equal installments of Rs 2000/every four months. (Hence, statement 3 is correct)**
- The benefit shall be paid to only those farmers' families whose names are entered into the land records except for Forest dwellers, North-eastern states and Jharkhand which has separate provisions for land records
- All PM-KISAN beneficiaries will be given the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) so that farmers can target of incre take easy loans from the banks
- **Exclusion criteria: All Institutional Land holders All Persons who paid Income Tax in last assessment year etc (Hence, statement 2 is incorrect)**

**Q.194) Government has recently launched 'Samarth scheme' for skill development and capacity building in**

- a) Clean energy sector
- b) Textile sector
- c) Construction Sector
- d) Artificial intelligence

**Q.194) Solution (b)**

**Explanation –**

The textile and apparel industry is one of the earliest industries developed in India. Its entire value chain from fiber to apparel manufacturing has a strong presence within the country. It is the biggest employer after agriculture.

- The **Ministry of Textiles is implementing the Samarth-Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector**, a placement oriented programme targeting skill development of 10 lakh youth in the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning & Weaving in the organized Sector.
- It aims to promote skilling and skill upgradation in the traditional sectors of handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and jute
- The Scheme would target to train 10.00 lakh persons (9 lakhs in organised & 1 lakh in traditional sector)
- Some of the advanced features of SAMARTH scheme include Training of Trainers (ToT), Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), CCTV recording of training programme, dedicated call centre with helpline number, mobile app based Management Information System (MIS) and on-line monitoring of the training process.

**Q.195) Consider the following statement about S-400 triumph missile.**

1. It is long range air defence system that consists of a surface to air missile system
2. It is resistant to electronic Jamming
3. India has purchased this technology from Israel.

**From the following options, choose the correct answer.**

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

**Q.195) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**In news:- Russia is going to deliver** the first set of S-400 Triumf air defence systems to India.

- It is a **long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system**.
- It has command control system, multiple radar units, automated from acquisition to final engagement.
- It has 4th generation system in terms of its combat capabilities.
- It is identified by NATO by its codename as the SA-21 Growler.
- It has the capability to detect and destroy high and low targets, and also form an impenetrable grid of missiles.
- It has four different types of missiles with ranges between 40 km, 100 km, 200-km and 400 km which can be deployed in a very short time.
- **It is resistant to electronic jamming.**

**Q.196) Which of the following countries are involved in Supply chain resilience initiative?**

1. China
2. Japan
3. India
4. Australia
5. USA

**Choose the correct code from the following options;**

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

**Q.196) Solution (c)**

**Explanation**

**In News: The Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).**

- The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region.
- Initially, SCRI will focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience and holding investment promotion events and buyer-seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to explore the possibility of diversification of their supply chains.
- Some of the joint measures shall include: (1) Supporting the enhanced utilisation of digital technology; (2) Trade and investment diversification
- The SCRI aims to reduce dependence on China amid a likelihood of recharging of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Expansion of the SCRI may be considered based on consensus, if needed, in due course.
- The ministers have decided to convene at least once a year to provide guidance to the implementation and development of the SCRI.

**Q.197) Consider the following statements about Global Immunization Agenda 2030 launched recently-**

1. It has been launched by World Economic forum to promote awareness about importance of immunisation programme.
2. It will contribute to achieving the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals.
3. One of its target is to reduce number of zero dose children by 50%.

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

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

**Q.197) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

*In news:* IA2030 titled as 'A Global Strategy to Leave No One Behind' was launched by WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and other partners with ambitious new global strategy to maximize the lifesaving impact of vaccines through stronger immunization systems.

- The Agenda focuses on vaccination throughout life, from infancy through to adolescence and older age. If fully implemented, it will avert an estimated 50 million deaths, 75% of them in low-and lower-middle income countries.
- **Targets to be achieved by 2030 include:**
  - Achieve 90% coverage for essential vaccines given in childhood and adolescence.
  - **intends to reduce the number of zero-dose children by 50 per cent,**
    - Zero-dose children are those who have received no vaccines through immunisation programmes.
- The IA2030 is based on learnings from Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). It also aims to address the unmet targets of the GVAP that were initially to be fulfilled as part of the global immunisation strategy of the 'Decade of vaccines' (2011–2020).
- IA2030 calls for introducing booster doses for lifelong protection against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. It also states new approaches to reach unvaccinated children and resolve geographical inequalities.
- The UN agencies aim to ensure through IA2030 that the benefits of immunisation are shared equitably among and within countries.
- This, in turn, will contribute to achieving the UN-mandated sustainable development goals or SDGs, specifically SDG3. "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages," SDG3 says.

India's Immunisation efforts are streamlined by Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush that covers 12 diseases like tuberculosis, meningitis, measles, Hepatitis B, etc.

**Q.198) Which of the following countries borders 'Persian Gulf'?**

1. Iran
2. Yemen
3. Bahrain
4. Oman
5. Qatar

**Choose the correct answer from given options below:**

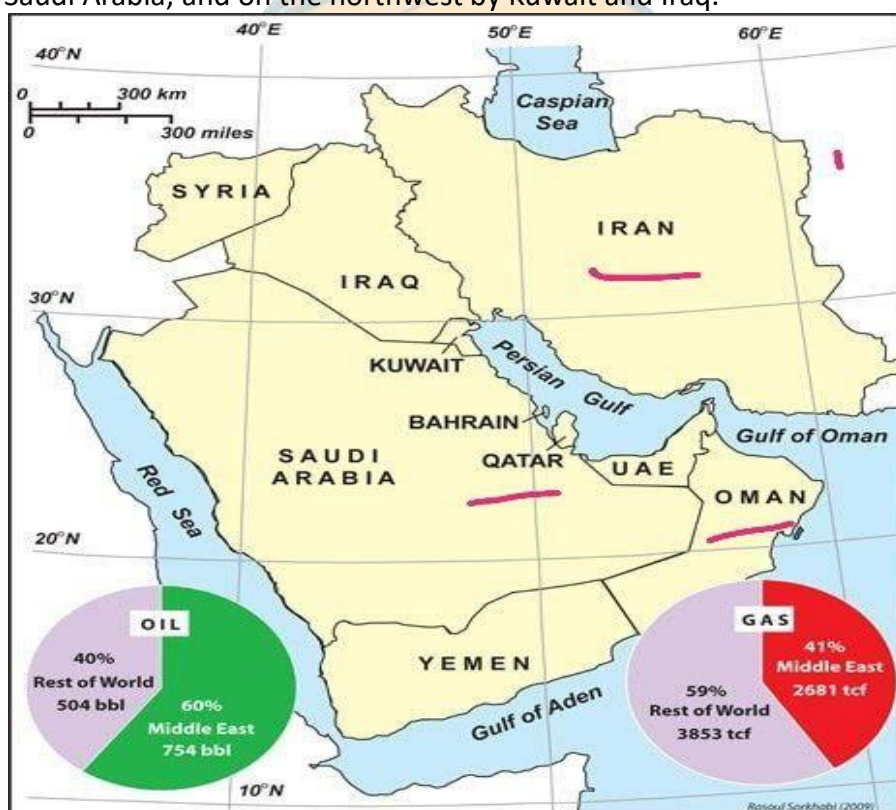


- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 2, 3 and 5 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) All of the above

**Q.198) Solution (c)**

**Explanation –**

Persian gulf is bordered on the north, northeast, and east by **Iran**; on the southeast and south by part of **Oman** and by the United Arab Emirates; on the southwest and west by **Qatar**, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia; and on the northwest by Kuwait and Iraq.



**Q.199) Consider the following statements with reference to 'borrowing powers of states and UTs in India.**

1. States can borrow within the territory of India upon the security of consolidated fund of state within limits fixed by State Legislature.
2. Under Article 293, borrowing powers of the States are both territorially and otherwise limited.

3. State can raise loan outside India.

**Which of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q.199) Solution (a)**

**Explanation –**

*In news:* - Recently Centre has permitted additional borrowings of Rs 1.06 lakh crore to those states which have carried out some key institutional reforms in power sector, ease of doing business, etc to cope with Covid-19.

- Last year, centre enhanced borrowing limit of the states by 2 per cent of their State GDP linking half of it to citizen-centric reforms by states.
- This is over and above the 3% limit set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

Constitutional basis of borrowing powers:

- Under Article 292, Central Government has unrestricted powers of borrowing in India and from abroad subject only to such limits fixed by the Parliament.
- **Under Article 293, borrowing powers of the States are both territorially and otherwise limited.**
- Since all the States are still indebted to Government of India, the constitutional position, therefore, is that prior consent of Government of India is necessary before a State Government raises a loan.
- **States can borrow within the territory of India upon the security of consolidated fund of state within limits fixed by State Legislature.**
- A State may not without the consent of the Government of India raise any loan if there is still outstanding any part of a loan which has been made to the State by the Government of India or by its predecessor Government
- However, State cannot raise a public loan without the consent of centre if any part of a loan is outstanding, which has been advanced to it by centre.
- States have no power raise loans outside India.

**Q.200) Consider the following statements about Garima Greh:**

1. It is a shelter home for orphans and destitute women.
2. National commission for women will oversee its implementation.
3. These shelters will also provide skill training to connect the community members with livelihood opportunities.

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

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

**Q.200) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**A 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons'** was recently e-inaugurated in Vadodara, Gujarat. It has been Inaugurated by Ministry for Social Justice & Empowerment

- Under the Scheme of 'Shelter Home for Transgender Persons', the ministry has decided to set up shelter homes for transgender persons who have been forced to leave their homes or abandoned by the family.
- This is first such home in Vadodara.
- By March 31st, 2021, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Patna, Kolkata, Jaipur, Raipur, Bhubaneswar and Manipur will also have such homes to be called "Garima Greh" with a capacity for 25 persons.
- They will be run by transgender community-led organisations.
- **These shelters will also provide skill training to connect the community members with livelihood opportunities.**
- This is a pilot project, on its successful completion, similar schemes will be extended to other parts of the country.

**Hence, only statement 3 is correct.**

**Q.201) 'Recently UNESCO included 'Plains of Jars' into its list of World Heritage Sites, it is located in**

- a) Nigeria
- b) Chile
- c) Laos
- d) Brazil

**Q.201) Solution (c)**

**Explanation –**

***Plain of Jars***

- The Plain of Jars, located on a plateau in central Laos, is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- It gets its name from more than 2,100 tubular-shaped megalithic stone jars used for funerary practices in the Iron Age.
- It consists of thousands of stone jars scattered around the upland valleys and the lower foothills of the central plain of the Xiangkhoang Plateau. The jars are arranged in clusters ranging in number from one to several hundred.
- The Plain of Jars is one of the most important prehistoric sites in Southeast Asia.
- In India such giant burial urns were used in parts of Tamil Nadu (Karur, Kodumanal etc at least 2000 years ago.

**Q.202) The term 'MACS 1407' was in news, it pertains to -**

- a) Pest resistant variety of Soybean.
- b) Carbon nanotube
- c) Missile technology
- d) Drug resistant proteins

**Q.202) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

In news:

- Indian Scientists have developed a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of **soybean**.

- Scientists from MACS- Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed this variety.

Key takeaways:

- This newly developed variety is called **MACS 1407**.
- It is suitable for cultivation in Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states.
- Its seeds will be made available to farmers for sowing during the 2022 Kharif season.
- In 2019, India produced around 90 million tons of soybean.
- Soybean is widely cultivated as oil seeds and a cheap source of protein for animal feed and many packaged meals.
- India is striving to be among the world's major producers of soybeans.
- High-yielding, disease resistant varieties of the legume can help achieve this target.

**Q.203) Consider the following statements facts about Human rights watch-**

1. It is an international NGO headquartered in New York.
2. It pressures governments, policy makers, companies, and individual human rights abusers to denounce abuse and respect human rights.

Which of the above given statement is / are correct?

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

**Q.203) Solution (c)**

**Explanation –**

*In news:* Human Rights Watch said that Israel is committing the crime of “apartheid” by seeking to maintain Jewish “domination” over Palestinians and its own Arab population.

**Human Rights Watch (HRW)**

- It is an international NGO,



- Headquarters: New York City.
- It conducts research and advocacy on human rights.
- The group pressures governments, policy makers, companies, and individual human rights abusers to denounce abuse and respect human rights
- It often works on behalf of refugees, children, migrants, and political prisoners.
- Human Rights Watch in 1997 shared in the Nobel Peace Prize as a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and it played a leading role in the 2008 treaty banning cluster munitions.
- It was co-founded by Robert L. Bernstein and Aryeh Neier as a private American NGO in 1978, under the name Helsinki Watch, to monitor the then-Soviet Union's compliance with the Helsinki Accords.

**Q.204) Open market sale scheme, often seen in news is associated with**

- a) Sale of government securities by RBI
- b) Sale of government stake in PSUs
- c) Sale of commercial papers by MNCs
- d) Sale of food-grains by Government / Government agencies

**Q.204) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**Open Market sale scheme**

- It refers to selling of foodgrains by Government / Government agencies at predetermined prices in the open market from time to time to enhance the supply of grains especially during the lean season and thereby to moderate the general open market prices especially in the deficit regions.
- In addition to maintaining buffer stocks and making a provision for meeting the requirement of the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), Food Corporation of India (FCI) on the instructions from the Government, sells wheat and rice in the open market from time to time.
- For transparency in operations, the Corporation has switched over to e- auction for sale under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic).
- The FCI conducts a weekly auction to conduct this scheme in the open market using the platform of commodity exchange NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited).

- The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are also allowed to participate in the e-auction, if they require wheat and rice outside TPDS & OWS.

**Q.205) Consider the following statements about Large area certification Programme.**

1. LAC is a Quick certification process that is cost-effective for marketing organic products.
2. It is programme under scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY).
3. Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group.

Choose the correct answer from given options below:

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

**Q.205) Solution (d)**

**Explanation –**

In news:- Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands became first large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification under " **Large Area Certification' (LAC)** scheme of PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System) certification programme.

**Large Area Certification (LAC) programme**

- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under its flagship scheme of **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY)** has launched a unique quick certification programme "Large Area Certification" (LAC) to harness these potential areas.
- **LAC is a Quick certification process that is cost-effective** and farmers do not have to wait for 2-3 years for **marketing organic certified products**.
- **Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group.**
- Documentations are simple and maintained village-wise.
- All farmers with their farmland and livestock need to adhere to the standard requirements and on being verified get certified en-mass without the need to go under conversion period.
- Certification is renewed on annual basis through annual verification by a process of peer appraisals

**Q.206) Which of the following organisation or institution has recently released report titled 'Global Forest Goals report 2021'?**

- a) UNCCD
- b) UN Environment
- c) FAO
- d) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Q.206) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**The Global Forests Goals Report 2021 released by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs'** is the first evaluation of where the world stands in regard to implementing the United Nations (UN) Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. Adopted four years ago, the Plan is a blueprint for forests and people, expressed through six Global Forest Goals and 26 targets. Outlining a vision for a future where all types of forests and trees are sustainably managed, the Plan is integral to the achievement of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Key findings;

- 18% of forests are designated as protected areas compared to just over 14% in 2000.
- 40% of the world's renewable energy comes from forests. > 40% of the extreme poor in rural areas live in forest and savannah areas.
- Forest landscapes, often remote and poorly connected to markets, make it difficult to build out businesses and earn livelihoods.
- Forests are not frequently considered in policy decisions related to food security, hunger and nutrition.

**Q.207) Consider the following about Ways and Means Advances.**

1. It is a credit policy of the RBI.
2. It is provided to States to help them tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.
3. The interest rate on WMA is the RBI's repo rate.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

**Q.207) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

*In news :-* The RBI decided to continue with the existing interim Ways and Means Advances (WMA) scheme limit of ₹51,560 crore for all States/ UTs shall for six months i.e., up to September 30, given the prevalence of COVID-19.

**Ways and means advances (WMA)**

- It is a mechanism used by RBI under its credit policy to provide to States, banking with it, to help them tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.
- In that sense, they aren't a source of finance per se. Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the Centre and state governments subject to their being repayable "not later than three months from the date of the making of the advance".
- **The interest rate on WMA is the RBI's repo rate**, which is basically the rate at which it lends short-term money to banks. That rate is currently 4.4%. The governments are, however, allowed to draw amounts in excess of their WMA limits. The interest on such overdraft is 2 percentage points above the repo rate, which now works out to 6.4%. Further, no state can run an overdraft with the RBI for more than a certain period.

**Q.208) Consider the following facts about SIPRI which was in news recently.**

1. It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
2. It was established in 2006 at Stockholm (Sweden).

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

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

**Q.208) Solution (a)**

**Basic Information:**

In news:-In its report on trends in global military expenditure in 2020, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has found that the world's top military spenders — the US, China and India — saw their military spending go up compared to 2019, even during a pandemic year.

- According to it, Arms imports decreased by 33% between 2011–15 and 2016–20.
- India continues to remain the second largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia.
- Russia was the largest arms supplier in while France and Israel were the second and third largest arms suppliers in 2016–20. The U.S. was the fourth largest supplier in 2016–20.
- India accounted for 9.5% of the total global arms imports during 2016-2020.

**Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**

- It is **an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.**
- It was **established in 1966 at Stockholm (Sweden).**
- It was established on the basis of a decision by the Swedish Parliament and receives a substantial part of its funding in the form of an annual grant from the Swedish Government.
- It provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

**Q.209) Recently, Russia announced its withdrawal from International Space Station (ISS), consider the following statements about ISS.**

1. ISS is a modular space station in low Earth orbit.
2. The ISS circles the Earth in roughly 93 minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day.

**Which of the above statement is / are correct?**

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



d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.209) Solution (c)**

**Explanation –**

In news: Russia has announced that it would be withdrawing from the International Space Station in 2025, and build and manage its own floating laboratory that will be launched into orbit by 2030.

**International Space Station:**

- Launched in 1998 and involving Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and the European Space Agency, the ISS is one of the most ambitious international collaborations in human history.
- **ISS is a modular space station (habitable artificial satellite) in low Earth orbit.**
- The space station flies at an average altitude of 248 miles (400 kilometers) above Earth. **It circles the globe every 90 minutes at a speed of about 17,500 mph (28,000 km/h) completing 15.5 orbits per day.**
- In one day, the station travels about the distance it would take to go from Earth to the moon and back.
- For over 20 years since its launch, humans have continuously lived and carried out scientific investigations on the \$150 billion ISS under microgravity conditions, being able to make breakthroughs in research not possible on Earth.

**Q.210) Consider the following statements about National crèche scheme:**

1. It is a central centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months to 6 years) of working mothers.
2. There is a provision of User charges to bring in an element of community ownership.

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

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

**Q.210) Solution (c)**

**Explanation –**

**National crèche scheme**

The National Crèche Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development through States/UTs to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months to 6 years) of working mothers.

The salient features of the National Creche Scheme are as follows:

- Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
- Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
- Supplementary Nutrition ( to be locally sourced)
- Growth Monitoring
- Health Check-up and Immunization

Further guidelines also provides for -

- The number of children in the crèche should not be more than 25 per crèche with 01 Worker and 01 helper respectively.
- **User charges to bring in an element of community ownership** and collected as under:
  - BPL families - Rs 20/- per child per month.
  - Families with Income (Both Parents) of upto Rs. 12,000/- per month – Rs. 100/- per child per month
  - Families with Income (Both Parents) of above Rs. 12,000/- per month – Rs. 200/- per child per month.

The fund sharing pattern under National Creche Scheme amongst Centre, States/UTs & Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations is in the ratio of 60:30:10 for States, 80:10:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States and 90:0:10 for UTs.

**Q.211) Which of the following organisation releases 'World press freedom Index'?**

- a) Reporters Without Borders
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) Amnesty International
- d) UNDP

**Q.211) Solution (a)**

**Explanation**

The World Press Freedom Index, 2021 has again ranked India at 142nd out of 180 countries.

**Produced by: Reporters Without Borders (RSF) – a French NGO**

Also, for a year, on directions from Cabinet Secretary, an index monitoring cell worked to improve the rankings.

- A meeting was also held between the Indian Ambassador to France and the RSF officials to lobby for a change in the ranking.
- In 2016, India's rank was 133, which has steadily climbed down to 142 in 2020.
- The RSF report says India is one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their job properly.
- They are exposed to every kind of attack, even police violence against reporters, ambushes by political activists, and reprisals instigated by criminal groups or corrupt local officials.
- Top countries: Norway followed by Finland and Denmark.
- Bottom country: Eritrea
- China is ranked 177. North Korea at 179 and Turkmenistan at 178.

**Q.212) Recently centre has restricted the use of Liquid oxygen only for medical purposes consider the following statements-**

1. It is strongly paramagnetic-
2. It is obtained from the oxygen found naturally in air by fractional distillation in a cryogenic air separation plant.

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

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

**Q.212) Solution (c)**

**Basic Information:**

*In news-* Invoking the Disaster Management Act, the Centre ordered States that all liquid oxygen, including the existing stock with private plants, should be made available to the government and will be used for medical purposes only.

**Liquid Oxygen:**

- Liquid oxygen is abbreviated LOx, LOX or Lox in the aerospace, submarine and gas industries
- It is the liquid form of molecular oxygen
- It has a pale blue color
- **It is strongly paramagnetic- it can be suspended between the poles of a powerful horseshoe magnet.**
- Because of its cryogenic nature, it can cause the materials it touches to become extremely brittle.
- Liquid oxygen is also a very powerful oxidizing agent: organic materials will burn rapidly and energetically in liquid oxygen.
- It was used as the oxidizer in the first liquid-fueled rocket invented in 1926 by Robert H. Goddard, an application which has continued to the present.
- In commerce, it is classified as an industrial gas and is widely used for industrial and medical purposes.
- **It is obtained from the oxygen found naturally in air by fractional distillation in a cryogenic air separation plant.**
- It is the most common cryogenic liquid oxidizer propellant for spacecraft rocket applications, usually in combination with liquid hydrogen, kerosene or methane.

**Q.213) Consider the following statements regarding 'Respond Program'.**

1. It is a programme of Indian armed forces to fight against CoVid.
2. It aims to establish strong links with premiere academic institutions in India to carry out research and developmental projects.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.213) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

In news- : IIT, Delhi said that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will support eight joint research projects mooted by the Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi.

**Key takeaways**

- **The ISRO will support the projects under its RESPOND programme with varying duration of 1-3 years.**
- STC was set up at IIT, Delhi under an MoU signed between the ISRO and IIT-D in November 2019.
- Aim of STC: To strengthen the research collaboration between the two organisations and to carry out focused research projects in the space technology domain with specific deliverables.
- Since then, eight collaborative research projects have been announced.
- Some of the projects include developing a system for drought and flood forecasting and understanding land-atmosphere interactions.
- **Main objectives of the RESPOND Programme: To establish strong links with premiere academic institutions in India to carry out research and developmental projects which are of relevance to Space and derive useful outputs of such R&D to support ISRO programmes.**

**Q.214) Consider the following statements about Trachoma.**

1. It is a neglected tropical diseases and leading cause of blindness worldwide.
2. WHO aims to eliminate it by 2030
3. India aims to eliminate it by 2025.

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

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



d) 2 and 3 only

**Q.214) Solution (a)**

**Basics –**

**In news:** Gambia has become second African state to eliminate Trachoma, after Ghana.

- **Trachoma is a neglected tropical disease** and the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide. It is caused by repeated infection of the eye with the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.
- Trachoma is a chlamydial infection which happens due to lack of hygiene, unclean water supply and can spread by contact with eye, nose, or throat secretions of a person suffering with the disease or indirectly via flies.
- Trachoma is considered as “eliminated” when its prevalence drops to less than five per cent among children aged between 1 to 9 years, as per the criteria laid down by WHO,
- **WHO has set a target for global elimination of trachoma by 2030.**
- **India eliminated trachoma in 2017. (Hence statement 3 is incorrect)**

**Q.215) Which of the following is correct about Pressure Swing Absorption plant?**

1. It is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under pressure.
2. It operates at near-ambient temperatures and differs significantly from cryogenic distillation techniques of gas separation

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

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

**Q.215) Solution (c)**

**Basic Information:**

**In news:-** The Health Ministry said that 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption, PSA oxygen plants have been sanctioned by Government of India for installation in public health facilities in all States

and these will augment medical oxygen capacity by over 154 Metric Tonnes.

**Pressure swing adsorption (PSA)**

- It is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under pressure according to the species' molecular characteristics and affinity for an adsorbent material.
- It operates at near-ambient temperatures and differs significantly from cryogenic distillation techniques of gas separation.
- Specific adsorbent materials (e.g., zeolites, activated carbon, molecular sieves, etc.) are used as a trap, preferentially adsorbing the target gas species at high pressure.
- The process then swings to low pressure to desorb the adsorbed material.

**Q.216) Recently, 'India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs was found in which of the following state of India?**

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

**Q.216) Solution (a)**

**Basic Information:**

**Meghalaya** has yielded India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs.

The count of the bats in India has reached now to 130.

**Bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs.**

- The disc-footed bat (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) was recorded near the Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The extent of adaptation for bamboo habitat in this species is not seen in the others.
- The flattened skull and sticky pads enabled the bats to roost inside cramped spaces, clinging to smooth surfaces such as bamboo internodes.
- The disc-footed bat was also found to be genetically very different from all other known bats bearing disc-like pads.

- Scientists analysed the very high frequency echolocation calls of the disc-footed bat, which was suitable for orientation in a cluttered environment such as inside bamboo groves.
- It has raised Meghalaya's bat count to 66, the most for any State in India.
- It has also helped add a genus and species to the bat fauna of India.

**Q.217) Recently one of the three largest neutrino detectors in the world was launched at which of the following places ?**

- a) Lake Baikal
- b) Gulf of Mexico
- c) Black sea
- d) Denmark strait

**Q.217) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

In news:-**Russian scientists launched one of the world's biggest underwater neutrino telescopes called the Baikal-GVD (Gigaton Volume Detector) in the waters of Lake Baikal.**

- Lake Baikal is the world's deepest lake situated in Siberia..
- Mission: To study in detail the fundamental particles called neutrinos and to possibly determine their sources.
- It is one of the three largest neutrino detectors in the world along with the IceCube at the South Pole and ANTARES in the Mediterranean Sea.

**Lake Baikal**

- Lake Baikal is a rift lake located in southern Siberia, Russia.
- It is the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world, containing 22 to 23% of the world's fresh surface water.
- It is the seventh-largest lake in the world by surface area.
- Maximum depth: 1,642 m (5,387 ft)
- It is the world's oldest (25–30 million years) and deepest lake.
- It has a long, crescent shape.
- The region to the east of Lake Baikal is referred to as Transbaikalia or as the Trans baikal.
- The loosely defined region around the lake itself is sometimes known as Baikalia.

- UNESCO declared Lake Baikal a World Heritage Site in 1996.

**Q.218) Consider the following statements regarding the types of Inflation:**

1. Headline inflation excludes the food and fuel items from core inflation.
2. Core inflation is less volatile than headline inflation.
3. The mandate given to RBI for inflation management is in terms of headline inflation.

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

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

**Q.218) Solution (c)**

**Basic Information:**

Core Inflation is also known as underlying inflation, is a measure of inflation which excludes items that face volatile price movement, notably food and energy. In other words, Core Inflation is nothing but Headline Inflation minus inflation that is contributed by food and energy commodities.

- Headline inflation refers to the change in value of all goods in the basket. **Core inflation excludes food and fuel items from headline inflation.**
- Since the prices of fuel and food items tend to fluctuate and create 'noise' in inflation computation, **core inflation is less volatile than headline inflation.**
- In a developed economy, food & fuel account for 10-15% of the household consumption basket and in developing economies it forms 30-40% of the basket. Headline inflation is more relevant for developing economies than developed economies.
- India formally adopted flexible inflation targeting (FIT) in June 2016 to place price stability, defined in terms of a target CPI (consumer price index) inflation, as the primary objective of the monetary policy. **As per the current mandate, the RBI has to maintain headline inflation at 4 per cent by March 31, 2021, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and a lower tolerance of 2 per cent.**

- Recently the government has kept the inflation-targeting framework for the central bank unchanged for the five-year period beginning 1 April, ending speculation that a more relaxed inflation goal may be adopted to boost growth.

**Q.219) Consider the following statement about Nanosniffer.**

1. It is the world's first Micro sensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD).
2. It can detect explosives in less than 10 seconds.
3. NanoSniffer is a 100% Made in India product in terms of R&D and manufacturing.

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

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

**Q.219) Solution (d)**

**Basic Information:**

**In news:** Union Education Minister launched NanoSniffer.

- It is the **world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD)**.
- Developed by: NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup
- Marketed by: Vehant Technologies, a spin-off from a former IIT Delhi incubated startup Kritikal Solutions. This home-grown Explosive trace detector device (ETD) – **NanoSniffer can detect explosives in less than 10 seconds.**
- It also identifies and categorizes explosives into different classes.
- It detects all classes of military, conventional and homemade explosives.
- It gives visible & audible alerts with sunlight-readable color display.
- **NanoSniffer is a 100% Made in India product in terms of R&D and manufacturing.**
- This affordable device will reduce India's dependence on imported explosive trace detector devices.

**Q.220) Jowai, Sukri and Jojari are important tributaries of which of the following rivers.**

- a) Luni
- b) Chenab



- c) Sabarmati
- d) Narmada

**Q.220) Solution (a)**

**Basic Information:**

A report by a joint committee formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) finds that textile units in Rajasthan's Barmer district pollute groundwater and the adjoining Luni river.

- Luni River, an ephemeral river, is located in the western side of Rajasthan state; has its origin in the Arravalli Ranges nearby the Pushkar valley.
- **Prominent tributaries: Jowai, Sukri and Jojari.**
- Luni meets its end in Barine, located at the north-eastern part of the marsh called the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, without flowing into any larger water body.

**Q.221) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Rhino Vision 2020.**

1. It is a joint programme of Assam Forest Department, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) India, and the International Rhino Foundation.
2. Its goal is to achieve a rhino population to 3,000 in seven protected areas in Assam.

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

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

**Q.221) Solution (c)**

**Basic Information:**

**Indian Rhino Vision 2020**

Two adult one-horned rhinos were translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park under the aegis of the IRV 2020.

- It is a joint programme of Assam Forest Department, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) India, and the International Rhino Foundation.

- It was designed by Rhino Task Force 2005.

Goal:

- To achieve a rhino population to 3,000 in seven protected areas in Assam.
- To reduce the risk to the rhino population from poachers by spreading the population in multiple parks.

**Q.222) Which of the following species of dolphins is/are endangered?**

1. Ganges dolphin
2. Irrawaddy dolphins
3. Indus river dolphins

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

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

**Q.222) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**Statement 1: The Ganges river dolphin** has been recognized by the government of India as its National Aquatic Animal.

- It inhabits the Ganges-Brahmaputra- Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh .
- It is among the four freshwater dolphins found in the world – the other three are found in the Yangtze River (China), the 'bhulan' of the Indus (Pakistan) and the 'boto' of the Amazon River (Latin America).
- It is listed by the IUCN as **endangered** on their Red List of Threatened Species

**Statement 2: Irrawaddy dolphins** (*Orcaella brevirostris*) are found in coastal areas in South and Southeast Asia, and in three rivers: the Irrawaddy (Myanmar), the Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo) and the Mekong (China). **They are 'Endangered'** as per the IUCN Red List.

**Statement 3:** Indus river dolphin:-

- Indus river dolphins are believed to have originated in the ancient Tethys Sea.
- Today, they can only be found in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan and in River Beas, a tributary of the Indus River in Punjab, India.
- It is listed by the IUCN as **endangered** on their Red List of Threatened Species

**Q.223) Consider the following statements regarding the National Tiger Conservation Authority.**

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
2. It was established in 1975 following a recommendation of tiger task force constituted by then PM.
3. It is responsible for implementation of project tiger to protect endangered tigers.

**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) All of the above

**Q.223) Solution (c)**

**Basic Information:**

**National Tiger Conservation Authority.**

- It was **established in December 2005** following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force which was constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.
- The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 was amended in 2006 to provide for its constitution.
- It is responsible for implementation of the Project Tiger to protect endangered tigers.
- It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- Composition:
  - The Inspector General of Forest will be ex-officio Member Secretary
  - 8 experts having qualifications and experience in wildlife conservation and welfare of people including tribals

- 3 Members of Parliament (2 from Lok Sabha and 1 from Rajya Sabha)
- Functions:
  - Lay down normative standards, guidelines for tiger conservation in the Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Sanctuaries.
  - Provide information on protection measures.
  - Facilitate and support tiger reserve management in the States through eco-development and people's participation

**Q.224) Recently 'Umngot river' was in news, it flows through which of the following states of India?**

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**Q.224) Solution (a)**

**Basics –**

**Umngot River**

- It is considered India's clearest river.
- Umngot **flows through Dawki, a town in West Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya.**
- The river is the natural boundary between Ri Pnar (of Jaintia Hills) and Hima Khyrim (of Khasi Hills).
- Dawki Bridge is a suspension bridge over the Umngot River.

**Q.225) Consider the following statements regarding Asia Pacific Trade Agreement.**

1. It was formerly known as the Bangkok Agreement and was signed in 1975
2. It is a preferential trade agreement between Countries of Asia Pacific.
3. It is also the **ONLY** operational trade agreement which links India and China.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

**Q.225) Solution (c)**

**Basic Information:**

**Asia Pacific Trade Agreement:**

The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement or APTA (formerly the Bangkok Agreement) signed in 1975, is an initiative under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of the Asia Pacific Region.

- APTA is also the **ONLY** operational trade agreement which links India and China,
- it is also **oldest Preferential trade agreement between asia pacific countries**
- The six member countries are Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Korea and Sri Lanka.

**Q.226) Consider the following pairs**

GI Tags	:	States
1. Kohbar Art	:	Jharkhand
2. Chokuwa rice	:	Bihar
3. Telia Rumal	:	Andhra Pradesh

Choose the correct code from below given options

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

**Q.226) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

• Darjeeling Green, White Tea -

West Bengal



• Gamosa, Chokuwa rice -	Assam
• Sohrai and Kohbar Art -	Jharkhand
• Kholra chilli -	Goa
• Chak-Hao, Black rice -	Manipur
• Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai -	Tamil Nadu
• Thanjavur Netti and Arumbavur Wood carving -	Tamil Nadu
• Sohrai Khovar Painting -	Jharkhand
• Telia Rumaal -	Telangana
• Shahi Lichi & Zardalu Mango –	Bihar

**Q.227) Consider the following statements about World Cities Culture forum:**

1. World Cities Culture Forum is a network of local governments and cultural sector leaders from 40 world cities.
2. WCCF enables the policy makers of member cities to share research and intelligence, while exploring the vital role of culture in prosperity.

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

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

**Q.227) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

### World Cities Culture Forum

- The World Cities Culture Forum is a network of local governments and cultural sector leaders from 40 world cities.
- The World Cities Culture Forum was established in London in 2012 with eight cities (London, New York City, Tokyo, Shanghai, Paris, Istanbul, Sydney and Johannesburg) convened by the Mayor of London.
- The WCCF enables the policy makers of member cities to share research and intelligence, while exploring the vital role of culture in prosperity. Forum members collaborate via a program of events including themed symposia, regional summits and workshops.
- The World Cities Culture report is published by the forum every three years, with data and details on innovative projects from cities across the world.

**Q.228) Which of the following is listed under rare diseases list of India?**

- a) Sickle cell anemia
- b) Typhoid
- c) Hepatitis B
- d) Blood cancer

**Q.228) Solution (a)**

**Explanation –**

**Rare disease'** is defined as a health condition of low prevalence that affects a small number of people when compared with other prevalent diseases in the general population.

While there is no universally accepted definition of rare diseases, countries typically arrive at their own descriptions, taking into consideration disease prevalence, its severity and the existence of alternative therapeutic options.

- India does not have a definition of rare diseases because there is a lack of epidemiological data on their incidence and prevalence. According to the policy, rare diseases include genetic diseases, rare cancers, infectious tropical diseases, and degenerative diseases.

- In India, Haemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle cell anaemia and Primary Immuno Deficiency in children, auto-immune diseases, Lysosomal storage disorders such as Pompe disease and Gaucher's disease are in the rare diseases list.

**Q.229) The 'SATAT' initiative is related to which of the following?**

- a) Promotion of compressed bio gas a green transport fuel
- b) Conservation of forest resources in tribal belts
- c) Conservation of petroleum and diesel
- d) Promotion of start-ups in renewable energy

**Q.229) Solution (a)**

**Basic Information:**

**Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative**

- It aims to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel thus providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.
- It has the potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, as well as to provide an additional revenue source to farmers.
- Government of India, under the SATAT initiatives envisages setting up of 5000 CBG plants by 2023-24 with production target of 15 MMT, facilitating the creation of new employment opportunities and enhancing farmers' income towards further invigorating the rural economy.

**Q.230) With reference to "Thwaite Glaciers" consider the following statements:**

1. It is located in western coast of Greenland.
2. Thwaites's melting contributes 4% to global sea level rise each year.

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

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Q.230) Solution (b)**

**Basic Information:**

In news: Researchers at Sweden's University of Gothenburg are now saying that fears related to the melting of **Antarctica's Thwaites Glacier** are worse than previously thought, owing to the supply of warm water flowing underneath at a rate underestimated in the past.

- The Thwaites Glacier is 120 km wide at its broadest, fast-moving, and melting fast over the years.
- Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km), it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre.
- Studies have found the amount of ice flowing out of it has nearly doubled over the past 30 years.
- **Today, Thwaites's melting already contributes 4% to global sea level rise each year.**
- It is estimated that it would collapse into the sea in 200-900 years.
- Thwaites is important for Antarctica as it slows the ice behind it from freely flowing into the ocean.
- Because of the risk it faces — and poses — Thwaites is often called the Doomsday Glacier.

Hence only statement 2 is correct

**Q.231) These are notable lakes of India Match them with state they are located in**

<i>Lake in news</i>	:	<i>Associated state</i>
1. Pulicat lake	:	Kerala
2. Vemband Lake	:	Tamil Nadu
3. Chandratat	:	Himachal Pradesh
4. Haflong	:	Assam

Which of the above given pairs are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

**Q.231) Solution (c)**

**Explanation**

Statement 1: The second-largest brackish water lake in the country, the beautiful **Pulicat Lake** lies at the border of the states of **Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** on the Barricade Island of Sriharikota. Also called Pazhaverkadu, the lake is popular as a flamingo-watching site and for water activities.

Statement 2: **Vembanad is the longest lake in India and the largest lake in the state of Kerala.**

- It is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- Kochi Port is built around Willingdon and Vallarpadam Islands on this lake.
- The Government of India has identified the Vembanad wetland under the National Wetlands Conservation Programme.

Statement 3: **Chandra Tal is a lake in the Lahaul part of the Lahul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.**

- Chandra Taal is near the source of the Chandra River.
- Despite the rugged and inhospitable surroundings, it is in a protected niche with some flowers and wildlife in summer.
- The name of the lake originates from its crescent shape.
- The lake is one of two high-altitude wetlands of India which have been designated as **Ramsar sites.**

Statement 4: **Haflong Lake is located in the state of Assam**, it is also known as White Ant Hillock. it is a major tourist attraction and is under protection of Dima Hasao Tourist/forest Department and Dima Hasao Autonomous Council.

**Q.232) Consider the following statement with reference to Chabahar Port.**

1. It is located in the Gulf of Aden and is closest to Gwadar port.
2. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port connecting it with Indian Ocean.



3. The port is partly intended to provide an alternative for trade between India and Afghanistan.

Select the *Incorrect* answer using the code below:

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

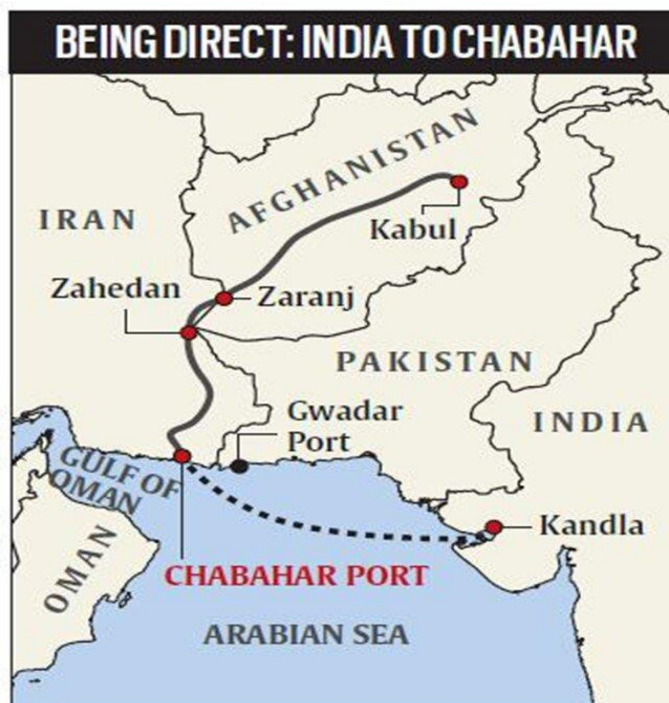
**Q.232) Solution (a)**

**Explanations:**

*Incorrect statement is being asked here*

**Chabahar Port**

- **Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.**
- It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- Development of the port was first proposed in 1973 by the last Shah of Iran, though development was delayed by the 1979 Iranian Revolution.
- India and Iran first agreed to plans to further develop Shahid Beheshti port in 2003, but did not do so on account of sanctions against Iran.
- **The port is partly intended to provide an alternative for trade between India and Afghanistan** as it is 800 kilometers closer to the border of Afghanistan than Pakistan's Karachi port. In December 2018, India took over the port's operations



Hence, statements 2 is incorrect here.

Q.233) Arrange the following components of core sector industries in decreasing order

1. Petroleum Refinery products
2. Electricity
3. Natural Gas
4. Fertilizers

Arrange the aforesaid parameters in descending order in terms of their weights

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

Q.233) Solution (d)

**Explanation**

Industry	Weightage
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<b>Petroleum Refinery production</b>	28.04 percent
<b>Electricity generation</b>	19.85 percent
<b>Steel production</b>	17.92 percent
<b>Coal production</b>	10.33 percent
<b>Crude Oil production</b>	8.98 percent
<b>Natural Gas production</b>	6.88 percent
<b>Cement production</b>	5.37 percent
<b>Fertilizers production</b>	2.63 per cent

#### Basics about Core Sector Industries

- The main or the key industries constitute the core sectors of an economy. In India, there are eight sectors that are considered the core sectors.
- The eight-core sectors of the Indian economy are electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers.
- These sectors have a major impact on the Indian economy and significantly affect most other industries as well.
- The eight industries have a combined share of 40.27 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which gives the growth rates of different industry groups in a specified period.

#### Q.234) Consider the following statement about National Infrastructure Pipeline initiative:

1. It includes economic and Social Infrastructure projects.
2. This initiative will improve project preparations and attract both domestic and foreign direct investments for the Indian economy.
3. It is under Ministry of Finance.

From the following options, choose the correct answer.

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

**Q.234) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Basics of National Infrastructure Pipeline:**

- NIP is an initiative that will provide world-class infrastructures across the country in order to improve the overall quality of life of for all citizens.
- The initiative will improve project preparations **and attract both domestic and foreign direct investments for the Indian economy.**
- **NIP includes economic and social infrastructure projects.**
- The initiative will improve project preparations and attract both domestic and foreign direct investments for the Indian economy.
- **It is under Ministry of Finance**
- During the fiscals 2020 to 2025, sectors such as Energy (24%), Roads (19%), Urban (16%), and Railways (13%) amount to around 70% of the projected capital expenditure in infrastructure in India.

**Q.235) Consider the following statement about Aluminium- Air- battery.**

1. Aluminium-air battery-based electric vehicles are expected to offer much greater range of 400 km or more per battery compared to lithium ion based batteries.
2. They can be recharged like lithium ion batteries.

From the following options, choose the correct answer.

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

**Q.235) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

*IN NEWS:* State-owned Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has entered into a joint venture with Israel-based battery technology startup, Phinergy to develop aluminium-air technology based battery systems for electric vehicles and stationary storage, as well as hydrogen storage solutions.

- Aluminium-air batteries are said to be a lower cost and more energy-dense alternative to lithium-ion batteries which are currently in widespread use for electric vehicles in India.
- Aluminium-air batteries utilise oxygen in the air which reacts with an aluminium hydroxide solution to oxidise the aluminium and produce electricity.

**Benefits**

- **Aluminium-air battery-based electric vehicles are expected to offer much greater range of 400 km or more per battery compared to lithium-ion batteries which currently offer a range of 150-200 km per full charge. ( Hence statement 1 is correct)**
- The aluminium plate in an aluminium-air battery is converted into aluminium trihydroxide over time and that aluminium can be reclaimed from aluminium trihydroxide or even traded directly for industrial uses.
- Such batteries are also expected to be significantly cheaper than lithium-ion batteries, thereby reducing the cost of electric vehicle.

**Concerns**

- **They cannot be recharged like lithium-ion batteries. ( hence, statement 2 is incorrect)**
- Therefore, large scale use of aluminium-air battery based vehicles would require the wide availability of battery swapping stations.

**Q.236) With reference to “National Startup Advisory council ‘consider the following statements:**

1. It has been constituted by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. Its objective is to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.

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



- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Q.236) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

*In news:* The first meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) was held recently.

***National Startup Advisory Council***

- **Constituted by:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- **Objective:** To advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.
- The council has representations from various stakeholders such as founders of successful startups, veterans who have grown and scaled companies in India, persons capable of representing interest of investors into startups, and representatives from industry associations.

***Structure of NSAC:***

- The National Startup Advisory Council will be chaired by the Minister for Commerce & Industry.
- The Council will consist of the non-official members, to be nominated by the Central Government.
- The nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, will be ex-officio members of the Council.

**Q.237) Recently e-SANTA platform has been launched to connect -**

- a) Different IITs involved in developing AI technologies
- b) Aqua farmers and buyers
- c) FPOs involved in certification of Organic products
- d) NGO's working for destitute people in this pandemic times

**Q.237) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**e-SANTA was inaugurated recently.**

- It is an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and the buyers.
- Launched by: Ministry of Commerce and Industry It will enable the farmers to get a better price.
- It will enable the exporters to directly purchase quality products from the farmers enhancing traceability.
- The term e-SANTA was coined for the web portal, meaning Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture.
- National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Govt. of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

**Q.238) With reference to "Blue Nature Alliance "consider the following statements:**

1. It is an initiative led by World Wide Fund for Nature to protect and preserve ocean resources
2. It aims to protect 5% of the world's ocean in five years.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Q.238) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

***Blue Nature Alliance***

It is a collaboration led by Conservation International, Pew Charitable Trusts, Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation, and Rob and Melani Walton Foundation.

- The Alliance has started by targeting seven ocean locations around Antarctica, Fiji, Canada, Seychelles, Palau, Western Indian Ocean and Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- Aim:
  - To protect 5% of the world's ocean in five years.
  - To expand and enhance ocean protections with a focus on working alongside Indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists and academia, and other partners.

**Q.239) 'Poshan Gyan' a national repository on health and nutrition has been launched by**

- a) Ministry of women and child development
- b) Niti Aayog
- c) Ministry of Education
- d) FSSAI

**Q.239) Solution (b)**

**Explanations:**

**Poshan Gyan was launched recently.**

- It is a national digital repository on health and nutrition.
- **Launched by: NITI Aayog**, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University,
- The Poshan Gyan repository is conceptualized as a resource.
- It shall enable search of communication materials on 14 thematic areas of health and nutrition across diverse languages, media types, target audiences and sources
- Content for the repository was sourced from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Women and Child Development and developmental organizations
- It introduces a unique crowdsourcing feature that allows anyone to submit communication material for inclusion on the website, followed by a review by a designated committee.

**Q.240) Consider the following statements with reference to Codex Alimentarius Commission.**

1. CAC is an intergovernmental body established jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
2. Its objective is to protect consumer's health and ensure fair practices in food trade.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Q.240) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**In news:** India is hosting the fifth session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary under Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). Spices Board India is the Secretariat for organising the sessions of the committee.

**About CAC**

- It was Set up in 1963
- **It is an intergovernmental body established jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).**
- Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and WHO which are interested in international food standards.
- **Codex Alimentarius, or "Food Code is a collection of international standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.**
- The programme of work of the Commission is funded through the regular budgets of WHO and FAO with all work subject to approval of the two governing bodies of the parent organizations
- It is responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

**Q.241) Consider the following statement about 'Olive Ridley Turtles':**

1. They inhabit both warm and cold water of Pacific, Atlantic, Indian and Arctic Ocean.
2. Robert Island on the coast of Odisha is also one of their nesting sites.



3. They are categorised under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

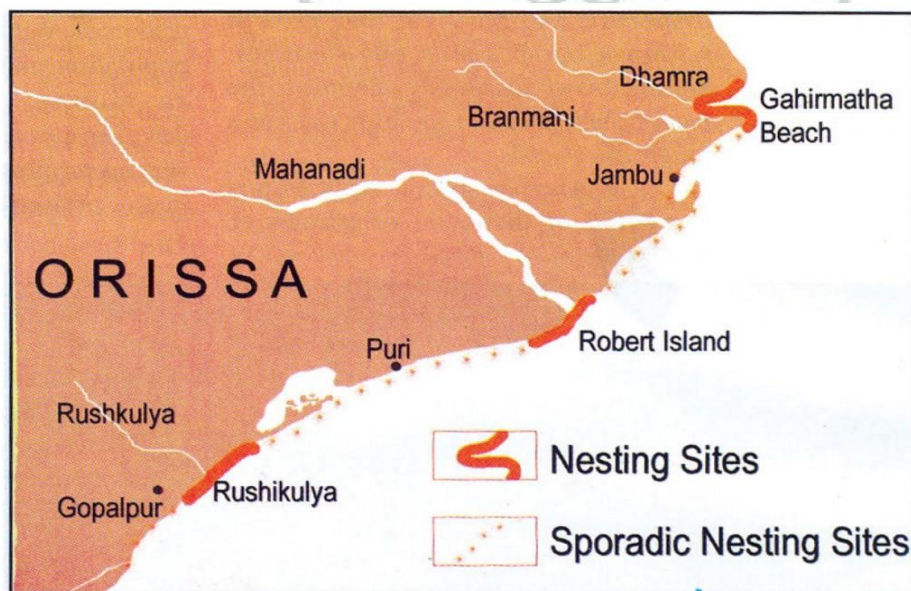
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q.241) Solution (c)

**Explanation**

**About Olive Ridley Turtles**

- It is smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles, inhabiting warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- These turtles are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females lay eggs on the same beach.
- IUCN status: Vulnerable,
- **Schedule-I of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972**
- Threats: Accidental killing through entanglement in trawl nets, extensively poached for their meat, shell and leather; warmer sea surface temperatures etc.



NESTING SITES OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES



**Q.242) Consider the following statements regarding 'Positron':**

1. They are known as anti-particle of electron.
2. Except electronic charge, all features of positron and electron are same..

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

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

**Q.242) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

About Positron

- The positron is the antiparticle or the antimatter counterpart of the electron.
- The positron has an electric charge of  $+1 e$ , a spin of  $1/2$  (the same as the electron), and has the same mass as an electron.
- Also known as anti-electron, it has the same properties as the electron with the exception of electric charge.
- Electron has a negative charge while the positron has a positive charge.

**Q.243) As per Supreme Court judgements which of the following conditions needed for an act to be seditious?**

1. Disrespect of Government of India
2. Disruption of public order
3. Attempt to violently overthrow a lawful government
4. Threatening the security of State or of public

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Q.243) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

Various verdicts in Romesh Thappar case, Kedar Nath Singh case, Kanahiya Kumar case re-defined a seditious act only if it had essential ingredients as

- Disruption of public order
- Attempt to violently overthrow a lawful government
- Threatening the security of State or of public

**Q.244) Consider the following statement 'Cantonment Board':**

1. It is established for the administration of all military personal in the cantonment area.
2. These are set up by the act of state government, where cantonment area is established.
3. It is administered by Ministry of Home Affairs as that is responsible for internal security.

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

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

**Q.244) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**About Cantonment Board**

- Cantonment board is established for **administration for civilian population** in the cantonment area.
- Cantonment Board is **set up under Cantonment Act 2006**.
- It works under administrative control of **defence ministry of Central government**.
- The board comprises elected members besides ex-officio and nominated members as per the Cantonments Act, 2006.
- The term of office of a member of a board is five years.

- A cantonment board consists of eight elected members, three nominated military members, three ex-officio members (station commander, garrison engineer and senior executive medical officer), and one representative of the district magistrate.
- There are 64 Cantonment Boards in India.

**Q.245)** Operation Samudra Setu II is related to :

- a) Joint military exercise between Indian Navy and US Navy
- b) Mission to repatriate Indian Citizen from Overseas
- c) Shipment of Oxygen Cylinders to India
- d) International aid by India to Covid-19 affected Nations

**Q.245) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**About Operation Samudra Setu II**

- Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II for shipment of Oxygen-filled containers to India.
- Seven Indian Naval ships viz. Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.

Operation Samudra Setu was launched in May 2020 as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Q.246) Match the following Alternative Investment Fund Category with Examples:**

1. AIF Category I	A. Hedge Fund
2. AIF Category II	B. Venture Capital Fund
3. AIF Category III	C. Private Capital Fund

**Which of the given statement are correct?**

- a) 1- A, 2- B, 3- C
- b) 1- B, 2- C, 3- A
- c) 1- B, 2- A, 3- C
- d) 1- C, 2- A, 3- B

**Q.246) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Alternative Investment Funds (AIF)**

It's a technical classification by SEBI:

- A. AIF Category I:** They generate positive spill over effects on the economy. Example: Venture Capital Funds, Angel investors fund, SME Funds, social venture fund, Infrastructure funds. SEBI keeps relaxed / lighter norms on them.
- B. AIF Category II:** Neither in Cat-1 nor in Cat-3 E.g. Private Equity or Debt Fund.
- C. AIF Category III:** They undertake excessive risk to generate high returns in short period of time. E.g. Hedge Funds. SEBI norms are stricter/heavier on them, because otherwise they may destabilize the capital market.

**Q.247) Consider the following statement about 'Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)':**

- 1. The NGFS is an inter-governmental body comprising of both governmental and private members.
- 2. It was launched at Paris one Planet One Summit, 2017.

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

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

**Q.274) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

About NGFS:

- The NGFS is a **group of Central banks and supervisors** willing to share the best practices and contribute to the development of the environment and climate risk management in the financial sector. (So, Statement 1 is incorrect)
- **The System was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit in December 2017.** (So, statement 2 is correct.)
- According to its charter, the purpose of the NGFS is "is to define, promote and contribute to the development of best practices to be implemented within and outside of the Membership of the NGFS and to conduct or commission analytical work on green finance."
- The network was launched by 8 founding central banks.

**Q.248) Consider the following agency related to '5Gi technology':**

1. 5Gi technology is Indian version of 5G technology, which has smaller reach than 5G Technology.
2. It has been developed by Centre for Development of Telematics (C- DOT).

**Which of the given statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q.248) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**5G Trials in India**

- The Centre said that the telcos will be encouraged to conduct trials using 5Gi technology in addition to the already known 5G Technology.
- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has also approved the **5Gi technology, which facilitates a much larger reach of the 5G towers and Radio networks.**
- **The IIT Madras, Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT), and IIT Hyderabad have developed the 5Gi technology.**



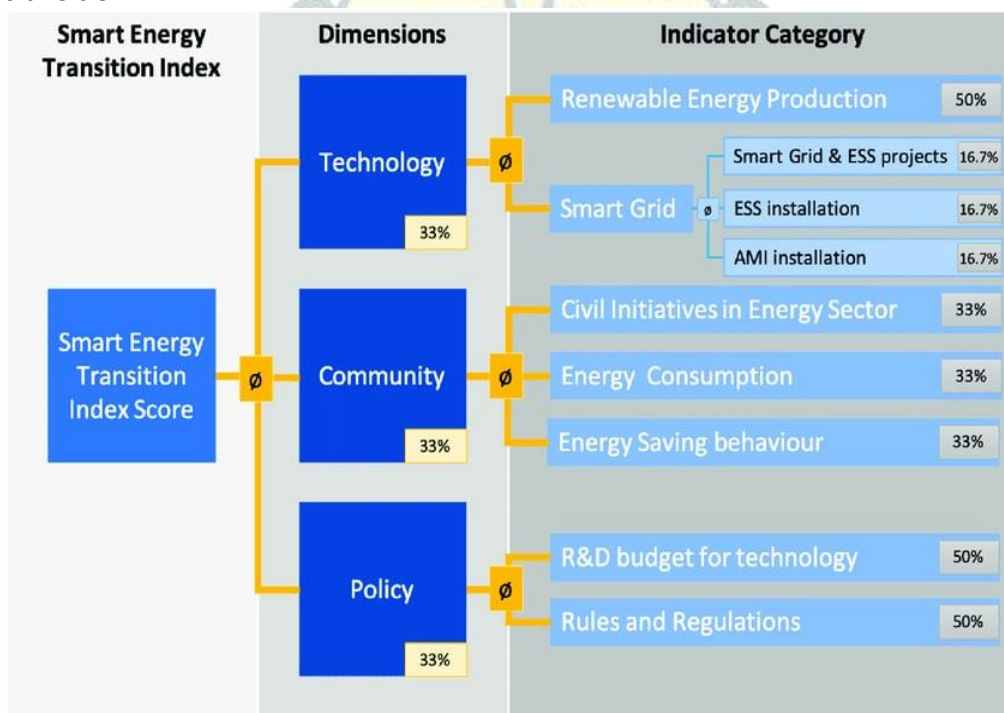
**Q.249) 'Global energy transition index' is released by:**

- International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC)
- World economic forum (WEF)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**Q.249) Solution (c)**

**About Global energy transition index**

- It is released by World economic forum.
- Sweden is in the first position followed by Norway (2nd) and Denmark (3rd).India ranks 87th
- India has targeted improvements through subsidy reforms and rapidly scaling energy access, with a strong political commitment and regulatory environment for the energy transition.



**Q.250) Consider the following statement about 'India-United Kingdom Relation':**

- India is largest investor in United Kingdom and UK is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest investor in India.

2. Indian Companies has created more than 1,10,000 jobs in United Kingdom

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Q.250) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1:** India is the **second largest foreign investor in the UK**. While UK ranks 18th as a trading partner of India and third after Mauritius and Singapore as an investor in India. There are many bilateral trade agreements between the two nations designed to strengthen ties. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**

**Statement 2:** India continued to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest investor in the UK and emerged as the second largest international job creator with Indian companies having created over 110,000 jobs in the UK.

**Q.251) Consider the following statements with reference to " Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)":**

- 1. It is part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- 2. Food provided under Scheme includes the existing food provided under NFSA.
- 3. Cost of the food provided under scheme is borne equally by Centre and State government.

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

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

**Q.251) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)**

- PMGKAY was launched as a **part of Atmanirbhar Bharat** to supply free food grains to migrants and poor who faced hardship on the account of economic disruption caused by COVID-19 and Lock Down.
- Under PMGKAY, 5 kg free wheat/rice per month along with 1 kg free pulses via ration shops to 80 crore beneficiaries registered under National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Additional grains given for free under PMGKAY to NFSA beneficiaries are over and above the existing monthly entitlement of 5 kg grains per person. **(So, Statement 3 is incorrect)**
- Food grains under NFSA were to be made available at subsidized prices of Rs.3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively.
- Cost of free food grains distribution under the scheme is entirely being borne by Central government. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**

**Q.252) Consider the following statements about 'Foreign-exchange reserves of India':**

1. It does not contain any financial assets denominated in 'Rupee'.
2. Gold constitutes the highest share of Reserves.
3. India's Foreign Exchange Reserve is 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the world.

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

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

**Q.252) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**India's Foreign Exchange Reserve**

- India has large foreign-exchange reserves; holdings of cash, bank deposits, bonds, and other financial assets **denominated in currencies other than India's national currency, the Indian rupee. (So, Statement 1 is correct)**
- The reserves are managed by the Reserve Bank of India and the main component is foreign currency assets.

- Foreign-exchange reserves act as the first line of defence for India in case of economic slowdown, but acquisition of reserves has its own costs.
- Foreign exchange reserves facilitate external trade and payment and promote orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.
- India's total foreign exchange (Forex) reserves stand at around US\$ 589.4 Billion on 7 May 2021, the highest ever, **with the Foreign Exchange Assets (FCA) component at around US\$ 546.4 Billion, Gold Reserves at around US\$36.4 Billion**, SDRs (Special Drawing Rights with the IMF) of around US\$1.5 Billion and around US\$ 4.9 Billion Reserve Position in the IMF. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- India's foreign exchange reserves are mainly composed of US dollar in the forms of US government bonds and institutional bonds, with nearly 6.6% of forex reserves in gold.
- The FCAs also include investments in US Treasury bonds, bonds of other selected governments and deposits with foreign central and commercial banks.
- As of May 2021, India holds fifth largest foreign-exchange reserves in the world following Russia. **(So, Statement 3 is incorrect)**

**Q.253) Consider the following statements with reference to “B.1.1.7 variant of SARS-CoV 2”:**

1. It is known as United Kingdom Variant.
2. It does not have any effect on transmissibility, but it increases disease severity.

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

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

**Q.253) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**About SARS-CoV-2 Variant B.1.1.7**

- Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has the capacity to generate variants with major genomic changes.

- The **UK variant B.1.1.7** (also known as VOC 202012/01) has many mutations that alter virus attachment and entry into human cells. Using a variety of statistical and dynamic modelling approaches, Davies et al. characterized the spread of the B.1.1.7 variant in the United Kingdom.
- The authors found that the variant is **43 to 90% more transmissible than the predecessor lineage but saw no clear evidence for a change in disease severity**, although enhanced transmission will lead to higher incidence and more hospital admissions. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- Large resurgences of the virus are likely to occur after the easing of control measures, and it may be necessary to greatly accelerate vaccine roll-out to control the epidemic.

**Q.254) Consider the following statements about 'Nitrogen Di-oxide':**

1. Being a stable oxide, it is less reactionary gas.
2. NO<sub>2</sub> primarily gets into the air from the Power Plants.
3. It contributes to the formation and modification of Ozone.

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

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

**Q.254) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

About Nitrogen Di Oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)

- NO<sub>2</sub> is one of a group of **highly reactive gases** known as oxides of nitrogen or nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- NO<sub>2</sub> primarily gets in the air from **the burning of fuel**.
- NO<sub>2</sub> and other nitrogen oxides are also **precursors for a number of harmful secondary air pollutants such as ozone** and particulate matter, and play a role in the formation of acid rain



**Q.255) Consider the following statements about “Insurance Sector in India”:**

1. Insurance penetration which was below 3% in 2001 has increased above 5%.
2. Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2021 has enhanced FDI limit in Insurance to 100%.
3. IRDAI, an autonomous body to regulate Insurance Sector has been established through a separate act.

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

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

**Q.255) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1:** Economic Survey 2020-21 stated that India's insurance penetration, which was at 2.71% in 2001, has steadily increased to 3.76% in 2019, but stayed much below the global average of 7.23%. (So, Statement 1 is incorrect.)

**Statement 2:** Insurance (amendment) Act, 2021 enhanced the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 74% from the existing 49%. FDI Limit in Insurance intermediary has been increased to 100%. (So, Statement 2 is incorrect).

**Statement 3:**

- IRDAI is an autonomous body **established under the IRDAI Act 1999** for overall supervision and development of the Insurance sector in India.(So, Statement 3 is correct)
- Key objectives of IRDAI include promotion of competition so as to enhance customer satisfaction through increased consumer choice and fair premiums, while ensuring the financial security of the Insurance market.

**Q.256) Consider the following statements about “Guru Tegbahaadur”:**

1. He developed and standardized Gurumukhi script which has been used in Guru Granth Sahib.
2. He was executed in Delhi under order of Mughal emperor Shahjahan.

Form the following options, choose the correct answer.

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

**Q.256) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Guru Tegh Bahadur**

- 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur is being celebrated.
- He was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind Sahib, the sixth Sikh guru.
- He was 9th of 10 Sikh Gurus.
- His 115 hymns are included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Gurmukhī is an abugida developed from the Laṇḍā scripts, standardized and used by the second Sikh guru, Guru Angad. (So, statement 1 is incorrect)
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. (So, statement 2 is incorrect)

**Q.257) Consider the following statements about 'Sodium':**

1. It is found naturally in Meat and Dairy food.
2. Its high intake is found in processed food such as snack and bread
3. Excess of its intake may cause cardiovascular disease.

**Which of the following tiger Reserve is being talked about?**

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

**Q.257) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

About Sodium

- Sodium is necessary to maintain normal cell metabolism, healthy plasma, and improves the health of the nervous system.
- It is found naturally in a range of foods like meat and dairy.
- However, it is present in very high amounts in processed foods, like snacks, bread, or condiments.
- Excess dietary sodium intake increases blood pressure and consequently increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases.
- It is estimated that 2.5 million deaths could be prevented globally if salt consumption cut down to recommended levels.

**Q.258) Karen Rebel group often seen in the news is related to which of the following country?**

- a) Myanmar
- b) Kenya
- c) Laos
- d) South Sudan

**Q.258) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Karen Rebel Group**

- It is Myanmar's oldest rebel group representing ethnic minority Karen communities in Karen, or Kayin, State, bordering Thailand.
- Karen National Liberation Army, the armed wing of the KNU, has been battling Myanmar's government since 1949.
- Its aim is self-determination for the Karen people in a region.

**Q.259) Kadars, Malasars, Malaimalsar, Pulaiyars, Muduvars and the Eravallan tribes are found in which of the following Tiger Reserve?**

- a) Nagarjunsagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve
- b) Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- c) Periyar Tiger Reserve
- d) Annamalai Tiger Reserve

**Q.259) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Anamalai Tiger Reserve:**

- It is one of the four Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu. It forms part of the Southern Western Ghats.
- It forms part of the Anamalai Parambikulam Elephant Reserve declared in 2003.
- It is surrounded by Parambikulam Tiger Reserve on the East, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Eravikulam National Park on the South Western side (all belong to Kerala).
- The ranges found in this reserve include Amaravathi, Udumalpet, Pollachi, Ulandy, Valparai and Manamboli.
- The area has significant anthropological diversity with more than 4600 Tribal people from six tribes of indigenous people living in 34 settlements.
- The tribes are the **Kadars, Malasars, Malaimalasar, Pulaiyars, Muduvars and the Eravallan (Eravalar).**

**Q.260) Consider the following statement regarding 'Pulses in India':**

1. India is largest producer of Pulses in the world.
2. India consumes more than 25% of world's pulse consumption.
3. Tur, Black gram and Green gram are grown in Rabi season and Gram, Lentil and Pea are grown in Kharif Season.

**Which of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q.260) Solution (a)**

**Explanation**

About Pulses in India

- India is the **largest producer (25% of global production), consumer (27% of world consumption)** and importer (14%) of pulses in the world.
- Pulses contribute to healthy soils and climate change mitigation through their nitrogen-fixing properties.
- Pulses are part of the legume family and contain vitamins, minerals, fibres and dietary protein.
- Pulses in India are considered a residual crop and grown under rain-fed conditions in marginal/ less fertile lands, with very little focus on pest and nutrient management.
- The major pulses crops of the country are red gram or pigeon pea (tur, arhar), chickpea or gram, black gram (urad bean), green gram (moong bean) and lentil (masur).
- Minor pulses include rajmah and other beans, cowpea, horse gram, moth, khesari-dal, etc.

#### Seasons of Pulses

- Kharif: Arhar (Tur), Urd (Blackgram), Moong (Greengram), Lobia (Cowpea), Kulthi. (Horsegram) and Moth.
- Rabi: Gram, Lentil, Pea, Lathyrus and Rajmash.
- Summer: Greengram, Blackgram and Cowpea.
- (Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect)

**Q.261) Consider the following statement about 'Initiatives towards equality of disabled persons':**

1. UDID portal have been notified under Right of Person with Disability Act, 2016.
2. UDID portal will ensure complete digitisation of Certificates of disability.
3. India has signed United Nation Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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

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

**Q.261) Solution (d)**

**About UDID (Unique Disability ID) Portal**



- "Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities" project is being implemented with a view of creating a National Database for PwDs, and to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities.
- The project will also help in stream-lining the tracking of physical and financial progress of beneficiary at all levels of hierarchy of implementation.
- It **will ensure complete digitization of certification of disability to achieve pan-India validity** to ensure access to govt schemes.
- It is in line with Incheon Strategy for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific.
- A **notification under Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 has made mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using UDID (Unique Disability ID).**

India is a signatory to

- **United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).**
- Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities Asia-Pacific Region.
- Biwako Millennium working towards an inclusive, barrier free and rights-based society,

**Q.262) Millisecond Pulsars often seen in news is related to:**

- a) Neutron Stars
- b) Arteries related to Lower Body Circulation
- c) Newly found insects
- d) Type of invasive weed

**Q.262) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Millisecond Pulsars**

A group of astronomers has discovered 8 millisecond pulsars located within dense clusters of stars, known as "globular clusters". Millisecond pulsars remain the most rapidly rotating neutron star (refer to the infographics) presently known to man.

**Q.263) Consider the following statements about 'Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)':**

1. It is caused by bacteria which affect cattle.
2. Human will not be affected by this disease.
3. There is no treatment available for this disease.

**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) All of the above

**Q.263) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)**

- LSD is caused by the pox virus which affects cattle and buffalo and is spreading through blood transmission by mosquitoes, houseflies, and lice. (So, Statement 1 is incorrect)
- Humans are not at risk of developing LSD.
- The disease has various implications like decreased milk production causing significant economic loss to farmers.
- The disease, currently, has no treatment. Hence, prevention by vaccination is the only effective means to control the spread.
- The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has declared it as a notifiable disease.

**Q.264) Consider the following statement about 'Hoolock Gibbon':**

1. This is the only ape found in India.
2. In India, they are found in Western Ghats.
3. Eastern Hoolock Gibbon is listed as Endangered under IUCN Red List.

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

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

**Q.264) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**About Hoolock Gibbon**

- The tailless Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India. **(So, Statement 1 is correct)**
- The primate is native to eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India and Southwest China.
- The Hoolock Gibbon is categorised into two types:
- Western Hoolock Gibbon:
  - It inhabits in all the **states of the north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra River and east of the Dibang River**. And outside India, it is found in eastern Bangladesh and north-west Myanmar.
  - It is listed as Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon:
  - It inhabits **specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India**, and in southern China and north-east Myanmar outside India. **(So, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
  - It is listed as **Vulnerable under the IUCN Redlist**. **(So, Statement 3 is incorrect)**
  - In India, both the species are listed on Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.

**Q.265) Consider the following statement about “Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)”:**

1. It is a central sector scheme focused on holistic growth of horticulture.
2. National Horticulture Mission is part of this Mission.
3. APEDA is implementing schemes under this mission.

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

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

**Q.265) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

About Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, etc. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- Funding pattern: Centre (60%) States (40%); for North Eastern States and Himalayan States: centre(90%) states 10%).
- Schemes under MIDH: **National Horticulture Mission (NHM)**; Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH) etc. **(So, Statement 2 is correct)**
- **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** is implementing various schemes under MIDH. **(So, Statement 3 is incorrect)**
- Recent Initiative under MIDH: cluster development programme, credit push through Agri Infra Fund, formation and promotion of FPOS.

**Q.266) Consider the following statement regarding 'H1-B visa' –**

1. Person having degree below Bachelor's degree can't be given H1-B visa.
2. Maximum period allowed to work under this Visa in US is 6 years.

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

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

**Q.266) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**About H1-B Visa**

- The US H-1B visa is a **non-immigrant visa** that allows US companies to employ graduate level workers in specialty occupations.
- Speciality occupations requires
  - Theoretical or technical expertise in specialized fields such as in IT, finance, accounting, architecture, engineering, mathematics, science, medicine, etc.

- Any professional level job that usually requires you to have a bachelor's degree or higher can come under the H-1B visa for specialty occupations. (So, Statement 1 is correct)
- H-1B visa holders can bring their spouse and children less than 21 years of age to the US under the H-4 Visa category as dependents.
- H1-B Visa workers can work in United States for a maximum period of 6 years. (Hence, Statement 2 is correct)

**Q.267) Consider the following statements about 'Startup India Seed Fund Scheme':**

1. It has been launched by SIDBI.
2. The major focus of the scheme is on Tier 1 cities.
3. Grant upto Rs 5 Crore will be provided to the eligible incubators.

**Which of the following statement is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q.267) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**About Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched -by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) **(Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- Objective: To provide financial assistance to start-ups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- Scheme will create a robust start-up ecosystem in Tier 2 and Tier 3 regions of India. **(Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- Novel feature: Grants of up to Rs 5 crore shall be provided to the eligible incubators. **(Hence, Statement 3 is correct)**



**Q.268) Global Report on Food Crises is released by:**

- a) Food and Agriculture Organisation
- b) Global Network Against Food Crises
- c) World Health Organization
- d) United Nations World Food Programme

**Q.268) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

**About Global Report on Food Crises**

- Report by: Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)
- Purpose: Zero Hunger goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.
- They share analysis and knowledge on tackling hunger issues.
- It is associated with UN but indirectly. It is alliance of the UN, the EU, governmental and non-governmental agencies

**Q.269) Consider the following statements about 'Used Oil':**

1. Expression of Interest (EIO) Scheme aims for financial inclusion of Biofuel generator.
2. National Policy of Biofuel 2018 supports production of Biofuel from Used Oils.
3. Use of repeated fried Oil can lead to Alzheimer disease.

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

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

**Q.269) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1:** Expressions of Interest (EOI) Scheme -- scheme for Procurement of Biodiesel produced from UCO was initiated in 2019, with objective to create an ecosystem for collection and conversion of UCO into Biodiesel and developing entrepreneurship opportunities. **(So, Statement 1 is incorrect)**

**Statement 2: National Policy on Biofuels 2018 envisages production of biofuel from UCO.** FSSAI's Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) project also aims collection of used cooking oil from

vendors and food industry to produce biodiesel.

**Statement 3:** During frying, several properties of oil are altered; total polar compounds are formed on repeated frying. The toxicity of these compounds is associated with several diseases such as hypertension, atherosclerosis, **Alzheimer's disease**, liver diseases.

**Q.270) Consider the following statements about 'Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization':**

1. It is an inter-governmental organisation comprising of all countries.
2. GAVI has observer status at World Health Assembly.
3. It contrasts with the approach typified by the Alma Ata Declaration, which focuses on the effects of political, social, and cultural systems on health.

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

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

**Q.270) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**About Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)**

- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunisation in poor countries.
- GAVI brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry in both industrialised and developing countries, research and technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private philanthropists. (It doesn't include developed countries and all countries are not its member.) (Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect)
- GAVI has observer status at the World Health Assembly. (Hence, Statement 2 is correct)
- It currently supports the immunization of almost half the world's children, giving it power to negotiate better prices for the world's poorest countries and remove the commercial risks that manufacturers faced in serving this market.
- GAVI's approach to public health has been described as business-oriented and technology-focused, using market-oriented measures, and seeking quantifiable results. This model, termed the "Gates approach" or US-type approach, GAVI is taken to exemplify.

- It contrasts with the approach typified by the Alma Ata Declaration, which focuses on the effects of political, social, and cultural systems on health. (Hence, Statement 3 is correct)

**Q.271) Which of the following fact is *correct about* Non-convertible debentures:**

1. They are financial instrument that is used by companies to raise long-term capital.
2. People investing in NCDs earn market interest which keeps fluctuating.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

**Q.271) Solution (a)**

**Basic Information:**

Debentures are long term financial instruments that companies issue to raise more money from investors. It is generally not backed by any collateral and thus highly depends on the creditworthiness and reputation of the issuer.

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1: Nonconvertible debentures are traditional debentures that cannot be converted into equity of the issuing corporation. To compensate for the lack of convertibility investors are rewarded with a higher interest rate when compared to convertible debentures. Big companies issue them to raise funds without giving any option of conversion to equity. **They are used generally for long term borrowings. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Statement 2: The ***interest rates offered on NCD debentures is more or less fixed***. On maturity, the investor will get back the principal amount along with interest. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Q.272) Consider the following statements regarding 'Global COVAX Alliance' recently seen in news:**

1. COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO.
2. It is a worldwide initiative aimed at providing equitable access to anti-Covid vaccines.

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

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

**Q.272) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

*In News:* Recently, Punjab government decided to join the Global COVAX Alliance, as first Indian state to do so because of vaccine shortage. It will allow it to procure vaccines at the best prices.

**About COVAX Alliance:**

- Abbreviated as COVAX, the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access is a worldwide initiative aimed at providing equitable access to anti-Covid vaccines.
- COVAX is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi and the World Health Organization (WHO), alongside key delivery partner UNICEF.
- It coordinates international resources to enable equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines

**Q.273) Which of the following conditions is / are favourable for the formation of Tropical cyclones?**

1. Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
2. Large variations in the vertical wind speed.
3. A pre-existing weak low- pressure area
4. Presence of the Coriolis force

**Choose the correct option:**

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

- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

**Q.273) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

In news: **Cyclone 'Tauktae'**, which lay as a deep depression over the Arabian Sea close to Lakshadweep, was likely to intensify into a 'very severe cyclonic storm' bringing heavy to very heavy rain to many parts of the western coast.

**Tropical cyclones** are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction due to violent winds (squalls), very heavy rainfall (torrential rainfall) and storm surge.

**Conditions Favourable for Tropical Cyclone Formation**

- Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C,
- Presence of the Coriolis force enough to create a cyclonic vortex,
- Small variations in the vertical wind speed,
- A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation,
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

**Q.274) Consider the following statement about 'The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016:**

1. It seeks to protect home-buyers as well as help boost investments in the real estate sector.
2. The act prohibits foreign investment in the real estate sector.
3. Under the Act, Promoters are required to maintain "project based separate bank accounts" to prevent fund diversion.

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

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



d) All of the Above

**Q.274) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

*Note : incorrect statements are being asked here.*

**About Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA)**

- It seeks to protect home-buyers as well as help boost investments in the real estate sector by bringing efficiency and transparency in the sale/purchase of real estate.
- The Act establishes Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in each state for regulation of the real estate sector and also acts as an adjudicating body for speedy dispute resolution.
- The Act stipulates that no project can be sold without project plans being approved by the competent authority and the project being registered with the regulatory authority, putting to an end the practice of selling on the basis of deceitful advertisements.
- Promoters are required to maintain “project based separate bank accounts” to prevent fund diversion.
- The mandatory disclosure of unit sizes based on “carpet area” strikes at the root of unfair trade practices.
- The provision for payment of “equal rate of interest” by the promoter or the buyer in case of default reinforces equity.
- One of its objective is to boost domestic and foreign investment in the real estate sector.  
(Hence, statement 2 is incorrect)

**Q.275) Which of the following agency/institution has released a report titled ‘Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict and Conservation’?**

- a) WWF for Nature
- b) Conservation international
- c) IUCN
- d) Birdlife international

**Q.275) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

International Union for Conservation of Nature recently released a report called the "Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict and Conservation".

- Conflict and conservation focuses on armed conflict and nature. The theme is highly timely as armed conflicts cause great economic and social harm, as well as environmental damage around the world. Conflicts have stretched societies to their limits in terms of financial and human resources.
- The report has analysed how armed conflicts in the past thirty years are related to productivity and availability of arable land, percentage of rural population in the country, prevalence of drought.

**Q.276) Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).**

1. Dhebar commission report was instrumental in PVTGs categorisation.
2. Among the 85 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha, followed by Madhya Pradesh.
3. The PVTG of Sahariyas has the highest population.

**Which of the given statement is/ are correct?**

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

**Q.276) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

- PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- **The Saharia people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the largest among the PVTGs with population more than 4 lakh.** While the PVTGs of Sentinelets and Andamanese has a very small population of 39 and 43, respectively.

**Q.277) Consider the following statements:**

1. He became the congress president in 1905 session held in Banaras.
2. He was elected to the Council of India of the Governor-General of India in 1903.
3. He started English weekly newspaper, The Hitavada.
4. Gandhi wrote a book dedicated to him.

**Which of the following personality is being referred here?**

- a) C F Andrews
- b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- c) Dadabhai Naoroji
- d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

**Q.277) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**About Gopal Krishna Gokhale:**

- **Gokhale became Congress president at its Banaras session in 1905.** Before joining politics, Gokhale worked as a professor.
- He founded the Servants of India Society in 1905, which launched campaigns for the promotion of education, health care and sanitation.
- He was the leader of the moderate faction of the Congress party that advocated reforms by working with existing government institutions, and was a mentor to both Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

- He had a great influence of the social works of Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade on his life. He was named as the 'Protege Son' i.e Manas Putra of Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade.
- **He was elected to the Council of India of the Governor-General of India in 1903.**
- He started english weekly newspaper, The Hitavada.
- **Gandhi wrote a book in Gujarati dedicated to Gokhale** titled 'Dharmatma Gokhale'.

**Q.278) Consider the following statements about State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF):**

1. The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories and 90% for special category States and Union Territories.
2. The annual Central contribution is released in two equal instalments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

**Which of the given statement is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q.278) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

*Note: Incorrect statements are being asked here.*

**About: State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**

- SDRF has been constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.
- It is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
- **The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories and 90% for special category States and Union Territories** (north-eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- **The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.**

- It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year.
- Disaster (s) covered under SDRF: Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves.
- A State Government may use up to 10% of the funds available under the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State and which are not included in the notified list of disasters.

Here both statements are correct.

**Q.279) 'Principle of non-refoulement' is associated with:**

- a) Climate change financing mechanism
- b) Oil payment default
- c) Refugee crisis
- d) Development of Nano technology

**Q.279) Solution (c)**

**Principle of Non-refoulement:**

- The principle of non-refoulement forms an essential protection under international human rights, refugee, humanitarian and customary law.
- Principle of non-refoulement guarantees that no one should be returned to a country where they would face torture, cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment and other irreparable harm or punishment and other irreparable harm.
- This principle applies to all migrants at all times, irrespective of migration status.
- Article 21 of the constitution encompasses the principle of non-refoulement.

**Q.280) With reference to "Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana" consider the following statements:**

1. It was launched exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
2. It is being implemented by Life insurance Corporation of India.



Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Q.280) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)**

- It is a **Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above** which was available from 4th May, 2017 to 31st March, 2020. The scheme is now extended up to 31st March, 2023 for a further period of three years beyond 31st March, 2020.
- It will provide an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8 per cent for 10 years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly / quarterly / half yearly and annual basis.
- It **will be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).**

The scheme also allows for premature exit only for the treatment of any critical/ terminal illness of self or spouse

**Q.281) Consider the following statements with reference to " Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal":**

1. It functions under the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
2. It facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments/Organisations / PSUS etc.
3. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorized and made mandatory by Ministry of Finance. .

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

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

- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

**Q.281) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

*Note:- Incorrect statements are being asked here.*

**About Government e-Marketplace (GeM):**

- It is National Procurement Portal functions under the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value of their money.
- It is paperless, cashless and contactless platform giving end to end solution.
- It facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments/Organisations / PSUS.
- The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorized and made mandatory by Ministry of Finance by adding a new Rule No. 149 in the General Financial Rules, 2017.
- To improve the portal further, GeM 2.0 was launched as a pilot project and GeM 3.0 offers powerful search engine, real time and multisource price comparison, demand aggregation, etc. GeM 4.0 is the latest version.

**Hence all of the statements are correct.**

**Q.282) Consider the following about the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

1. India is party to the convention.
2. It is a successor of the global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species that was established first during 1992 Earth Summit.
3. It is the only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.

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

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

**Q.282) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

- The Convention was signed in 1979 in Bad Godesberg, a suburb of Bonn (hence also the name Bonn Convention), and entered into force in 1983.
- CMS and its daughter agreements determine policy and provide further guidance on specific issues through their Strategic Plans, Action Plans, resolutions, decisions and guidelines.
- CMS acts as a framework Convention. The Agreements may range from legally binding treaties (called Agreements) to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding.
- **India has been a party to the CMS since 1983.**
- India has signed a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CMS on conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008), and Raptors (2016).
- **It is the only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.**
- Several Agreements have been concluded to date under the auspices of CMS such as 'Raptor MoU' for conservation in Africa and Eurasia.

**Q.283) Consider the following statement with reference to "E-way bill" often seen in news:**

1. E-way bill is a document that needs to be generated before transporting or shipping goods worth more than Rs 50,000 within state or inter-state.
2. No transaction and goods are exempted from E-way bill generation.

**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)**

**Explanation:**

**About E-way Bill**

- E-way bill or Electronic-way blis a document introduced under the GST regime that needs to be generated **before transporting or shipping goods worth more than Rs 50,000 within state or inter-state.**
- It is usually a unique bill number generated for the specific consignment involving the movement of goods.
- **There are some goods and transactions which do not require E-Way Bill and are exempt from the generation of E-Way Bill.** Which include-
  - Natural/cultural stones or pearls/precious stones.
  - Kerosene Oil under PDS.
  - Liquid petrol gas for the supply of household and non-domestic use.
  - Jewelry
  - Curd, Lassi, Any Milk product.
  - Fresh or Pasteurized milk
  - Fruits
  - Vegetables
  - Animals (Living), Plant, and trees etc.

**Q.284) Consider the following statements about 'India's stand on refugees':**

1. India is the first nation in South Asia to have a clear refugee policy.
2. India has not signed the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees.
3. Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 aims to grant citizenship to illegal immigrants from selected countries.

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

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

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

**Q.284) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**India's stand on refugees**

- India has no clear refugee policy as decisions are made on a case to case basis. (Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.)
- India has **not signed the 1951** United Nations Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees, or its 1967 Protocol that stipulates the rights and services host states must provide refugees.
- India is party to Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966.
- However, India has offered shelter to Tibetans, Chakmas of Bangladesh, Afghans and ethnic Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka.
- **Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019** aims to grant citizenship to illegal immigrants from selected countries.

**Q.285) Consider the following statement about “National financial reporting authority”.**

1. It is a regulatory body under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It was setup to oversee compliance with Accounting and Auditing Standards by companies that can be described as Public Interest Entities (PIES).
3. It was set up under the Companies act of 2013.

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

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

**Q.285) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**National financial reporting Authority**



- Recently, NFRA has prepared a provisional database of companies and auditors that come under its regulatory ambit.
- **It is a regulatory body constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2018.** Hence, statement 1 is **Incorrect**.
- The Companies Act requires the NFRA to have a chairperson who will be appointed by the Central Government and a maximum of 15 members.
- The NFRA shall have the following powers:
  - To investigate the matters of professional or other misconduct committed by a prescribed class of CA firms or CAs.
  - No other authority can initiate or continue proceedings where the NFRA has initiated an investigation. Such an investigation can be initiated either suo moto (by itself) or on a reference made by the Central Government.
- **It was set up under Companies Act 2013 to oversee compliance with Accounting and Auditing Standards by companies that can be described as Public Interest Entities (PIES).**
  - This group includes all listed companies, and large unlisted companies.

**Q.286) Consider the following statements about “Lord Basavanna”:**

1. He spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas.
2. He rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.

**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.286) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Basavanna (Mahatma Basveshwara)**

- He was an Indian 12th century statesman, philosopher, poet, social reformer and a Lingayat saint in the Shiva-focussed Bhakti movement, and Hindu Shaivite social reformer during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya and Kalachuri dynasty.

- **He spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas**
- He introduced new public institutions such as the 'Anubhava Mantapa' (or, the "hall of spiritual experience") which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open.
- **He rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.**
- He advocated that every human being was equal, irrespective of caste and that all forms of manual labor was equally important.

**Q.287) Which of the following species of Elephant have been categorised as Critically endangered by IUCN?**

1. African Forest Elephant
2. African Savanna Elephant
3. Asian Elephant

**Select the correct option:**

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

**Q.287) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**African Elephants**

- **IUCN has categorised, African savanna elephants as "endangered" and much smaller, lighter African forest elephants as "critically endangered".** These two are subspecies of African elephants. Both species are facing threat from poaching for ivory and human encroachment.
  - **Forest elephants** are an elusive subspecies of African elephants and inhabit the densely wooded rainforests of west and central Africa. Their preference for dense forest habitat prohibits traditional counting methods such as visual identification. Their population is usually estimated through "dung counts"—an analysis on the ground of the density and distribution of the feces. Forest elephants are smaller than savanna elephants, the other African elephant subspecies

- **Savanna elephants** are the largest subspecies of elephant. They are easily distinguished by their very large ears—which allow them to radiate excess heat—and front legs which are noticeably longer than the hind legs. They are found throughout the grassy plains and bushlands of Africa.

**Statement 3: Asian elephants** (found in India) are smaller than African elephants, and their ears smaller compared to the large fan-shaped ears of the African species.

- Only some male Asian elephants have tusks, while both male and female African elephants grow tusks.
- Asian Elephants have 3 subspecies: Indian, Sri Lankan and Sumatran.
- **They are endangered** not critically endangered under IUCN list of Threatened species.

**Q.288) Recently Iron dome of Israel was in news, it is a -**

- a) A cyber weapon developed by Israel to target critical infrastructure of enemy nation
- b) A mobile all-weather air defense system capable of intercepting rockets, artillery, mortars and Precision Guided Munitions.
- c) A sacred religious site revered by both Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims.
- d) A dome shaped shelter built by Israel to protect its people from nuclear attacks.

**Q.288) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Iron Dome is a multi-mission system capable of intercepting rockets, artillery, mortars and Precision Guided Munitions** like very short range air defence (V-SHORAD) systems as well as aircraft, helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) over short ranges of up to 70 km.

- It is an all-weather system and can engage multiple targets simultaneously and be deployed over land and sea.
- Iron Dome is manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Limited and has been in service with Israeli Air Force since 2011.
- The radar system was developed by Elta.
- Its development was prompted after a series of rocket attacks on Israel by Hezbollah and Hamas in the 2000s.

- In the 2006 Lebanon war, around 4,000 rockets were fired on the northern parts of Israel resulting in the death of about 44 Israeli civilians and evacuation of around 250,000 citizens following the development of the system was taken up.

**Q.289) Recently, BlockTrack technology was in news, it is a -**

- a) Technology used for tracking financial transactions
- b) Blockchain technology used for sale of Facebook cryptocurrency.
- c) Technology that can block transfer of data by third party
- d) Blockchain based data exchange system

**Q.289) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**BlockTrack technology**

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras have developed “blocktrack”, a **blockchain-based secure medical data and information exchange system** for mobile phone applications.
- The system is field tested at the Institute’s hospital.
- The project originated during the height of COVID-19 in 2020 has CSR support from Infosys.
- Blocktrack aims to securely digitising healthcare information systems while protecting sensitive personal information and medical records by decentralising control and ownership of patient data through a blockchain-based innovation.
- The innovation is protected through a provisional IP filed with the Indian Patent Office.

**Q.290) Consider the following statement regarding ‘Rashtriya Vayoshree Yojana:**

1. It aims at providing Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmary.
2. It is a central sector scheme launched by Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment.
3. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".

**Which of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q.290) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

**Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**

- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) is a scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category.
- This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".
- The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency - Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Under the scheme, the physical aids will be provided only to the senior citizens of the nation. This implies those who are aged above 60 years will get free assisted living aids and physical devices which are required for their sustainability. Also the govt. has selected the list of cities where the scheme will be implemented.
- The main criteria for the senior citizens to get full benefits of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) scheme is that they must belong to BPL family and should hold valid BPL card issued by the concerned authority.

**Q.291) Consider the following statements about the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS):**

1. It is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
2. TRIPS Agreement is also described as a "Berne and Paris-plus" Agreement.
3. TRIPS was negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

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



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

**Q.291) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**About TRIPS Agreement**

- It is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- It establishes minimum standards for the regulation by national governments of different forms of intellectual property (IP) as applied to nationals of other WTO member nations.
- It applies basic international trade principles regarding intellectual property to member states.
- **TRIPS was negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between 1989 and 1990 and is administered by the WTO.**
- TRIPS Agreement lays down the permissible exceptions and limitations for balancing the interests of intellectual property with the interests of public health and economic development.
- **The TRIPS Agreement is also described as a “Berne and Paris-plus” Agreement.**
- India's IPR regime is in compliance with the WTO's agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- The Agreement makes disputes between WTO Members about the respect of the TRIPS obligations subject to the WTO's dispute settlement procedures.

Hence all statements are correct.

**Q.292) Recently which of the following country started first space military exercise called 'AsterX'?**

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

**Q.292) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Space Military exercise: AsterX**

- Amid the growing competition among the world powers in the field of space, France has begun its first space military exercises to test its ability to defend its satellites.
- The exercise drills are codenamed "AsterX" to commemorate the first French satellite Asterix from 1956.
- These exercises are part of France's strategy to become the world's third- largest space power, after the USA and China.
- These space military exercises are the first ever attempt not only for the French army but also for Europe.

**Q.293) Consider the following statement about 'Mucormycosis':**

1. It is an aggressive and invasive bacterial infection.
2. The disease often manifests in the skin and also affects the lungs and the brain.
3. It mainly affects people who are on medication for health problems that reduces their ability to fight environmental pathogens.

**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) All of the above

**Q.293) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Mucormycosis**

- It is a rare serious **fungal infection** that has been observed in a number of Covid-19 patients recently. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- It **often manifests in the skin and also affects the lungs and the brain.**
- It is caused by a group of moulds known as mucormycetes present naturally in the environment.

- It mainly affects people who are on medication for health problems that reduces their ability to fight environmental pathogens.
- Warning signs of the disease include pain and redness around the eyes or nose, with fever, headache, coughing, shortness of breath, bloody vomits, and altered mental status.

**Q.294) Consider the following statements about the species of Pangolins found in India:**

1. Indian Pangolin is endemic to India.
2. Chinese Pangolin is critically endangered while Indian Pangolin is endangered under IUCN list.
3. Both these species are protected and are listed under the Schedule I Part I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

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

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

**Q.294) Solution (d)**

### Explanation

#### About Pangolins found in India

- Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian and the Chinese pangolins are found in India. Pangolins are among the world's most trafficked mammals.

#### Habitat

- Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East. The species is also found in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.  
**Hence, statement 1 is incorrect, since it is not endemic to India.**
- Chinese Pangolin is found in the Himalayan foothills in Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Northern India, North-East Bangladesh and through Southern China.

#### THREATS

- Loss and deterioration of habitat

- Increase in the agrarian economy
- improved irrigation and the use of pesticides .

IUCN Red List

- Indian Pangolin: Endangered ,
- Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered

**Both these species are listed under Schdule I Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

**Q.295) Consider the following statements about “Adoptions provisions in India”**

1. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions
2. In India Adoption is governed by the Adoption Regulations 2017 and in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
3. India has ratified Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption.

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

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

**Q.295) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Adoptions provisions in India**

- It is **governed by the Adoption Regulations 2017 and in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**, under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- JJ Act, 2015 prohibits offering or receiving children outside the processes laid down under the Act as well as their sale and purchase

- The Act gave statutory status to **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**, which is the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to promote and facilitate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- CARA also deals with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the **Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by India in 2003.**
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.
- CARA is responsible for granting a 'no objection' certificate for all inter-country adoptions, pursuant to India becoming a signatory to the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoptions.
- India is also a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Q.296) Consider the following statements regarding 'export of organic products' –**

1. At present, organic products are exported provided they met the requirements of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).
2. Organic products covered under the bilateral agreement with NPOP need not be recertified for import in India.

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

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

**Q.296) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Export of organic products from India**

- At present, organic products are exported provided they are produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the requirements of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).
- The NPOP has been implemented by APEDA since its inception in 2001 as notified under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992.



- NPOP has also been recognized by the Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) for trade of organic products in the domestic market.
- Organic products covered under the bilateral agreement with NPOP need not be recertified for import in India.

Hence, Both statements are correct.

**Q.297) Consider the following statements about 'Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):**

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.
2. APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of scheduled products such as Fruits, Vegetable, Meat, Poultry Products.
3. APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.

**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.297) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

- It was established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.
- **It functions under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- **APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of scheduled products such as Fruits, Vegetable, Meat, Poultry Products.** Dairy Products, Confectionery, Biscuits, Bakery Products, Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products, Cocoa products, chocolates, floriculture Products. Pickles, Papads and Chutneys etc. > It also provides financial assistance, Information, guidelines towards the development of scheduled products.
- **In addition to this, APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.**
- APEDA has marked its presence in almost all agro potential states of India and has been providing services to agri-export community through its head office, five Regional offices and 13 Virtual offices.

**Q.298) Which of the following agency conducts consumer confidence survey?**

- a) FICCI
- b) RBI
- c) Department of Financial services
- d) NSO

**Q.298) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

**About Consumer Confidence Survey**

- It is conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- CCS seeks qualitative responses from households, regarding their sentiments on the general economic situation, employment scenario, price level, households' income and spending which provides useful inputs for monetary policy.
- The Consumer Confidence survey has two main indices - current situation index and future expectations index. The current situation index measures the change in consumer perception over an economic issue in the last one year while the future expectations index measures what consumer thinks about the same variables, one year ahead.

**Q.299) Consider the following statements about 'India's engagement with the Arctic region'**

1. India is member of Arctic council since 2013.
2. India has a permanent research station in the Arctic called Bharati.
3. The research in the Arctic region from India is coordinated, conducted, and promoted by Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**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.299) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

### India and Arctic

- India's engagement with the Arctic began in 1920 with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in Paris.
- Since July 2008, India has a permanent **research station in the Arctic called Himadri** at Ny Alesund, Svalbard Area in Norway. (**Not Bharati, it is a research station in Antarctic.**)
- **Since 2013, India enjoys 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council** with twelve other countries (Japan, China, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Spain, Netherlands, Singapore, and South Korea). **India is not a member of Arctic council.** Only countries bordering Arctic Ocean can become member of Arctic Council. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It has also deployed a multi-sensor moored observatory called IndARC in the Kongsfjorden fjord since July 2014.
- The launch of NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite mission by India, in collaboration with the USA, is underway.
- India also contributes to the Sustained Arctic Observational Network (SAON).
- **The research in the Arctic region from India is coordinated, conducted, and promoted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences**

**Q.300) Consider the following statements about 'Asian Development Bank':**

1. It was established by members of ASEAN Countries in Manila.
2. India is one of its founding members.
3. It was modelled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system.

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

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

**Q.300) Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**

**About Asian Development Bank (ADB):**

- It was conceived in the early 1960s when a resolution was passed at the first Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in 1963.
- **The institution was opened in 1966 at Manila, Philippines with 31 initial members.**
- Headquarters: Manila, Philippines
- Members: It has 67 members—of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- **India is one of the founding members.**
- Objective: A financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world.
- ADB provides loans, technical assistance and grants.
- Working: **The ADB was modelled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.**
- As of 31 December 2016, Japan and USA hold the largest proportion of shares (15.607%), China holds 6.444%, India holds 6.331%, and Australia holds 5.786%
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.
- **It was not established by ASEAN member countries. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

