

RAPID REVISION SERIES

Current Affairs Quiz

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Q.1) Blackbucks, which are native to India and Nepal, are protected under which schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

- a) Schedule I
- b) Schedule II
- c) Schedule III
- d) Schedule V

Q.1) Solution (a)

The Blackbuck is native to India and Nepal. It inhabits grassy plains and lightly forested areas with perennial water sources. The blackbuck is a Schedule I animal according to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended in 1992) and is considered as 'Vulnerable' according to the IUCN Red Data Book.

Recently, according to figures from the latest population census, Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years. Blackbucks are found only in the Ganjam district in the southern part of Odisha, which is where the census was carried out. The people of Ganjam had been enthusiastically protecting the animal like the Bishnois of western Rajasthan and the Vala Rajputs of Saurashtra.

Article Link: [Odisha's blackbucks double in 6 years, reveals census](#)

Q.2) Tigray region, recently seen in news, is located in which of the following country?

- a) Djibouti
- b) Eritrea
- c) Ethiopia
- d) Somalia

Q.2) Solution (c)

The Tigray Region is the northernmost of the nine regions (kiliat) of Ethiopia. It is the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama people. It is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Sudan to the west, the Amhara Region to the south and the Afar Region to the east and south east.

Recently, with increased atrocities from Ethiopia in Tigray region, USA has imposed restrictions on economic and security assistance to Ethiopia.

Article Link: [Ethiopia Tigray crisis: Warnings of genocide and famine](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding MPLAD scheme:

1. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. Under the scheme every Member of Parliament is entitled to spend Rs 5 crore annually only with respect to matters over which Union Government has subject domain as per seventh schedule.

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.3) Solution (d)

The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) was formulated in 1993. Initially the scheme was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning. In 1994, the scheme was transferred to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

The scheme enables the Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend development works in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assts based on the locally felt need. Durable assets of National importance and community needs like drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and road etc. can be taken up. Hence there is **no restrictions** that project to be taken should lie within the subject domain as per seventh schedule.

Article Link: [Revive MPLAD scheme in its true spirit and release funds, Om Birla urged](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Bodoland Territorial Region, seen recently in news:

1. It includes the districts of Jorhat, Majuli, Cachar and Bongaigaon.
2. The Bodoland Territorial Council functions under the provision of the fifth schedule of the Constitution.

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.4) Solution (d)

The Bodoland Territorial Region is an autonomous region in Assam. It is made up of four districts on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River. It includes the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalgiri.

The Bodoland Territorial Region is administered by an elected body known as the Bodoland Territorial Council which came into existence under the terms of a peace agreement signed in February 2003. It functions under the provision of the sixth schedule of the Constitution.

Recently, Assam Government set up Bodoland Department for faster development of Bodoland Territorial Region.

Article Link: [Assam creates Bodoland Department](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Provision Coverage Ratio, seen recently in news?

1. It is the ratio of provisioning to gross non-performing assets.
2. Higher Provision Coverage Ratio means the bank is protecting itself better against its bad loans.

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.5) Solution (c)

The Provision Coverage Ratio is a measure of the funds set aside by banks to cover bad loans. A higher provision coverage ratio means the bank is protecting itself better against its bad loans.

A decline in the ratio means that provisions have not been made to the extent of the rise in bad loans.

In a recent report by RBI the Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5% by December 2020, Because of prudent provisioning by banks above regulatory prescriptions on accounts availing moratorium and undergoing restructuring.

Article Link: [RBI Annual Report: Asset quality of banks needs to be closely monitored, warns RBI](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding near isothermal forging technology, seen recently in news:

1. It is developed by ISRO to produce all the five stages of high-pressure compressors discs out of titanium alloy.
2. It will help in manufacture of advanced aero engines.

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.6) Solution (b)

The near isothermal forging technology to produce all the five stages of high-pressure compressors (HPC) discs out of difficult-to-deform titanium alloy using its unique 2000 MT isothermal forge press is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

This is a crucial technology for establishing self-reliance in aero engine technology. With this development, India has joined the league of limited global engine developers to have the manufacturing capabilities of such critical aero engine components.

Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier metallurgical laboratory of DRDO at Hyderabad, developed this forging technology by integrating various science and knowledge-based tools. The methodology adopted by DMRL is generic in nature and can be tuned to develop other similar aero engine components. The compressor discs produced using this methodology met all the requirements stipulated by the airworthiness agencies for the desired application.

Article Link: [DRDO develops forging technology for aircraft engine components](#)

Q.7) The Alpine grasslands at an altitude of 3400-4000 m in Western Himalayas are known as:

- a) Shola
- b) Phumdi
- c) Bugyal
- d) Ukhrul

Q.7) Solution (c)

Bugyals are high altitude alpine grasslands or meadows in Uttarakhand (at an elevation between 3400m and 4000 m). These are referred as 'nature's own gardens'. The topography of the terrain is either flat or sloped. The surface of these bugyals is covered with natural green grass and seasonal flowers. They are used by tribal herdsmen to graze their cattle. During the winter season the alpine meadows remain snow- covered. Bugyals have a very fragile ecosystem.

Article Link: [Uttarakhand High Court slams government over living conditions of Van Gujjars](#)

Q.8) Which of the following regions was known as 'Aparanta' in ancient times:

- a) Malabar
- b) Coromandal
- c) Northern Circars
- d) Konkan

Q.8) Solution (d)

Aparanta was a geographical region of ancient India. It corresponded to the northern part of the Konkan region on the western coast of India. It was a bone of contention between the sakas and the satavahanas and is mentioned in Nasik inscription of Gautami Balasri. According to Mahavamsa, the third Buddhist council deputed Great elder Dharmarakshita to do missionary work in Aparanta region.

Article Link: [Goa Statehood Day Special -Searching for Aparanta](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Vaigai River:

1. It flows through Srivilliputhur- Megamalai Tiger Reserve.

2. It empties into Arabian Sea.

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.9) Solution (a)

The Vaigai is a river in Tamil Nadu. It originates in Varusanadu Hills, the Periyar Plateau of the Western Ghats range. Its main tributaries are Suruliyaru, Mullaiyaru, Varaganadhi, Manjalaru, Kottagudi, Kridhumaal and Upparu. The Vaigai is 258 kilometres long and finally empties into the Palk Strait near the Pamban Bridge in Ramanathapuram district. The Vaigai presently gets about 80 per cent of its water from the Periyar dam. The balance 20 per cent is obtained from the major watershed of the Megamalai region during the northeast monsoon season.

Srivilliputhur- Megamalai Tiger Reserve exists in the main catchment area of Vaigai River. Thus the declaration of Srivilliputhur- Megamalai Tiger Reserve also gives protection to Vaigai river from land encroachment.

Article Link: [A tiger reserve declared this year can rejuvenate Vaigai, India's heritage river](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Monoclonal Antibodies, seen recently in news:

- 1. They are man-made protein.
- 2. They are produced by leucocytes.

Which of the above questions is/are correct?

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

Q.10) Solution (c)

Antibodies are the proteins produced naturally by the immune system that targets a specific foreign object (antigen). They are called monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs) when they are produced by clones derived from a single parent cell.

They are man-made protein that acts like a human antibody in the immune system. They are made by cloning a unique white blood cell or leucocytes.

Article Link: [Monoclonal antibodies work well for patients with co-morbidities: AIG](#)

Q.11) Which of the following protected areas is a tiger reserve and hosts two-thirds of the world's great one horned rhinoceroses?

- a) Manas
- b) Kaziranga
- c) Orang
- d) Nameri

Q.11) Solution (b)

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam hosts two-thirds of the world's great one horned rhinoceroses. It was declared as a National Park in 1974 and has been declared tiger reserve since 2007.

Much of the focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga are focused on the 'big four' species- Rhino, Elephant, Royal Bengal Tiger and Asiatic water buffalo. It was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985 and is recognised as an important Bird Area by Bird Life International.

Article Link: [More firepower for Kaziranga guards approved](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding YUVA scheme, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Education.
2. Objective of the scheme is to set up a group of disciplined and dedicated youth who have the inclination and spirit to engage in the task of nation- building.

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.12) Solution (a)

YUVA scheme is launched by the Department of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education. It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.

YUVA stands for "Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors". The scheme is in line with PM's vision of encouraging young writers to write about India's freedom struggle. YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in National Movement, and other related themes in an innovative and creative manner. This scheme will thus help to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system.

The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education as the Implementing Agency will ensure phase-wise execution of the Scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship. The books prepared under this scheme will be published by National Book Trust, India; and will also be translated into other Indian languages ensuring the exchange of culture and literature, thereby promoting 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

Article Link: [Government launches YUVA - Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors](#)

Q.13) Which of the following protected areas is/are located in Great Nicobar Island?

1. Galathea National Park
2. Campbell Bay National Park
3. Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.13) Solution (a)

Galathea National Park and Campbell Bay National Park are located in Great Nicobar Island while Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is located in Andaman Islands.

Article Link: [Experts fear biodiversity loss in Andaman, Nicobar Islands](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. Rishiganga River flows through Nanda Devi National Park.
2. Dhauliganga River meets Alaknanda at Vishnuprayag.

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.14) Solution (c)

Rishiganga River springs from the Nanda Devi Glacier. Continuing through the Nanda Devi National Park, it flows into the Dhauliganga River near the village Rini.

Dhauliganga River rises in the vicinity of the Niti Pass in the border regions between Garhwal and southwestern Tibet. It meets Alaknanda River at Vishnuprayag.

Article Link: [Rishiganga glacier not yet in critical condition: Uttarakhand DGP](#)

Q.15) Which of the following organizations is the result of Treaty of Lagos?

- a) Mercosur
- b) African Union
- c) League of Arab States
- d) ECOWAS

Q.15) Solution (d)

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was created by the Treaty of Lagos in 1975 in Lagos, Nigeria. ECOWAS was established to promote cooperation and integration in

order to create an economic and monetary union for promoting economic growth and development in West Africa.

Article Link: [West African leaders meet to discuss Mali](#)

Q.16) The objective of “positive indigenisation list” policy is to boost domestic production in:

- a) Agricultural Sector
- b) Defence Sector
- c) Cottage Industry
- d) Fertilizer Industry

Q.16) Solution (b)

Introduced in August 2020, the negative import list policy now renamed as **positive indigenisation list** means that the Armed Forces—Army, Navy and Air Force—will only procure the said items from domestic manufacturers. The manufacturers could be private sector players or defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

For years India has been among the top three defence importers in the world, the government wants to reduce the dependence on imported items in defence and give a shot in the arm to the domestic defence manufacturing industry.

By denying the possibility of importing the items on the negative list, the domestic industry is given the opportunity to step up and manufacture them for the needs of the forces.

As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks defence exports and imports globally, India has been the second largest importer between 2014 and 2019 with US\$ 16.75 billion worth of imports during this period.

Article Link: [Defence Ministry notifies second negative import list](#)

Q.17) Which of the following products is/are identified for Product Linked Incentive scheme to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down imports?

- 1. Solar Photo Voltaic Modules
- 2. White goods
- 3. Speciality steel

Choose the correct answers from the codes given below:

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

Q.17) Solution (d)

The PLI scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on imports by providing cash incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in the country. Besides inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand, existing manufacturing units.

As a part of the National Policy on Electronics, on April 1, 2020, the IT Ministry had notified a scheme which would give incentives of 4-6% to electronics companies which manufacture mobile phones and other electronic components such as transistors, diodes, thyristors, resistors, capacitors and nano-electronic components such as micro electromechanical systems.

In addition to the above sectors the scheme has expanded to ten other sectors namely food processing, telecom, electronics, textiles, specialty steel, automobiles and auto components, solar photo-voltaic modules and white goods such as air conditioners and LEDs.

Article Link: [Production-linked incentive](#)

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding Horticulture Cluster Development Programme:

1. The scheme covers the issues of logistics, marketing and branding of horticulture crops.
2. Ornamental grasses are also included in the pilot project.

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.18) Solution (a)

Horticulture Cluster Development Programme is launched by the Ministry of Agriculture. In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters covering 11 States/UTs. The aim of the programme is growing and developing identified horticulture

clusters to make them globally competitive. It will address all major issues including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, marketing and branding.

The clusters chosen for the pilot phase are Shopian (J&K) and Kinnaur (HP) for Apple, Lucknow (UP), Kutch (Gujarat) and Mahbubnagar (Telangana) for Mango, Anantpur (AP) and Theni (TN) for Banana, Nasik (Maharashtra) for Grapes, Siphahijala (Tripura) for Pineapple, Solapur (Maharashtra) and Chitradurga (Karnataka) for pomegranate, West Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) for turmeric. Thus in pilot project fruits and medicinal plants are included.

Article Link: [Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches Horticulture Cluster Development Programme](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding Nano Urea Liquid, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
2. It can curtail the urea requirement by 50%.

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.19) Solution (b)

The Nano Urea Liquid, a nutrient to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to the conventional urea is launched by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).

Nano Urea Liquid is developed to replace conventional urea and it can curtail the requirement of the same by at least 50%. It contains 40,000 ppm of nitrogen in a 500 ml bottle which is equivalent to the impact of nitrogen nutrient provided by one bag of conventional urea

The conventional urea is effective 30-40 per cent in delivering nitrogen to plants, while the effectiveness of the Nano Urea Liquid is over 80 per cent.

Article Link: [IFFCO launches world's first nano liquid urea](#)

Q.20) Bnei Menashe, an ethno-linguistic group, belongs to which of the following states of India?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Mizoram
- d) Assam

Q.20) Solution (c)

The Bnei Menashe are an ethno-linguistic group in India's North-Eastern border states of Manipur and Mizoram. The Chin, Kuki and Mizo peoples of this particular group claim descent from one of the Lost Tribes of Israel and have adopted the practice of Judaism.

Article Link: [160 Indian Jews immigrate to Israel, several left behind after testing positive](#)

Q.21) SATAT is an initiative of the Government of India, aims at:

- a) Promoting cleanliness drive in rural India
- b) Providing financial assistance cottage industries
- c) Promoting Self Help Groups
- d) Providing affordable transportation

Q.21) Solution (d)

SATAT stands for Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation.

It is an initiative aimed at setting up compressed Bio-Gas production plants and makes them available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.

It was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in association with the PSUs- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Article Link: [Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presides over a slew of initiatives around Compressed Bio Gas to give filip to SATAT scheme](#)

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding IPO grey market, seen recently in news:

1. It is controlled by SEBI.
2. Under this, shares are bought and sold before they become available for trading on the stock market.

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.22) Solution (b)

Grey Market IPO is an unofficial market where individuals buy/sell IPO shares or applications before they are officially launched for trading on the stock exchange. As it is an unofficial over-the-counter market, there are no regulations around it. All transactions are done in cash on a personal basis. Any 3rd party firms like the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Stock Exchange or Brokers are not involved or back this transaction.

The grey market is an unofficial market, whereas the IPO market is an official recognized medium of raising funds in the market under SEBI regulation. The IPO market and the IPO grey market do not have any official connection.

Article Link: [Paytm shares go past Rs. 21,000 in grey market](#)

Q.23) What is the significance of AmbiTag technology, seen recently in news:

- a) Cold chain management
- b) Vaccine Manufacturing
- c) Missile development
- d) None of the above

Q.23) Solution (a)

AmbiTag is India's first indigenous temperature data logger for cold chain management.

AmbiTag records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood. That recorded temperature further helps to know whether that particular item transported from anywhere in the world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation. This information is particularly critical for vaccines including Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation.

It is a first-of-its kind Internet of Things (IoT) device developed by Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab.

Besides perishable items including vegetables, meat and dairy products it can also monitor the temperature of animal semen during transit. So far, such devices are being imported by India in a massive quantity from other countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Ireland, and China. It is a push towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Article Link: [IIT Ropar develops 'AmbiTag' to record real-time ambient temperature](#)

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding Variable Capital Company, seen recently in news:

1. It is a corporate structure for investment funds
2. It provides flexibility in the issuance and redemption of shares.

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.24) Solution (c)

Variable capital Company is a new corporate structure for investment funds. It has a variable capital structure that provides flexibility in the issuance and redemption of its shares.

It can be set up as a single standalone fund or an umbrella fund with two or more sub-funds, each holding a portfolio of segregated assets and liabilities.

It is basically an alternative form of corporate vehicle that dispenses with some of the key limitations of companies and limited liability partnerships (LLPs). It can be used for both open-ended and closed ended alternative and traditional fund strategies.

Article Link: [Fund management activity: Variable Capital Company structure recommended in IFSCs](#)

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding Mount Nyiragongo, seen recently in news:

1. It was a dormant volcano which recently became active.
2. It is in Nigeria
3. It is a stratovolcano

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.25) Solution (c)

Mount Nyiragongo is part of the Virunga volcanic chain and owes its existence to the activity of the African Great Rift. The rift is constantly extending and opening. Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m. It is located inside Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Nyiragongo's lava lake has at times been the most voluminous known lava lake in recent history.

Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40% of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions.

Article Link: [Mount Nyiragongo's volcano: why it's unique and treacherous](#)

Q.26) The report 'World employment and social outlook' is published by:

- a) IMF
- b) ILO
- c) WB
- d) WEF

Q.26) Solution (b)

World employment and social outlook is the flagship report of the International Labour Organization. The report analyses the impact of the crisis on the labour market across the world and offers projections for recovery and gives details of the unequal impact of the crisis on different groups of workers and enterprises and calls for a broad-based human-centered recovery.

According to the 2021 report, Global unemployment is expected to be at 205 million in 2022, surpassing the 2019 level of 187 million.

The jobs shortfall induced by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was 75 million in 2021 and is expected to be 23 million in 2022.

Article Link: [Global unemployment to surge to 205 million in 2022: ILO](#)

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding Low Earth Orbit:

1. This orbit is at an altitude of 2000- 3000 kilometer.
2. Hubble Telescope is placed in this orbit.

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.27) Solution (d)

A low Earth orbit (LEO) is, as the name suggests, an orbit that is relatively close to Earth's surface. It is normally at an altitude of less than 1000 km but could be as low as 160 km above Earth – which is low compared to other orbits, but still very far above Earth's surface. By comparison, most commercial aeroplanes do not fly at altitudes much greater than approximately 14 km, so even the lowest LEO is more than ten times higher than that.

Unlike satellites in GEO that must always orbit along Earth's equator, LEO satellites do not always have to follow a particular path around Earth in the same way – their plane can be tilted. This means there are more available routes for satellites in LEO, which is one of the reasons why LEO is a very commonly used orbit.

LEO's close proximity to Earth makes it useful for several reasons. It is the orbit most commonly used for satellite imaging, as being near the surface allows it to take images of higher resolution. It is also the orbit used for the International Space Station (ISS), as it is easier for astronauts to travel to and from it at a shorter distance.

The Hubble Space Telescope is a large telescope in space. It was launched into orbit by space shuttle Discovery on April 24, 1990. Hubble orbits about 547 kilometers (340 miles) above Earth.

Article Link: [Why is the world getting closer to Internet from the skies?](#)

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding Sustainable Development Goals India Index, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by NITI Aayog.
2. It is developed in collaboration with the World Bank.
3. Only Achiever Category State is Kerala.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.28) Solution (a)

Sustainable Development Goals India Index is designed and developed by NITI Aayog. It was first launched in 2018. The preparation of the index followed extensive consultations with the primary stakeholders i.e. the States and Union Territories, the UN agencies in India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), and the key Union Ministries.

The States and Union Territories are classified as below based on their SDG India Index score:

- Aspirant: 0–49
- Performer: 50–64
- Front-Runner: 65–99
- Achiever: 100

Key Highlights of SDG India Index 2020-21:

- The country's overall SDG score has improved by 6 points i.e. from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020–21.

- Mizoram, Haryana, and Uttarakhand are the top gainers in 2020–21 in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively.
- There are no states in Achiever Category.
- Kerala has retained the top rank in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21, while Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.
- Both Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu took the second spot with a score of 74.
- Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing states in this year's India index.

Article Link: [Significant progress in SDGs on clean energy, health: NITI index](#)

Q.29) China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak, seen recently in news, works on the principle of:

- a) Nuclear Fission
- b) Electron Capture
- c) Nuclear Fusion
- d) Spontaneous Fission

Q.29) Solution (c)

China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) also known as Artificial Sun, works on the principle of Nuclear Fusion. The mission mimics the energy generation process of the Sun. The reactor consists of an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device located in Hefei, China.

Recently, it has set a new record after it ran at 216 million degrees Fahrenheit (120 million degrees Celsius) for 101 seconds. For another 20 seconds, the “artificial sun” also achieved a peak temperature of 288 million degrees Fahrenheit (160 million degrees Celsius), which is over ten times hotter than the sun.

Article Link: [What is China's 'artificial sun' experimental fusion reactor that has set a new record?](#)

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding Disaster Management Act, 2005:

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs is designated as the nodal ministry for disaster management.

2. The Act provides for National Disaster Management Authority headed by the Union Home Minister.

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.30) Solution (a)

The Disaster Management Act was passed by the government of India in 2005 for the efficient management of disasters and other matters connected to it. It came into force in January 2006.

The objective of the Act is to manage disaster, including preparation of mitigation strategies, capacity building and more.

The Act designates the Ministry of Home Affairs as the Nodal Ministry for overall national disaster management.

It provides for The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) headed by the Prime Minister which is tasked with laying down disaster management policies and ensuring timely and effective response mechanism.

Article Link: [DM Act is of 2005 vintage, was first enforced during pandemic](#)

Q.31) The National Medicinal Plant Board, seen recently in news, works under:

- a) Ministry of AYUSH
- b) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Q.31) Solution (a)

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB): It has been established by Government of India to coordinate with all matters relating to Medicinal Plants and Support Policies and Programs for growth of trade, export, conservation and cultivation.

The board is working under Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH).

Article Link: [NMPB and CSIR-NBRI Sign MoU for Promotion of Cultivation and Production of Medicinal Plants](#)

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding GeM, seen recently in news:

1. It is a national portal to facilitate online procurement of common use goods and services.
2. It operates under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.32) Solution (a)

GeM is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods and Services required by various Central and State Government Departments/ Organizations/ Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

It operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM.

It also provides the tool of e-bidding and reverse e-auction to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money.

Article Link: [New product category of Green Room Air Conditioners launched on Government e-Marketplace \(GeM\) to mark the World Environment Day today](#)

Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative, seen recently in news:

1. It is an initiative of Clean Energy Ministerial
2. The objective is to encourage governments and the private sector to buy low carbon industrial materials.
3. This initiative is co-led by Germany and Canada

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.33) Solution (b)

Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI is an initiative of Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM).

It is a global coalition of public and private organisations who are working to stimulate demand for low carbon industrial materials. In collaboration with national governments, IDDI works to standardise carbon assessments, establish ambitious public and private sector procurement targets, incentivise investment into low-carbon product development and design industry guidelines.

It is coordinated by UNIDO, the IDDI is co-led by the UK and India and current members include Germany and Canada.

Goals:

- Encouraging governments and the private sector to buy low carbon steel and cement.
- Sourcing and sharing data for common standards and targets

Article Link: [India, UK collaborate on industrial energy efficiency](#)

Q.34) Consider the following statements:

1. Nitrous oxide has up to 300 times higher global warming potential than Carbon Dioxide
2. The aim of International Nitrogen Initiative is to optimize the beneficial role of Nitrogen in sustainable food production.

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.34) Solution (c)

International Nitrogen Initiative Conference: It was set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).

Objective: To stimulate an exchange among policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of results, ideas and visions to improve future holistic management of reactive nitrogen.

The UK government is going to highlight the fact that Nitrous oxide has up to 300 times higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide in the run up to the UNFCCC COP26 to be held at Glasgow in November this year.

Article Link: [Eighth Global Nitrogen Conference focuses on sustainable development goals](#)

Q.35) NASA announced missions Davinci+ and Veritas for exploration of which of the following planets?

- a) Mercury
- b) Jupiter
- c) Mars
- d) Venus

Q.35) Solution (d)

NASA has announced two new missions to Venus. These two sister missions both aim to understand how Venus became an inferno-like world, capable of melting lead at the surface. These include:

1. Davinci+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging) mission will:

- Measure the planet's atmosphere to gain insight into how it formed and evolved.
- Determine whether Venus ever had an ocean.

- Return the first high resolution images of the planet's "tesserae" geological features (These features could be comparable to continents on Earth).

2. Veritas (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy):

- This mission will map the planet's surface to understand its geological history and investigate how it developed so differently than Earth.
- It will use a form of radar to chart surface elevations and discover whether volcanoes and earthquakes are still happening.

Article Link: [NASA plans two new missions to Venus, its first in decades](#)

Q.36) What are the environmental implications of Black Carbon emission:

1. Influences cloud formation
2. Premature death of crops
3. Increase albedo

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.36) Solution (b)

Black carbon, or soot, is part of fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) and contributes to climate change.

Black carbon is formed by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, wood and other fuels.

Black carbon is a short-lived climate pollutant with a lifetime of only days to weeks after release in the atmosphere.

During this short period of time, black carbon can have significant direct and indirect impacts on the climate, the cryosphere (snow and ice), agriculture and human health.

Environmental Implication:

- Black carbon is an important contributor to warming because it is very effective at absorbing light and heating its surroundings.

- Per unit of mass, black carbon has a warming impact on climate that is 460-1,500 times stronger than CO₂.
- It also influences cloud formation and impacts regional circulation and rainfall patterns.
- When deposited on ice and snow, black carbon and co-emitted particles reduce surface albedo (the ability to reflect sunlight) and heat the surface.
- The Arctic and glaciated regions such as the Himalayas are particularly vulnerable to melting as a result.

Article Link: [Black carbon in High Asia can go down 23% if Subcontinent cuts emissions: Report](#)

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding Performance Grading Index, seen recently in news:

1. It is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in India.
2. It also ranks the performance of teachers in the school.

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.37) Solution (a)

The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) has designed the PGI to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.

The Government has introduced the Performance Grading Index with a set of 70 parameters to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.

Latest report released for the year 2019-20. The highlights of the report are:

- Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala occupy the highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.
- Most of the States/UTs have improved their grade in PGI 2019-20 compared to the earlier years.

- As many as thirteen States and UTs have shown improvement by 10% (15 points) or more in the PGI domain: Infrastructure and Facilities.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Odisha have shown improvement by 20% or more.
- Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Odisha have shown more than 10% improvement in the PGI domain: Equity.

Article Link: [Punjab, TN, Kerala lead in 2019-20 school grading index](#)

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding SAGE initiative, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship.
2. The objective is to provide funds to Startups related to elderly care products and services.

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.38) Solution (b)

SAGE (Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine) initiative is launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

It will be a “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups. The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centers, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.

Up to Rs 1 crores will be given to Startups for elderly care. An amount of Rs 100 crore has been assigned for the promotion of the silver economy.

Article Link: [SAGE\(Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine\) initiative and SAGE portal to support India's elderly launched](#)

Q.39) Which of the following international groupings decided to levy Global Minimum Corporate Tax on Multinational Companies?

- a) G4
- b) G77
- c) G20
- d) G7

Q.39) Solution (d)

Advanced economies making up the G7 grouping have reached a “historic” deal on taxing multinational companies.

The Group of Seven nations have backed a minimum global corporation tax rate of at least 15%.

They also seek to put in place measures to ensure that taxes are paid in the countries where businesses operate based on the principle of ‘Significant Economic Presence’.

The global minimum tax rate would apply to overseas profits of a multinational.

The envisaged framework allows individual governments to set whatever local corporate tax rate they want.

But if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could “top-up” their taxes to the minimum rate, thus eliminating the advantage of shifting profits.

Article Link: [What the G7 corporate tax deal means for India](#)

Q.40) Plants and trees have the capability to purify polluted water. In this reference consider the following statements regarding dendroremediation?

1. It is the process of uptake of pollutants from wastewater through tree roots and convert it into less toxic form.
2. Tree such as eucalyptus, poplar and salix can be used to purify polluted water.

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.40) Solution (c)

The pollutants in wastewater act as nutrients for the trees and plants and also help yield higher fuel wood biomass. The process of uptake of pollutants from wastewater through tree roots and conversion into less toxic form is called dendroremediation. When plants perform the same thing, it is known as Phytoremediation.

These techniques are also more cost-effective than conventional wastewater treatment. Casurina and dendrocalamus can reduce nitrogen by 61-76 per cent, phosphorus by 18-70 per cent and biological oxygen demand by 80-94 per cent from wastewater.

Eucalyptus has shown 25 per cent higher biomass growth when irrigated with polluted water. The biomass of poplar and salix trees have also doubled and quadrupled when fertigated with domestic wastewater.

Article Link: [How trees can purify wastewater and provide economic benefits](#)

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding I-Familia, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by Interpol.
2. It is Global database to identify missing persons.

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.41) Solution (c)

I-Familia is a global database launched by Interpol to identify missing persons through family DNA. It will help the police to solve cases in member countries.

Interpol applies cutting-edge scientific research and uses the DNA of relatives to identify missing persons or unidentified human remains around the world.

DNA kinship matching is used mostly in cases where a direct sample of the missing person is not available.

Article Link: [Global database to identify missing persons launched](#)

Q.42) In June 2020, Devika Bridge was inaugurated in Udhampur on River Devika. Devika River is the tributary of:

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

Q.42) Solution (c)

Devika river originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir and flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it merges with the Ravi river. The river holds religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the sister of river Ganga.

The river holds religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the sister of river Ganga.

In June 2020, Devika Bridge was inaugurated in Udhampur. Apart from taking care of traffic congestion, the Devika Bridge was also meant to help smooth passage of Army convoys and vehicles.

Article Link: [Devika Project of Udhampur in J&K is a matter of faith and suggestions from all parties are welcome](#)

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding Global Compact initiative:

1. It is an initiative of the UN.
2. It is binding on parties.
3. The aim is to encourage businesses to adopt sustainable and socially responsible practises.

Which of the above 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.43) Solution (b)

UN Global Compact initiative is a non binding pact to encourage businesses and firms worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation.

It was launched in 2000.

It is a principle based framework for businesses, stating ten principles in the area of human rights, labour, environment and anti- corruption.

Under this the companies are brought together with UN agencies, labour groups and civil society.

Article Link: [NTPC joins UN's CEO Water mandate; to step up work on water conservation with reduce, reuse and recycle](#)

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, seen recently in news:

1. This organisation was established to enforce the terms of Non- Proliferation Treaty.
2. India's Comptroller and Auditor General is the external auditor for this organization.

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.44) Solution (c)

It is an international organization established by the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997 to implement and enforce the terms of the non-proliferation treaty, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, or transfer of chemical weapons by signatory states.

By the 2001 Relationship Agreement between the OPCW and the United Nations, the OPCW reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Secretary General.

The organisation was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons".

India's Comptroller and Auditor General is the external auditor for this organization for a three year term starting 2021.

Article Link: [Syria has likely used chemical weapons 17 times: International chemical weapons watchdog](#)

Q.45) What is Project P 75 (I), seen often in news:

- a) ISRO's mission to Mars
- b) To develop a new variety of Paddy
- c) To study geomagnetism
- d) Indigenous construction of Submarines

Q.45) Solution (d)

Project P 75 (I) envisages indigenous construction of six conventional submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art air-independent propulsion system at an estimated cost of Rs 43,000 crore. This is one of the largest Make in India projects.

Article Link: [Defence Ministry clears deal for 6 submarines](#)

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE):

1. It is a fraction of applied nitrogen that is used by the plants.
2. Lower the Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE), lower will be the wastage of fertilizers.

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.46) Solution (a)

Nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) is the fraction of applied nitrogen that is absorbed and used by the plant. Crops generally use up 30 per cent of nitrogen fertiliser applied; the rest seeps into the environment, harming health and adding to climate change. Thus a higher Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) number denotes low fertilizer wastage.

Urea accounts for 77 per cent of all agricultural nitrous oxide emission to the Indian environment. Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas that is 296 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in causing climate change. N-fertilisers also cause water pollution and algal blooms, killing fish and affecting livelihoods.

Article Link: [Scientists identify genes to improve fertiliser nitrogen use efficiency in rice](#)

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding “Raimona”, sometimes seen in news:

1. It is a protected area in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is recently notified as the Biosphere Reserve.

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.47) Solution (d)

Raimona Reserve Forest is in the Kokrajhar district of Assam. This forest comes under Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) across the border with Bhutan. Recently, it is notified as the sixth National Park of Assam.

The Raimona national park is surrounded by the Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary in Bhutan to its north, the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal to its west and the Manas National Park to its east. With eleven different forest types and subtypes, the area is home to the golden langurs, elephants, tiger, clouded leopard, several species of orchids and has more than 150 species of butterflies, 170 species of birds besides 380 species of plants.

Article Link: [Raimona becomes Assam's sixth national park](#)

Q.48) Mount Merapi, erupted recently, is located along:

- a) The Atlantic Coast
- b) Great Rift Region
- c) Pacific Ring of Fire
- d) The West Indian Islands

Q.48) Solution (c)

Mount Merapi is the most active of Indonesia's 130 active volcanoes.

It is located near the centre of the island of Java and Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta.

Indonesia is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire, also referred to as the Circum-Pacific Belt, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

Q.49) Rengma Tribe, seen sometimes in news, is found in which of the following States?

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

Q.49) Solution (b)

Rengma is a Naga tribe found in Nagaland and Assam states of India. According to the 2011 Population Census of India, Rengma population stands at 62,951. The headquarter of the Rengmas in Nagaland is at Tseminyu, and the headquarter of the Rengmas in Assam is located at Phentsero/Karenga Village.

Recently, Rengma Nagas in Assam have written to Union Home minister demanding an autonomous district council amid a decision by the Central and State Governments to upgrade the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) into a territorial Council.

The Karbi Anglong, erstwhile known as Rengma Hills was partitioned in 1963 between Assam and Nagaland at the time of creation of Nagaland State.

Article Link: [Rengma Nagas demand autonomous district council](#)

Q.50) What are Khirsapati and Lakshamanbhog, seen recently in news?

- a) Drought resistant varieties of Chickpea
- b) GI certified varieties of Mango
- c) Fortified varieties of Paddy
- d) High yield varieties of Wheat

Q.50) Solution (b)

Khirsapati and Lakshamanbhog are GI certified varieties of Mangoes.

Recently, sixteen varieties of mangoes including three GI certified Khirsapati & Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal), Zardalu (Bihar) were exported to Bahrain.

Mango in India is also referred as 'king of fruits' and referred as Kalpavriksha (wish granting tree) in ancient scriptures. While most of the states in India have mango plantations, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka have major share in total production of the fruit.

Alphonso, Kesar, Totapuri and Banganpalli are leading export varieties from India. Mango exports primarily take place in three forms: fresh mango, mango pulp, and mango slice.

Mangoes are processed by the APEDA registered packhouse facilities and then exported to various regions and countries including Middle East, European Union, USA, Japan and South Korea.

Article Link: [Sixteen varieties of mangoes including three GI certified varieties exported to Bahrain from West Bengal & Bihar](#)

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding Food Price Index released by FAO:

1. It is a measure of annual change in international price of a basket of food commodities.
2. It measures changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.
3. The Base period is 2011-12.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.51) Solution (b)

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index was introduced in 1996 as a public good to help in monitoring developments in the global agricultural commodity markets.

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.

Article Link: [UN: Cost of food rises at fastest pace in over a decade](#)

Q.52) What is Sea Snot, seen recently in news?

- a) New species of coral
- b) A group of Islands
- c) Nutrient Pollution
- d) New species of starfish

Q.52) Solution (c)

'Sea snot' is marine mucilage that is formed when algae are overloaded with nutrients as a result of water pollution combined with the effects of climate change. The nutrient overload occurs when algae feast on warm weather caused by global warming.

Overproduction of phytoplankton caused by climate change and the uncontrolled dumping of household and industrial waste into the seas has leads to the formation of Sea snot.

Concerns:

- Threat to the Marine Ecosystem
- Affect livelihood of Fishermen
- Cause an outbreak of Water-borne Diseases

Article Link: [What is the 'sea snot' outbreak in Turkey, and what effect can it have on the marine ecosystem?](#)

Q.53) The report "Ecosystem Restoration for people, nature and climate" is published by:

- a) Global Alliance on Health and Pollution
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature

d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q.53) Solution (d)

'Ecosystem Restoration for people, nature and climate' report was recently published by the United Nations environment programme (UNEP).

The report has been published in Association with Food and Agriculture Organisation for UN Decade on ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

Findings of the report:

- Around one third of the world's farmland is degraded,
- About 87 per cent of inland wetlands worldwide have disappeared since 1700, and
- One third of commercial fish species are overexploited.
- Degradation is already affecting the well-being of an estimated 3.2 billion people – that is 40 per cent of the world's population.
- Every single year, we lose ecosystem services worth more than 10 per cent of our global economic output.
- If we can manage to reverse this trend, massive gains await us.
- Reviving ecosystems and other natural solutions could contribute over one third of the total climate mitigation needed by 2030.
- Restoration can also curb the risk of mass species extinctions and future pandemics.
- Agroforestry alone could increase food security for 1.3 billion people.
- Restoration on a global scale requires sustained investments.

Article Link: [Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature and Climate - UNEP synthesis report launched](#)

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. India has recently set the target of 30% Ethanol blending in petrol by 2025.
2. Currently in India 12% Ethanol is blended in petrol.
3. Barley, corn and sugar beet are the main sources of ethanol used for blending in petrol in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

Q.54) Solution (d)

Recently, the target of 20 per cent ethanol blended petrol has been advanced by five years from 2030 to 2025 by the Government of India.

In 2020, India had set a target of 10 per cent ethanol-blending in petrol by 2022 and 10 per cent ethanol-blending in diesel by 2030.

Currently, 8.5 per cent of ethanol is blended with petrol in the country. This has led to procurement of 320 crore litres of ethanol. The government has claimed Rs 21,000 crores was generated from ethanol procurement, helping farmers earn an additional income.

Sugarcane (87 per cent), residues of rice and wheat are the main sources of ethanol used for blending.

Ethanol blending reduces vehicular pollution and agricultural waste pollution. It can also cut down India's oil imports, as it is the world's third-biggest oil importer.

Article Link: [India's 20% ethanol-petrol blending target advanced to 2025](#)

Q.55) What is the objective of Operation Pangea, sometimes seen in news?

- a) To stop online sale of fake medicines
- b) To repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during Covid-19
- c) To ensure vaccination for Covid-19 in the worst affected African Nations
- d) To combat desertification in UN member countries

Q.55) Solution (a)

Operation Pangea, is an international effort of Interpol to disrupt the online sale of counterfeit and illicit health products. Pangea also works to raise awareness of the risks associated with buying medicines from unregulated websites.

The first Operation Pangea was conducted in 2008.

Central Bureau of Investigation is the nodal body for the Interpol in the country.

Article Link: [Over 1 lakh web links removed in global crackdown on illegal medical trade](#)

Q.56) Which of the following protected areas is/are the UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

1. Kaziranga
2. Orang
3. Manas
4. Dibru-Saikowa

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.56) Solution (b)

Assam has the third most National Parks after the 12 in Madhya Pradesh and nine in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

National Parks in Assam are: Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru-Saikhowa, Dihing-Patkai and Raimona National Park. Kaziranga and Manas are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. They are also tiger reserves along with Nameri and Orang.

Kaziranga National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site back in 1985, nine years after it was declared a national park.

Manas National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

Recently, Raimona and Dihing Patkai were notified as the sixth and seventh National Parks of Assam.

Article Link: [Dihing Patkai is Assam's 7th National Park](#)

Q.57) Identify the appropriate location of Addu Atoll, sometimes seen in news?

- a) Northern Hemisphere of Indian Ocean
- b) Southern Hemisphere of Atlantic Ocean
- c) Southern Hemisphere of Indian Ocean
- d) Northern Hemisphere of Atlantic Ocean

Q57) Solution (c)

Addu Atoll, also known as Seenu Atoll, is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives. Addu Atoll, together with Fuvahmulah, located 40 km north of Addu Atoll, extend the Maldives into the Southern Hemisphere.

Located in the Indian Ocean, Addu is the second largest city in Maldives, home to over 30,000 people.

Article Link: [No decision yet on Indian consulate in Addu Atoll: Solih](#)

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding Hindu-Kush-Himalayan (HKH) Region:

1. This region is considered as the third Pole of the Earth.
2. It contains world's largest store of snow and ice.
3. The region is home to 4 global biodiversity hotspots.

Which of the above 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.58) Solution (b)

The HKH region spans Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

It traverses about 5 million square kilometres and hosts a large and culturally diverse population.

It is considered the Third Pole (after the North and South Poles), and has significant implications for climate.

It contains vast cryospheric zones and is also the world's third-largest storage of snow and ice after the Antarctica and Arctic.

HKH region is home to 4 global biodiversity hotspots: the Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Mountains of Southwest China, and Mountains of Central Asia hotspots.

Major river basins in HKH region are: Amu Darya, Brahmaputra, Ganges, Indus, Irrawaddy, Mekong, Salween, Tarim, Yangtze, Yellow Rivers.

Article Link: [Glacier melting in Hindu Kush: 2 billion people may face food, water shortage by 2100](#)

Q.59) Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed region between which of the following countries?

- a) Armenia-Turkey
- b) Azerbaijan-Iran
- c) Turkey-Iran
- d) Armenia-Azerbaijan

Q.59) Solution (d)

Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed region between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh region is a mountainous land-locked region in the South Caucasus. It is a forested region and geographically lies within the boundary of Azerbaijan.

Reasons for Dispute:

- Territorial: Nagorno-Karabakh region has 95% of the population as ethnically Armenian and is controlled by them but it is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan.
- Religious: Armenia is Christian majority, while Azerbaijan is Muslim majority country.

In September 2020, a war erupted in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories, which saw both the armed forces of Azerbaijan and Armenia report military and civilian casualties. Azerbaijan made significant gains during the war, regaining most of the occupied territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh and large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh, including the culturally significant city of Shusha.

The war ended on 10 November 2020, when a trilateral ceasefire agreement was signed between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, which forced Armenia to return all the remaining occupied territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh.

Q.60) The Global Economic Prospects report is released recently by:

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Trade Organization

- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Bank

Q.60) Solution (d)

The Global Economic Prospects report 2021 is recently released by the World Bank.

- It has forecast India's GDP growth to be 8.3% for the year 2021-22.
- India's economy is expected to grow at 7.5% for 2022-23 and 6.5% for 2023-24.
- The world economy is expected to expand at 5.6%, the fastest post-recession growth rate in eighty years.
- However, global output will still be 2% below pre-pandemic projections by year-end.

Article Link: [India expected to grow at 8.3%, says World Bank](#)

Q.61) Which of the following countries is/are recognized as Small Island Developing States by the United Nations?

1. Bahrain
2. Singapore
3. Thailand

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.61) Solution (a)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The SIDS were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries in June 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

Their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters SIDS continue to address those structural and external challenges to achieve their sustainable development.

SIDS are broken down into three geographic regions: the Caribbean; the Pacific; and Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS). SIDS of Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) are: Bahrain, Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, and Singapore.

Article Link: [Small island states faced thrice as much fall in GDP in 2020 as other developing countries: UN](#)

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding Forex reserves of India:

1. Gold is the largest component of forex reserve of India.
2. Rise in forex reserve strengthens the Rupee against dollar.

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.62) Solution (b)

Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies, which can include bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.

India's Forex Reserve include:

- Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)
- Gold reserves
- Special Drawing Rights
- Reserve position with the IMF

FCAs are assets that are valued based on a currency other than the country's own currency.

FCA is the largest component of the forex reserve. It is expressed in dollar terms.

The FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Importance of Increasing Foreign Exchange Reserves:

- The government is in a comfortable position if there are rising forex reserves and the RBI in managing India's external and internal financial issues at a time of major contraction in economic growth.
- It Assist the government in meeting its foreign exchange needs and external debt obligations.
- Appreciation in Rupee – The rising foreign exchange reserves helps the rupee to strengthen against the dollar. to characterise the conditions that may have led to the emergence of habitable environments among the Jovian icy satellites
- Crisis Management: Rising Forex Reserve serves as a cushion in the event of a Balance of Payment crisis on the economic front
- Confidence in the Market: Forex Reserves provides a level of confidence to markets and investors that a country can meet its external obligations.

Article Link: [Fuelled by rising currency assets, forex reserves race past \\$600 bn](#)

Q.63) What is the aim of EnVision mission, seen recently in news?

- a) To search for the existence of past life on Mars.
- b) To study the Trojan asteroids around Jupiter.
- c) To observe the icy moons of Jupiter- Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.
- d) To study the atmosphere and surface of Venus.

Q.63) Solution (d)

EnVision mission is a European Space Agency (ESA) led mission with contributions from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The mission will carry a range of instruments to study the atmosphere and surface of the planet Venus and monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition.

Article Link: [European Space Agency's EnVision mission to Venus](#)

Q.64) Umling la pass, seen recently in news, is located in:

- a) Sikkim
- b) Ladakh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

Q.64) Solution (b)

At 5.793m (19,005ft) above the sea level, Umling La is one of the highest motorable roads in the world. It is located in Ladakh.

The 54 km long road passing through Umling La Pass connected the villages of Chisumle and Demchok and took six years to be built by BRO under Project Himank.

Q.65) Consider the following statements:

1. Gharial is described as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.
2. National Chambal Sanctuary is a protected area dedicated to the protection of the gharial.

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.65) Solution (c)

Gharials, sometimes called gavials, are a type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts. Crocodilians are a group of reptiles that includes crocodiles, alligators, caimans, and more. Population of Gharials are a good indicator of clean river water

India has three species of Crocodilians namely:

- Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*): IUCN Red List- Critically Endangered
- Mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*): IUCN- Vulnerable.
- Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*): IUCN- Least Concern.

The National Chambal Sanctuary is first and only tri-State riverine protected area in India for breeding population of critically endangered Gharial. It is located at the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

The Chambal River, one of the longest rivers, with nearly 1800 km length, out of which 177 km long river falls under the National Chambal Sanctuary.

The sanctuary is important habitat of the Critically Endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle and the Endangered Ganges river dolphin.

More than 75% of the critically endangered Gharial population is based in the sanctuary.

Article Link: [Odisha forest department announces cash reward for rescuing gharials](#)

Q.66) Consider the following statements regarding FAME India scheme:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.
2. The aim of the scheme is to encourage the use of electric vehicles by providing subsidies.

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.66) Solution (b)

FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) India is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. Main thrust of FAME is to encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies.

Two phases of the scheme are:

- Phase I: started in 2015 and was completed on 31st March, 2019
- Phase II: started from April, 2019, will be completed by 31st March, 2022

Department of Heavy Industries, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is implementing this scheme.

- Fame India Scheme has four focus Areas:
- Technology development
- Demand Creation
- Pilot Projects
- Charging Infrastructure

Article Link: [Revised subsidies to spur EV demand](#)

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding operation Oliva, sometimes seen in news:

1. It is conducted by the Indian Coast Guard.
2. It is a major rescue and relief operation for the people affected by recent cyclones in the eastern and western coast of 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.67) Solution (a)

Operation Oliva is a project for protecting the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles on the Odisha Coast. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducts the operation every year to prevent olive ridleys during their mass nesting season.

In between November 2020 to May 2021, Coast Guard has devoted 225 ship days and 388 aircraft hours. They have protected 3.49 lakh turtles.

Article Link: [Operation Oliva' to the rescue of Olive Ridleys](#)

Q.68) Consider the following statements regarding "Project O2 for India", launched recently:

1. It an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India.
2. It aims to ensure adequate national level supply of Zeolite.

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.68) Solution (c)

Project O2 for India is initiated in aftermath of second wave of COVID-19 which witnessed an increase in demand for medical oxygen across the country.

It is an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (Gol), aims to help stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet the rise in demand for medical oxygen.

Under the project, a 'National Consortium of Oxygen' is enabling supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators. Besides, the consortium is also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

Zeolite is an important raw material used for production of liquid oxygen.

Article Link: [Project O2 for India' initiated to meet rising oxygen demand amid Covid-19 pandemic](#)

Q.69) PRABANDH portal, seen recently in news, is related to:

- a) Mining
- b) Environment
- c) Agriculture
- d) Education

Q.69) Solution (d)

PRABANDH (PProject Appraisal, Budgeting, Achievements and Data Handling System) portal:

The objective of the portal is to compiling the data of out-of-school children identified by each state/UT and their mapping with special training centres (STC).

Through this the government will facilitate age-appropriate admissions of children in the age group of 6-14 years.

For out of school children in the 16-18 years age group, financial assistance will be provided in the session 2021-22.

It is a step towards utilising technology to increase efficiency and manage the implementation. It will enable transparency and accuracy.

Article Link: [Education ministry launches online module to track, re-enrol out-of-school children](#)

Q.70) The Resolution 75/260 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), seen recently in news, deals with:

- a) Situation of Human Rights in Syria.
- b) Development of an international legally-binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- c) Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.
- d) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Q.70) Solution (c)

Recently, The Union Health Minister addressed the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The Resolution 75/260 of UNGA deals with the Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the political declarations on HIV/AIDS.

Key points of address are:

India's unique HIV prevention model is centred on the concept of 'Social Contracting' through which the 'Targeted Interventions Program' is implemented.

The HIV & AIDS Prevention and Control Act, 2017, provide a legal and enabling framework to safeguard the human rights of infected and affected populations.

India is providing free anti-retro-viral treatment to close to 1.4 million people.

Article Link: [Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses 75th session of UNGA on prevention of HIV/AIDS](#)

Q.71) Consider the following statements:

- 1. No UN Security Council member has ever held the presidency of UN General Assembly.
- 2. Countries require a two-thirds majority in UN General Assembly to be elected as non-permanent member of UN Security Council.

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.71) Solution (c)

The President of the United Nations General Assembly is a position voted for by representatives in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a yearly basis. The President is the chair and presiding officer of the General Assembly.

The presidency rotates annually between the five geographic groups: African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European and other States. It is customary that no permanent member of the United Nations Security Council ever serves as UNGA president.

Election for the non-permanent members of UNSC is held by secret ballot. Candidates require a two-thirds majority in UNGA to be elected as non-permanent member. Five countries are elected to Council of 15-member (UNSC) as non-permanent members for two-year term.

Q.72) The term “Democracies 11” was recently seen in news in the wake of G7 summit. Along with G7 member nations which of the following countries are part of Democracies 11?

1. India
2. Brazil
3. South Korea
4. Australia
5. South Africa

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.72) Solution (b)

In the wake of G7 summit, India recently signed off on a joint statement by G-7 and guest countries on “open societies” that reaffirm and encourage the values of “freedom of expression, both online and offline, as a freedom that safeguards democracy and helps people live free from fear and oppression”.

The joint statement was signed by the G-7 countries, and India, South Korea, Australia and South Africa, with host British Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling them “Democracies 11”.

Democracies 11 is facing threats to freedom and democracy from rising authoritarianism, electoral interference, corruption, economic coercion, manipulation of information, including disinformation, online harms and cyber attacks, politically motivated internet shutdowns, human rights violations and abuses, terrorism and violent extremism.

Article Link: [India signs joint statement at G-7 for freedom of expression](#)

Q.73) Consider the following statements regarding PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana:

1. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It aims at only the organised sector workers of the country.
3. This scheme seeks to provide minimum assured pension after attaining the age of 60 years.

Which of the above 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.73) Solution (c)

PM-SYM is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India and Community Service Centers (CSCs)

This scheme seeks to benefit around 42 crore workers from the unorganized sector workers (home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, landless labourers and similar other occupations) whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less.

This scheme seeks to provide minimum assured pension. Each subscriber shall receive minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

During the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse.

Article Link: [Enrolment in pension scheme for low earners dipping fast](#)

Q.74) What is the objective of PASIPHAЕ Survey, seen recently in news:

- a) All-sky astronomical survey to discover thousands of exoplanets around nearby bright stars.
- b) To provide new insight into the role that clouds and atmospheric aerosols play in regulating Earth's weather, climate, and air quality.
- c) To search for signs of habitable conditions on Mars.
- d) To measure the linear polarization from millions of stars to create a 3-Dimensional model of the distribution of the dust and magnetic field structure of the galaxy.

Q.74) Solution (d)

Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAЕ) is an international collaborative sky surveying project. It is an opto polarimetric survey aiming to measure the linear polarization from millions of stars.

The PASIPHAЕ polarimetric map will be used to perform magnetic tomography of the Milky Way Galaxy. That is, it will deduce the 3-dimensional structure of the magnetic field and the dust that resides in our own Galaxy.

Article Link: [How PASIPHAЕ will peep into the unknown regions of the sky](#)

Q.75) Which of the following conventions was the outcome of Earth Summit, 1992?

- a) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- b) Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- c) Minamata Convention
- d) Stockholm Convention

Q.75) Solution (a)

Earth Summit 1992 is also known as The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Earth Summit 1992 succeeded in raising public awareness of the need to integrate environment and development.

The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21

- Forest Principles

Moreover, important legally binding agreements (Rio Convention) were opened for signature:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

- It is a Convention to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs (NAP).
- National action programs (NAP) incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation.
- It is the only internationally legally binding framework set up to address desertification.
- It was adopted in Paris, France in 1994 and entered into force in 1996.
- It has 196 parties, making it truly global in reach.
- 2006 was declared "International Year of Deserts and Desertification".

Article Link: [Prime Minister delivers keynote address at the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought'](#)

Q.76) Which of the following Countries are the members of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

1. North Macedonia
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Ukraine
4. Latvia

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.76) Solution (d)

NATO, also called as North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance of 30 European and North American countries. NATO implements North Atlantic Treaty which was signed in 1949. It comprises of a system of collective defence where independent member states agree for mutual defence in case of any attack by external party. Headquarter of NATO is located at Haren in Brussels, Belgium.

Member nations of NATO are: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States, Greece, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

Article Link: [NATO leaders declare China a global security challenge](#)

Q.77) What is “New Shephard” seen recently in news?

- a) An asteroid
- b) A rocket system
- c) A missile system
- d) A Submarine

Q.77) Solution (b)

New Shephard, named after astronaut Alan Shephard (the first American to go to space), is a rocket system developed by Jeff Bezos's space company Blue Origin to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line, the internationally-recognized boundary of space.

It aims at providing easier and cost-effective access to space for academic and research-oriented purposes. It will also allow space tourists to experience microgravity by taking them 100 km above the Earth.

Article Link: [What is New Shephard, the rocket system designed to provide cost-effective access to space?](#)

Q.78) Consider the following statements:

1. New START treaty is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between USA, Russia and Israel.
2. The United States alone possess over 90% of global nuclear weapons.

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.78) Solution (d)

New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.

According to recent findings in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Year Book 2021 Russia and the U.S. together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons.

Report also mentions that India possessed an estimated 156 nuclear warheads at the start of 2021, compared with 150 at the start of last year, while Pakistan had 165 warheads, up from 160 in 2020.

Article Link: [China, India, Pakistan expanding nuclear arsenal, says Swedish think tank](#)

Q.79) Consider the following statements regarding Generalized System of Preference (GSP), seen sometimes in news:

1. It is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries.
2. India is a GSP status nation of the United States.

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.79) Solution (a)

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries (also known as preference receiving countries or beneficiary countries). It is a preferential arrangement in the sense that it allows concessional low/zero tariff imports from developing countries.

The following 13 countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Currently India is not a GSP status nation of the United States. US government under Trump's administration withdrew its GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) benefits to India in 2019.

Article Link: [EU Parliament resolution puts spotlight on Sri Lanka's rights situation](#)

Q.80) The Karman line, an internationally recognized boundary of space, lies in which layer of the atmosphere?

- a) Stratosphere
- b) Troposphere
- c) Thermosphere
- d) Exosphere

Q.80) Solution (c)

The Karman line is the internationally recognized boundary of space. The line is named after Theodore von Kármán (1881–1963), a Hungarian American engineer and physicist, who was active primarily in aeronautics and astronautics.

It is an imaginary boundary 100 kilometers (62 miles) above mean sea level. In theory, once this 100 km line is crossed, the atmosphere becomes too thin to provide enough lift for conventional aircraft to maintain flight. At this altitude, a conventional plane would need to reach orbital velocity or risk falling back to Earth.

Q.81) Consider the following statements regarding "Southern Ocean", seen recently in news:

1. It is recently declared as the seventh ocean of the world.
2. It is the only Ocean to completely embrace a continent rather than being embraced by them.
3. Its northern limit is latitude of 60° north.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

Q.81) Solution (b)

On the occasion of World Ocean Day (8th June), the National Geographic magazine has recognised the 'Southern Ocean' as the world's fifth ocean.

- Other four Oceans are: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic Oceans.
- The northern limit of this ocean is latitude of 60 degrees south.
- The Southern Ocean is the only ocean 'to touch three other oceans (Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean).
- It is the only Ocean to completely embrace a continent rather than being embraced by them.
- It is also defined by its Antarctic Circumpolar Current that was formed 34 million years ago. The current flows from west to east around Antarctica.

The Southern Ocean is home to large populations of whales, penguins, and seals. This move will be a step towards conservation of World's Oceans, focusing public awareness onto a region in particular needing a conservation spotlight.

Article Link: [National Geographic recognises 'Southern Ocean' as globe's fifth ocean](#)

Q.82) Union Government recently paid tributes to Shaheed Ram Prasad Bismil on his birth anniversary as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Ram Prasad Bismil was associated with which of the following?

1. Hindustan Socialist Republican Association
2. Lahore Conspiracy Case
3. Kakori Conspiracy Case
4. Mainpuri Conspiracy Case

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.82) Solution (c)

Ram Prasad Bismil was born on 11th June, 1897, in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district to Murlidhar and Moolmati.

He was one of the chief founders of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) along with Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Jadugopal Mukherjee. HRA was founded in 1924 and its constitution was drafted chiefly by Bismil.

In 1928, the name of the party was changed to Hindustan Republican Socialist Association (HSRA) primarily because of Bhagat Singh's insistence.

He was involved in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918 in which police found a few young people including Bismil selling books that were not prescribed by the government.

In 1925, Bismil and his companions Chandrasekhar Azad and Ashfaqulla Khan decided to loot a train in Kakori near Lucknow. They were successful in their attempt but were arrested alongside a dozen other HRA members within a month of the attack and tried under the Kakori Conspiracy Case.

Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Thakur Roshan Singh were eventually hanged by the government in 1927 for their involvement in Kakori Conspiracy.

Article Link: [Sh Prahlad Singh Patel pays tributes to Shaheed Ram Prasad Bismil on his birth anniversary at Shahjahanpur](#)

Q.83) Various organizations recently initiated a Twitter campaign demanding official language status to Tulu. In this respect consider the following statements:

1. Tulu language is mainly spoken in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
2. Folk theatre Yakshagana is performed in Tulu language.

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.83) Solution (b)

Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala. As per the 2011 Census report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.

Tulu has a rich oral literature tradition with folk-song forms like paddana, and traditional folk theatre yakshagana. Tulu also has an active tradition of cinema with around 5 to 7 Tulu language movies produced a year.

Article Link: [The history of Tulu and the demand for official language status](#)

Q.84) Raja Prabha festival, seen recently in news, is celebrated in which of the following states?

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

Q.84) Solution (d)

Raja Prabha of Odisha is a three- day festival during the mid- June marking the beginning of monsoon.

This is a three-day-long festival dedicated to Mother Earth (Bhuma Devi) and womanhood at large.

The first day of the festival is called Pahili Raja, the second is Mithuna Sankranti and the third Bhu daha or Basi Raja.

The fourth and final day is called Vasumati snana (bathing of Mother Earth).

This festival is also associated with the end of the summer season and the arrival of the monsoon.

Article Link: [Raja Prabha](#)

Q.85) Dagmara multipurpose hydropower project is proposed to be set up over which of the following River?

- a) Kosi
- b) Bhagmati
- c) Burhi Gandak
- d) Ghaghara

Q.85) Solution (a)

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited and Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (BSHPC) for Implementation of Dagmara Hydro-Electric Project, Supaul, Bihar. The project is located on Kosi River.

The total generation capacity of the 'Run-of-River' project will be 130.1 MW, which will comprise two power houses, while the barrage length would be 753 metre and it would have 36 gates on river Kosi River which has a total length of 233 km.

Kosi for long has been known as 'sorrow of Bihar', but Dagmara project will convert it into a river of opportunities. The barrage on the Kosi would provide an alternate route to cross over the river. Besides, the project will control river meandering to a greater extent.

Article Link: [Bihar signs MoU for mega hydropower project with NHPC](#)

Q.86) Consider the following:

1. PM KUSUM
2. KIRAN
3. GATI

Which of the above schemes are directed to promote the participation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics?

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

Q.86) Solution (b)

The objective of 'Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN)' Scheme is to provide various career opportunities to women scientists and technologists. It is

primarily aimed to bring gender parity in the Science & Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development domain through various programmes.

The objective of Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) is to develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

The objective of Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme is provide additional income to farmers, by giving them the option to sell additional power to the grid, through solar power projects set up on their barren lands.

Article Link: [Journey of Women Scientists](#)

Q.87) Consider the following statements regarding Deep Ocean Mission:

1. The Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways is the nodal ministry for implementing this mission.
2. It is a mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.
3. With this mission India will be the sixth country in the world to have dedicated ocean studies and missions.

Which of the above 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.87) Solution (c)

The objective of India's Deep Ocean Mission is to focus on studying and exploring the deepwater bodies in our country for undiscovered minerals, stones, living or non-living entities. Both, man force and robotic machines will be used for the mission.

It is a five-year inter-ministerial and inter-departmental mission that will bring together researchers and experts from the Indian Space Research Organisation, Defence Development and Research Organisation, Department of Atomic Energy, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Biotechnology and the Indian Navy.

This mission will make India one among the handful of powerful nations that already have dedicated ocean studies and missions, including the US, Japan, France, Russia and China.

The mission also provides impetus to India's Blue Economy initiatives — planned from 2020 to 2030 — which envisages a number of researches that will be performed to study the oceans, of which very little is known. Five thrust areas under the Deep Ocean Mission are — development of technologies for deep sea mining; manned submersible; development of ocean climate change advisory services; development of technology for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity; deep ocean survey and setting up of a marine station for ocean Biology.

Note: Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the nodal ministry implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission.

Article Link: [To tighten India's grip in Indian Ocean region, cabinet approves Rs 4,077-crore Deep Ocean Mission](#)

Q.88) Consider the following statements regarding Sustainable Development Report 2021:

1. India is only ahead of Pakistan and Afghanistan in South Asia.
2. India made significant progress in the SDG goal of clean water and sanitation and climate action.

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.88) Solution (c)

Sustainable Development Report 2021 is prepared by experts from the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); this report compares how countries implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finland has ranked highest in the annual Sustainable Development Report.

India is ranked 120: ranked ahead of Pakistan and Afghanistan in South Asia.

India made significant progress and is on track or maintaining its SDG achievement in:

- SDG6: Clean water and sanitation
- SDG 13: Climate action

Performance of India declined in:

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 15: Life on Land

Article Link: [Sustainable Development Report 2021](#)

Q.89) A report titled “The race against time for smarter development” is recently released by:

- a) UNESCO
- b) UNDP
- c) NASA
- d) IMF

Q.89) Solution (a)

The 7th edition of the UNESCO Science report has been released recently under the title “The race against time for smarter development”. This report makes a detailed analysis of the development path that countries have been following over the last five years in the field of science.

The report finds that:

India's investment in research and development (R&D) remains unsatisfactory.

The gross domestic expenditure on research (GERD) has been stagnant at 0.7% of the GDP for years. However, in absolute terms, the research expenditure has increased.

India also has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS nations.

Target: The Science and Technology Policy of 2003 fixed the threshold of devoting 2% of GDP to research and development (R&D) by 2007. However, the target has not been achieved and is being extended again and again.

Research and Development (R&D) in the government sector has been declining steadily since 2015.

There has been an increase in scientific publications by Indian researchers on cutting-edge technologies. Total publications have risen from 80,458 in 2011 to 1.61 lakh in 2019. However, patenting by domestic corporations, research institutes, universities, and individuals remain low in India.

Article Link: [India's investment in research unsatisfactory: UNESCO report](#)

Q.90) Which of the following committees of Parliament ascertains whether the money granted by Parliament has been spent by Government “within the scope of the Demand” and examines the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

- a) Estimates Committee
- b) Committee on Public Undertakings
- c) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
- d) Public Accounts committee

Q.90) Solution (d)

Public Accounts committee:

This Committee consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of the Rajya Sabha. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year.

The main duty of the Committee is to ascertain whether the money granted by Parliament has been spent by Government “within the scope of the Demand”.

The Appropriation Accounts of the Government of India and the Audit Reports presented by the Comptroller and Auditor General mainly form the basis for the examination of the Committee.

Cases involving losses, nugatory expenditure and financial irregularities come in for severe criticism by the Committee. The Committee is not concerned with questions of policy. It is concerned only with the execution of the policy laid down by Parliament and its results.

Article Link: [Parliament's Public Accounts Committee decides agenda in first meeting amid huge uproar](#)

Q.91) Kalibhanjadiha Island, seen recently in news, is located inside:

- a) Silent Valley National Park
- b) Marine National Park in Gulf of Kutch
- c) Papikonda National Park
- d) Bhitarkanika National park

Q.91) Solution (d)

Kalibhanjadiha Island is situated on the River Dhamra inside the Bhitarkanika National park in Odisha.

Recently, it was found that Cyclone Yaas, which hit the state in May, 2021 had negligible impact in Kalibhanjadiha Island inside the national park due to the presence of mangroves.

The Odisha government has proposed to raise mangrove and casuarinas plantation in the coastal belt.

Article Link: [Barrier to cyclone storms: Odisha plans to plant mangroves along its coast](#)

Q.92) Consider the following statements regarding the report “Children and Digital Dumpsites”, seen recently in news:

- 1. It is released by UNESCO.
- 2. E-waste contains precious metals like gold.
- 3. Children exposed to e-waste are prone to risk of chronic diseases like cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.92) Solution (b)

The report “Children and Digital Dumpsites” is released recently by the World Health Organization. The report underlines the risk children working in the informal processing faced due to discarded electronic devices or e-waste.

According to the report More than 18 million children and adolescents working at e-waste dumpsites in low- and middle-income countries are potentially at the risk of severe health hazards.

E-waste contains over 1,000 precious metals and other substances like gold, copper, mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

The processing is done in low-income countries, which do not have proper safeguarding regulation and which makes the process even more dangerous.

The report stressed that children working at these 'digital dumpsites' are more prone to improper lung function, deoxyribonucleic acid damage and increased risk of chronic diseases like cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Article Link: [Over 18 million kids at e-waste dumpsites face threat of health hazards: WHO](#)

Q.93) Consider the following statements:

1. Bt cotton is the only transgenic crop that has been approved by the government for commercial cultivation in India.
2. Bt cotton is genetically modified to produce an insecticide to combat the cotton bollworm.

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.93) Solution (c)

Bt cotton is a genetically modified organism (GMO) or genetically modified pest resistant cotton variety, which produces an insecticide to combat bollworm. Bt cotton was created by genetically altering the cotton genome to express a microbial protein from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Bt cotton is the only transgenic crop that has been approved by the Centre for commercial cultivation in India.

The illegal cultivation of (Herbicide Tolerant) HT Bt cotton has seen a significant increase in recent years. Due to this, the seed industries have asked the Ministry of Agriculture to stop such illegal sale of HT Bt cotton as it may have severe environmental and economic consequences.

Article Link: [Sale of illegal HTBt cotton seeds doubles](#)

Q.94) Consider the following statements regarding Global Assessment Report:

1. It is published by the United Nations Environment Programme.
2. It aims to help focus international attention on the problems and need to address Carbon Dioxide emission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.94) Solution (d)

Global Assessment Report (GAR) is the flagship report of United Nations. It is published biennially by the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

The GAR aims to focus international attention on the issue of disaster risk and encourage political and economic support for disaster risk reduction.

The GAR Special Report on Drought 2021 explores the systemic nature of drought and its impacts on achievement of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The report estimated impact of severe droughts on India's GDP to be about 2-5% per annum, despite decreasing contribution of agriculture in the country's expanding economy.

Article Link: [Severe droughts to impact 2-5% of India's GDP: UN report](#)

Q.95) The Gulf of Aden lies between:

- a) Yemen and Somalia

- b) Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia
- c) Saudi Arabia and Sudan
- d) Oman and Ethiopia

Q.95) Solution: (a)

Gulf of Aden is located in the Arabian Sea between Yemen and Somalia. It connects Bab-el-Mandeb Strait to the Red Sea.

The maiden Indian Navy- European Union Naval Force Exercise was recently held in Gulf of Aden with aim of improving operational interoperability and promote peace, security and stability in the key waterways.

Article Link: [First Indian Navy, EU naval force exercise on in Gulf of Aden](#)

Q.96) In a report published recently highlighted that climate change will lead to increase in Sea Level in Lakshadweep Islands. In this respect what are the impacts of rising sea level in coastal areas?

1. Inundation
2. Coastal Erosion
3. Salt water intrusion in groundwater

Choose the correct statement from the codes given below:

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

Q.96) Solution (d)

Sea level rise is a complex response to Earth's shifting climate. Because climate change is largely dependent on greenhouse gases, from both natural and human activities, it is challenging to accurately predict changes, including the timing and magnitude of sea level rise.

The main physical effects of sea level rise include:

- Low-lying coastal areas may experience more frequent flooding (temporary wetting) or inundation (permanent wetting). As riverine and coastal waters come together at river

mouths, coastal lagoons, and estuaries, higher water levels at the coast may cause water to back up and increase upstream flooding.

- Many shorelines have sea walls, jetties, and other artificial defenses to protect roads, buildings, and other vital coastal resources. In these areas, sea-level rise increases erosion of stranded beaches, wetlands, and engineered structures
- Sea-level rise can mean that saltwater intrudes into groundwater drinking supplies, contaminates irrigation supplies, or overruns agricultural fields. Low-lying, gently sloping coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to contamination of freshwater supplies.

Article Link: [Climate change to increase sea level in Lakshadweep Islands](#)

Q.97) National Parks in India are notified under:

- a) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- c) The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- d) The Indian Forest Act, 1927

Q.97) Solution (c)

Protected Areas in India comprise National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation / Community Reserves and Tiger Reserves. Protected Area (PA) has been defined in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was a major step towards wildlife conservation. The Act classified animals into different schedules based on the need for protection, and hunting of these species was outlawed and penalties were prescribed in case of violations. This legislation played a major role in protecting India's rich wildlife.

Article Link: [Tribal hunting rights vs wildlife protection laws](#)

Q.98) Consider the following statements regarding Unmukt Project, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. It aims for strengthening, screening and timely management of Sickle Cell Disease.

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.98) Solution (c)

To commemorate the World Sickle Cell Disease Day, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized 2nd Online National Conclave on Sickle Cell Disease in India.

Mobile Vans were flagged off under Unmukt project for strengthening screening and timely management of SCD in Khunti district of Jharkhand and Kanker in Chhattisgarh, 2 tribal sdistricts with high prevalence of sickle Cell disease among tribals.

Sickle cell disease (SCD), which is the most prevalent inherited blood disorder, is widespread amongst many tribal population groups in India, posing a considerable health burden in several states. While there are several cost-effective interventions, which have dramatically reduced morbidity and mortality from SCD in India, the access to care for SCD in the tribal regions of India is limited. The disease in India is prevalent predominantly in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, western Odisha, eastern Gujarat and in pockets of the Nilgiri Hills in north Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Article Link: [Unmukt project to eliminate Sickle Cell Disease launched](#)

Q.99) Which of the following is a Ramsar Sites in India?

- a) Tsomgo Lake
- b) Deepor Beel
- c) Barapani Lake
- d) Shilloi Lake

Q.99) Solution (b)

Deepor Beel is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Kamrup district of Assam.

It is a permanent freshwater lake, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river.

It was declared as Ramsar site in 2002 for undertaking conservation measures on the basis of its biological and environmental importance.

Recently, The Assam government has proposed the realignment of a broad gauge railway line through the Deepor Beel. Several elephants have been run over on the railway track between the elevated Rani Reserve Forest and the Deepor Beel wildlife sanctuary.

Article Link: [Assam seeks realignment of rail track through sanctuary](#)

Q.100) With reference to Green Hydrogen, consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen generated from fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage options is called green Hydrogen.
2. It has the potential to decarbonise various sectors of Industry.

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.100) Solution (b)

Hydrogen is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water. Hydrogen can be produced from a variety of domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind.

Hydrogen generated entirely from renewable power sources is called green hydrogen. In this process, electricity generated from renewable energy is used to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Green Hydrogen as energy source is a clean burning molecule which can decarbonise a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals and transportation.

Article Link: [India to organise 2 days summit on Green Hydrogen Initiative](#)

Q.101) Recently, Odisha emerged as only state in India as home to all three species of crocodiles. In this respect which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

(Species of Crocodile)

(IUCN status)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Saltwater Crocodile | Least Concerned |
| 2. Mugger | Vulnerable |
| 3. Gharials | Critically Endangered |

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.101) Solution (d)

Odisha has emerged the only state to have all the three species of the reptile freshwater Gharials at Satakoshiya in Mahanadi, muggers in Bhitarkanika National park and saltwater crocodiles.

Mugger crocodile is native to freshwater habitats from southern Iran to the Indian subcontinent, where it inhabits marshes, lakes, rivers and artificial ponds. Since 1982, it has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

The saltwater crocodile is native to saltwater habitats and brackish wetlands from India's east coast across Southeast Asia and the Sundaic region to northern Australia and Micronesia. It is the largest living reptile and crocodilian known to science. It has been listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List since 1996.

Gharial is a fish-eating crocodile is native to the Indian subcontinent. They are crucial indicator of clean river water. They are critically endangered in the IUCN Red List of Species. The species is also listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Article Link: [After 45 yrs of wait, Odisha welcomes first hatchlings of Gharial.](#)

Q.102) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Parliament is empowered by the Constitution to change the jurisdiction of a High Court for a Union Territory.
- 2. Union Territory of Lakshadweep comes under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Karnataka.

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.102) Solution (a)

The jurisdiction of a high court can be shifted only through an act of Parliament, according to the law. According to Article 241 of the Constitution, "Parliament may by law constitute a high court for a Union Territory or declare any court in any such territory to be a high court for all or any of the purposes of this Constitution."

Section 4 of the Article 241 mentions that "nothing in this article derogates from the power of Parliament to extend or exclude the jurisdiction of a high court for a state to, or from, any Union Territory or part thereof"

The Union Territory Lakshadweep comes under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Kerala.

Article Link: [Lakshadweep admin moots proposal for shifting HC jurisdiction from Kerala to Karnataka](#)

Q.103) What is meant by the term "Gain of function research," seen recently in news:

- a) To study the relationship of microorganisms with one another and with their environment.
- b) Discovering new strains of bacteria to help astronauts grow their own food.
- c) Deliberately introducing mutation in a pathogen to study its transmissibility and virulence.
- d) Process of developing useful proteins with enhanced functional properties.

Q.103) Solution (c)

In virology, gain-of-function research involves deliberately altering an organism in the lab, altering a gene, or introducing a mutation in a pathogen to study its transmissibility, virulence and immunogenicity. It is believed that this allows researchers to study potential therapies, vaccine possibilities and ways to control the disease better in future.

Gain-of-function research involves manipulations that make certain pathogenic microbes more deadly or more transmissible. This is done by genetically engineering the virus and by allowing them to grow in different growth mediums, a technique called as serial passage.

There is also 'loss-of-function' research, which involves inactivating mutations, resulting in a significant loss of original function, or no function to the pathogen. When mutations occur, they alter the structure of the virus that is being studied, resulting in altered functions. Some of these significant mutations might weaken the virus or enhance its function.

Article Link: [What is gain-of-function research?](#)

Q.104) Yellow Gold 48, seen recently in news, is a variety of:

- a) Papaya
- b) Watermelon
- c) Mango
- d) Musturd

Q.104) Solution (b)

German agrochemicals major Bayer has launched the first-ever yellow watermelon variety Yellow Gold 48 under Seminis brand in India.

The yellow watermelon variety has been commercially introduced in India following two years of local trials. With Yellow Gold 48, watermelon growers can benefit from enhanced yield potential, better disease and pest tolerance, and higher returns.

Yellow Gold 48 variety is best suited for cultivation from October to February and for harvest from April onwards and will be available in the market until mid-July.

Q.105) Consider the following statements:

1. Biofuels manufactured from non food biomass are known as second generation biofuels.
2. Micro-organisms like algae can be used to produce second generation biofuels.

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.105) Solution (a)

Biofuel is fuel that is produced through contemporary processes from biomass, rather than by the very slow geological processes involved in the formation of fossil fuels, such as oil.

First-generation biofuels are made from sugar-starch feedstocks (e.g., sugarcane and corn) and edible oil feedstocks (e.g., rapeseed and soybean oil), which are generally converted into bioethanol and biodiesel, respectively.

Second-generation biofuels, also known as advanced biofuels, are fuels that can be manufactured from various types of non-food biomass. Biomass in this context means plant materials and animal waste used especially as a source of fuel.

Second-generation biofuel feedstock is the nonedible byproduct of food crops. For example, wheat straw from wheat production and corn husks from corn cultivation are second-generation feedstock.

Biofuels produced from algae is known as third generation biofuels. Algal fuels have high yields, can be grown with minimal impact on fresh water resources, can be produced using saline water and wastewater, have a high ignition point, and are biodegradable and relatively harmless to the environment if spilled.

Article Link: [Central Tuber Crop Research Institute bets on cassava as feedstock for bioethanol production](#)

Q.106) With reference to “Virtual Water analysis”, seen sometimes in news, consider the following statements:

1. Virtual Water is the water involved in the production and trade of food and non-food commodities and services.
2. This can help India in achieving UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 and SDG 11.

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.106) Solution (c)

Virtual Water (VW) is the water involved in the production and trade of food and non-food commodities and services. It is that “invisible” water that has been consumed throughout the lifecycle of the product or service.

The concept of VW was first conceived in the 1990s to understand how water-stressed countries could provide their people with essential items such as water-intensive products like food, clothing, and shelter, which can define its trade characteristics. For example, a country with limited water resources would rather import water-intensive cotton than use their precious water in cultivating it.

Significance of Virtual Water Analysis:

- Better planning and implementation of sustainable agriculture which is crucial for achieving water and food security.
- The pressure on the freshwater resources in water parched states can be reduced by diversifying the production areas through the use of VW flows analysis to produce agro-climatically suitable food grains.
- It can help India in achieving UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 on ensuring sustainable production patterns and to SDG 6 that aims to increase water use efficiency across all sectors to substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity by 2030.

Article Link: [IIT-Guwahati team recommends Virtual Water analysis for better water management policies in India](#)

Q.107) Consider the following statements:

1. Malaysia is the largest producer of crude palm oil in the world.
2. India is the largest importer of vegetable oils in the world.

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.107) Solution (b)

Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil, followed by Malaysia - both countries account for 84% of the world's palm production.

Malaysia has surpassed Indonesia to become the biggest crude palm oil (CPO) exporter to top consumer India in 2020/21, after Indonesia imposed heavy taxes on exports of the edible oil last year. It comes after Indonesia imposed higher levies on crude palm oil exports in December to raise funds for its ambitious palm-based biodiesel programme, aimed at maximising domestic use of the edible oil.

India is the largest importer of crude palm oil in the world. India buys palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils including soybean oil and sunflower oil come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

Article Link: [Malaysia surpasses Indonesia to become India's top palm oil supplier](#)

Q.108) Presidio Principles, sometimes seen in news, is an initiative of:

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Bank
- c) Asian Development Bank
- d) World Economic Forum

Q.108) Solution (d)

Presidio Principles: It is an initiative from World Economic Forum's Global Blockchain Council intended to lay out a foundational set of principles for those building with blockchain technology and decentralised infrastructure.

These principles will provide creators of blockchain applications with a baseline for designing systems that preserve the rights of their participants.

Principles aim to preserve following participant rights:

- Transparency and accessibility
- Agency and interoperability
- Privacy and security
- Accountability and governance

Article Link: [Presidio Principles: Foundational Values for a Decentralized Future](#)

Q.109) Recently, UNESCO has recommended the Great Barrier Reef to be added to a list of “in danger” World Heritage Sites. In this context consider the following statements:

1. Inscribing a site on the list of World Heritage in danger allows the World Heritage Committee to allocate immediate assistance from the World Heritage Fund to the endangered property.
2. From India Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and the Group of Monuments at Hampi are listed in the list of World Heritage Sites “in danger”.

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.109) Solution (a)

The List of World Heritage in Danger is designed to inform the international community of conditions which threaten the very characteristics for which a property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and to encourage corrective action.

Armed conflict and war, earthquakes and other natural disasters, pollution, poaching, uncontrolled urbanization and unchecked tourist development pose major problems to World Heritage sites. Dangers can be ‘ascertained’, referring to specific and proven imminent threats, or ‘potential’, when a property is faced with threats which could have negative effects on its World Heritage values.

Inscribing a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger allows the World Heritage Committee to allocate immediate assistance from the World Heritage Fund to the endangered property.

It also alerts the international community to these situations in the hope that it can join efforts to save these endangered sites. The listing of a site as World Heritage in Danger allows the conservation community to respond to specific preservation needs in an efficient manner. Indeed, the mere prospect of inscribing a site on this List often proves to be effective, and can incite rapid conservation action.

From India the Group of Monuments at Hampi was included in the list of World Heritage in Danger from 1999-2006 and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary was in the list from 1992-2011. Later both the sites were removed from the list after improvements in management and conservation.

Article Link: [UNESCO to downgrade status of Great Barrier Reef; Australia blames political interference](#)

Q.110) UNAMA is the mission of United Nations to support the process of peace and reconciliation in which of the following countries?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Maldives
- d) Yemen

Q.110) Solution (b)

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is a UN Special Political Mission established to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

UNAMA was established on 28 March 2002 by United Nations Security Council Resolution.

According to recent UNAMA report, civilian casualties have increased by 29% in the first quarter of 2021, compared to last year, and women casualties increased by 37% and child casualties by 23%.

Article Link: [Afghan violence has risen: Jaishankar](#)

Q.111) A recent study highlighted that half of global cotton growing regions may face severe climate risks. In this context consider the following statements:

1. India is the highest cotton producing country in the world.
2. Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh are India's top three cotton-growing states.
3. Cotton makes up about 80% of all raw material used in the global textile market.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.111) Solution (a)

According to a global study by an NGO Cotton 2040, Climate change could expose half of all global cotton-growing regions, including India, to high risks from temperature increases, changes in rainfall patterns and extreme weather events by 2040.

The study further revealed that while this temperature increase ranges from very low to very high risk, half of the world's cotton-growing regions will face drastic changes with high or very high-risk exposure to at least one climate hazard.

Cotton makes up about 31 per cent of all raw material used in the global textile market, with a yearly economic impact of over USD 600 billion.

India is the highest cotton producing country globally, engaging around 60 million people directly or indirectly in its cotton value chain, with about 40 to 50 million people employed in the cotton trade and its processing. The majority of Indian cotton is grown on small farms of less than 1 hectare.

Maharashtra, Gujarat and Telangana are three of India's major cotton-growing states followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

Article Link: [Half of global cotton growing regions may face severe climate risks](#)

Q.112) Consider the following statements regarding, "Tax Inspectors Without Borders" Programme, seen recently in news:

1. It is a joint initiative of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and United Nations Development Programme.
2. It aims to strengthen tax administrations of developing countries.

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.112) Solution (c)

The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme which is jointly launched by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD) is intended to support developing countries to strengthen national tax administrations through building audit capacity and to share this knowledge with other countries.

The TIWB Programme aims to strengthen tax administrations of developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors, and through the sharing of general audit practices and dissemination of knowledge products with them.

The TIWB Programme complements the efforts of the international community to strengthen cooperation on tax matters and contribute to domestic tax mobilisation efforts of developing countries. India has been supportive in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries.

India being a global leader in this respect has a very important role to play in South-South Cooperation in tax matters.

Related Links: [Bhutan's Tax Inspectors Without Borders \(TIWB\) programme launched in partnership with India](#)

Q.113) Recently, the 60th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty was celebrated. In this context consider the following statements:

1. The treaty defines Antarctica as all of the land and ice shelves south of 45°S latitude.
2. India is the founding member of this treaty.

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.113) Solution (d)

The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population.

For the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude.

The treaty entered into force in 1961 and currently has 54 parties. India became a member of this treaty in 1983. The original signatories were the 12 countries active in Antarctica. They were: : Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The treaty is remarkably short and contains only 14 articles. Principal provisions include promoting the freedom of scientific research, the use of the continent only for peaceful purposes, and the prohibition of military activities, nuclear tests and the disposal of radioactive waste.

Article Link: [The Antarctic Treaty is turning 60](#)

Q.114) "Build Back a Better World" initiative is launched recently by:

- a) G20
- b) G7
- c) BRICS
- d) WEF

Q.114) Solution (b)

Build Back Better World (B3W) is an initiative undertaken by G7 countries.

The initiative is designed to counter China's strategic influence by providing an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative for the infrastructural development of the low and middle income countries.

Led by the United States, the G7 countries will provide around \$40 trillion to the developing countries by 2035 under the plan. The funds will be generated from the private sector and will be invested to improve conditions in "climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality".

Article Link: [G7 rivals China with grand infrastructure plan](#)

Q.115) The Chambal River, which recently recorded a significant rise in its dolphin and ghariyal population, flows through which of the following states:

- a) Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

- b) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh
- c) Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha
- d) Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat

Q.115) Solution (a)

The Chambal River is a tributary of the Yamuna River in central India, and thus forms part of the greater Gangetic drainage system.

The river flows north-northeast through Madhya Pradesh, running for a time through Rajasthan, then forming the boundary between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh before turning southeast to join the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh state.

The National Chambal Sanctuary is located along river Chambal, is known for critically endangered ghariyal, the red-crowned roof turtle and the endangered Ganga river dolphin.

Q.116) "itat e-dwar", seen recently in news, is:

- a) A single platform to manage estate services of government of India.
- b) A platform providing contactless payment services to the customers.
- c) A platform to help visually-impaired people to identify the denomination of currency notes.
- d) An e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

Q.116) Solution (d)

"itat-e-dwar" is an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

It will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day to day working of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. It would not only result in economization of the use of paper, savings in costs but also rationalization of the fixation of cases leading to quicker disposal of cases.

It would help parties to file their appeals, applications, documents electronically.

Article Link: [Law Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launches 'itat e-dwar'](#)

Q.117) Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle countries are the two sources of over 90% of world's illicit opium. In this context which of the following countries are part of Golden Triangle:

1. Thailand
2. Indonesia
3. Myanmar
4. Laos

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.117) Solution (c)

The Golden Triangle is the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong rivers.

The name "Golden Triangle" was coined by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) of United States.

Along with Afghanistan in the Golden Crescent, it has been one of the largest opium-producing areas of the world since the 1950s. Most of the world's heroin came from the Golden Triangle until the early 21st century when Afghanistan became the world's largest producer.

Article Link: [Many dangers of getting high](#)

Q.118) Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to Ambergris, seen recently in news:

1. It a naturally occurring rare earth mineral found in deep oceans.
2. It is used in perfume market to create fragrance like musk

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.118) Solution (b)

Ambergris, French for grey amber, is generally referred to as whale vomit. It is a solid waxy substance originating in the intestine of the sperm whale. Ambergris is produced only by an estimated 1% of sperm whales.

This excretion is so valuable that it is referred to as floating gold. 1 kg of ambergris is worth Rs 1 crore in the international market.

The reason for its high cost is its use in the perfume market, especially to create fragrances like musk. It is believed to be in high demand in countries like Dubai that have a large perfume market. Ancient Egyptians used it as incense. It is also believed to be used in some traditional medicines.

Since the sperm whale is a protected species, hunting of the whale is not allowed. However, smugglers are known to have illegally targeted the fish in order to obtain the valuable Ambergris from its stomach.

Article Link: [What is Ambergris](#)

Q.119) What is Project Seabird, seen sometimes in news:

- a) Satellite based plan to amend shoreline management
- b) Naval infrastructure project
- c) Programme to promote sustainable marine energy
- d) Programme to conserve marine diversity

Q.119) Solution (b)

Project Seabird is the largest naval infrastructure project of India. The project aims for creation of a naval base at Karwar on the west coast of India.

New expanded Naval complex will be able to support several major warships and submarines and yard crafts.

Upon completion, this \$3 billion program and effort will provide the Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the west coast and also the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.

Article Link: [Rajnath reviews infrastructure development at Karwar Naval Base](#)

Q.120) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban, consider the following statements:

1. It aims at providing a pucca house to all in urban areas by year 2024.
2. The mission promotes women empowerment by providing the ownership of houses in the name of female members.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.120) Solution: (b)

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban PMAY (U) was launched in 2015. It intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.

The PMAY scheme aims to provide affordable housing to all sections of society. These benefits are extended to applicants who do not own any home and fall within specific income groups and sections of society. Applicants are divided into various groups such as economically weaker sections of society (EWS), lower income groups (LIG) and middle income groups (MIG).

All houses under PMAY(U) have basic amenities like toilet, water supply, electricity and kitchen.

PMAY encourages women to apply for loans and become home-owners. As per the scheme clause, if a married man is applying for the loan, he has to mandatorily register his wife as the co-applicant of the loan, even if she has no role in financing to purchase the property. This is done to secure the financial future of women, especially when they are older and widowed.

Preference is also given to differently abled persons, senior citizens, SCs, STs, OBCs, Minority, single women, transgender and other weaker & vulnerable sections of the society.

Article Link: [6 years of urban transformation](#)

Q.121) "itat e-dwar", seen recently in news, is:

- a) A single platform to manage estate services of government of India.
- b) A platform providing contactless payment services to the customers.
- c) A platform to help visually-impaired people to identify the denomination of currency notes.
- d) An e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

Q.121) Solution (d)

"itat-e-dwar" is an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

It will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day to day working of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. It would not only result in economization of the use of paper, savings in costs but also rationalization of the fixation of cases leading to quicker disposal of cases.

It would help parties to file their appeals, applications, documents electronically.

Article Link: [Law Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launches 'itat e-dwar'](#)

Q.122) Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle countries are the two sources of over 90% of world's illicit opium. In this context which of the following countries are part of Golden Triangle:

1. Thailand
2. Indonesia
3. Myanmar
4. Laos

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

The Golden Triangle is the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong rivers.

The name "Golden Triangle" was coined by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) of United States.

Along with Afghanistan in the Golden Crescent, it has been one of the largest opium-producing areas of the world since the 1950s. Most of the world's heroin came from the Golden Triangle until the early 21st century when Afghanistan became the world's largest producer.

Article Link: [Many dangers of getting high](#)

Q.123) Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to Ambergris, seen recently in news:

1. It a naturally occurring rare earth mineral found in deep oceans.
2. It is used in perfume market to create fragrance like musk

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.123) Solution (b)

Ambergris, French for grey amber, is generally referred to as whale vomit. It is a solid waxy substance originating in the intestine of the sperm whale. Ambergris is produced only by an estimated 1% of sperm whales.

This excretion is so valuable that it is referred to as floating gold. 1 kg of ambergris is worth Rs 1 crore in the international market.

The reason for its high cost is its use in the perfume market, especially to create fragrances like musk. It is believed to be in high demand in countries like Dubai that have a large perfume market. Ancient Egyptians used it as incense. It is also believed to be used in some traditional medicines.

Since the sperm whale is a protected species, hunting of the whale is not allowed. However, smugglers are known to have illegally targeted the fish in order to obtain the valuable Ambergris from its stomach.

Article Link: [What is Ambergris](#)

Q.124) What is Project Seabird, seen sometimes in news:

- a) Satellite based plan to amend shoreline management
- b) Naval infrastructure project
- c) Programme to promote sustainable marine energy
- d) Programme to conserve marine diversity

Q.124) Solution (b)

Project Seabird is the largest naval infrastructure project of India. The project aims for creation of a naval base at Karwar on the west coast of India.

New expanded Naval complex will be able to support several major warships and submarines and yard crafts.

Upon completion, this \$3 billion program and effort will provide the Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the west coast and also the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.

Article Link: [Rajnath reviews infrastructure development at Karwar Naval Base](#)

Q.125) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban, consider the following statements:

1. It aims at providing a pucca house to all in urban areas by year 2024.
2. The mission promotes women empowerment by providing the ownership of houses in the name of female members.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.125) Solution: (b)

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban PMAY (U) was launched in 2015. It intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.

The PMAY scheme aims to provide affordable housing to all sections of society. These benefits are extended to applicants who do not own any home and fall within specific income groups and sections of society. Applicants are divided into various groups such as economically weaker sections of society (EWS), lower income groups (LIG) and middle income groups (MIG).

All houses under PMAY(U) have basic amenities like toilet, water supply, electricity and kitchen.

PMAY encourages women to apply for loans and become home-owners. As per the scheme clause, if a married man is applying for the loan, he has to mandatorily register his wife as the co-applicant of the loan, even if she has no role in financing to purchase the property. This is done to secure the financial future of women, especially when they are older and widowed.

Preference is also given to differently abled persons, senior citizens, SCs, STs, OBCs, Minority, single women, transgender and other weaker & vulnerable sections of the society.

Article Link: [6 years of urban transformation](#)

Q.126) With reference to Indira Gandhi Canal, consider the following statements:

1. It is the longest canal of India.
2. It covers the states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

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.126) Solution (a)

The Indira Gandhi Canal is the longest canal of India.

It starts from the Harike Barrage at Harike, a few kilometers below the confluence of the Satluj and Beas rivers in the Indian state of Punjab and terminates in irrigation facilities in the Thar Desert in the north west of Rajasthan state.

Benefits:

- Indira Gandhi Canal provides irrigation water to an arid area in Rajasthan starting Ganganagar district to Jaisalmer along the Indo-Pakistan border. It has helped turn a significant part of the Thar desert to an agriculturally happening area. Animal husbandry has also flourished.
- It also supplies drinking water to the towns and villages along its course. This again has proved for the urbanisation of the area.
- Spread of irrigated agriculture has halted spreading of sand dunes, increased the tree cover and change in overall ecology. As canal irrigation has been invoked without drainage, the threat of salinity and waterlogging looms large in this area.
- The canal also serves as a barrier to military invasion from Pakistan side in case of an armed conflict.

Article Link: [Indira Gandhi Canal Project](#)

Q.127) Consider the following statements regarding LiDAR technology:

1. It uses radio waves in the range for transmission and reception.
2. This technology is used to create 3-D images of the project areas to recommend soil and water conservation structures.

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.127) Solution (b)

Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a light-based remote sensing technology. It uses laser light rays for transmission and reception.

It is used to create 3-D images of the project areas to recommend soil and water conservation structures. This can be converted to create slope and sunlight exposure area map. This information can be used to identify the areas which require more water or fertilizer and help the farmers to save on their cost of labor, time and money.

Article Link: [Govt launches LiDAR survey reports to augment water in forest areas](#)

Q.128) Which of the following are the thematic areas of focus of Aspirational District Programme?

1. Health and Nutrition
2. Agriculture
3. Financial Inclusion
4. Revenue Collection
5. Digitization of land records

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.128) Solution (a)

The 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' Programme aims to expeditiously improve the socio-economic status of 117 districts from across 28 states.

The three core principles of the programme are - Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (among citizens and functionaries of Central & State Governments including district teams), and Competition among districts. Driven primarily by the States, this initiative focuses on the strengths of each district, and prioritizes the attainable outcomes for immediate improvement.

The programme focusses on 5 main themes –

- Health & Nutrition
- Education
- Agriculture & Water Resources
- Financial Inclusion & Skill Development
- Basic Infrastructure

These indicators have direct bearing on the quality of life and economic productivity of citizens.

- Core Strategy of the programme can be listed as:
- States as main drivers
- Work on the strength of each district.
- Make development as a mass movement in these districts.
- Identify low hanging fruits and the strength of each district, to act as a catalyst for development.
- Measure progress and rank districts to spur a sense of competition.
- Districts shall aspire to become State's best to Nation's best.

Article Link: [Tap water supply increases four-fold from 7% to 31% In 117 Aspirational districts with 84 lakh households getting tap connections in just 22 months](#)

Q.129) Which of the following rivers drain into the Black Sea?

- a) Nile, Tiber and Ebro
- b) Volga, Ural and Terek
- c) Danube, Dnieper, and Don
- d) Neva, Vistula and Daugava

Q.129) Solution (c)

The Black Sea is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean lying between Europe and Asia.

It is supplied by major rivers, principally the Danube, Dnieper, and Don.

Six countries border with the Black Sea, including Ukraine to the north, Russia and Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.

Article Link: [Russia, U.K. spar over Black Sea incident](#)

Q.130) Which of the following Protected Areas has been given approval by National Tiger Conservation Authority to be set up as Tiger Reserve?

- a) Keoladeo National Park
- b) Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) National Chambal Sanctuary
- d) Sajjargarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.130) Solution (b)

Recently, the Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary received a nod from the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) technical committee to become the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan. This will be the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India.

Rajasthan has three other tiger reserves with over 90 big cats at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota.

Q.131) The Novel "Anandamath", written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was set in the background of:

- a) Indigo Movement
- b) Santhal Rebellion
- c) Mappila Uprising
- d) Sanyasi Rebellion

Q.131) Solution (d)

Anandamath is a Bengali fiction, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in 1882.

It is inspired by and set in the background of the Sannyasi Rebellion in the late 18th century, it is considered one of the most important novels in the history of Bengali and Indian literature.

Its importance was heightened by the fact that it became synonymous with the struggle for Indian independence from colonial rule.

Article Link: [PM pays homage to Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his Jayanti](#)

Q.132) With reference to debt to GDP ratio consider the following statements:

1. It indicates country's ability to pay back its debt.
2. Public debt includes the total liabilities of the Union government that have to be paid from the Contingency Fund of India.
3. Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act mandates debt to GDP ratio of the Centre to be brought down to 10% by 2024-25.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.132) Solution (a)

The Debt-to-GDP ratio is the ratio between a country's government debt and its gross domestic product (GDP). It measures the financial leverage of an economy. It indicates country's ability to pay back its debts.

Public debt is the total amount, including total liabilities, borrowed by the government to meet its development budget. It has to be paid from the Consolidated Fund of India. The sources of public debt are dated government securities (G-Secs), treasury bills, external assistance, and short-term borrowings.

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, as amended in 2008, mandated the debt-to-GDP ratio to serve as the medium-term anchor for fiscal policy, with the fiscal deficit as the operational target. It mandated the debt-to-GDP ratio of the Centre to be brought down to 40% and that of states to 20% by 2024-25.

Article Link: [Debt at 58.8% of GDP as economy contracts](#)

Q.133) Consider the following:

1. SFURTI
2. DHRUV
3. ASPIRE

Which of the above schemes are launched by the Government of India to promote Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sector?

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

Q.133) Solution (c)

SFURTI: The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Government of India, launched Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) to promote MSME cluster development in the country. Objectives of SFURTI are:

- To organize the artisans and traditional industries into clusters for better competitiveness
- To provide them support for enhancing employment opportunities and to increase marketability of products of such clusters
- To improve the skills of artisans
- To make provision for improved tools and equipment for artisans
- With the active participation of the stakeholders, strengthening the cluster governance systems

DHRUV: The Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme - DHRUV has been started by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge. In centres of excellence across the country, gifted children will be mentored and nurtured by renowned experts in different areas, so that they can reach their full potential. The main objective of the program is to allow students to realize their complete potential and contribute to the society.

ASPIRE: Scheme for promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and Agro-Industry (ASPIRE) is promoted by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The main objectives of the ASPIRE scheme are to:

- Create new jobs and reduce unemployment
- Promote entrepreneurship culture in India
- Grassroots economic development at the district level
- Facilitate innovative business solution for unmet social needs
- Promote innovation to further strengthen the competitiveness of the MSME sector

Article Link: [International MSME Day](#)

Q.134) Consider the following statements:

1. India's renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world.
2. India's installed solar energy capacity has decreased in past five years while the share of hydroelectric energy has doubled for the same period.

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.134) Solution (a)

Recently, the Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy launched 'The India Story' booklet, a compilation of Indian initiatives that are shaping India's energy transition.

He informed that:

- India's Renewable Energy capacity is the 4th largest in the world.
- In the past six years, India's installed renewable energy capacity has increased by over two-and-a-half times and stands at more than 141 gigawatts (including large hydro), which is about 37 per cent of the country's total capacity.
- During the same period, the installed solar energy capacity has increased over 15 times and stands at 41.09 GW. India's renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world.
- India's annual renewable energy addition has been exceeding that of coal-based thermal power since 2017.
- During the last 7 years, over USD 70 billion investment has been made in Renewable Energy in India.
- India has a very liberal foreign investment policy for renewables allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through the automatic route in the sector.
- Rules are being framed for a 'green tariff' policy that will help electricity Distribution Companies (Discoms) supply electricity generated from clean energy projects at a cheaper rate as compared to power from conventional fuel sources.

Article Link: [Renewable energy sector in India gets \\$70 bn investment in 7 years](#)

Q.135) The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was founded on an initiative of:

- a) IMF
- b) WTO
- c) WEF
- d) G7

Q.135) Solution (d)

The Financial Action Task Force (on Money Laundering) (FATF), is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering.

In 2001, its mandate was expanded to include terrorism financing.

The objectives of FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. FATF is a "policy-making body" that works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

FATF monitors progress in implementing its Recommendations through "peer reviews" ("mutual evaluations") of member countries.

Recently, Financial Action Task Force decided to retain Pakistan on "grey list" till next performance review.

Article Link: [Another shade of grey: On Pakistan staying in FATF list](#)

Q.136) Consider the following statements regarding Attorney General of India:

1. He holds office for a term of six years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
2. He has right to take part in the proceedings of Lok Sabha but not Rajya Sabha.
3. He enjoys parliamentary privileges.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.136) Solution (c)

The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India¹. He is the highest law officer in the country.

The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.

The term of office of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution. Further, the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal. He holds office during the pleasure of the president. This means that he may be removed by the president at any time. He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the president. Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice.

He has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member, but without a right to vote.

He enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a Member of Parliament.

Article Link: [Tenure of Attorney General K.K. Venugopal extended by a year](#)

Q.137) Consider the following statements regarding Agni-P missile, seen recently in news:

1. It has range of over 5000 km.
2. Being a canisterised missile it can be transported easily and fired at short notice.

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.137) Solution (b)

A new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-P (Prime) was successfully test-fired recently by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Agni-P is a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles.

It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km. Canisterisation of missiles reduces the time required to launch the missile while improving its storage and mobility.

Many advanced technologies including composites, propulsion systems, innovative guidance and control mechanisms and state-of-the-art navigation systems have been introduced. The Agni-P missile would further strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities.

In comparison to other Agni class missiles, Agni-P has improved parameters including manoeuvring and accuracy.

Article Link: [DRDO successfully tests new generation nuclear capable missile Agni-P](#)

Q.138) Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary, seen recently in news, was established to protect:

- a) Chinkara
- b) Sloth Bear
- c) Great Indian Bustard
- d) Pygmy Hog

Q.138) Solution (d)

Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the foothills of Himalayas in the north and in Udalguri district & Baksa District of Assam bordering Bhutan.

This sanctuary is named after the river Bornadi which flows on its western border.

The sanctuary was established in 1980 to protect the hispid hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*) and pigmy hog (*Porcula salvania*).

It is one of the smallest WS (Wildlife Sanctuary) of Assam and covers an area of 26.22 sq. km.

Article Link: [Optimism over tiger sighting in Barnadi sanctuary](#)

Q.139) The Archaeological Site of Neshar Ramla, seen recently in news, is located in:

- a) Israel
- b) Jordan
- c) Peru

d) Italy

Q.139) Solution (a)

The Archaeological Site of Neshar Ramla is located in Israel.

Recently, an international group of archaeologists have discovered new human species in Israel which is being considered as a missing piece in the history of human evolution.

Archaeologists have recovered a skull that may represent a late-surviving example of a distinct Homo population, which lived in and around modern-day Israel from about 420,000 to 120,000 years ago.

According to archaeologists the mysterious Neshar Ramla Homo may even represent our most recent common ancestor with Neanderthals. Its mix of traits supports genetic evidence that early gene flow between H. sapiens and Neanderthals occurred between 400,000 and 200,000 years ago.

Article Link: [Homo Who? New Mystery Human Species Discovered in Israel](#)

Q.140) With reference to PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It provides financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.
3. One District One Product is one of the components of this scheme.

Which of the above 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.140) Solution (d)

PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme was launched as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

It is a centrally sponsored scheme.

It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

Objective of this scheme is providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

Under One District One Product (ODOP) component of this scheme the States would identify food products for districts keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material.

The ODOP could be a perishable produce based or cereal based or a food item widely produced in an area. E.g. mango, potato, pickle, millet based products, fisheries, poultry, etc.

It provides a seed capital (initial funding) of Rs. 40,000- per Self Help Group (SHG) member as working capital and purchase of small tools.

Article Link: [Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises \(PMFME\) Scheme under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Completes One Year](#)

Q.141) The report titled “Indigenous Peoples’ Food System, Insights of sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change” was released recently by:

- a) IPCC
- b) UN-Habitat
- c) FAO
- d) UNEP

Q.141) Solution (c)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), together with the Alliance of Bioversity International and The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) released the report titled “Indigenous Peoples’ Food System, Insights of sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change”.

The report identifies hundreds of diverse plant and animal species that Indigenous Peoples around the world depend on and care for to generate food sustainably and enhance biodiversity - and warning of increasing threats to these sophisticated food systems.

According to the report nearly 500 million people in more than 90 countries self-identify as Indigenous Peoples, with unique traditional knowledge offering rich opportunities for food security and biosecurity preservation.

Article Link: [FAO report maps insights from and threats to Indigenous Peoples' food systems](#)

Q.142) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

(Indigenous People)

(Region)

1. Baka
2. Inari Sami
3. Kel Tamasheq
4. Tikuna

Columbia
Finland
Mali
Cameroon

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.142) Solution (b)

Recently released report titled "Indigenous Peoples' Food System, Insights of sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change" by FAO, examined eight Indigenous Peoples' food systems in depth and revealed to be among the most sustainable in the world in terms of efficiency, no waste, seasonality and reciprocity.

- Baka people in Cameroon
- Inari Sami people in Finland
- Khasi, Bhotia and Anwal peoples in India
- Melanesians people in Solomon Islands
- Kel Tamasheq people in Mali
- Tikuna, Cocama and Yagua peoples in Colombia
- Maya Ch'orti' in Guatemala

According to the report these indigenous people generate hundreds of food items from the environment without depleting natural resources and achieve high levels of self-sufficiency. In the Solomon Islands, for example the Melanesians people combine agroforestry, wild food

gathering and fishing to generate 70% of their dietary needs. In Finland's Arctic region, through fishing, hunting and herding, the Inari Sámi people generate 75% of the protein they consume.

The report highlights that despite surviving for centuries, Indigenous Peoples' agri-food systems are likely to disappear in the next years due to a number of drivers threatening their future.

Q.143) Consider the following statements regarding Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF):

1. Major cause of GLOF is formation of numerous new glacial lakes in Hindu Kush Himalaya due to climate change.
2. Climate change leads to increased albedo of ice surface which results in formation of glacial lakes thus causing GLOF.

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.143) Solution (a)

Recently, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga Basin.

The information on glacial lakes like their type, hydrological, topographical, and associated glaciers are useful in identifying the potential critical glacial lakes and consequent GLOF risk.

According to National Disaster Management Authority, glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalaya has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

On Earth, the albedo effect has a significant impact on our climate. The lower the albedo, the more radiation from the Sun that gets absorbed by the planet, and temperatures will rise. If the albedo is higher, and the Earth is more reflective, more of the radiation is returned to space, and the planet cools.

Increasing global climate leads to decrease albedo over ice surface thus causing melting of ice and formation of Glacial Lakes. Glacier lakes can be hazardous; moraine and ice dams can fail, causing catastrophic glacier lake outburst floods or jokulhlaups.

Article Link: [Atlas of glacial lakes in Ganga basin released](#)

Q.144) With reference to SERB-FIRE initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to utilize the expertise available in academic institutions and national laboratories to solve industry-specific problems for the larger benefit of society.
2. SERB is a statutory body under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

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.144) Solution (c)

Science and Engineering Research Board- Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (SERB-FIRE) is a joint government-and-industry initiative with a co-funding mechanism to promote innovative technology solutions and strengthen academic research through collaboration with key research and development organisations in India.

It will increase research opportunities in the space of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML), platform systems, circuits & architecture, Internet of Things (IoT), materials & devices, security, and so on from edge to cloud.

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a statutory body of the department of Science and Technology, Government of India. As the premier national research funding agency its objective is to raise the quality and footprint of Indian science and engineering to the highest global levels in an accelerated mode, through calibrated support for research and development.

Article Link: [SERB-DST partners with Intel India to launch first-of-its-kind initiative to advance deep tech-based research in India](#)

Q.145) Which of the following is NOT a component of Current Account?

- a) Trade in Goods
- b) Foreign Direct Investments
- c) Trade in Services

d) Remittances

Q.145) Solution (b)

The current account represents a country's imports and exports of goods and services, payments made to foreign investors, and transfers such as foreign aid.

A nation's current account maintains a record of the country's transactions with other nations that includes net income, including interest and dividends, and transfers, like foreign aid. It comprises of following components:

- Trade of goods
- Trade of Services
- Transfers such as foreign aid and remittances

The capital account is a record of the inflows and outflows of capital that directly affect a nation's foreign assets and liabilities. It is concerned with all international trade transactions between citizens of one country and those in other countries.

The components of the capital account include foreign investment and loans, banking and other forms of capital, as well as monetary movements or changes in the foreign exchange reserve. The capital account flow reflects factors such as commercial borrowings, banking, investments, loans, and capital.

Both current account and capital account are component of Country's Balance of Payment.

Article Link: [Current account surplus for first time in 17 years in FY21](#)

Q.146) With reference to Global Cybersecurity Index 2020, released recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by International Telecommunication Union.
2. India ranked below China and Pakistan in global cyber security.
3. CERT-IN is the nodal agency in India to deal with cyber security threats.
4. International Telecommunication Union is an autonomous organisation and has observer status with the United Nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

Q.146) Solution (a)

Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020 is released by International Telecommunication Union. GCI assessment is done on the basis of performance on five parameters of cybersecurity:

- Legal measures
- Technical measures
- Organisational measures
- Capacity development
- Cooperation

The performance is then aggregated into an overall score.

As per the ranking, India has moved up by 37 places to rank as the tenth best country in the world in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020. India was ranked ahead of China (No. 33) and Pakistan (No. 79) in global cybersecurity ranking of countries. India has also secured the fourth position in the Asia Pacific region, underlining its commitment to cybersecurity.

The US topped the chart, followed by the UK and Saudi Arabia tied on the second position, while Estonia was ranked third in the index.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India. It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing. It strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.

The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies. It was established in 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union and is an integral part of United Nations.

Article Link: [India ranks among top 10 in ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index](#)

Q.147) Recently, the World Bank has approved a USD 500 million loan programme to support India's informal sector through International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). With this reference consider the following statements:

1. IDA provides loans, guarantees, advisory services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.
2. The main objective of IBRD is to provide grants and concessional loans to the world's poorest countries.
3. India is classified as 'blend country' of World Bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.147) Solution (c)

Together, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries.

IBRD is the world's largest development bank. It provides loans, guarantees, advisory services, and risk management products to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries. India is a founding member of IBRD.

IDA was established with the signing of agreements between 15 countries. 173 countries are its members. Around 52 nations are donor countries. The main objective of the IDA is to provide grants and concessional loans to the world's poorest countries. IDA funds are highly concessional or interest-free loans and grants aimed at improving living conditions of the poorest.

IBRD funds infrastructure projects in middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries at interest rates higher than those provided by IDA but lower than those offered by other commercial lending agencies.

India is currently classified as a "blend" country — defined as one in transition from lower middle-income to middle-income — and is creditworthy for lending from both IDA and IBRD.

Article Link: [World Bank approves \\$500 million loan to support India's informal working class amid pandemic](#)

Q.148) Introduction of GST recently completed four years. In this reference consider the following statements:

1. GST was introduced in India to brought efficiencies in direct tax compliance.
2. The GST Council is a joint forum of the centre and the states headed by the Prime Minister.

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.148) Solution (d)

GST is known as the Goods and Services Tax. It is an indirect tax which has replaced many indirect taxes in India such as the excise duty, VAT, services tax, etc. Under the GST regime, the tax is levied at every point of sale. In the case of intra-state sales, Central GST and State GST are charged.

GST has helped in reducing the cascading effect of indirect tax considerably. Also, multiplicity of compliances under various indirect taxes has been reduced. Hence, introduction of GST in India has brought in efficiencies in indirect tax compliance, incidence and reduced the number of indirect tax authorities that a taxpayer needed to interact with.

The smooth and efficient administration of Goods and Services tax requires co-operation and coordination between the centre and the states. In order to facilitate this consultation process, the amendment provided for the establishment of Goods and Services Tax Council or the GST Council.

The Council is a joint forum of the centre and the states and consists of the following members:

- The Union Finance Minister as the Chairperson
- The Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance
- The Minister in-charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government

Article Link: [Four years of GST: The good, bad and ugly](#)

Q.149) "iLEAP", seen recently in news, is an initiative of:

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) Atal Innovation Mission
- c) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- d) Ministry of Education

Q.149) Solution (b)

iLEAP (Innovative leadership for entrepreneurial agility and profitability) is an initiative of Atal Innovation Mission(AIM) in partnership with Startup Réseau and Visa.

The objective of the initiative is to invite technology start-ups across a broad range of functions and have them present their solutions to the corporate leadership and innovation team for enabling market access and industry partnerships.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of our country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation & entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.

Article Link: [Atal Innovation Mission concludes first fintech cohort of 'AIM-iLEAP' as major step to accelerate Tech Start-ups across India](#)

Q.150) Kalbeliya is a folk dance of:

- a) Karnataka
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Manipur

Q.150) Solution (c)

Kalbelia dance is a folk dance of Rajasthan state of India. It is well known by other names like 'Sapera Dance' or 'Snake Charmer Dance'.

Kalbelia dance is particularly performed by a Rajasthani tribe called 'Kalbelia'.

The popularity of this dance is so much worldwide that Rajasthan's Kalbelia dance and songs are now in UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from the year 2010.

In Kalbelia dance, males play various traditional instruments and females perform the dance. Kalbelia dance is one of the most sensuous dance among all Rajasthani dances.

Article Link: [How Indian traditional and folk artistes are adapting online to survive the pandemic](#)

Q.151) Which of the following are among the nine pillars of Digital India Programme?

1. Broadband Highways
2. Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity
3. Information for all
4. Electronic Manufacturing
5. Early Harvest Programmes

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.151) Solution (d)

Digital India is a programme launched in 2015 to transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy. It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically.

The Digital India programme has three vision areas:

- digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen
- governance & services on demand
- digital empowerment of citizens

Digital India, an umbrella programme that covers multiple Government Ministries and Departments, is a consolidation of various smaller initiatives and ideas into a comprehensive vision. Each initiative is implemented as part of a larger goal under the overall coordination done by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

The programme was to provide thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas:

1. Broadband Highways
2. Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity
3. Public Internet Access Programme
4. e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology
5. e-Kranti – Electronic Delivery of Services,
6. Information for All
7. Electronics Manufacturing,
8. IT for Jobs
9. Early Harvest Programmes

Article Link: [Super Six: 6 years of Digital India](#)

Q.152) With reference to LEAF coalition, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a collective of the United States, United Kingdom and Norway governments
2. It is a step towards concretising the aims and objectives of the Montreal Protocol.

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.152) Solution (a)

LEAF (Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance) Coalition was announced at the Leaders Summit on Climate, 2021.

LEAF coalition will be one of the largest ever public-private efforts to protect tropical forests and intend to mobilize at least USD 1 billion in financing to countries committed to protecting their tropical forests.

It is a collective of the United States, United Kingdom and Norway governments came up with a \$1 billion fund plan that shall be offered to countries committed to arrest the decline of their tropical forests by 2030.

The LEAF coalition initiative is a step towards concretising the aims and objectives of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism.

REDD+ was created by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It monetised the value of carbon locked up in the tropical forests of most developing countries, thereby propelling these countries to help mitigate climate change.

Article Link: [LEAF Coalition's proposal is a step forward in saving forests, indigenous peoples](#)

Q.153) Consider the following statements:

1. Provisioning coverage ratio is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.
2. A low Provisioning coverage ratio means banks can buffer themselves against losses if the NPAs start increasing faster.

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.153) Solution (d)

A Provisioning Coverage Ratio or PCR is the percentage of funds that a bank sets aside for losses due to bad debts. A high PCR can be beneficial to banks to buffer themselves against losses if the NPAs start increasing faster. A quick glance at the PCR ratio of the bank can tell you if the bank is vulnerable to NPAs or not. Typically, a PCR ratio of 70%+ is considered healthy for banks.

Provision Coverage Ratio = $\text{Total provisions} / \text{Gross NPAs}$.

Capital adequacy ratio is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities. A high CAR indicates that the bank has enough capital to manage sudden losses. On the other hand, a low CAR indicates a bank that carries the risk of failure. RBI announces the CAR required for banks in accordance with Basel norms time to time. A CAR of 8-12% is usually considered average.

Article Link: [RBI Financial Stability Report: Prices, Covid variants threats to recovery](#)

Q.154) Tillanchong Island, seen recently in news, is part of:

- a) Andaman Islands
- b) Lakshadweep Islands
- c) Nicobar Islands
- d) Cocos Islands

Q.154) Solution (c)

The Tillangchong Island is a part of the Nicobar Islands chain, located in the northeast Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

The island has the largest surviving populations of the endemic Nicobar megapode (*Megapodius nicobariensis*) and is a protected sanctuary.

This island harbours virtually all animal species found in the Nicobar archipelago, including endemic bird species such as the Nicobar Megapode, Nicobar Sparrowhawk, Glossy Swiftlet, Edible-nest Swiftlet, Andaman Wood Pigeon and Nicobar Parakeet.

Q.155) "Indrajaal", seen recently in news, is:

- a) Doppler weather radar
- b) Indigenous digital drone system
- c) Tropical weather monitoring satellite
- d) Radar to track low flying cruise missiles

Q.155) Solution (b)

Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal".

The drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km against the aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions, and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.

Salient features of Indrajaal are:

- Real-time situational awareness
- Integrated and Intelligent meshed network

- Integrated all current weapons suite and infrastructure
- Honeycombed cell structure for seamlessly built
- Synergic combination of 9-10 technologies
- 24x7 persistent and autonomous monitoring, action and tracking

Article Link: [What makes Indrajaal, India's first autonomous digital drone system unique](#)

Q.156) Recently, the Supreme Court agreed to hear plea seeking President's Rule in West Bengal. In this reference consider the following statements:

1. During President's rule the Parliament can delegate the power to make laws for the state to the President or to any other authority specified by him in this regard.
2. A law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority continues only till the proclamation of President's rule is in force in the state.

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.156) Solution (a)

When the President's Rule is imposed in a state, the President dismisses the state council of ministers headed by the chief minister. The state governor, on behalf of the President, carries on the state administration with the help of the chief secretary of the state or the advisors appointed by the President. This is the reason why a proclamation under Article 356 is popularly known as the imposition of 'President's Rule' in a state.

Further, the President either suspends or dissolves the state legislative assembly. The Parliament passes the state legislative bills and the state budget. When the state legislature is thus suspended or dissolved:

- The Parliament can delegate the power to make laws for the state to the President or to any other authority specified by him in this regard,
- The Parliament or in case of delegation, the President or any other specified authority can make laws conferring powers and imposing duties on the Centre or its officers and authorities,

- The President can authorise, when the Lok Sabha is not in session, expenditure from the state consolidated fund pending its sanction by the Parliament, and
- The President can promulgate, when the Parliament is not in session, ordinances for the governance of the state.

A law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority continues to be operative even after the President's Rule. This means that the period for which such a law remains in force is not coterminous with the duration of the proclamation. But it can be repealed or altered or re-enacted by the state legislature.

Article Link: [Supreme Court to hear plea seeking President's Rule in Bengal](#)

Q.157) With reference to "WASH initiative", consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of World Health Organisation.
2. The aim of this initiative is to help member countries in achieving Sustainable Development Goal-6.

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.157) Solution (c)

WASH is an acronym that stands for "water, sanitation and hygiene". This is a World Health Organisation (WHO) initiative considering the health and hygiene of people across the world.

Universal, affordable and sustainable access to WASH is a key public health issue within international development and is the focus of the first two targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). Targets 6.1 and 6.2 aim at equitable and accessible water and sanitation for all.

"Access to WASH" includes safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene education. Improving access to WASH services can improve health, life expectancy, student learning, gender equality, and other important issues of international development.

Article Link: [India responsible for largest drop in open defecation since 2015: WASH report](#)

Q.158) Which of the following are the member countries of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium?

1. Australia
2. Mozambique
3. Japan
4. Madagascar
5. France

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.158) Solution (c)

The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a series of biennial meetings between the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region. It provides a forum to increase maritime security cooperation, discuss regional maritime issues, and promote friendly relationships among the member states.

It also serves to develop an effective response mechanism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) against natural disasters.

IONS includes 24 member nations that touch or lie within the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and 8 observer nations.

The members have been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions:

- South Asian Littorals: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)
- West Asian Littorals: Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates
- East African Littorals: France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.
- South East Asian and Australian Littorals: Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Observer Nations: China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Russia and Spain.

Article Link: [7th INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM \(IONS\)](#)

Q.159) Which type of eruption occurred in Taal Volcano, seen in news recently?

- a) Hawaiian
- b) Hydrothermal
- c) Pelean
- d) Phreatomagmatic

Q.159) Solution (d)

Taal Volcano, located in Philippines, is one of the most active volcanoes in the country.

Recently, Phreatomagmatic Eruption occurred in the volcano that generated a dark grayish plume, one kilometer high.

Phreatomagmatic Eruption is an eruption resulting from the interaction of new magma or lava with water and can be very explosive. The water can be from groundwater, hydrothermal systems, surface runoff, a lake or the sea.

Article Link: [Philippines authorities warn Taal volcano could erupt 'anytime soon'](#)

Q.160) Which of the following is NOT a Ramsar Site?

- a) Sasthamkotta Lake
- b) Paravur Lake
- c) Vembanad Lake
- d) Ashtamudi Lake

Q.160) Solution (b)

Sasthamkotta Lake, Vembanad Lake and Ashtamudi Lake are three Ramsar Sites of Kerala.

Sasthamkotta Lake, also categorized as a wetland, is the largest fresh water lake in Kerala.

Vembanad Lake is the largest lake in Kerala and the longest Lake in India. It is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sundarbans in West Bengal.

Ashtamudi Lake is the most visited backwater and lake in the state. It possesses a unique wetland ecosystem and a large palm-shaped (also described as octopus-shaped) water body, second only in size to the Vembanad estuary ecosystem of the state.

Q.161) Consider the following statements regarding “Project BOLD”, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
2. The objective is to provide sustained employment for traditional industry artisans and rural entrepreneurs.

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.161) Solution (a)

Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought) is recently launched from the tribal village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Under the project 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land. KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.

The project seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.

It is aligned with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for reducing land degradation and preventing desertification in the country.

The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".

KVIC will replicate the Project at Village Dholera in Ahmedabad district in Gujarat and Leh-Ladakh region.

KVIC chose bamboo because they are known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface, which is an important feature in arid and drought-prone regions.

Article Link: [KVIC's Unique Project BOLD to Boost Tribals' Income and Bamboo-based Economy in Rajasthan](#)

Q.162) With reference to 'Istanbul Convention', seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
2. It is a legally-binding instrument.
3. India is a party to this convention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.162) Solution (b)

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, better known as the Istanbul Convention, is a human rights treaty of the Council of Europe against violence against women and domestic violence which was opened for signature on 11 May 2011, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Aim of the convention is:

- to prevent and prosecute all forms of violence against women
- to promote gender equality and
- to ensure protection and rehabilitation of women who are victims of violence.

India is not a party of this convention.

Turkey was the first country to ratify the Istanbul convention and incorporated it into its domestic law. Turkey was followed by 34 other countries: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Recently, Turkey became the first and only country to withdraw from the convention, after denouncing it on 20 March 2021.

Article Link: [Why Erdogan has pulled out of Istanbul Convention on violence against women](#)

Q.163) The concept of 'Blank-cheque Company' is sometimes seen in news. In this context consider the following statements:

1. It is an entity specifically set up with the objective of acquiring a firm in a particular sector.
2. It raises money through Initial Public Offering.
3. If the acquisition is not made within two years of the IPO, the company is delisted, and the money is returned to the investors.

Which of the above 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.163) Solution (d)

A Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPAC), or a blank-cheque company, is an entity specifically set up with the objective of acquiring a firm in a particular sector.

The aim of this SPAC is to raise money in an initial public offering (IPO), and at this point in time, it does not have any operations or revenues.

Once the money is raised from the public, it is kept in an escrow account, which can be accessed while making the acquisition. If the acquisition is not made within two years of the IPO, the SPAC is delisted and the money is returned to the investors.

Certain market participants believe that, through an SPAC transaction, a private company can become a publicly-traded company.

While India has not taken an official regulatory stand on allowing the listing of SPACs here, the Security and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) has reportedly formed a group of experts to study the feasibility of bringing SPACs under the regulatory ambit. However, the Indian regulatory framework does not allow the creation of these blank cheque companies as yet.

Article Link: [Indian SPACs to raise \\$1 bn, SII to double vax production](#)

Q.164) "Harit Dhara" seen recently in news is:

- a) Biofertilizer to enhance growth and yield of the plant
- b) New species belonging to the genus of the coffee family
- c) Anti-methanogenic feed supplement for cattle
- d) Project of National Highways Authority of India to create green corridor along the highways

Q.164) Solution (c)

Harit Dhara is an anti-methanogenic feed supplement developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

It can cut down cattle methane emissions by 17-20% and can also result in higher milk production.

Harit Dhara acts by decreasing the population of protozoa microbes in the rumen, responsible for hydrogen production and making it available to the archaea for reduction of CO₂ to methane.

Tropical plants containing tannins – bitter and astringent chemical compounds – are known to suppress or remove protozoa from the rumen.

Article Link: [A farmer-friendly solution to cut cattle methane emissions](#)

Q.165) Under the terms of Indus Water Treaty, waters of which of the following rivers have been allocated exclusively to India?

- a) Jhelum Chenab and Beas
- b) Ravi, Beas and Sutlej
- c) Indus, Jhelum and Chenab
- d) Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej

Q.165) Solution (b)

The Indus system comprises the main Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The basin is mainly shared by India and Pakistan with a small share for China and Afghanistan.

The Treaty gives control over the waters of the three "eastern rivers" — the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej exclusively to India.

Control over the waters of the three "western rivers" — the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum went to Pakistan.

The treaty allows India to use the western river waters for limited irrigation use and unlimited non-consumptive use for such applications as power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc.

Article Link: [India to divert excess waters under Indus treaty to irrigate own land](#)

Q.166) With reference to NIPUN Bharat Mission, launched recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched as part of National Education Policy 2020.
2. It aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 6 to 14 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.166) Solution (a)

National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) scheme is launched by the Ministry of Education.

It has been launched under National Education Policy 2020.

The objective of this scheme is for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years. It envisages making the experience of learning at the foundational stage Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive, Enjoyable, and Engaging.

NIPUN Bharat will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy.

A five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

Following outcomes have been envisaged from implementation of the goals and objectives of NIPUN Bharat Mission:

- Foundational skills enable to keep children in class thereby reducing the dropouts and improve transition rate from primary to upper primary and secondary stages.
- Activity based learning and conducive learning environment will improve quality of education.
- Innovative pedagogies such as toy-based and experiential learning will be used in classroom transaction thereby making learning a joyful and engaging activity.
- Intensive capacity building of teachers will make them empowered and provide greater autonomy for choosing the pedagogy.
- Holistic development of the child by focusing on different domains of development like physical and motor development, socio-emotional development, literacy and numeracy development, cognitive development, life skills etc. which are interrelated and interdependent, which will be reflected in a Holistic Progress Card.
- Children to achieve steeper learning trajectory which may have positive impacts on later life outcomes and employment.
- Since almost every child attends early grades, therefore, focus at that stage will also benefit the socio-economic disadvantageous group thus ensuring access to equitable and inclusive quality education.

Article Link: [Union Education Minister launches NIPUN Bharat Programme](#)

Q.167) Which of the following countries are members of OPEC+:

1. India
2. Azerbaijan
3. Malaysia
4. Thailand

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.167) Solution (b)

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 13 countries.

Mission of the organization is to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets, in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.

The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

In addition to formal OPEC members, 10 additional oil exporting countries, led by Russia, form the OPEC+ cartel, which since 2016 cooperate in fixing the global crude oil prices by agreeing to production quotas that keep global production below demand/consumption.

The OPEC+ countries are: Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan and Sudan.

Article Link: [OPEC+ fails to reach output deal](#)

Q.168) With reference to Anti-Dumping Duties consider the following statements:

1. These are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.
2. Directorate General of Trade Remedies is the apex organization in India for carrying out investigations and recommending the amount of anti-dumping duty.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.168) Solution (b)

An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

However, Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.

In order to protect their respective economy, many countries impose duties on products they believe are being dumped in their national market; this is done with the rationale that these products have the potential to undercut local businesses and the local economy.

In the long-term, anti-dumping duties can reduce the international competition of domestic companies producing similar goods.

In India Directorate General of Trade Remedies is responsible for carrying out investigations and recommending, where required, under the Customs Tariff Act, the amount of anti-dumping duty/countervailing duty on the identified articles as would be adequate to remove injury to the domestic industry.

Article Link: [Govt not to impose anti-dumping duty on certain copper items from China, five other countries](#)

Q.169) A new Legislative Council in a State can be created:

- a) If the concerned state's legislature passes a resolution for that with a simple majority.
- b) On recommendation of the Governor.
- c) If Rajya Sabha passes a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- d) If the concerned state's legislature passes a resolution for that with a special majority.

Q.169) Solution (d)

The Constitution provides for the abolition or creation of legislative councils in states. Accordingly, the Parliament can abolish a legislative council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist), if the legislative assembly of the concerned state passes a resolution to that effect. Such a specific resolution must be passed by the state assembly by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the assembly and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the assembly present and voting.

This Act of Parliament is not to be deemed as an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368 and is passed like an ordinary piece of legislation (ie, by simple majority).

Article Link: [West Bengal Assembly passes resolution to set up Legislative Council](#)

Q.170) Tillari Conservation Reserve, seen recently in news, is located in:

- a) Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands
- b) Lakshadweep group of Islands
- c) Western Ghats
- d) Eastern Ghats

Q.170) Solution (c)

Tillari Conservation reserve is located in the state of Maharashtra. Tillari is a reserve in Western Ghats.

It connects Mhadei sanctuary in Goa and Bhimgad in Karnataka.

It has semi-evergreen forest, tropical moist deciduous forests, and a number of unique trees, butterflies, and flowers.

Conservation reserves and community reserves in India are terms denoting protected areas of India which typically act as buffer zones to or connectors and migration corridors between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests of India.

Such areas are designated as conservation areas if they are uninhabited and completely owned by the Government of India but used for subsistence by communities and community areas if part of the lands is privately owned. Administration of such reserves would be through local people and local agencies like the gram panchayat, as in the case of communal forests.

Article Link: [King Cobra sighted at Tillari conservation reserve in Maharashtra](#)

Q.171) Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is being built on the River:

- a) Orange
- b) Congo
- c) Zambezi
- d) Nile

Q.171) Solution (d)

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is a gravity dam on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia under construction since 2011.

The primary purpose of the dam is electricity production to relieve Ethiopia's acute energy shortage and for electricity export to neighbouring countries.

Dispute regarding GERD:

The main waterways of the Nile run through Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt, and its drainage basin runs through several countries in East Africa, including Ethiopia, the portion where this dam is being constructed.

Given the dam's location on the Blue Nile tributary, it would potentially allow Ethiopia to gain control of the flow of the river's waters. Egypt lies further downstream and is concerned that Ethiopia's control over the water could result in lower water levels within its own borders.

Sudan's location between Egypt up north and Ethiopia down south has caused it to become an inadvertent party to this dispute. Sudan too is concerned that if Ethiopia were to gain control over the river, it would affect the water levels Sudan receives.

Article Link: [Saudi Arabia supports Egypt, Sudan 'water rights' in dam dispute](#)

Q.172) With reference to "Plasma Kristall Investigation", seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a two decade long experiment of NASA running on the International Space Station.
2. Purpose of this experiment is to understand the workings of our world on the atomic scale.

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.172) Solution (b)

Plasma Kristall Investigation is a Russian-European experiment running on the International Space Station since March 3, 2001.

The research tries to understand the workings of our world on the atomic scale by injecting fine dust particles in a plasma, which turns the dust into highly charged particles. These charged

particles bounce off each other and, under the right conditions, the dust particles can arrange themselves to form organised structures or plasma crystals.

Complex phenomena such as phase transitions, for instance from gas to liquid, microscopic motions, the onset of turbulence and shear forces are well known in physics, but not fully understood at the atomic level. The research has helped to understand some of these processes, including how planets form.

According to European Space Agency, the experiment cannot be run on Earth because gravity makes only sagging, flattened recreations possible; if you want to see how a crystal is constituted, you need to remove the force pulling downwards.

The knowledge from the Plasma Kristall experiments can be directly applied to research on fusion physics where dust needs to be removed and the processing of electronic chips, for example in plasma processes in the semiconductor and solar cell industry.

Article Link: [Away from Earth, this 20-year-long experiment peeks into an invisible world living among us](#)

Q.173) With reference to National Ganga Council, consider the following statements:

1. It is headed by the Prime Minister.
2. It is formed under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

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.173) Solution (a)

The National Ganga Council (NGC) is an authority created in October 2016 under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, dissolving the National Ganga River Basin Authority.

It was established by the Central Government of India, under Section 3(3) of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, which also declared Ganges as the "National River" of India.

The Council has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.

The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairperson for the NGC.

Article Link: [Cities along rivers urged to include conservation plans](#)

Q.174) Which of the following are the qualifications laid down by the Constitution for the appointment of the Governor?

1. He should not belong to the state where he is appointed.
2. While appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.174) Solution (d)

The Constitution lays down only two qualifications for the appointment of a person as a governor. These are:

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. He should have completed the age of 35 years.

Additionally, two conventions have also developed in this regard over the years. First, he should be an outsider, that is, he should not belong to the state where he is appointed, so that he is free from the local politics. Second, while appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned, so that the smooth functioning of the constitutional machinery in the state is ensured. However, both the conventions have been violated in some of the cases

Article Link: [Amid Cabinet reshuffle buzz, eight States get new Governors](#)

Q.175) Which part of Indian Constitution deals with Co-operatives?

- a) Part IX
- b) Part IX-A
- c) Part IX-B
- d) Part IX-C

Q.175) Solution (c)

Recently, Government of India created a new Ministry of Co-operation.

The ministry provides a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.

The ministry works in strengthening co-operatives at the grassroot level, working to streamline processes for 'Ease of doing business' for co-operatives and enabling the development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).

97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 provided constitutional status to co-operatives. It inserted:

- Part IX-B dealing with Co-operatives.
- Article 19(1) (c) making Right to form cooperative societies a fundamental right.
- Article 43B (DPSP) as “the State shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of the co-operative societies”.

Article Link: [Modi government creates Ministry of Cooperation for strengthening cooperative movement](#)

Q.176) Consider the following statements regarding Legislative Councils:

1. The maximum strength of the council is fixed at one-third of the total strength of the legislative assembly.
2. 1/12 of its members are nominated by the Governor.
3. One-third of its members retire on the expiration of every second year.

Which of the above 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.176) Solution (c)

Unlike the members of the legislative assembly, the members of the legislative council are indirectly elected. The maximum strength of the council is fixed at one-third of the total strength of the assembly and the minimum strength is fixed at 40. It means that the size of the council depends on the size of the assembly of the concerned state.

Of the total number of members of a legislative council:

- 1/3 are elected by the members of local bodies in the state like municipalities, district boards, etc.,
- 1/12 are elected by graduates of three years standing and residing within the state,
- 1/12 are elected by teachers of three years standing in the state, not lower in standard than secondary school,
- 1/3 are elected by the members of the legislative assembly of the state from amongst persons who are not members of the assembly, and
- The remainder are nominated by the governor from amongst persons who have a special knowledge or practical experience of literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.

Thus, 5/6 of the total number of members of a legislative council are indirectly elected and 1/6 are nominated by the governor.

Like the Rajya Sabha, the legislative council is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution. But, one-third of its members retire on the expiration of every second year. So, a member continues as such for six years.

Article Link: [West Bengal Assembly passes resolution to set up Legislative Council](#)

Q.177) Consider the following statements regarding Council of Ministers:

1. The advice tendered by ministers to the President cannot be enquired by any court.
2. A minister who is a member of one House of Parliament has the right to speak, vote and to take part in the proceedings of the other House also.

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.177) Solution (a)

Article 74 of the Indian Constitution provides for a council of ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. The 42nd and 44th Constitutional Amendment Acts have made the advice binding on the President. Further, the nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President cannot be enquired by any court. This provision emphasises the intimate and the confidential relationship between the President and the ministers.

Article 88 of the Indian Constitution provides that every minister shall have the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House, any joint sitting of the Houses and any Committee of Parliament of which he may be named a member. But he shall not be entitled to vote.

Article Link: [Seeds of political battle lines drawn for 2024 in Cabinet overhaul](#)

Q.178) With reference to Central Information Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. It falls under the Ministry of Law and Justice.
3. The commission has suo-moto power to enquire into any matter if there are reasonable grounds.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.178) Solution (c)

The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). Hence, it is not a constitutional body.

It falls under the Ministry of Personnel.

The Central Information Commission is a high-powered independent body which inter alia looks into the complaints made to it and decide the appeals. It entertains complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc., under the Central Government and the Union Territories.

The Commission can order inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-moto power).

Article Link: [SC asks govt to give details about pendency of cases in information panel](#)

Q.179) Which of the following mineral has been estimated to be found in abundance in Buxawaha forest?

- a) Iron Ore
- b) Bauxite
- c) Dolomite
- d) Kimberlite

Q.179) Solution (d)

Kimberlite is an igneous rock that is a major source of diamonds.

Buxwaha forest lies in the Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. It is estimated that the forest contains around 53.70 million tonnes of kimberlite ore containing about 34 million carats of rough diamonds.

It is estimated that the proposed Diamond mining project in this area will have a greater ecological impact on the region than projected so far. The project threatens to further deplete the already scarce water reserve of the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.

Under the project five metric tonnes of kimberlite ore will be excavated per annum. Its mining would generate about 3.70 metric tonnes of soil waste, 16.34 metric tonnes of OB waste and 5 metric tonnes of tailing waste annually.

Article Link: [Buxwaha diamond mining project will make Bundelkhand's water scarcity worse: Experts](#)

Q.180) Silambam, seen recently in news, is:

- a) Folk Painting of Maharashtra
- b) Martial Art of Tamil Nadu
- c) Handicraft of Punjab
- d) Folk Dance of Gujarat

Q.180) Solution (b)

Silambam is an ancient weapon-based martial art that emerged in Tamilakam, which is now Tamil Nadu region of India. It is one of the oldest martial arts in the world. This style is mentioned in Tamil Sangam literature. It is closely linked to the Kerala martial art kalaripayattu.

Silambam incorporates various types of weapons and methods of movement training. Silambam includes the weapons traditionally made of bamboo. The footwork in Silambam is enormously important for learning various spinning techniques and methods of executing them in the flow and without stopping the motion of the sticks.

Article Link: [Indian migrant worker's traditional martial arts moves win him top prize in Singapore contest](#)

Q.181) With reference to recently released report "A Future for All – A need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence", consider the following statements:

1. It is jointly published by WWF and UNEP.
2. Marine and terrestrial protected areas only cover 9.67 per cent of total area globally.
3. In India the entire tiger habitat lies in protected areas only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.181) Solution (b)

Report "Future for All – A need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence" is recently released by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

According to the report:

- Marine and terrestrial protected areas only cover 9.67% globally.

- About 40% of the African lion range and 70% of the African and Asian elephant ranges fall outside protected areas.
- In India, 35% tiger ranges currently lie outside protected areas.
- Human Wildlife Conflict related killing affects more than 75% of the world's wild cat species, as well as many other terrestrial and marine carnivore species such as polar bears and Mediterranean monk seals, and large herbivores such as elephants.
- In India over 500 elephants were killed between 2014-2015 and 2018-2019, mostly due to human-elephant conflict. During the same period, 2,361 people were killed as a result of conflict with elephants.
- WWF India had developed the 'Sonitpur Model' during 2003-2004 by which community members were connected with the state forest department. They were given training on how to work with them to drive elephants away from crop fields safely.
- WWF India had also developed a low-cost, single strand, non-lethal electric fence to ease the guarding of crops from elephants.

Article Link: [Human-wildlife conflict among greatest threats to animal species: WWF and UNEP report](#)

Q.182) Consider the following statements regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

1. It is a Central- Sector Scheme.
2. It provides a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure.
3. It provides interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore.

Which of the above 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.182) Solution (d)

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- It intends to provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

- The duration of the Scheme is from FY2020 to FY2032 (10 years).

Intended beneficiaries:

Under the scheme, Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, Aggregation Infrastructure Providers and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Project.

Eligibility has been extended to State agencies and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), as well as federations of cooperative organisations, FPOs and SHGs.

Benefits:

- All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
- Further, credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore. The fee for this coverage will be paid by the Government.
- In case of FPOs the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility created under FPO promotion scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DACFW).
- Moratorium for repayment under this financing facility may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.

Article Link: [Cabinet approves modifications in Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'](#)

Q.183) With reference to India industrial land bank, consider the following statements:

1. It is a GIS-based portal with all industrial infrastructure-related information.
2. It is a statutory body formed under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q.183) Solution (a)

The India industrial land bank (IILB) is a GIS-based portal with all industrial infrastructure-related information such as connectivity, infra, natural resources and terrain, plot-level information on vacant plots, line of activity, and contact details.

It was launched by the Ministry for Commerce and Industry in 2020.

Currently, the IILB has approximately 4000 industrial parks mapped across an area of 5.5 lakh hectares of land, serving as a decision support system for investors scouting for land remotely.

Article Link: [Industrial land bank to have pan-India info by year end: Govt](#)

Q.184) Bhumi Panduga, a festival marking the beginning of farm operations, is celebrated by which of the following tribes?

- a) Kuki
- b) Bhotiya
- c) Koya
- d) Gaddi

Q.184) Solution (c)

Bhumi Pandunga is a festival marking the beginning of farm operations every year. It is celebrated by the Koya tribes in Andhra Pradesh.

For men hunting is mandatory as part of the festival.

Article Link: [Koyas celebrate last 'Bhumi Panduga' in their ancestral villages](#)

Q.185) "dbGENVOC", seen recently in news, is:

- a) Monoclonal antibody drug for Covid-19
- b) Database of entire human genome
- c) Database of genomic variations in oral cancer
- d) New variant of Covid-19

Q.185) Solution (c)

dbGENVOC is world's first browsable online database of GENomic Variants of Oral Cancer.

It is developed by DBT-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani an Autonomous Institute funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

Oral cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer among men in India, largely fuelled by tobacco-chewing. Tobacco-chewing causes changes in the genetic material of cells in the oral cavity. These changes (mutations) precipitate oral cancer. Researches to identify those genetic mutations that drive oral cancer are ongoing. Such driver mutations may be variable across populations

Article Link: [DBT-NIBMG creates world's first database of genomic variants of oral cancer](#)

Q.186) Recently, revenue deficit grant was released to several states by the Centre. In this context consider the following statements regarding revenue deficit:

1. It deals only with the government's revenue receipts and revenue expenditures.
2. It leads to reduction in the government assets.
3. It leads to recessionary situation in the economy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.186) Solution (b)

(i) Revenue Deficit definition:

Revenue deficit arises when the government's revenue expenditure exceeds the total revenue receipts. Revenue deficit includes those transactions that have a direct impact on a government's current income and expenditure. This represents that the government's own earnings are not sufficient to meet the day-to-day operations of its departments.

Revenue Deficit: Total revenue receipts – Total revenue expenditure.

Revenue Deficit deals only with the government's revenue receipts and revenue expenditures.

(ii) How is Revenue deficit met?

To overcome such a financial situation, the government can take these measures:

- Through the borrowings or sale of existing assets, the deficit could be met from the capital receipts.
- The government can increase its non-tax or tax receipts.
- The government could try to reduce unnecessary expenditures.

(iii) What does Revenue Deficit indicate?

- Revenue Deficit is shown as a reference indicator in the Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement (MTPS). The Revenue Deficit of the government has several implications, such as, it has to be met from the capital receipts, because of which a government either borrows or sells its existing assets. This brings in a reduction in assets.
- Also, to meet its consumption expenditure, since the government uses capital receipts, it leads to an inflationary situation in the economy.
- With more and more such borrowings, along with interest, the burden to repay the liability also increases which, in the future, results in huge revenue deficits.

Article Link: [Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 9, 871 crore released to 17 States](#)

Q.187) Recently, a joint communication was signed between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It pertains to more effective implementation of:

- a) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- b) Wildlife Protection Act, 1973
- c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- d) Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

Q.187) Solution (d)

Joint Communication signed between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs seeks to secure the rights of traditional forest dwellers and proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

It looks into harnessing the potential for livelihood improvement of the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) as well as community participation in forest conservation.

State forest departments have also been asked to undertake projects for value chain addition including capacity building of primary collectors, new harvesting methods, storage, processing and marketing of NTFP under schemes implemented by MoTA as well as designate a nodal agency for specific non-timber forest products as supply chain platforms in collaboration with TRIFED, NSTFDC, Ministry of Ayush, MFP Federations, TDCCs, Van Dhan Kendras etc.

Article Link: [Joint Communication signed to secure rights of forest dwellers](#)

Q.188) Which of the following forest produce comes under the bracket of Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

1. Sal leaves
2. Sandalwood
3. Tamarind

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.188) Solution (c)

Under the scheme "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and development of Value chain for MFP" Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) has been fixed for select MFP. The scheme is designed as a social safety net for improvement of livelihood of MFP gatherers by providing them fair price for the MFPs they collect.

The Minor Forest Products include the items such as tamarind, curry leaf, Sal leaves, Tendu Patta, gallnut, Cane, Soapnut, tree moss, Bamboo etc.

The number of Minor Forest Products (MFP) in the bracket of Minimum Support Price (MSP) have been increased from 10 to 86.

The Major Forest Products comprise Pulpwood, Sandalwood, Social Forestry that includes Fuel and Timber. Since sandalwood is a major forest produce it does not come under MSP bracket.

Article Link: ['Joint Communication' signed to secure rights of forest dwellers.](#)

Q.189) With reference to delimitation, consider the following statements:

1. It is the act of redrawing boundaries of a State Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time.
2. The exercise of delimitation is carried out by the Election Commission.

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.189) Solution (a)

Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time.

The objective is to redraw boundaries (based on the data of the last Census) in a way so that the population of all seats, as far as practicable, be the same throughout the State. Aside from changing the limits of a constituency, the process may result in change in the number of seats in a state.

This exercise is carried out by a Delimitation Commission, whose orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned before any court.

The Commission is a powerful and independent body whose orders cannot be challenged in any court of law. The orders are laid before the Lok Sabha and the respective State Legislative Assemblies. However, modifications are not permitted.

Article Link: [J&K delimitation exercise will be fair, transparent, assures Commission](#)

Q.190) The Mahananda is a trans-boundary river that flows through Indian States of:

- a) Bihar and West Bengal
- b) Odisha and West Bengal
- c) Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha
- d) Assam, West Bengal and Bihar

Q.190) Solution (a)

The Mahananda River is a trans-boundary river that flows through the Indian states of Bihar and West Bengal, and Bangladesh. It is an important tributary of river Ganga.

The Mahananda originates from the Paglajhora falls near Kurseong in West Bengal's Darjeeling district.

Rapid urbanisation, inefficient waste management and encroachment have turned the Mahananda into a drain.

Article Link: [Choking Mahananda: How Siliguri's waste, water crisis is turning on its people](#)

Q.191) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the office of speaker and deputy speaker?

1. The Constitution provides that if the office of Speaker and Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha lies vacant, it should be filled within 15 days.
2. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker is elected from among the Lok Sabha members by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House.

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.191) Solution (b)

The Constitution specifies offices like those of the President, Vice President, Chief Justice of India, and Comptroller and Auditor General of India, as well as Speakers and Deputy Speakers.

Article 93 for Lok Sabha and Article 178 for state Assemblies state that these Houses "shall, as soon as may be" choose two of its members to be Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Thus The Constitution neither sets a time limit nor specifies the process for these elections. It leaves it to the legislatures to decide how to hold these elections.

In Lok Sabha and state legislatures, the President/Governor sets a date for the election of the Speaker, and it is the Speaker who decides the date for the election of the Deputy Speaker. The legislators of the respective Houses vote to elect one among themselves to these offices.

The Speaker (along with the Deputy Speaker) is elected from among the Lok Sabha members by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House.

Usually, a member belonging to the ruling party is elected Speaker. The process has evolved over the years where the ruling party nominates its candidate after informal consultations with leaders of other parties and groups in the House. The tradition for the post of the Deputy Speaker going to the Opposition party started during the term of Prime Minister Morarji Desai's government.

The Constitution provides that the office of the Speaker should never be empty. So, he continues in office until the beginning of the next House, except in the event of death or resignation.

The Speaker is "the principal spokesman of the House, he represents its collective voice and is its sole representative to the outside world". The Speaker presides over the House proceedings and joint sittings of the two Houses of Parliament. It is the Speaker's decision that determines whether a Bill is a Money Bill and therefore outside of the purview of the other House.

The Deputy Speaker is independent of the Speaker, not subordinate to him, as both are elected from among the members of the House. The Deputy Speaker ensures the continuity of the Speakers office by acting as the Speaker when the office becomes vacant.

Article Link: [Explained: Electing a Speaker and Deputy Speaker](#)

Q.192) Which of the following statements regarding Great Indian Bustard is/are correct?

1. It is endemic to India only.
2. It is mostly found in irrigated areas.
3. It is one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.192) Solution (c)

The Great Indian Bustard is endemic to Indian Sub-Continent. It is found in Central India, Western India and Eastern Pakistan.

The habitat where it is most often found is arid and semi-arid grasslands, open country with thorn scrub, tall grass interspersed with cultivation. It avoids irrigated areas.

The bird is found in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat states.

It is one of the Species for the Recovery Programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

IUCN Status is critically endangered mainly because it has been extirpated from 90% of its former range and the population was estimated at perhaps fewer than 250 individuals in 2008.

Article Link: [Green energy projects threaten the last refuges of the endangered great Indian bustard.](#)

Q.193) Consider the following statements regarding Net Stable Funding Ratio:

1. It is one of the Basel Committee's key reforms to promote a more resilient banking sector.
2. It requires banks to fund their activities with stable sources of finance.

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.193) Solution (c)

During the financial crisis of 2007–2008, several banks, including the UK's Northern Rock and the U.S. investment banks Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers, suffered a liquidity crisis, due to their over-reliance on short-term wholesale funding from the interbank lending market.

As a result, the G20 launched an overhaul of banking regulation known as Basel III. In addition to changes in capital requirements, Basel III also contains two entirely new liquidity requirements: the net stable funding ratio (NSFR) and the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR).

The NSFR will require banks to maintain a stable funding profile in relation to the composition of their assets and off-balance sheet activities. NSFR requires banks to fund their activities with stable sources of finance (reliable over the one-year horizon).

The objective is to harmonise the regulatory frameworks for various regulated lenders and credit companies.

The rules treat physically traded gold like any other commodity, requiring banks to hold more cash to match their gold exposure as a buffer against adverse price moves.

In India NSFR will come into effect from October 1, 2021.

The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requires banks to hold a buffer of high-quality liquid assets sufficient to deal with the cash outflows encountered in an acute short term stress scenario as specified by supervisors.

Article Link: [Britain carves out exemption for gold clearing banks from Basel III rule](#)

Q.194) The Elephant Reserves are provided legal status under:

- a) Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- b) Forest Conservation Act 1980
- c) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 1960
- d) None of the above

Q.194) Solution (d)

Project Elephant was launched in 1992 by the Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests to provide financial and technical support to wildlife management efforts by states for their free-ranging populations of wild Asian Elephants.

Under the Project Elephant 32 Elephant Reserves (ERs) extending over about 58,000 square kilometres has been formally notified by various State Governments.

Currently there is no legislation providing legal status to the Elephant reserves.

The Union environment ministry has proposed an amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in 2019 to accord legal status to elephant reserves and corridors on the lines of tiger reserves.

With the proposed amendment, the ministry proposes to have a legal framework for elephant reserves and statutory status for Project Elephant.

Article Link: [A proposed elephant reserve in Chhattisgarh, and its reduced area](#)

Q.195) The Kesariya Buddha Stupa, seen recently in news, is located in:

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Maharashtra

Q.195) Solution (b)

Kesariya Buddha Stupa is located in the Champaran (east) district of Bihar.

Kesariya Stupa has a circumference of almost 400 feet (120 m) and raises to a height of about 104 feet (32 m).

The site's exploration reportedly started in the early 19th century, from its discovery led by Colonel Mackenzie in 1814 to General Cunningham's proper excavation in 1861–62.

The first construction of the Stupa is dated to the 3rd century BCE. The original Kesaria stupa probably dates to the time of Ashoka (circa 250 BCE), as the remains of a capital of a Pillar of Ashoka were discovered there.

The discovery of gold coins bearing the seal of the famous emperor Kanishka of the Kushan dynasty (AD 30 to AD 375) goes on to further establish the ancient heritage of Kesaria.

Article Link: [Bihar's Kesaria Buddha stupa waterlogged](#)

Q.196) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding RBI Retail Direct scheme?

1. The objective of this scheme is to facilitate investment in government securities by institutional investors.
2. It will give registered users access to primary issuance of government securities.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.196) Solution (b)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the 'RBI Retail Direct' scheme.

It will be a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in government securities (G-secs) by individual investors.

Retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open and maintain the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with the RBI.

The online portal will give registered users access to primary issuance of G-secs and access to Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching system (NDS-OM). NDS-OM is an electronic, screen based, anonymous, order driven trading system for dealing in G-secs.

With this scheme RBI seeks to democratize the ownership of government debt securities beyond banks and managers of pooled resources such as mutual funds.

The current G-sec market is dominated by institutional investors which are large market actors such as banks, mutual funds and insurance companies. These entities trade in lot sizes of Rs 5 crore or more.

This scheme will make the process of G-sec trading smoother for small investors therefore it will raise retail participation in G-secs and will improve ease of access.

Article Link: [RBI Retail Direct scheme to woo individual investors for G-secs](#)

Q.197) Recently, a new global framework for managing nature through 2030 was released. In this context consider the following statements:

1. It is released by UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. It includes the target of 50% of greater reduction in the rate of introduction of invasive alien species by 2030.
3. It sets the goal to halt the extinction and decline of biodiversity by 2050.

Which of the above 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 (d)

A new global framework for managing nature through 2030 is released by UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The framework guides actions worldwide to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people.

This new framework will be the global guiding force to protect nature and to retain its essential services for humans from 2020 to 2030.

The new framework has 21 targets to be met by 2030. Some of them are:

- 50% of greater reduction in the rate of introduction of invasive alien species and their impact
- Reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating discharge of plastic waste.
- to bring at least 30 per cent of land and sea under the world's protected areas
- redirecting, repurposing, reforming or eliminating incentives harmful for biodiversity

The new frameworks have four goals to achieve by 2050:

- to halt the extinction and decline of biodiversity
- to enhance and retain nature's services to humans by conserving
- to ensure fair and equitable benefits to all from use of genetic resources
- to close "the gap between available financial and other means of implementation and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision"

Article Link: [UN: \\$200 billion increase in fund flow to developing countries for managing nature](#)

Q.198) Recently, India's first cryptogamic garden was inaugurated. In this context consider the following statements:

1. Cryptogams consist of seed-bearing plants.
2. Cryptogams require dry conditions to survive.

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.198) Solution (d)

India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district.

The site is chosen because of its low pollution levels and moist conditions which are conducive for the growth of these species.

Cryptogams represent the non-seed bearing plants. Cryptogamae means "hidden reproduction" referring to the fact that no seed, no flowers are produced.

Algae, bryophytes (moss, liverworts), lichens, ferns and fungi are the best-known groups of cryptogams that require moist conditions to survive.

Algae comprise the most primitive organisms which are predominantly aquatic, both in marine as well as freshwater habitats.

Bryophytes are the simplest and primitive land plants that occupy an intermediate position between algae and pteridophytes. Lichens are a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, a fungus and algae.

Ferns are the largest living group of primitive vascular plants while fungi is a kingdom of usually multicellular eukaryotic organisms that are heterotrophs.

Article Link: [India's first cryptogamic garden opens in Dehradun](#)

Q.199) Paracel Islands, seen sometimes in news, are located in:

- a) Philippine Sea
- b) Andaman Sea
- c) South China Sea
- d) East China Sea

Q.199) Solution (c)

The Paracel Islands are a disputed archipelago in the South China Sea.

The archipelago is approximately equidistant from the coastlines of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Vietnam; and approximately one-third of the way from central Vietnam to the northern Philippines.

The archipelago includes about 130 small coral islands and reefs, most grouped into the northeast Amphitrite Group or the western Crescent Group.

The archipelago includes Dragon Hole, the deepest underwater sinkhole in the world

The archipelago is surrounded by productive fishing grounds and a seabed with potential, but as yet unexplored, oil and gas reserves.

Article Link: [China 'drove away' US warship entering Paracel Islands](#)

Q.200) Bryum bharatiensis, seen recently in news, is:

- a) New species of moss in Antarctica
- b) Salt tolerant mangrove species
- c) A new species of skittering frog
- d) Tree belonging to the genus of the coffee family

Q.200) Solution (a)

Indian scientists have discovered a new plant species in Antarctica. The species is named Bryum bharatiensis - after the country's name and India's Antarctic station Bharati.

Polar biologists of the Central University of Punjab were on Indian Antarctic Mission 2016-17 when Felix Bast, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Botany, stumbled upon a new native species of moss on rocks near Bharati station at Larsemann Hills, East Antarctica.

Since plants need nitrogen, along with potassium, phosphorus, sunlight and water to survive, scientists wondered how did the moss survive in the Antarctic landscape of rock and ice.

This is the first time a plant species has been discovered in the four decades of the Indian Antarctic mission, which began in 1981.

Article Link: [Moss on ice: Indian scientists' discovery may change what we know about Antarctica](#)

Q.201) Consider the following statements:

1. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs is headed by the Union Home Minister.
2. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is headed by the Finance Minister.
3. Cabinet Committees are constitutional bodies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.201) Solution (a)

Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.

They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition varies from time to time.

All committees except Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by Prime Minister.

Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs looks after the progress of government business in the Parliament. It is headed by the Union Home Minister.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs directs and coordinates the governmental activities in the economic sphere. It is headed by the Prime Minister.

Article Link: [PM Modi reconstitutes Cabinet committees, brings in new faces](#)

Q.202) The term 'suborbital flight' is sometimes seen in news. Consider the following statements regarding that:

1. In suborbital flight the spacecraft reaches a horizontal velocity of more than 28000 km/hr.
2. Satellites require suborbital trajectory in order to orbit Earth.

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.202) Solution (d)

Any object travelling slower than 28,000 km/hr must eventually return to Earth. These are suborbital flights, because they will not be travelling fast enough to orbit Earth once they reach there. Such a trip allows space travellers to experience a few minutes of "weightlessness".

If a spacecraft reaches a speed of 17,500 mph (28,000 km/h) or more, instead of falling back to the ground, it will continuously fall around the Earth. That continuous falling is what it means to be in orbit and is how satellites and the Moon stay above Earth.

Satellites need to reach that threshold speed in order to orbit Earth. Such a satellite would be accelerating towards the Earth due to gravity, but its horizontal movement is fast enough to offset the downward motion so that it moves along a circular path.

Article Link: [Suborbital flight: Fast enough to reach space, not stay there](#)

Q.203) With reference to International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.
2. GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre 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.203) Solution (c)

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) was established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019. It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

IFSCA is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.

Currently, GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India.

Prior to the establishment of IFSCA, the domestic financial regulators RBI, Sebi, PFRDA and IRDAI regulated the business in IFSC.

The main objective of IFSCA is to develop a strong global connect and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform for the entire region and the global economy as a whole.

Article Link: [IFSCA issues norms for setting up, operating ITFS to provide trade finance](#)

Q.204) "Three Girls", "Ancient Storyteller" and "In the Ladies' Enclosure" are the famous paintings of:

- a) Nandalal Bose
- b) Jamini Roy
- c) Amrita Sher-Gil
- d) Raja Ravi Varma

Q.204) Solution (c)

Amrita Sher-Gil is India's most famous woman artist and recognised by the Indian government as a "National Treasure", an honour which makes it illegal to take her art out of the country.

Sher-Gil was encouraged to study art in Paris where she learned the academic style of painting. She returned to India in 1934, marking the beginning of an evolution in her style and a deeper connection with her Indian roots.

Her Famous paintings include:

- Three Girls
- Ancient Storyteller
- In the Ladies' Enclosure
- Village Scene
- Bride's Toilet
- Mother India

Article Link: [Amrita Sher-Gil work fetches Rs 37.8 cr](#)

Q.205) Hydrogen produced using electricity generated from renewable sources is known as:

- a) Pink Hydrogen
- b) Green Hydrogen
- c) Blue Hydrogen
- d) Grey Hydrogen

Q.205) Solution (b)

Hydrogen is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water. Hydrogen can be produced from a variety of domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind. These qualities make it an attractive fuel option for transportation and electricity generation applications. It can be used in cars, in houses, for portable power, and in many more applications.

Grey Hydrogen: Most hydrogen nowadays comes from natural gas. It is bonded with carbon and can be separated from it via a process involving water called "steam reforming", but the excess carbon generates CO₂. This hydrogen is called grey whenever the excess CO₂ is not captured. Grey hydrogen accounts for most of the production today and emits about 9.3kg of CO₂ per kg of hydrogen production.

Blue Hydrogen: Hydrogen is considered blue whenever the emission generated from the steam reforming process are captured and stored underground via industrial carbon capture and storage (CSS), so that it is not dispersed in the atmosphere.

Pink Hydrogen: The colour pink is often used for hydrogen obtained from electrolysis through nuclear energy.

Green Hydrogen: Green hydrogen, often also called "clean hydrogen" is produced using electricity generated from renewable sources and currently accounting for around 1% of the overall hydrogen production. Today, green hydrogen is two to three times more expensive than blue hydrogen.

Article Link: [NTPC REL to set up India's first green Hydrogen Mobility project in Ladakh](#)

Q.206) With reference to anti-defection law, consider the following statements:

1. A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party within six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.

2. An independent member of a House may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting his disqualification from the house.

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.206) Solution (d)

The 52nd Amendment Act of 1985 provided for the disqualification of the members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection from one political party to another. For this purpose, it made changes in four Articles¹ of the Constitution and added a new Schedule (the Tenth Schedule) to the Constitution. This act is often referred to as the 'anti-defection law'.

The Tenth Schedule contains the following provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection:

- **Members of Political Parties:** A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House, (a) if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or (b) if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days. From the above provision it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.
- **Independent Members:** An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.
- **Nominated Members:** A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting this disqualification.

Article Link: [Goa Leader of Opposition to move resolution for changes to anti-defection law](#)

Q.207) Which of the following is/are the initiatives taken by the Government of India under Skill India Mission?

1. National Skill Development Mission
2. Stand-up India Mission
3. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.207) Solution (c)

Skill India Mission is an initiative launched by the Government in 2015 to train over 49 crore Indians in different industry related jobs. The vision is to create an empowered workforce by 2022 with the help of various schemes and training courses. Part of skill India mission is to cater to skill development in India through a result oriented framework that corresponds with the needs of the industry.

It is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Various initiatives under this Mission are:

- National Skill Development Mission
- National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- Skill Loan scheme
- Rural India Skill

The Stand up India scheme aims at promoting entrepreneurship among women and scheduled castes and tribes. The scheme is anchored by Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Article Link: [PM addresses World Youth Skill Day Programme](#)

Q.208) Consider the following statements regarding District Mineral Fund (DMF):

1. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 mandated every state government to set up a DMF.
2. Funds accruing to the DMF are used to implement Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana.

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.208) Solution (c)

District Mineral Foundations are statutory bodies in India established by the State Governments by notification. They derive their legal status from section 9B of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 as amended on 26 March 2015 as Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.

The objective of District Mineral Foundation is to work for the interest of the benefit of the persons and areas affected mining related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.

Composition and Functions of the DMF is prescribed by the State Governments taking guidelines from article 244 of Indian Constitution, fifth and sixth schedules, Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Funds: Every mining lease holder of will pay a fraction of royalty, not exceeding one-third of the royalty, to the DMF as per rates prescribed by Central Government. This fund will be used for welfare of the people affected in the mining affected areas.

The Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) will be implemented by the DMFs of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF. The overall objective of PMKKKY scheme is:

- To implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas, and these projects/ programs will be complementing the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government
- To minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts

- To ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

Article Link: [Alleged diversion: Centre takes complete control of district mineral funds from states](#)

Q.209) "Fit for 55" legislation, seen recently in news, is launched by:

- a) UNESCO
- b) EU
- c) UNEP
- d) WB

Q.209) Solution (b)

With the vision to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050 and to reduce emissions by 55% in 2030, European Union (EU) has unveiled "Fit for 55" legislation.

It covers initiatives like:

- Tougher caps on car pollution
- New national limits on gases from buildings.
- Revamp of the bloc's emissions trading scheme under which companies pay for the gases they send into the air.
- Carbon border Adjustment Mechanism will impose duties on foreign companies, and so increase the price of certain goods notably steel products.

Q.210) What is the effect of increase in Inflation in an economy?

- a) Purchasing power of a currency decreases
- b) Purchasing power of a currency increases
- c) Lower cost of living
- d) Acceleration in economic growth

Q.210) Solution (a)

Inflation refers to the rise in the prices of most goods and services of daily or common use, such as food, clothing, housing, recreation, transport, consumer staples, etc. Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time.

Effects of Inflation: The purchasing power of a currency unit decreases as the commodities and services get dearer. This also impacts the cost of living in a country. When inflation is high, the cost of living gets higher as well, which ultimately leads to a deceleration in economic growth. A certain level of inflation is required in the economy to ensure that expenditure is promoted and hoarding money through savings is demotivated.

Inflation is perceived differently by everyone depending upon the kind of assets they possess. For someone with investments in real estate or stocked commodity, inflation means that the prices of their assets are set for a hike. For those who possess cash, they may be adversely affected by inflation as the value of their cash erodes.

Article Link: [Growing precarity: On fuel prices and rising inflation](#)

Q.211) With reference to “Fit for 55 Package” initiative consider the following statements:

1. It calls for member states of United Nations to cut their output of greenhouse gases by 55% by 2030.
2. The initiative includes Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism which would impose tariffs on imported products based on the greenhouse gas emissions associated with them.

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.211) Solution (b)

Fit for 55 Package:

- It calls for its 27 member states of European Commission to cut their output of greenhouse gases by 55% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels.
- The European Commission acts as an executive branch of the European Union and is endowed with administrative functions as well as given the capacity to propose legislation.
- Its target is more aggressive than that of the United States, which committed to reduce emissions by 40% to 43% over the same period, but behind Britain, which pledged a 68%

reduction. China, the world's largest emitter, has only said it aims for emissions to peak by 2030.

- The new package attempts to deliver the NDC and carbon neutrality goal through proposed changes that would impact the economy, society and industry, as well as ensure "a fair, competitive and green transition by 2030 and beyond".
- Among other market-based mechanisms, the EC is proposing a carbon-border adjustment mechanism, which will put a price on imports from places that have carbon-intensive production processes.

Article Link: [EU's new climate proposal is vast.](#)

Q.212) With reference to UMANG app, consider the following statements:

1. It brings major government services on a single mobile app, with a larger goal to make the government accessible on mobile phones of citizens.
2. It is the digital India initiative of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

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.212) Solution (a)

The UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a Government of India single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app, providing access to high impact services of various organizations (Central and State).

UMANG brings major government services on a single mobile app, with a larger goal to make the government accessible on mobile phones of citizens.

It is a Digital India initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for access to central and state government services.

Article Link: [UMANG app will now show blood banks, markets, lightning alerts using MapmyIndia maps](#)

Q.213) With reference to PRASHAD scheme, consider the following schemes:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of culture.
2. It aims to conserve and revitalize India's heritage cities to represent their unique character.
3. It is a central sector scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.213) Solution (c)

The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) is a Central Sector Scheme fully financed by the Government of India launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.

The objectives of the PRASHAD scheme are as follows:

- Harness pilgrimage tourism for its multiplier and direct effect on employment generation and economic development.
- Follow pro-poor tourism concept and community-based development in the development of the pilgrimage destinations.
- Leveraging public expertise and capital.
- Enhance tourist attractiveness sustainably by developing world-class infrastructure in religious destinations.
- Create awareness amongst the local communities about the importance of tourism for them in terms of improved living standards, increase in sources of income and overall development of the area.
- Promote local culture, arts, cuisine, handicrafts, etc., to generate livelihood in the identified places.

Article Link: [Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates and dedicates PRASHAD projects in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh](#)

Q.214) Which of the following statement is correct regarding Adjournment Motion?

- a) It is introduced in the Parliament by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance, and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter.
- b) It is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
- c) It is concerned with the breach of parliamentary privileges by a minister.
- d) It is a motion moved by a member to cut short the debate on a matter before the House.

Q.214) Solution (b)

Adjournment Motion

It is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance, and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted. As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device. It involves an element of censure against the government and hence Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.

The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

The right to move a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House is subject to the following restrictions:

- It should raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent and of public importance;
- It should not cover more than one matter;
- It should be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence and should not be framed in general terms;
- It should not raise a question of privilege;
- It should not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session;
- It should not deal with any matter that is under adjudication by court; and
- It should not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.

Article Link: [Akalis to move adjournment motion in Lok Sabha on farm laws](#)

Q.215) Tyrrhenian Sea, seen recently in news, is considered as part of:

- a) East China Sea
- b) Bering Sea

- c) Arabian Sea
- d) Mediterranean Sea

Q.215) Solution (d)

The Tyrrhenian Sea is located along the western shoreline of Italy and is considered part of the larger Mediterranean Sea. It covers an area of approximately 106,000 square miles, which is situated over the boundary between the Eurasian and African tectonic plates.

The sea is a major trade and transportation route, receiving a significant number of vessels on a daily basis. It has also become a popular tourist destination given that it is home to several islands within its boundaries and a number of cities along its shorelines. Some of the most popular attractions in the Tyrrhenian Sea include Sicily, the Aeolian Islands, the city of Palermo, and the city of Naples.

Recently, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar, the Navy's Talwar-class Russian built frigate, has just concluded a two-day naval exercise with the Italian Navy in the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Labelled "Maritime Partnership Exercise", INS Tabar participated in the military exercises with along with a front line frigate of the Italian Navy.

Q.216) Consider the following statements:

1. Technical textiles are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.
2. India has emerged as the largest producer of technical textiles in the world.

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.216) Solution (a)

Technical textiles are engineered products with a definite functionality. They are manufactured using natural as well as man-made fibres such as Nomex, Kevlar, Spandex, Twaron that exhibit enhanced functional properties such as higher tenacity, excellent insulation, improved thermal resistance etc. These products find end-use application across multiple non-conventional textile

industries such as healthcare, construction, automobile, aerospace, sports, defence, agriculture etc.

Based on usage, there are 12 technical textile segments; Agrotech, Meditech, Buildtech, Mobiltech, Clothtech, Oekotech, Geotech, Packtech, Hometech, Protech, Indutech and Sportech.

For example, 'mobiltech' refers to products in vehicles such as seat belts and airbags, airplane seats; geotech, which is incidentally the fastest growing sub-segment, used to hold back soil, etc.

India is the 6th largest producer of Technical Textiles in the world with 6% Global Share.

With an aim to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market India launched National Technical Textiles Mission in the year 2020.

Article Link: [Shri Piyush Goyal holds an in depth review of initiatives undertaken by Ministry of Textiles for giving a boost to the textiles sector.](#)

Q.217) With reference to Eco Niwas Samhita 2021, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It specifies code compliance approaches and minimum energy performance requirements for building services.

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.217) Solution (b)

Eco Niwas Samhita 2021 is an initiative launched by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the umbrella programme of Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021 as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'.

BEE is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

The purpose of Eco Niwas Samhita 2021 is for code compliance and to provide the minimum requirements for building services.

The code applies to –

- Residential buildings
- Residential part of mixed land-use building projects

It sets minimum requirements for electro-mechanical systems used in building services (i.e. common area and exterior lighting, elevators, pumps, basement ventilation, transformers, power distribution losses, power factor correction, electrical vehicle supply equipment etc.) and indoor electrical end-use (i.e. indoor lighting, comfort systems, service hot water etc.).

Article Link: [Union Minister for Power and MNRE inaugurates "Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021"](#)

Q.218) Consider the following:

1. STRIVE
2. UDAY
3. SANKALP
4. ASEEM

Which of the above are the skill development schemes of the government of India?

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

Q.218) Solution (c)

Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE): It is a World Bank assisted-Government of India project with the objective of improving the relevance and efficiency of skills training provided through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and apprenticeships. It is an outcome focused scheme marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results. It is aimed at institutional reforms and improving quality & market relevance of skill development training programs in long term vocational education training.

Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP): It is an outcome-oriented programme of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with a special focus on decentralised planning and quality improvement. The objective is strengthened institutional mechanisms at National and State levels to guide planning, delivery and monitoring of market relevant training.

Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM): It is a portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY): It targets in reducing the average technical and commercial loss from around 22% to 15% along with eliminating the gap between revenue-side supply & cost-side supply.

Article Link: [PM addresses World Youth Skill Day Programme](#)

Q.219) Which of the following country is NOT a part of Amazon River Basin?

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

Q.219) Solution (d)

The Amazon Basin is the part of South America drained by the Amazon River and its tributaries. The Amazon drainage basin covers an area of about 35.5 percent of the South American continent. It is located in the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana (France), Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

Most of the basin is covered by the Amazon rainforest, also known as Amazonia. With a 5.5 million km² area of dense tropical forest, this is the largest rainforest in the world.

Article Link: [Why the Amazon forests are no longer acting as a carbon sink](#)

Q.220) Which of the following are the tributaries of river Krishna?

- a) Koyna, Musi and Warna
- b) Penganga, Maner and Sabri

- c) Wardha, Manjra and Pravara
- d) Kabini, Suvarnavathi and Bhavani

Q.220) Solution (a)

The Krishna River is the fourth-biggest river in terms of water inflows and river basin area in India, after the Ganga, Godavari and Brahmaputra.

The Krishna River originates in the Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar in the state of Maharashtra.

It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.

Tributaries are: Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.

Q.221) With reference to cyber crime, consider the following statements:

1. Pegasus is a spyware developed in China which is used to spy on people without their consent.
2. India is signatory to the Budapest convention, an international treaty seeking to address cyber crimes.

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.221) Solution (d)

Pegasus spyware:

- It is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group. Pegasus works by sending an exploit link, and if the target user clicks on the link, the malware or the code that allows the surveillance is installed on the user's phone.
- Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the target user's phone.
- Pegasus infections can be achieved through so-called "zero-click" attacks, which do not require any interaction from the phone's owner in order to succeed.

- Human Rights activists, journalists and lawyers around the world have been targeted with phone malware sold to authoritarian governments by an Israeli surveillance firm.

Budapest Convention:

- It is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.
- Since it entered into force, important countries like Brazil and India have declined to adopt the Convention on the grounds that they did not participate in its drafting.
- It is the first multilateral legally binding instrument to regulate cybercrime.
- Since 2018, India has been reconsidering its stand on the Convention after a surge in cybercrime, though concerns about sharing data with foreign agencies remain

Article Link: [How Pegasus infects](#)

Q.222) Consider the following protected areas:

1. Manas
2. Bannerghatta
3. Keoladeo

Which of the above is/are declared Tiger Reserves?

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

Q.222) Solution (a)

Manas:

- It is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve in Assam.
- Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.
- The park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as the Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog.

Bannerghatta:

- It is a national park located near Bangalore in Karnataka.
- It was founded in 1970 and declared as a national park in 1974.
- The park is part of a wildlife corridor for elephants which connects the Biligiriranga Hills and the Sathyamangalam forest.

Keoladeo:

- It is located in Bharatpur, Rajasthan. It was declared national park in 1982.
- It is a famous avifauna sanctuary that hosts thousands of birds, especially during the winter season. Over 350 species of birds are known to be resident.
- It is also a World Heritage Site.

Article Link: [Nil to 48 in 20 years; Assam's Manas sees amazing rise in tiger numbers](#)

Q.223) With reference to midday meal scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal agency for the implementation of this scheme.
2. It envisages to provide cooked meal with 450 calories to every child at primary level and 700 calories at upper primary level.

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.223) Solution (b)

The Mid Day Meal Scheme was launched in the year 1995 as a centrally sponsored scheme. It comes under the Ministry of Education.

The objective of this scheme is to enhance the enrollment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improve nutritional levels among school going children studying in Classes I to VIII of Government, Government - aided schools, Special Training centres (STC) and Madarasas and Maktabas supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

The scheme provides that every child within the age group of six to fourteen years studying in classes I to VIII who enrolls and attends the school, shall be provided hot cooked meal.

The scheme guidelines envisage to provide cooked mid-day meal with 450 calories and 12 g of protein to every child at primary level and 700 calories and 20 g of protein at upper primary level. This energy and protein requirement for a primary child comes from cooking 100 g of rice/flour, 20 g pulses and 50 g vegetables and 5 g oil, and for an upper primary child it comes from 150 g of rice/flour, 30 g of pulses and 75 g of vegetables and 7.5 g of oil.

Article Link: [Midday meals leave a long-lasting impact: study](#)

Q.224) India recently began first monk fruit cultivation exercise. Monk fruit is famous for:

- a) Treatment for anxiety
- b) Prevention of migraines
- c) Non-caloric natural sweetener
- d) Treatment of ulcerative colitis

Q.224) Solution (c)

Monkfruit is a herbaceous perennial vine of the gourd family, Cucurbitaceae. It is native to southern China and northern Thailand.

The monk fruit (*Siraitia grosvenorii*), is known now throughout the world for its intensely sweet taste, and it has been used as a non-caloric natural sweetener.

The sweet taste of monk fruit results primarily from the content of a group of cucurbitane-type triterpene glycosides known as mogrosides, and the extracted mixture of mogrosides is about 300 times sweeter than sucrose or cane sugar.

The purified mogroside, has been approved as a high-intensity sweetening agent in Japan and the non-caloric sweet taste extract is a generally recognized as safe (GRAS) non-nutritive sweetener, flavour enhancer, and food ingredient in the USA.

The demand for monk fruit is gradually increasing in the international market. In spite of high demand, this crop is cultivated only in China. However, suitable agroclimatic conditions are available in India, particularly in Himachal Pradesh.

Article Link: [India's first monk fruit cultivation exercise begins in HP's Kullu](#)

Q.225) "Bonalu", seen recently in news, is a traditional folk festival of:

- a) Odisha
- b) Telangana
- c) Manipur
- d) Nagaland

Q.225) Solution (b)

Bonalu is a Telangana traditional Hindu festival centered on the Goddess Mahakali.

It is celebrated in the month of Ashada Masam, which is around July and/or August. Special "poojas" (worship) are performed for Yellamma (one of the many regional forms of Mahakali) on the first and last day of the festival.

The festival is also considered a thanksgiving to the Goddess for fulfillment of vows.

Article Link: [Temple committee from Hyderabad offers Bonalu to Goddess Kanaka Durga](#)

Q.226) Which of the following items is/are included in State list according to 7th Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- 1. Public order
- 2. Police
- 3. Criminal Law

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.226) Solution (b)

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, it is the primary duty of the State Governments to prevent, detect, register and investigate crime and prosecute the criminals. Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing them financial assistance for modernization of their Police Forces in terms of weaponry, communication, equipment, mobility, training and other infrastructure under the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces.

Criminal law including all matters included in the Indian Penal Code at the commencement of the Constitution is part of Concurrent list under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

Article Link: [A more humane police force](#)

Q.227) Which of the following state in India has a “floating” Constituency?

- a) Assam
- b) Manipur
- c) Karnataka
- d) Sikkim

Q.227) Solution (d)

The only floating constituency in India is Sangha- that is in Sikkim. This is the only constituency in the country without any geographical boundaries and one for which only Buddhist monks registered with 51 monasteries within the state can contest and vote.

The 32- Sangha assembly constituency in Sikkim was created in 1958 for the Sikkim state council on the requests of monastery associations and was retained with its special character even after 1975 when Sikkim became a state of India. Article 371 (F) of the Constitution of India protects the special character of Sikkim and various laws of the then kingdom.

The same was also upheld by the Supreme Court in 1993. The apex court recognised that Sanghas were culturally a part of Sikkim's council decision-making for the last 300 years and since the time of Chogyal kings of the state and hence ruled that this reservation was not purely religion based and therefore not unconstitutional.

Article Link: [Kashmiri Pandits propose 'floating' constituency](#)

Q.228) The monsoon session of Parliament has begun recently. In this context consider the following statements:

1. The maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than three months.
2. An adjournment terminates a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.

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.228) Solution (d)

The president from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet. But, the maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months. In other words, the Parliament should meet at least twice a year.

A 'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha).

An adjournment suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks.

Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die.

Q.229) With reference to NEA Scout, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a CubeSat developed by ISRO.
2. Its main mission is to fly by and collect data from a near-Earth asteroid.

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.229) Solution (b)

Near-Earth Asteroid Scout, or NEA Scout, is a miniaturized spacecraft, known as a CubeSat, developed under NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) Program.

Its main mission is to fly by and collect data from a near-Earth asteroid. It will also be America's first interplanetary mission using special solar sail propulsion.

NEA Scout is equipped with special cameras and can take pictures ranging from 50 cm/pixels to 10 cm/pixels. It can also process the image and reduce the file sizes before sending them to the earth-based Deep Space Network via its medium-gain antenna.

Article Link: [What makes NASA's new spacecraft NEA Scout special?](#)

Q.230) Which of the following is the first continent in the world to complete collection of digital land use data?

- a) Australia
- b) Europe
- c) Africa
- d) South America

Q.230) Solution (c)

Africa has become the first continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised digital land use and land use change data under the Africa Open DEAL initiative.

DEAL stands for Data for the Environment, Agriculture and Land Initiative.

The data collection and analysis initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the African Union Commission (AUC).

The continent survey revealed that there are around seven billion trees outside forests in Africa.

Article Link: [Africa becomes first continent to complete collection of digital land use data](#)

Q.231) With reference to National Health Mission (NHM), consider the following statements:

1. It envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services in rural areas only.
2. The mission seeks to give special focus on Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Healthcare.
3. Ayushman Bharat is the major initiative launched under NHM.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.231) Solution (d)

The National Health Mission (NHM) envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

The National Health Mission (NHM) encompasses its two Sub-Missions, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).

The main programmatic components include

- Health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas
- Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)
- Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.

The National Health Mission seeks to ensure the achievement of the following indicators:

- Reduce Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to 1/1000 live births
- Reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 25/1000 live births
- Reduce Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1
- Prevention and reduction of anemia in women aged 15–49 years
- Prevent and reduce mortality & morbidity from communicable, non-communicable; injuries and emerging diseases
- Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure
- Reduce annual incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis by half
- Reduce prevalence of Leprosy to <1/10000 population and incidence to zero in all districts
- Annual Malaria Incidence to be <1/1000
- Less than 1 per cent microfilaria prevalence in all districts
- Kala-azar Elimination by 2015, <1 case per 10000 population in all blocks

Some of the major initiatives under National Health Mission (NHM) are:

- Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)

- Ayushman Bharat.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

Article Link: [Availability of Healthcare Facilities in Rural Area](#)

Q.232) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Stand Up India scheme?

1. It aims at promoting entrepreneurship among women and scheduled castes and tribes by providing institutional credit for setting up enterprise.
2. The loans are available only for Greenfield projects.
3. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.232) Solution (a)

The Stand up India scheme aims at promoting entrepreneurship among women and scheduled castes and tribes.

The scheme is anchored by Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Eligibility:

- SC/ST and/or woman entrepreneurs, above 18 years of age.
- Loans under the scheme is available for only green field project. Green field signifies, in this context, the first time venture of the beneficiary in the manufacturing or services or trading sector.
- In case of non-individual enterprises, 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either SC/ST and/or Women Entrepreneur.
- Borrower should not be in default to any bank/financial institution.

Greenfield project:

A greenfield project is one which is not constrained by prior work. It is constructed on unused land where there is no need to remodel or demolish an existing structure.

Article Link: [Stand Up India Scheme extended up to the year 2025](#)

Q.233) Which of the following schemes are launched by the Government of India with an aim to double the income of farmers?

1. PM-KISAN
2. PM-AASHA
3. PM- SVANIDHI

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.233) Solution (b)

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):

- With a view to provide income support to all land holding eligible farmer families, the Government has launched PM-KISAN.
- The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.
- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
- It is a central sector scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA):

- It is an umbrella scheme to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers.
- It comprises the erstwhile Price Support Scheme (PSS) with certain modifications and rolling out of new schemes of Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS).
- Under PM-AASHA, States/UTs are offered to choose either PSS and PDPS in a given procurement season with respect to particular oilseeds crop for the entire State. Pulses and Copra are procured under PSS.

- It is helping farmers in getting increased MSP which provides adequate returns over the cost of production.

Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):

- It is launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within a year. The loans would be without collateral.
- The scheme would benefit vendors, hawkers, thelewale and people involved in goods and services related to textiles, apparel, artisan products, barbers shops, laundry services etc. in different areas.

Article Link: [Progress in Doubling Farmer Income](#)

Q.234) SMILE scheme has been launched by the government of India with an objective of:

- a) Assisting disabled people in the procurement of affordable, advanced, scientifically developed, aid and equipments.
- b) Assisting the manual scavengers for their rehabilitation in alternative professions.
- c) Providing physical aids and assisted living devices for all senior citizens belonging to BPL category.
- d) Ensuring comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in Begging.

Q.234) Solution (d)

SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise:

This scheme is formulated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which includes sub-scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging.

This scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging. The focus of the scheme is extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on.

The scheme would be implemented with the support of State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) , institutions and others.

Scheme provides for the use of the existing shelter homes available with the State/UT Governments and Urban local bodies for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of Begging. In case of non-availability of existing shelter homes, new dedicated shelter homes are to be set up by the implementing agencies.

Article Link: [Government has formulated a scheme covering comprehensive measures for welfare of beggars](#)

Q.235) Kapu community, seen recently in news, belongs to which of the following states?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Q.235) Solution (c)

The Kapus are primarily an agrarian community based in the Andhra-Telangana region.

It is believed that they migrated from the Gangetic plains, probably from Kampilya (near Ayodhya) thousands of years ago.

They entered what is present-day Telangana and, after clearing the forests along the banks of the Godavari, settled down to farming.

Recently, the Andhra Pradesh government has announced 10% reservation for the Kapu community and other Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) for appointments in the initial posts and services in the State government in accordance with the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019.

Article Link: [A.P. govt announces 10% reservation for EWS](#)

Q.236) Consider the following statements:

1. Increasing pollution decreases the biological oxygen demand in rivers thus adversely affecting the aquatic ecosystem.
2. Maharashtra has the highest number of polluted river stretches 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.236) Solution (b)

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2018 identified 351 polluted river stretches in India.

Maharashtra has the highest number of polluted river stretches (53), followed by Assam (44), Madhya Pradesh (22), Kerala (21), Gujarat (20), Odisha (19), and West Bengal and Karnataka (17).

The polluted river stretches are prioritised in five categories based on biological oxygen demand concentration consistently.

CPCB study reveals that discharge of untreated wastewater is one of the main causes of river pollution in states. There is either not sufficient treatment capacity or capacity is under-utilised in the states. This is one of the reasons why action plan to clean the polluted river stretch is not working.

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is the amount of oxygen necessary for bacteria to consume the organic material in water. Organic material that is discharged into natural waters causes a rapid increase in the growth of microorganisms that deplete the oxygen required for other aquatic life.

One of the main reasons for treating wastewater prior to its discharge into a water resource is to lower its BOD i.e. to reduce its need of oxygen and thereby lessen its demand from the streams, lakes, rivers, or estuaries into which it is released.

Article Link: [Behind polluted Indian River stretches, inadequate sewage treatment](#)

Q.237) With reference to Adarsh Smarak Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a scheme for development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
2. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

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.237) Solution (d)

Adarsh Smarak Scheme is a scheme of the Ministry of Culture launched in the year 2014.

It aims to provide basic tourist amenities such as rest rooms, drinking water, benches, souvenir shops, interpretation centres, and others at the 100 identified Adarsh Smarak, which also includes cafeterias.

Objectives of the Scheme are:

- To make the monument visitor friendly.
- To provide interpretation and audio-video centers.
- To make the monument accessible to differently-abled people.
- To implement Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Under the scheme Archaeological Survey of India had identified 100 monuments as "Adarsh Smarak" for upgradation.

Article Link: [State monuments to get facelift under Central heritage schemes](#)

Q.238) Consider the following statements regarding 'Historic Urban Landscape' project:

1. It is an initiative of UNESCO.
2. In India this project is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.
3. Varanasi and Ajmer are the cities selected under this project.

Which of the above 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.238) Solution (c)

Historic Urban Landscape Project was adopted in 2011 at UNESCO's General Conference.

UNESCO defines Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach as an integrated approach towards managing heritage resources found within dynamic and evolving environments.

HUL acknowledges the interconnections within a city, which occur between the built and natural environments, the tangible and intangible values, as well as within the cultural and social practices of a community.

The approach addresses the policy, governance and management concerns involving a variety of stakeholders, including local, national, regional, international, public and private actors in the urban development process.

In India this project is being implemented with the collaboration of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Ministry of Culture under supervision of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

Article Link: [UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for Gwalior, Orchha launched](#)

Q.239) Which of the following act provides legal basis for setting up of Asset Reconstruction Companies in India?

- a) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- b) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- c) The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2012
- d) SARFAESI Act, 2002

Q.239) Solution (d)

An Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets. Or in other words, ARCs are in the business of buying bad loans from banks.

ARCs clean up the balance sheets of banks when the latter sells these to the ARCs. This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.

The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002; enacted in December 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India.

The SARFAESI Act helps reconstruction of bad assets without the intervention of courts. Since then, large number of ARCs were formed and were registered with the RBI which has got the power to regulate the ARCs.

Setting up of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL) the proposed bad bank for taking over stressed assets of lenders, was announced in the Budget for 2021-22.

The plan is to create a bad bank to house bad loans of ₹500 crore and above, in a structure that will contain an asset reconstruction company (ARC) and an asset management company (AMC) to manage and recover dud assets.

The new entity is being created in collaboration with both public and private sector banks.

Article Link: [ARCs stretched, 'bad bank' road map: Rs 2 lakh crore of stressed assets](#)

Q.240) 'Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification' is an initiative of:

- a) ILO
- b) WTO
- c) WHO
- d) UNESCO

Q.240) Solution (c)

Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification is a Scheme developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the request of WHO Member States to facilitate international trade in pharmaceutical products between Member States.

It was first developed in 1975. Since then it has been revised in 1988, 1992 and in 1997.

The Scheme is an administrative instrument that requires a participating Member State (a certifying country), upon application by a commercially interested party (the applicant company), to certify/attest to the competent authority of another participating Member State (the recipient country) that:

- A specific pharmaceutical product is authorized for marketing in the certifying country, or if not, the reason why authorization has not been accorded;
- The manufacturing facilities and operations conform to good manufacturing practices (GMP) as recommended by WHO.

Article Link: [WHO-GMP/COPP Certification for Ayurvedic Products](#)

Q.241) With reference to the policy of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), consider the following statements:

1. The prime objective of SEZs is to provide a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximizing value addition, minimizing wastages and increasing farmers' income.
2. Maximum numbers of SEZs are located in the coastal states of 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.241) Solution (b)

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a specifically delineated duty-free enclave and shall be deemed to be foreign territory for the purposes of trade operations and duties and tariffs. In order words, SEZ is a geographical region that has economic laws different from a country's typical economic laws.

The prime objective of SEZs is to enhance foreign investment and provide an internationally competitive and hassle free environment for exports.

The government of India began to establish SEZs in 2000 under the Foreign Trade Policy to redress the infrastructural and bureaucratic challenges that were seen to have limited the success of EPZs.

The policy relating to SEZs, contained in the foreign trade policy, was originally implemented through piecemeal and ad hoc amendments to different laws, besides executive orders. In order to avoid these pitfalls and to give a long-term and stable policy framework with minimum regulation, the SEZ Act, 2005, was enacted. The Act provides the umbrella legal framework,

covering all important legal and regulatory aspects of SEZ development as well as for units operating in SEZs.

Presently, 379 SEZs are notified, out of which 265 are operational. About 64% of the SEZs are located in five states – Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Article Link: [Special Economic Zones touch new heights in terms of performance in Exports, Investment and Employment](#)

Q.242) Consider the following statements:

1. The judges of a High Court are appointed by the Governor after consultation with the chief justice of the concerned High Court.
2. A judge of a High Court holds office for 5 years or until he attains the age of 62 years whichever is earlier.

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.242) Solution (d)

Every high court (whether exclusive or common) consists of a chief justice and such other judges as the president may from time to time deem necessary to appoint.

The judges of a high court are appointed by the President. The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned. For appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted. In case of a common high court for two or more states, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the president.

The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of a high court. He holds office until he attains the age of 62 years. Any questions regarding his age is to be decided by the president after consultation with the chief justice of India and the decision of the president is final.

Article Link: [High Court appointments an ongoing process, Law Ministry informs Rajya Sabha](#)

Q.243) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Mangrove ecosystem in India?

1. Mangroves occur worldwide mainly between latitudes 30° N and 30° S.
2. Mangroves are viviparous.
3. 80% of mangrove forests in India occur in West Bengal, Karnataka and Goa.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.243) Solution (a)

A mangrove is a shrub or small tree that grows in coastal saline or brackish water.

Mangroves occur worldwide in the tropics and subtropics, mainly between latitudes 30° N and 30° S, with the greatest mangrove area within 5° of the equator.

Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees, also called halophytes, and are adapted to live in harsh coastal conditions. They contain a complex salt filtration system and complex root system to cope with saltwater immersion and wave action. They are adapted to the low-oxygen conditions of waterlogged mud.

Mangroves are viviparous i.e. their seeds germinate while still attached to the parent tree. Once germinated, the seedling grows into a propagule. The mature propagule then drops into the water and gets transported to a different spot, eventually taking root in a solid ground.

Top 10 Mangrove Forest in India:

Rank	States/UTs with Highest Mangrove Cover	Total Mangrove Cover in Sq km
1	West Bengal	2,112
2	Gujarat	1,177
3	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	616
4	Andhra Pradesh	404
5	Odisha	251
6	Maharashtra	320
7	Tamil Nadu	45
8	Goa	26
9	Karnataka	10

10	Kerala	9
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Article Link: [The genome of a Salt-secreting Mangrove Species Decoded by DBT-ILS](#)

Q.244) *Avicennia marina*, seen recently in news, is:

- a) Tree belonging to the genus of coffee family
- b) New species of seaweed
- c) Salt tolerant mangrove species
- d) New species of wild Sun Rose

Q.244) Solution (c)

Avicennia marina is one of the most prominent mangroves species found in all mangrove formations in India. It is a salt-secreting and extraordinarily salt-tolerant mangrove species that grows optimally in 75 per cent seawater.

It is among the rare plant species which can excrete 40 per cent of the salt through salt glands in the leaves, besides its extraordinary capacity to exclude salt entry to the roots.

Recently, the scientists for the first time have decoded the reference-grade whole genome sequence of *Avicennia marina*.

Article Link: [Genome of salt-secreting mangrove species decoded by Department of Biotechnology](#)

Q.245) The traditional institution of village headmen known as 'Gaon Buras' is commonly found in the state of:

- a) Karnataka
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Assam

Q.245) Solution (d)

Gaon Buras: The institution of Gaon Bura in Assam dates back to the colonial era, when the British appointed the oldest person in the village as the head, who would oversee matters relating to land and revenue in a particular area.

The position would usually go to the oldest, most knowledgeable man who had good personal ties with everyone in a village, or a cluster of small villages.

In Arunachal Pradesh, too, the Gaon Buras (and Buris) are the most important village-level functionaries.

Post-independence, the government continued with the institution and made the Gaon Bura a formal part of the Assam Revenue and Disaster Management department, increasing his responsibilities, and eventually introducing a small honorarium for the role.

Recently, the Assam Cabinet announced that Gaon Buras, village-level functionaries of the district administration, will be called 'Gaon Pradhans'.

Article Link: [The Gaon Bura: a chapter of Assam's history, now rewritten](#)

Q.246) At which of the following places strategic crude oil storages has been maintained by India as a hedge against potential future energy crises?

1. Tatipaka
2. Mangalore
3. Padur

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.246) Solution (d)

The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPR) refers to the emergency fuel storage maintained by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle - wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Strategic crude oil storages are at three underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka). All these are located on the east and west coasts of India which

are readily accessible to the refineries. They have fuel storage of total 5.33 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes).

These strategic storages are in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies and serve in response to external supply disruptions.

The government has approved the construction of a new storage facility in Chandikhole (Odisha) and doubling the capacity at Padur. This would raise India's strategic reserve capacity to 11.83 million tonnes.

Article Link: [Centre overhauls petroleum reserve policy to boost private interest](#)

Q.247) Which of the following countries are members of Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC)?

1. Thailand
2. Malaysia
3. Indonesia
4. Laos

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.247) Solution (d)

The Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established on November 10, 2000, at Vientiane, Laos at the First MGC Ministerial Meeting.

It comprises six member countries, namely India (Look-East connectivity projects), Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

The four areas of cooperation are:

- Tourism
- Culture
- Education
- Transportation

The organization takes its name from the Ganga and the Mekong, two large rivers in the region. The Mekong region is very important for India's 'Act East Policy' for strengthening its economic integration with Southeast and East-Asian countries. India has accorded high priority to economic engagement with the MGC countries, working towards establishing seamless physical and digital connectivity, as well as capacity building under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and Narrowing the Development Gap.

Article Link: [Mekong region is of great importance to India: EAM Jaishankar](#)

Q.248) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the second-largest tea producer in the world.
2. India is ranked fourth in terms of tea exports.

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.248) Solution (c)

By building on a proud legacy of enterprise that spanned nearly two and a half centuries, India has acquired an exalted status on the global tea map.

- The country is the second-largest tea producer in the world.
- India is also the world's largest consumer of black tea.
- India is ranked fourth in terms of tea exports in the world after Kenya, China and Sri Lanka.

India offers high-quality speciality teas, such as Darjeeling, Assam Orthodox and the high-range Nilgiris which have a distinct aroma, strength, colour and flavour.

Article Link: [India raises concerns with EU, Russia over tea exports](#)

Q.249) "Nord Stream 2 Pipeline" is a system of offshore natural gas pipelines running under:

- a) Black Sea

- b) Baltic Sea
- c) Mediterranean Sea
- d) Celtic Sea

Q.249) Solution (b)

Nord Stream 2 pipeline:

In 2015, the Russian energy major Gazprom and five other European firms decided to build Nord Stream 2, valued at around \$11 billion. The 1,200-km pipeline will run from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany through the Baltic Sea, and will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year.

The under-construction pipeline will run along with the already completed Nord Stream 1 system, and the two together will supply an aggregate of 110 billion cubic metres of gas to Germany per year. The pipeline falls in the territory of EU members Germany and Denmark, and is about 98% complete.

Nord Stream projects have been opposed by Ukraine and the United States as well as by other Central and Eastern European countries because of concerns that the pipelines would increase Russia's influence in Europe, and because of the large reduction of transit fees for use of alternative pipelines in Central and Eastern European countries. The builders contend that the pipeline is more important to Germany than Russia, which could just as easily sell the gas to China.

Article Link: [Why the US has changed its mind on Nord Stream 2 pipeline](#)

Q.250) Recently, Iran opened oil terminal in Gulf of Oman to bypass Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz connects:

- a) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- c) Black Sea and Sea of Marmara
- d) Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba

Q.250) Solution (b)

The Strait of Hormuz is a channel linking the Persian Gulf (west) with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea (southeast). The strait is 35 to 60 miles (55 to 95 km) wide and separates Iran (north) from the Arabian Peninsula (south).

It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean and is one of the world's most strategically important choke points.

On the north coast lies Iran, and on the south coast the United Arab Emirates and Musandam, an exclave of Oman.

A third of the world's liquefied natural gas and almost 25% of total global oil consumption passes through the strait, making it a highly important strategic location for international trade.

Q.251) Consider the following statements regarding report “Trends in World Agricultural Trade in the past 25 Years”, released recently:

1. It is released by Food and Agricultural Organization.
2. India has emerged as top exporter of cotton in the world.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.251) Solution (d)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has released a report on the trends in World Agricultural Trade in the past 25 years.

Findings of the report:

- The US, which was the largest Agri exporter in 1995(22%), was overtaken by the European Union in 2019(16.1%). The US's share fell to 13.8% in 2019.
- Brazil maintained its ranking as the third-largest exporter increasing its share from 4.8% in 1995 to 7.8% in 2019.
- China climbed from the sixth spot in 1995 (4%) to fourth in 2019 (5.4%).

India specific findings:

- India has entered into the top 10 list of agricultural produce exporters in 2019 with a sizeable share in the export of rice, cotton, soya beans and meat.
- In 2019, Mexico and India, with 3.4% and 3.1% share in global agri exports, respectively, replaced Malaysia (7th) and New Zealand (9th) as the largest exporters.
- The top rice exporters in 1995 included Thailand (38%), India (26%), and the US (19%). In 2019, India (33%) overtook Thailand (20%) to top the list while Vietnam (12%) overtook the US to the third spot.
- India was the third-largest cotton exporter (7.6%) and the fourth-largest importer (10%) in 2019. It had not featured in the top 10 list in 1995.
- Soya Bean is the largest traded agri product. India (0.1%) has a meager share in the Soya Bean trade but was ranked ninth in the world.
- India has been ranked eighth in the world in terms of meat and edible meat export with a 4% share in global trade.

Article Link: [India breaks into the top 10 list of agri produce exporters](#)

Q.252) With reference to I-STEM project, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to strengthen the research and development ecosystem of the country by connecting researchers with resources.

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.252) Solution (b)

Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) project:

- It is an initiative of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India (PSA, GOI) under the aegis of Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.
- The goal of I-STEM is to strengthen the R&D ecosystem of the country by connecting researchers with resources, in part by promoting technologies and scientific equipment development indigenously, and providing necessary supplies and supports to

researchers by enabling them an access to existing publicly funded R&D facilities in the country through the I-STEM web portal.

- In the first phase, the portal is listed with more than 20,000 pieces of equipment from 1050 institutions across the country and has more than 20,000 Indian researchers.
- Under Phase II (until 2026), the portal will host indigenous technology products listed through a digital catalogue. The portal will also provide a platform for the various City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters supported by the Office of PSA to enhance effective use of R&D infrastructure through leveraging collaboration and partnership built on a shared STI ecosystem.

Article Link: [I-STEM enters Phase-II, five years extension approved by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to GOI](#)

Q.253) Which of the following is/are the criteria on the basis of which a site is designated as the UNESCO World Heritage Site?

1. A site which represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.
2. A site which represents significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

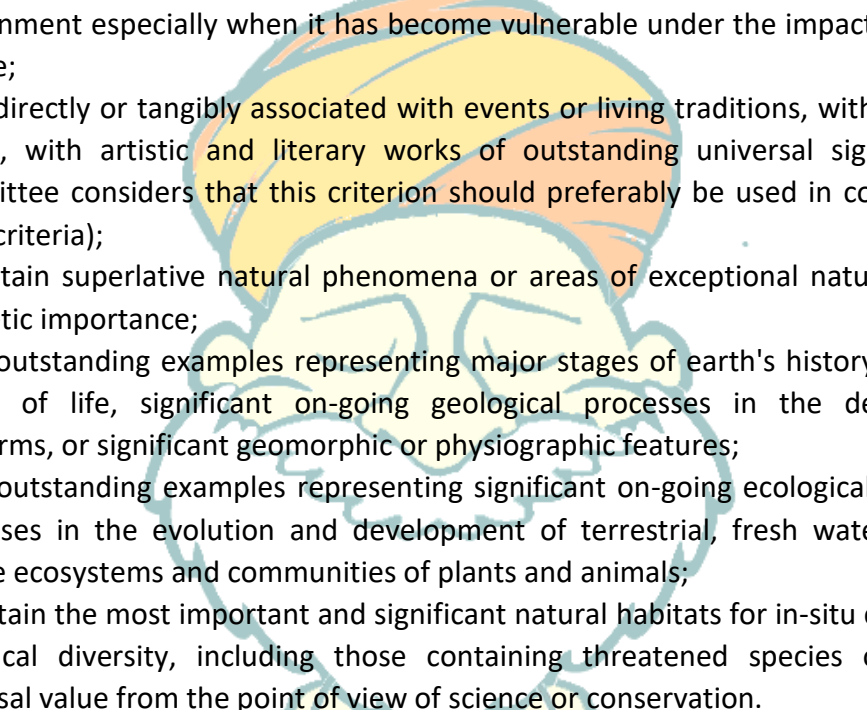
Q.253) Solution (c)

A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain "cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity"

For a property to be included on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee must find that it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

- 
2. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
 3. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
 4. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
 5. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
 6. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
 7. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
 8. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
 9. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
 10. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Article Link: [Cultural sites in China, India, Iran and Spain inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List](#)

Q.254) Which of the following statement correctly defines the term "Gig Economy"?

- a) It is an economy in which the government directs all economic activity.
- b) It is a type of labour market characterised by the prevalence of freelance work.
- c) It is a mode of exchange where valuables are not sold, but rather given without an explicit agreement for immediate or future rewards.
- d) None of the above

Q.254) Solution (b)

In a gig economy, temporary, flexible jobs are commonplace and companies tend to hire independent contractors and freelancers instead of full-time employees.

A gig economy undermines the traditional economy of full-time workers who often focus on their career development.

The gig economy can benefit workers, businesses, and consumers by making work more adaptable to the needs of the moment and demand for flexible lifestyles.

At the same time, the gig economy can have downsides due to the erosion of traditional economic relationships between workers, businesses, and clients.

Article Link: [Gig economy to boost employment of Indian women in the formal sector](#)

Q.255) The conservation status of "Agarwood tree" according to IUCN Red List is:

- a) Extinct
- b) Extinct in Wild
- c) Critically Endangered
- d) Endangered

Q.255) Solution (c)

Agarwood is an evergreen tree found in North Eastern India with Assam and Tripura as main region.

Agarwood is an aromatic plant producing highly valued resinous wood commonly used for medicinal, aromatic and religious purposes such as perfume making, agarbatti etc.

Due to rising demand for agarwood, as well as shortcomings in monitoring harvests and an increasing illegal trade, it is on the brink of extinction in the wild and is now considered critically endangered flora on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Article Link: [Tripura initiates steps to promote cultivation of Agar to transform the Economy](#)

Q.256) Consider the following statements regarding Wasteland Atlas 2019:

1. It has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. Wasteland is defined not as desertified land, but land that not used for agriculture, commercial use or as forest land.

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.256) Solution (b)

Wasteland Atlas 2019 has been prepared by the Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Department of Space.

Significance of wasteland atlas: Unprecedented pressure on the land beyond its carrying capacity is resulting into degradation of lands in the Country. Therefore, robust geospatial information on wastelands assumes significance and effectively helpful in rolling back the wastelands for productive use through various land development programmes / schemes.

This Wastelands Atlas-2019 provides district and state wise distribution of different categories of wastelands area.

Wasteland is defined not as desertified land, but land that not used for agriculture, commercial use or as forest land. It includes degraded forests, overgrazed pastures, drought-struck pastures, eroded valleys, hilly slopes, waterlogged marshy lands, barren land, etc.

Article Link: [Over 7 lakh sq km of forest land in country, Rajya Sabha informed](#)

Q.257) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK)?

- 1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- 2. It seeks to provide better socio-economic infrastructure facilities to the unorganised sector workers.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Q.257) Solution (d)

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

It is being implemented in 1300 identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs), with an objective of developing socio-economic infrastructure and basic amenities for minorities.

Special focus by earmarking funds

- 80% of the resources under the PMJVK would be earmarked for projects related to education, health and skill development.
- 33 to 40% of resources under the PMJVK would be specifically allocated for women centric projects.

Beneficiaries:

- As far as PMJVK is concerned, the communities notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 would be taken as Minority Communities.
- At present 6 (six) communities namely Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as Minority Communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Article Link: [Infrastructure Development Programme](#)

Q.258) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Green Building Council (IGBC):

1. It is a division of the Indian Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
2. IGBC Green Cities rating system is a voluntary and consensus based programme.

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.258) Solution (b)

The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) is a division of the Confederation of Indian Industry that works closely with the government and aims at sustainably built environment.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, founded in 1895. CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. It is a membership-based organisation.

IGBC Green Cities rating system is a voluntary and consensus based programme. The rating system has been developed with the support of IGBC Green Cities Committee.

IGBC Green Cities rating system is the first of its kind rating in India to address environmental sustainability in emerging cities. The rating system shall enable the development authorities and developers to apply green concepts and planning principles, so as to reduce environmental impacts that are measurable and improve the overall quality of life.

Article Link: [Kandla becomes first Green SEZ](#)

Q.259) "Nauka", seen recently in news, is:

- a) Scorpene class submarine of Indian Navy
- b) Seawolf class submarine of United States Navy
- c) Space laboratory launched by Russia
- d) Ground-based missile-defense radar of Israel

Q.259) Solution (c)

Nauka — meaning "science" in Russian — is the biggest space laboratory Russia has launched to date, and will primarily serve as a research facility.

It will replace Pirs, a Russian module on the International Space Station (ISS) used as a docking port for spacecraft and as a door for cosmonauts to go out on spacewalks.

Now, Nauka will serve as the Russia's main research facility on the space station.

The new module is sent into orbit using a Proton rocket — the most powerful in Russia's space inventory.

Article Link: [What is Nauka, the module Russia is sending to the International Space Station?](#)

Q.260) Which of the following is NOT a Ramsar Site?

- a) Thane creek
- b) Bhoj Wetland
- c) Nandur Madhmeshwar
- d) Lonar Lake

Q.260) Solution (a)

The Bhoj Wetland consists of two lakes located in the city of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The two lakes are the Bhojtal (Upper Lake) & the Lower Lake, which lie to the west of the city center. It was declared Ramsar site in 2002.

Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary is located in Nasik district of Maharashtra. The site is a mosaic of lakes, marshes and riparian forest on the Deccan Plateau. It was declared Ramsar site in 2019.

Lonar Lake, also known as Lonar crater, is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument, saline, soda lake, located at Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra. It was declared Ramsar site in 2020.

Thane Creek is an inlet in the shoreline of the Arabian Sea that isolates the city of Mumbai from the Konkan region of the Indian mainland. The Maharashtra Government has declared the area along the western bank of Thane Creek as the "Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary" since 2015.

Recently, Maharashtra Government has proposed Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary to be included in the Ramsar site.

Article Link: [Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary proposed as MMR's Ramsar site](#)

Q.261) Consider the following statements:

1. Increasing pollution decreases the biological oxygen demand in rivers thus adversely affecting the aquatic ecosystem.
2. Maharashtra has the highest number of polluted river stretches 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.261) Solution (b)

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2018 identified 351 polluted river stretches in India.

Maharashtra has the highest number of polluted river stretches (53), followed by Assam (44), Madhya Pradesh (22), Kerala (21), Gujarat (20), Odisha (19), and West Bengal and Karnataka (17).

The polluted river stretches are prioritised in five categories based on biological oxygen demand concentration consistently.

CPCB study reveals that discharge of untreated wastewater is one of the main causes of river pollution in states. There is either not sufficient treatment capacity or capacity is under-utilised in the states. This is one of the reasons why action plan to clean the polluted river stretch is not working.

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is the amount of oxygen necessary for bacteria to consume the organic material in water. Organic material that is discharged into natural waters causes a rapid increase in the growth of microorganisms that deplete the oxygen required for other aquatic life.

One of the main reasons for treating wastewater prior to its discharge into a water resource is to lower its BOD i.e. to reduce its need of oxygen and thereby lessen its demand from the streams, lakes, rivers, or estuaries into which it is released.

Article Link: [Behind polluted Indian River stretches, inadequate sewage treatment](#)

Q.262) With reference to Adarsh Smarak Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a scheme for development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
2. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

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.262) Solution (d)

Adarsh Smarak Scheme is a scheme of the Ministry of Culture launched in the year 2014.

It aims to provide basic tourist amenities such as rest rooms, drinking water, benches, souvenir shops, interpretation centres, and others at the 100 identified Adarsh Smarak, which also includes cafeterias.

Objectives of the Scheme are:

- To make the monument visitor friendly.
- To provide interpretation and audio-video centers.
- To make the monument accessible to differently-abled people.
- To implement Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Under the scheme Archaeological Survey of India had identified 100 monuments as “Adarsh Smarak” for upgradation.

Article Link: [State monuments to get facelift under Central heritage schemes](#)

Q.263) Consider the following statements regarding ‘Historic Urban Landscape’ project:

1. It is an initiative of UNESCO.
2. In India this project is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.
3. Varanasi and Ajmer are the cities selected under this project.

Which of the above 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.263) Solution (c)

Historic Urban Landscape Project was adopted in 2011 at UNESCO's General Conference.

UNESCO defines Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach as an integrated approach towards managing heritage resources found within dynamic and evolving environments.

HUL acknowledges the interconnections within a city, which occur between the built and natural environments, the tangible and intangible values, as well as within the cultural and social practices of a community.

The approach addresses the policy, governance and management concerns involving a variety of stakeholders, including local, national, regional, international, public and private actors in the urban development process.

In India this project is being implemented with the collaboration of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Ministry of Culture under supervision of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

Article Link: [UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for Gwalior, Orchha launched](#)

Q.264) Which of the following act provides legal basis for setting up of Asset Reconstruction Companies in India?

- a) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- b) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- c) The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2012
- d) SARFAESI Act, 2002

Q.264) Solution (d)

An Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets. Or in other words, ARCs are in the business of buying bad loans from banks.

ARCs clean up the balance sheets of banks when the latter sells these to the ARCs. This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.

The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002; enacted in December 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up ARCs in India.

The SARFAESI Act helps reconstruction of bad assets without the intervention of courts. Since then, large number of ARCs were formed and were registered with the RBI which has got the power to regulate the ARCs.

Setting up of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL) the proposed bad bank for taking over stressed assets of lenders, was announced in the Budget for 2021-22.

The plan is to create a bad bank to house bad loans of ₹500 crore and above, in a structure that will contain an asset reconstruction company (ARC) and an asset management company (AMC) to manage and recover dud assets.

The new entity is being created in collaboration with both public and private sector banks.

Article Link: [ARCs stretched, 'bad bank' road map: Rs 2 lakh crore of stressed assets](#)

Q.265) 'Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification' is an initiative of:

- a) ILO
- b) WTO
- c) WHO
- d) UNESCO

Q.265) Solution (c)

Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification is a Scheme developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the request of WHO Member States to facilitate international trade in pharmaceutical products between Member States.

It was first developed in 1975. Since then it has been revised in 1988, 1992 and in 1997.

The Scheme is an administrative instrument that requires a participating Member State (a certifying country), upon application by a commercially interested party (the applicant company), to certify/attest to the competent authority of another participating Member State (the recipient country) that:

- A specific pharmaceutical product is authorized for marketing in the certifying country, or if not, the reason why authorization has not been accorded;
- The manufacturing facilities and operations conform to good manufacturing practices (GMP) as recommended by WHO.

Article Link: [WHO-GMP/COPP Certification for Ayurvedic Products](#)

Q.266) Consider the following statements regarding CERT-In:

1. It is the nodal agency of the Government of India to deal with cyber security threats.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

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.266) Solution (a)

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India.

It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing. It strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.

CERT-In is operational since January 2004. The constituency of CERT-In is the Indian Cyber Community. CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.

CERT-In has been designated to serve as the national agency to perform the following functions in the area of cyber security:

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents.
- Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents
- Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents
- Coordination of cyber incident response activities.
- Issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and whitepapers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents.
- Such other functions relating to cyber security as may be prescribed.

Article Link: [More than 6.07 lakh cyber security incidents observed till June 2021](#)

Q.267) With reference to MPLAD Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector scheme.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. The elected member of Rajya Sabha can recommend works under the scheme anywhere in the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.267) Solution (a)

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 1993-94.

The Scheme enables the Members of Parliament to recommend works for creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies in the area of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads etc.

Under this scheme, every MP is entitled to spend Rs 5 crore annually.

The Ministry of Rural Development initially administered the scheme. Since October 1994 it has been transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Under this scheme each elected member of Lok Sabha suggests developmental works in his constituency. The elected member of Rajya Sabha can recommend works in any district of his State. A nominated member can suggest work in only one State of his choice.

Article Link: [50% funds allotted for ongoing MPLADS projects lapse](#)

Q.268) With reference to Samagra Shiksha scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an integrated scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII.
2. It subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Teacher Education.

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.268) Solution (c)

Samagra Shiksha is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.

The scheme has been prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.

It subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) and was launched in 2018.

The major objectives of the Scheme are:

- Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students;
- Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education;
- Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education;
- Ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions;
- Promoting Vocationalisation of education;
- Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009; and
- Strengthening and up-gradation of SCERTs/State Institutes of Education and DIET as a nodal agencies for teacher training.

Article Link: [Cabinet approves continuation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme for next 5 years](#)

Q.269) The "Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG-2)" is related to:

- a) Health
- b) Food security
- c) Gender equality
- d) Poverty

Q.269) Solution (b)

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2 or Global Goal 2) aims to achieve "zero hunger".

It aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG 2 highlights the complex inter-linkages between food security, nutrition, rural transformation and sustainable agriculture.

According to the United Nations, there are around 690 million people who are hungry, which accounts for 10 percent of the world population.

One in every nine people goes to bed hungry each night, including 20 million people currently at risk of famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Nigeria.

Article Link: [Several trade-offs impede Zero Hunger goal. A UN report explains why, and how](#)

Q.270) Article 161 of Indian Constitution is related to:

- a) Council of ministers to aid and advise the Governor
- b) Qualifications for appointment as Governor
- c) Conditions of Governor's office
- d) Power of the Governor to grant pardons

Q.270) Solution (d)

Article 161 of the Constitution of India is related to power of Governor to grant pardons, etc., and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases.

According to Article 161, the Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

Article Link: [Governors can pardon prisoners, including death row ones: Supreme Court](#)

Q.271) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Harappan Site Dholavira?

1. It is located on the island of Khadir.
2. Sophisticated water conservation system of channels and reservoirs is its unique feature.
3. It is the world's earliest attested ploughed field.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.271) Solution (b)

The ancient city of Dholavira, the southern centre of the Harappan Civilization, is sited on the arid island of Khadir in the State of Gujarat.

Features of Dholavira:

- It is one of the best preserved urban settlements from the period in Southeast Asia, comprises a fortified city and a cemetery.
- Two seasonal streams provided water, a scarce resource in the region, to the walled city which comprises a heavily fortified castle and ceremonial ground as well as streets and houses of different proportion quality which testify to a stratified social order.
- A sophisticated water management system demonstrates the ingenuity of the Dholavira people in their struggle to survive and thrive in a harsh environment.
- The site includes a large cemetery with cenotaphs of six types testifying to the Harappan's unique view of death.
- Bead processing workshops and artifacts of various kinds such as copper, shell, stone, jewellery of semi-precious stones, terracotta, gold, ivory and other materials have been found during archaeological excavations of the site, exhibiting the culture's artistic and technological achievements.
- Evidence for inter-regional trade with other Harappan cities, as well as with cities in the Mesopotamia region and the Oman peninsula has also been discovered.

Harappan Site of Kalibangan is distinguished by its unique fire altars and "world's earliest attested ploughed field". It is around 2900 BC that the region of Kalibangan developed into what can be considered a planned city.

Article Link: [What UNESCO heritage site Dholavira tells us about the Indus Valley Civilisation](#)

Q.272) Consider the following statements regarding Ramappa temple, the UNESCO World Heritage Site:

1. The temple is dedicated to lord Vishnu.

2. Sandstone is used for the construction of this temple.

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.272) Solution (b)

Ramappa Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the state of Telangana.

An inscription in the temple dates it to the year 1213 CE and says it was built by a Kakatiya General Recharla Rudra, during the period of the Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and worshiped by devotees. The presiding deity is Ramalingeswara Swamy.

Marco Polo, during his visit to the Kakatiya Empire, allegedly called the temple "the brightest star in the galaxy of temples".

The main structure is in reddish sandstone, but the columns round the outside have large brackets of black basalt which is rich in iron, magnesium and silica.

These are carved as mythical animals or female dancers or musicians, and are "the masterpieces of Kakatiya art, notable for their delicate carving, sensuous postures and elongated bodies and heads".

Article Link: [How Ramappa temple in Telangana made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List](#)

Q.273) Consider the following:

- 1. TReDS platform
- 2. Shishu Mudra
- 3. Jeevan Pramaan initiative

Which of the above initiatives are taken by the government to promote Digital Banking in India?

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

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

Q.273) Solution (d)

The Government has taken a number of steps to facilitate digital banking, doorstep banking services and digital lending platforms. These include:

- Initiation of digital lending has been made contactless through PSBloansin59 minutes.com, using triangulation of credit bureau, income-tax and goods and services tax (GST) data, to provide online in principle approval for MSME loans.
- Online bill discounting for MSMES has been enabled on a competitive basis through Public Sector Banks (PSBs) onboarding onto the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform and the proportion of online discounted bills has grown rapidly. (Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) is the institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs from corporate and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), through multiple financiers.)
- Government's Jeevan Pramaan' initiative for pensioners has enabled senior citizen pensioners the facility to update their annual life certificate online.
- End-to-end automated digital lending has been introduced in larger PSBs for unsecured personal loans (in five PSBs), loans to micro-enterprises ("Shishu Mudra", in five PSBs) and renewals of loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (in three PSBs).

Article Link: [Measures taken to facilitate digital banking](#)

Q.274) "World Economic Outlook" is the flagship report of:

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) Asian Development Bank

Q.274) Solution (c)

World Economic Outlook is the flagship report of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In a recently released report, IMF has sharply scaled down India's economic growth projection by 300 basis points to 9.5 per cent for the current financial year from 12.5 per cent estimated earlier in April.

According to the report in countries with high vaccination coverage, such as the United Kingdom and Canada, the economic impact would be mild; meanwhile countries lagging in vaccination, such as India and Indonesia, would suffer the most among G20 economies.

The growth prospects for emerging market and developing economies have been marked down for 2021, especially for emerging Asia. By contrast, the forecast for advanced economies has been revised upwards.

IMF has kept the global economy projection of 6.0 percent unchanged in 2021. It has also projected global economy to grow by 4.9 per cent in 2022, up from the previous forecast of 4.4 per cent. The world output contracted 3.3 per cent in 2020.

Article Link: [IMF slashes India's economic growth forecast for FY22 to 9.5%](#)

Q.275) Recently, Hubble Telescope found evidence of water vapour on Ganymede. Ganymede is a:

- a) Natural Satellite of Jupiter
- b) Minor planet in asteroid belt
- c) Moon of Mars
- d) Kuiper Belt object

Q.275) Solution (a)

Ganymede is one of the moons of Jupiter. It is the largest moon in our solar system and the only moon with its own magnetic field.

The magnetic field causes auroras, which are ribbons of glowing, electrified gas, in regions circling the moon's north and south poles. When Jupiter's magnetic field changes, the aurora on Ganymede also change, "rocking" back and forth.

Recently, Hubble Space Telescope found the first evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of Ganymede.

This new evidence for a water atmosphere on Ganymede is crucial in our search for extraterrestrial life and habitable worlds.

Article Link: [Hubble finds evidence of water vapour on Jupiter's moon Ganymede](#)

Q.276) Consider the following statements:

1. An ecological footprint is the total area of land required to sustain an activity or population.
2. Ecological footprint data is used to calculate Earth Overshoot Day.

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.276) Solution (c)

The ecological footprint is a method promoted by the Global Footprint Network to measure human demand on natural capital, i.e. the quantity of nature it takes to support people or an economy.

It tracks this demand through an ecological accounting system. The accounts contrast the biologically productive area people use for their consumption to the biologically productive area available within a region or the world (biocapacity, the productive area that can regenerate what people demand from nature). In short, it is a measure of human impact on the environment.

The Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources (fish and forests, for instance) and services in a given year exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year.

Earth Overshoot Day is computed by dividing the planet's biocapacity (the amount of ecological resources Earth is able to generate that year), by humanity's Ecological Footprint (humanity's demand for that year), and multiplying by 365, the number of days in a year:

$(\text{Earth's Biocapacity} / \text{Humanity's Ecological Footprint}) \times 365 = \text{Earth Overshoot Day}$

In 2020 the calculated overshoot day fell on August 22 (more than three weeks later than 2019) due to coronavirus induced lockdowns around the world.

For the year 2021, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), humanity has again used up all biological resources that our planet regenerates during the entire year by 29th July, 2021.

Causes:

- The prime driver was the 6.6% increase in the global carbon footprint in 2020.
- There was also a 0.5% decrease in 'global forest biocapacity' due to a rise in deforestation of the Amazon's rainforests.

Article Link: [Earth Overshoot Day has shifted back to July 29, says WWF](#)

Q.277) Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed non-bank Payment System Providers (PSPs) to participate in Centralised Payment Systems, as direct members. What does that mean?

1. It means allotment of a separate IFSC to non-banks.
2. Non banks are now allowed to open a current account with the RBI in its core banking system
3. Non banks are now allowed membership of Indian Financial Network.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.277) Solution (d)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow non-bank payment system providers (PSPs), including prepaid payment instruments (PPI) issuers like mobile wallets, card networks and white label ATM operators to participate in the Centralised Processing System (CPS) as direct members.

CPS includes Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer systems (NEFT), owned and operated by the RBI.

This recent move of RBI means:

- Allotment of a separate Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) to non-banks.
- Opening a current account with the RBI in its core banking system (e-Kuber) and maintaining a settlement account with the RBI.
- It will also mean membership of Indian Financial Network (INFINET).
- Use of Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) to communicate with CPS.

According to the RBI, direct access for non-banks to CPS lowers the overall risk in the payments ecosystem.

This move will bring advantages to non-banks like reduction in cost of payments, minimising dependence on banks, reducing the time taken for completing payments.

Article Link: [Mobile wallets, card networks, white label ATM operators allowed to join RBI's CPS](#)

Q.278) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

1. It is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.
2. RATS is a permanent organ of SCO.
3. India is an observer state of SCO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.278) Solution (b)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Members: Presently, the SCO comprises eight member states namely India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005.

India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

The SCO is the largest regional organisation in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population, covering three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and nearly half of the human population.

The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against

the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. The Head of RATS is elected to a three-year term. Each member state also sends a permanent representative to RATS.

Article Link: [Terrorism is the most serious threat to international peace: Rajnath Singh](#)

Q.279) According to National Mineral Inventory, largest reserves of gold are located in which state of India?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Karnataka
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Bihar

Q.279) Solution (d)

According to National Mineral Inventory data under the Indian Bureau of Mines, India has 501.83 million tonnes of gold ore reserves as of April 1, 2015. Out of these, 17.22 million tonnes were placed under reserves category and the rest under remaining resources category.

The largest reserves of gold ores are located in Bihar (44 per cent), followed by Rajasthan (25 per cent), Karnataka (21 per cent), West Bengal (3 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (3 per cent), Jharkhand (2 per cent).

The remaining 2 per cent reserves are in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is actively engaged in geological mapping, followed by mineral exploration and surveys, of various mineral commodities with an aim to identify potential mineral rich zones and establish resources. The cost of extraction of any mineral, including gold, varies from mine to mine.

The Government of India recently amended the Minerals Evidence of Mineral Contents Rules to allow auction of composite licence at G4 level for deep-seated minerals, including gold. This is expected to bring more participation from private players with advanced technology in the field of exploration and mining of deep seated minerals, which is expected to reduce the cost of extraction of gold.

Article Link: [India has 500 million tonnes of gold ore reserves: Govt](#)

Q.280) UNESCO recently removed which of the following site from the World Heritage List?

- a) Colchic rainforests and wetlands
- b) City of Liverpool
- c) Korean Tidal Flats
- d) Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls

Q.280) Solution (b)

The UN's cultural agency removed Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City from the world heritage list, nine years after it was moved to the 'in danger' list.

The committee cited the "irreversible loss of attributes conveying the outstanding universal value of the property" as a reason for the removal of the site from the world heritage list.

The six areas in the historic centre and docklands of the maritime mercantile City of Liverpool were included on the World Heritage List in 2004. The areas of the heritage site were the world's major trading centres in the 18th and 19th centuries, a testimony to the development of maritime mercantile culture. The modern dock technology, transport systems and port management were the significant features of the maritime city.

Article Link: [Why Unesco stripped English city of Liverpool of its world heritage status?](#)

Q.281) With reference to National Education Policy (NEP), consider the following statements:

1. Education is a union subject.
2. NEP 2020 brings pre-school education for children of ages 3 to 5 under the ambit of formal schooling.
3. As per NEP 2020 students until Class 10 should be taught in their mother tongue or regional language.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.281) Solution (b)

An NEP is a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country. The NEP only provides a broad direction and is not mandatory to follow. Since education is a concurrent subject (both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and the states.

NEP 2020:

- The NEP proposes sweeping changes including opening up of Indian higher education to foreign universities, dismantling of the UGC and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), introduction of a four-year multidisciplinary undergraduate programme with multiple exit options, and discontinuation of the M Phil programme.
- In school education, the policy focuses on overhauling the curriculum, “easier” Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain “core essentials” and thrust on “experiential learning and critical thinking”.
- In a significant shift from the 1986 policy, which pushed for a 10+2 structure of school education, the new NEP pitches for a “5+3+3+4” design corresponding to the age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 (preparatory), 11-14 (middle), and 14-18 (secondary).
- This brings early childhood education (also known as pre-school education for children of ages 3 to 5) under the ambit of formal schooling.
- The mid-day meal programme will be extended to pre-school children. The NEP says students until Class 5 should be taught in their mother tongue or regional language.
- The policy also proposes phasing out of all institutions offering single streams and that all universities and colleges must aim to become multidisciplinary by 2040.

Article Link: [1. The vision of the National Education Policy must be served by its implementation](#)
[2. India's National Education Policy, 2020](#)

Q.282) Recently, RBI laid out norms for non-banks to access RTGS and NEFT systems. In this context consider the following statements:

1. In case of NEFT, one can transfer a minimum of ₹2 lakh at a time.
2. To transfer large sums of money on an urgent basis NEFT system is better the RTGS system.

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.282) Solution (d)

NEFT: National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) is a payment system that facilitates one-to-one funds transfer. Using NEFT, people can electronically transfer money from any bank branch to a person holding an account with any other bank branch, which is participating in the payment system. Fund transfers through the NEFT system do not occur in real-time basis and the fund transfer settles in 23 half-hourly batches. There is no minimum limit of money transfer.

RTGS: Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) is another payment system in which the money is credited in the beneficiary's account in real-time and on a gross basis. In case of RTGS, one can transfer a minimum of ₹2 lakh at a time. The RTGS system is primarily meant for large value transactions that require and receive immediate clearing.

To transfer large sums of money real time RTGS is better but for small amounts where there is not much urgency NEFT is a Better Option. Usually RTGS costs more than NEFT Transactions.

Article Link: [RBI lays out norms for non-banks to access RTGS, NEFT systems](#)

Q.283) Wildlife organisation of Odisha's Forest and Environment Department has decided to do DNA profiling of the leopards in the state. In this context consider the following statements:

1. Leopard is a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. Karnataka has maximum population of leopards in India.
3. It is listed as critically endangered as per IUCN Red List.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.283) Solution (a)

The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is one of the five extant species in the genus *Panthera*, a member of the cat family, *Felidae*.

It occurs in a wide range in sub-Saharan Africa, in some parts of Western and Central Asia, Southern Russia, and on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia.

It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List because leopard populations are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, and are declining in large parts of the global range.

The Indian leopard is distributed in India, Nepal, Bhutan and parts of Pakistan. It inhabits tropical rainforests, dry deciduous forests, temperate forests and northern coniferous forests but does not occur in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans.

Madhya Pradesh has maximum population of leopard followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.

It is a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Article Link: [Action against poaching: Odisha plans DNA profiling for leopards](#)

Q.284) The Maguri Motapung Wetland is located in:

- a) Mizoram
- b) Nagaland
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

Q.284) Solution (d)

Maguri Motapung Wetland is located near to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Motapung Village of Tinsukia district in Assam. Maguri Motapung Wetland or Beel serves as natural home to wildlife and provide a source of livelihood to the local communities.

The Maguri Motapung Beel is located in the south bank of the Dibru River and it connects Dibru River through a small channel and finally meets Brahmaputra River.

It is a natural habitat to many varieties of birds. The lake is an important habitat for over 110 resident and migratory bird species, including eight listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List, such as the Swamp grass babbler, the ferruginous duck, the white-winged wood duck and the falcated duck.

The fire incident in Baghjan oil field that happened in the year 2020 damaged the Maguri-Motapung Wetland and Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve.

Article Link: [Year after Baghjan blowout disaster, villagers' woes far from over](#)

Q.285) The bronze statue of dancing child-saint Sambandar belongs to:

- a) Chera Dynasty
- b) Chola Dynasty
- c) Pandya Dynasty
- d) Kulashekhara Dynasty

Q.285) Solution (b)

The bronze statue of dancing child-saint Sambandar of 12th century belongs to the Chola Dynasty.

Sambandar was a Saiva poet-saint of Tamil Nadu who lived sometime in the 7th century.

He was a child prodigy who lived just 16 years. He is one of the most prominent of the sixty-three Nayanars, Tamil Saiva bhakti saints who lived between the sixth and the tenth centuries CE. He was a contemporary of Appar, another Saiva poet-saint.

Sambandar's image is found in almost all Shiva temples of Tamil Nadu. He is depicted as a dancing child or a young teen with his right forefinger pointing upwards, reflecting the legend where he credits Parvati-Shiva for what he has.

The National Gallery of Australia decided is to return 14 works of art to India that are suspected of having been stolen, looted or exported illegally. This includes a bronze stature of dancing Sambandar.

Article Link: [Australia to return 14 artworks of disputed provenance to India](#)

Q.286) Consider the following statements:

1. The objective SWAYAM portal is to ensure that the every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.
2. The objective of SANKALP scheme is to provide a digital platform to teachers giving them an opportunity to learn and train themselves and connect with the teacher community.
3. SAFAL is a competency based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools.

Which of the above statements is/are correct regarding the initiatives taken by the Government of India in the field of education sector?

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

Q.286) Solution (c)

Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM):

- It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Education.
- It aims to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses.
- This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
- The objective is to ensure that the every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.

Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP):

- It was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- The objective of the scheme is to strengthen institutional mechanisms for skill development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for youth across the country.
- SANKALP aims to address the ongoing challenges like bringing about convergence, infusing quality in skill development programs and making them market relevant and accessible while ensuring private participation in the context of short-term training.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA):

- It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Education.
- It aims for providing a digital platform to teachers giving them an opportunity to learn and train themselves and connect with the teacher community.
- It is built considering the whole teacher's life cycle - from the time student teachers enroll in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to after they retire as teachers.

Article Link: [Prime Minister addresses the education community to mark the first anniversary of National Education Policy 2020](#)

Q.287) Consider the following protected areas:

1. Kaziranga
2. Bandipur
3. Simlipal

Which of the above protected areas received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured|Tiger Standards (CA|TS)?

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

Q.287) Solution (a)

Global Conservation Assured|Tiger Standards (CA|TS):

CA|TS is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation. CA|TS is organised under seven pillars and 17 elements of critical management activity.

CA|TS was developed by tiger and protected area experts. It was officially launched in 2013.

Sites taking part will initially be 'registered' (standards not yet attained) then, when all required standards are met, 'approved' (standards achieved). An approved site has achieved excellence in tiger site management. Sites are evaluated through an assessment and independent review process.

14 Tiger Reserves which have been accredited are:

- Manas, Kaziranga and Orang Tiger Reserve in Assam,
- Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra,
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar,
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh,
- Sunderbans Tiger Reserve in West Bengal,
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Kerala,
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

Article Link: [India's 14 Tiger Reserves get Global CA/TS recognition for good Tiger Conservation](#)

Q.288) Which among the following is/are Tiger Range Countries?

1. Iran
2. Cambodia
3. Bhutan

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.288) Solution (d)

The Tiger Range Countries (TRC) are the countries where tigers still roam free in wild.

There are currently 13 tiger range countries - India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

India is home to over 70% of the tiger population globally.

India is home to 51 tiger reserves spread across 18 states and the last tiger census of 2018 showed a rise in the tiger population.

India's strategy of tiger conservation attaches topmost importance to involving local communities.

Q.289) What is the objective of I-MESA scheme, seen recently in news?

- a) To act as a catalyst to promote India's exports on a sustained basis.
- b) To monitor the implementation of the public procurement from MSMEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises
- c) To perform social audit of social sector schemes
- d) Augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States

Q.289) Solution (c)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme, namely Information-Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit (I-MESA) in FY 2021-22.

Under this scheme, Social Audits are to be conducted for all the schemes of the Department starting FY 2021-22.

These social audits are done through Social Audit Units (SAU) of the States and National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Article Link: [Social Audit of Social Sector Schemes](#)

Q.290) Which of the following is NOT an alternate name of river Sutlej?

- a) Sutudri
- b) Singi Khamban
- c) Zarodros
- d) Langechen Khambab

Q.290) Solution (b)

The Sutlej River is the longest of the five rivers that flow through the historic crossroads region of Punjab in northern India and Pakistan.

It is the easternmost tributary of the Indus River. The Bhakra Dam is built around the river Sutlej to provide irrigation and other facilities to the states of Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana.

The waters of the Sutlej are allocated to India under the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan, and are mostly diverted to irrigation canals in India.

Alternate names of Sutlej River are: Sutudri (Ancient name); Zarodros (Greek name); Langechen Khambab (Tibetan name).

Article Link: [Sutlej river pollution: Millions on verge of health risks, NGT raises alarm](#)

Q.291) Consider the following statements regarding North-Eastern Council (NEC):

1. It was established by States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
2. The Union Defence Minister is the ex-officio chairman of NEC.

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.291) Solution (d)

North Eastern Council (NEC) is a statutory advisory body constituted under the North Eastern Council Act 1971.

The eight States of Northeast India viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, are members of the council, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them.

The Council was initially set up as an advisory body but now sanctioned as a Regional planning body since 2002. They now discuss any matter in which the North Eastern States have a common interest and decide the action to be taken on any such matter. This was done so as to take care of the economic and social planning of these states, as well as to provide mediation in the event of inter-State disputes.

The Union Home Minister is ex-officio Chairman and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is the ex-officio Vice-Chairman of the NEC.

Article Link: [North- East states' borders to be demarcated through satellite imaging](#)

Q.292) India recently assumed the Presidency of United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In this context consider the following statements:

1. India now can veto on resolution seeking admission of new member states to the United Nations.
2. UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

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.292) Solution (b)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent: the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Only permanent members can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states to the United Nations or nominees for the office of Secretary-General.

Unlike permanent members of the council, the non-permanent members do not have veto power. However, they have "collective right of veto" — any resolution of the UNSC has to be passed by at least seven non-permanent members even if all the permanent members support it. Since India is a non-permanent member of UNSC for two years it cannot individually veto on resolutions.

The remaining ten members are elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members. At present, the non-permanent

members are Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam.

During India's UNSC Presidency, it will:

- Decide the UN body's agenda for the month and coordinate important meetings on a range of issues.
- Organise key events in three major areas of maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC.

Article Link: [As India assumes Presidency of UNSC, Jaishankar talks of international law](#)

Q.293) Consider the following statements:

1. Ground level ozone pollution is formed mainly in urban and suburban areas but it is carried to the rural areas by prevailing winds.
2. Tropospheric Ozone protects the Earth's surface from dangerous ultraviolet light.

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.293) Solution (a)

Ozone is a molecule of three oxygen atoms bound together (O₃). It is unstable and highly reactive.

Ozone is found naturally in small concentrations in the stratosphere, a layer of Earth's upper atmosphere. Stratospheric ozone has been called "good" ozone because it protects the Earth's surface from dangerous ultraviolet light.

Ozone can also be found in the troposphere, the lowest layer of the atmosphere. Tropospheric ozone (often termed "bad" ozone) is man-made, a result of air pollution from internal combustion engines and power plants.

Automobile exhaust and industrial emissions release a family of nitrogen oxide gases (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), by-products of burning gasoline and coal. NO_x and VOC combine chemically with oxygen to form ozone during sunny, high-temperature conditions.

Although ozone pollution is formed mainly in urban and suburban areas, it ends up in rural areas as well, carried by prevailing winds or resulting from cars and trucks that travel into rural areas.

Ozone exposure can aggravate existing respiratory conditions such as asthma; reduce lung function and capacity for exercise and cause chest pains and coughing.

Article Link: [Ozone levels exceeding permitted levels: study](#)

Q.294) Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding Pangolins:

- a) Chinese Pangolin is found in Assam and the eastern Himalayas.
- b) Indian pangolin is listed as critically endangered as per IUCN Red List.
- c) All pangolin species are listed in CITES Appendix I.
- d) In India, both Indian and Chinese pangolins are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

Q.294) Solution (b)

The pangolin, also called scaly anteater, is an elongated, armour-plated insectivore mammal.

Though many think of them as reptiles, pangolins are actually mammals. They are the only mammals wholly-covered in scales and they use those scales to protect themselves from predators in the wild.

Seven species of pangolin are found across the world, of which, two are found in India, namely Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*).

The Indian Pangolin is found throughout the country south of the Himalayas, excluding the north-eastern region while the Chinese Pangolin ranges through Assam and the eastern Himalayas.

As per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the pangolin is part of the “red list”, while the Indian pangolin is listed as “endangered” and the Chinese pangolin had been listed as “critically endangered”.

All pangolin species are listed in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I.

In India, pangolins, both Indian and Chinese, are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

Article Link: [Pangolin found wandering on Noida roads rescued](#)

Q.295) Halam community, seen recently in news, belongs to:

- a) Gujarat
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tripura
- d) Karnataka

Q.295) Solution (c)

The Halam community are various tribes native to the state of Tripura and Assam, Mizoram in India.

Ethnically Halam communities of Tripura belong to the Kuki-Chin tribes of Tibeto-Burmese ethnic group.

Halams live in typical "Tong Ghar" specially made of bamboos and Changrass (thatch). Apart from plain land cultivation, they still practice Jhum cultivation and depend on both the activities.

As per 2011 Census their total population is 57,210, distributed throughout Tripura.

Hi-Hook dance and Rai Balmani Festival are popular among the Halams.

Article Link: [Clash over land at Tripura-Mizoram border](#)

Q.296) With reference to Hunger Hotspot Report, consider the following statements:

1. The report is jointly released by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme.
2. Most number of countries where acute food insecurity will worsen from August to November, 2021 are from Asia.

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 (a)

The Hunger Hotspot Report is jointly released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Findings of the report:

- Report highlights that in 23 countries and acute food insecurity is likely to further deteriorate in the outlook period from August to November 2021. Most number of countries that will face acute food shortage are from African Continent.
- Ethiopia and Madagascar are new highest-alert hotspots.
- Conflict and violence prone countries like Afghanistan, Central Sahel, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, northern Nigeria, northern Mozambique, Myanmar, the Sudan and Yemen are likely to continue driving food insecurity. This can happen through population displacement, abandonment of agricultural land, loss of life and assets, disruption of trade and cropping, and loss of access to markets, for example. Crucially, violence is also likely to disrupt access to humanitarian assistance.
- In the Near East and North Africa, the economic impact of COVID-19 is overlapping with socio-economic damages caused by the protracted conflicts in Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic, leading to a significant rise in poverty and food insecurity.
- Amongst the hunger hotspots, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen are classified as having Extreme access constraints of humanitarian aid.

Article Link: [These countries need urgent action to beat famine, deaths in the next 4 months: FAO](#)

Q.297) Consider the following statements regarding e-RUPI, seen recently in news:

1. It is a cashless and contactless digital payment medium.
2. It is developed by the National Payments 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 nor 2

Q.297) Solution (c)

e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless digital payments medium, which will be delivered to mobile phones of beneficiaries in form of an SMS-string or a QR code.

This will essentially be like a prepaid gift-voucher that will be redeemable at specific accepting centres without any credit or debit card, a mobile app or internet banking.

e-RUPI will connect the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface.

The one-time payment mechanism has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India on its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and National Health Authority.

Use cases of e-RUPI:

- e-RUPI is expected to ensure a leak-proof delivery of welfare services.
- It can also be used for delivering services under schemes meant for providing drugs and nutritional support under Mother and Child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes, drugs & diagnostics under schemes like Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, fertiliser subsidies etc.

Article Link: [e-RUPI: Voucher system ahead of digital currency](#)

Q.298) With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), consider the following statements:

1. The eight Core Industries comprise nearly 40% of the weight of items included in the IIP.
2. Base year of IIP is 2010-2011.
3. Cement industry is one of the core industries.

Which of the above 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.298) Solution (b)

IIP is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.

It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.

The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Eight core industries are: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

The factory production data (IIP) is used by various government agencies such as the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), private firms and analysts, among others for analytical purposes. The data is also used to compile the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the manufacturing sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on a quarterly basis.

Article Link: [Output at the eight infrastructure industries still lags pre-pandemic](#)

Q.299) Strait Island, seen recently in news, is part of:

- a) Aminidivi Islands
- b) Nicobar Islands
- c) Laccadive Islands
- d) Andaman Islands

Q.299) Solution (d)

Strait Island is an island of the Andaman Islands. It belongs to the North and Middle Andaman administrative district, part of the Indian union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Strait Island is known for its caves of birds' nests and deer.

Strait Island is a tribal reservation Island thus entry of outsiders is prohibited. It was recently told in Lok Sabha that this status has prevented tribal population of Strait Island from the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Article Link: [All Great Andamanese in good health on Strait Island](#)

Q.300) The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) are an outcome of:

- a) Montreal Protocol
- b) Bonn Convention
- c) Kyoto Protocol
- d) Paris Agreement

Q.300) Solution (d)

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) are non-binding national plans highlighting climate actions, including climate related targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, policies and measures governments aim to implement in response to climate change and as a contribution to achieve the global targets set out in the Paris Agreement.

The NDCs combine the top-down system of a traditional international agreement with bottom-up system-in elements through which countries put forward their own goals and policies in the context of their own national circumstances, capabilities, and priorities, with the goal of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions enough limit anthropogenic temperature rise to well below 2 °C (3.6 °F) above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C.

Article Link: [China, India miss UN deadline to submit plans for cutting emissions](#)

Q.301) With reference to United Nations Security Council, consider the following statements:

1. Security Council decisions on all substantive matters require the votes of minimum two-third of the members.
2. Resolutions of the Security Council are enforced by UN peacekeeping forces.

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.301) Solution (b)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).

At present, the UNSC comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent member countries which are elected for a two-year term by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The five permanent members are Russia, the UK, China, France and the United States.

Under Article 27 of the UN Charter, Security Council decisions on all substantive matters require the affirmative votes of three-fifths (i.e. nine) of the members. A negative vote or "veto" by a permanent member prevents adoption of a proposal, even if it has received the required votes.

Abstention is not regarded as a veto in most cases, though all five permanent members must actively concur to amend the UN Charter or to recommend the admission of a new UN member state. Procedural matters are not subject to a veto, so the veto cannot be used to avoid discussion of an issue.

A majority of vetoes are used not in critical international security situations, but for purposes such as blocking a candidate for Secretary-General or the admission of a member state.

Resolutions of the Security Council are typically enforced by UN peacekeepers, military forces voluntarily provided by member states and funded independently of the main UN budget.

After approval by the Security Council, the UN may send peacekeepers to regions where armed conflict has recently ceased or paused to enforce the terms of peace agreements and to discourage combatants from resuming hostilities. Since the UN does not maintain its own military, peacekeeping forces are voluntarily provided by member states. These soldiers are sometimes nicknamed "Blue Helmets" for their distinctive gear.

Article Link: [Biden administration non-committal on support for permanent UNSC seat for India](#)

Q.302) Which of the following tribes belong to the state of Arunachal Pradesh?

1. Buksa
2. Memba
3. Khampati

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.302) Solution (d)

Memba:

- The Memba are an Indigenous people of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Memba population is currently around 4000-5000. They mainly live in the districts of Shi Yomi, West Siang and Upper Siang. Some also live in nearby Tibet.
- The religious life of the Memba revolves around the Mechuka Gumpa, similar to the Monpa of West Kameng and Tawang.
- Local genealogies suggested that they came from Tibet and settled in the region several centuries ago.
- The Memba are agriculturalists and grow maize, millet, potato, cereals and paddy. Boiled rice and millet flour are staples in the Memba diet.

Khamti:

- Khamti are a Tai ethnic group native to Myanmar.
- In India, they are found in Namsai district and Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Smaller numbers are present in Lakhimpur district, Dhemaji district and in Tinsukia district of Assam.
- Khamtis have a population of 100,031 out of which 40,005 live in Arunachal Pradesh and 60,026 in Assam.
- Khamti are followers of Theravada Buddhism. The Tai-Khamti have their own script for their language, known as 'Lik Tai', which originated from the Shan (Tai) script of Myanmar.

Buksa:

- Buksa are indigenous peoples living mainly in the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- They are mostly concentrated in Dehradun and Nainital districts in the foothills of the outer Himalayas.

Article Link: [The Constitution \(Scheduled Tribes\) Order \(Amendment\) Bill, 2021](#)

Q.303) With reference to Bengal School of Art, consider the following statements:

1. It represents the first modern movement of Indian Art.
2. Oil paintings and realistic style of painting are the prominent features of this school.
3. Abanindranath Tagore was the leading artist of this school.

Which of the above 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.303) Solution (c)

The Bengal School of Art was an art movement and a style of Indian painting that originated in Bengal, primarily Kolkata and Shantiniketan, and flourished throughout the Indian subcontinent, during the British Raj in the early 20th century.

Also known as 'Indian style of painting' in its early days, it was associated with Indian nationalism and led by Abanindranath Tagore, but was also promoted and supported by British arts administrators like E. B. Havell, the principal of the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata; eventually it led to the development of the modern Indian painting.

It rediscovered the glories of Indian art and consciously tried to produce what it considered a truly Indian art inspired by the creations of the past. They broke away from the convention of oil painting and the realistic style, and turned for inspiration to medieval Indian traditions of miniature painting and the ancient art of mural painting in the Ajanta caves.

Initiated by Abanindranath Tagore, other important painters and artists of Bengal school were Nandalal Bose, M.A.R Chughtai, Sunayani Devi (sister of Abanindranath Tagore), Manishi Dey, Mukul Dey, Kalipada Ghoshal, Asit Kumar Haldar, Sudhir Khastgir, Kshitindranath Majumdar and Sughra Rababi.

Popular Paintings are: Bharat Mata, My Mother, Journey's End etc.

Article Link: [Celebrations begin to mark 150 years of iconic artist Abanindranath Tagore](#)

Q.304) Agalega Island, seen recently in news, is located in:

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

Q.304) Solution (a)

Agalega are two outer islands of Mauritius located in the Indian Ocean, about 1,000 kilometres north of Mauritius Island.

The islands are known for their coconuts, the production of which is their main industry, and for the Agalega day gecko.

There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Mauritius and India to develop the Agalega islands and resolve infrastructural problems faced by Agaleans.

Article Link: [No plan to house Indian military base on Agalega island: Mauritius](#)

Q.305) Pensilungpa Glacier, seen recently in news, is located in:

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Ladakh
- d) Sikkim

Q.305) Solution (c)

The Pensilungpa Glacier is located in Zaskar Range, Ladakh.

The Zaskar Range is a mountain range in the union territory of Ladakh that separates Zaskar from Ladakh.

Recently, a study highlighted that the glacier is retreating to an increase in the temperature and decrease in precipitation during winters.

The study also points at the significant influence of debris cover on the mass balance and retreat of the glacier's endpoint, especially in summer.

The study also suggests that due to continuous rise in the air temperature in line with the global trend, the melting would increase, and it is possible that the precipitation of summer periods at

higher altitudes will change from snow to rain, and that may influence the summer and winter pattern.

Article Link: [Ladakh glacier retreat due to warming, low winter precipitation, finds study](#)

Q.306) With reference to Administrative Tribunals, consider the following statements:

1. Part XIV-A of the Indian Constitution deals with administrative tribunals.
2. The Central Administrative Tribunal exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of the members of the defence forces.
3. The Administrative Tribunal is guided by the principles of natural justice.

Which of the above 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.306) Solution (c)

The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states.

The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it. Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services. However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the principles of natural justice. These principles keep the CAT flexible in approach. Only a nominal fee of ₹50 is to be paid by the applicant. The applicant may appear either in person or through a lawyer.

Article Link: [Do you intend to close tribunals, Supreme Court asks Centre](#)

Q.307) Which of the following conditions leads to Stagflation in an economy?

1. High Inflation
2. High economic growth
3. Low unemployment rate
4. Low economic growth
5. High unemployment rate

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.307) Solution (b)

Stagflation is a situation in which the inflation rate is high, the economic growth rate slows and unemployment remains steadily high.

It presents a dilemma for economic policy, since actions intended to lower inflation may exacerbate unemployment.

Economists offer two principal explanations for why stagflation occurs:

- Stagflation can result when the economy faces a supply shock, such as a rapid increase in the price of oil. An unfavorable situation like that tends to raise prices at the same time as it slows economic growth by making production more costly and less profitable.
- The government can cause stagflation if it creates policies that harm industry while growing the money supply too quickly. These two things would probably have to occur simultaneously because policies that slow economic growth do not usually cause inflation, and policies that cause inflation do not usually slow economic growth.

There is no definitive cure for stagflation. The consensus amongst economists is that productivity has to be increased to the point where it would lead to higher growth without additional inflation. This would then allow authorities to tighten monetary policy to reign in the rampant-inflation component of stagflation.

Article Link: [The fine print of MPC resolution underlines a stagflation threat](#)

Q.308) With reference to Public Accounts Committee, consider the following statements:

1. It is an executive body.
2. It examines the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union government.

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.308) Solution (b)

Public Accounts Committee was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919.

It consists of 22 members (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).

The functions of the committee are:

- To examine the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)
- To examine the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union government and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha.
- To examine the accounts of state corporations, trading concerns and manufacturing projects and the audit report of CAG on them (except those public undertakings which are allotted to the Committee on Public Undertakings).
- To examine the accounts of autonomous and semiautonomous bodies, the audit of which is conducted by the CAG.
- To consider the report of the CAG relating to the audit of any receipt or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks.

The effectiveness of the role of the committee is limited by the following:

- It is not concerned with the questions of policy in broader sense.
- It conducts a post-mortem examination of accounts (showing the expenditure already incurred).
- It cannot intervene in the matters of day-to-day administration.

- Its recommendations are advisory and not binding on the ministries.
- It is not vested with the power of disallowance of expenditures by the departments.
- It is not an executive body and hence, cannot issue an order. Only the Parliament can take a final decision on its findings.

Article Link: [Public Accounts Committee to tour Srinagar, Kargil, Leh and Drass](#)

Q.309) Arid grassland ecosystem on the outer southern edge of the salt desert of western part of India is known as:

- a) Bugyal
- b) Shola
- c) Khajjiar
- d) Banni

Q.309) Solution (d)

Banni grasslands form a belt of arid grassland ecosystem on the outer southern edge of the desert of the marshy salt flats of Rann of Kutch in Kutch District of Gujarat.

They are known for rich wildlife and biodiversity and are spread across an area of 3,847 square kilometres. They are currently legally protected under the status as a protected or reserve forest in India.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has identified this grassland reserve as one of the last remaining habitats of the cheetah in India and a possible reintroduction site for the species.

Vegetation in Banni is sparse and highly dependent on year-to-year variations in rainfall.

Article Link: [How to save Banni grasslands from invasive species?](#)

Q.310) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, seen recently in news, is an island of:

- a) Andaman Islands
- b) Aminidivi Islands
- c) Laccadive Islands
- d) Nicobar Islands

Q.310) Solution (a)

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, formerly known as Ross Island, is an island of the Andaman Islands. It belongs to the South Andaman administrative district, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Spotted Deer and peacocks are mostly found in the island and the island is full of palm and coconut trees.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island is an island where no civilian settlement is allowed by the authorities.

Article Link: [Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame taken to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island](#)

Q.311) With reference to Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. A nominated Member of Parliament can choose a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of any district in the country for its socio-economic development.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.311) Solution (c)

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a village development project launched by Government of India in October 2014.

It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The goal of the scheme is to develop three Adarsh Grams by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016. Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.

The main objectives of SAGY are:

- To trigger processes which lead to holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats
- To substantially improve the standard of living and quality of life of all sections of the population through:

- Improved basic amenities
 - Higher productivity
 - Enhanced human development
 - Better livelihood opportunities
 - Reduced disparities
 - Access to rights and entitlements
 - Wider social mobilization
 - Enriched social capital
- To generate models of local level development and effective local governance which can motivate and inspire neighbouring Gram Panchayats to learn and adapt
 - To nurture the identified Adarsh Grams as schools of local development to train other Gram Panchayats.

The Member of Parliament would be free to identify a suitable Gram Panchayat for being developed as Adarsh Gram, other than his/her own village or that of his/her spouse.

The MP will identify one Gram Panchayat to be taken up immediately, and two others to be taken up a little later. Lok Sabha MP has to choose a Gram Panchayat from within his/her constituency and Rajya Sabha MP a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of a district of his/her choice in the State from which he/she is elected. Nominated MPs may choose a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of any district in the country. In the case of urban constituencies, (where there are no Gram Panchayats), the MP will identify a Gram Panchayat from a nearby rural constituency.

Article Link: [Steps taken by Government for the successful implementation of the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana \(SAGY\)](#)

Q.312) Consider the following statements regarding Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC):

1. It is a large system of ocean currents that carry warm water from the tropics southwards into the South Atlantic.
2. The collapse of AMOC would lead to sudden warming of the Northern Hemisphere.

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.312) Solution (d)

The Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) is the zonally integrated component of surface and deep currents in the Atlantic Ocean.

It is characterized by a northward flow of warm, salty water in the upper layers of the Atlantic, and a southward flow of colder, deep waters that are part of the thermohaline circulation.

These "limbs" are linked by regions of overturning in the Nordic and Labrador Seas and the Southern Ocean.

The AMOC is an important component of the Earth's climate system, and is a result of both atmospheric and thermohaline drivers.

The net northward heat transport in the Atlantic is unique among global oceans, and is responsible for the relative warmth of the Northern Hemisphere.

AMOC carries up to 25% of the northward global atmosphere-ocean heat transport in the northern hemisphere.

If the AMOC collapsed, it would increase cooling of the Northern Hemisphere, sea level rise in the Atlantic, an overall fall in precipitation over Europe and North America and a shift in monsoons in South America and Africa.

Article Link: [Why the Atlantic Ocean current system is slowing down, and its implications](#)

Q.313) With reference to 'Elderly in India 2021' report, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. Kerala has the largest share of elderly population in India.
3. There has been fall in old age dependency ratio.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.313) Solution (b)

The report Elderly in India 2021 is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) which comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

It sought to provide insights about the problems and status of elderly persons in the country, and help in policymaking.

Key findings:

- According to the report, Kerala currently has the highest elderly population (16.5 per cent), followed by Tamil Nadu (13.6 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (13.1 per cent), Punjab (12.6 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (12.4 per cent) in 2021.
- Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have the least proportion with 7.7 per cent, 8.1 per cent and 8.2 per cent, respectively.
- There is likely to be an increase of nearly 34 million elderly persons in 2021 as compared to 2011 (104 million). This is projected to rise by around 56 million over the next decade.
- The percentage share of the elderly population in the total population is said to rise from 8.6 per cent in 2011 to 10.1 per cent in 2021 and projected to touch 13.1 per cent in 2031.
- The elderly female and male population is now projected to rise to 100.9 million and 92.9 million, respectively, in 2031.
- The report noted a significant increase in the old-age dependency ratio, which rose from 10.9 per cent in 1961 to 14.2 per cent in 2011 and is projected to increase to 15.7 per cent and 20.1 per cent in 2021 and 2031, respectively.
- The dependency ratio for female and male is expected to reach 14.8 per cent and 16.7 per cent, respectively, in 2021.
- The old-age dependency ratio is defined as the number of persons aged 60+ per 100 persons relative to the age group 15-59.

Article Link: [India's elderly population to rise 41% over next decade to touch 194 mn in 2031: Govt report](#)

Q.314) PM-DAKSH scheme, seen recently in news, is being implemented by:

- a) Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship
- b) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- c) Ministry of Education
- d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Q.314) Solution (d)

The Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.

Under this Yojana, eligible target group are being provided skill development training programmes on:

- Up-skilling/Re-skilling
- Short Term Training Programme
- Long Term Training Programme
- Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)

These training programs are being implemented through Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions.

Recently, 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App is developed by the Ministry to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.

Some of the features of this portal are as follows:

- Availability of all information related to skill development at one place for Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis.
- Facility to register for the training institute and program of their interest.
- Facility to upload desired documents related to personal information.
- Facility to register the attendance of the trainees through face and eye scanning during the training period.
- Monitoring facility through photo and video clip during training etc.

Article Link: [PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App](#)

Q.315) The aim of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is:

- a) To promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.
- b) To provide free cooking gas connections to poor families.
- c) To provide support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces.
- d) To provide skills that give employability to women.

Q.315) Solution (b)

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in 2016.

It aims to provide free cooking gas connections to poor families increasing India's LPG coverage.

It is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through its Oil Marketing Companies i.e., IOC, BPCL and HPCL through their network of distributors across the country.

PMUY has been recognised by World Health Organisation as one of the decisive intervention by the Government to address the Indoor Air Pollution which accounts for nearly 10 lakh deaths in a year in the country.

PMUY aims at providing clean-cooking fuel to the poor households, which are otherwise vulnerable to various health hazards associated with indoor air pollution and bringing in qualitative changes in the living standards.

PMUY is under implementation in all the States/UTs. Beneficiaries are identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census List-2011 and in such cases where names are not covered under SECC list, beneficiaries are identified from seven categories which include SC/ST households, beneficiaries of PMAY(Gramin), Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Most Backward Classes, Forest Dwellers, Resident of Islands/River Islands and Tea Garden & Ex-tea Garden Tribes.

Article Link: [PM to launch Ujjwala 2.0](#)

Q.316) With reference to PM-KISAN scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. The objective of the scheme is to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers.

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.316) Solution (b)

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector Scheme.

It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.

Under the PM-KISAN scheme, all landholding farmers' families shall be provided the financial benefit of Rs. 6000 per annum per family payable in three equal installments of Rs. 2000 each, every four months.

All land holding eligible farmer families (subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria) are to avail of the benefits under this scheme.

The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State/UT Governments.

Article Link: [PM-Kisan scheme: State govt writes letters to beneficiaries, slams Centre](#)

Q.317) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

1. It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
2. United States and India have signed the Convention but have not ratified it.
3. International Seabed Authority is an organization established by UNCLOS.

Which of the above 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.317) Solution (c)

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

- It is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.

- It embodies in one instrument traditional rules for the uses of the oceans and at the same time introduces new legal concepts and regimes and addresses new concerns.
- The Convention also provides the framework for further development of specific areas of the law of the sea.
- The Convention has become the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- The Convention has created three new institutions:
 - The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
 - The International Seabed Authority.
 - The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.
- India has signed as well as ratified the convention in 1995. Although the United States helped shape the Convention and its subsequent revisions, and though it signed the 1994 Agreement on Implementation, it has not signed the Convention as it objected to Part XI of the Convention.

Recently, The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has been accepted by the UN Security Council as the legal framework applicable to activities in the oceans, including countering illicit activities at sea.

Article Link: [Choppy waters: On global maritime security](#)

Q.318) Consider the following statements:

1. A person is declared as fugitive economic offender who has left the country and against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for offence of value of atleast 500 crore.
2. A person is declared as fugitive economic offender by a special court designated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

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.318) Solution (b)

An Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) is defined by The Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEO) Act, 2018 as any individual against whom a warrant for arrest in relation to a scheduled offence has been issued by any court in India, who:

- has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution
- being abroad, refuses to return to India to face criminal prosecution

The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 empowers any special court (set up under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002) to confiscate all properties and assets of economic offenders who are charged in offences measuring over INR 100 crores and are evading prosecution by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

The Act also provides for provisional attachment of all properties of the offender and confiscation of the same on declaration as fugitive economic offender by the Special Court.

Article Link: [India, UK review permission granted to Nirav Modi to appeal against extradition](#)

Q.319) Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding Dara Shikoh?

- a) He authored the work The Confluence of the Two Seas.
- b) He was given the title of 'Shahzada-e-Buland Iqbal'.
- c) He translated Upanishads into Persian.
- d) He wrote a biography of Moinuddin Chishti.

Q.319) Solution (d)

Dara Shikoh was the eldest son and heir-apparent of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

In the war of succession which ensued after Shah Jahan's illness in 1657, Dara was defeated by his younger brother Prince Muhiuddin (later, the Emperor Aurangzeb). He was executed in 1659 on Aurangzeb's orders in a bitter struggle for the imperial throne.

He was a liberal-minded unorthodox Muslim as opposed to the orthodox Aurangzeb; he authored the work The Confluence of the Two Seas, which argues for the harmony of Sufi philosophy in Islam and Vedanta philosophy in Hinduism.

Dara Shikoh devoted much effort towards finding a common mystical language between Islam and Hinduism. Towards this goal he completed the translation of fifty Upanishads from their original Sanskrit into Persian in 1657 so that they could be studied by Muslim scholars.

The title of Shahzada-e-Buland Iqbal ("Prince of High Fortune") was given to him by his father Shah Jahan.

The biography of Moinuddin Chisti, the founder of the Chishti Order in India, was written by Jahan Ara. She was the second and the eldest surviving child of Emperor Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal.

Article Link: [Have not located Dara Shikoh's grave, says Archaeological Survey of India](#)

Q.320) Mount Merapi, seen recently in news, is a type of:

- a) Shield Volcano
- b) Stratovolcano
- c) Cinder cone
- d) Mid-Ocean Ridge Volcano

Q.320) Solution (b)

Mount Merapi is an active stratovolcano located in Indonesia.

It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.

Indonesia is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire.

The Ring of Fire, also referred to as the Circum-Pacific Belt, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

Article Link: [Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupts with bursts of lava, ash](#)

Q.321) Consider the following statements regarding Census of India:

1. It is conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. Till now the decennial Census of India has been conducted 14 times.
3. The individual data collected in Census under the Census Act, 1948, are not made public as per the provisions contained in the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.321) Solution (c)

In Census (decennial census), data is collected on demographic and various socio-economic parameters like education, SC/ST, religion, language, marriage, fertility, disability, occupation and migration of the individuals.

While it has been undertaken every 10 years, beginning in 1872 under British Viceroy Lord Mayo, the first complete census was taken in 1881.

Post 1949, it has been conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The decennial Census of India has been conducted 15 times, as of 2011.

As per the official Gazette, the individual data collected in Census under the Census Act, 1948, are not made public as per the provisions contained in the Act.

Only the aggregated Census data at various administrative levels are released.

Article Link: [Census activities put off due to COVID-19, Minister tells Lok Sabha](#)

Q.322) With reference to Operation Greens, consider the following statements:

1. It is a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
2. It is presently applicable to tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP).
3. This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.322) Solution (a)

Operation Greens scheme was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in 2018.

The scheme aims to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Agri-logistics, processing facilities and value addition etc. in identified production clusters.

The scheme provides for:

- short term intervention by way of providing transportation and storage subsidy @ 50% and
- long-term intervention through value addition projects in identified production clusters with Grant-in-aid @ 35% to 70% of eligible project cost subject to maximum of Rs. 50 crore per project.

Objectives of Operation Greens Scheme:

- To enhance value realization of top farmers;
- Reduction in post-harvest losses;
- Price stabilization for producer and consumers and
- Increase in food processing capacities and value addition etc.

Initially the scheme was launched for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain but as per budget announcement 2021-22, expanded operation greens scheme covers 22 perishables including shrimp (TOP to TOTAL).

Article Link: [Operation Greens Scheme](#)

Q.323) With reference to PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMASBY), consider the following statements:

1. This scheme will replace the National Health Mission.
2. The targets envisaged under the scheme are to be achieved by the FY 2025-26.

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.323) Solution (b)

Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana' (PMASBY) scheme has been announced in the budget speech of 2021-22.

This scheme will be in addition to the National Health Mission.

The main interventions envisaged under the scheme, to be achieved by FY 2025-26, are:

- Support for 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States
- Establishing 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres in all the States.
- Setting up of Integrated Public Health Labs in all districts and 3382 Block Public Health Units in 11 High Focus states;
- Establishing Critical Care Hospital Blocks in 602 districts and 12 Central Institutions;
- Strengthening of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), its 5 regional branches and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units;
- Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal to all States/UTs to connect all public health labs;
- Operationalisation of 17 new Public Health Units and strengthening of 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry, that is at 32 Airports, 11 Seaports and 7 land crossings;
- Setting up of 15 Health Emergency Operation Centres and 2 mobile hospitals; and
- Setting up of a national institution for One Health, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories and 4 regional National Institutes for Virology.

Article Link: [PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana](#)

Q.324) Recently, a wildfire destroyed the vast areas of pine forest in the Island of Evia. It is located in:

- a) Albania
- b) North Macedonia
- c) Bulgaria
- d) Greece

Q.324) Solution (d)

The Island of Evia is the second-largest Greek island in area and population. It is separated from Boeotia in mainland Greece by the narrow Euripus Strait.

Wildfires have broken out in many parts of the country during a week-long heatwave, Greece's worst in three decades, with searing temperatures and hot winds

Greece and Turkey have been battling devastating fires for nearly two weeks as the region suffered its worst heatwave in decades, which experts have linked to climate change.

Article Link: [Greece wildfires: Evia island residents forced to evacuate](#)

Q.325) The Gadaba, Paroja and Omanatya tribes belong to:

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

Q.325) Solution (b)

The Gadaba, Paroja and Omanatya tribes belong to the state of Odisha.

Gadabas belong to the Munda group of tribes found largely in Lamataput, Similiguda and Pottangi block of the district. The name Gadaba seems to have been derived from the word "Gada" which is a name of the river in the region and the final syllable "ba" means belonging to. They speak Gutab and Desia dialect of the Austro-Asiatic language family.

Omanatya are a tribal group who possibly derive their name from the word 'Amatya' which means Minister of State Affairs in the ancient Indian princely provinces. This group of tribes mostly depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. While the men folks are clad in simple clothes while the women folks are adorned with traditional jewelry and distinctly adorn a black bead of necklace worn around the neck.

Parojas are one of the largely populated tribes of Koratpur region of Odisha. The word Paroja is derived from a local Odia term 'Praja' which literally refers to the common citizens of the kingdom. Their artistic talents find expression in Dhemsa, Dungdunga dances and in laga songs. The Paraja have many socio cultural features in common with the neighbouring major tribes namely the Gond, the Kondh and the Gadaba.

Article Link: [Tata Coffee to source from Koraput tribals in Odisha](#)

Q.326) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme
2. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture.
3. Creation of mega food parks is one of the components of this scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q.326) Solution (c)

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is an umbrella scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters or SAMPADA.

The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

It is a central sector scheme.

Objectives of the scheme are:

- To supplement agriculture.
- To create processing and preservation capacities.
- To modernise and expand existing food processing units with a view to increasing the level of processing.
- To add value leading to the reduction of wastage.

The following schemes will be implemented under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana :

- Mega Food Parks
- Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
- Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/ Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme)
- Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
- Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
- Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
- Human Resources and Institutions

Article Link: [FPI Schemes for Rural Areas](#)

Q.327) Recently, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die. In this context consider the following statements:

1. The power of declaration of adjournment sine die of both the houses of Parliament lies with the President of India.
2. Upon adjournment sine die of both the houses of Parliament, the bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses.

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.327) Solution (d)

Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die.

The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House. He can also call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die.

Adjournment sine die does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House.

Article Link: [Parliament Highlights: Both Houses adjourned sine die, Monsoon Session concludes](#)

Q.328) With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements regarding the office of Whip:

1. The office of whip is mentioned in the Rules of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
2. Every political party, whether ruling or Opposition has its own whip in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

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.328) Solution (b)

The office of 'whip' is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.

Every political party, whether ruling or Opposition has its own whip in the Parliament. He is appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader. He is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of his party members in large numbers and securing their support in favour of or against a particular issue. He regulates and monitors their behaviour in the Parliament. The members are supposed to follow the directives given by the whip. Otherwise, disciplinary action can be taken.

Article Link: [New Congress whips for Rajya Sabha](#)

Q.329) Which of the following statements is correct regarding International Criminal Court (ICC)?

- a) It is one of the six principle organs of the United Nations.
- b) It derives its authority from the Rome Statute.
- c) Its jurisdiction is wider than the International Court of Justice.
- d) It constitutes 15 judges where each of them serves a nine-year term.

Q.329) Solution (b)

International Criminal Court:

- The International Criminal Court is an independent organisation and is not a part of the United Nations. However, they do work alongside each other and the United Nations Security Council can refer to situations involving international crimes to the ICC.
- Presently, the International Criminal Court has 123 members.
- The International Criminal Court derives its authority from the Rome Statute, which was ratified and became executable in 2002.
- The International Criminal Court deals with criminal matters. It investigates and prosecutes individuals for committing international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- The territorial jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court is restricted to its member states. International Criminal Court has jurisdiction to investigate three areas of crimes, which are:
 - Crimes that were committed in member-countries.
 - Crimes that were committed by people from member-countries.
 - Crimes that the United Nations Security Council want the International Criminal Court to investigate.

- The territorial jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice is wider, as it can deal with matters relating to any of the member states of the United Nations, which at present are 193.
- The International Criminal Court is made up of 18 judges who make decisions on international criminal matters, where each judge serves a nine-year term. They all come from member-countries of the ICC however; no two of them can be from the same country.

Article Link: [Sudan to hand Bashir over for genocide trial](#)

Q.330) Which of the following protected area is a UNESCO world heritage site and hosts the largest population of great one-horned rhinoceroses in the world?

- a) Kaziranga
- b) Manas
- c) Orang
- d) Khangchendzonga

Q.330) Solution (a)

Kaziranga National Park is located in Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam.

It is home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros, approximately 2/3rd of their total world population.

Formed in 1908 on the recommendation of Mary Curzon, the park is located in the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots – Golaghat and Nagaon district.

In the year 1985, the park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Along with the iconic Greater one-horned rhinoceros, the park is the breeding ground of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer.

Over the time, the tiger population has also increased in Kaziranga, and that's the reason why Kaziranga was declared as Tiger Reserve in 2006.

Also, the park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species. Birds like lesser white-fronted goose, ferruginous duck, Baer's pochard duck and lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, black-necked stork, and Asian Openbill stork specially migrate from the Central Asia during the winter season.

Article Link: [Kaziranga guards equipped with satellite phones](#)

Q.331) Consider the following statements:

1. Use of the unapproved genetically modified crop can attract a jail term of 5 years under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. FSSAI is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops 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.331) Solution (c)

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.

In India, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and the products thereof are regulated under the "Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export & storage of hazardous microorganisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989" (referred to as Rules, 1989) notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Use of the unapproved genetically modified (GM) variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs. 1 lakh under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety. FSSAI is also authorised to regulate the imported crops in India.

Article Link: [Centre allows import of GM soymeal to support poultry industry](#)

Q.332) Consider the following statements regarding Wadhavana Wetland:

1. It is located in Haryana.
2. It is an internationally important wetland famous for endangered Pallas's fish-Eagle.

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.332) Solution (b)

Wadhvana Wetland from Gujarat is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.

They include some threatened or near-threatened species such as the endangered Pallas's fish-Eagle, the vulnerable Common Pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck.

This site has recently received recognition as Ramsar site.

Article Link: [Four new Ramsar sites recognized in India](#)

Q.333) Consider the following statements regarding IndiGau, seen recently in news:

1. It is India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds.
2. Jersey and Holstein Friesian are the indigenous breeds of cattle.
3. It is developed by the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, an autonomous institution under the Department of Biotechnology.

Which of the above 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.333) Solution (c)

IndiGau is the India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.

This indigenous chip was developed by the concerted efforts of scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad, an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.

This chip will have practical utility in the Governments schemes to achieve the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling of farmers' income by 2022.

Jersey and Holstein Friesian are exotic cattle breed:

- Jersey is the smallest of the dairy types of cattle developed on island of Jersey, U.K.
- Holstein Friesian breed was developed in the northern parts of Netherlands, especially in the province of Friesland.

Article Link: [India's first Cattle Genomic Chip](#)

Q.334) The Ramsar site of 'Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in:

- a) Gujarat
- b) Haryana
- c) Punjab
- d) Rajasthan

Q.334) Solution (a)

The Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Gujarat.

It lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found here.

The wetland supports more 30 threatened waterbird species, such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing, and the vulnerable Sarus Crane, Common Pochard and Lesser White-fronted Goose.

It is recently designated as the Ramsar Site.

Article Link: [Four new Ramsar sites recognised in India](#)

Q.335) The Global youth development index 2020 is released recently by:

- a) Commonwealth Secretariat
- b) United Nations Populations Fund
- c) G-7
- d) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division

Q.335) Solution (a)

The Youth Development Index (YDI), developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat, measures the status of young people in 183 countries around the world.

The index is a comprehensive measure across 5 domains that are critical to youth development:

- education
- health
- employment
- civic participation
- political participation.

In the recently released report:

- India was ranked at 122nd position among 181 countries.
- Singapore was ranked at the top for the first time.
- It is followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark.
- Bottom countries in the index include- Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger.
- Top five improvers include- India, Afghanistan, Russia, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso.

Article Link: [India ranked 122nd in 2020 Global Youth Development Index](#)

Q.336) Recently, a nationwide census on natural rubber has been started by the Rubber Board. In this context consider the following statements:

1. The Indian rubber plantation sector is dominated by smallholders who account for 92 per cent of the total rubber production.
2. Rubber Board, under the Ministry of Agriculture, is a statutory body.

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.336) Solution (a)

Rubber is harvested mainly in the form of the latex from the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*).

Natural rubber is used extensively in many applications and products, either alone or in combination with other materials. In most of its useful forms, it has a large stretch ratio and high resilience, and also is water-proof.

India is the sixth largest producer of natural rubber in the world. Thailand is the largest producer of natural rubber followed by Indonesia.

In India Kerala tops the rubber cultivation followed by Tripura.

The Indian rubber plantation sector is dominated by smallholders who account for 92 per cent of the production and 91 per cent of the planted area in the country. The sector has 1.32 million small rubber growers, and their planted area comes to around 8.2 lakh hectares.

The Rubber Board is a statutory body constituted by the Government of India, under the Rubber Act 1947. It comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce. It is responsible for the overall development of the rubber industry in the country.

Article Link: [Nationwide census on rubber to prepare comprehensive database begins](#)

Q.337) With reference to the Renewable Energy Sector of India, consider the following statements:

1. The total installed renewable energy capacity in India is more than 100 gigawatts.
2. India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity.
3. India has set the target to achieve 450 gigawatts of installed renewable energy capacity by 2024.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.337) Solution (b)

The total installed renewable energy capacity in India, excluding large hydro, has crossed the mile-stone of 100 GW recently. Currently, India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed RE capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity.

While 100 GW has been installed, 50 GW is under installation and 27 GW is under tendering. India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. If large hydro is included the installed RE capacity increases to 146 GW.

India has set the target of meeting 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 and to achieve 450 gigawatts by 2030.

Article Link: [India achieves 100 GW Milestone of Installed Renewable Energy Capacity](#)

Q.338) Consider the following statements regarding "SonChiraiya", seen recently in news:

1. It is a marketing initiative launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It aims towards women empowerment.

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.338) Solution (c)

SonChiraiya:

- It is a brand and logo for marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- It is launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- This initiative will be a step towards increased visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) under the aegis of MoHUA, focusses on equipping the urban poor women with adequate skills and opportunities, and to enable them to promote sustainable micro enterprises. It mobilises women from urban poor households into SHGs and their federations to create a support system for these women. Over 5.7 lakh SHGs have been formed across various

States/ UTs with almost 60 lakh members. Many of these SHGs are engaged in livelihood activities, producing goods such as handicrafts, textiles, toys, eatables and so on.

Article Link: [MoHUA launches one brand - 'SonChiraiya' - for Urban SHG products](#)

Q.339) Which among the following countries is not a member of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Bhutan
- c) Myanmar
- d) Pakistan

Q.339) Solution (c)

FEMBoSA:

- FEMBoSA was established at the 3rd Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of SAARC Countries held at New Delhi from April 30 to May 2, 2012 through a unanimously adopted resolution on 1st May, 2012 to establish the Forum.
- The Conference also unanimously adopted the Charter of the Forum.
- The annual FEMBoSA meeting is held by rotation among the members.
- Besides Election Commission of India (ECI), the other 7 members are Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The FEMBoSA represents a very large part of the democratic world and is an active regional association of the election management bodies of South Asia.
- The objectives of the Forum are to promote contact among the EMBs of the SAARC countries; share experiences with a view to learning from each other and cooperate with one another in enhancing the capabilities of the EMBs towards conducting free and fair elections.

Article Link: [ECI to Host 10th Annual Meeting of The Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia \(FEMBoSA\)](#)

Q.340) "Operation Blue Freedom", seen recently in news, is targeted towards:

- a) Person with disabilities
- b) Children

- c) Elderly
- d) Women

Q.340) Solution (a)

Operation Blue Freedom is a social impact venture aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.

It was launched by Team CLAW in 2019. (Team CLAW (Conquer Land Air Water) is a team of ex-Indian Special Forces commandos.)

Under the Operation Blue Freedom, the selected people with disabilities from across the country will undertake an expedition till Kumar Post (Siachen Glacier) to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.

This operation seeks to place India on the global stage as a leader in empowering Divyangjan and set a benchmark for other nations to emulate.

Article Link: [Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to Flag-Off 'Operation Blue Freedom](#)

Q.341) With reference to SAMVAD initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It is aimed at mental health outreach for elderly.

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.341) Solution (d)

SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress) is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care.

The programme is aimed at mental health outreach for children who are abandoned and orphaned, child survivors of trafficking, or in conflict with law.

SAMVAD is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences is in charge of the implementation body (NIMHANS).

The NIMHANS is the world's leading centre for mental health and neuroscience research and teaching. It is run independently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

With the recent launch of 2nd phase of SAMVAD, it will engage with functionaries in Panchayats thereby ushering in a silent revolution in addressing psychosocial challenges amongst vulnerable children.

SAMVAD is slated to begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grassroot level.

SAMVAD's new initiatives with regards to mental health and psychosocial care of children in difficult circumstances encompasses a specialized training curriculum on childhood trauma, interventions for children in conflict with the law, forensics in child and adolescent psychiatry and mental health, education and mental health support to children with special needs, protection and care in the context of adoption and foster care and integration of child protection and mental health in the Panchayati Raj systems.

Article Link: [Union WCD Minister commemorates one year of SAMVAD](#)

Q.342) In the Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister of India has announced Gati Shakti master plan. In this context consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed towards development of high speed trains for faster mobility.
2. The plan will help raise the global profile of local manufacturers.

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.342) Solution (b)

Gati Shakti will be a National Infrastructure Master Plan for our country which will lay the foundation of holistic Infrastructure.

100 lakh crores rupees will be dedicated to the plan.

The plan will help raise the global profile of local manufacturers and help them compete with their counterparts worldwide.

It also raises possibilities of new future economic zones.

Article Link: [PM Gati Shakti Master Plan](#)

Q.343) The word "Karez" was seen recently in news; consider the following statements regarding this:

1. It is a type of water management and irrigation system.
2. In India Karez was introduced by the Mughals.

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.343) Solution (a)

Karez is a type of water management and irrigation system.

This is a system of underground vertical shafts in a gently sloping tunnel that is built from an upland aquifer to ground level, is present in several countries.

Some historians and archaeologists have attributed people in the southeast Arabian Peninsula as the first developers. Others, however, ascribe it to the ancient Persians.

The Qanat / Karez system, wherever it was developed, soon spread to many Persian, Arab and Turkic lands.

It even came to the Indian Subcontinent during the 800-year-old Islamic Period.

The system was brought in the Indian Subcontinent during the Bahamani Sultanate, founded by Alaudin Bahman Shah.

It later broke into five other Sultantates: Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar, Bidar and Berar.

The Bahamani Sultanate was Persianate in nature and encouraged many things Persian, among them, the Karez.

Article Link: [Will Afghanistan's centuries-old 'Karez' system of irrigation survive the Taliban](#)

Q.344) 'Greater Adjutant storks (Garuda)' are listed under which schedule of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972?

- a) Schedule I
- b) Schedule II
- c) Schedule III
- d) Schedule IV

Q.344) Solution (d)

The greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) is a member of the stork family, Ciconiidae.

Its genus includes the lesser adjutant of Asia and the marabou stork of Africa.

Once found widely across southern Asia, mainly in India but extending east to Borneo, the greater adjutant is now restricted to a much smaller range with only three breeding populations; two in India, with the largest colony in Assam, a smaller one around Bhagalpur; and another breeding population in Cambodia.

They help farmers by killing rats and other farm pests.

The widespread destruction and degradation of the wetlands that this scavenger bird needs to forage (i.e. search for food) and the loss of its nesting trees, led to a decline.

Conservation Status: The greater adjutant stork is classified as 'endangered' on the IUCN's Red List 2004 of threatened species and listed under Schedule IV of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Article Link: [Bihar plans GPS trackers for endangered Greater Adjutant Storks](#)

Q.345) Recently, the QUAD included Taiwan Strait in talks for peace and stability. The Taiwan Strait connects:

- a) South China Sea to Java Sea

- b) Java Sea to Calbebes Sea
- c) South China Sea to East China Sea
- d) Philippine Sea to East China Sea

Q.345) Solution (c)

The Taiwan Strait is a 180-kilometer wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia. The strait is part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.

Among the most heavily policed strips of water in the world, the strait has remained an active battlefield between People's Republic of China (mainland China) and republic of China (Taiwan).

It is also part of flashpoint between US-China over freedom-of-navigation in Indo-Pacific region.

Article Link: [After G-7, Quad includes Taiwan Strait in talks](#)

Q.346) With reference to National Commission for Minorities, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. Union Government has notified only Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains as the minority communities of 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.346) Solution (d)

The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Thus it a statutory body.

Six religious communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by the Union Government all over India.

The Commission has the following functions:

- Evaluate the progress of the development of Minorities under the Union and States.

- Monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures.
- Make recommendations for the effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of Minorities by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- Look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Minorities and take up such matters with the appropriate authorities.
- Cause studies to be undertaken into problems arising out of any discrimination against Minorities and recommend measures for their removal.
- Conduct studies, research and analysis on the issues relating to socio-economic and educational development of Minorities.
- Suggest appropriate measures in respect of any Minority to be undertaken by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- Make periodical or special reports to the Central Government on any matter pertaining to Minorities and in particular the difficulties confronted by them.
- Any other matter which may be referred to it by the Central Government.

The Commission has the following powers:

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

Article Link: [Fill up vacant posts in Minority Commission](#)

Q.347) Which of the following Articles in the Constitution of India provides constitutional safeguards and fundamental rights specifically to minorities?

1. Article 22
2. Article 30
3. Article 350

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

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

Q.347) Solution (d)

Although the Indian Constitution does not define the word Minority, it has provided constitutional safeguards and fundamental rights to minorities:

Under Fundamental Rights Part III of Indian Constitution:

- Right of 'any section of the citizens' to 'conserve' its 'distinct language, script or culture' (Article 29(1))
- Right of all Religious and Linguistic Minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice (Article 30(1))
- Freedom of Minority-managed educational institutions from discrimination in the matter of receiving aid from the State (Article 30(2))

Under Part XVII Official Language of Indian Constitution:

- Rights for any section of population for language spoken by them (Article 347)
- Provision for facilities of instruction in mother tongue (Article 350A)
- Provisioning a special officer for linguistic minorities and defining his duties (Article 350B)

Article 22 of the Indian Constitution provides protection to individual against arrest and detention in certain cases.

Article Link: [Minorities have to be treated as 'weaker sections': NCM to Supreme Court](#)

Q.348) With reference to GUAREX, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first sectoral index in agri-commodities basket.
2. It is launched by Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX).

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.348) Solution (a)

GUAREX is a price based index tracking the price movement in the futures contracts of its underlying i.e. Guar Seed and Guar Gum Refined Splits on a real-time basis. The weightage of Guar Seed and Guar Gum Refined Splits in the index will be 63.43 percent & 36.57 percent, respectively.

It is launched by National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) which is an Indian-based agricultural product exchange a large market share in the agricultural products segment.

Article Link: [NCDEX launches futures contract on sectoral index NCDEX GUAREX](#)

Q.349) TAPAS is an initiative launched by:

- a) Ministry of Education
- b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Q.349) Solution (c)

TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services) is the initiative of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching.

The main objective of introducing the course modules is to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants.

It can be taken up by anyone who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics and there is no fee for joining.

The five basic courses are on Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and on comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.

Article Link: [Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launches TAPAS](#)

Q.350) The species of Grey Slender Loris is naturally found in:

- a) North- East India
- b) South-Western India
- c) Jammu Kashmir
- d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Q.350) Solution (b)

The gray slender loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*) is a species of primate in the family Loridae. It is found in India and Sri Lanka.

Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests and subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests. It is threatened by habitat loss.

It is found in south-western India roughly between the Tapti and Godavari Rivers down to the south coast of the subcontinent. The subspecies are separated geographically. In south-western India, the Malabar gray slender loris occurs in the wet forests of the Western Ghats in the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu up to an altitude of 1,200 metres.

The Mysore gray slender loris inhabits the tropical dry forests of the Eastern Ghats in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

It can also be found on the dry eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.

It is classified under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Act, 1972.

Article Link: [In Karur, a conservation dilemma regarding the slender loris](#)

Q.351) With reference to Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index), consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. Base year for FI-Index is 2015-16.
3. It comprises three broad parameters- access, usage and quality.

Which of the above 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.351) Solution (c)

Financial Inclusion Index:

- India's first composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) unveiled by the Reserve Bank of India.
- It seeks to capture extent of financial inclusion across the country.
- The index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators.
- It has been constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.
- It captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- It comprises three broad parameters (weights indicated in brackets) viz., Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators.
- The index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services for all 97 indicators.

Article Link: [Financial inclusion at little over halfway mark: New RBI index](#)

Q.352) With reference to Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Finance.
2. The scheme aims to ensure zero rating of exports.

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.352) Solution (b)

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme:

- It is a scheme of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The scheme aims to reimburse the taxes and duties incurred by exporters such as local taxes, coal cess, mandi tax etc. which are not getting exempted or refunded under any other existing scheme. Thus it ensures zero rating of exports i.e. taxes and duties should not be exported.
- RoDTEP scheme replaces the earlier Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) as MEIS violated the provisions of WTO by giving export subsidies for a wide range of goods.
- Scheme is to be implemented by Customs through a simplified IT System. Rebate will be issued in the form of a transferable duty credit/ electronic scrip (e-scrip) which will be maintained in an electronic ledger by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

Article Link: [Too little, too late: RoDTEP rates leave exporters disappointed, hope for a rate](#)

Q.353) With reference to Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote indigenous defence production, with special focus on participation of MSMEs and Start Ups.
2. It envisages setting up of test facilities in partnership with private industry.

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.353) Solution (c)

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS):

- The scheme was launched in 2020 and would run for the duration of five years.
- It envisages setting up of 6-8 Greenfield Defence Testing Infrastructure facilities that are required for defence and aerospace related production.
- The objective of the scheme is to promote indigenous defence production, with special focus on participation of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Start Ups by bridging gaps in defence testing infrastructure in the country.
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs 400 crore for creating state-of-the-art testing infrastructure in partnership with the private industry.

- The projects under the scheme will be provided with up to 75 per cent Government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'. The remaining 25 per cent of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) constituents of which will be the Indian private entities and state governments.

Article Link: [Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme](#)

Q.354) Cattle Island, seen recently in news, is located on:

- a) Nagarjuna Sagar dam
- b) Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar Dam
- c) Sardar Sarovar Dam
- d) Hirakud dam

Q.354) Solution (d)

Cattle Island is located in one of the extreme points of Hirakud Reservoir.

Completely inhabited by wild animals, it is without any trace of humans.

The island is a submerged hill, and before the construction of Hirakud Dam it was a developed village.

During the resettlement period, villagers left some of their cattle behind; when the dam construction was over, the cattle settled on the hilltop.

With the passage of time the nearby area filled up with the reservoir water, turning the hilltop into an island.

Being away from mankind, the cattle are now wild, very swift and not easily caught.

Living on a hilltop with dense forest, they are larger than tame cattle, and almost all are white in color.

Though descended from tame cattle, these animals provide a contrasting picture of this breed of animal returning to life in the wild.

Article Link: [Odisha plans 'odyssey' to wild cattle island](#)

Q.355) Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM) is an initiative being developed by:

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- c) National Payments Corporation of India
- d) Indian Banks' Association

Q.355) Solution (a)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is establishing a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Surveillance and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).

This comes in the context of ongoing engagement and increasing reviews of risk profiles and supervisory assessments for supervisors, including banks and non-bank financial corporations.

With the growing intensity and scope of the Reserve Bank's supervisory function, the focus of its new approach to 'continuous supervision' is on early identification of risks and implementation of supervisory actions.

PRISM will have various functionalities (inspection; compliance; cybersecurity incident functionality; complaints; and recovery functions), with built-in resolution workflows, time tracking, notifications and alerts, management information system (MIS) reports, and dashboards.

Article Link: [RBI to put in place a PRISM to strengthen compliance by lenders](#)

Q.356) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 124(2) of the Indian Constitution provides Collegium system of appointing judges to the Supreme Court.
2. The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four other senior most judges of the Supreme Court.

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.356) Solution (b)

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed by the President under Articles 124(2) and 217 of the Constitution. The President is required to hold consultations with such of the judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts as he may deem necessary.

Collegium System: It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four other seniormost judges of the court.

A High Court collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other seniormost judges of that court.

In the third Judges case, 1998 the Supreme Court laid down guidelines for the functioning of the coram for appointments and transfers – this has come to be the present form of the collegium, and has been prevalent ever since.

This opinion laid down that the recommendation should be made by the CJI and his four seniormost colleagues, instead of two. It also held that Supreme Court judges who hailed from the High Court for which the proposed name came, should also be consulted.

It was also held that even if two judges gave an adverse opinion, the CJI should not send the recommendation to the government.

Critics argue that the system is non-transparent, since it does not involve any official mechanism or secretariat. It is seen as a closed-door affair with no prescribed norms regarding eligibility criteria or even the selection procedure. There is no public knowledge of how and when a collegium meets, and how it takes its decisions.

Article Link: [Collegium recommends nine judges for Supreme Court](#)

Q.357) Consider the following statements regarding New Development Bank:

1. It aims to improve economic and social outcomes in least-developed countries of the world.
2. The voting weightage in NDB is based on capital contribution by member countries.

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.357) Solution (d)

The New Development Bank (NDB) is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China. The first regional office of the NDB is in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The main objectives of the NDB are:

- Promote infrastructure and sustainable development projects with a significant development impact in member countries.
- Establish an extensive network of global partnerships with other multilateral development institutions and national development banks.
- Build a balanced project portfolio giving a proper respect to their geographic location, financing requirements and other factors.

In India NDB has committed funding to a number of major infrastructure projects in India, including the Mumbai Metro rail and many renewable energy projects, besides a \$1-billion emergency assistance loan for economic recovery post Covid-19.

Only 5 countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) hold membership in NDB. All countries have equal voting weightage in NDB.

Article Link: [Horizon of NDB should be expanded to strengthen social infra](#)

Q.358) With reference to constitutional provisions regarding Tribunals, consider the following statements:

1. The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution which deals with the constitutional provisions regarding Tribunals.
2. Tribunals under Article 323 B can be established both by Parliament of India and state legislatures with respect to matters falling within their legislative competence.

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.358) Solution (b)

The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Under Article 323 B, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorised to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to the following matters:

- Taxation
- Foreign exchange, import and export
- Industrial and labour
- Land reforms
- Ceiling on urban property
- Elections to Parliament and state legislatures
- Food stuffs
- Rent and tenancy rights

Article Link: [SC asks govt. to show material justifying reasons for introducing Tribunal Reforms Bill](#)

Q.359) The UNITE AWARE platform is launched by India in collaboration with:

- a) World Health Organization
- b) G-20
- c) United Nations
- d) Arctic Council

Q.359) Solution (c)

India, in collaboration with the UN launched a technology platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in an increasingly complex and risky environments across the world.

The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August.

India has contributed USD 1.64 million for this project.

UNITE Aware is a situational awareness software programme that will utilise modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers and help them enhance their security. This will access live video and satellite imagery, and in very volatile circumstances can also deliver early warnings to peacekeepers. It can also record data on critical incidents and events and follow daily operational activities.

Using the platform, the entire peacekeeping operation can be visualised, coordinated, and monitored on a real time basis.

India has developed the technology platform in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.

Article Link: [Jaishankar announces rollout of tech to help protect U.N. peacekeepers](#)

Q.360) Tiwa is an ethnic group inhabiting the state of:

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

Q.360) Solution (d)

Tiwa is an ethnic group mainly inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya in northeastern India. They are also found in some areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland. They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam.

Tiwa people celebrate several occasions and festivals. The main festivals of the Tiwa tribes are: Three Pisu (Bihu), Borot utsav, Sogra puja, Wanchuwa, Jonbeel Mela, Kabla, Khelchawa, Langkhon Puja, Yangli Puja, etc

Article Link: [Tiwa Tribe and Wanchuwa festival](#)

Q.361) With reference to Kigali Amendment, consider the following statements:

1. It is an amendment to the Cartagena Protocol.
2. It aims to phase out ozone-destroying chemicals like the chlorofluorocarbons.

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.361) Solution (d)

The Kigali Amendment is an amendment to the 1989 ozone-saving Montreal Protocol.

- The 1989 Montreal Protocol is not a climate agreement.
- It is instead aimed at protecting the earth from ozone-destroying chemicals like the chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, that were earlier used in the air-conditioning and refrigerant industry.
- The widespread use of CFCs had caused a hole in the Ozone layer of the atmosphere, which allowed some harmful radiations to reach the earth.
- These radiations were considered potential health hazards.
- The Montreal Protocol led to the replacement of CFCs with HFCs which do not destroy the Ozone layer.
- But they were later found to be extremely potent in causing global warming.
- So, the HFCs solved one problem, but were contributing in a major way in another.
- But these could not be eliminated under the original provisions of Montreal Protocol which was meant to phase-out ozone-destroying chemicals only.
- The Kigali Amendment enabled the Montreal Protocol to mandate the elimination of HFCs as well.

It is estimated that a complete phase-out of HFCs by 2050 would prevent about 0.5 degree Celsius rise in global temperatures by the end of this century.

By a recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the average temperatures of the planet have already risen by about 1.1 degree Celsius.

India recently decided to ratify Kigali Amendment.

India has to reduce its HFC use by 80 per cent by the year 2047, while China and the United States have to achieve the same target by the year 2045 and 2034 respectively.

Article Link: [India decides to ratify Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol](#)

Q.362) The Reserve Bank of India has announced recently that it will conduct an open market purchase of government securities under the G-sec Acquisition Programme. In this context consider the following statements:

1. The RBI buys government securities to remove liquidity from the economy.
2. Treasury Bills are short term government securities which are issued by Central government only.

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.362) Solution (b)

Government Securities are debt instruments issued by the government to borrow money.

The two key categories are treasury bills – short-term instruments which mature in 91 days, 182 days, or 364 days, and dated securities – long-term instruments, which mature anywhere between 5 years and 40 years.

In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

The Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) is an unconditional and a structured Open Market Operation (OMO).

The objective of this programme is to achieve a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve along with management of liquidity in the economy.

By purchasing G-secs, the RBI infuses money supply into the economy which in turn keeps the yield down and lower the borrowing cost of the Government.

Article Link: [RBI to buy ₹25,000-cr. of bonds](#)

Q.363) With reference to NERAMAC, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a central Public Sector Enterprise.
2. It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture.
3. Its objective is to undertake development and marketing of horticultural products within and outside the north eastern region

Which of the above 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.363) Solution (c)

The North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) is a central Public Sector Enterprise.

It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Regional (MDoNER).

Objectives of NERAMAC:

1. To undertake development and marketing of horticultural products within and outside the north eastern region and the supply of inputs, tools, equipment etc. required for the development of horticulture and agro-based industries whether own or run by the Government, statutory body, company, firm, co-operative or individual.
2. To undertake, establish, acquire, purchase, sell and manage the projects for the development of horticultural products such as establishment of nurseries and commercial orchards, seed stations etc. and function as agent for the distribution of seeds, plants, processed food and other such products connected with the development of horticultural products.

3. To manage, promote, aid and expedite the export of raw and finished horticultural produce and equipment and also to import raw and finished horticultural produce and equipment in furtherance of the company's business.

To fulfill its prime objectives, NERAMAC is offering helping hand in sourcing and procuring cash crops of the producers by intervening in the market and provide them remunerative prices. It also helps processing units by providing raw materials and arranging packaging materials.

Article Link: [NERAMAC revival and Oil Palm Mission are a big boost to North east Farmers](#)

Q.364) Pampa Sagar, seen recently in news, is located on which of the following Rivers?

- a) Ghataprabha
- b) Malprabha
- c) Tungbhadra
- d) Bhima

Q.364) Solution (c)

Pampa Sagar is constructed across the Tungabhadra River, a tributary of the Krishna River.

The dam is in Hosapete, Vijayanagara district of Karnataka. It is a multipurpose dam serving irrigation, electricity generation, flood control, etc.

This is a joint project of erstwhile Hyderabad state and erstwhile Madras Presidency when the construction was started later it became a joint project of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh after its completion in 1953.

It is the life-line of 6 chronically drought prone districts of Bellary, Koppal and Raichur in Karnataka (popularly known as the rice bowl of Karnataka) and Anantapur, Cuddapah and Kurnool in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Article Link: [Venkaiah Naidu to visit Tungabhadra Reservoir](#)

Q.365) PM-KUSUM is a scheme of:

- a) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
- b) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- c) Ministry of Women & Child Development

d) Ministry of Education

Q.365) Solution (a)

PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme is aimed at ensuring energy security for farmers in India, along with honouring India's commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in 2019.

The objective of the scheme is increasing farmers' income, provide reliable source for irrigation and de-dieselise the farm sector.

Article Link: [Union Minister for Power and MNRE takes review of implementation of PM-KUSUM and Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II](#)

Q.366) Consider the following statements?

1. India is the largest exporter of wool in the world.
2. Rajasthan is the largest producer of wool 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.366) Solution (b)

India's wool sector:

- India is the seventh-largest producer of wool and accounts for nearly 2 to 3% of total world production.
- India has the third-largest number of sheep in the world with 74.26 million sheep under 42 registered breeds, according to the 20th Livestock Census in 2019.
- Due to the insufficient domestic production, India depends on imports for raw wool, particularly on Australia and New Zealand.
- Rajasthan is the largest wool producer and is known for its superior carpet grade Chokla and Magra wool.

- Carpet grade is rougher than apparel grade and accounts for 85% of India's production.
- The wool textile industry provides employment to 2.7 million workers - 1.2 million in the organised sector, 1.2 million in sheep rearing and farming, and 0.3 million weavers in the carpet sector.

Article Link: [Shear desperation: How can India's wool sector be revived](#)

Q.367) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Bosphorus Strait?

1. It forms part of the continental boundary between Europe and Africa.
2. It connects the Black Sea with the Caspian Sea.

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.367) Solution (d)

The Bosphorus is a narrow, natural strait and an internationally significant waterway located in northwestern Turkey.

It forms part of the continental boundary between Europe and Asia, and divides Turkey by separating Anatolia from Thrace.

It is the world's narrowest strait used for international navigation.

The Bosphorus connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara, and, by extension via the Dardanelles, the Aegean and Mediterranean seas, and by the Kerch Strait, the sea of Azov.

Together with the Dardanelles, the Bosphorus forms the Turkish Straits.

Article Link: [What is Kanal Istanbul](#)

Q.368) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

S. No.	Geological Sites	Location
1.	Mawmluh Cave	Tripura

2.	Umananda	Assam
3.	Unakoti	Meghalaya

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.368) Solution (b)

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has recently identified some geological sites across the Northeast for promotion of geo-tourism as some States in the region prepare to 'unlock' from September.

Of the 12 sites in the Northeast, three are in Meghalaya, two each in Assam and Tripura, and one each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.

Some of the sites are:

- Mawmluh Cave: It is located near Cherrapunjee in the East Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya. This cave led scientists to the Meghalayan Age associated with a major climatic event – very abrupt, critical and significant drought and cooling – 4,200 years ago. A stage of the Meghalayan Age is defined from a specific level in a stalagmite from this cave. According to geologists, speleothems from the cave provide important records of Holocene paleo-climate and paleo-monsoon. The cave is about 55 km from the State capital Shillong.
- Umananda: It is located in Assam. One of the smallest inhabited islands in the Brahmaputra, Umananda is off the administrative hub of Guwahati and sports an old Shiva temple. The island is actually an inselberg, composed of the rocks of the Assam-Meghalaya gneissic complex.
- Unakoti: Located in Tripura, this site in the Unakoti district has numerous rock-cut sculptures and temples made between the 7th and 9th centuries. The hilly environs and waterfalls are an added attraction at Unakoti, which means "one less than a crore". The place is a historic Shaiva pilgrimage 172 km from Agartala. The central Shiva head, known as 'Unakotiswara Kal Bhairava' is about 30 feet high, including an embroidered headdress that is 10 feet high.

Article Link: [GSI lists geo-tourism sites in NE to visit after 'unlock'](#)

Q.369) Sangetsar Tso popularly known as Madhuri Lake is located in:

- a) Mizoram
- b) Manipur
- c) Sikkim
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.369) Solution (d)

The Sangesar Tso popularly known as the Madhuri Lake, is located on the way from Tawang to Bum La Pass in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh, near Indo-China border above 15,200 ft above sea level.

The Sangesar Tso was created by falling rocks, boulders and trees in an earthquake.

Article Link: [GSI lists geo-tourism sites in NE to visit after 'unlock'](#)

Q.370) Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas in India is published by:

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

Q.370) Solution (a)

Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India is published by Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmadabad.

The Atlas provides a state-wise area of degraded lands for the time frame 2018-19.

It also provides the change analysis for the duration of 15 years, from 2003-05 to 2018-19.

Atlas presents state-wise desertification and land degradation status maps depicting land use, the process of degradation, and severity level.

The outputs are helpful in prioritizing areas to be taken up for minimizing the impact of desertification and land degradation.

Article Link: [Despite PM Modi's assurance, land degradation, desertification increasing](#)

Q.371) Consider the following statements regarding the scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan:

1. It aims to provide vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates and school dropout.
2. The scheme is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India
3. Ministry of Education is responsible for overall implementation of this scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.371) Solution (b)

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth) aims to provide vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs by identifying skills that have a market in the region of their establishment.

The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan has been transferred from Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development) to Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in July, 2018.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India.

Jan Shikshan Sansthans are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The affairs of Jan Shikshan Sansthan are managed by respective Board of Management approved by the Government of India.

The mandate of the scheme is to provide vocational skills in non-formal mode to non-literate, neo-literates, persons with rudimentary level of education upto 8th and school drop-outs upto 12th standard in the age group of 15-45 years. The priority groups are women, SC, ST, minorities and other backward sections of the society. JSSs are reaching to the unreached areas to cater the needs of the poorest of the poor. They work at the door step of the beneficiaries with a minimum infrastructure and resources.

At present, 233 JSSs in 25 States and 3 Union Territories are functional. The annual coverage of the beneficiaries is around 4 lakh, out of which 85% are women.

Article Link: [High-speed Net comes to a deep jungle](#)

Q.372) Which of the following is/are the sites belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. Burzahom
2. Pabumath
3. Khirasara

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.372) Solution (c)

Burzahom:

- The Burzahom archaeological site is a prehistoric site belonging to the Neolithic and Megalithic era.
- It is located in Kashmir.
- The Burzahom site revealed the transition from the subterranean and ground level housing features of the Neolithic people to the mudbrick structures of the Megalithic people.
- The large cache of tools and implements made of bone and stone found at the site shows that the inhabitants were hunting and farming.

Pabumath:

- Pabumath is an Indus Valley Civilisation archaeological site near Suvai village in Rapar Taluka of Kutch district, Gujarat.
- Important findings from this site include: A large building complex, unicorn seal, shell bangles, beads, copper bangles, needles, antimony rods, steatite micro beads; pottery include large and medium size jars, beaker, dishes, dish-on-stand, perforated jars etc.; fine red pottery with black painted designs etc. were found during 1980-81 excavations.
- Animal remains of cattle, buffalo, fish, sheep, wild pig and rabbit were also found.

Khirasara:

- Khirasara is an archaeological site belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization.

- The site is located in Gujarat.
- Specimens of fine perforated pottery were discovered from the site during the excavation.
- A "warehouse" found at the site had 14 parallel walls. The warehouse measured 28 metres by 12 metres while the walls had an average length of 10.8 metres and 1.55 metres breadth. Its structure above the walls was made of wood.
- Bone pots (used to preserve ash and bones after death) and pieces of shells have been recovered from the rooms of the houses.

Article Link: [An ancient Dravidian language link with the Indus Valley civilisation](#)

Q.373) With reference to Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the World Health Organization.
2. India is among four South Asian countries where children are most at risk.
3. Flooding and air pollution are leading cause of socio-economic adverse consequences for women and children in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.373) Solution (d)

The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index' (CCRI) is UNICEF's first focussed on children.

It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on their access to essential services.

Key Findings of the report:

- India is among four South Asian countries where children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change threatening their health, education, and protection

- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with a ranking of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.
- CCRI has placed India as one of the 33 extremely high-risk countries with flooding and air pollution being the repeated environmental shocks leading to socio-economic adverse consequences for women and children.
- Approximately 1 billion children live in one of the 33 countries classified as “extremely high-risk”, including the four South Asian countries.
- It is estimated that more than 600 million Indians will face 'acute water shortages' in the coming years, while at the same time flash flooding is to increase significantly in the majority of India's urban areas once the global temperature increase rises above 2° Celsius. Twenty-one of the world's 30 cities with the most polluted air in 2020 were in India.

Article Link: [Children in India, 3 other South Asian nations at extremely high risk of climate crisis impacts](#)

Q.374) The objective of Ubharte Sitaare Alternative Investment Fund, seen recently in news, is to:

- a) Provide environment for talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge fit for vocation of their choice.
- b) Provide free skill training avenues to youths of India.
- c) Facilitate funding to export-oriented MSMEs.
- d) Facilitating women to bring gender parity in the Science & Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development domain.

Q.374) Solution (c)

The Ministry of Finance has launched 'Ubharte Sitaare' Alternative Investment Fund to facilitate debt and equity funding to export-oriented MSMEs (Micro Small and medium Enterprises).

The fund, which has a corpus of Rs 250 crore, is aimed at identifying export-oriented units with technological, product or process advantages in their sectors and supporting them with funding and advisory services to accelerate their growth.

The scheme diagnoses such challenges and provides support through a mix of structured support covering equity, debt and technical assistance. It will also have a Greenshoe Option of Rs 250 crore.

The fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) which will invest in the fund by way of equity and equity-like products in export-oriented units, in both manufacturing and services sectors.

Article Link: [FM launches Ubharte Sitaare Fund; says MSMEs are the backbone of the economy](#)

Q.375) India's largest floating solar power plant has been commissioned in:

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Q.375) Solution (d)

The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has commissioned the largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) project of 25 MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

This project has the potential to generate electricity for around 7,000 households from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules.

This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India which allows power generation companies to meet their supply obligations via renewable power instead of only thermal power.

Article Link: [NTPC commissions 25 MW floating solar PV project at Simhadri](#)

Q.376) With reference to National Monetization Pipeline (NMP), seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. The objective of NMP is to unlock value of investment in public sector brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them revenue rights and ownership in the projects.
2. Presently, monetisation of non-core assets is the priority of NMP.

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.376) Solution (d)

National monetization pipeline (NMP) is developed by NITI Aayog based on the mandate for Asset Monetisation under Union Budget 2021-22, which had identified monetisation of operating public infrastructure assets as a key means for sustainable infrastructure financing.

The objective of NMP is to unlock value in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them revenue rights and not ownership in the projects; and using the funds so generated for infrastructure creation across the country.

For now, the government has only included the assets of infrastructure line ministries and CPSEs working in the infrastructure sectors.

Monetisation through disinvestment and monetisation of non-core assets have not been included in the NMP.

In a monetisation transaction, the government is basically transferring revenue rights to private parties for a specified transaction period in return for upfront money, revenue share basis and commitment of investments in the assets. Real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), for instance, are the key structures being used to monetise assets in the roads and power sectors.

Article Link: [What is the government's plan with the National Monetisation Pipeline?](#)

Q.377) Recently, a RBI appointed committee has suggested a four-tier structure for the Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). In this context consider the following statements regarding cooperative banks:

1. Primary purpose of cooperative bank is to accept deposits from members and public, and grant loans to farmers and small businessmen.
2. A cooperative bank is incorporated under Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

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.377) Solution (a)

Cooperative Banks are the financial institutions that are owned and run by their customers and operates on the principle of one person one vote.

The bank is governed by both banking and cooperative legislation, as they are registered under the Cooperative Society Act, 1965 and regulated by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) & Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

They operate in both rural as well as urban areas and provide credit to borrowers and businesses.

Cooperative Banks offer a range of services like accepting deposits and granting loans to the members and even non-members.

The members are the owners and customers of the bank at the same time. The bank offers services like deposit accounts such as savings and current account, safe keeping of valuables (locker facility), loan and mortgage facility to the customers.

Primary purpose of cooperative bank is to accept deposits from members and public, and grant loans to farmers and small businessmen.

Article Link: [RBI panel for four-tier structure](#)

Q.378) Consider the following statements regarding "Yuktadhara", seen recently in news:

1. It is a geospatial planning portal which will facilitate planning of assets to be created under MNREGA scheme using Remote Sensing and GIS based information.
2. This platform will serve as a repository of assets created under various national rural development programmes.

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.378) Solution (c)

Yuktdhara is a culmination of joint efforts of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Rural development made towards realising a G2G (Government-to-Government) service for rural planning in support of decentralised decision making.

It is a a new geospatial planning portal which will help in facilitating the creation of new MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) assets with the use of remote sensing and GIS (Geographic Information System) based information.

It will serve as a repository of assets (geotags) created under the various National Rural Development Programmes, such as MGNREGA, Per Drop More Crop Programmes, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, along with the field photographs.

It will integrate a wide variety of thematic layers, multi-temporal high-resolution earth observation data with the analysis tool.

Planners will be able to analyse previous assets under various schemes and facilitate the identification of new works using online tools. Prepared plans will be then evaluated by appropriate authorities under State Departments.

Article Link: [New portal under Bhuvan "Yuktdhara" will facilitate planning of new MGNREGA assets](#)

Q.379) Panjshir Valley, seen recently in news, is located in:

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Myanmar
- c) Pakistan
- d) Afghanistan

Q.379) Solution (d)

The Panjshir Valley is located in north-central Afghanistan near the Hindu Kush mountain range. It is divided by the Panjshir River.

The valley is home to more than 100,000 people, including Afghanistan's largest concentration of ethnic Tajiks.

The valley is also known for its emeralds, which were used in the past to finance the resistance movements against those in power.

Article Link: [How Panjshir Valley is still standing tall among Afghan ruins fighting Taliban](#)

Q.380) People belonging to Chakma and Hajong community majorly resides in which of the following state of India?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Bihar

Q.380) Solution (a)

Chakmas and Hajongs were originally residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the erstwhile East Pakistan. They left their homeland when it was submerged by the Kaptai dam project in the 1960s.

The Chakmas, who are Buddhists, and the Hajongs, who are Hindus, also allegedly faced religious persecution and entered India through the then Lushai Hills district of Assam (now Mizoram). The Centre moved the majority of them to the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), which is now Arunachal Pradesh.

As per the 2011 census, there are 47,471 Chakmas and Hajongs in Arunachal Pradesh.

Article Link: [Bid to deport 60,000 Chakmas from Arunachal slammed](#)

Q.381) Consider the following statements regarding SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0, seen recently in news:

1. It is an Industry 4.0 initiative of the Department of Heavy Industry.
2. Industry 4.0 refers to the fourth industrial revolution, which is related to the cyber-physical transformation of services sector.

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.381) Solution (a)

Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (SAMARTH) -Udyog Bharat 4.0 is an Industry 4.0 initiative of the Department of Heavy Industry, under its scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector.

Industry 4.0 refers to the fourth industrial revolution, which is the cyber-physical transformation of manufacturing.

Industry 4.0 has been defined as a name for the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies, including cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing and cognitive computing and creating the smart factory.

Article Link: [CMTI Organizes Webinar on 'Expert Talks from Samarth Udyog Centres](#)

Q.382) Consider the following statements regarding Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021:

1. It assesses the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing among 47 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific (APAC).
2. India ranks second as the most sought-after manufacturing destination globally.
3. United States is the most sought-after manufacturing destination globally, driven by cost competitiveness.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.382) Solution (b)

Global Manufacturing Risk Index assessed the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing among 47 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific (APAC).

The rankings in the report are determined based on four key parameters, including the country's capability to restart manufacturing, business environment (availability of

talent/labour, access to markets), operating costs, and the risks (political, economic and environmental).

The baseline ranking for top manufacturing destinations is determined on the basis of a country's operating conditions and cost effectiveness.

Key findings of the report:

India takes the second spot after China as the most sought-after manufacturing destination globally.

The US is at third position, followed by Canada, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Thailand, Malaysia and Poland.

The growing focus on India can be attributed to India's operating conditions and cost competitiveness. Also, the country's proven success in meeting outsourcing requirements has led to the increase in the ranking year-on-year.

Article Link: [India pips US to rank second in list of most attractive manufacturing hub globally](#)

Q.383) With reference to Nidhi Companies, consider the following statements:

1. It works on the principle of mutual benefits that are regulated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. They have been exempted from core provisions of RBI Act applicable to NBFCs.

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.383) Solution (c)

Nidhi Company is a company registered under Companies Act and notified as a Nidhi company by Central Government under Section 620A of Companies Act, 2013. These are governed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

Under Nidhi Rules, 2014, it is a company with the objective of cultivating the habit of thrift and saving amongst its members, receiving deposits from, and lending to, its members only, for their mutual benefit.

It is a non-banking finance company (NBFC) doing the business of lending and borrowing with its members or shareholders.

RBI has powers to issue directives to them though not directly.

They have been exempted from core provisions of RBI Act applicable to NBFCs.

Article Link: [Government cautions people of non-compliance by Nidhi companies](#)

Q.384) Which of the following is the objective of Mission Sagar, sometimes seen in news?

- a) To explore and extract polymetallic nodules from ocean depth in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.
- b) To Provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in Afghanistan
- c) To deliver Covid-19 related assistance to the countries in the Indian Ocean Littoral States.
- d) None of the above

Q.384) Solution (c)

Mission Sagar is India's initiative to deliver Covid-19 related assistance to the countries in the Indian Ocean Littoral states.

The countries including Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles had requested India for assistance in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The assistance is in line with India's role as the first responder in the Indian Ocean region.

This is different from the Security and Growth for All in the region (SAGAR) vision which is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours.

Article Link: [Mission Sagar: Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrives at Jakarta to deliver medical supplies](#)

Q.385) Temple Mount, seen recently in news, is located in:

- a) Israel
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Yemen
- d) Romania

Q.385) Solution (a)

The Temple Mount refers to the elevated plaza above the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Israel that was the site of both of Judaism's ancient temples.

The site is also the third holiest in Islam (after Mecca and Medina) and has been a focal point of inter-religious tension for decades.

At present, the site is under Israeli sovereignty but is administered by the Muslim Waqf (religious trust).

Jews and other non-Muslims are permitted to visit, but Jewish prayer is forbidden there — a provision long contested by a small number of Israeli Jews who oppose Muslim control over the site.

Recently, the government of Israel has allowed increasing numbers of Jews to pray there, a shift that could aggravate the instability and potentially lead to religious conflict in the region.

Article Link: [In shift, Israel quietly allows Jewish prayer on temple mount](#)

Q.386) Consider the following statements:

1. The central government announces Fair and Remunerative Price which are determined on the recommendations of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is headed by the Union Finance Minister.

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.386) Solution (b)

The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane announced by the Central Government which is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with the State Governments and after taking feedback from associations of sugar industry.

On the recommendations of CACP final pricing of sugarcane is decided by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is headed by the Prime Minister of India.

Following factors are considered by the CACP while deciding the prices of sugarcane:

- cost of production of sugarcane;
- return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;
- availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price;
- price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers;
- recovery of sugar from sugarcane;
- the realization made from sale of by-products viz. molasses, bagasse and
- reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits

Under the FRP system, the farmers are not required to wait till the end of the season or for any announcement of the profits by sugar mills or the Government. FRP system also assures margins on account of profit and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not and is not dependent on the performance of any individual sugar mill.

Article Link: [Government approves determination of Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by Sugar Mills for sugar season 2021-22](#)

Q.387) With reference to International Solar Alliance (ISA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a coalition of solar-resource-rich countries lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. ISA seeks to mobilize investments of more than USD 1000 billion by 2025.
3. It is the first treaty based inter-government organization headquartered in India.

Which of the above 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.387) Solution (c)

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 124 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram India. It is the first treaty based inter-government organization headquartered in India.

As guided by the Framework Agreement of the ISA, the interests and objectives of the ISA are as follows:

- To collectively address key common challenges to scale up solar energy applications in line with their needs;
- To mobilize investments of more than USD 1000 billion by 2030;
- To take coordinated action through programmes and activities launched on a voluntary basis, aimed at better harmonization, aggregation of demand, risk and resources, for promoting solar finance, solar technologies, innovation, R&D, capacity building etc.;
- Reduce the cost of finance to increase investments in solar energy in member countries by promoting innovative financial mechanisms and mobilizing finance from Institutions;
- Scale up applications of solar technologies in member countries, and Facilitate collaborative research and development (R&D) activities in solar energy technologies among member countries.
- Promote a common cyber platform for networking, cooperation and exchange of ideas among member countries.

Article Link: [India on course to exceed Paris Climate Change commitments](#)

Q.388) With reference to SAMRIDH scheme, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It aims to create a conducive platform to Indian software product start-ups.

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.388) Solution (b)

Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development & Growth' (SAMRIDH) programme is launched by the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).

It aims to create a conducive platform to Indian software product startups to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business. The programme is being implemented by MeitY Startup Hub (MSH).

It will support 300 startups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion for next three years.

MeitY will provide seed funds of up to Rs 40 lakh for the selected startups and mentorship.

The programme aims to boost growth in the startup sector which has seen the emergence of 63 unicorns, and is now the third largest unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of \$168 billion. A unicorn is a privately held startup valued at over \$1 billion.

Article Link: [SAMRIDH programme launched by MeitY](#)

Q.389) The report titled Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021 is published by:

- a) New Development Bank
- b) World Bank
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) Asian Development Bank

Q.389) Solution (d)

Report titled Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021 is released by the Asian Development Bank.

The report demonstrated that the region made substantial progress in the last two decades with respect to several development targets.

It presents comprehensive economic, financial, social and environmental statistics for ADB's 49 regional members.

Findings of the report:

- The pandemic pushed 75-80 million people in developing Asia-Pacific into extreme poverty in 2020.
- About 203 million people — 5.2 per cent of developing Asia's population — lived in extreme poverty as of 2017. Without COVID-19, that number would have declined to an estimated 2.6 per cent in 2020.
- The report warned that the relative rise in extreme poverty — defined as living on less than \$1.90 (Rs 141) a day, may be even greater.
- From 2019 to 2020, labour force participation rates among women, on average, declined by 1.4 per cent, while labour force participation rates among men declined by 0.8 per cent.
- 71 per cent of Asia-Pacific's workforce is now in non-agricultural employment. From 2000-2019, the region's non-agricultural employment rate grew to 71 per cent from 52 per cent, one of the fastest growth rates worldwide.
- Low-skilled people and those living in rural areas still face greater poverty risk.
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Asia-Pacific had been experiencing steady progress in several SDG III health targets, particularly on maternal and child mortality.
- The prevalence of undernourishment decreased from more than 521 million people in 2001 to 316 million in 2019.
- Almost all learners in the region were affected by closure of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Despite efforts to continue school activities through remote learning, poorer students suffered greater disruption to their education during the pandemic.

Article Link: [Asia-Pacific region lost 8% of working hours in 2020](#)

Q.390) EASE 4.0 recently launched by the Union Government is a reform agenda for:

- a) Agricultural sector
- b) Manufacturing sector
- c) Banking sector
- d) Services sector

Q.390) Solution (c)

EASE 4.0 or Enhanced Access and Service Excellence is a common reform agenda aimed at institutionalising clean and smart banking.

EASE 4.0 commits Public Sector Banks to tech-enabled, simplified and collaborative banking to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation.

Following agenda has been proposed under EASE 4.0:

- Under EASE 4.0, the theme of new-age 24x7 banking with resilient technology has been introduced to ensure uninterrupted availability of banking services.
- Banks have also been asked to come up with specific schemes for the North-East.
- Banks will be urged to work with state governments to push the 'one district, one export' agenda.
- Now industries have the option of raising funds even from outside the banking sector.

Article Link: [FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches EASE 4.0](#)

Q.391) Chagos Islands, seen recently in news, is located in:

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

Q.391) Solution (a)

Chagos Islands is a group of seven atolls comprising more than 60 islands in the Indian Ocean about 500 kilometres south of the Maldives archipelago.

This chain of islands is the southernmost archipelago of the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge, a long submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean.

In the 19th century, Chagos were governed from Mauritius, which was a British Colony.

Mauritius became independent in 1968, but the Chagos archipelago remained under British control. The U.K. government refers to it as British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).

The UK retained possession of the Chagos archipelago, which includes the strategic US airbase of Diego Garcia, after Mauritius gained its independence by paying Mauritius more than 4 million pounds for the islands.

Since 1975, Mauritius has made a concerted legal effort to secure the archipelago's return to its fold.

Article Link: [UN bans British stamps in Chagos island](#)

Q.392) With reference to the privileges of Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. In civil cases a Member of Parliament enjoys protection from arrest 60 days before the start of a Parliament session, during its sittings and 60 days after its conclusion.
2. The privilege of freedom from arrest during the session of Parliament does not extend to criminal offences but extends to the cases of detention under preventive detention.

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.392) Solution (d)

As per the privileges of Parliament, in civil cases, Members of Parliament have freedom from arrest during the continuance of the House and 40 days before its commencement and 40 days after its conclusion, as per section 135 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The privilege of freedom from arrest does not extend to criminal offences or cases of detention under preventive detention.

No arrest, whether of a member or of a stranger, can be made within the precincts of the House without the prior permission of the Chairman/Speaker and that too in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Home Ministry in this regard.

Similarly no legal process, civil or criminal, can be served within the precincts of the House without obtaining the prior permission of the Chairman/Speaker whether the House is in Session or not.

Article Link: [The procedure to arrest a Cabinet minister in India](#)

Q.393) Consider the following statements regarding Nationally Determined Contributions-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA):

1. It aims to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport sector in India, Vietnam, and China.
2. The India component of NDC-TIA is implemented by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.

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.393) Solution (a)

The NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) aims to promote a coherent strategy of effective policies for decarbonising transport co-ordinated among various sector ministries, civil society, and the private sector.

The project engages in China, India and Vietnam over the period 2020-24.

The goal is to enable the countries' transport sectors to contribute to achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and increase ambition in transport sections of long-term strategies and 2025 NDCs.

The India component is implemented by six consortium organisations. On behalf of the Government of India, NITI Aayog, is the implementing partner.

The objectives of NDC-TIA India Component are:

- Strengthening GreenHouse Gas (GHG) and transport modelling capacities.
- Providing technical support on GHG emission reduction measures.
- Financing climate actions in transport.
- Offering policy recommendations on electric vehicle (EV) demand and supply policies etc

Article Link: [NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute India Jointly Launch 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India](#)

Q.394) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs):

1. ESZs are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. ESZs are notified under Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
3. Recently, ESZs around Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary has been notified.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.394) Solution (c)

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, even area beyond 10 km width can also be included in the eco-sensitive zone.

ESZs are notified by MoEFCC, Government of India under Environment Protection Act 1986.

The basic aim is to regulate certain activities around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so as to minimise the negative impacts of such activities on the fragile ecosystem encompassing the protected areas.

The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas. They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the eco-sensitive zone of Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a permanent freshwater lake, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river. It is a wetland under the Ramsar Convention which has been listed since November 2002.

Article Link: [Deepor Beel breathes easy after eco-sensitive zone notification](#)

Q.395) What is the conservation status of Ghariyal as per the IUCN Red List?

- a) Extinct in Wild
- b) Vulnerable
- c) Endangered
- d) Critically Endangered

Q.395) Solution (d)

Gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*) have been identified as the most Critically Endangered crocodilian species in the world. The geographical range of gharial distribution has dwindled throughout Pakistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Presently, the wild populations of gharials can only be found in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

Increased river pollution, dam construction, massive-scale fishing operations and floods, illegal sand mining and poaching are the main threats to the Gharial habitat.

Article Link: [Illegal sand mining, constructions endanger Son gharials](#)

Q.396) Consider the following statements regarding Resolution Framework 2.0:

1. Objective of this framework is to provide restructuring of loans for individuals and small businesses.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Finance.

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.396) Solution (a)

Resolution Framework 2.0 is to relieve stress faced by most vulnerable categories of borrowers – namely individuals, borrowers and MSMEs.

The resolution framework will allow banks to offer a moratorium or revised loan repayment schedule to burdened borrowers.

Individuals, borrowers and MSMEs who have not availed any restructuring will be eligible to be considered under Resolution Framework 2.0.

For individuals and small businesses who have availed restructuring of loans under Resolution Framework 1.0, lending institutions can now extend residual tenure up to a total period of 2 years.

In respect of small businesses and MSMEs restructured earlier, lending institutions are now permitted to review working capital sanction limits, as a one-time measure.

Article Link: [Few takers for restructuring under RBI's Resolution Framework 2.0: Crisil](#)

Q.397) With reference to the SUJALAM campaign, consider the following statements:

1. The campaign is directed towards ensuring tap water connection in rural areas.
2. Creation of soak pits for management of grey water is one of the components of this campaign.

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.397) Solution (b)

SUJALAM is a 100 days campaign' as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking waste water management at village level particularly through creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Grey water management activities.

It is launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The campaign will not only build desired infrastructure i.e. soak pit for management of greywater in villages but will also aid in sustainable management of waterbodies. The disposal of waste water and clogging of waterbodies in the villages or on the outskirts of the villages remain one of the major problems. The Campaign would help in management of the wastewater and in turn would help to revive the waterbodies.

The key activities that will be organised in the villages under this campaign include:

- Organizing Community consultations, Khuli Baithaks and Gram Sabha meetings to analyze the current situation

- Pass resolution to maintain ODF sustainability and achieve needed number of soak pits to manage the grey water
- Develop a 100 days' plan to undertake sustainability and soak pit construction related activities
- Construct requisite number of soak pits
- Retrofit toilets where needed through IEC and community mobilization and
- Ensure all newly emerging Households in the village have access to toilets.

Article Link: [100 days 'SUJALAM' Campaign begins](#)

Q.398) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers.
2. It is mandatory for all the farmers.
3. The prescribed premium is 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all rabi crops.

Which of the above 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.398) Solution (c)

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a Crop Insurance Scheme which is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme.

Objectives of the scheme are:

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

The prescribed premium is 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all rabi crops. In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium is 5%.

PMFBY 2.0 modifies the PMFBY and makes enrolment 100% voluntary for all farmers from 2020 Kharif season.

Article Link: [Insurers cut exposure to govt's flagship crop cover scheme PMFBY](#)

Q.399) Steering Committee for Advanced Local Value Add and Exports (SCALE) was formed by the Ministry of Commerce to:

- a) Look into issues pertaining to export of capital goods.
- b) Establish the Infrastructure Investment Trust
- c) Give suggestions to boost export of GI tagged agricultural products.
- d) Give suggestions to boost exports of manufactured products in priority sectors.

Q.399) Solution (d)

Steering Committee for Advanced Local Value Add and Exports (SCALE) panel was formed under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for suggestions to boost exports of manufactures products in 24 priority sectors.

These include auto components, marine products, farm and processed food items, toys and furniture.

The panel has recommended government to incentivise multinational corporations to set up plants and fix issues in existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and forge new ones.

Article Link: [SCALE suggests sector-specific strategy to boost exports](#)

Q.400) Kilauea volcano, seen recently in news, is a type of:

- a) Cinder cone
- b) Strato volcano
- c) Shield volcano
- d) Mid-Ocean Ridge Volcano

Q.400) Solution (c)

Kilauea is an active shield volcano in the Hawaiian Islands.

It ranks among the world's most active volcanoes. It is an elongated dome built of lava eruptions from a central crater and from lines of craters extending along east and southwest rifts, or fissures.

It is the second-youngest product of the Hawaiian hotspot and the current eruptive center of the Hawaiian–Emperor seamount chain.

Recently, scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory noticed a surge of earthquakes and the ground swelling at the southern part of the crater at Kilauea's summit. There are indications magma is shifting about a half-mile to a mile (1 to 2 kilometers) below the surface.

Article Link: [What's happening with Hawaii's Kilauea volcano](#)

Q.401) What are the benefits provided under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana?

1. It provides accident insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
2. An overdraft facility up to Rs. 1,00,000 is available to the eligible account holders.
3. PMJDY accounts are eligible for Atal Pension Yojana.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.401) Solution (c)

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, a basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.

Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account.

Benefits under the PMJDY are:

- One basic savings bank account is opened for unbanked person.
- There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts.

- Interest is earned on the deposit in PMJDY accounts.
- Rupay Debit card is provided to PMJDY account holder.
- Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh (enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh to new PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018) is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
- An overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders is available.
- PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme.

Article Link: [Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana \(PMJDY\) - National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completes seven years of successful implementation](#)

Q.402) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

S. No.	Hydropower projects	Located on River
1.	Tapovan Vishnugadh	Mandakini
2.	Vishnugadh Pipalkoti	Dhauliganga
3.	Tehri	Bhagirathi

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.402) Solution (a)

The Tapovan Vishnugad power plant is a 520MW run-of-river project being constructed on Dhauliganga River in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand. It was constructed by National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).

The Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project is located near village Haatgoan in Chamoli, is being built on Alaknanda river, a main tributary of Ganga.

Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand is the highest dam in India built on Bhagirathi River. It is around 260.5 metre high and 592 metre long.

Article Link: [Ministries reach consensus on hydropower projects in Himalayas](#)

Q.403) What is/are the effect of Foreign Direct Investment on the host country?

1. Development of human capital.
2. Access to management expertise, skills, and technology
3. Displacement of local businesses

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.403) Solution (d)

A foreign direct investment (FDI) is a purchase of an interest in a company by a company or an investor located outside its borders.

Generally, the term is used to describe a business decision to acquire a substantial stake in a foreign business or to buy it outright in order to expand its operations to a new region. It is not usually used to describe a stock investment in a foreign company.

Foreign direct investment offers advantages to both the investor and the foreign host country. These incentives encourage both parties to engage in and allow FDI.

The following are some of the benefits for the host country:

- Economic stimulation
- Development of human capital Human Capital Human capital is basically a measure of the education, skills, and other production attributes of a human resource that can influence their
- Increase in employment
- Access to management expertise, skills, and technology

For businesses, most of these benefits are based on cost-cutting and lowering risk. For host countries, the benefits are mainly economic.

Despite many benefits, the entry of large firms, such as Walmart, may displace local businesses. Walmart is often criticized for driving out local businesses that cannot compete with its lower prices.

Article Link: FDI equity inflows up 168% to USD 17.57 billion during April-June 2021-22

Q.404) Which part of the Indian Constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters?

- a) Part XIV
- b) Part XV
- c) Part XVI
- d) Part XVIII

Q.404) Solution (b)

Part XV of the Constitution of India consists of Articles on Elections.

Article 324 to 329 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.

Originally, it had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body.

Presently, it consists of one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (ECs) - appointed by the President.

Article Link: [ECI organizes two-day SVEEP Consultation Workshop](#)

Q.405) Who among the following was associated with the Deoband Movement in India?

- a) Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi
- b) Badriddin Tayabji
- c) Inayatullah Khan Mashriqi
- d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Q.405) Solution (a)

The Deoband Movement was organised by the orthodox section among the Muslim ulema as a revivalist movement with the twin objectives of propagating pure teachings of the Quran and Hadis among Muslims and keeping alive the spirit of jihad against the foreign rulers.

The Deoband Movement was established in Deoband in Saharanpur district (United Provinces) in 1866 by Mohammad Qasim Nanotavi (1832-80) and Rashid Ahmed Gangohi (1828- 1905) to train religious leaders for the Muslim community.

In contrast to the Aligarh Movement, which aimed at the welfare of Muslims through western education and support of the British Government, the aim of the Deoband Movement was moral and religious regeneration of the Muslim community. The instruction imparted at Deoband was in original Islamic religion.

On the political front, the Deoband School welcomed the formation of the Indian National Congress and in 1888 issued a fatwa (religious decree) against Syed Ahmed Khan's organisations.

Article Link: [We're Indians first, Taliban view of Islam not ours, say Deoband Islamic scholars, locals](#)

Q.406) With reference to the fundamental right to freedom, consider the following statements:

1. Article 19 of the Constitution of India entitles every citizen the right to move inside the country as well as right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country.
2. The Constitution of India provides that the right of outsiders to reside and settle in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation.

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.406) Solution (b)

Freedom of Movement: This freedom under Article 19 of the Constitution of India entitles every citizen to move freely throughout the territory of the country. He can move freely from one state to another or from one place to another within a state. This right underline the idea that India is one unit so far as the citizens are concerned. Thus, the purpose is to promote national feeling and not parochialism.

The grounds of imposing reasonable restrictions on this freedom are two, namely, the interests of general public and the protection of interests of any scheduled tribe. The entry of outsiders in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation

The freedom of movement has two dimensions, viz, internal (right to move inside the country) and external (right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country). Article 19 protects only the first dimension. The second dimension is dealt by Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).

Freedom of Residence: Every citizen has the right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of the country. This right has two parts: (a) the right to reside in any part of the country, which means to stay at any place temporarily, and (b) the right to settle in any part of the country, which means to set up a home or domicile at any place permanently.

This right is intended to remove internal barriers within the country or between any of its parts. This promotes nationalism and avoids narrow mindedness.

The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of these right on two grounds, namely, the interest of general public and the protection of interests of any scheduled tribes. The right of outsiders to reside and settle in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation. In many parts of the country, the tribals have been permitted to regulate their property rights in accordance with their customary rules and laws.

Article Link: [Person cannot be denied right to reside, move freely throughout country on flimsy grounds: SC](#)

Q.407) With reference to the Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It makes recommendations regarding the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states.
2. It makes recommendations regarding the principles that should govern the grant-in-aid to the states out of the contingency fund of 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.407) Solution (a)

Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

The Finance Commission is required to make recommendations to the president of India on the following matters:

1. The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states, and the allocation between the states of the respective shares of such proceeds.
2. The principles that should govern the grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre (i.e., out of the consolidated fund of India).
3. The measures needed to augment the consolidated fund of a state to supplement the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the state finance commission.
4. Any other matter referred to it by the president in the interests of sound finance.

The commission submits its report to the president. He lays it before both the Houses of Parliament along with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken on its recommendations.

Article Link: [15th Finance Commission Recommends Rs 1.42 Lakh Cr To Panchayats For Water & Sanitation](#)

Q.408) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Small Finance Banks:

1. Minimum paid up capital required to set up small finance bank is 100 crore.
2. It can issue credit cards.

3. It cannot accept time deposits.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.408) Solution (b)

Small finance banks are financial institutions that provide financial services to the country's underserved and unbanked areas. They are registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. These banks, like other commercial banks, can engage in all basic banking activities, such as issuing credit cards, lending and accepting time deposits such as fixed deposit and recurring deposit.

Small finance banks are established with the goal of increasing financial inclusion by (1) providing savings vehicles and (2) providing credit to small businesses, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries, and other unorganised sector entities through high-tech, low-cost operations.

Article Link: [Two more entities apply for SFB licence](#)

Q.409) BCG vaccine is primarily used against:

- a) Diptheria
- b) Hepatitis B
- c) Rotavirus
- d) Tuberculosis

Q.409) Solution (d)

BCG, or bacille Calmette-Guerin, is a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB) disease.

BCG is used in many countries with a high prevalence of TB to prevent childhood tuberculous meningitis and miliary disease.

Currently, BCG is the only licensed vaccine available for the prevention of TB.

In children, BCG provides strong protection against severe forms of TB. This protective effect is far more variable in adolescents and adults, ranging from 0–80%.

Article Link: [BCG vaccine: 100 years and counting](#)

Q.410) Pashmina shawls are made with the wool obtained from:

- a) Angora Rabbits
- b) Bakarwal Sheeps
- c) Changthang Goats
- d) Tibetan Antelop

Q.410) Solution (c)

Pashmina comes from an animal fibre Cashmere, derived from the Changthangi goat of Ladakh. It is well known for its warmth, lightweight, and softness in addition to its characteristic dye absorbing property.

Pashmina has been accredited by the Guinness Book of World Records for being the costliest cloth in the world (after a ban imposed on Shahtoosh - the fibre produced by the Tibetan Antelope). The reason for being world-renowned is the diameter of each Cashmere thread, which is just 12-16 microns. The human hair has an average diameter of 50 microns, and that makes Cashmere fibre equal to one-fourth of a human hair.

Article Link: [New initiative in J&K to restore lost glory of Pashmina shawls](#)

Q.411) Consider the following statements:

1. Construction of irrigation wells requires ecological clearance by Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) Department of respective state governments.
2. Around 70 per cent of food production in India is done with the help of irrigation wells.

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.411) Solution (b)

Irrigation in India includes a network of major and minor canals from Indian rivers; groundwater well based systems, tanks, and other rainwater harvesting projects for agricultural activities.

Around 70 per cent of food production is done with the help of irrigation wells.

The UNESCO World Water Development Report, 2018 states that India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world.

Uttar Pradesh has the largest area of 93-84 lakh hectares under well irrigation which accounts for about 28-19 per cent of the well irrigated area of India. This is followed by Rajasthan (10-44%), Punjab (8-65%), Madhya Pradesh (7-97%), and Gujarat (7-34%) Bihar (6-29%), Andhra Pradesh (5-87%), Maharashtra (5-75%), Haryana (4-41%), Tamil Nadu (4-35%), West Bengal (4 19%) and Karnataka (3.06%).

In India, construction of irrigation wells does not require any clearance and no records are maintained of abandoned wells.

Article Link: [Conserving groundwater: Role of women crucial in bringing about significant change](#)

Q.412) With reference to the Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid-affected Sectors, consider the following statements:

1. The Scheme is aimed at upscaling the medical infrastructure specifically targeting in rural areas.
2. Under the scheme banks would provide interest free loans for building healthcare infrastructure.

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.412) Solution (d)

Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID-affected Sectors (LGSCAS):

- The scheme is aimed at boosting medical infrastructure in the country, specifically targeting underserved areas.
- The scheme was approved by the government in June 2021.
- Banks would provide loans for building healthcare infrastructure in non-metro cities and smaller towns at a maximum interest rate of 7.95%.
- LGSCAS provides a guarantee of 50% for brownfield projects and 75% to greenfield projects for loans sanctioned up to Rs.100 crore, set up at urban or rural locations other than 8 Metropolitan Tier 1 cities (Class X cities).
- For aspirational districts, the guarantee cover for both brownfield expansion and greenfield projects is 75%.
- The Scheme is applicable to all eligible loans sanctioned up to 31.03.2022, or till an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore is sanctioned, whichever is earlier.
- The LGSCAS will become a path-breaking scheme as it can be collaborated and it can work in conjunction with other ongoing interventions in the healthcare sector.

Article link: [Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman says improvement in health infrastructure will lead to confidence in revival of economy](#)

Q.413) Consider the following statements:

1. Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced by only a country's citizens but both domestically and abroad.
2. When real GDP is adjusted for inflation nominal GDP is obtained.

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.413) Solution (d)

GDP measures the value of goods and services produced within a country's borders, by citizens and non-citizens alike.

GDP provides an economic snapshot of a country, used to estimate the size of an economy and growth rate.

GDP is a key tool to guide policy-makers, investors, and businesses in strategic decision-making.

Nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Real GDP both quantify the total value of all goods produced in a country in a year.

However, real GDP is adjusted for inflation, while nominal GDP isn't. Hence when nominal GDP is adjusted for inflation real GDP is obtained.

Real GDP is almost always slightly lower than its equivalent nominal figure. In most circumstances, the real GDP (and real GDP per capita) shows a more accurate picture of a country's economic performance since it can be more easily compared to past figures. Thus, we can deduce whether a country really is better or worse off year over year.

Article Link: [India's GDP growth accelerates to 20.1% in Q1FY22 on low base](#)

Q.414) Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an initiative of:

- a) WEF
- b) UNESCO
- c) OECD
- d) G20

Q.414) Solution (c)

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in member and non-member nations intended to evaluate educational systems by measuring 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance on mathematics, science, and reading.

It was first performed in 2000 and then repeated every three years. Its aim is to provide comparable data with a view to enabling countries to improve their education policies and outcomes. It measures problem solving and cognition.

In India the field trial of PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) is scheduled to be held from September 15 to 18 in 38 schools.

PISA will help to come out of the learning loss that has occurred due to the pandemic.

It would lead to recognition and acceptability of Indian students and prepare them for the global economy in the 21st century.

Article Link: [Field trial of PISA to be held in 38 schools from Sept 15 to 18](#)

Q.415) "Five minute yoga protocol", seen recently in news, is developed by:

- a) Ministry of Culture
- b) Ministry of AYUSH
- c) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- d) NITI Aayog

Q.415) Solution (b)

Five minute yoga protocol has been developed by the Ministry of Ayush.

The five-minute protocol intends to introduce people at the workplace to yoga. It promotes the idea of a break of five minutes from the work schedule to practice yoga to refresh, de-stress and re-focus.

It intends to introduce people at workplace to yoga and promotes the idea of a break of five minutes from work schedule to practice yoga.

Article Link: [Ayush Ministry prepares 5-minute yoga protocol for professionals, develops 'Y-Break' app](#)

Q.416) With reference to the coal sector of India, consider the following statements:

1. India has the largest coal reserves in the world.
2. India is the third-largest producer of coal in the world.
3. Electricity generation makes up three-fourths of India's coal consumption.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.416) Solution (c)

Coal in India has been mined since 1774 and is now the second fastest mined in the world, producing 716 million metric tons (789 million short tons) in 2018.

India is the second largest producer of coal in the world, after China.

India has the fourth-largest coal reserves in the world. It is the second-largest producer of coal in the world, after China.

Coal deposits are primarily found in eastern and south-central India.

Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra accounted for 98.09% of the total known coal reserves in India.

Coal-fired power accounts for more than 70% of India's electricity generation. Electricity generation makes up three-fourths of India's coal consumption.

Article Link: [Govt. tells utilities to ship in coal as demand surges](#)

Q.417) With reference to Special Drawing Rights (SDR), consider the following statements:

1. SDRs are an artificial currency instrument created by the International Monetary Fund.
2. Pound Sterling has the second highest weightage in the basket of major currencies of SDR after US Dollar.

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.417) Solution (a)

Special drawing rights (SDR) are an artificial currency instrument created by the International Monetary Fund, which uses them for internal accounting purposes.

The value of the SDR is calculated from a weighted basket of major currencies, including the U.S. dollar, the euro, Japanese yen, Chinese yuan, and British pound. U.S. Dollar has the highest weightage in the basket of major currencies of SDR followed by Euro, Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen and Pound Sterling.

The SDR was formed with a vision of becoming a major element of international reserves, with gold and reserve currencies forming a minor incremental component of such reserves.

This consisted of central bank or government reserves of gold and globally accepted foreign currencies that could be used to buy the local currency in foreign exchange markets to maintain a stable exchange rate.

Article Link: [IMF raises India's special drawing rights allocation to \\$17.86 billion](#)

Q.418) Consider the following statements:

1. Gross value added (GVA) shows the production contribution of a particular sector.
2. GDP of any nation represents the sum total of GVA in all the sectors of that economy during the said year after adjusting for taxes and subsidies.

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.418) Solution (c)

Gross value added (GVA) is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. It is used to measure the output or contribution of a particular sector.

When such GVAs from all sectors are added together and adding taxes (product) and reducing subsidies (product), we can get the GDP (at market price).

GVA thus shows the production contribution of a particular sector.

When the value of taxes on products (less subsidies on products) is added to the gross value added, the sum of gross value added for all resident units gives the value of gross domestic product (GDP).

Thus, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any nation represents the sum total of gross value added (GVA) in all the sectors of that economy during the said year after adjusting for taxes and subsidies.

Article Link: [Q1 growth rate 20.1%, real GDP still below pre-Covid level](#)

Q.419) Resolution 2593 of the United Nations Security Council is related to:

- a) Facilitating accountability for crimes committed against peacekeepers
- b) Combating terrorism in Afghanistan
- c) Cross-border humanitarian aid delivery mechanism to Syria
- d) UN Assistance Mission for Iraq

Q.419) Solution (b)

Resolution 2593 is an India led resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It reiterates the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan.

It called for the Taliban to facilitate safe passage for people wanting to leave Afghanistan, allow humanitarians to access the country, uphold human rights, including for women and children and inclusive and negotiated political settlement.

The resolution, sponsored by France, UK and the US, was adopted with 13 members, including India, voting in favour, none against it. But permanent and veto-wielding members Russia and China abstained.

The resolution also stressed the importance of maintaining humanitarian access, upholding human rights, reaching an inclusive political settlement and combating terrorism.

It did not, however, spell out any provision to punish the Taliban if they failed to allow such departures or follow the commitments.

Article Link: [India in chair, UNSC adopts resolution on Taliban; Russia and China abstain](#)

Q.420) V-shaped economic recovery happens when:

- a) The economic growth recovers sharply and returns to the path it was following before the disruption
- b) The economic disruption lasts for a small period wherein more than people's incomes, it is their ability to spend is restricted.
- c) The economy, after falling, struggles around a low growth rate for some time, before rising gradually to usual levels.
- d) The economy fails to regain the level of GDP even after years go by.

Q.420) Solution (a)

In a V-shaped recovery, the economy experiences a sharp decline but then bounces back almost immediately to its pre-recession level.

This can occur when the economic interruption that caused a recession doesn't last long.

It could be a seasonal slowdown when consumers are temporarily out of work but employers are holding those jobs for them.

Article Link: [Q1 growth rate 20.1%, real GDP still below pre-Covid level](#)

Q.421) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. IFAD focuses solely on rural economies.
2. IFAD was established as one of the major outcomes of World Food Conference, 1974.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.421) Solution (c)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

It is the only multilateral development organization that focuses solely on rural economies and food security.

It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

IFAD was established as an international financial institution in 1977 through United Nations General Assembly Resolution as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

It funds and sponsors initiatives that improve land and water management, develop rural infrastructure, train and educate farmers in more efficient technologies, build up resilience against climate change, enhancing market accessibility, and more.

India is the founding member of IFAD.

Article Link: [Ahead of IUCN event, IFAD calls for more investment to protect biodiversity](#)

Q.422) With reference to Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a measure of the prevailing direction of economic trends in manufacturing sector only.
2. If PMI of the previous month is higher than the PMI of the current month, it represents that the economy is expanding.

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.422) Solution (d)

PMI or a Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity -- both in the manufacturing and services sectors.

It is a survey-based measures that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.

The PMI is derived from a series of qualitative questions. Executives from a reasonably big sample, running into hundreds of firms, are asked whether key indicators such as output, new orders, business expectations and employment were stronger than the month before and are asked to rate them.

A figure above 50 denotes expansion in business activity. Anything below 50 denotes contraction. Higher the difference from this mid-point greater the expansion or contraction.

The rate of expansion can also be judged by comparing the PMI with that of the previous month data. If the figure is higher than the previous month's then the economy is expanding at a faster rate. If it is lower than the previous month then it is growing at a lower rate.

The PMI is usually released at the start of the month, much before most of the official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth becomes available. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.

Economists consider the manufacturing growth measured by the PMI as a good indicator of industrial output, for which official statistics are released later. Central banks of many countries also use the index to help make decisions on interest rates.

Article Link: [Indian services activity rebounds at fastest pace in 18 months in August amid rising business orders](#)

Q.423) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)?

1. It is an apex body for coordination among regulatory bodies in financial sector.
2. It can override the decision taken by an independent regulator.
3. It is headed by the Prime Minister of India.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.423) Solution (a)

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India.

Composition of the council:

Chairperson: The Union Finance Minister of India

Members:

- Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI),
- Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA),
- Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS),
- Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
- Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology,

- Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance,
- Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI),
- Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA),
- Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),
- Chairman, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Functions of FSDC:

- Coordination among regulatory bodies in financial sector. But it cannot override the decision taken by an independent regulator (SEBI, RBI) etc.
- Coordinating India's international interface with financial sector bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Financial Stability Board (FSB) and any such body as may be decided by the Finance Minister from time to time.
- Promotes financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- Macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

Article Link: [FSDC asks regulators to keep steady vigil on financial sector](#)

Q.424) The objective of SHAKTI scheme is:

- a) To operationalise atleast one high speed train in every railway zone of the country for faster mobility.
- b) To make coal available to all the Thermal Power Plants of the country in a transparent and objective manner.
- c) To provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces.
- d) To promote off-grid applications of Solar photovoltaic systems for meeting lighting, electricity requirements of individuals, institutions, communities, commercial and industrial establishments.

Q.424) Solution (b)

The SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) policy was approved in May 2017 with the intent of better allocation of coal to present and future power plants.

It aims to phase out the present Letter of Assurance and Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA)-based regime, and instead introduce a more transparent and competitive coal allocation policy.

Article Link: [Power ministry agrees to 3 coal auction windows under Shakti scheme](#)

Q.425) Which of the following protected area lies in the estuarine region of Brahmani – Baitarani Rivers and is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India?

- a) Bhitarkanika
- b) Simlipal
- c) Gorumara
- d) Singalila

Q.425) Solution (a)

Bhitarkanika National Park is located in Kendrapara district in Odisha.

It was designated as National Park in 1998 and obtained the status of a Ramsar site in 2002.

Bhitarkanika is one such location of rich, lush green vibrant ecosystem lying in the estuarine region of Brahmani – Baitarani Rivers.

It is the 2nd largest Mangrove ecosystems of India after Sundarbans.

The park is home to the saltwater crocodile, Indian python, black ibis, wild boar, rhesus monkey, chital, darter, cobra, monitor lizard. Olive ridley turtles nest on Gahirmatha and other nearby beaches. Bhitarkanika has one of the largest populations of endangered saltwater crocodile in India.

Article Link: [Experts express concern over diversion of fresh water from Odisha's Brahmani river](#)

Q.426) Consider the following statements regarding the Raptor Species:

1. Raptor Species help in increasing seed production and pest control.
2. These are the indicator species.
3. They occupy top position in the food chain.

Which of the above 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.426) Solution (d)

Birds of prey, also known as raptors, include species of bird that primarily hunt and feed on vertebrates that are large relative to the hunter.

Raptors prey on a wide range of vertebrates and thus, facilitate long-distance seed dispersal. This indirectly increases seed production and pest control.

The presence of raptors in the wild serves as a barometer of ecological health. Birds of prey are predators at the top of the food chain; because threats like pesticides, habitat loss, and climate change have the most dramatic impact on top predators, we refer to them as indicator species.

Researching the population trends of raptors provides a cost-effective and efficient means to detecting environmental change, allowing us to take conservation action that is driven by the latest scientific data. Raptors also play an important ecological role by controlling populations of rodents and other small mammals.

Article Link: [Raptor attention: 160 species of birds of prey endangered worldwide](#)

Q.427) Kasai River, seen recently in news is a tributary of:

- a) Niger
- b) Zambezi
- c) Congo
- d) Nile

Q.427) Solution (c)

The Kasai River is a tributary (left side) of the Congo River, located in Central Africa.

The river begins in central Angola and flows to the east until it reaches the border between Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where it turns north and serves as the border until it flows into the DRC.

The Kasai basin consists mainly of equatorial rainforest areas, which provide an agricultural land in a region noted for its infertile, sandy soil. It is a tributary of Congo river and diamonds are found in it.

Article Link: [Toxic spill at Angola diamond mine pollutes Congo River tributary in DRC](#)

Q.428) With reference to the Hemis National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the only national park located north of Himalayas.
2. It is the largest contiguous protected area in India.
3. It is famous for its Snow Leopards population.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.428) Solution (c)

Hemis National Park is a high altitude national park in Ladakh, India. Globally famous for its snow leopards, it is believed to have the highest density of them in any protected area in the world.

It is the only national park in India that is north of the Himalayas, the largest notified protected area in India (largest National park) and is the second largest contiguous protected area, after the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve and surrounding protected areas.

The park is home to a number of species of endangered mammals, including the snow leopard.

Hemis National Park is India's protected area inside the Palearctic realm, outside the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary northeast of Hemis, and the proposed Tso Lhamo Cold Desert Conservation Area in North Sikkim.

The park is bounded on the north by the banks of the Indus River, and includes the catchments of Markha, Sumdah and Rumbak, and parts of the Zaskar Range.

Article Link: [Ladakh adopts State animal and bird](#)

Q.429) With reference to the PAT Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. This scheme was launched under the launched under the National Mission for a Green India.
2. It aims to make the industrial sector of India energy efficient.

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.429) Solution (b)

Perform, Achieve and Trade' (PAT) scheme is a regulatory instrument to reduce specific energy consumption in energy intensive industries, with an associated market based mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded.

This scheme is been implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency to make India's industrial sector energy efficient.

PAT has been launched under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, one of the eight missions under the umbrella National Action Plan on Climate Change, launched in June 2008.

Article Link: [PAT scheme sets industries on path of energy efficiency](#)

Q.430) Houthis, seen sometimes in news, are an armed rebel group in:

- a) Yemen
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Syria
- d) Israel

Q.430) Solution (a)

Houthis are an armed rebel group belonging to the Zaidi Shia sect fighting against the government of Yemen. Traditionally, the Houthis have been concentrated in the northwestern Saada Province of Yemen.

Article Link: [At least 30 killed in Houthi strikes on Yemen base](#)

Q.431) With reference to the IUCN Red List, consider the following statements:

1. It contains the list of endemic plant and animal species.
2. The pink pages in IUCN Red List include the species that were formerly endangered but have now recovered to a point where they are no longer threatened.

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.431) Solution (d)

The IUCN Red List is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. It contains the list of threatened plant and animal species.

Threatened species in IUCN Red List is a grouping of three categories: Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable.

The Red data book contains three coloured pages, Red, Pink and Green. Red is symbolic of the danger that some species of both plants and animals presently experience throughout the globe. The Pink pages in the Red data book include the critically endangered species. Green pages are used for those species that were formerly endangered, but have now recovered to a point where they are no longer threatened.

Article Link: [Over 900 species of animals have become extinct according to latest IUCN Red List](#)

Q.432) With reference to Atal Pension Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is administered by Life Insurance Corporation of India.
2. APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 59 years.
3. It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

d) 1 and 3 only

Q.432) Solution (c)

The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector. APY is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.

Subscribers receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years.

The amount of pension is guaranteed for lifetime to the spouse on death of the subscriber.

In the event of death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.

Contributions to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) are eligible for tax benefits similar to the National Pension System (NPS).

Article Link: [Atal Pension Yojna dominates social security scheme with 66% NPS subscriber base](#)

Q.433) With reference to the Account Aggregator framework, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. An Account Aggregator provides the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.
2. The licence for Account Aggregator is issued by the RBI.

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.433) Solution (c)

According to the Reserve Bank of India, an Account Aggregator is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.

It is also engaged in consolidating, organising and presenting such information to the customer or any other financial information user as may be specified by the bank.

The AA framework was created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI and other regulators including Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) through an initiative of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

The licence for AAs is issued by the RBI, and the financial sector will have many AAs.

The AA reduces the need for individuals to wait in long bank queues, use Internet banking portals, share their passwords, or seek out physical notarisation to access and share their financial documents. An Account Aggregator is a financial utility for secure flow of data controlled by the individual.

Article Link: [Account Aggregators: new framework to access, share financial data](#)

Q.434) Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana is aimed towards:

- a) Developing skills among the youth in the environment and forest sector
- b) Providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects
- c) Providing financial support to TB patients for their nutrition
- d) Promoting of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for optimal and efficient utilization of wind and solar resources

Q.434) Solution (b)

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana aims to provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG), is the implementation Agency for the scheme.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- Establish commercially viable projects for 2G Ethanol production.
- Provide remunerative income to farmers for their otherwise waste agriculture residues.
- Address concerns of environmental pollution caused by burning of biomass/ agriculture residues. d
- Help in meeting the targets envisaged in Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme promoted by Government of India & Government of India vision of 10% reduction in import dependence by way of reducing the use of fossil fuels.
- To create rural & urban employment opportunities.
- To contribute to Swachh Bharat Mission by supporting the aggregation of non-food biofuel feedstocks such as waste biomass and urban waste.
- Indigenisation of second generation biomass to ethanol technologies.

Article Link: [Emerging opportunities in Biofuel Sector](#)

Q.435) Which of the following country forms a coastline with the Adriatic Sea?

- a) Hungary
- b) Serbia
- c) Croatia
- d) Romania

Q.435) Solution (c)

The countries with coasts on the Adriatic are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia. The Adriatic contains more than 1,300 islands, mostly located along the Croatian part of its eastern coast.

Recently, Foreign Ministers of India and Croatia held a meeting. Both countries asserted that they share a lot of common positions on issues like the Indo-Pacific, the situation in Afghanistan, combating terrorism and shared economic interests.

Article Link: [India, Croatia share common positions on issues like Indo-Pacific, Afghanistan and terrorism: Jaishankar](#)

Q.436) With reference to the financial Emergency provisions in India, consider the following statements:

1. A proclamation declaring financial emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month from the date of its issue.
2. Once approved by both the houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues for six months, and can be extended to an indefinite period with an approval of the Parliament for every six months.

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.436) Solution (d)

Article 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.

A proclamation declaring financial emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.

Once approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues indefinitely till it is revoked.

A resolution approving the proclamation of financial emergency can be passed by either House of Parliament only by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of that house present and voting.

The consequences of the proclamation of a Financial Emergency are as follows:

1. The executive authority of the Centre extends to the giving of (a) directions to any state to observe such canons of financial propriety as may be specified in the directions; and (b) such other directions to any state as the President may deem necessary and adequate for the purpose.
2. Any such direction may include a provision requiring (a) the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the state; and (b) the reservation of all money bills or other financial bills for the consideration of the President after they are passed by the legislature of the state.

3. The President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of (a) all or any class of persons serving the Union; and (b) the judges of the Supreme Court and the high court.

Article Link: [Food Emergency in Srilanka](#)

Q.437) Consider the following statements regarding Common Service Centre (CSC) Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages 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.437) Solution (b)

Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), Government of India. CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

CSCs are more than service delivery points in rural India. They are positioned as change agents, promoting rural entrepreneurship and building rural capacities and livelihoods. They are enablers of community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with key focus on the rural citizen.

CSCs enable the three vision areas of the Digital India programme:

- Digital infrastructure as Utility to Every Citizen
- Governance and services on demand
- Digital empowerment of citizens

Article Link: [CSCs to soon start passport services collection centres](#)

Q.438) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Dugongs?

1. These are herbivorous mammals.
2. In India the only habitat of Dugong is Gulf of Mannar.
3. They are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.438) Solution (a)

The dugong (*Dugong dugon*), also called the sea cow, is a herbivorous mammal. They can grow upto three meters long, weigh about 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years, grazing on seagrass and coming to the surface to breathe.

They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Dugongs are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The loss of seagrass habitats, water pollution and degradation of the coastal ecosystem due to developmental activities have made life tough for these slow-moving animals. Dugongs are also victims of accidental entanglement in fishing nets and collision with boats, trawlers.

Internationally, dugongs are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits the trade of the species and its parts.

Article Link: [What are dugongs, where is India's first dugong conservation reserve?](#)

Q.439) Manda Buffalo is an indigenous breed belonging to:

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Odisha
- d) Rajasthan

Q.439) Solution (c)

The Manda buffaloes are resistant to parasitic infections, less prone to diseases and can live, produce and reproduce at low or nil input systems.

These are found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of Koraput region of Odisha.

The small, sturdy buffaloes are used for ploughing in their native habitat of the Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts.

There are around 1,00,000 buffaloes of this breed in the native tract mostly contributing to the family nutrition of households and assisting in all the agricultural operations in the undulated hilly terrain for generations.

The average milk yield of these buffaloes is 2 to 2.5 litres in single milking with more than 8% fat. However, a few of those yield up to 4 litres.

Article Link: [Odisha: Koraput's Manda buffalo gets unique, indigenous tag](#)

Q.440) Bhogdoi River, seen recently in news, is a tributary of:

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

Q.440) Solution (b)

The Bhogdoi River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra in India. From its origin in the Naga hills and flows through Jorhat before joining Dhansiri River.

River Bhogdoi is the most polluted river of Assam.

Article Link: [Coal mining, waste discharge, encroachment: River Bhogdoi has been dying a slow death](#)

Q.441) With reference to the initiatives taken by the government in the field of education sector, consider the following statements:

1. Vidyanjali portal aims to facilitate CSR contribution to the development of higher education institutions in India.

2. NIPUN Bharat aims to create an enabling environment for students to achieve learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3.

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.441) Solution (b)

Vidyanjali Portal:

- Vidyanjali portal aims to facilitate education volunteers, donors or CSR contributors for school development. It will enable community/volunteers to contribute by connecting directly with the government and government-aided schools of their choice.
- According to education ministry, any person who is a citizen of India/NRI/PIO OR any organisation/institution/company/group registered in India can volunteer and contribute in two ways:
 - Services/activities
 - Assets/material/equipment such as basic civil infrastructure, basic electrical infrastructure, classroom support materials and equipment, digital infrastructure, equipment for extra-curricular activities and sports, yoga, health, etc.

NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Initiative:

- It was launched to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
- The Objectives of NIPUN Bharat are:
 - To ensure an inclusive classroom environment by incorporating play, discovery, and activity-based pedagogies, linking it to the daily life situations of the children and formal inclusion of children's home languages.
 - To enable children to become motivated, independent and engaged readers and writers with comprehension possessing sustainable reading and writing skills.
 - To make children understand the reasoning in the domains of number, measurement and shapes; and enable them to become independent in problem solving by way of numeracy and spatial understanding skills.

- To focus on continuous capacity building of teachers, head teachers, academic resource persons and education administrators.
- To actively engage with all stakeholders i.e., Teachers, Parents, Students and Community, policy makers for building a strong foundation of lifelong learning.

Article Link: [Shikshak Parv 2021: PM Modi launches five new initiatives for accessible education](#)

Q.442) Which of the following is/are the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals-12?

1. Reducing by half the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels.
2. Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities by 2030.
3. Encourage large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.442) Solution (c)

Sustainable Development Goal 12 is about "responsible consumption and production". It is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015.

SDG 12 is meant to ensure good use of resources, improving energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and ensuring a better quality of life for all.

SDG 12 has 11 targets to be achieved by at least 2030. The 11 targets of the goal are:

1. Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
2. Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources;
3. Reducing by half the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and the reduction of food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses;
4. Achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle;
5. Reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse;

6. Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices;
7. Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable;
8. Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development;
9. Support developing countries scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production;
10. Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable tourism;
11. Remove market distortions that encourage wasteful consumption.

The three "means of achieving" targets are: support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity; develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts; and remove market distortions, like fossil fuel subsidies, that encourage wasteful consumption.

Article Link: [How India is positioned to achieve UN's sustainable consumption and production goal](#)

Q.443) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Chemical Oxygen demand (COD)?

1. The application of COD is in quantifying the amount of oxidizable pollutants found in surface water.
2. Lower the COD value, the more serious the pollution of organic matter in water.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.443) Solution (a)

The chemical oxygen demand (COD) is an indicative measure of the amount of oxygen that can be consumed by reactions in a measured solution.

It is commonly expressed in mass of oxygen consumed over volume of solution which in SI units is milligrams per litre (mg/L).

A COD test can be used to easily quantify the amount of organics in water. Higher the COD value, the more serious the pollution of organic matter by water.

The most common application of COD is in quantifying the amount of oxidizable pollutants found in surface water (e.g. lakes and rivers) or wastewater.

COD is useful in terms of water quality by providing a metric to determine the effect an effluent will have on the receiving body, much like biochemical oxygen demand (BOD).

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen (DO) needed (i.e. demanded) by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in a given water sample at certain temperature over a specific time period. The high BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) indicates low water quality and less oxygen for aquatic life.

Article Link: [Coal mining, waste discharge, encroachment: River Bhogdoi has been dying a slow death](#)

Q.444) Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- a) Millets have low carbon footprint.
- b) Millets are rich in antioxidants.
- c) More than 90 per cent of millet production takes place in developed countries.
- d) UNGA has declared year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

Q.444) Solution (c)

Millets, often called 'nutri-cereals', encompass a diverse group of cereals and were among the first plants that were domesticated and have served as a traditional staple crop for millions of families in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. More than 90 per cent of millet production today takes place in developing countries of Africa and Asia.

Millets can survive in adverse climatic conditions and provide high energy, high dietary fiber, proteins, many essential minerals, vitamins, and antioxidants, all of which play a substantial role in lowering diabetes. The diversity of millets offers opportunities for economic development through income-generating activities in the food sector.

Capable of growing on poor soils with little or no inputs, millets have a low carbon and water footprint and are resistant to many crop diseases and pests.

Millets can help tackle lifestyle problems and health challenges such as obesity and diabetes as they are gluten-free and have a low glycemic index (a relative ranking of carbohydrate in foods according to how they affect blood glucose levels).

United Nations General Assembly has adopted the resolution that declares the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets and invites all Member States, the UN and other global organisations to observe the International Year through activities aimed at raising awareness of and directing policy attention to the nutritional and health benefits of millet consumption and their suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions, while also directing policy attention to improving value chain efficiencies.

Article Link: [Millets could help India mitigate malnutrition and climate change.](#)

Q.445) Which among the following is the impact of strong El-Nino events?

- a) Increase in rainfall in Indonesia and Australia
- b) Decrease in rainfall in Ecuador and northern Peru
- c) Increased upwelling in eastern Pacific Ocean
- d) Longer and colder winters in the higher latitudes of North America

Q.445) Solution (d)

El Niño is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. El Nino is the “warm phase” of a larger phenomenon called the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). La Nina, the “cool phase” of ENSO, is a pattern that describes the unusual cooling of the region’s surface waters. El Niño and La Niña are considered the ocean part of ENSO, while the Southern Oscillation is its atmospheric changes.

El Niño events are defined by their wide-ranging teleconnections. Teleconnections are large-scale, long-lasting climate anomalies or patterns that are related to each other and can affect much of the globe. Following are the impacts of strong El-Nino events:

- During an El Nino event, westward-blowing trade winds weaken along the Equator. These changes in air pressure and wind speed cause warm surface water to move eastward along the Equator, from the western Pacific to the coast of northern South America.
- This thick layer of warm water does not allow normal upwelling to occur. Without an upwelling of nutrient-rich cold water, the euphotic zone of the eastern Pacific can no

longer support its normally productive coastal ecosystem. Fish populations die or migrate. El Niño has a devastating impact on Ecuadorian and Peruvian economies.

- El Nino also produces widespread and sometimes severe changes in the climate. Convection above warmer surface waters bring increased precipitation. Rainfall increases drastically in Ecuador and northern Peru, contributing to coastal flooding and erosion. Rains and floods may destroy homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses. They also limit transportation and destroy crops.
- As El Nino brings rain to South America, it brings droughts to Indonesia and Australia. These droughts threaten the region's water supplies, as reservoirs dry and rivers carry less water. Agriculture, which depends on water for irrigation, is threatened.
- Stronger El Nino events also disrupt global atmospheric circulation. Global atmospheric circulation is the large-scale movement of air that helps distribute thermal energy (heat) across the surface of the Earth. The eastward movement of oceanic and atmospheric heat sources cause unusually severe winter weather at the higher latitudes of North and South America. Regions as far north as the U.S. states of California and Washington may experience longer, colder winters because of El Nino.

Article Link: [How is global warming likely to impact the El Nino and La Nina events?](#)

Q.446) Consider the following statements regarding Spotlight Initiative:

1. It is a joint initiative of United Nations and European Union.
2. It aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

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.446) Solution (c)

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.

The Spotlight Initiative responds to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

The campaign is designed to promote the elimination of violence against women and girls, while bringing visibility to the Spotlight Initiative and its partners, including UN agencies receiving funds from the Initiative (ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCD, UNTF, WHO).

According to UN, violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today.

- 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence.
- 15 million girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide have experienced forced sex at some point in their life.
- 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day.
- 650 million women and girls were married before age 18.
- 200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation.

Article Link: [46% rise in complaints of crimes against women in 2021 so far: NCW](#)

Q.447) Consider the following statements regarding PRANA portal, launched recently:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It will be used to track the progress of the National Clean Air Programme.

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.447) Solution (b)

PRANA portal is launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

PRANA or the Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) would support tracking of the physical and financial status of city air action plan implementation. It would also disseminate information on air quality to the public while also providing comprehensive information related to NCAP programme details, progress, city action plans, implementation updates by city/state/ national level agencies, air quality data, and trends, etc.

The portal (prana.cpcb.gov.in) has a national dashboard that has interactive points on 7 thematic areas of city air action plans, PM10 performance, ambient air monitoring network, public grievance redressal portal, graded response action plans, and more. It is intertwined with the Government's goal for sustainable utilization, protection, and conservation of public goods and the environment.

Article Link: [PRANA portal launched to regulate air pollution in 132 cities](#)

Q.448) With reference to Methanol Economy' Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It is a pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21.
3. Blending of methanol in gasoline can result in bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NOx, and SOx.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q.448) Solution (d)

Methanol is a low carbon, hydrogen carrier fuel produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, CO₂ from thermal power plants and natural gas. It is the best pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) was held in Paris in 2015. The COP 21 led to a new international climate agreement, applicable to all countries, aiming to keep global warming at 1.5°C - 2°C, in accordance with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Methanol Economy program initiated by NITI Aayog is aimed at reducing our oil import bill; reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions & converting Indian coal reserves and municipal solid waste into methanol leading to independence from import while creating new jobs by setting up Methanol Production Plants.

Methanol, although slightly lower in energy content than petrol and diesel, can replace both petrol and diesel in transport sector (road, rail and marine), energy sector (comprising of DG

sets, boilers, process heating modules, tractors and commercial vehicles) and retail cooking replacing LPG (partially), Kerosene and wood charcoal.

Blending of 15% methanol in gasoline can result in at least 15% reduction in import of gasoline/crude. In addition, it would bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NO_x, and Sox thereby improving urban air quality.

Q.449) Democracy Index is published annually by:

- a) Economist Intelligence Unit
- b) German Watch
- c) Reporters Without Borders
- d) Amnesty International

Q.449) Solution (a)

The Democracy Index (began in 2006) is prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit. It provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.

The Index is based on five categories:

- Civil liberties,
- Electoral process and pluralism;
- Functioning of government;
- Political participation; and
- Political culture

The countries are scored on a scale of 0 to 10 on 60 indicators within the above categories.

Based on their scores, each country is classified as one of four types of regimes:
Full democracy (scores greater than 8);

- Flawed democracy (greater than 6 and up to 8);
- Hybrid regime (greater than 4 and up to 6); and
- Authoritarian regime (less than or equal to 4)

Article Link: [EIU declined India's offer to use govt data for Democracy Index](#)

Q.450) Biofuels made from algal biomass are known as:

- a) 1st Generation Biofuel
- b) 2nd Generation Biofuel
- c) 3rd Generation Biofuel
- d) 4th Generation Biofuel

Q.450) Solution (c)

Biofuels are liquid or gaseous fuels primarily produced from biomass, and can be used to replace or can be used in addition to diesel, petrol or other fossil fuels for transport, stationary, portable and other applications. Crops used to make biofuels are generally either high in sugar (such as sugarcane, sugarbeet, and sweet sorghum), starch (such as maize and tapioca) or oils (such as soybean, rapeseed, coconut, sunflower).

Biofuels produced from the algae are known as third generation biofuels. These are also known as also known as “algae fuel” or “oilage”. Algae leads to the production of all types of bio-fuels such as biodiesel, gasoline, butanol, propanol and ethanol with high yield, approximately 10 times higher than the second generation biofuel. Cultivation of third generation biofuel biomass also assists in maintaining environmental balance by consuming the CO₂ present in the atmosphere.

Article Link: [Emerging opportunities in biofuel sector](#)

Q.451) With reference to the recently held BRICS Summit, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The theme for the Summit was Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All.
2. It adopted Delhi Declaration which called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.451) Solution (b)

The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP and 16% of the global trade.

India chaired the annual summit of the BRICS which was held virtually. The theme for the Summit was 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus'.

Key Takeaways from the Summit are:

The BRICS asserted that the territory of Afghanistan must not be used to carry out terror attacks against other countries called for combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists.

The summit also endorsed the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan for implementing the grouping's Counter-Terrorism Strategy that was adopted by the NSAs of the member nations of the grouping.

The Delhi Declaration called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations including instilling new life in the discussion on the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It pledged resolve towards strengthening and reforming the multilateral system to make global governance more responsive and effective. The declaration also condemned "in strongest terms" terrorist attacks near Kabul airport that resulted in a large number of death and injuries.

Article Link: [BRICS adopts New Delhi Declaration, calls for settling Afghan situation via peaceful means.](#)

Q.452) With reference to the Carbon Capture and storage (CCS) Technology, consider the following statements:

1. This technology captures CO₂ from fossil fuel-fired power plants and injects it into depleted oil and gas fields.
2. This technology is capable of capturing up to 90% of the CO₂ emissions for over a 1000-year period.

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.452) Solution (c)

CCS is a technology reportedly capable of capturing up to 90% of the CO₂ emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity, as well as those used in industrial processes, and prevent it from polluting the atmosphere.

Fossil fuel power plants can be built with the technology already integrated or it can also be combined with renewable biomass to create a "carbon-negative" mode the goes one step further by actually removing CO₂ from the planet.

CCS involves capturing CO₂, before transporting it to be stored in geological rock formations thousands of metres below the Earth's surface.

The initial part of the process involves separating CO₂ from the gasses produced in power generation and industrial processes, such as manufacturing cement or steel, by pre-combustion capture, post-combustion capture or oxy-fuel combustion.

The pollutant is then transporting using either a pipeline or a ship.

It is then stored in depleted oil and gas fields or deep saline aquifer formations, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says can retain 99% of the pollutant over a 1000-year period.

Article Link: [World's biggest machine capturing carbon from air turned on in Iceland.](#)

Q.453) Consider the following statements regarding Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme:

1. It aims at providing financial assistance for the transport and marketing of agricultural products to boost exports.
2. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.
3. The scheme provides 100% freight and marketing assistance for export of agricultural products by air as well as by sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.453) Solution (a)

Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme was launched in 2019 by the Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for the international component of freight, to mitigate disadvantage of higher freight costs faced by the Indian exporters of agriculture products.

The scheme was initially applicable for exports effected during the period from 01.03.2019 to 31.03.2020 and was later extended for exports effected up to 31.03.2021.

Recently, the Department has notified 'Revised Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme' for exports effected on or after 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022. The existing scheme will remain in operation for exports effected up to 31.03.2021.

Following major changes have been made in the revised scheme:

- Dairy products, which were not covered under the earlier scheme, will be eligible for assistance under the revised scheme.
- Rates of assistance have been increased, by 50% for exports by sea and by 100% for exports by air.

Article Link: [Centre Revises "Transport and Marketing Assistance" \(TMA\) scheme for Specified Agriculture Products'](#)

Q.454) With reference to the Thamirabarani River, which of the following statements is incorrect?

- a) It originates in Western Ghats.
- b) It flows through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- c) Its ancient name is Porunai.
- d) It drains into the Gulf of Mannar.

Q.454) Solution (b)

The Thamirabarani is a perennial river that originates from the Agastyarkoodam peak of Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats.

The Pothigai Hills, also known as Agasthiyar Mountain is a 1,866-metre tall peak in the southern part of the Western Ghats of South India. The peak lies in the border of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The old Tamil name of the river is Porunai.

From the source to sea, the river is about 128 kilometres (80 mi) long and is the only perennial river in Tamil Nadu.

The river drains into Gulf of Mannar from Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu.

As most of its extensive catchment areas lie in the Western Ghats, the river enjoys the full benefit of both the monsoons, which make the river perennial.

Article Link: [Porunai civilisation is 3,200 years old, says M.K. Stalin](#)

Q.455) The rural component of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is implemented by:

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Q.455) Solution (d)

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched in 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation.

SBM (Grameen) is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

SBM (Urban) is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Article Link: [Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 to be launched on 9th September, 2021](#)

Q.456) With reference to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, consider the following statements:

1. Being the oldest Tribunal in the country it is also known as the 'Mother Tribunal'.
2. The appeal against the order passed by the tribunal lies only to the Supreme Court.
3. It functions under the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Which of the above 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.456) Solution (c)

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) is a quasi judicial institution set up in January, 1941 and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts. ITAT draws inspiration from its motto 'Nishpaksh Sulabh Satvar Nyay', which means impartial, easy and speedy justice. ITAT stands out for its uniqueness of imparting justice to the litigants, by an inexpensive, easily accessible forum free from technicalities, regarded for its expert knowledge on the subject of Direct Taxes, besides rendering expeditious justice.

ITAT is referred to as 'Mother Tribunal' being the oldest Tribunal in the country.

The orders passed by the ITAT are final and an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.

With a view to ensuring highest degree of independence of the ITAT, it functions under the Department of Legal Affairs in the Ministry of Law and Justice and is kept away from any kind of control by the Ministry of Finance.

Article Link: [Centre clears 31 appointments to NCLT, ITAT after SC rap](#)

Q.457) Nuakhai is an agricultural festival observed in:

- a) Mizoram
- b) Karnataka
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Odisha

Q.457) Solution (d)

Nuakhai is an agricultural festival mainly observed by people of Western Odisha and Southern Chhattisgarh.

Nuakhai is observed to welcome the new rice of the season. According to the calendar it is observed on panchami tithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada or Bhadraba (August–September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

Nuakhai is understood to have nine colours and as a consequence, nine sets of rituals are followed as a prelude to the actual day of celebration. These nine colours include:

1. Beheren (announcement of a meeting to set the date)
2. Lagna dekha (setting the exact date for partaking of new rice)
3. Daka haka (invitation)
4. Sapha sutra and lipa puchha (cleanliness)
5. Ghina bika (purchasing)
6. Nua dhan khuja (looking for the new crop)
7. Bali paka (final resolve for Nuakhai by taking the Prasad (the offering) to the deity)
8. Nuakhai (eating the new crop as Prasad after offering it to the deity, followed by dancing and singing)
9. Juhar bhet (respect to elders & gift transfers)

Article Link: [PM greets everyone on Nukhai](#)

Q.458) Samvatsari is a festival celebrated by:

- a) Svetambar Sect of Jainism
- b) Digambar Sect of Jainism
- c) Mahayana Buddhists
- d) Theravada Buddhists

Q.458) Solution (a)

Samvatsari is the last day of Paryushana Shwetambar sect of Jainism. It falls on Shukla Panchami each year in the Jain calendar month of Bhadrapada, somewhere between the middle of August and September in the Gregorian calendar.

On this day, Jains forgive and seek forgiveness for their mistakes committed knowingly or unknowingly from all the living beings.

Article Link: [PM greets people on the occasion of Samvatsari](#)

Q.459) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding NATGRID?

1. It is a project under Indian government for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance.
2. It is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.459) Solution (b)

NATGRID is conceptualised as a seamless and secure database for information on terrorists, economic crimes and similar incidents to help bolster India's capabilities.

The NATGRID has been envisaged as a robust mechanism to track suspects and prevent terrorist attacks with real-time data and access to classified information like immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels.

It is different from Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS) which is a project under Indian government for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance.

NATGRID database will be available to prominent federal agencies including, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Central Board of Direct Taxes (for Income Tax Department) (CBDT), Cabinet Secretariat, Intelligence Bureau (IB), Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Financial Intelligence Unit and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

NATGRID is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.

The project was supposed to go live by December 31 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Article Link: [NATGRID to finally see the light of day](#)

Q.460) With reference to the contribution of Swami Vivekananda in the socio-cultural reform movement of India, consider the following statements:

1. He was one of the main representatives of the philosophy of Neo-Vedanta.
2. He established Ramakrishna Mission which renounced the practice of image worship.

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.460) Solution (a)

Narendranath Datta (1862-1902), who later came to be known as Swami Vivekananda spread Ramakrishna's message and tried to reconcile it to the needs of contemporary Indian society.

He was the one of the main proponents of the philosophy of Neo-Vedanta. The basis of the Neo-Vedanta philosophy was laid by Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886) and its superstructure was built by his ardent disciple Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902). They both emphasised the practical nature of Vedanta. By the Neo-Vedanta of Swami Vivekananda is meant the New Vedanta as distinguished from the old traditional Vedanta developed by Sankaracharya (c. 788-820 AD). Sankaracharya's Vedanta is known as Advaita or non-dualism, pure and simple. Hence it is sometimes referred to as unqualified monism.

Neo-Vedantism is a re-establishment and re-statement, reconstruction and revaluation, reorientation and reinterpretation of the Advaita Vedanta of Sankara with modern arguments, in modern language, suited to modern man, adjusting itself with all the modern challenges.

In 1897 he founded the Ramakrishna Mission. Unlike the Arya Samaj, the Mission recognises the utility and value of image worship in developing spiritual fervour and worship of the eternal omnipotent God, although it emphasises on the essential spirit and not the symbols or rituals. It believes that the philosophy of Vedanta will make a Christian a better Christian, and a Hindu a better Hindu.

Article Link: [PM recalls Swami Vivekananda's iconic 1893 speech at Chicago](#)

Q.461) Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary houses the conservation centre for:

- a) Fresh water crocodile
- b) Vulture
- c) Leopard

d) Black Buck

Q.461) Solution (b)

Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Panchkula district of Haryana.

It is spread over an area of 767.30 hectares.

It houses the Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre in Pinjore.

In 2009, the Government of India declared it an Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ), as a result development is not permitted within a 5 kilometres radius.

Article Link: [8 critically-endangered Oriental white-backed vultures fly towards survival from Haryana](#)

Q.462) With reference to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements:

1. It is conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. Its objective is to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status.

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.462) Solution (b)

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was launched in 2017 by National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

The objectives of PLFS are:

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).

- to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives estimates of Key employment and unemployment Indicators like the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), etc.

Article Link: [Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\)](#)

Q.463) Consider the following statements:

1. Any ground that remains completely frozen for atleast five years strait is known as permafrost.
2. Permafrost covers about less than 1% of the land area of the globe.

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.463) Solution (d)

Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder—for at least two years straight. These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes—near the North and South Poles.

Permafrost is made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand that are held together by ice. The soil and ice in permafrost stay frozen all year long.

Permafrost covers about 15% of the land area of the globe.

Immediate effects as permafrost melt due to increasing global temperatures:

- The first impacts that are very rapid will affect countries where roads or buildings were constructed on permafrost.
- The total quantity of carbon that is now buried in the permafrost is estimated at about 1500 billion tonnes and the top three meters of the ground has about 1000 billion tonnes. The world currently emits into the atmosphere, approximately 10 billion tonnes of carbon a year. So, if the permafrost thaws and releases even only one per cent of the

frozen carbon in any one year, it can nullify anything that we do about industrial emissions.

Article Link: [Can thawing permafrost cause another pandemic?](#)

Q.464) Consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen produced using coal is known as Grey Hydrogen.
2. Hydrogen produced using Natural Gas is known as Brown Hydrogen.

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.464) Solution (d)

The oldest way of producing hydrogen is by transforming coal into gas. Gasification processes convert organic or fossil-based carbonaceous materials into carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide. The gas generated via coal gasification is called syngas and the hydrogen can be separated from the other elements using adsorbers or special membranes. This hydrogen is known as brown or black depending of the type of coal used: brown (lignite) or black (bituminous) coal. It is the result of a highly polluting process since both CO₂ and carbon monoxide cannot be reused and are released in the atmosphere.

Hydrogen produced using natural gas is known as Grey Hydrogen. Most hydrogen nowadays comes from natural gas: it is bonded with carbon and can be separated from it via a process involving water called "steam reforming", but the excess carbon generates CO₂. This hydrogen is called grey whenever the excess CO₂ is not captured. Grey hydrogen accounts for most of the production today and emits about 9.3kg of CO₂ per kg of hydrogen production. Sometimes, hydrogen is referred to as "grey" to indicate it was created from fossil fuels without capturing the greenhouse gases and the difference with brown or black hydrogen is just in the smaller amount of emissions generated in the process.

Article Link: [Ministry of Coal Constitutes Task Force and Expert Committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production](#)

Q.465) India launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) in collaboration with:

- a) United States
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Australia
- d) Japan

Q.465) Solution (a)

India and the United States of America (USA) has launched the "Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)". The CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and US President Mr. Joseph Biden.

The dialogue will not only strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment but will also help to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.

Article Link: [India and US launch the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue \(CAFMD\)](#)

Q.466) REX MKII, seen recently in news, is:

- a) Unmanned aerial vehicles
- b) Remote-controlled armed robot
- c) Anti-tank guided missile
- d) Mobile surface-to-air missile

Q.466) Solution (b)

REX MKII is an Israeli remote-controlled armed robot can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire.

It is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield.

It is operated by an electronic tablet and can be equipped with two machine guns, cameras and sensors, said Rani Avni, deputy head of the company's autonomous systems division. The robot

can gather intelligence for ground troops, carry injured soldiers and supplies in and out of battle, and strike nearby targets.

Article Link: [Israeli firm unveils armed robot to patrol volatile borders](#)

Q.467) Consider the following is/are the major natural ports of India:

1. Chennai
2. Mumbai
3. Paradip

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.467) Solution (d)

Paradip Port is a natural, deep-water port on the East coast of India in Odisha. It is situated at the confluence of the Mahanadi River and the Bay of Bengal. It is administered by the Paradip Port Trust (PPT), administering under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 functioning under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Chennai Port is the second largest container port of India, behind Mumbai's Nhava Sheva. The port is the largest one in the Bay of Bengal. It is an artificial and all-weather port with wet docks.

Mumbai Port is a port which lies midway on the West coast of India, on the natural deep-water harbour of Mumbai (Bombay) in Maharashtra. The harbour opens to the south to the Arabian Sea.

Article Link: [Paradeep Port Trust aims to boost EXIM trade with installation of New Container Scanner](#)

Q.468) With reference to SVAMITVA scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.

2. It aims to reduce property related disputes in urban areas.

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.468) Solution (d)

SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

The scheme seeks to achieve the following objectives: -

- Creation of accurate land records for rural planning and reduce property related disputes.
- To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
- Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
- Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
- To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.

Article Link: [Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh to inaugurate National Meet on SVAMITVA Scheme](#)

Q.469) Consider the following statements:

1. Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central government of a country.
2. Increasing money supply and reducing interest rates indicate an expansionary monetary policy.

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.469) Solution (b)

Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central bank. It involves management of money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic policy used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth and liquidity.

In India, monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India is aimed at managing the quantity of money in order to meet the requirements of different sectors of the economy and to increase the pace of economic growth.

The RBI implements the monetary policy through open market operations, bank rate policy, reserve system, credit control policy, moral persuasion and through many other instruments. Using any of these instruments will lead to changes in the interest rate, or the money supply in the economy.

Monetary policy can be expansionary and contractionary in nature. Increasing money supply and reducing interest rates indicate an expansionary policy. The reverse of this is a contractionary monetary policy.

Article Link: [Hamletian dilemma of monetary policy](#)

Q.470) Groudswell report, seen recently in news, is published by:

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) Germanwatch

Q.470) Solution (c)

Groundswell report is published by World Bank.

This report focuses on three regions—Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America that together represent 55 percent of the developing world's population.

Findings of the report:

- Climate change will push tens of millions of people to migrate within their countries by 2050.
- It projects that without concrete climate and development action, just over 143 million people—or around 2.8 percent of the population of these three regions—could be forced to move within their own countries to escape the slow-onset impacts of climate change.
- They will migrate from less viable areas with lower water availability and crop productivity and from areas affected by rising sea level and storm surges.
- The poorest and most climate vulnerable areas will be hardest hit.
- These trends, alongside the emergence of “hotspots” of climate in- and out-migration, will have major implications for climate-sensitive sectors and for the adequacy of infrastructure and social support systems.
- The report finds that internal climate migration will likely rise through 2050 and then accelerate unless there are significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and robust development action.

Article Link: [Groundswell : Preparing for Internal Climate Migration](#)

Q.471) Consider the following statements regarding Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:

1. It connects the countries of Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia to India.
2. It will reduce the need to transport good to the landlocked north eastern states of India through the narrow Siliguri corridor.

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.471) Solution (b)

The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport is a project connecting the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea.

This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1,328 km and will reduce the need to transport goods through the narrow Siliguri corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck.

India has for years sought transit access through Bangladesh to ship goods to the landlocked north-eastern States. At present, the only route to this region from the rest of India is a rather circuitous one through a narrow strip of Indian territory nicknamed the Chicken's Neck in West Bengal, sandwiched between Bhutan and Bangladesh. The new route through Sittwe would significantly lower the cost and distance of movement from Kolkata to Mizoram and beyond.

Article Link: [ASEAN summit on Future of India-ASEAN Connectivity Partnerships](#)

Q.472) Consider the following statements regarding Shoonya Campaign, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
2. It aims to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles in rural areas.

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.472) Solution (d)

Shoonya Campaign is launched by Niti Aayog in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI).

It aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.

Urban freight vehicles account for 10 per cent of freight transportation-related CO2 emissions in India, and these emissions are expected to grow by 114 per cent by 2030.

EVs emit no tailpipe emissions, which can contribute immensely to an improved air quality. Even when accounting for their manufacture, they emit 15-40 percent less CO2 compared to their internal combustion engine counterparts and have lower operational cost.

Article Link: [NITI Aayog, RMI, and RMI India Launch 'Shoonya' Campaign](#)

Q.473) Which of the following states are the hotspots of Arsenic contamination in India?

1. West Bengal
2. Jharkhand
3. Karnataka

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.473) Solution (a)

Arsenic is a naturally occurring trace element found in rocks, soils and the water in contact with them. Arsenic has been recognized as a toxic element and is considered a human health hazard.

Arsenic contamination in groundwater:

The occurrence of Arsenic in ground water was first reported in 1980 in West Bengal in India. In West Bengal, 79 blocks in 8 districts have Arsenic beyond the permissible limit of 0.05 mg/l. The most affected areas are on the eastern side of Bhagirathi River in the districts of Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas and western side of the districts of Howrah, Hugli and Bardhaman. The occurrence of Arsenic in ground water is mainly in the aquifers up to 100 m depth. The deeper aquifers are free from Arsenic contamination.

Apart from West Bengal, Arsenic contamination in ground water has been found in the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The occurrence of Arsenic in the states of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh is in alluvial formations but in the state of Chhattisgarh, it is in the volcanic rocks exclusively confined to N-S trending Dongargarh- Kotri ancient rift zone. It has also been reported in Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sibsagar, Sonitpur districts of Assam.

Long-term intake of arsenic contaminated water leads to arsenic poisoning or arsenicosis, with cancer of skin, bladder, kidney or lung or diseases of skin (colour changes, and hard patches on palms and soles), or blood vessels of legs and feet. Fresh evidence indicates possible association between intake of contaminated water to onset of diabetes, hypertension and reproductive disorders.

Article Link: [Arsenic now in wheat, potato — and more than that in drinking water — in rural Bihar](#)

Q.474) Which of the following convention/protocol aims to regulates the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances?

- a) Vienna Convention
- b) Kyoto Protocol
- c) Montreal Protocol
- d) Bonn Convention

Q.474) Solution (c)

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) is an international agreement made in 1987. It was designed to stop the production and import of ozone depleting substances and reduce their concentration in the atmosphere to help protect the earth's ozone layer.

The Montreal Protocol phases down the consumption and production of the different Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in a step-wise manner, with different timetables for developed and developing countries (referred to as "Article 5 countries").

Under this treaty, all parties have specific responsibilities related to the phase out of the different groups of ODS, control of ODS trade, annual reporting of data, national licensing systems to control ODS imports and exports, and other matters. Developing and developed countries have equal but differentiated responsibilities, but most importantly, both groups of countries have binding, time-targeted and measurable commitments.

Article Link: [World Ozone Day](#)

Q.475) Which of the following protected area is the only tiger habitat in the world with melanistic tigers?

- a) Buxa
- b) Panna
- c) Sariska
- d) Simlipal

Q.475) Solution (d)

A black tiger is a rare colour variant of the tiger, and is not a distinct species or geographic subspecies. So-called black tigers are due to pseudo-melanism. Pseudo-melanistic tigers have thick stripes so close together that the tawny background is barely visible between stripes. It is believed that inbreeding results in their thick black stripes.

Simlipal Tiger Reserve is the only tiger habitat in the world with melanistic tigers, which have broad black stripes running across their bodies and thicker than those seen on normal tigers, so much so that their tawny skin colour is barely visible.

Article Link: [Scientists unravel mystery behind Odisha's 'black tigers'](#)

Q.476) Which of the following countries are part of the grouping called AUKUS, seen recently in news?

1. UAE
2. UK
3. South Africa
4. Australia

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.476) Solution (c)

AUKUS is a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific between Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. (AUKUS). The grouping is security focused.

A central feature of the partnership would involve a trilateral 18-month effort to help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines which are quieter, more capable and can be deployed for longer periods, needing to surface less frequently.

The partnership would also involve a new architecture of meetings and engagements between the three countries and also cooperation across emerging technologies (applied AI, quantum technologies and undersea capabilities).

Article Link: [U.S., U.K., Australia form new partnership](#)

Q.477) Athikaraya, Srihati, Bhejri, seen recently in news, are:

- a) Traditional handicraft of Assam
- b) Endemic plant species of Lakshadweep Islands
- c) Folk varieties of rice
- d) Species of fish in Sundarbans

Q.477) Solution (c)

Recently, a study examined folk varieties of Indian rice that can supplement the nutritional demand of important fatty acids in undernourished mothers.

These rice varieties are:

- Athikaraya, Dudh-sar, Kayame, Neelam samba, Srihati, Maharaji and Bhejri are known in folk medicine to enhance milk production in lactating women.
- Kelas, DudheBolta and Bhutmoori are rich in iron and can be included in diet of mothers to treat anaemia.
- Seven rice varieties of North East India — Meghalaya lakang, Chingphourel, Manuikhamei, Kemenyakepeyu, Wainem, Thekrulha, and Koyajang — has the potential to resist leaf and neck blast disease in rice plants.

Rice contains various classes of fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, starch and a small amount of protein.

These rice varieties can be more cost-effective and reliable than marketed formula foods.

High-yield hybrids pushed out indigenous rice varieties and many of these varieties, called landraces are nearing extinction in India.

Article Link: Folk rice: [Researchers spot dozen Indian paddy varieties that can boost nourishment](#)

Q.478) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), seen recently in news?

1. It is incorporated under the Companies Act.

2. Government of India will maintain 51% ownership in NARCL.
3. It will help in reducing the burden of Non-Performing Assets from the banks.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.478) Solution (c)

National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) has been set up by banks to aggregate and consolidate stressed assets for their subsequent resolution. NARCL will acquire stressed assets worth about Rs 2 lakh crore from various commercial banks in different phases.

NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act and has applied to Reserve Bank of India for license as an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).

PSBs will maintain 51% ownership in NARCL.

NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above ₹500 crore each amounting to about ₹ 2 lakh crore. In phase I, fully provisioned assets of about Rs. 90,000 crores are expected to be transferred to NARCL, while the remaining assets with lower provisions would be transferred in phase II. It intends to acquire these through 15% Cash and 85% in Security Receipts (SRs).

Article Link: [Government sets up 'bad bank' to clear the NPA mess](#)

Q.479) Which of the following country is not a member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Azerbaijan

Q.479) Solution (d)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a political, economic, and security alliance.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Charter, formally establishing the organization, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.

Its members are: China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Heads of State Council (HSC) is supreme decision-making body in the SCO, it meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.

Military exercises are also regularly conducted among members to promote cooperation and coordination against terrorism and other external threats, and to maintain regional peace and stability.

The SCO is the largest regional organisation in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population, covering three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and nearly half of the human population.

Article Link: [Indian Military Contingent Participates in the 6th Edition of Exercise SCO Peaceful Mission 2021 at Orenburg, Russia](#)

Q.480) With reference to the Forest Rights Act, 2006, consider the following statements:

1. It gives ownership rights of minor forest produce to the forest-dwelling communities.
2. Under the act, the authority to initiate the process for determining Individual Forest Rights lies with the State Governments.

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.480) Solution (a)

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

Objective of the Act:

- To undo the historical injustice occurred to the forest dwelling communities
- To ensure land tenure, livelihood and food security of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers
- To strengthen the conservation regime of the forests by including the responsibilities and authority on Forest Rights holders for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance.

The act identifies following rights:

- Title rights - i.e. ownership - to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers as on 13 December 2005, subject to a maximum of 4 hectares; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family as on that date, meaning that no new lands are granted.
- Use rights - to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- Relief and development rights - to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement;[15] and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- Forest management rights - to protect forests and wildlife.

Section 6(1) of the Act provides that the gram sabha, or village assembly, will initially pass a resolution recommending whose rights to which resources should be recognised (i.e. which lands belong to whom, how much land was under the cultivation of each person as on 13 Dec 2005, etc.). This resolution is then screened and approved at the level of the sub-division (or taluka) and subsequently at the district level. The screening committees consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level. These committees also hear appeals.

Article Link: [J&K to implement Forest Rights Act, 2006](#)

