



**IASBABA'S**  
**DAILY CURRENT**  
**AFFAIRS QUIZ**  
**COMPILATION**  
**UPSC 2022**

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**9169191888**  
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**Q.1) With reference to the anti-defection law, consider the following statements:**

1. A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.
2. An independent 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.

**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.1) 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 Articles 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'.

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.

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: [Anti-defection law, for independent legislators](#)

**Q.2) With reference to disaster management in India, consider the following statements:**

1. National Disaster Management Authority is headed by the Union Minister of Home Affairs.
2. National Crisis Management Committee is headed by the Prime Minister 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.2) Solution (d)**

National Disaster Management Authority is an apex Body of Government of India, with a mandate to lay down policies for disaster management. NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India on 23 December 2005. NDMA is responsible for framing policies, laying down guidelines and best-practices for coordinating with the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) to ensure a holistic and distributed approach to disaster management. It is headed by the Prime Minister of India and can have up to nine other members.

National Crisis Management Committee is a committee set up by the Government of India in the wake of a natural calamity for effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations. It is headed by Cabinet Secretary.

Article Link: [17th Formation Day celebrations of the National Disaster Management Authority \(NDMA\)](#)

**Q.3) With reference to the Build Back Better World initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an initiative of G20 group of nations.
2. It is seen as an initiative to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.
3. It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower-income countries.

**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.3) Solution (b)**

Build Back Better World or B3W is an initiative undertaken by G7 countries. Launched in June 2021, the initiative is designed to counter China's strategic influence of the BRI Project (Belt and Road Initiative) by providing an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative for the infrastructure development of the low and middle income countries.

Led by the United States, the G7 countries will work to address the \$40 trillion worth of infrastructure needed by developing countries by 2035. The initiative aims to catalyze funding for quality infrastructure from the private sector and will encourage private-sector investments that support "climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality".

The initiative builds on the Blue Dot Network, a collaboration that aims to build a global network through lending-based financing to build roads, bridges, airports, ports, power plants.

Article Link: [US plans projects in Latin America countering China's Belt and Road](#)

**Q.4) Cauvery River Water Dispute does not involve which of the following state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Telangana
- d) Puducherry

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

The river Cauvery originates in Karnataka's Kodagu district, flows into Tamil Nadu and reaches the Bay of Bengal. Parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Pondicherry lie in the Cauvery basin.

The origins of legal dispute over Cauvery waters date back to 1892 and 1924 in agreements signed between Mysore and Madras Presidency. It involves 3 states and one Union Territory (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry).

It entailed the principle that the upper riparian state must obtain consent of lower riparian state for any construction activity viz. reservoir on the river Cauvery.

In 1990, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was set up. In 2007, the tribunal declared its final award, in which it said Tamil Nadu should receive 419 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) of water more than double the amount mentioned in the interim order of 1991.

The apex court on February 16, 2018 gave its final verdict saying that Karnataka will get additional 14.75 TMC of the river water and Tamil Nadu will get 177.25 instead of 192 TMC water. The court considered the water scarcity in Bengaluru while delivering the final judgment and also said no deviance shall be shown by any state to the order.

Article Link: [Karnataka directed to release Cauvery water](#)

**Q.5) Green Voyage 2050 project is an initiative of:**

- a) International Maritime Organisation
- b) United Nations Environment Programme
- c) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- d) World Trade Organisation

**Q.5) Solution (a)**

The GreenVoyage2050 Project is a partnership project between the Government of Norway and IMO launched in May 2019 aiming to transform the shipping industry towards a lower carbon future.

The global partnership is supporting developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in meeting their commitment towards relevant climate change and energy efficiency goals, for international shipping, through supporting the Initial IMO GHG Strategy.

Article Link: [Sarbananda Sonowal reiterates India's commitment to enhance share of renewable energy to 60% of total power demand at major ports](#)

**Q.6) With reference to the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) mechanism, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. One REC is generated when one megawatt hour of electricity is generated from an eligible renewable energy resource.
2. RECs can be traded on Indian Energy Exchange of India.

**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.6) Solution (c)**

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) mechanism is a market based instrument to promote renewable energy and facilitate compliance of renewable purchase obligations (RPO). It is aimed at addressing the mismatch between availability of RE resources in state and the requirement of the obligated entities to meet the renewable purchase obligation (RPO).

One Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) is treated as equivalent to 1 MWh.

There are two categories of RECs, viz., solar RECs and non-solar RECs. Solar RECs are issued to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on solar as renewable energy source, and non-solar RECs are issued to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on renewable energy sources other than solar.

RECs are traded on Indian Energy Exchange and Power Exchange of India.

Article Link: [Power ministry redesigns renewable energy certificate mechanism](#)

**Q.7) With reference to the PM POSHAN scheme, launched recently, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It aims to reduce under-nutrition and anaemia among pregnant and lactating women.

**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.7) Solution (a)**

PM-POSHAN scheme:

- The scheme will replace the existing national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- It has been launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- The scheme is proposed to be extended to students studying in pre-primary or Bal Vatikas of Government and Government-aided primary schools in addition to all the 11.80 crore children from elementary classes.
- The concept of TithiBhojan will be encouraged extensively. TithiBhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals.
- Social Audit of the scheme is made mandatory in all the districts.
- Special provision is made for providing supplementary nutrition items to children in aspirational districts and districts with high prevalence of Anemia.
- Cooking competitions will be encouraged at all levels right from village level to national level to promote ethnic cuisine and innovative menus based on locally available ingredients and vegetables.
- Vocal for Local for Atmanirbhar Bharat: Involvement of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO) and Women Self Help Groups in implementation of the scheme will be encouraged. Use of locally grown traditional food items for a fillip to local economic growth will be encouraged.
- Field visits for progress monitoring and inspections will be facilitated for students of eminent Universities / Institutions and also trainee teachers of Regional Institutes of Educations (RIE) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET).

Article Link: [Cabinet approves Continuation/Revisions/Modifications of Centrally Sponsored National Scheme for PM POSHAN in Schools for five more years](#)

**Q.8) With reference to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to revive MSME sector impacted by COVID-19.
2. Interest free and collateral free loan is provided under the scheme.

**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.8) Solution (a)**

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):

- The scheme was launched as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced in May 2020 to mitigate the distress caused by coronavirus-induced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- The objective of this scheme is to provide fully guaranteed and collateral free additional credit to MSMEs, business enterprises, MUDRA borrowers and individual loans for business purposes to the extent of 20% of their credit outstanding.
- Interest rates under the Scheme are capped at 9.25% for Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs), and 14% for NBFCs.
- 100% guarantee coverage is being provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, whereas Banks and Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) provide loans
- Tenor of loans provided under the Scheme is four years, including a moratorium of one year on principal repayment.

Article Link: [Centre extends Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme till March 2022](#)

**Q.9) Which of the following is not a criteria on the basis of which Special Category Status is given to some states as per Gadgil formula?**

- a) Hilly and difficult terrain
- b) High population density
- c) Strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries
- d) Economic and infrastructural backwardness

**Q.9) Solution (b)**

Special Category Status (SCS):

There is no provision of SCS in the Constitution; the Central government extends financial assistance to states that are at a comparative disadvantage against others.

The concept of SCS emerged in 1969 when the Gadgil formula(that determined Central assistance to states) was approved.

First SCS was accorded in 1969 to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland. Over the years, eight more states were added to the list — Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripuraand, finally, in 2010, Uttarakhand.

Criteria for Special Category Status are:

- Hilly and difficult terrain
- Low population density or sizeable share of tribal population
- Strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries
- Economic and infrastructural backwardness
- Non-viable nature of state

Benefits confer to the States with Special Category Status are:

- The central government bears 90 percent of the state expenditure on all centrally-sponsored schemes and external aid while rest 10 percent is given as loan to state at Zero Percent Rate of Interest.
- Preferential treatment in getting central funds.



- Concession on excise duty to attract industries to the state.
- 30 percent of the Centre's gross budget also goes to special category states.
- These states can avail the benefit of debt-swapping and debt relief schemes.
- States with special category status are exempted from customs duty, corporate tax, income tax and other taxes to attract investment.
- Special category states have the facility that if they have unspent money in a financial year; it does not lapse and gets carry forward for the next financial year.

Article Link: [We have not dropped demand for special category status: Nitish](#)

**Q.10) Tropical cyclone “Gulab”, recently made landfall on the eastern coast of India, is named by:**

- Bangladesh
- Myanmar
- India
- Pakistan

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

Cyclone Gulab recently made landfall on India's east coast. Gulab was a tropical cyclone and was named by Pakistan.

The cyclone affected the coasts of south Odisha north Andhra Pradesh. It made landfall triggering heavy rains along with strong winds over north coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south coastal Odisha. It comes under the category of the cyclonic storm according to IMD.

Article Link: [Cyclone Gulab may re-emerge as 'Shaheen' over Arabian Sea: IMD](#)

**Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding DigiSaksham Programme, seen recently in news:**

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It seeks to provide free of cost training in digital skills to 3 lakh youths of the country.
3. The Jobseekers can access the training through National Career Service Portal.

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

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

**Q.11) Solution (d)**

DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth is launched by the Minister for Labour and Employment.



Through DigiSaksham initiative, free of cost training in digital skills including basic skills as well as advance computing, will be provided to more than 3 lakh youths in the first year.

The Jobseekers can access the training through National Career Service (NCS) Portal.

The initiative gives priority to the job-seekers of semi urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Under the DigiSaksham initiative, there will be basically three types of training viz. Digital Skills – Self paced learning, VILT mode training (Virtual Instructor led) and ILT mode training (Instructor led). The ILT training which is in person training would be conducted at the Model Career Centres (MCCs) and National Career Service Centres (NCSC) for SCs/STs across the country.

Article Link: [DigiSaksham- a joint initiative of Labour Ministry with Microsoft India to enhance the employability of youth](#)

**Q.12) SACRED Portal, launched recently, is an online employment exchange platform for:**

- a) Women
- b) Rural youth
- c) Elderly
- d) Tribals

**Q.12) Solution (c)**

Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity (SACRED):

- The portal is developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Citizens above 60 years of age can register on the portal and find jobs and work opportunities.
- The Employment Portal will serve not only the senior citizens seeking employment, but also the employers, the Self Help Groups (SHGs), the senior citizens gaining skills, and other agencies or individuals.
- More than 50% senior citizens are found active as per the LASI report 2020. Many senior citizens having experience, time and energy can be used by the business enterprises looking for stable employees with experience.

Article Link: [Senior Able Citizens for Re Employment in Dignity \(SACRED\) Portal](#)

**Q.13) “Aipan” which recently received GI tag is a traditional art belonging to:**

- a) Assam
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

Aipan art is an established-ritualistic folk art originating from Kumaon in Uttarakhand.

The art is done mainly during special occasions, household ceremonies and rituals. Practitioners believe that it invokes a divine power which brings about good fortune and deters evil.

The actual art is done with a white paste made of rice flour. The art is frequent to floors and walls of Puja rooms and entrances of homes. It is also practiced mostly by Kumaoni women.

Article Link: [GI tag for 7 indigenous products of Uttarakhand](#)

**Q.14) With reference to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. It is released by UNESCO.
2. The report designates 46 countries as LDCs.
3. GDP per capita for the LDC countries represents less than 10 per cent of the world average.

**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.14) Solution (b)**

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report 2021 is released recently by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The report called for increased investment in state and productive capabilities for the LDC group.

UNCTAD defines productive capacities as the productive resources, entrepreneurial capabilities and production links that together determine a country's capacity to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop.

The UN established the LDC category 50 years ago. The grouping of the world's weakest economies has expanded from an initial 25 countries in 1971, peaking at 52 in 1991, with only six countries progressing enough to no longer be considered an LDC. These six countries are: Botswana, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives, Samoa and Vanuatu.

The number of LDC since January 2021 has been 46 (including 34 African countries). LDCs experienced more frequent instances of growth collapses than other groups of countries, the report flagged.

The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita for the LDC group represented less than 10 per cent of the world average in 2019, according to the report. This was even lower than in 1971, when their GDP per capita amounted to 15 per cent.

Only seven LDCs (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Lesotho, Mali, and Myanmar) have consistently outpaced the world average GDP per capita growth by more than 1 per cent and therefore have converged towards the standards of living of higher-income countries.

Article Link: [Least developed countries need help to overcome COVID-19-induced economic setback: UNCTAD](#)

**Q.15) Which of the following is/are the favourable conditions for the formation and intensification of tropical cyclones?**

1. Large sea surface
2. Large variations in vertical wind speed
3. Absence of coriolis force

**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.15) Solution (a)**

Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction due to violent winds (squalls), very heavy rainfall (torrential rainfall) and storm surge.

Conditions Favourable for Tropical Cyclone Formation are:

- Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C
- Presence of the Coriolis force enough to create a cyclonic vortex
- Small variations in the vertical wind speed
- A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation
- Upper divergence above the sea level system

Article Link: [Cyclone Gulab Weakened Over Mainland, to Reemerge as 'Shaheen'](#)

**Q.16) With reference to the concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL), consider the following statements:**

1. Justice P.N. Bhagwati was the pioneer of the concept of PIL.
2. It can be filed only in the Supreme Court.
3. It is filed for the benefit of the general public.

**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.16) Solution (c)**

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is the use of the law to advance human rights and equality, or raise issues of broad public concern.

In India, the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a product of the judicial activism role of the Supreme Court. It was introduced in the early 1980s. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and Justice P.N. Bhagwati were the pioneers of the concept of PIL.

It can be filed only in the Supreme Court or the High Court.

PIL is brought before the Court not for the purpose of enforcing the right of one individual against another as happens in the case of ordinary litigation, but it is intended to promote and vindicate public interest.

In PIL, the role held by the Court is more assertive than in traditional actions; it is creative rather than passive and it assumes a more positive attitude in determining acts.

Though in PIL court enjoys a degree of flexibility unknown to the trial of traditional private law litigations, whatever the procedure adopted by the court it must be procedure known to judicial tenets and characteristics of a judicial proceeding.

Article Link: [SC pulls up petitioner for filing PIL without adequate research](#)

**Q.17) With reference to ethanol production in India, consider the following statements:**

1. In India, ethanol is primarily produced using maize.
2. Ethanol is an example of first generation biofuels.
3. India has set the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2030.

**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.17) Solution (b)**

Ethanol has been made since ancient times by the fermentation of sugars. All the beverage ethanol, and more than half of industrial ethanol, is still made by this process. Simple sugars are the raw materials. Internationally, sugarcane, sweet sorghum and sugar beet are used for the production of ethanol as sugar containing feedstock. Maize, wheat and other cereals contain starch that can relatively easily be converted to sugar.

In India, ethanol is primarily produced using sugarcane molasses.

This is an example of first generation biofuels that uses biomass containing large amounts of sugar or materials that can be converted to sugar such as starch, for the generation of ethanol.

The use of ethanol as a fuel for internal combustion engines, either alone or in combination with other fuels, has been given much attention mostly because of its possible environmental and long-term economical advantages over fossil fuel.

The government of India has advanced the target for 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030. E20 will be rolled out from April 2023.

The central government has also released an expert committee report on the Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India by 2025.

The roadmap proposes a gradual rollout of ethanol-blended fuel to achieve E10 fuel supply by April 2022 and phased rollout of E20 from April 2023 to April 2025.

Article Link: [Ethanol production absorbed 2 MT of sugar](#)

**Q.18) With reference to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), consider the following statements:**

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
2. The Act makes Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers, directors or key functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document.

**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 (b)**

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA):

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FCRA Act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- Under the Act, organisations are required to register/renew themselves every five years.
- The Act bars public servants from receiving foreign contributions.
- The Act prohibits the transfer of foreign contribution to any other person not registered to accept foreign contributions.
- The Act makes Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers, directors or key functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document.
- Foreign contribution must be received only in an account designated by the bank as FCRA account in such branches of the State Bank of India, New Delhi.

Article Link: [Deadline for NGOs to renew FCRA registration extended](#)

**Q.19) Weddell Sea, seen recently in news, is part of:**

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

**Q.19) Solution (d)**

The Weddell Sea is part of the Southern Ocean and contains the Weddell Gyre. Its land boundaries are defined by the bay formed from the coasts of Coats Land and the Antarctic Peninsula.

The sea is contained within the two overlapping Antarctic territorial claims of Argentine Antarctica, the British Antarctic Territory, and also resides partially within the Antarctic Chilean Territory.

Article Link: [India backs move to designate East Antarctica, Weddell Sea as Marine Protected Areas](#)

**Q.20) Which of the following country is not in the list of “Least Developed Country” as per United Nations?**

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

**Q.20) Solution (c)**

The least developed countries (LDCs) are a list of developing countries that, according to the United Nations, exhibit the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development, with the lowest Human Development Index ratings of all countries in the world.

LDC criteria are reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Countries may "graduate" out of the LDC classification when indicators exceed these criteria in two consecutive triennial reviews.

Since the LDC category was initiated, six countries have graduated to developing country status. The first country to graduate from LDC status was Botswana in 1994. The second country was Cape Verde in 2007. Maldives graduated to developing country status on 1 January 2011, Samoa graduated in 2014, Equatorial Guinea in 2017, and Vanuatu in December 2020.

Article Link: [Least developed countries need help to overcome COVID-19-induced economic setback: UNCTAD](#)

**Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding AMRUT 2.0 mission, seen recently in news:**

1. AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 Urban Local Bodies.
2. It will provide 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in all Urban Local Bodies.

3. The Ministry of Tourism is the nodal ministry for the scheme.

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

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

**Q.21) Solution (a)**

AMRUT was launched as the first water – focused Mission in 2015, with a total Mission outlay of ₹1,00,000 crore. The Mission caters to 500 major cities covering 60% of the urban population. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal ministry for the scheme.

The Objective of AMRUT 2.0 is to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 ULBs, by providing 2.68 crore urban household tap connections, thereby benefitting around 10.7 crores people.

It will provide 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities, by providing 2.64 crore sewer connections/ septage connections, thereby benefitting around 10.6 crores people.

It will promote circular economy of water through formulation of City Water Balance Plan for each city, focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation. Digital economy will be promoted through being a Paperless Mission.

The Mission seeks to promote AatmaNirbhar Bharat through encouraging Startups and Entrepreneurs. It will lead to promotion of GIG economy and on-boarding of youth & women. Urban Water Information System through NRSC will be developed, leading to Aquifer Management system.

Article Link: [AMRUT 2.0: A step towards new Urban India, to make the cities 'Aatmanirbhar' and 'water secure'](#)

**Q.22) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Ganges River Dolphin?**

- 1. It lives along the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river system.
- 2. It is listed as critically endangered as per IUCN red list.

**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.22) Solution (a)**

The Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is a species of toothed whale classified in the family Platanistidae.



It lives along the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Bangladesh and India, and the Sapta Koshi and Karnali Rivers in Nepal.

The Ganges river dolphin favours deep pools, eddy countercurrents located downstream of the convergence of rivers and of sharp meanders, and upstream and downstream of midchannel islands.

It is listed as endangered as per IUCN Red List.

It is a reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem. It was recognised as the National Aquatic Animal in 2009, by the Government of India.

Article Link: [Environment Ministry launches series of guidelines for projects on ecotourism, river dolphins](#)

**Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme, launched recently:**

1. It is an initiative of the World Bank.
2. It aims to support countries in building tax audit capacity.

**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.23) Solution (b)**

Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) is a joint initiative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supporting countries in building tax audit capacity.

TIWB Programmes complement the broader efforts of the international community to strengthen co-operation on tax matters and contribute to the domestic resource mobilisation efforts of developing countries.

Article Link: [Tax Inspectors Without Borders launches programme in Seychelles with India's partnership](#)

**Q.24) The Langas and Manganiyars are hereditary communities of musicians belonging to the state of:**

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

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

The Langas and Manganiyars are hereditary communities of Muslim musicians residing mostly in western Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and in Pakistan's Tharparkar and Sanghar districts in Sindh.

The music of the two marginalised communities, who were supported by wealthy landlords and merchants before Independence, forms a vital part of Thar desert's cultural landscape.

Article Link: [Future-proofing the Langa-Manganiyar heritage](#)

**Q.25) Which of the following country is not an original signatory of Antarctic Treaty?**

- a) Argentina
- b) Norway
- c) New Zealand
- d) Italy

**Q.25) Solution (d)**

The Antarctic Treaty was signed between 12 countries in Washington on 1st December 1959 for making the Antarctic Continent a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research only.

The twelve original signatories: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the UK and the US.

India became a member of this treaty in 1983.

Major Provisions:

- Promoting the freedom of scientific research.
- Countries can use the continent only for peaceful purposes.
- Prohibition of military activities, nuclear tests and the disposal of radioactive waste.
- Neutralising territorial sovereignty, this means a limit was placed on making any new claim or enlargement of an existing claim.
- It put a freeze on any disputes between claimants over their territories on the continent.

Article Link: [30th anniversary of the signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection \(Madrid protocol\) of the Antarctic Treaty](#)

**Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding Net Present Value (NPV) of forests:**

1. It is a mandatory one-time payment that a user has to make for diverting forestland for non-forest use.
2. These payments go to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund.
3. It is mandated under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

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

**Q.26) Solution (b)****Net Present Value**

- It is a mandatory one-time payment that a user has to make for diverting forestland for non-forest use, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- This is calculated on the basis of the services and ecological value of the forests.
- It depends on the location and nature of the forest and the type of industrial enterprise that will replace a particular parcel of forest.
- These payments go to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) and are used for afforestation and reforestation.
- Decided by: The Forest Advisory Committee.
- The Committee is constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and decides on whether forests can be diverted for projects and the NPV to be charged.
- It is a statutory body constituted by the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

Article Link: [Govt. moots easier clearance for forest land use](#)

**Q.27) As per report released by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), released recently, which of the following conditions are the threats to the survival of coral reefs in the world?**

1. Ocean-acidification
2. Warmer sea temperatures
3. Algal bloom

**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.27) Solution (d)**

As per the report released by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the world lost about 14 per cent of its coral reefs.

Highlights of the report:

- Coral reefs across the world are under relentless stress from warming caused by climate change. Coral bleaching events caused by rise in elevated sea surface temperatures (SST) were responsible for coral loss.
- Large scale coral bleaching events were responsible for killing eight percent of the world's corals in 1998. This is equivalent to more than the coral that is currently living on reefs in the Caribbean or Red Sea and Gulf of Aden regions.
- Ocean-acidification, warmer sea temperatures and local stressors such as overfishing, pollution, unsustainable tourism and poor coastal management causes threat to the survival of coral reefs.
- The analysis found that since 2010, the amount of algae on the world's coral reefs has increased by about 20 per cent. Algal bloom on coral ridges are a sign of stress on the structures. Prior to this, on average, there was twice as much coral on the world's reefs as algae.
- The worst-hit are the corals in South Asia, Australia, the Pacific, East Asia, the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman.

Article Link: [Climate change: 14% coral reefs lost since 2010, says study](#)

**Q.28) Which of the following is/are the coral triangle countries?**

1. Indonesia
2. Singapore
3. Philippines

**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.28) Solution (c)**

The Coral Triangle is a marine area located in the western Pacific Ocean. It includes the waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Solomon Islands.

Named for its staggering number of corals (nearly 600 different species of reef-building corals alone), the region nurtures six of the world's seven marine turtle species and more than 2000 species of reef fish.

The Coral Triangle also supports large populations of commercially important tuna, fueling a multi-billion dollar global tuna industry.

Over 120 million people live in the Coral Triangle and rely on its coral reefs for food, income and protection from storms.

**Q.29) Edayur Chilli and Kuttiattor Mango which recently receives G.I. tag, belongs to the state of:**

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

**Q.29) Solution (b)**

Edayur Chilli and Kuttiattor Mango which recently receives G.I. tag, belongs to the state of Kerala.

Low pungency is the unique character of Edayur chilli (known as Edayur Mulaku in Malayalam).

Kuttiattoor mango (Kuttiattoor manga in Malayalam) is a popular and tasty traditional mango cultivar of Kuttiattoor and the nearby Grama Panchayaths of Kannur district in North Kerala, India.

Article Link: [Edayur Chilli, Kuttiattoor Mango receives GI tag](#)

**Q.30) Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding the contribution of Shyamji Krishna Varma in India's freedom struggle?**

- a) He founded Indian Home Rule Society in London.
- b) He was the founder of India House.
- c) He participated actively in Civil Disobedience Movement.
- d) He edited the journal The Indian Sociologist.

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

Shyamji Krishna Varma (4 October 1857 – 30 March 1930) was an Indian revolutionary fighter, an Indian patriot, lawyer and journalist.

Shyamji Krishna Varma founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London.

The monthly Indian Sociologist became an outlet for nationalist ideas and through the Indian Home Rule Society, he criticised the British rule in India.

Shyamji Krishna Varma, who became the first President of Bombay Arya Samaj, was an admirer of Dayanand Saraswati, and he inspired Veer Savarkar who was a member of India House in London. Verma also served as the Divan of a number of states in India.

Krishna Varma moved to Paris in 1907, avoiding prosecution.

Article Link: [PM pays tributes to Shyamji Krishna Varma on his Jayanti](#)

**Q.31) With reference to Coal sector of India, consider the following statements:**

1. India is the second-largest importer of coal.
2. India is the largest consumer of coal.

3. India mainly imports from China.

**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.31) Solution (a)**

As per coal ministry of India, India is the second-largest importer, consumer and producer of coal, and has the world's fourth-largest reserves. It mainly imports from Indonesia, Australia and South Africa.

Coal India is the world's largest coal mining company by production and accounts for over 80% of India's output of the fuel.

Indian utilities are currently scrambling to secure coal supplies as inventories hit critical lows after a surge in power demand from industries and sluggish imports due to record global prices push power plants to the brink.

Thus, coal ministry of India has asked state-run Coal India to diversify its interests to areas such as electric vehicles and charging stations.

Article Link: [Why is India facing a coal shortage?](#)

**Q.32) As per the State of Climate Services 2021 report released recently, consider the following statements:**

- 1. 5 per cent of water on Earth is usable and available as freshwater.
- 2. In past 20 years the biggest loss of Terrestrial Water Storage occurred in Antarctica and Greenland.

**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 (b)**

The report titled 2021 State of Climate Services is released recently by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Highlights of the report:

Water-related hazards like floods and droughts are increasing because of climate change.

In the past 20 years, terrestrial water storage – the summation of all water on the land surface and in the subsurface, including soil moisture, snow and ice – has dropped at a rate of 1cm per year.

The biggest losses are occurring in Antarctica and Greenland, but many highly populated lower latitude locations are experiencing significant water losses in areas that are traditionally providing water supply, with major ramifications for water security.

The situation is worsening by the fact that only 0.5% of water on Earth is useable and available freshwater.

Water-related hazards have increased in frequency over the past 20 years. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have risen by 134% compared with the two previous decades.

The report makes strategic recommendations for policy makers to improve the implementation and effectiveness of climate services for water worldwide:

- Invest in Integrated Resources Water Management as a solution to better manage water stress, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
- Invest in end-to-end drought and flood early warning systems in at-risk LDCs, including for drought warning in Africa and flood warning in Asia;
- Fill the capacity gap in collecting data for basic hydrological variables which underpin climate services and early warning systems;
- Improve the interaction among national level stakeholders to co-develop and operationalize climate services with information users to better support adaptation in the water sector.
- Join the Water and Climate Coalition. This is organized by WMO in response to the need for integrated policy developments and improved practical solutions. The coalition provides countries with support to improve assessment of water resources as well as forecasting and outlook services for water.

Article Link: [Wake up to the looming water crisis, report warns](#)

**Q.33) With reference to State of the Education Report for India 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. The report is released by NITI Aayog.
2. As per the report the gross enrolment ratio for elementary schools has decreased in past 20 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.33) Solution (d)**



State of the Education Report for India 2021 report has been released recently by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Highlights of the report:

- The gross enrolment ratio (GER) for elementary schools has increased from 81.6 in 2001 to 93.03 in 2018-19 and stands at 102.1 in 2019-2020, overall retention is 74.6 per cent for elementary education and 59.6 per cent for secondary education in 2019-20.
- The overall availability of computing devices (desktops or laptops) in school is 22 per cent for all India, with rural areas seeing much lower provisioning (18 per cent) than urban areas (43 per cent).
- Access to the internet in schools is 19 per cent all over India – only 14 per cent in rural areas compared to 42 per cent in urban areas.
- The total number of teachers in the system grew by 17 per cent from 8.9 million teachers in 2013-14 to 9.4 million in 2018-19.
- The overall pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) changed from 31:1 in 2013-14 to 26:1 in 2018-19.
- Half of India's 9.43 million school teachers are women.
- On average, 86 per cent of schools across the country – 89 per cent of urban schools and 85 per cent of rural schools – are accessible by road. In hilly or mountainous states and union territories, such as in the north-east, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir, the proportion drops to between 59 per cent and 68 per cent.

Article Link: [Only 19% schools across India have access to internet: UNESCO report](#)

**Q.34) As per Henley Passport Index 2021, which of the following country has world's most powerful passport?**

- a) Germany
- b) South Korea
- c) Singapore
- d) Finland

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

The Henley Passport Index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Japan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list, with their passports holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries, while South Korea and Germany share the second position. For the third consecutive year, Japan has secured the top position. Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful.

India, which held the 84th rank last year, fell down to the 90th position, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries. India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.

Article Link: [The world's most powerful passports in 2021](#)

**Q.35) Which of the following river flows through Jim Corbett National Park?**

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

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

Jim Corbett is a national park in India located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand state. It is the first national park of India established in 1936.

The park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative.

The park encompasses the Patli Dun valley formed by the Ramganga river. It protects parts of the Upper Gangetic Plains moist deciduous forests and Himalayan subtropical pine forests ecoregions. It has a humid subtropical and highland climate.

Forest covers almost 73% of the park, while 10% of the area consists of grasslands. It houses around 110 tree species, 50 species of mammals, 580 bird species and 25 reptile species.

Article Link: [The story of Corbett National Park](#)

**Q.36) With reference to international efforts to protect the environment, consider the following statements regarding Madrid Protocol:**

1. It is part of the Antarctic Treaty.
2. The protocol prohibits mining in Antarctica.
3. India is not a signatory to this treaty.

**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.36) Solution (b)**

The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (also known as the Madrid Protocol) provides for comprehensive protection of Antarctica, the last great wilderness on earth.

The Protocol was adopted in 1991. It harmonised and expanded on a range of earlier provisions relating to protection of the Antarctic environment.

The Protocol:

- designates Antarctica as a 'natural reserve, devoted to peace and science'

- establishes environmental principles that must be a fundamental consideration in the planning and conduct of all activities
- prohibits mining indefinitely
- requires that all proposed activities must be subject to a prior assessment of their environmental impacts
- establishes the Committee for Environmental Protection, to develop advice and formulate recommendations to the Antarctic Treaty Parties on implementation of the Protocol
- requires the development of contingency plans to respond to environmental emergencies.

As of May 2013, the protocol has been ratified by 34 parties — Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay.

Article Link: [30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Madrid Protocol](#)

**Q.37) With reference to PM MITRA scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme aims to integrate the entire textile value chain from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing, printing to garment manufacturing at one location.
2. Under the scheme 7 textile parks will be setup as Greenfield projects.

**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 PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme is launched to integrate the entire textile value chain from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing, printing to garment manufacturing at one location.

The parks are a part of the government's 'Farm to Fiber to Factory to Fashion to Foreign' push.

Under the scheme 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) will be setup at Greenfield / Brownfield sites located in different willing States.

Maximum Development Capital Support (DCS) of ₹ 500 crore to all Greenfield PM MITRA and a maximum of ₹ 200 Crore to Brownfield PM MITRA will be provided for development of Common Infrastructure (@30% of the Project Cost) and ₹ 300 Crore of Competitiveness Incentive Support (CIS) will also be provided to each PM MITRA park for early establishment of textiles manufacturing units in PM MITRA.

The PM MITRA parks will have following:

- Core Infrastructure: Incubation Centre & Plug & Play facility, Developed Factory Sites, Roads, Power, Water and Waste Water system, Common Processing House & CETP and other related facilities e.g. Design Centre, Testing Centres etc.
- Support Infrastructure: Workers' hostels & housing, logistics park, warehousing, medical, training & skill development facilities.

The scheme will enhance the competitiveness of the textiles industry, by helping it in achieving economies of scale and will create huge job opportunities for millions of people. Leveraging Economies of Scale, the scheme will help Indian companies to emerge as Global Champions.

Article Link: [Textile industry welcomes PM MITRA scheme](#)

**Q.38) National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recently approved the declaration of a new tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh. In this context consider the following statements:**

1. The new tiger reserve combines the areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. It will provide a corridor for tigers to move between the Bandhavgarh and Palamau Tiger Reserves.

**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 (c)**

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the Chhattisgarh government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.

The new Reserve is located in the northern part of the state, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. This will be the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.

Guru Ghasidas National Park was the last known habitat of the Asiatic cheetah in the country. Originally part of the Sanjay Dubri National Park, Guru Ghasidas Park was created as a separate entity in Chhattisgarh's Sarguja region after the formation of the state in 2001.

Turning Guru Ghasidas into a Tiger Reserve is important because it connects Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh and provides a corridor for tigers to move between the Bandhavgarh and Palamau Tiger Reserves.

Article Link: [India's newest Tiger Reserve, No. 4 in Chhattisgarh](#)

**Q.39) Which among the following has not been identified as one of the thematic circuits under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme?**

- a) Coastal Circuit
- b) Desert Circuit
- c) Deccan Circuit
- d) North East Circuit

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

Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a central sector scheme of the Ministry of Tourism. It aims for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.

The entire scheme is based on theme-based tourism. Each theme is called a "circuit" and composed of various tourist destinations.

Under the scheme, fifteen thematic circuits have been identified- Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, North East Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Wildlife Circuit.

Article Link: [Ministry of Tourism to organise conference on Buddhist circuit to promote potential of Buddhist tourism](#)

**Q.40) SVAMITVA is a scheme of which of the following ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**Q.40) Solution (b)**

SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is a new initiative of the 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 is for surveying the land parcels in rural inhabited area using Drone technology. The survey shall be done across the country in a phase wise manner over the period 2020 -2025.

Objectives of the scheme are:

- 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.
- Creation of accurate land records for rural planning.
- 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.
- To reduce property related disputes and legal cases

Article Link: [SVAMITVA Yojna enhanced rural economy's strength, to be implemented at national level: PM Modi](#)

**Q.41). The Sojat Mehndi which recently got GI tag is from which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Kerala
- d) Gujarat

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

The Sojat Mehndi which recently got GI tag is from **Rajasthan**

- Sojat tehsil of the Pali district in Rajasthan has several natural factors such as geological structure, topography and drainage system, climate and soil that make it suitable for the crop.
- Sojat Mehndi as its herbal cosmetic and medicinal uses.
- By drying mehndi leaves, fragrant oil is also extracted. The leaves of the mehndi plant, bark, seeds and root are taken for medicinal use
- Sojat Mehndi gets its special colour due to the soil and rain conditions of the region. The mehndi leaves have 2% more of the pigment lawsone than leaves grown elsewhere.”

#### **About GI Tag**

- A GI tag is used for an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- Darjeeling Tea, Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among the registered GIs in India.
- According to experts, the tag gives protection to the producer of those genuine products which command premium pricing in domestic as well as international markets.

Article Link:

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/business/sojat-mehndi-from-rajasthan-gets-gi-tag-from-government>

<https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/fashion/sojat-mehndi-gi-tag-india-2021-farming-manufacturing-medicinal-art-uses-and-adulteration/article36878705.ece>

**Q.42) Cabinet approves implementation of National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm. In this regard consider the following statements**

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme
2. It has special focus on the North east region only
3. It will involve raising the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26.

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

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

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

It is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme

It has a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

It will involve raising the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30.

A financial outlay of Rs.11,040 crore out of which Rs.8,844 crore is the share of Government of India and Rs.2,196 crore is State share

Focus on increasing area and productivity of oilseeds and Oil Palm

Assistance to seed gardens specially for North-East and Andaman regions

Price Assurance to Oil Palm farmers for Fresh Fruit Bunches

The production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is expected to go upto 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and upto 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.

There are two major focus areas of the Scheme.

First - The oil palm farmers produce Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) from which oil is extracted by the industry.

Second major focus of the scheme is to substantially increase the assistance of inputs/interventions.

Article Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746942>

**Q.43) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is the full-time member of International Energy Agency (IEA)



2. International Energy Agency (IEA) publishes World Energy Outlook

**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.43) Solution (b)**

International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member

In March 2017, India joined the IEA as an association country

It is a Paris-based body which advises industrialized nations on energy policies.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.

It publishes World Energy Outlook.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/India-invited-to-become-full-time-iea-member/article36951552.ece>

**Q.44) Which of the following is/are the major voluntary commitments called the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) made by India?**

- 1. improving the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030 below 2005 levels
- 2. increasing the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030
- 3. enhancing its forest cover, thereby absorbing 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

**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.44) Solution (d)**

In 2015, ahead of the United Nations' significant climate conference in Paris, India announced three major voluntary commitments called the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC):

1. improving the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 below 2005 levels;
2. increasing the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030,
3. enhancing its forest cover, thereby absorbing 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

India was the only major G20 country that was on track towards keeping to its nationally determined commitments to halt runaway global warming.

It had achieved 21% of its emissions intensity as a proportion of its GDP in line with its commitment to a 33-35% reduction by 2030

UK has urged India to announce a "more ambitious" Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ahead of a United Nations climate change summit in the U.K. in a few weeks.

What is a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)?

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) are non-binding national plans highlighting climate actions that governments aim to implement in response to climate change and as a contribution to achieve the global targets set out in the Paris Agreement.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-has-achieved-21-of-emissions-intensity-target-claims-javadekar/article33307259.ece>

**Q.45) Consider the following statements:**

1. U.N. Biodiversity Conference's "30 by 30" is a plan to conserve 30% of Earth's land and sea areas by 2030
2. It will be done through "area-based conservation measures" like protected national parks.

**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.45) Solution (c)**

A key UN summit tasked with protecting biodiversity opened in China and online, as countries meet to protect ecosystems and prevent mass extinction weeks before the COP26 climate conference.

Up for debate is the “30 by 30” plan to give 30% of land and oceans protected status by 2030 through “area-based conservation measures” like protected national parks. — a measure supported by a broad coalition of nations, as well as a goal to halve the use of chemicals in agriculture and stop creating plastic waste.

Article Link:

<https://epaper.thehindu.com/Home/ArticleView>

**Q.46). With reference to India, the terms Abujhmadia, Baiga, Birhors and Pahari Korwa pertain to**

- a) tribal languages
- b) musical instruments
- c) tribal people
- d) dance forms of Northeast India

**Q.46) Solution (c)**

The Abujhmadia tribes reside in Narayanpur, Dantewada and Abujhmad areas of Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh. Orchha can be called the gateway to Abujhmad.

The Kamar tribes reside mainly in Gariaband, Chura, Mainpur in Gariaband district and Nagri and Magarlod development blocks of Dhamtari district.

Baiga is a special backward tribe of Chhattisgarh. In Chhattisgarh, their population in census 2011 shows 89744.

The Birhors are a special backward tribe of Chhattisgarh. Most of their population in the country resides in the state of Jharkhand.

Pahari Korwa, a special backward tribes reside in Jashpur, Surguja, Balrampur and Korba districts. According to the survey year 2005-06, their total population was 34122.

Article Link:

<http://cgtrti.gov.in/PVTG.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/malnutrition-deaths-of-pando-people-highlight-systemic-failure/article36976901.ece>

**Q.47) Abnormal yellowing of leaf tissue is called chlorosis. Which of the following is/are the reason for chlorosis?**

1. poor drainage
2. damaged roots
3. low soil pH
4. nutrient deficiencies

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

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

**Q.47) Solution (b)**

All India Areca Growers Association based in Puttur in Dakshina Kannada has urged the government to develop Yellow Leaf Disease-resistant variety of arecanut. Yellow Leaf Disease is gradually spreading to newer plantations in Puttur and Bantwal taluks in Dakshina Kannada, the association has said.

Abnormal yellowing of leaf tissue is called chlorosis. Leaves lack the essential green pigment chlorophyll. Possible causes include poor drainage, damaged roots, compacted roots, high soil pH, and nutrient deficiencies in the plant.

Nutrient deficiencies may occur due to insufficient amount in the soil or because the nutrients are unavailable due to **high pH soil**. Or nutrients may not be absorbed due to injured roots or poor root growth.

The most common nutrient problem associated with chlorosis is lack of iron, but yellowing may also be caused by manganese, zinc, or nitrogen deficiencies.

***Treatment for chlorosis***

Rule out or correct problems due to soil compaction, poor drainage, poor root growth, or root injury. Core aeration, tiling, mulching, or some other cultural practice may be needed.

Article Link:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/extensions-greatest-hits/2007-08-28-yellow-leaves-can-indicate-plant-problems>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/disease-resistant-areca-variety-sought/article36977307.ece>

**Q.48) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is mandatory for producers of plastic packaging material to collect all of their produce by 2024.
2. Plastic that cannot be recycled, can be disposed only by the method prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

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

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

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

The Environment Ministry has issued draft rules that mandate producers of plastic packaging material to collect all of their produce by 2024 and ensure that a minimum percentage of it be recycled as well as used in subsequent supply.

It has also specified a system whereby makers and users of plastic packaging could collect certificates — called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates — and trade in them.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility – financial and/or physical – for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products

Only a fraction of plastic that cannot be recycled — such as multi-layered multi-material plastics — would be eligible to be sent for end-of-life disposal such as road construction, waste to energy, and waste to oil and cement kilns. Only methods prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) would be permitted for their disposal.

Plastic packaging as per the rules fall into three categories: The first is “rigid” plastic; category 2 is “flexible plastic packaging of single layer or multilayer, plastic sheets and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags, plastic sachet or pouches; and the third category is called multilayered plastic packaging, which has at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic.

Producers of plastic would be obliged to declare to the government, via a centralized website, how much plastic they produce annually. Companies would have to collect at least 35% of the target in 2021-22, 70% by 2022-23 and 100% by 2024.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/govt-announces-plastic-waste-recycling-targets/article36976704.ece>

**Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding Anticipatory bail**

1. Anticipatory bail can only issued by the Sessions Court and High Court.
2. The Supreme Court cannot set aside an anticipatory bail granted by the lower 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.49) Solution (a)**

Anticipatory bail is a direction to release a person on bail, issued even before the person is arrested. It is only issued by the Sessions Court and High Court.

The Supreme Court has held that a **superior court can set aside an anticipatory bail order** if there was enough material to suggest that factors like gravity of the offence and the role of the accused in the crime were not considered by the lower court.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said a court, while considering an application for grant of anticipatory bail, had to consider the nature of the offence, the role of the person, the likelihood of his influencing the course of investigation, etc.

The apex court judgment set aside an anticipatory bail granted by the Madhya Pradesh High Court in a murder case. The High Court had granted the bail, despite refusal by the trial court earlier. A man was shot dead by two men while a third held him down over a rivalry.

The court reiterated the settled law that an appellate or superior court could set aside anticipatory bail granted by a lower court on the ground that the latter “did not consider material facts or crucial circumstances”.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/anticipatory-bail-can-be-set-aside-sc/article36976706.ece>

**Q.50) Consider the following statements:**

1. The MRP of urea and non-urea fertilizer is statutorily fixed by the Government of India
2. Potassic fertilizers is the most popular fertilizer after urea

**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.50) Solution (d)**

MRP of **urea** is statutorily fixed by the Government of India

**Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)** is the most popular fertilizer after urea

Non-urea fertilizer prices are decontrolled, with the government fixing nutrient-based subsidy rates instead.

The Centre has approved an additional fertilizer subsidy for the rabi or winter planting season. The subsidy is paid to fertilizer companies as compensation for selling their products to farmers below market prices. Thus, the price a farmer pays for a 50-kg bag of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), the most popular fertilizer after urea, would continue to remain at Rs. 1,200. The increased subsidy would offset the hike in global rates of DAP, nitrogen, phosphate and potassic fertilizers.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/govt-nod-for-fertilizer-subsidy/article36976677.ece>

**Q.51) Consider the following statements**

1. A Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme provides incentives to companies in order to boost domestic manufacturing.
2. The incentives in EV PLI are purely percentage based, with a maximum of 18% incentives to be offered by the government, based on the incremental turnover of a company.

**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.51) Solution (c)**

What is a production linked-incentive?

A Production-Linked Incentive, or PLI scheme, provides incentives to companies in order to boost domestic manufacturing.

This is done by the government in an effort to make products more competitively priced, reduce a country's dependence on imports and generate employment.



The incentives in EV PLI, like most, are purely percentage based, with a maximum of 18% incentives to be offered by the government, based on the incremental turnover of a company. The idea is to promote the development of technologies that are currently lacking in India and can be availed simultaneously along with the Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, PLI scheme for advanced chemistry cell (ACC) among others. With the EV supply and value chain apparatus yet to be fully built, a PLI of this scale can help with its rapid development.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/amid-protests-centre-hikes-minimum-support-price-for-rabi-crops/article36362861.ece>

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/technology/auto/how-the-new-pli-scheme-is-likely-to-boost-the-ev-industry-7476941.html>

[https://www.investindia.gov.in/production-linked-incentives-schemes-india#:~:text=The%20Production%20Linked%20Incentive%20Scheme%20for%20White%20Goods%20\(PLIWG\)%20proposes,White%20Goods%20manufacturing%20value%20chain.](https://www.investindia.gov.in/production-linked-incentives-schemes-india#:~:text=The%20Production%20Linked%20Incentive%20Scheme%20for%20White%20Goods%20(PLIWG)%20proposes,White%20Goods%20manufacturing%20value%20chain.)

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

1. Battery swapping of EVs means mechanically swapping the discharged batteries with fully charged batteries
2. Battery swapping of EVs is also called as mechanical refuelling or mechanical recharging.
3. Kerala became the first State to set up a new battery-swapping network in its capital

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

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

**Q.52) Solution (a)**

Minister for Transport and Tribal Welfare, Karnataka inaugurated Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. Karnataka's second EV experience centre at Bengaluru.

Karnataka were the first State to introduce an electric vehicle policy and more recently **Karnataka** became the first State to set up a new battery-swapping network in its capital to help clean and reliable last-mile connectivity in the region.

***Battery swapping stations***

Instead of charging the batteries immediately, there is another way to refuel the energy source of EVs: mechanically swapping the discharged batteries with fully charged batteries.

All these batteries should be owned by the service station or battery company while the EV driver is only a battery borrower.

The discharged batteries will either be charged at the service station or centrally collected and charged.

Since the battery swapping process involves mechanical replacement and battery recharging, it is also named as mechanical refuelling or mechanical recharging.

There are many obstacles to practically implementing battery swapping. Firstly, the initial cost to set up this battery swapping system is very high. Secondly, space to build a battery swapping station is much larger than that for a charging station. Thirdly, the EV batteries need to be standardized in physical dimensions and electrical parameters before the possible implementation of automatic battery swapping.

Article Link:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/battery-swapping-station>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/ev-experience-centre-inaugurated/article36996867.ece>

**Q.53) Consider the following statements:**

1. Coal accounts for about 40% of the production cost in aluminium industries in India
2. Aluminum is the second most used metal in the world after steel
3. India is the largest producer of aluminium in the world

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

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

**Q.53) Solution (b)**

The aluminium industry has sent an SOS to Coal India, demanding the immediate resumption of supplies for survival of the industry that is facing an 'alarming' situation following coal shortage.

The current acute coal crunch has created an immensely precarious situation, majorly for the highly power-intensive industries like aluminium wherein coal accounts for about 40% of the production cost

Aluminum is the second most used metal in the world after steel

**India is the fourth largest producer of aluminium in the world** with a share of around 5.3% of the global aluminium output.

The principal user segment of the aluminium industry in India continues to be the electrical and electronics sector followed by automotive, transportation, building, construction, packaging, consumer durables, industrial and defence.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/aluminium-industry-rings-alarm-bells-over-coal-shortage/article36996482.ece>

**Q.54) The BIS allows use of the ISI Mark under its product certification schemes on voluntary basis. In the case of imports, these products come under two certification schemes. In this regard consider the following statements**

1. Under Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS) the certification is granted to the manufacturer of the goods and not the importer.
2. Products such as cement, batteries, car tyres, medical equipment (X-ray machines), iron and steel products comes under CRS

**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.54) Solution (a)**

India's trade with China set to exceed \$100 billion in 2021

India's biggest exports to China are iron ore, cotton, and other raw material-based commodities. India imports mechanical and electrical machinery in large quantities, while imports of medical supplies have soared in the past two years.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is India's national standards body, tasked with maintaining the quality and safety of products meant for consumption in the country. It applies to products produced domestically as well as imports.

The bureau allows use of the ISI Mark under its product certification schemes. While certification is largely voluntary, some product categories require mandatory certification. In the case of imports, these products come under two certification schemes:

**Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS):** It covers all electronic and information technology products (mobiles, laptops, smart watches, bluetooth speakers, televisions, LED lights, etc). It is mandatory for an importer sourcing a CRS product from China (or any other country) to register that product with BIS. Certification is granted to the manufacturer of the goods and not the importer.

**Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS):** *Several product categories require a mandatory ISI mark to be sold in India. These include cement, batteries, car tyres, medical equipment (X-ray machines), iron and steel products, chemicals, fertilizers, toys and food items (milk powder, packaged water, baby formula, etc).* Importers of such products can register them with BIS under the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme. Manufacturers with factories located outside India are eligible for a license under this scheme provided they ensure compliance with BIS quality standards and have the required manufacturing infrastructure, production process, quality control and testing capabilities at their premises

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/indias-trade-with-china-set-to-exceed-100-billion-in-2021/article36996478.ece>

<https://www.cogoport.com/blogs/everything-you-need-to-know-about-importing-from-china-to-india>

**Q.55) Mangalyaan, India's Mars Orbiter Mission spacecraft has completed seven earth years in its orbit in 2021. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. According to ISRO, the spacecraft has successfully covered three Martian years.
2. A Martian year is equivalent to approximately 687 Earth days or 1.88 Earth years.
3. India is the first country to have entered the Martian orbit in its first attempt.

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

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

**Q.55) Solution (d)**

Mangalyaan, India's Mars Orbiter Mission spacecraft has completed seven earth years in its orbit in 2021.

According to ISRO officials, the spacecraft has successfully covered three Martian years.

Mangalyaan, ISRO's maiden interplanetary mission, was launched from the Sriharikota spaceport on November 5, 2013.

The orbiter got inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt, making India the first Asian country to have successfully launched its Mars orbiter mission and also the first country to have entered the Martian orbit in its first attempt.

An important conclusion of the mission has been the finding that dust storms on the Martian can rise up to hundreds of kilometres.

Built at a cost of Rs. 4.5 billion, Mangalyaan is hailed for being much cheaper than NASA's Maven Orbiter, which was similar to India's Mars mission.

What are Martian years?

It is one of several units for timekeeping on Mars. A sol is slightly longer than an Earth day. It is approximately 24 hours, 39 minutes, 35 seconds long. A Martian year is approximately 668 sols, equivalent to approximately 687 Earth days or 1.88 Earth years.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/mangalyaan-7-years-in-orbit/article36978815.ece>

**Q.56) With reference to Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), consider the following statements:**

1. CAQM will be chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary.
2. The Commission has superseded bodies such as the central and state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan.
3. It will have the powers to issue directions to these state governments on issues pertaining to air pollution.

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

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

**Q.56) Solution (d)**

Significant decrease in stubble burning events in Punjab, Haryana and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas said according to a report based on the protocol framed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), paddy residue burning events have been reduced by 69.49 per cent in Punjab, 18.28 per cent in Haryana and 47.61 per cent in the eight NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh during a one-month period, as compared to the corresponding period last year.

The Commission for Air Quality Management was formed by an ordinance in October 2020, the “Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020”.

Chairperson: To be chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary.

The Commission will supersede bodies such as the central and state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan.

It will have the powers to issue directions to these state governments on issues pertaining to air pollution.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/significant-decrease-in-stubble-burning-events-in-punjab-haryana-and-ncr-districts-of-uttar-pradesh/article37002419.ece>

**Q.57) With reference to Global Hunger Index (GHI) ranks, consider the following statements:**

1. GHI ranks are based on the values of the four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality.
2. India is ahead of most of the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in GHI 2021 ranking.

**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.57) Solution (a)**

Global Hunger Index ranks India at 101 out of 116 countries

India is also among the 31 countries where hunger has been identified as serious. India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) released last year.

**India was also behind most of the neighbouring countries. Pakistan was placed at 92 rank, Nepal at 76 and Bangladesh also at 76.**

The Index tracks key indicators used to measure progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030 at national, regional, and global levels. Based on the values of the four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality- the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.

Somalia has the highest level of hunger according to the 2021 GHI ranking — its GHI score of 50.8 is considered extremely alarming, It is preceded by five countries with levels of hunger that are alarming — Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, and Yemen — and 31 countries that have serious levels of hunger.

Article Link:

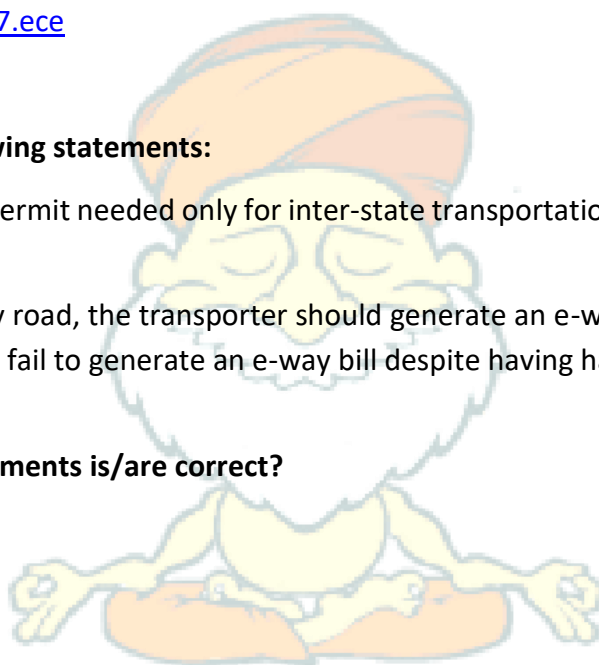
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/global-hunger-index-ranks-india-at-101-out-of-116-countries/article36998777.ece>

**Q.58) Consider the following statements:**

1. An e-way bill is a permit needed only for inter-state transportation of goods worth more than Rs. 50,000.
2. For conveyance by road, the transporter should generate an e-way bill, if both the consignor and the consignee fail to generate an e-way bill despite having handed over the goods to the transporter

**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.58) Solution (b)**

E-way bill not practical for gold jewellery business: merchants' council

The Jewellery Council said that the insistence on E-way bill prevented the free flow of business and could lead to "unnecessary" legal complications

The E-way bill is a system generated delivery note that contains the origin of the consignment, its destination; value, as well as details and Aadhar number of the carrier, vehicle number etc. The gold jewellers now follow these steps with delivery notes that are not system generated. He said that the demand for E-way bills also posed a great security threat as anyone could trace the movement of precious metal.



**An e-way bill is a permit needed for inter-state and intra-state transportation of goods worth more than Rs. 50,000.** It contains details of the goods, the consignor, the recipient and the transporter. It can be electronically generated through the GSTN.

Every registered person who may be a consignor, consignee, recipient or transporter should generate an e-way bill, if the transportation is being done through their own or hired means of transport (air/rail/road).

An unregistered person who is supplying to a registered recipient. Here, the recipient will need to follow the compliance procedure since the supplier is not registered.

The transporter should generate an e-way bill, if both the consignor and the consignee fail to generate an e-way bill despite having handed over the goods to the transporter, for conveyance by road.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/markets/e-way-bill-not-practical-for-gold-jewellery-business-merchants-council/article36999196.ece>

<https://www.zoho.com/in/books/gst/e-way-bill.html>

**Q.59) India gets re-elected to U.N. Human Rights Council for 2022-24 term. In this regard, consider the following statements:**

1. The members of the Council shall serve for a period of three years
2. The members of the Council are not be eligible for immediate re-election after three consecutive terms.

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

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

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

India gets re-elected to U.N. Human Rights Council for 2022-24 term

India got 184 votes in the 193-member assembly, while the required majority was 97

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world. The Council has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis. The headquarters of the Council is in Geneva, Switzerland.

***The members of the Council shall serve for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms.***

The membership is based on equitable geographical distribution, and seats are distributed among regional groups Group of African States (13), Group of Asia-Pacific States (13), Group of Eastern European States (6), Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (8) and Group of Western European and other States (7).

Article Link:

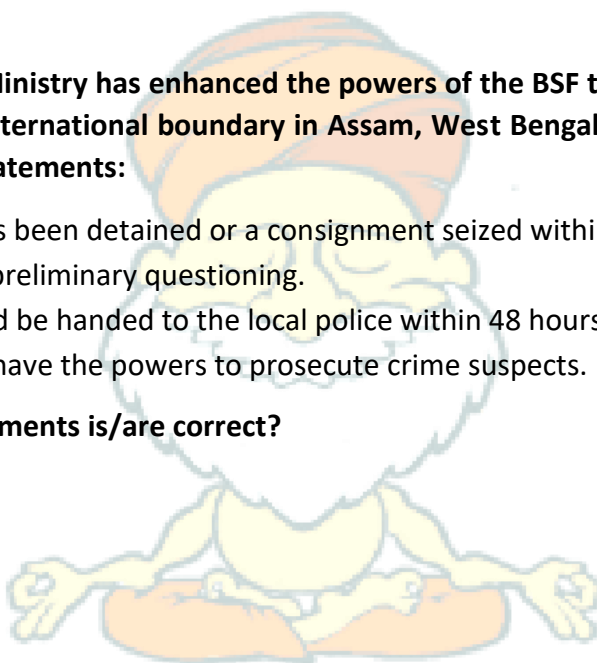
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-gets-re-elected-to-un-human-rights-council-for-2022-24-term/article36999783.ece?homepage=true>

**Q.60) The Union Home Ministry has enhanced the powers of the BSF to “arrest, search and seize” within 50 km from the international boundary in Assam, West Bengal and Punjab. In this regard, consider the following statements:**

1. After a suspect has been detained or a consignment seized within the specified area, the BSF can only conduct preliminary questioning.
2. The suspect should be handed to the local police within 48 hours.
3. The BSF does not have the powers to prosecute crime suspects.

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

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



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

The Union Home Ministry has enhanced the powers of the Border Security Force (BSF) to “arrest, search and seize” within 50 km from the international boundary in Assam, West Bengal and Punjab. Such operational powers of the BSF, a Central armed police force under the Union, will also be applicable to the newly created Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh,

Earlier, the BSF’s limit was fixed up to 80 km from the international boundary in Gujarat and 15 km in Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.

The October 11 notification replaces a 2014 order under the BSF Act, 1968, which also covered the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya.

After a suspect has been detained or a consignment seized within the specified area, the BSF can only conduct “preliminary questioning” and has to hand over the suspect to the local police **within 24 hours**. The BSF does not have the powers to prosecute crime suspects.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-enhances-powers-of-bsf-punjab-slams-move/article36993840.ece>

**Q.61) Consider the following statements:**

1. Parivahan/Vahan is web-based software developed and controlled by the National Informatics Centre.
2. State Motor Vehicles authority is entitled to blacklist a vehicle or incorporate the details of any crime in which a vehicle is involved on the Parivahan portal.

**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.61) Solution (b)**

Parivahan – Sewa project was the flagship project initiated by the Centre in the light of a new amendment to rule 139 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, which validated the electronic form of motor vehicle documents.

**The web-based software, called Parivahan/Vahan, developed by the National Informatics Centre and controlled by the Centre Road Transport Ministry** consisted of numerous modules and one such module is ‘Blacklist’, which includes the vehicle numbers and licence numbers having audit objections, complaints, court cases and check reports.

The provisions incorporated in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 ensured that sufficient details were included on the portal so as to caution the public at large in respect of the vehicle involved in any crime or cases.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/motor-vehicles-authority-can-blacklist-vehicle-kerala-hc/article37014892.ece>

**Q.62) With reference to rooftop photovoltaic solar energy, consider the following statements:**

1. A rooftop photovoltaic solar station has less capacity than the ground-mounted photovoltaic power stations.
2. A rooftop photovoltaic solar operation and maintenance is of higher costs in comparison with ground-based facilities.
3. India is the most cost-effective country for generating rooftop solar energy than China.

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

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

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

Rooftop mounted systems are small compared to ground-mounted photovoltaic power stations with capacities in the megawatt range, hence being a form of distributed generation. Most rooftop PV stations in developed countries are Grid-connected photovoltaic power systems. Rooftop PV systems on residential buildings typically feature a capacity of about 5 to 20 kilowatts (kW), while those mounted on commercial buildings often reach 100 kilowatts to 1 Megawatt (MW). Very large roofs can house industrial scale PV systems in the range of 1-10 Megawatts.

Rooftop PV solar operation and maintenance is of higher costs in comparison with ground-based facilities due to the distributed nature of rooftop facilities and harder access. In rooftop solar systems it typically takes a longer time to identify a malfunction and send a technician, due to lower availability of sufficient photovoltaic system performance monitoring tools and higher costs of human labor.

A global study has found that India is the most cost-effective country for generating rooftop solar energy at \$66 per megawatt-hour, while the cost in China is marginally higher at \$68 per megawatt-hour.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/rooftop-solar-india-most-cost-effective/article37014802.ece>

**Q.63) Consider the following statements:**

1. In order to stabilize global warming at any level, emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, need to be reduced.
2. In sectors such as agriculture and aviation, bringing emissions to zero may not be possible.

**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.63) Solution (b)

In order to stabilize global warming at any level, emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, ***need to be eliminated; reducing them is not enough***. Other greenhouse gases such as methane also need to be constrained.

However, in sectors such as agriculture and aviation, bringing emissions to zero may not be possible. Therefore, the only approach is to draw sufficient greenhouse gases from the atmosphere to balance out emissions that remain – so that emissions reach ‘net zero’.

If negative emissions and positive emissions are balanced, global warming should stabilise. Currently the only greenhouse gas for which negative emissions are feasible at scale is carbon dioxide.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/us-india-ministerial-dialogue-adds-focus-on-climate-finance/article37014798.ece>

<https://eciu.net/analysis/briefings/net-zero/negative-emissions-why-what-how>

### Q.64) Consider the following statements:

1. Under the terms of the nuclear deal, Iran was prohibited from enriching uranium above 20% with the exception of its research reactor activities.
2. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for limits on its nuclear programme
3. Scientists estimate that at least 170 kg of enriched uranium is needed to make a bomb.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

### Q.64) Solution (b)

Under the terms of the nuclear deal, Iran was prohibited from enriching uranium ***above 3.67%*** with the exception of its research reactor activities. Enriched uranium above 90% can be used in a nuclear weapon.

In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 20% fissile purity was estimated at 84.3 kg up from 62.8 kg three months earlier.

Scientists estimate that at least 170 kg of enriched uranium is needed to make a bomb.

The nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for limits on its nuclear programme, and is meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb.

Article Link:

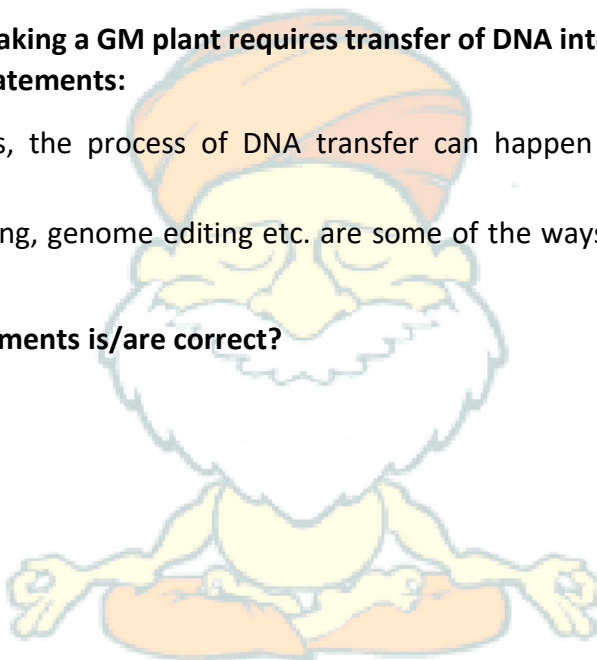
<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/iran-makes-20-more-enriched-uranium/article36935932.ece>

**Q.65) The first stage in making a GM plant requires transfer of DNA into a plant cell. In this regard, consider the following statements:**

1. On rare occasions, the process of DNA transfer can happen without deliberate human intervention.
2. Mutational breeding, genome editing etc. are some of the ways to change the genomes of crops.

**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)**

Karnataka is witnessing a fresh round of opposition to Genetically Modified (GM) crops and technology with various groups comprising farmers, organic farming associations, and experts petitioning the government against issuing no-objection certificate (NOC) to a private company to carry out restricted field trials of Bt cotton and Bt maize.

On rare occasions, the process of DNA transfer can happen without deliberate human intervention. For example the sweet potato contains DNA sequences that were transferred thousands of years ago, from Agrobacterium bacteria into the sweet potato genome.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/farmers-experts-urge-govt-not-to-allow-field-trials-of-bt-cotton-maize/article37015270.ece>

<https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/gm-plants/what-is-gm-and-how-is-it-done/>

**Q.66) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India medical devices are governed by the Medical Devices Rules (MDR) 2017.
2. MDR 2017 was meticulously developed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

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

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

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

The Central government has constituted a committee for framing/preparing new drugs, cosmetics and medical device laws. The eight-member panel, headed by Drug Controller General of India V.G. Somani, is scheduled to submit a draft document by November 30.

According to the order issued by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, "The government has decided to constitute a committee for framing/preparation of New Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Bill so that New Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Act can be framed."

The proposed drugs, cosmetics and medical devices Bill should align with the Medical Devices Rules (MDR), 2017, experts have said.

Chairman of the Medical Technology Association of India said medical devices were governed by the MDR 2017, which were meticulously developed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) after extensive consultations with stakeholders.

"These rules also follow the World Health Organization Regulatory Framework for Medical Devices (including in vitro diagnostics) and adhere to the step-wise approach to regulating medical devices based on guidance documents developed by the Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF) and the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF)."

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/industry-seeks-role-in-framing-regulations-for-medical-devices/article37034028.ece>

**Q.67) Which of the following are the two major recommendations of the proposed National Water Policy (NWP)?**



1. Shift focus from endlessly increasing supply of water towards measures for demand-management
2. Shift focus to emphasize on agility, resilience and flexibility in water management.
3. Shift in focus within the supply-side because the country is running out of sites for further construction of large dams

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

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

**Q.67) Solution (a)**

Two major recommendations of the proposed NWP

The two major recommendations are one: shift focus from endlessly increasing supply of water towards measures for demand-management. This means diversifying cropping pattern to include less water-intensive crops. It also needs lowering the industrial water footprint, among the highest in the world by reducing fresh water use and shifting to recycled water. Cities must mandatorily shift all non-potable uses, such as flushing, fire protection, vehicle washing, landscaping etc. to treated wastewater.

Two: shift in focus within the supply-side also because the country is running out of sites for further construction of large dams, while water tables and groundwater quality are falling in many areas.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/shift-focus-to-demand-management-of-water/article37034034.ece>

**Q.68) Consider the following statements with respect to Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016.**

1. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change shall constitute 'Central Monitoring Committee' to monitor and review SWM every year.
2. Ministry of Urban Development shall facilitate infrastructure for waste-to-Energy plants and provide subsidy
3. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy shall frame National Policy on SWM and coordinate with States/UTs, provide technical guidelines, financial support, training to local bodies, etc

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

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

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

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change shall constitute 'Central Monitoring Committee' to monitor and review every year.

MNRE shall facilitate infrastructure for waste-to-Energy plants and provide subsidy

MoUD shall frame National Policy on SWM and coordinate with States/UTs, provide technical guidelines, financial support, training to local bodies, etc

Article Link:

[https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/MSW/Salient features SWM Rules.pdf](https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/MSW/Salient_features_SWM_Rules.pdf)

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/bulk-waste-generators-who-fail-to-set-up-on-site-composting-units-have-to-pay-fine/article37034571.ece>

**Q.69) Which of the following is/are the current problems faced by the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world.**

1. The cyclones that hit the Sundarban once every eight to ten years are now stirring once or twice a year.
2. Present river embankments failed to prevent cyclones or tidal surges. As a result, the saline water is flooding the agricultural lands
3. The river in the Sunderbans changes its course for different causes lots of time, due to which people have to leave their habitat and farming lands

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

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

**Q.69) Solution (d)**

The Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, and the 70 lakhs people, animals, inhabit this island, and the environment are in dire straits. Especially Aila in 2009, Bulbul in 2019, super cyclone Amphan in 2020, and recently this year the very severe super cyclone Yaas slammed over

Sundarban and flooded the villages, livelihood of people, animal dwellings and the rare Mangroves by breaching the river embankments. The frequent occurrences of the cyclones have imposed difficult situations on the entire ecosystem of Sundarban.

The Current Problem:

The cyclones that hit the Sundarban once every eight to ten years are now stirring once or twice a year.

Present river embankments failed to prevent cyclones or tidal surges. As a result, the saline water is flooding the agricultural lands with the human inhabitant lands and it takes two to three years to make the saline water inundated agricultural lands cultivable.

The saline water after entering the villages is not going back to the rivers naturally causing pain to the people's lives and livelihood.

Lots of times, the river changes its course for different causes. For this reason, people have to leave their habitat and farming lands. Again, the transport system is being disrupted due to the emergence of new islands between different waterways

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/saline-soil-reclamation-works-wonders-in-sundarbans/article37034309.ece>

**Q.70) With reference to National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), consider the following statements:**

1. NSCN has been demanding a separate flag and Constitution
2. India's Ministry of Home Affairs labels NSCN a major insurgent group

**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.70) Solution (c)**

NSCN-IM has been demanding a separate flag and Constitution (Yehzabo) which the government of India had rejected.

India's Ministry of Home Affairs labels NSCN a major insurgent group

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) is a Naga nationalist separatist group operating mainly in Northeast India, with minor activities in northwest Myanmar (Burma) until 2012. The main

aim of the organization is to establish a sovereign Naga state, "Nagalim", which would consist of all the areas inhabited by the Naga people in Northeast India and Northwest Myanmar. The NSCN's slogan is "Nagaland for Christ". The group is currently fighting for the separation of Nagaland from India.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/nscn-i-m-remains-firm-on-flag-as-talks-resume/article37034099.ece>

**Q.71) WHO made a historic announcement, endorsing the first-ever malaria vaccine, RTS,S, among children in sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. RTS,S/AS01 is a recombinant protein-based vaccine that acts against Plasmodium vivax malaria
2. Plasmodium vivax is believed to be the deadliest malaria parasite globally
3. RTS,S/AS01 reportedly offers no protection against Plasmodium falciparum malaria

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

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

**Q.71) Solution (d)**

RTS,S/AS01 is a recombinant protein-based vaccine that acts against *Plasmodium falciparum*, believed to be the deadliest malaria parasite globally and the most prevalent in Africa. It reportedly offers no protection against Plasmodium vivax malaria, found in many countries outside Africa.

The development of the vaccine was led by pharma major GSK over 30 years ago. In 2001, GSK began collaborating with PATH's Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI). A five-year Phase 3 efficacy and safety trial that concluded in 2014 was implemented through a partnership between GSK and MVI, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a network of African research centres.

Pilots were launched in Malawi, Ghana, and Kenya over 2019.

In India Bharat Biotech has entered into a partnership with GSK for technology transfer and production.

Article Link:

<https://www.malariavaccine.org/malaria-and-vaccines/rtss>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/vaccine-for-malaria/article37033988.ece>

**Q.72) With reference to Bottom trawling, consider the following statements:**

1. Bottom trawling is also referred to as "dragging".
2. Demersal trawling is towing a net at the very bottom of the ocean
3. Benthic trawling is towing a net just above the demersal zone

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

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

**Q.72) Solution (b)**

Protest in Sri Lanka demanding implementation of laws against bottom trawling

Bottom trawling is trawling (towing a trawl, which is a fishing net) along the seafloor. It is also referred to as "dragging".

The scientific community divides bottom trawling into benthic trawling and demersal trawling.

***Benthic trawling is towing a net at the very bottom of the ocean and demersal trawling is towing a net just above the benthic zone***

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/implement-laws-against-bottom-trawling-say-sri-lankan-fishers/article37047273.ece>

**Q.73) Consider the following statements:**

1. Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines is located at Odisha
2. The people living in Gandhamardan hills are from the Nahra community, who are not included in the Scheduled Tribes list.

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

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

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

The Gandhamardan Loading and Transporting Cooperative Society were created to take care of villages situated around the mines. An amount is set aside for the society for every truck that rolls

out with iron ore from the mines. According to local people, the cooperative society has recently started paying Rs. 5,000 per month for each family affected by the mining activities.

The people are directly affected by pollution caused by iron ore mining. The waste water flows through their village and during summer, the dust blankets the whole village.

Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines is located at Odisha

Another problem the villagers face is their caste identity. “We are from the Nahra community. Going by our social conditions and descriptions in the gazette, we should be included in the Scheduled Tribes list.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/mining-affected-villagers-in-odisha-denied-relief/article37034029.ece>

**Q.74) With reference to the Hypersonic Glide Vehicles, Consider the following statements:**

1. Only USA, Russia and China are developing Hypersonic Glide Vehicles
2. These are launched on rockets and then orbit the earth on their own speed.
3. They are easy to track because like ballistic missiles, they follow the fixed parabolic trajectory.

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

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

**Q.74) Solution (c)**

Only USA Russia and China are developing hypersonic glide vehicles, that are launched on rockets and then orbit the earth on their own speed. ***They are difficult to track because unlike ballistic missiles, they “do not follow the fixed parabolic trajectory”.***

China tested ‘nuclear capable hypersonic missile’, test would post a big challenge to U.S. missile defence systems because “the weapon could, in theory, fly over the South Pole.” “That would pose a big challenge for the U.S. military because its missiles defence systems are focused on the northern polar route,”

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/china-tested-nuclear-capable-hypersonic-missile-says-report/article37046959.ece>

**Q.75) With reference to Exercise Yudh Abhyas, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the bilateral exercise between India and Russia
2. It is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between the two countries.

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

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

**Q.75) Solution (b)**

The 17th edition of the **India - USA** bilateral exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2021, got under way at the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, U.S., with the two sides set to hone their skills in counter-terror operations in mountainous terrain and cold climate conditions.

Interestingly, this is the only India-U.S. service exercise continuing in bilateral format.

The 14-day training schedule includes activities on joint training in counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism environment under the U.N. mandate, the Army said.

“This will help them in undertaking joint operations at the battalion level in mountainous terrain with cold climatic conditions under the ambit of the U.N.”

Exercise Yudh Abhyas is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavour between the two countries, the Army said.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-us-militaries-match-skills-in-alaska/article37046965.ece>

**Q.76) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is the second-largest producer and the third-largest exporter of tea in the world.
2. One of the reasons for the decline in tea export of India is failure to tap into the increasingly popular green tea market

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

- a) 1 only



- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

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

Exports of tea from India registered a fall of about 14.4% in the first seven months of 2021 compared with the same period last year.

India is the second-largest producer and the third-largest exporter of tea in the world.

Our 2021 research report on Tea Exports suggests that one of the main reasons for the decline in the overall tea exports of the country can be attributed to the scarcity of variety in India's product mix and the failure to tap into the increasingly popular green tea market. More green tea exports could prove to be beneficial to India given the 14% higher average export price it enjoys over black tea globally.

However, interestingly, according to S&P Global Portal, Gujarat-- a semi-arid state where there are no tea plantations exported US\$ 24 million worth of tea in FY 2019-20. Top tea export companies in India and several small and medium manufacturers' process and export tea from Gujarat, thus helping this western state garner popularity in the tea sector and potentially become a tea export hub.

Iran is the largest export destination for Indian tea by a margin of 26%.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/tea-exports-fall-14-in-first-7-months-of-2021/article37063782.ece>

<https://www.dripcapital.com/en-in/resources/blog/tea-exports-from-india>

**Q.77) With reference to Tamil Nadu urban employment scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme is based on the recommendations made by a committee led by former RBI Governor C. Rangarajan.
2. Not less than 50% of the total person days under the Scheme would be earmarked for women.
3. Women and men would be paid the same wages for the same unskilled and semi-skilled work.

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

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

**Q.77) Solution (d)**

Tamil Nadu to implement urban employment scheme

The State government has issued orders to implement the Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme

It is aimed at improving livelihood and social security.

No less than 50% of the total person days under the Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme would be earmarked for women.

Women and men would be paid the same wages for the same unskilled and semi-skilled work.

The scheme is based on the recommendations made by a committee led by former RBI Governor C. Rangarajan. An initial allocation of ₹100 crore has been made during 2021-22 for the scheme.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-to-implement-urban-employment-scheme/article36994495.ece>

**Q.78) Consider the following statements:**

1. Buddhists believe that Gautama Buddha delivered his last sermon and attained 'Mahaparinirvana' or salvation in Kushinagar
2. Kushinagar was the capital of Kosala Kingdom and according to Ramayana it was built by King Kush

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

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

**Q.78) Solution (c)**

Kushinagar is a town in the Kushinagar district of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautam Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana after his death. It is an international Buddhist pilgrimage centre.

According to one theory, Kushinagar was the capital of Kosala Kingdom and according to Ramayana it was built by King Kush, son of Rama, protagonist of the epic Ramayana. While according to Buddhist tradition Kushavati was named prior to the king Kush. The naming of Kushvati is believed to be due to abundance of Kush grass found in this region.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/kushinagar-connect-to-sri-lanka/article37063970.ece>

**Q.79) Abraham Accords brokered by the U.S.A established diplomatic relations with which of the following countries:**

- a) India and UK
- b) UAE and Israel
- c) Israel and USA
- d) UAE and Qatar

**Q.79) Solution (b)**

Jaishankar, Israeli counterpart meet in Jerusalem, also hold quadrilateral meet with the U.S. and UAE

The quadrilateral meeting, seen as an outcome of last year's Abraham Accords brokered by the U.S. that saw the UAE and Israel establish diplomatic relations, also underlines India's close relationships with both the West Asian countries and Washington.

The push for an FTA between India and Israel is the latest in a series of attempts to negotiate a trade agreement over the past 14 years.

Lapsed talks

Both in 2007, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and in 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that an FTA would be completed, but talks have lapsed over a number of issues.

During the last round of talks, both sides explored the possibility of a limited trade deal or a Preferential Trade Agreement for about 200 goods, which had also not been concluded.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-israel-fta-talks-back-on-track/article37063939.ece>

**Q.80) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Supreme Court held that part-time employees are not entitled to seek regularization as they are not working against any sanctioned post in the Government.
2. The SC said that regularization could be only as per the policy declared by the Government and nobody can claim the regularization as a matter of right

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

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

**Q.80) Solution (c)**

The Supreme Court has held that part-time employees are not entitled to seek regularization as they are not working against any sanctioned post in the Government.

The Supreme Court said that there cannot be any permanent continuance of part-time temporary employees.

The status of permanency cannot be granted when there is no post. It is further observed that mere continuance every year of seasonal work during the period when work was available does not constitute a permanent status

The SC said it was a settled proposition of law that regularization could be only as per the policy declared by the Government and “nobody can claim the regularization as a matter of right

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/part-time-employees-not-entitled-to-regularisation-sc/article37063968.ece>

**Q.81) Consider the following statements:**

1. Israel has occupied the West Bank since the Six Day War of 1967
2. The West Bank lies entirely within the drainage system of the Jordan River

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

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

**Q.81) Solution (a)**

Israel granted approval on Tuesday for 4,000 Palestinians to register as residents of the West Bank, the first such move in the Israeli-occupied territory in 12 years.

West Bank, Arabic Al-Ḍaffah al-Gharbiyyah, Hebrew Ha-Gadah Ha-Ma'aravit, area of the former British-mandated (1920–47) territory of Palestine west of the Jordan River, claimed from 1949 to 1988 as part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan but occupied from 1967 by Israel. The territory, excluding East Jerusalem, is also known within Israel by its biblical names, Judaea and Samaria.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the Six Day War of 1967 and exercises full administrative control across much of the territory.

***The West Bank does not lie entirely within the drainage system of the Jordan River, as elevated areas in the west give rise to the headwaters of streams flowing westward to the Mediterranean Sea.***

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/israel-clears-residency-for-palestinians/article37081823.ece>

**Q.82) The Greater Chennai Corporation has planned to promote more factories to convert plastic waste to fuel oil. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. The plant will process waste using pyrolysis, a proven technology against the incineration of waste plastics.
2. The plant will also be able to produce hydrogen.
3. Fossil fuel is required for the operation of the plant.

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

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

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

The Greater Chennai Corporation has planned to promote more factories under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode to convert plastic waste to fuel oil.

The first plant will process waste using pyrolysis, a proven technology against the incineration of waste plastics. The plant has been designed and manufactured by Bioneer Green Energy, and automated by Unique Industrial Automation Pvt. Ltd., Madurai. It has been established by Entice Renewable Energy Pvt. Ltd. along with the Corporation.

In pyrolysis, combustible materials, such as plastic, rubber, wood, tyres, straw and garden waste, are converted into useful products, such as fuel oil and carbon, without any pollution. The plant will also be able to produce hydrogen.

***Fossil fuel is not required for the operation of the plant.***

Pyrolysis is one of the technologies available to convert biomass to an intermediate liquid product that can be refined to drop-in hydrocarbon biofuels, oxygenated fuel additives and petrochemical replacements.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/plastic-waste-conversion-plant-to-begin-operations-this-month/article37082099.ece>

**Q.83) Low calcium intake widespread in Indians. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. Osteoporosis makes the bones brittle and fragile with age due to hormonal changes and lack of calcium and vitamin D in the body.
2. This disease shows no symptom but makes the older population vulnerable to fractures.
3. The WHO recommends daily calcium intake of 750 mg

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

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

**Q.83) Solution (c)**

‘Low calcium intake widespread in Indians

In a land of abundant sunshine, 50 million Indians are estimated to be affected by osteoporosis, that makes the bones brittle and fragile with age due to hormonal changes and lack of calcium and vitamin D in the body.

Medical experts sounded alarm bells about the disease that shows no symptom but makes the older population vulnerable to fractures.

Osteoporosis can be managed with treatment but not cured, he said.

Treatment cost for osteoporosis is quite high but because it is not life-threatening, people tend to be careless. Osteoporotic fractures continue to be on the rise with the spine, hips, wrist and femur, the easiest to damage.

The World Health Organisation recommends daily calcium intake **of 1,000 mg**. “But Indians average less than 500 mg. It leads to low peak bone mass as years add on,

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/low-calcium-intake-vitamin-d-deficiency-widespread-in-indians/article37082402.ece>

**Q.84) India is importing sand from Malaysia. In this regard, consider the following statements:**

1. The sand import from Malaysia will prevent exploitation of the State’s natural resources
2. The sand import from Malaysia will put brakes on illegal sand supply
3. Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) is the nodal agency to facilitate sourcing and distribution of imported sand

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

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

**Q.84) Solution (d)**

Malaysian firm emerged as the lowest bidder for sand export to India. Sand will be imported through a ship and a ship-load contains around 40,000 to 50,000 metric tonnes. This will be sufficient to bring down the sand prices that have been skyrocketing, moreover, it will prevent exploitation of the State's natural resources, sources said.

Sources said that sand import from Malaysia will put brakes on illegal sand supply and also the trade where sand is mixed with mud. Packaged sand will put an end to all these issues.

The process of packing and deciding the prices has already begun and prices will be fixed by the MSIL as per the requirement and demand of districts, sources said.

The government had pegged the requirement of imported sand at three lakh metric tonnes per month and had appointed MSIL as the nodal agency to facilitate sourcing and distribution of imported sand

Article Link:

<https://starofmysore.com/msil-distribute-sand-malaysia-ease-shortage/>

**Q.85) Scientists are developing disease-resistant arecanut palms. In this regard, consider the following statements:**

1. It is caused by bacteria phytoplasma where arecanut leaves turn yellow when afflicted with the disease.
2. Kernel of the nuts of disease-affected palms become soft
3. The disease is transmitted by the plant-hopper insect

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

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

**Q.85) Solution (d)**

Efforts on to develop disease-resistant arecanut palms

Healthy plants will be selected from plantations that have been facing the disease for at least 15-20 years now. Such selected plants should be in a position to bear arecanut. These plants will be further subjected to intensive observation and research for another two years leading to final selection. Steps will be taken to develop a disease-resistant variety after that selection, he said.

Caused by bacteria phytoplasma, arecanut leaves turn yellow when afflicted with the disease. Kernel of the nuts of disease-affected palms become soft, showing blackish discolouration, leading to a spongy texture. The disease is transmitted by the plant-hopper insect *Proutista moesta*.



Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/efforts-on-to-develop-disease-resistant-arecanut-palms/article37082408.ece>

**Q.86) With reference to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), Consider the following statements:**

1. NDC are non-binding national plans highlighting climate actions
2. NDCs are submitted every five years to the UNFCCC secretariat
3. The Paris Agreement requests each country to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their NDCs.

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

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

**Q.86) Solution (d)**

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) 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.

India submitted its INDC to the UNFCCC in October 2015, committing to cut the emissions intensity of GDP by 33–35% by 2030 from 2005 levels

The Paris Agreement requests each country to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their NDCs.

NDCs are submitted every five years to the UNFCCC secretariat. In order to enhance the ambition over time the Paris Agreement provides that successive NDCs will represent a progression compared to the previous NDC and reflect its highest possible ambition.

Parties are requested to submit the next round of NDCs (new NDCs or updated NDCs) by 2020 and every five years thereafter (e.g. by 2020, 2025, 2030), regardless of their respective implementation time frames.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/pm-to-attend-climate-meet-in-glasgow/article37119035.ece>

**Q.87) FATF places Pakistan under increased monitoring, In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. This means the country has committed to resolve swiftly the identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes and is subject to increased monitoring.
2. This list is often externally referred to as the “grey list”.

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

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

**Q.87) Solution (c)**

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan in the ‘greylist’ observing that it needed to further demonstrate that investigations and prosecutions were being pursued against the senior leadership of UN-designated terror groups, which include the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

FATF said Pakistan remained under increased monitoring. The FATF also announced the ‘greylisting’ of Jordan, Mali and Turkey. At the previous Plenary, the FATF had kept Pakistan in the list of “jurisdictions under increased monitoring” owing to its failure in prosecuting the top operatives of terror groups.

When the FATF places a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, it means the country has committed to resolve swiftly the identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes and is subject to increased monitoring. This list is often externally referred to as the “grey list”.

Article Link:

<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/high-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/documents/increased-monitoring-october-2021.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/pakistan-retained-on-fatfs-greylist-again/article37119288.ece>

**Q.88) With respect to the Quality Council of India (QCI), Consider the following statements:**

1. The QCI was set up on the model existing in USA at the time
2. It is funded by the Government of India
3. Chairman of QCI is nominated by the Prime Minister of India

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

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

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

The Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up as a public private partnership model on the model existing in **Netherlands** at the time

QCI thus, came to be organized as an independent autonomous body that worked towards assuring quality standards across all spheres of economic and social activities.

The Council is independent and works under the directions of its Governing Body (GB) having equal representation of government, industry and industry associations. **It does not get funded by the government and is a self-sustaining non-profit organization** with its own Memorandum of Association (MOA) and Rules. Chairman of QCI is nominated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and is a non-executive post.

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quality\\_Council\\_of\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quality_Council_of_India)

**Q.89) With reference to Punnapra-Vayalar uprising, consider the following statements:**

1. The revolt was led by the undivided CPI
2. It is named after two prominent leaders involved in the uprising.

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

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

**Q.89) Solution (a)**

Punnapra-Vayalar uprising anniversary observance begins

The communist parties consider the Punnapra-Vayalar uprising against the Maharaja of erstwhile Travancore and his Devan (prime minister) C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer a part of the freedom struggle. Labourers armed with areca nut staves and choppers put up a brave fight but the government forces with guns overpowered them and several people lost their lives.

The revolt led by the undivided CPI then is celebrated as a watershed event in the history of the Communist movement in the State. **It is named after two of the places involved.**

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/punnapra-vayalar-uprising-anniversary-observance-begins/article37101988.ece>

**Q.90) With reference to Emergency Use Listing (EUL), consider the following statements:**

1. The EUL procedure assesses the suitability of novel health products during public health emergencies.
2. The objective is to make medicines, vaccines and diagnostics available as rapidly as possible to address the emergency, while adhering to stringent criteria of safety, efficacy and quality.

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

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

**Q.90) Solution (d)**

The Emergency Use Listing (EUL) procedure assesses the suitability of novel health products during public health emergencies.

The objective is to make medicines, vaccines and diagnostics available as rapidly as possible to address the emergency, while adhering to stringent criteria of safety, efficacy and quality. The assessment weighs the threat posed by the emergency as well as the benefit that would accrue from the use of the product against any potential risks.

The EUL pathway involves a rigorous assessment of late phase II and phase III clinical trial data as well as substantial additional data on safety, efficacy, quality and a risk management plan. These data are reviewed by independent experts and WHO teams who consider the current body of evidence on the vaccine under consideration, the plans for monitoring its use, and plans for further studies.

As part of the EUL process, the company producing the vaccine must commit to continue to generate data to enable full licensure and WHO prequalification of the vaccine. The WHO prequalification process will assess additional clinical data generated from vaccine trials and deployment on a rolling basis to ensure the vaccine meets the necessary standards of quality, safety and efficacy for broader availability.

Article Link:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/07-05-2021-who-lists-additional-covid-19-vaccine-for-emergency-use-and-issues-interim-policy-recommendations>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/who-chief-discusses-covaxin-approval-with-mandaviya/article37101520.ece>

**Q.91) With respect to the Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), Consider the following statements:**

1. It is India's first dedicated climate change fund
2. The aim is to leverage private sector investment from USA to invest in Green Infrastructure Projects in India.

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

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

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

Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), India's first dedicated climate change fund.

The aim of GGEF is to leverage private sector investment from **United Kingdom** to invest in Green Infrastructure Projects in India.

Article Link:

<https://www.eversourcecapital.com/about/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/cdc-invests-70-million-in-climate-fund/article37134572.ece>

**Q.92) Site Directed Nuclease (SDN) technology aim to bring precision and efficiency into the breeding process using gene editing tools such as CRISPR. In this regard consider the following statements.**

1. SDN genome editing involves the use of different DNA-cutting enzymes (nucleases) that are directed to cut the DNA at a predetermined location
2. In this method, the gene which are already present in the plant will be tweaked and no gene will be brought from outside.
3. It is much faster and far more precise than natural mutation or conventional breeding methods

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

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

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

New technologies such as Site Directed Nuclease (SDN) 1 and 2 aim to bring precision and efficiency into the breeding process using gene editing tools such as CRISPR

Site-Directed Nuclease (SDN) genome editing involves the use of different DNA-cutting enzymes (nucleases) that are directed to cut the DNA at a predetermined location by a range of different DNA binding systems. After the cut is made, the cell's own DNA repair mechanism recognizes the break and repairs the damage, using one of two pathways that are naturally present in cells:

non-homologous end-joining (NHEJ): The cut DNA is rejoined, but while doing this a few base pairs may be eaten away or added resulting in random small deletions (up to 20) or additions (a few base pairs) of nucleotides at the cut site.

homology-directed repair (HDR): a donor DNA that carries the desired change and has homology with the target site is used to introduce this change at the cut site. In this way you can introduce specific intentional insertions, changes or deletions.

"In this case, you are just tweaking a gene that is already there in the plant, without bringing in any gene from outside. When a protein comes from an outside organism, then you need to test for safety. But in this case, this protein is right there in the plant, and is being changed a little bit, just as nature does through mutation. "But it is much faster and far more precise than natural mutation or conventional breeding methods which involve trial and error and multiple breeding cycles.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/gene-editing-guidelines-facing-delay/article37118641.ece>

**Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to Article 131**

1. It cannot be used to settle political differences between state and central governments headed by different parties.
2. For the Supreme Court to accept a suit under Article 131, the state should show that its legal right is violated.

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

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

**Q.93) Solution (a)**

For a dispute to qualify as a dispute under Article 131, it has to necessarily be between states and the Centre, and must involve a question of law or fact on which the existence of a legal right of the state or the Centre depends.

In a 1978 judgment, *State of Karnataka v Union of India*, Justice P N Bhagwati had said that for the Supreme Court to accept a suit under Article 131, ***the state need not show that its legal right is violated, but only that the dispute involves a legal question.***

Article 131 cannot be used to settle political differences between state and central governments headed by different parties.

Under Article 131, the challenge is made when the rights and power of a state or the Centre are in question.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/bengal-cant-bar-cbi-centre-tells-sc/article37134440.ece>

**Q.94) Consider the following statements:**

1. Smerch is the longest range conventional rocket system in the Indian Army's inventory
2. Smerch is procured from Russia
3. Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher indigenously designed and developed by the DRDO

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

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

**Q.94) Solution (d)**

India's military posture in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh has added an offensive punch with the Army deploying Pinaka and Smerch long-range, multi-barrel rocket launch systems as well as BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles in the region.

Smerch, procured from Russia, is the longest range conventional rocket system in the Army's inventory with a maximum range of 90 km

A battery of four launchers can fire a salvo of 48 rockets in 40 seconds, neutralising an area of 1200mX1200m

Pinaka, multiple rocket launcher, indigenously designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, has a range of 38 km. "A battery of six launchers of Pinaka can fire a salvo of 72 rockets in 44 seconds, thereby neutralising an area of 1000mX800m

The upgraded version of the Pinaka ammunition systems were already in production line and could fire up to a range of 75 km with superior precision

Both Pinaka and Smerch have 12 rockets in each launcher. "In high-attitude areas, the ranges are enhanced significantly which further augments the deep strike capability of the weapon system,"

Article Link:



<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/armys-array-of-rocket-systems-along-lac/article37134018.ece>

**Q.95) Konkan Shakti, the first tri-service exercise is conducted between India and which of the following nation?**

- a) USA
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Japan
- d) Russia

**Q.95) Solution (b)**

As the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) gets ready for one of the biggest joint exercises — Konkan Shakti — with India's armed forces

United Kingdom's Aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth aims to strengthen cultural ties with India

HMS Queen Elizabeth has an added task — it aims to strengthen military as well as cultural ties with India with an intent to “demonstrate that democracies that have similar views of the world want to work together to keep peace and stability”.

Stationed 50 miles off the Mumbai coast, this is the first aircraft carrier in the world, designed from the outset to operate fifth generation combat aircraft, which will be hosting members from industry, trade, science and technology in coming days, including a chef.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/uk-india-joint-military-exercise-is-to-keep-peace-and-stability-csg-top-officer/article37119223.ece>

**Q.96) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Bay of Bengal is historically the warmer ocean that seeds low pressures and cyclones that bring rain to India.
2. In recent years, the Arabian Sea too has been warmer than normal, and leading to significant cyclonic activity.

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

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

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

October is the month when the southwest monsoon entirely retreats from India and the northeast monsoon sets in, bringing rain over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Both low pressures as well as western disturbances are tangentially connected to the larger pattern of global warming.

The Bay of Bengal is historically the warmer ocean that seeds low pressures and cyclones that bring rain to India.

In recent years however, the Arabian Sea, too, has been warmer than normal, and leading to significant cyclonic activity.

Overall elevated temperatures are also contributing to warmer waters in the Arctic Ocean and drawing colder air from the poles with greater intensity. This added to the increased moisture, thereby seeding more intense western disturbance activity over north India.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/why-is-india-facing-bouts-of-extreme-weather/article37146113.ece>

**Q.97) With respect to Insulin consider the following statements:**

1. Insulin is a hormone secreted by the b cells of the pancreas.
2. It is commonly associated with an ability to regulate glucose metabolism.
3. It plays a larger role and helps in growth and maintenance of tissues.

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

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

**Q.97) Solution (d)**

New light on how insulin signaling affects tissue health

Insulin is a hormone secreted by the b cells of the pancreas. It is commonly associated with an ability to regulate glucose metabolism. However, later studies (from around 1949 until recently) have shown it plays a larger role and helps in growth and maintenance of tissues. Despite years of study, fundamental details as to how differential amounts of insulin impact cells are unknown.

An important mechanism in the cell is insulin signaling, which is a series of biochemical reactions that convey information about availability of insulin and the necessity to regulate the glucose in the blood.

There are two main pathways for insulin signaling, named AKT and ERK, which together balance metabolism and growth. These specifically control storage of glucose in the liver and also stimulate glucose transport in skeletal muscle and fat. Abnormalities in insulin signaling thus impact health and survival itself of organisms and the study addresses an important piece of the puzzle.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sci-tech-and-agri/new-light-on-how-insulin-signalling-affects-tissue-health/article37146177.ece>

**Q.98) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Centre can issue directions to a state to implement the laws made by Parliament
2. If states does not comply with the directions, the Centre can move to the court
3. Chief Secretaries of the states are responsible for implementing laws in the state

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

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

**Q.98) Solution (d)**

The Centre has other powers to ensure that its laws are implemented. The Centre can issue directions to a state to implement the laws made by Parliament. If states do not comply with the directions, the Centre can move the court seeking a permanent injunction against the states to force them to comply with the law. Non-compliance of court orders can result in contempt of court, and the court usually hauls up the chief secretaries of the states responsible for implementing laws.

Is it unusual for states to challenge laws made by Parliament?

Under the Constitution, laws made by Parliament are presumed to be constitutional until a court holds otherwise. However, in India's quasi-federal constitutional structure, inter-governmental disputes are not uncommon.

The framers of the Constitution expected such differences, and added the exclusive original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for their resolution. The quasi-federal structure envisaged in 1950 has consolidated into defined powers of the states.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/bengal-cant-bar-cbi-centre-tells-sc/article37134440.ece>

**Q.99) A memory B cell (MBC) is a type of B lymphocyte that forms part of the adaptive immune system. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. The memory B cells, which evolve in the lymph nodes, get triggered on subsequent infection or vaccination.
2. The people who recovered from COVID-19 when re-exposed to the spike protein; the memory B cells are capable of churning out highly potent antibodies.

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

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

**Q.99) Solution (c)**

In immunology, a memory B cell (MBC) is a type of B lymphocyte that forms part of the adaptive immune system.

The immunological advantage from hybrid immunity arises mostly from memory B cells. While the bulk of antibodies after infection or vaccination decline after a short while, the memory B cells, which evolve in the lymph nodes, get triggered on subsequent infection or vaccination. So when people who recovered from COVID-19 are re-exposed to the spike protein, the memory B cells are capable of churning out highly potent antibodies.

“Differences between the memory B cells triggered by infection and those triggered by vaccination — as well as the antibodies they make — might also underlie the heightened responses of hybrid immunity. Infection and vaccination expose the spike protein to the immune system in vastly different ways

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sci-tech-and-agri/more-studies-show-the-superiority-of-hybrid-immunity/article37146187.ece>

**Q.100) The term Curcumin is sometimes seen in the news is a:**

- a) Curcumin is a black cumin which is grown in South East Asia
- b) Curcumin is a bright yellow chemical produced by plants
- c) Curcumin is a viral disease occurring in tropical and subtropical areas
- d) None of the Above

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

Curcumin is a bright yellow chemical produced by plants

Article Link:

[https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/bengaluru-institute-on-a-mission-to-improve-turmeric-cultivation-through-soil-less-agriculture/article35161619.ece?utm\\_source=agriculture&utm\\_medium=sticky\\_footer](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/bengaluru-institute-on-a-mission-to-improve-turmeric-cultivation-through-soil-less-agriculture/article35161619.ece?utm_source=agriculture&utm_medium=sticky_footer)

**Q.101) Consider the following statements:**

1. The “detention centers” in Assam have been renamed “transit camps”.
2. People adjudged non-citizens by the quasi-judicial Foreigners’ Tribunals are sent to detention centers.

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

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

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

The “detention centers” in Assam have been renamed “transit camps” to humanize them

Detention centers were set up in Assam after the Union government authorized the state to do so under the provisions of the Foreigners’ Act, 1946 and the Foreigners Order, 1948.

The concept of ‘burden of proof’ lies with the person, and not with the authorities.

People adjudged non-citizens by the quasi-judicial Foreigners’ Tribunals are sent to detention centers. Such people are tried after the Assam police’s Border wing serve them notice on suspicion of being foreigners.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/assam-govt-overshoots-hcs-detention-camp-deadline/article37156078.ece>

**Q.102) Consider the following statements.**

1. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have two departments, namely Department of Food & Public Distribution and Department of Consumer Affairs.
2. The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) is monitoring the prices of edible oils and their availability to the consumers.

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

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

**Q.102) Solution (c)**

On 17th July 2000, the then Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution was renamed as the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, with two departments, namely Department of Food & Public Distribution and Department of Consumer Affairs.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) is monitoring the prices of edible oils and their availability to the consumers.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/states-told-to-help-cut-edible-oil-prices/article37156068.ece>

**Q.103) The term Gorias is sometimes seen in the news is related to:**

- a) They are descendants of Africans from the Bantu region of East Africa living in Central and South India
- b) They are a category of Assamese Muslims
- c) They are an indigenous community inhabiting in parts of Assam
- d) None of the Above

**Q.103) Solution (b)**

They are a category of Assamese Muslims.

Gorias trace their lineage back to the time of the 13th-century Ahom kings.

Their behavior, culture, traditions are same as other indigenous communities of Assam.

Now in Assam, they are worried about losing access to the land they had been using through generations for seasonal farming and grazing their livestock.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/gorias-feel-heat-of-eviction-drive-in-assam/article37156062.ece>

**Q.104) With respect to Target Maturity Funds (TMFs), consider the following statements:**

1. In TMF, there is a stated date on which the fund would mature and upon maturity, money flows back to the investors.
2. The indices for TMFs are run, in most cases, by the NSE, and sometimes by Crisil.

3. Like Fixed Maturity Plans (FMPs), usual maturity of TMFs is three years

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

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

**Q.104) Solution (c)**

There is a target or a stated date on which the fund would mature. Upon maturity, money flows back to the investors. TMFs are similar to fixed maturity plans (FMPs), in that they mature like a bond or a bank fixed deposit.

However, TMFs are significantly better than FMPs. The drawback of FMPs is that though it is listed on the exchanges, there is no liquidity. If you intend to sell prior to maturity, you may not get a buyer. Moreover, the usual maturity of FMPs is three years. This means that the choice of investors is limited to a one time horizon.

The indices for TMFs are run, in most cases, by the NSE, and sometimes by Crisil.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/take-a-shot-at-target-maturity-funds/article37155890.ece>

**Q.105) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects which of the following:**

- 1. Western China with the Gwadar port in Pakistan
- 2. Eastern China with the Gwadar port in Pakistan
- 3. Western China with the Karachi Port in Pakistan
- 4. None of the Above

**Q.105) Solution (a)**

The ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was launched in 2015 when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. It aims to connect western China with the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan through a network of roads, railways and other projects of infrastructure and development.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/us-sabotaging-cpec-with-indias-support/article37156051.ece>

**Q.106) With respect to PM SVANidhi scheme, Consider the following statements:**



1. The scheme was launched to help street vendors post COVID-19 lockdown
2. The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme

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

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

**Q.106) Solution (c)**

The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme was launched by the Central Government to help street vendors access affordable working capital loans for resuming livelihood activities post COVID-19 lockdown.

The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme i.e. fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives: (i) To facilitate working capital loan up to `10,000; (ii) To incentivize regular repayment; and (iii) To reward digital transactions

The scheme will help formalize the street vendors with above objectives and will open up new opportunities to this sector to move up the economic ladder.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/for-delhis-street-vendors-its-not-business-as-usual-after-hc-order/article37171004.ece>

**Q.107) Which of the following is/are Long-Lived Greenhouse Gases:**

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Methane
3. Nitrous oxide
4. Fluorinated gases

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

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) All of the Above

**Q.107) Solution (d)**

Major Long-Lived Greenhouse Gases and Their Characteristics

**Carbon dioxide**

Emitted primarily through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), solid waste, and trees and wood products. Changes in land use also play a role. Deforestation and soil degradation add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, while forest regrowth takes it out of the atmosphere.

### ***Methane***

Emitted during the production and transport of oil and natural gas as well as coal. Methane emissions also result from livestock and agricultural practices and from the anaerobic decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

### ***Nitrous oxide***

Emitted during agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste

### ***Fluorinated gases***

A group of gases that contain fluorine, including hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride, among other chemicals. These gases are emitted from a variety of industrial processes and commercial and household uses and do not occur naturally. Sometimes used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons.

Article Link:

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/greenhouse-gases>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/co2-emissions-in-2020-above-decadal-average/article37170747.ece>

**Q.108) The use of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) is a landmark in the fight against food insecurity. The IPC allows analysts to classify households and areas according to a five-phase scale. Which of the following five-phase scale is correctly arranged in ascending order?**

- a) Minimal - Emergency - Stressed - Crisis - Famine
- b) Minimal - Crisis - Stressed - Emergency - Famine
- c) Minimal - Stressed - Crisis - Emergency - Famine
- d) Minimal - Stressed - Emergency- Crisis - Famine

### **Q.108) Solution (c)**

The use of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) is a landmark in the fight against food insecurity.

The use of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) is a landmark in the fight against food insecurity. Widely accepted by the international community, IPC describes the severity of food emergencies. Based on common standards and language, this five-phase scale is intended to help governments and other humanitarian actors quickly understand a crisis (or potential crisis) and take action.

The IPC allows analysts to classify households and areas according to a five-phase scale.

### **PHASE 1**

**Minimal**

Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.

**PHASE 2****Stressed**

Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.

**PHASE 3****Crisis**

Households either:

- Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition;

OR

- Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.

**PHASE 4****Emergency**

Households either:

- Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality;

OR

- Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.

**PHASE 5****Famine**

Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution, and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)

Article Link:

<https://fews.net/sectors-topics/approach/integrated-phase-classification>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/afghans-facing-acute-food-crisis-un/article37170576.ece>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-analysis-april-2021-february-2022-issued-may-2021>

**Q.109) With respect E-Visa, consider the following statements:**

1. E-Visa is mainly issued for the purpose of short term stay in foreign countries.
2. To get an e-Visa, you have to visit an embassy physically for visa interview.
3. To get an e-Visa you should have a passport which is valid for at least 6 months from the date of application.

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

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

**Q.109) Solution (c)**

E-Visa is mainly issued for the purpose of short term stay in foreign countries.

To get an e-Visa, ***you don't have to*** visit an embassy physically for visa interview.

The only thing you have to have is a passport which is valid for at least 6 months from the date of application.

It is an electronic visa issued to foreign nationals. An E-Visa enables you to enter into a particular country and stay there for a specific period of time. In an E-Visa, all your personal information will be stored electronically. The Visa issuing authority will send you an electronic copy of your visa to your registered email id. E-Visa is mainly issued for the purpose of short term stay in foreign countries.

An applicant can request for an e-Visa to fulfill the below mentioned purposes:

- Tourism purposes.
- Visit of relatives/friends
- Short term business stay.
- Sports activities
- Cultural, scientific or humanitarian activities.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/indo-pacific-will-become-centre-of-the-world/article37170730.ece>

**Q.110) The UNESCO World Heritage site, Hagia Sophia is located at which of the following city?**

- a) Islamabad
- b) Istanbul

- c) Jerusalem
- d) Damascus

**Q.110) Solution (b)**

The majestic domed structure and a UNESCO World Heritage site, Hagia Sophia is located at Istanbul, Turkey.

It was built by the eastern Roman emperor Justinian I as the Christian cathedral

In 1453, after the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire, it was converted into a mosque.

In 1935 the secular Turkish Republic established it as a museum.

In 2020, it re-opened as a mosque.

Hagia Sophia is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Article Link:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hagia-Sophia>

**Q.111) Consider the following statements:**

1. National Medical Commission regulates medical education and medical professionals in India.
2. National Medical Commission was replaced by Medical Council of India

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

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

**Q.111) Solution (c)**

National Medical Commission (NMC) is an Indian regulatory body of 33 members which regulates medical education and medical professionals. It replaced the Medical Council of India on 25 September 2020. The Commission grants recognition of medical qualifications, gives accreditation to medical schools, grants registration to medical practitioners, and monitors medical practice and assesses the medical infrastructure in India.

It was earlier established for 6 months by an ordinance in January 2019 and later became a permanent law passed by Parliament of India and later approved by President of India on 8 August 2019.

The Medical Council of India (MCI) was a statutory body for establishing uniform and high standards of medical education in India until 25 September 2020. On 25 September 2020 it was replaced by National Medical Commission

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/no-doctor-should-be-punished-without-a-hearing-says-hc/article37183049.ece>

**Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to the post of Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) in the finance ministry.**

1. Officer of central, state governments, RBI and public sector banks holding analogous post on regular basis in parent cadres or department are eligible to apply for the post.
2. Candidates from recognized universities or recognized research institutions or central regulatory bodies and registered private institutions or financial institutions are eligible
3. Candidate should possess Master's degree in Economics or Finance from a recognized university or institution.

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

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

**Q.112) Solution (d)**

The government has invited applications for the post of chief economic adviser (CEA) in the finance ministry to replace K V Subramanian, who has decided to vacate his office after completing three-year tenure. Subramanian was appointed as CEA on December 7, 2018, while he assumed charge on December 24 in the same year.

As per the public notice dated October 24, 2021 issued by Department of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, officer of central, state governments, RBI and public sector banks holding analogous post on regular basis in parent cadres or department are eligible to apply for the post.

Candidates from recognised universities or recognised research institutions or central regulatory bodies and registered private institutions or financial institutions are eligible, it said.

With regard to educational qualification, it said, a candidate should possess Master's degree in Economics or Finance from a recognised university or institution.

For this contractual appointment, the candidate should have six years' experience in economic research or providing economic advice or evaluation of economic reforms including administrative experience of one year in the central government or state government, it said.

"The selection committee reserves the right to invite and shortlist suitable individuals from outside the list of applicants for the posts

Article Link:

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/business/news-chief-economic-adviser-recruitment-cea-post-eligibility-application-process-details-742307>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/govt-invites-applications-for-chief-economic-adviser-post/article37182699.ece>

**Q.113) 2021 drought in Taiwan is a cause for the global chip crisis. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. Taiwan's chip manufacturers use large amounts of ultra-pure water to clean their factories and wafers
2. Taiwan is the leader of the global semiconductor industry

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

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

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

Taiwan drought

Taiwan is the leader of the global semiconductor industry, with TSMC alone accounting for more than 50 percent of the global wafer foundry market in 2020. In 2021, Taiwan experienced its worst drought in more than half a century, leading to problems among chip manufacturers that use large amounts of ultra-pure water to clean their factories and wafers. For example, TSMC's facilities used more than 63,000 tons of water a day, more than 10 percent of the supply of two local reservoirs.

The cause of the global chip crisis is a combination of different events with the snowball effect of the COVID-19 pandemic being the primary reason. Other causes have been attributed to the China–United States trade war and the 2021 drought in Taiwan.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/chip-scarcity-to-cap-growth-of-passenger-vehicles-at-11-13/article37182698.ece>

**Q.114) With respect to Wildlife rehabilitation, consider the following statements:**

1. Wildlife rehabilitation is the treatment and care of injured, orphaned, or sick wild animals so that they can be kept in the zoological garden.
2. In the United States, it is against the law to rehabilitate a wild animal without permits.

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



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

**Q.114) Solution (b)**

Wildlife rehabilitation is the treatment and care of injured, orphaned, or sick wild animals so that they can ***be released back to the wild.***

In many countries, including the United States and Australia, wildlife rehabilitation requires a license and/or permit. In these countries, it is against the law to rehabilitate (or in some cases possess) a wild animal without permits. In the United States, rehabilitation permits, requirements, and procedures for all animals other than birds vary from state to state.

Rehabilitation begins when an animal is found and reported to a wildlife rehabilitator, or seized from the illegal wildlife trade or a poacher. If you find wildlife in need of rescue, it can be dangerous or even illegal to interact with the animal yourself; be sure to contact a licensed rehabilitator before taking action.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/the-nilgiris-to-have-wildlife-rescue-centre/article37183176.ece>

**Q.115) Consider the following statements:**

1. World Meteorological Organization maintains rotating lists of names which are appropriate for each Tropical Cyclone basin.
2. Tropical cyclones can last for a week or more; therefore there can be more than one cyclone at a time.

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

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

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

WMO World Meteorological Organization maintains rotating lists of names which are appropriate for each Tropical Cyclone basin. If a cyclone is particularly deadly or costly, then its name is retired and replaced by another one.

Tropical cyclones can last for a week or more; therefore there can be more than one cyclone at a time. Weather forecasters give each tropical cyclone a name to avoid confusion. Each year, tropical cyclones receive names in alphabetical order.

A storm with a name which begins with A would be the first storm to occur in the year.

Article Link:

<https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/focus-areas/natural-hazards-and-disaster-risk-reduction/tropical-cyclones#:~:text=A%20tropical%20cyclone%20is%20a,calm%20and%20free%20of%20clouds>.

**Q.116) With reference to Agni-5, Consider the following statements:**

1. It is India's longest range surface-to-surface ballistic missile
2. It is an Indian nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)
3. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation

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

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

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

Agni-V successfully test-fired

India on Wednesday successfully test-fired its longest range surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-V. "A successful launch of the surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-5, was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The three-stage solid-fuelled engine missile is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 km.

It is an Indian nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/agni-v-successfully-test-fired-or-surface-to-surface-ballistic-missile-agni-v-successfully-test-fired/article37203796.ece>

**Q.117) Consider the following statements with respect to the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP).**

1. The course will be of four year duration
2. It is a dual-major Bachelor's degree with a B.Ed. and a BA, B.Sc. or B.Com.
3. Admissions into the programme will be carried out by the National Testing Agency through the National Common Entrance Test (NET)

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

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

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

The Education Ministry on Wednesday notified a four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), offering dual-major Bachelor's degrees which will become a mandatory requirement for recruitment of schoolteachers by 2030, according to the National Education Policy (NEP). As a pilot project in 2022-23, the integrated programme will initially be offered in 50 selected multidisciplinary institutions.

Admissions into the programme will be carried out by the National Testing Agency through the National Common Entrance Test (NET)

The curriculum, which has been designed by the National Council for Teacher Education, will enable student-teachers to get a degree in education and in a specialized discipline such as history, mathematics, science, arts, economics, or commerce. Students will walk out of the programme with a B.Ed. and a BA, B.Sc. or B.Com.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/dual-degree-for-teacher-education/article37203800.ece>

**Q.118) India applies for \$2 Billion Loan from AIIB, ADB to Purchase COVID-19 Vaccines. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. If the loan is sanctioned, India will have to procure vaccines qualified by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
2. For a vaccine to be eligible for financing, the ADB mandates that it must be authorised by a "Stringent Regulatory Authority" in which India's health authorities do not fall under the Stringent Regulatory Authority category.

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

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.118) Solution (c)**

According to the ADB, for a vaccine to be eligible for financing, it must “be procured via COVAX [the global vaccine access initiative], prequalified by WHO, or authorised by a Stringent Regulatory Authority”, which, according to the WHO, does not include India’s health authorities.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The highest policy-making body of the ADB is the Board of Governors, composed of one representative from each member state.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-seeks-vaccine-loans-from-adb-aiib/article37203805.ece>

**Q.119) With respect to The Human Capital Index (HCI), consider the following statements:**

1. The index is a summary measure of the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to acquire by age 18, given the risks of poor health and poor education that prevail in the country where she lives.
2. Ranging between 0 and 1, the index takes the value 1 only if a child born today can expect to achieve full health (defined as no stunting and survival up to at least age 60) and achieve her formal education potential (defined as 14 years of high-quality school by age 18).

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

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

**Q.119) Solution (d)**

The Human Capital Index (HCI)

The HCI provides a new definition of human capital and quantifies the contribution of health and education to the productivity of the next generation of workers. Countries can use it to assess how much income they are foregoing because of Human Capital gaps, and how much faster they can turn these losses into gains if they act now.

Human Capital Project (HCP), a global effort to accelerate more and better investments in people for greater equity and economic growth.

What is the Human Capital Index? How is it calculated?

The index is a summary measure of the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to acquire by age 18, given the risks of poor health and poor education that prevail in the country where she lives.

Ranging between 0 and 1, the index takes the value 1 only if a child born today can expect to achieve full health (defined as no stunting and survival up to at least age 60) and achieve her formal education potential (defined as 14 years of high-quality school by age 18).

Article Link:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital>

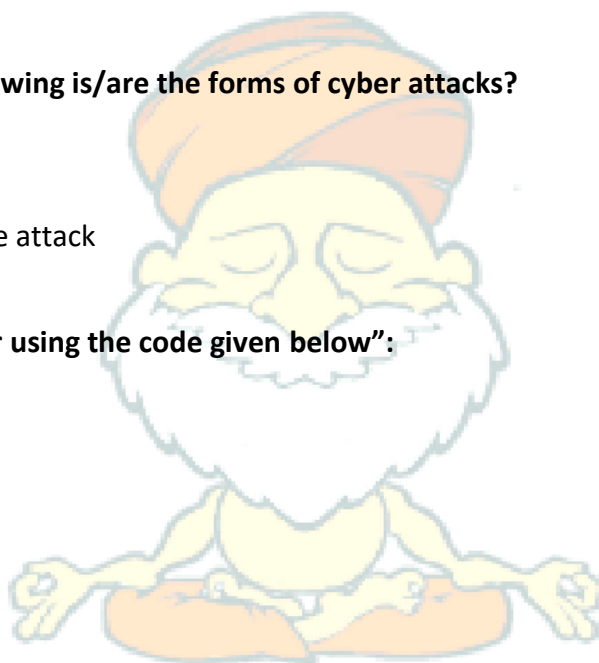
<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/world-bank-suspends-aid-to-sudan/article37203787.ece>

**Q.120) Which of the following is/are the forms of cyber attacks?**

1. Phishing
2. Zero-day exploit
3. Man-in-the-middle attack
4. Malware

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

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



**Q.120) Solution (d)**

#### ***Malware***

Malware is a term used to describe malicious software, including spyware, ransomware, viruses, and worms. Malware breaches a network through vulnerability, typically when a user clicks a dangerous link or email attachment that then installs risky software. Once inside the system, malware can do the following:

#### ***Phishing***

Phishing is the practice of sending fraudulent communications that appear to come from a reputable source, usually through email. The goal is to steal sensitive data like credit card and login information or to install malware on the victim's machine. Phishing is an increasingly common cyber threat.

#### ***Man-in-the-middle attack***

Man-in-the-middle (MitM) attacks, also known as eavesdropping attacks, occur when attackers insert themselves into a two-party transaction. Once the attackers interrupt the traffic, they can filter and steal data.

Two common points of entry for MitM attacks:

1. On unsecure public Wi-Fi, attackers can insert themselves between a visitor's device and the network. Without knowing, the visitor passes all information through the attacker.
2. Once malware has breached a device, an attacker can install software to process all of the victim's information.

### ***Denial-of-service attack***

A denial-of-service attack floods systems, servers, or networks with traffic to exhaust resources and bandwidth. As a result, the system is unable to fulfill legitimate requests. Attackers can also use multiple compromised devices to launch this attack. This is known as a distributed-denial-of-service (DDoS) attack.

### ***SQL injection***

A Structured Query Language (SQL) injection occurs when an attacker inserts malicious code into a server that uses SQL and forces the server to reveal information it normally would not. An attacker could carry out a SQL injection simply by submitting malicious code into a vulnerable website search box.

### ***Zero-day exploit***

A zero-day exploit hits after network vulnerability is announced but before a patch or solution is implemented. Attackers target the disclosed vulnerability during this window of time. Zero-day vulnerability threat detection requires constant awareness.

### ***DNS Tunneling***

DNS tunneling utilizes the DNS protocol to communicate non-DNS traffic over port 53. It sends HTTP and other protocol traffic over DNS. There are various, legitimate reasons to utilize DNS tunneling. However, there are also malicious reasons to use DNS Tunneling VPN services. They can be used to disguise outbound traffic as DNS, concealing data that is typically shared through an internet connection. For malicious use, DNS requests are manipulated to exfiltrate data from a compromised system to the attacker's infrastructure. It can also be used for command and control callbacks from the attacker's infrastructure to a compromised system.

Article Link:

[https://www.cisco.com/c/en\\_in/products/security/common-cyberattacks.html#~types-of-cyber-attacks](https://www.cisco.com/c/en_in/products/security/common-cyberattacks.html#~types-of-cyber-attacks)

**Q.121) Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province is located in which of the following mountain range?**

- a) Hindu Kush Mountains
- b) Pamir Mountains
- c) Caucasus Mountains
- d) Himalayas

**Q.121) Solution (b)**

China will take full control of a military base in Tajikistan near the Afghan border that it has been quietly operating and will also build a new base for the Tajik Government

It will be located in the eastern Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province near the Pamir Mountains, and Chinese troops will not be stationed there

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/eye-on-afghanistan-china-to-build-military-base-in-tajikistan/article37223576.ece>

**Q.122) With respect to the Governors of the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements**

1. The Governor of RBI is a member of the Strategic Policy Group headed by National Security Advisor
2. The term of office typically runs for three years and cannot be extended.

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

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

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

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India is the chief executive officer of India's central bank and the ex-officio chair of its Central Board of Directors.

The Governor of Reserve Bank of India is a member of the Strategic Policy Group headed by National Security Advisor

The term of office typically runs for three years and can, in some cases, be extended for another two years.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/govt-extends-rbi-governor-dass-tenure-for-3-more-years/article37244848.ece>



**Q.123) With respect to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), consider the following statements:**

1. CARA is an autonomous and statutory body of Ministry of Women and Child Development
2. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the 1993 Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption

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

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

**Q.123) Solution (c)**

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is an autonomous and statutory body of Ministry of Women and Child Development in the Government of India. It was set up in 2015. It functions as the nodal body for the adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the 1993 Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, ratified by Government of India in 2003.

Child Welfare Committee

For the Children in need and care of protection, State Government may, by notification in Official Gazette, constitute for every district or group of districts, specified in the notification, one or more Child Welfare Committees for exercising the powers in relation to child in need of care and protection under this Act.

The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and four other members, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another, an expert on matters concerning children. The Committee shall function as a Bench of Magistrates.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-proposes-stricter-regulations-for-cwc/article37223604.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central\\_Adoption\\_Resource\\_Authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Adoption_Resource_Authority)

<https://wcdhry.gov.in/child-welfare-committee/>

**Q.124) With respect to The Wakhan Corridor, consider the following statements:**

1. The Wakhan Corridor is a narrow strip of territory in Tajikistan
2. The northern part of the Wakhan is referred to as the Pamir

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

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

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

The Wakhan Corridor is a narrow strip of territory in **Afghanistan**, extending to China and separating Tajikistan from Pakistan

From this high mountain valley the Panj and Pamir rivers emerge and form the Amu Darya. A trade route through the valley has been used by travellers going to and from East, South and Central Asia since antiquity

The northern part of the Wakhan, populated by the Wakhi and Pamiri peoples, is also referred to as the Pamir

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/eye-on-afghanistan-china-to-build-military-base-in-tajikistan/article37223576.ece>

**Q.125) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Director-General is WHO's chief technical and administrative officer.
2. A Director-General can be re-elected only once

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

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

**Q.125) Solution (c)**

The Director-General is WHO's chief technical and administrative officer.

The next Director-General will be appointed by secret ballot at the Health Assembly.

A Director-General can be re-elected once. Therefore the incumbent Director-General is eligible to be proposed for a second term of five years.

Article Link:

<https://www.who.int/about/governance/election>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/tedros-set-to-continue-as-who-chief/article37244885.ece>

