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AFFAIRS QUIZ
COMPILATION
UPSC 2022

September-2021

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Q.1) What are the benefits provided under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana?

1. It provides accident insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
2. An overdraft facility up to Rs. 1,00,000 is available to the eligible account holders.
3. PMJDY accounts are eligible for Atal Pension Yojana.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, a basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.

Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account.

Benefits under the PMJDY are:

- One basic savings bank account is opened for unbanked person.
- There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts.
- Interest is earned on the deposit in PMJDY accounts.
- Rupay Debit card is provided to PMJDY account holder.
- Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh (enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh to new PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018) is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
- An overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders is available.
- PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme.

Article Link: [Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana \(PMJDY\) - National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completes seven years of successful implementation](#)

Q.2) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

S. No.	Hydropower projects	Located on River
1.	Tapovan Vishnugadh	Mandakini
2.	Vishnugadh Pipalkoti	Dhauliganga
3.	Tehri	Bhagirathi

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 only

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

Q.2) Solution (a)

The Tapovan Vishnugad power plant is a 520MW run-of-river project being constructed on Dhauliganga River in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand. It was constructed by National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).

The Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project is located near village Haatgoan in Chamoli, is being built on Alaknanda river, a main tributary of Ganga.

Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand is the highest dam in India built on Bhagirathi River. It is around 260.5 metre high and 592 metre long.

Article Link: [Ministries reach consensus on hydropower projects in Himalayas](#)

Q.3) What is/are the effect of Foreign Direct Investment on the host country?

1. Development of human capital.
2. Access to management expertise, skills, and technology
3. Displacement of local businesses

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

A foreign direct investment (FDI) is a purchase of an interest in a company by a company or an investor located outside its borders.

Generally, the term is used to describe a business decision to acquire a substantial stake in a foreign business or to buy it outright in order to expand its operations to a new region. It is not usually used to describe a stock investment in a foreign company.

Foreign direct investment offers advantages to both the investor and the foreign host country. These incentives encourage both parties to engage in and allow FDI.

The following are some of the benefits for the host country:

- Economic stimulation
- Development of human capital Human Capital Human capital is basically a measure of the education, skills, and other production attributes of a human resource that can influence their
- Increase in employment
- Access to management expertise, skills, and technology

For businesses, most of these benefits are based on cost-cutting and lowering risk. For host countries, the benefits are mainly economic.

Despite many benefits, the entry of large firms, such as Walmart, may displace local businesses. Walmart is often criticized for driving out local businesses that cannot compete with its lower prices.

Article Link: [FDI equity inflows up 168% to USD 17.57 billion during April-June 2021-22](#)

Q.4) Which part of the Indian Constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters?

- a) Part XIV
- b) Part XV
- c) Part XVI
- d) Part XVIII

Q.4) Solution (b)

Part XV of the Constitution of India consists of Articles on Elections.

Article 324 to 329 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.

Originally, it had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body.

Presently, it consists of one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (ECs) - appointed by the President.

Article Link: [ECI organizes two-day SVEEP Consultation Workshop](#)

Q.5) Who among the following was associated with the Deoband Movement in India?

- a) Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi
- b) Badriddin Tayabji
- c) Inayatullah Khan Mashriqi
- d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Q.5) Solution (a)

The Deoband Movement was organised by the orthodox section among the Muslim ulema as a revivalist movement with the twin objectives of propagating pure teachings of the Quran and Hadis among Muslims and keeping alive the spirit of jihad against the foreign rulers.

The Deoband Movement was established in Deoband in Saharanpur district (United Provinces) in 1866 by Mohammad Qasim Nanotavi (1832-80) and Rashid Ahmed Gangohi (1828- 1905) to train religious leaders for the Muslim community.

In contrast to the Aligarh Movement, which aimed at the welfare of Muslims through western education and support of the British Government, the aim of the Deoband Movement was moral and religious regeneration of the Muslim community. The instruction imparted at Deoband was in original Islamic religion.

On the political front, the Deoband School welcomed the formation of the Indian National Congress and in 1888 issued a fatwa (religious decree) against Syed Ahmed Khan's organisations.

Article Link: [We're Indians first, Taliban view of Islam not ours, say Deoband Islamic scholars, locals](#)

Q.6) With reference to the fundamental right to freedom, consider the following statements:

1. Article 19 of the Constitution of India entitles every citizen the right to move inside the country as well as right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country.
2. The Constitution of India provides that the right of outsiders to reside and settle in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.6) Solution (b)

Freedom of Movement: This freedom under Article 19 of the Constitution of India entitles every citizen to move freely throughout the territory of the country. He can move freely from one state to another or from one place to another within a state. This right underline the idea that India is one unit so far as the citizens are concerned. Thus, the purpose is to promote national feeling and not parochialism.

The grounds of imposing reasonable restrictions on this freedom are two, namely, the interests of general public and the protection of interests of any scheduled tribe. The entry of outsiders in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation

The freedom of movement has two dimensions, viz, internal (right to move inside the country) and external (right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country). Article 19 protects only the first dimension. The second dimension is dealt by Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).

Freedom of Residence: Every citizen has the right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of the country. This right has two parts: (a) the right to reside in any part of the country, which means to stay at any place temporarily, and (b) the right to settle in any part of the country, which means to set up a home or domicile at any place permanently.

This right is intended to remove internal barriers within the country or between any of its parts. This promotes nationalism and avoids narrow mindedness.

The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of these right on two grounds, namely, the interest of general public and the protection of interests of any scheduled tribes. The right of outsiders to reside and settle in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation. In many parts of the country, the tribals have been permitted to regulate their property rights in accordance with their customary rules and laws.

Article Link: [Person cannot be denied right to reside, move freely throughout country on flimsy grounds: SC](#)

Q.7) With reference to the Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It makes recommendations regarding the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states.
2. It makes recommendations regarding the principles that should govern the grant-in-aid to the states out of the contingency fund of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (a)

Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

The Finance Commission is required to make recommendations to the president of India on the following matters:

1. The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states, and the allocation between the states of the respective shares of such proceeds.
2. The principles that should govern the grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre (i.e., out of the consolidated fund of India).
3. The measures needed to augment the consolidated fund of a state to supplement the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the state finance commission.
4. Any other matter referred to it by the president in the interests of sound finance.

The commission submits its report to the president. He lays it before both the Houses of Parliament along with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken on its recommendations.

Article Link: [15th Finance Commission Recommends Rs 1.42 Lakh Cr To Panchayats For Water & Sanitation](#)

Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Small Finance Banks:

1. Minimum paid up capital required to set up small finance bank is 100 crore.
2. It can issue credit cards.
3. It cannot accept time deposits.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.8) Solution (b)

Small finance banks are financial institutions that provide financial services to the country's underserved and unbanked areas. They are registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. These banks, like other commercial banks, can engage in all basic banking activities, such as issuing credit cards, lending and accepting time deposits such as fixed deposit and recurring deposit.

Small finance banks are established with the goal of increasing financial inclusion by (1) providing savings vehicles and (2) providing credit to small businesses, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries, and other unorganised sector entities through high-tech, low-cost operations.

Article Link: [Two more entities apply for SFB licence](#)

Q.9) BCG vaccine is primarily used against:

- a) Diptheria
- b) Hepatitis B
- c) Rotavirus
- d) Tuberculosis

Q.9) Solution (d)

BCG, or bacille Calmette-Guerin, is a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB) disease.

BCG is used in many countries with a high prevalence of TB to prevent childhood tuberculous meningitis and miliary disease.

Currently, BCG is the only licensed vaccine available for the prevention of TB.

In children, BCG provides strong protection against severe forms of TB. This protective effect is far more variable in adolescents and adults, ranging from 0–80%.

Article Link: [BCG vaccine: 100 years and counting](#)

Q.10) Pashmina shawls are made with the wool obtained from:

- a) Angora Rabbits
- b) Bakarwal Sheep
- c) Changthang Goats
- d) Tibetan Antelope

Q.10) Solution (c)

Pashmina comes from an animal fibre Cashmere, derived from the Changthangi goat of Ladakh. It is well known for its warmth, lightweight, and softness in addition to its characteristic dye absorbing property.

Pashmina has been accredited by the Guinness Book of World Records for being the costliest cloth in the world (after a ban imposed on Shahtoosh - the fibre produced by the Tibetan Antelope). The reason for being world-renowned is the diameter of each Cashmere thread, which is just 12-16 microns. The human hair has an average diameter of 50 microns, and that makes Cashmere fibre equal to one-fourth of a human hair.

Article Link: [New initiative in J&K to restore lost glory of Pashmina shawls](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Construction of irrigation wells requires ecological clearance by Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) Department of respective state governments.
2. Around 70 per cent of food production in India is done with the help of irrigation wells.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.11) Solution (b)

Irrigation in India includes a network of major and minor canals from Indian rivers; groundwater well based systems, tanks, and other rainwater harvesting projects for agricultural activities.

Around 70 per cent of food production is done with the help of irrigation wells.

The UNESCO World Water Development Report, 2018 states that India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world.

Uttar Pradesh has the largest area of 93-84 lakh hectares under well irrigation which accounts for about 28-19 per cent of the well irrigated area of India. This is followed by Rajasthan (10-44%), Punjab

(8-65%), Madhya Pradesh (7-97%), and Gujarat (7-34%) Bihar (6-29%), Andhra Pradesh (5-87%), Maharashtra (5-75%), Haryana (4-41%), Tamil Nadu (4-35%), West Bengal (4 19%) and Karnataka (3.06%).

In India, construction of irrigation wells does not require any clearance and no records are maintained of abandoned wells.

Article Link: [Conserving groundwater: Role of women crucial in bringing about significant change](#)

Q.12) With reference to the Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid-affected Sectors, consider the following statements:

1. The Scheme is aimed at upscaling the medical infrastructure specifically targeting in rural areas.
2. Under the scheme banks would provide interest free loans for building healthcare infrastructure.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.12) Solution (d)

Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID-affected Sectors (LGSCAS):

- The scheme is aimed at boosting medical infrastructure in the country, specifically targeting underserved areas.
- The scheme was approved by the government in June 2021.
- Banks would provide loans for building healthcare infrastructure in non-metro cities and smaller towns at a maximum interest rate of 7.95%.
- LGSCAS provides a guarantee of 50% for brownfield projects and 75% to greenfield projects for loans sanctioned up to Rs.100 crore, set up at urban or rural locations other than 8 Metropolitan Tier 1 cities (Class X cities).
- For aspirational districts, the guarantee cover for both brownfield expansion and greenfield projects is 75%.
- The Scheme is applicable to all eligible loans sanctioned up to 31.03.2022, or till an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore is sanctioned, whichever is earlier.
- The LGSCAS will become a path-breaking scheme as it can be collaborated and it can work in conjunction with other ongoing interventions in the healthcare sector.

Article link: [Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman says improvement in health infrastructure will lead to confidence in revival of economy](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced by only a country's citizens but both domestically and abroad.
2. When real GDP is adjusted for inflation nominal GDP is obtained.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

GDP measures the value of goods and services produced within a country's borders, by citizens and non-citizens alike.

GDP provides an economic snapshot of a country, used to estimate the size of an economy and growth rate.

GDP is a key tool to guide policy-makers, investors, and businesses in strategic decision-making.

Nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Real GDP both quantify the total value of all goods produced in a country in a year.

However, real GDP is adjusted for inflation, while nominal GDP isn't. Hence when nominal GDP is adjusted for inflation real GDP is obtained.

Real GDP is almost always slightly lower than its equivalent nominal figure. In most circumstances, the real GDP (and real GDP per capita) shows a more accurate picture of a country's economic performance since it can be more easily compared to past figures. Thus, we can deduce whether a country really is better or worse off year over year.

Article Link: [India's GDP growth accelerates to 20.1% in Q1FY22 on low base](#)

Q.14) Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an initiative of:

- a) WEF
- b) UNESCO
- c) OECD
- d) G20

Q.14) Solution (c)

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in member and non-member nations intended to evaluate educational systems by measuring 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance on mathematics, science, and reading.

It was first performed in 2000 and then repeated every three years. Its aim is to provide comparable data with a view to enabling countries to improve their education policies and outcomes. It measures problem solving and cognition.

In India the field trial of PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) is scheduled to be held from September 15 to 18 in 38 schools.

PISA will help to come out of the learning loss that has occurred due to the pandemic.

It would lead to recognition and acceptability of Indian students and prepare them for the global economy in the 21st century.

Article Link: [Field trial of PISA to be held in 38 schools from Sept 15 to 18](#)

Q.15) “Five minute yoga protocol”, seen recently in news, is developed by:

- a) Ministry of Culture
- b) Ministry of AYUSH
- c) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- d) NITI Aayog

Q.15) Solution (b)

Five minute yoga protocol has been developed by the Ministry of Ayush.

The five-minute protocol intends to introduce people at the workplace to yoga. It promotes the idea of a break of five minutes from the work schedule to practice yoga to refresh, de-stress and re-focus.

It intends to introduce people at workplace to yoga and promotes the idea of a break of five minutes from work schedule to practice yoga.

Article Link: [Ayush Ministry prepares 5-minute yoga protocol for professionals, develops ‘Y-Break’ app](#)

Q.16) With reference to the coal sector of India, consider the following statements:

1. India has the largest coal reserves in the world.
2. India is the third-largest producer of coal in the world.
3. Electricity generation makes up three-fourths of India’s coal consumption.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Solution (c)

Coal in India has been mined since 1774 and is now the second fastest mined in the world, producing 716 million metric tons (789 million short tons) in 2018.

India is the second largest producer of coal in the world, after China.

India has the fourth-largest coal reserves in the world. It is the second-largest producer of coal in the world, after China.

Coal deposits are primarily found in eastern and south-central India.

Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra accounted for 98.09% of the total known coal reserves in India.

Coal-fired power accounts for more than 70% of India's electricity generation. Electricity generation makes up three-fourths of India's coal consumption.

Article Link: [Govt. tells utilities to ship in coal as demand surges](#)

Q.17) With reference to Special Drawing Rights (SDR), consider the following statements:

1. SDRs are an artificial currency instrument created by the International Monetary Fund.
2. Pound Sterling has the second highest weightage in the basket of major currencies of SDR after US Dollar.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.17) Solution (a)

Special drawing rights (SDR) are an artificial currency instrument created by the International Monetary Fund, which uses them for internal accounting purposes.

The value of the SDR is calculated from a weighted basket of major currencies, including the U.S. dollar, the euro, Japanese yen, Chinese yuan, and British pound. U.S. Dollar has the highest weightage in the basket of major currencies of SDR followed by Euro, Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen and Pound Sterling.

The SDR was formed with a vision of becoming a major element of international reserves, with gold and reserve currencies forming a minor incremental component of such reserves.

This consisted of central bank or government reserves of gold and globally accepted foreign currencies that could be used to buy the local currency in foreign exchange markets to maintain a stable exchange rate.

Article Link: [IMF raises India's special drawing rights allocation to \\$17.86 billion](#)

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. Gross value added (GVA) shows the production contribution of a particular sector.
2. GDP of any nation represents the sum total of GVA in all the sectors of that economy during the said year after adjusting for taxes and subsidies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.18) Solution (c)

Gross value added (GVA) is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. It is used to measure the output or contribution of a particular sector.

When such GVAs from all sectors are added together and adding taxes (product) and reducing subsidies (product), we can get the GDP (at market price).

GVA thus shows the production contribution of a particular sector.

When the value of taxes on products (less subsidies on products) is added to the gross value added, the sum of gross value added for all resident units gives the value of gross domestic product (GDP).

Thus, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any nation represents the sum total of gross value added (GVA) in all the sectors of that economy during the said year after adjusting for taxes and subsidies.

Article Link: [Q1 growth rate 20.1%, real GDP still below pre-Covid level](#)

Q.19) Resolution 2593 of the United Nations Security Council is related to:

- a) Facilitating accountability for crimes committed against peacekeepers
- b) Combating terrorism in Afghanistan
- c) Cross-border humanitarian aid delivery mechanism to Syria
- d) UN Assistance Mission for Iraq

Q.19) Solution (b)

Resolution 2593 is an India led resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It reiterates the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan.

It called for the Taliban to facilitate safe passage for people wanting to leave Afghanistan, allow humanitarians to access the country, uphold human rights, including for women and children and inclusive and negotiated political settlement.

The resolution, sponsored by France, UK and the US, was adopted with 13 members, including India, voting in favour, none against it. But permanent and veto-wielding members Russia and China abstained.

The resolution also stressed the importance of maintaining humanitarian access, upholding human rights, reaching an inclusive political settlement and combating terrorism.

It did not, however, spell out any provision to punish the Taliban if they failed to allow such departures or follow the commitments.

Article Link: [India in chair, UNSC adopts resolution on Taliban; Russia and China abstain](#)

Q.20) V-shaped economic recovery happens when:

- a) The economic growth recovers sharply and returns to the path it was following before the disruption
- b) The economic disruption lasts for a small period wherein more than people's incomes, it is their ability to spend is restricted.
- c) The economy, after falling, struggles around a low growth rate for some time, before rising gradually to usual levels.
- d) The economy fails to regain the level of GDP even after years go by.

Q.20) Solution (a)

In a V-shaped recovery, the economy experiences a sharp decline but then bounces back almost immediately to its pre-recession level.

This can occur when the economic interruption that caused a recession doesn't last long.

It could be a seasonal slowdown when consumers are temporarily out of work but employers are holding those jobs for them.

Article Link: [Q1 growth rate 20.1%, real GDP still below pre-Covid level](#)

Q.21) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

- 1. IFAD focuses solely on rural economies.
- 2. IFAD was established as one of the major outcomes of World Food Conference, 1974.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.21) Solution (c)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

It is the only multilateral development organization that focuses solely on rural economies and food security.

It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

IFAD was established as an international financial institution in 1977 through United Nations General Assembly Resolution as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

It funds and sponsors initiatives that improve land and water management, develop rural infrastructure, train and educate farmers in more efficient technologies, build up resilience against climate change, enhancing market accessibility, and more.

India is the founding member of IFAD.

Article Link: [Ahead of IUCN event, IFAD calls for more investment to protect biodiversity](#)

Q.22) With reference to Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a measure of the prevailing direction of economic trends in manufacturing sector only.
2. If PMI of the previous month is higher than the PMI of the current month, it represents that the economy is expanding.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.22) Solution (d)

PMI or a Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity -- both in the manufacturing and services sectors.

It is a survey-based measures that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.

The PMI is derived from a series of qualitative questions. Executives from a reasonably big sample, running into hundreds of firms, are asked whether key indicators such as output, new orders, business expectations and employment were stronger than the month before and are asked to rate them.

A figure above 50 denotes expansion in business activity. Anything below 50 denotes contraction. Higher the difference from this mid-point greater the expansion or contraction.

The rate of expansion can also be judged by comparing the PMI with that of the previous month data. If the figure is higher than the previous month's then the economy is expanding at a faster rate. If it is lower than the previous month then it is growing at a lower rate.

The PMI is usually released at the start of the month, much before most of the official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth becomes available. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.

Economists consider the manufacturing growth measured by the PMI as a good indicator of industrial output, for which official statistics are released later. Central banks of many countries also use the index to help make decisions on interest rates.

Article Link: [Indian services activity rebounds at fastest pace in 18 months in August amid rising business orders](#)

Q.23) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)?

1. It is an apex body for coordination among regulatory bodies in financial sector.
2. It can override the decision taken by an independent regulator.
3. It is headed by the Prime Minister of India.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.23) Solution (a)

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India.

Composition of the council:

Chairperson: The Union Finance Minister of India

Members:

- Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI),
- Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA),
- Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS),
- Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
- Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology,
- Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance,
- Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI),
- Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA),
- Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),
- Chairman, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Functions of FSDC:

- Coordination among regulatory bodies in financial sector. But it cannot override the decision taken by an independent regulator (SEBI, RBI) etc.
- Coordinating India's international interface with financial sector bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Financial Stability Board (FSB) and any such body as may be decided by the Finance Minister from time to time.
- Promotes financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- Macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

Article Link: [FSDC asks regulators to keep steady vigil on financial sector](#)

Q.24) The objective of SHAKTI scheme is:

- a) To operationalise atleast one high speed train in every railway zone of the country for faster mobility.
- b) To make coal available to all the Thermal Power Plants of the country in a transparent and objective manner.
- c) To provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces.
- d) To promote off-grid applications of Solar photovoltaic systems for meeting lighting, electricity requirements of individuals, institutions, communities, commercial and industrial establishments.

Q.24) Solution (b)

The SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) policy was approved in May 2017 with the intent of better allocation of coal to present and future power plants.

It aims to phase out the present Letter of Assurance and Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA)-based regime, and instead introduce a more transparent and competitive coal allocation policy.

Article Link: [Power ministry agrees to 3 coal auction windows under Shakti scheme](#)

Q.25) Which of the following protected area lies in the estuarine region of Brahmani – Baitarani Rivers and is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India?

- a) Bhitarkanika
- b) Simlipal
- c) Gorumara
- d) Singalila

Q.25) Solution (a)

Bhitarkanika National Park is located in Kendrapara district in Odisha.

It was designated as National Park in 1998 and obtained the status of a Ramsar site in 2002.

Bhitarkanika is one such location of rich, lush green vibrant ecosystem lying in the estuarine region of Brahmani – Baitaran Rivers.

It is the 2nd largest Mangrove ecosystems of India after sundarbans.

The park is home to the saltwater crocodile, Indian python, black ibis, wild boar, rhesus monkey, chital, darter, cobra, monitor lizard. Olive ridley turtles nest on Gahirmatha and other nearby beaches. Bhitarkanika has one of the largest populations of endangered saltwater crocodile in India.

Article Link: [Experts express concern over diversion of fresh water from Odisha's Brahmani river](#)

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the Raptor Species:

1. Raptor Species help in increasing seed production and pest control.
2. These are the indicator species.
3. They occupy top position in the food chain.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.26) Solution (d)

Birds of prey, also known as raptors, include species of bird that primarily hunt and feed on vertebrates that are large relative to the hunter.

Raptors prey on a wide range of vertebrates and thus, facilitate long-distance seed dispersal. This indirectly increases seed production and pest control.

The presence of raptors in the wild serves as a barometer of ecological health. Birds of prey are predators at the top of the food chain; because threats like pesticides, habitat loss, and climate change have the most dramatic impact on top predators, we refer to them as indicator species.

Researching the population trends of raptors provides a cost-effective and efficient means to detecting environmental change, allowing us to take conservation action that is driven by the latest scientific data. Raptors also play an important ecological role by controlling populations of rodents and other small mammals.

Article Link: [Raptor attention: 160 species of birds of prey endangered worldwide](#)

Q.27) Kasai River, seen recently in news is a tributary of:

- a) Niger
- b) Zambezi
- c) Congo

d) Nile

Q.27) Solution (c)

The Kasai River is a tributary (left side) of the Congo River, located in Central Africa.

The river begins in central Angola and flows to the east until it reaches the border between Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where it turns north and serves as the border until it flows into the DRC.

The Kasai basin consists mainly of equatorial rainforest areas, which provide an agricultural land in a region noted for its infertile, sandy soil. It is a tributary of Congo river and diamonds are found in it.

Article Link: [Toxic spill at Angola diamond mine pollutes Congo River tributary in DRC](#)

Q.28) With reference to the Hemis National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the only national park located north of Himalayas.
2. It is the largest contiguous protected area in India.
3. It is famous for its Snow Leopards population.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.28) Solution (c)

Hemis National Park is a high altitude national park in Ladakh, India. Globally famous for its snow leopards, it is believed to have the highest density of them in any protected area in the world.

It is the only national park in India that is north of the Himalayas, the largest notified protected area in India (largest National park) and is the second largest contiguous protected area, after the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve and surrounding protected areas.

The park is home to a number of species of endangered mammals, including the snow leopard.

Hemis National Park is India's protected area inside the Palearctic realm, outside the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary northeast of Hemis, and the proposed Tso Lhamo Cold Desert Conservation Area in North Sikkim.

The park is bounded on the north by the banks of the Indus River, and includes the catchments of Markha, Sumdah and Rumbak, and parts of the Zaskar Range.

Article Link: [Ladakh adopts State animal and bird](#)

Q.29) With reference to the PAT Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. This scheme was launched under the launched under the National Mission for a Green India.
2. It aims to make the industrial sector of India energy efficient.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.29) Solution (b)

Perform, Achieve and Trade' (PAT) scheme is a regulatory instrument to reduce specific energy consumption in energy intensive industries, with an associated market based mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded.

This scheme is been implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency to make India's industrial sector energy efficient.

PAT has been launched under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, one of the eight missions under the umbrella National Action Plan on Climate Change, launched in June 2008.

Article Link: [PAT scheme sets industries on path of energy efficiency](#)

Q.30) Houthis, seen sometimes in news, are an armed rebel group in:

- a) Yemen
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Syria
- d) Israel

Q.30) Solution (a)

Houthis are an armed rebel group belonging to the Zaidi Shia sect fighting against the government of Yemen. Traditionally, the Houthis have been concentrated in the northwestern Saada Province of Yemen.

Article Link: [At least 30 killed in Houthi strikes on Yemen base](#)

Q.31) With reference to the IUCN Red List, consider the following statements:

1. It contains the list of endemic plant and animal species.
2. The pink pages in IUCN Red List include the species that were formerly endangered but have now recovered to a point where they are no longer threatened.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.31) Solution (d)

The IUCN Red List is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. It contains the list of threatened plant and animal species.

Threatened species in IUCN Red List is a grouping of three categories: Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable.

The Red data book contains three coloured pages, Red, Pink and Green. Red is symbolic of the danger that some species of both plants and animals presently experience throughout the globe. The Pink pages in the Red data book include the critically endangered species. Green pages are used for those species that were formerly endangered, but have now recovered to a point where they are no longer threatened.

Article Link: [Over 900 species of animals have become extinct according to latest IUCN Red List](#)

Q.32) With reference to Atal Pension Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is administered by Life Insurance Corporation of India.
2. APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 59 years.
3. It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.32) Solution (c)

The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector. APY is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.

Subscribers receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years.

The amount of pension is guaranteed for lifetime to the spouse on death of the subscriber.

In the event of death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.

Contributions to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) are eligible for tax benefits similar to the National Pension System (NPS).

Article Link: [Atal Pension Yojna dominates social security scheme with 66% NPS subscriber base](#)

Q.33) With reference to the Account Aggregator framework, seen recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. An Account Aggregator provides the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.
2. The licence for Account Aggregator is issued by the RBI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

According to the Reserve Bank of India, an Account Aggregator is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.

It is also engaged in consolidating, organising and presenting such information to the customer or any other financial information user as may be specified by the bank.

The AA framework was created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI and other regulators including Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) through an initiative of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

The licence for AAs is issued by the RBI, and the financial sector will have many AAs.

The AA reduces the need for individuals to wait in long bank queues, use Internet banking portals, share their passwords, or seek out physical notarisation to access and share their financial documents. An Account Aggregator is a financial utility for secure flow of data controlled by the individual.

Article Link: [Account Aggregators: new framework to access, share financial data](#)

Q.34) Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana is aimed towards:

- a) Developing skills among the youth in the environment and forest sector

- b) Providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects
- c) Providing financial support to TB patients for their nutrition
- d) Promoting of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for optimal and efficient utilization of wind and solar resources

Q.34) Solution (b)

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana aims to provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG), is the implementation Agency for the scheme.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- Establish commercially viable projects for 2G Ethanol production.
- Provide remunerative income to farmers for their otherwise waste agriculture residues.
- Address concerns of environmental pollution caused by burning of biomass/ agriculture residues. d
- Help in meeting the targets envisaged in Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme promoted by Government of India & Government of India vision of 10% reduction in import dependence by way of reducing the use of fossil fuels.
- To create rural & urban employment opportunities.
- To contribute to Swachh Bharat Mission by supporting the aggregation of non-food biofuel feedstocks such as waste biomass and urban waste.
- Indigenisation of second generation biomass to ethanol technologies.

Article Link: [Emerging opportunities in Biofuel Sector](#)

Q.35) Which of the following country forms a coastline with the Adriatic Sea?

- a) Hungary
- b) Serbia
- c) Croatia
- d) Romania

Q.35) Solution (c)

The countries with coasts on the Adriatic are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia. The Adriatic contains more than 1,300 islands, mostly located along the Croatian part of its eastern coast.

Recently, Foreign Ministers of India and Croatia held a meeting. Both countries asserted that they share a lot of common positions on issues like the Indo-Pacific, the situation in Afghanistan, combating terrorism and shared economic interests.

Article Link: [India, Croatia share common positions on issues like Indo-Pacific, Afghanistan and terrorism: Jaishankar](#)

Q.36) With reference to the financial Emergency provisions in India, consider the following statements:

1. A proclamation declaring financial emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month from the date of its issue.
2. Once approved by both the houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues for six months, and can be extended to an indefinite period with an approval of the Parliament for every six months.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.36) Solution (d)

Article 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.

A proclamation declaring financial emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.

Once approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues indefinitely till it is revoked.

A resolution approving the proclamation of financial emergency can be passed by either House of Parliament only by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of that house present and voting.

The consequences of the proclamation of a Financial Emergency are as follows:

1. The executive authority of the Centre extends to the giving of (a) directions to any state to observe such canons of financial propriety as may be specified in the directions; and (b) such other directions to any state as the President may deem necessary and adequate for the purpose.
2. Any such direction may include a provision requiring (a) the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the state; and (b) the reservation of all money bills or other financial bills for the consideration of the President after they are passed by the legislature of the state.
3. The President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of (a) all or any class of persons serving the Union; and (b) the judges of the Supreme Court and the high court.

Article Link: [Food Emergency in Srilanka](#)

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding Common Service Centre (CSC) Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.37) Solution (b)

Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), Government of India. CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

CSCs are more than service delivery points in rural India. They are positioned as change agents, promoting rural entrepreneurship and building rural capacities and livelihoods. They are enablers of community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with key focus on the rural citizen.

CSCs enable the three vision areas of the Digital India programme:

- Digital infrastructure as Utility to Every Citizen
- Governance and services on demand
- Digital empowerment of citizens

Article Link: [CSCs to soon start passport services collection centres](#)

Q.38) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Dugongs?

1. These are herbivorous mammals.
2. In India the only habitat of Dugong is Gulf of Mannar.
3. They are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.38) Solution (a)

The dugong (Dugong dugon), also called the sea cow, is a herbivorous mammal. They can grow upto three meters long, weigh about 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years, grazing on seagrass and coming to the surface to breathe.

They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Dugongs are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The loss of seagrass habitats, water pollution and degradation of the coastal ecosystem due to developmental activities have made life tough for these slow-moving animals. Dugongs are also victims of accidental entanglement in fishing nets and collision with boats, trawlers.

Internationally, dugongs are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits the trade of the species and its parts.

Article Link: [What are dugongs, where is India's first dugong conservation reserve?](#)

Q.39) Manda Buffalo is an indigenous breed belonging to:

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Odisha
- d) Rajasthan

Q.39) Solution (c)

The Manda buffaloes are resistant to parasitic infections, less prone to diseases and can live, produce and reproduce at low or nil input systems.

These are found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of Koraput region of Odisha.

The small, sturdy buffaloes are used for ploughing in their native habitat of the Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts.

There are around 1,00,000 buffaloes of this breed in the native tract mostly contributing to the family nutrition of households and assisting in all the agricultural operations in the undulated hilly terrain for generations.

The average milk yield of these buffaloes is 2 to 2.5 litres in single milking with more than 8% fat. However, a few of those yield up to 4 litres.

Article Link: [Odisha: Koraput's Manda buffalo gets unique, indigenous tag](#)

Q.40) Bhogdoi River, seen recently in news, is a tributary of:

- a) Krishna
- b) Brahmaputra

- c) Indus
- d) Narmada

Q.40) Solution (b)

The Bhogdoi River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra in India. From its origin in the Naga hills and flows through Jorhat before joining Dhansiri River.

River Bhogdoi is the most polluted river of Assam.

Article Link: [Coal mining, waste discharge, encroachment: River Bhogdoi has been dying a slow death](#)

Q.41) With reference to the initiatives taken by the government in the field of education sector, consider the following statements:

1. Vidyanjali portal aims to facilitate CSR contribution to the development of higher education institutions in India.
2. NIPUN Bharat aims to create an enabling environment for students to achieve learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.41) Solution (b)

Vidyanjali Portal:

- Vidyanjali portal aims to facilitate education volunteers, donors or CSR contributors for school development. It will enable community/volunteers to contribute by connecting directly with the government and government-aided schools of their choice.
- According to education ministry, any person who is a citizen of India/NRI/PIO OR any organisation/institution/company/group registered in India can volunteer and contribute in two ways:
 - Services/activities
 - Assets/material/equipment such as basic civil infrastructure, basic electrical infrastructure, classroom support materials and equipment, digital infrastructure, equipment for extra-curricular activities and sports, yoga, health, etc.

NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Initiative:

- It was launched to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
- The Objectives of NIPUN Bharat are:

- To ensure an inclusive classroom environment by incorporating play, discovery, and activity-based pedagogies, linking it to the daily life situations of the children and formal inclusion of children's home languages.
- To enable children to become motivated, independent and engaged readers and writers with comprehension possessing sustainable reading and writing skills.
- To make children understand the reasoning in the domains of number, measurement and shapes; and enable them to become independent in problem solving by way of numeracy and spatial understanding skills.
- To focus on continuous capacity building of teachers, head teachers, academic resource persons and education administrators.
- To actively engage with all stakeholders i.e., Teachers, Parents, Students and Community, policy makers for building a strong foundation of lifelong learning.

Article Link: [Shikshak Parv 2021: PM Modi launches five new initiatives for accessible education](#)

Q.42) Which of the following is/are the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals-12?

1. Reducing by half the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels.
2. Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities by 2030.
3. Encourage large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.42) Solution (c)

Sustainable Development Goal 12 is about "responsible consumption and production". It is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015.

SDG 12 is meant to ensure good use of resources, improving energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and ensuring a better quality of life for all.

SDG 12 has 11 targets to be achieved by at least 2030. The 11 targets of the goal are:

1. Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
2. Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources;
3. Reducing by half the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and the reduction of food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses;
4. Achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle;
5. Reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse;

6. Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices;
7. Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable;
8. Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development;
9. Support developing countries scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production;
10. Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable tourism;
11. Remove market distortions that encourage wasteful consumption.

The three "means of achieving" targets are: support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity; develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts; and remove market distortions, like fossil fuel subsidies, that encourage wasteful consumption.

Article Link: [How India is positioned to achieve UN's sustainable consumption and production goal](#)

Q.43) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Chemical Oxygen demand (COD)?

1. The application of COD is in quantifying the amount of oxidizable pollutants found in surface water.
2. Lower the COD value, the more serious the pollution of organic matter in water.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.43) Solution (a)

The chemical oxygen demand (COD) is an indicative measure of the amount of oxygen that can be consumed by reactions in a measured solution.

It is commonly expressed in mass of oxygen consumed over volume of solution which in SI units is milligrams per litre (mg/L).

A COD test can be used to easily quantify the amount of organics in water. Higher the COD value, the more serious the pollution of organic matter by water.

The most common application of COD is in quantifying the amount of oxidizable pollutants found in surface water (e.g. lakes and rivers) or wastewater.

COD is useful in terms of water quality by providing a metric to determine the effect an effluent will have on the receiving body, much like biochemical oxygen demand (BOD).

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen (DO) needed (i.e. demanded) by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in a given water sample at

certain temperature over a specific time period. The high BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) indicates low water quality and less oxygen for aquatic life.

Article Link: [Coal mining, waste discharge, encroachment: River Bhogdoi has been dying a slow death](#)

Q.44) Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- a) Millets have low carbon footprint.
- b) Millets are rich in antioxidants.
- c) More than 90 per cent of millet production takes place in developed countries.
- d) UNGA has declared year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

Q.44) Solution (c)

Millets, often called 'nutri-cereals', encompass a diverse group of cereals and were among the first plants that were domesticated and have served as a traditional staple crop for millions of families in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. More than 90 per cent of millet production today takes place in developing countries of Africa and Asia.

Millets can survive in adverse climatic conditions and provide high energy, high dietary fiber, proteins, many essential minerals, vitamins, and antioxidants, all of which play a substantial role in lowering diabetes. The diversity of millets offers opportunities for economic development through income-generating activities in the food sector.

Capable of growing on poor soils with little or no inputs, millets have a low carbon and water footprint and are resistant to many crop diseases and pests.

Millets can help tackle lifestyle problems and health challenges such as obesity and diabetes as they are gluten-free and have a low glycemic index (a relative ranking of carbohydrate in foods according to how they affect blood glucose levels).

United Nations General Assembly has adopted the resolution that declares the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets and invites all Member States, the UN and other global organisations to observe the International Year through activities aimed at raising awareness of and directing policy attention to the nutritional and health benefits of millet consumption and their suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions, while also directing policy attention to improving value chain efficiencies.

Article Link: [Millets could help India mitigate malnutrition and climate change.](#)

Q.45) Which among the following is the impact of strong El-Nino events?

- a) Increase in rainfall in Indonesia and Australia
- b) Decrease in rainfall in Ecuador and northern Peru
- c) Increased upwelling in eastern Pacific Ocean
- d) Longer and colder winters in the higher latitudes of North America

Q.45) Solution (d)

El Niño is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. El Nino is the “warm phase” of a larger phenomenon called the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). La Nina, the “cool phase” of ENSO, is a pattern that describes the unusual cooling of the region’s surface waters. El Niño and La Niña are considered the ocean part of ENSO, while the Southern Oscillation is its atmospheric changes.

El Niño events are defined by their wide-ranging teleconnections. Teleconnections are large-scale, long-lasting climate anomalies or patterns that are related to each other and can affect much of the globe. Following are the impacts of strong El-Nino events:

- During an El Nino event, westward-blowing trade winds weaken along the Equator. These changes in air pressure and wind speed cause warm surface water to move eastward along the Equator, from the western Pacific to the coast of northern South America.
- This thick layer of warm water does not allow normal upwelling to occur. Without an upwelling of nutrient-rich cold water, the euphotic zone of the eastern Pacific can no longer support its normally productive coastal ecosystem. Fish populations die or migrate. El Niño has a devastating impact on Ecuadorian and Peruvian economies.
- El Nino also produces widespread and sometimes severe changes in the climate. Convection above warmer surface waters bring increased precipitation. Rainfall increases drastically in Ecuador and northern Peru, contributing to coastal flooding and erosion. Rains and floods may destroy homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses. They also limit transportation and destroy crops.
- As El Nino brings rain to South America, it brings droughts to Indonesia and Australia. These droughts threaten the region’s water supplies, as reservoirs dry and rivers carry less water. Agriculture, which depends on water for irrigation, is threatened.
- Stronger El Nino events also disrupt global atmospheric circulation. Global atmospheric circulation is the large-scale movement of air that helps distribute thermal energy (heat) across the surface of the Earth. The eastward movement of oceanic and atmospheric heat sources cause unusually severe winter weather at the higher latitudes of North and South America. Regions as far north as the U.S. states of California and Washington may experience longer, colder winters because of El Nino.

Article Link: [How is global warming likely to impact the El Nino and La Nina events?](#)

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding Spotlight Initiative:

1. It is a joint initiative of United Nations and European Union.
2. It aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.46) Solution (c)

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.

The Spotlight Initiative responds to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

The campaign is designed to promote the elimination of violence against women and girls, while bringing visibility to the Spotlight Initiative and its partners, including UN agencies receiving funds from the Initiative (ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCD, UNTF, WHO).

According to UN, violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today.

- 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence.
- 15 million girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide have experienced forced sex at some point in their life.
- 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day.
- 650 million women and girls were married before age 18.
- 200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation.

Article Link: [46% rise in complaints of crimes against women in 2021 so far: NCW](#)

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding PRANA portal, launched recently:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It will be used to track the progress of the National Clean Air Programme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.47) Solution (b)

PRANA portal is launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

PRANA or the Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) would support tracking of the physical and financial status of city air action plan implementation. It would also disseminate information on air quality to the public while also providing comprehensive information related to NCAP programme details, progress, city action plans, implementation updates by city/state/ national level agencies, air quality data, and trends, etc.

The portal (prana.cpcb.gov.in) has a national dashboard that has interactive points on 7 thematic areas of city air action plans, PM10 performance, ambient air monitoring network, public grievance redressal portal, graded response action plans, and more. It is intertwined with the Government's goal for sustainable utilization, protection, and conservation of public goods and the environment.

Article Link: [PRANA portal launched to regulate air pollution in 132 cities](#)

Q.48) With reference to Methanol Economy' Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It is a pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21.
3. Blending of methanol in gasoline can result in bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NOx, and SOx.

Which of the above statement sis/are correct?

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

Q.48) Solution (d)

Methanol is a low carbon, hydrogen carrier fuel produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, CO₂ from thermal power plants and natural gas. It is the best pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) was held in Paris in 2015. The COP 21 led to a new international climate agreement, applicable to all countries, aiming to keep global warming at 1.5°C - 2°C, in accordance with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Methanol Economy program initiated by NITI Aayog is aimed at reducing our oil import bill; reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions & converting Indian coal reserves and municipal solid waste into methanol leading to independence from import while creating new jobs by setting up Methanol Production Plants.

Methanol, although slightly lower in energy content than petrol and diesel, can replace both petrol and diesel in transport sector (road, rail and marine), energy sector (comprising of DG sets, boilers, process heating modules, tractors and commercial vehicles) and retail cooking replacing LPG (partially), Kerosene and wood charcoal.

Blending of 15% methanol in gasoline can result in at least 15% reduction in import of gasoline/ crude. In addition, it would bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NOx, and Sox thereby improving urban air quality.

Q.49) Democracy Index is published annually by:

- a) Economist Intelligence Unit
- b) German Watch
- c) Reporters Without Borders
- d) Amnesty International

Q.49) Solution (a)

The Democracy Index (began in 2006) is prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit. It provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.

The Index is based on five categories:

- Civil liberties,
- Electoral process and pluralism;
- Functioning of government;
- Political participation; and
- Political culture

The countries are scored on a scale of 0 to 10 on 60 indicators within the above categories.

Based on their scores, each country is classified as one of four types of regimes: Full democracy (scores greater than 8);

- Flawed democracy (greater than 6 and up to 8);
- Hybrid regime (greater than 4 and up to 6); and
- Authoritarian regime (less than or equal to 4)

Article Link: [EIU declined India's offer to use govt data for Democracy Index](#)

Q.50) Biofuels made from algal biomass are known as:

- a) 1st Generation Biofuel
- b) 2nd Generation Biofuel
- c) 3rd Generation Biofuel
- d) 4th Generation Biofuel

Q.50) Solution (c)

Biofuels are liquid or gaseous fuels primarily produced from biomass, and can be used to replace or can be used in addition to diesel, petrol or other fossil fuels for transport, stationary, portable and other applications. Crops used to make biofuels are generally either high in sugar (such as sugarcane, sugarbeet, and sweet sorghum), starch (such as maize and tapioca) or oils (such as soybean, rapeseed, coconut, sunflower).

Biofuels produced from the algae are known as third generation biofuels. These are also known as also known as “algae fuel” or “oilage”. Algae leads to the production of all types of bio-fuels such as biodiesel, gasoline, butanol, propanol and ethanol with high yield, approximately 10 times higher

than the second generation biofuel. Cultivation of third generation biofuel biomass also assists in maintaining environmental balance by consuming the CO₂ present in the atmosphere.

Article Link: [Emerging opportunities in biofuel sector](#)

Q.51) With reference to the recently held BRICS Summit, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The theme for the Summit was Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All.
2. It adopted Delhi Declaration which called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.51) Solution (b)

The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP and 16% of the global trade.

India chaired the annual summit of the BRICS which was held virtually. The theme for the Summit was 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus'.

Key Takeaways from the Summit are:

The BRICS asserted that the territory of Afghanistan must not be used to carry out terror attacks against other countries called for combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists.

The summit also endorsed the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan for implementing the grouping's Counter-Terrorism Strategy that was adopted by the NSAs of the member nations of the grouping.

The Delhi Declaration called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations including instilling new life in the discussion on the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It pledged resolve towards strengthening and reforming the multilateral system to make global governance more responsive and effective. The declaration also condemned "in strongest terms" terrorist attacks near Kabul airport that resulted in a large number of death and injuries.

Article Link: [BRICS adopts New Delhi Declaration, calls for settling Afghan situation via peaceful means.](#)

Q.52) With reference to the Carbon Capture and storage (CCS) Technology, consider the following statements:

1. This technology captures CO₂ from fossil fuel-fired power plants and injects it into depleted oil and gas fields.
2. This technology is capable of capturing up to 90% of the CO₂ emissions for over a 1000-year period.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.52) Solution (c)

CCS is a technology reportedly capable of capturing up to 90% of the CO₂ emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity, as well as those used in industrial processes, and prevent it from polluting the atmosphere.

Fossil fuel power plants can be built with the technology already integrated or it can also be combined with renewable biomass to create a “carbon-negative” mode the goes one step further by actually removing CO₂ from the planet.

CCS involves capturing CO₂, before transporting it to be stored in geological rock formations thousands of metres below the Earth’s surface.

The initial part of the process involves separating CO₂ from the gasses produced in power generation and industrial processes, such as manufacturing cement or steel, by pre-combustion capture, post-combustion capture or oxy-fuel combustion.

The pollutant is then transporting using either a pipeline or a ship.

It is then stored in depleted oil and gas fields or deep saline aquifer formations, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says can retain 99% of the pollutant over a 1000-year period.

Article Link: [World’s biggest machine capturing carbon from air turned on in Iceland.](#)

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme:

1. It aims at providing financial assistance for the transport and marketing of agricultural products to boost exports.
2. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare.
3. The scheme provides 100% freight and marketing assistance for export of agricultural products by air as well as by sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.53) Solution (a)

Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme was launched in 2019 by the Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for the international component of freight, to mitigate disadvantage of higher freight costs faced by the Indian exporters of agriculture products.

The scheme was initially applicable for exports effected during the period from 01.03.2019 to 31.03.2020 and was later extended for exports effected up to 31.03.2021.

Recently, the Department has notified 'Revised Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme' for exports effected on or after 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022. The existing scheme will remain in operation for exports effected up to 31.03.2021.

Following major changes have been made in the revised scheme:

- Dairy products, which were not covered under the earlier scheme, will be eligible for assistance under the revised scheme.
- Rates of assistance have been increased, by 50% for exports by sea and by 100% for exports by air.

Article Link: [Centre Revises "Transport and Marketing Assistance" \(TMA\) scheme for Specified Agriculture Products'](#)

Q.54) With reference to the Thamirabarani River, which of the following statements is incorrect?

- a) It originates in Western Ghats.
- b) It flows through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- c) Its ancient name is Porunai.
- d) It drains into the Gulf of Mannar.

Q.54) Solution (b)

The Thamirabarani is a perennial river that originates from the Agasthyarkoodam peak of Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats.

The Pothigai Hills, also known as Agasthiyar Mountain is a 1,866-metre tall peak in the southern part of the Western Ghats of South India. The peak lies in the border of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The old Tamil name of the river is Porunai.

From the source to sea, the river is about 128 kilometres (80 mi) long and is the only perennial river in Tamil Nadu.

The river drains into Gulf of Mannar from Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu.

As most of its extensive catchment areas lie in the Western Ghats, the river enjoys the full benefit of both the monsoons, which make the river perennial.

Article Link: [Porunai civilisation is 3,200 years old, says M.K. Stalin](#)

Q.55) The rural component of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is implemented by:

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Q.55) Solution (d)

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched in 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation.

SBM (Grameen) is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

SBM (Urban) is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Article Link: [Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 to be launched on 9th September, 2021](#)

Q.56) With reference to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, consider the following statements:

1. Being the oldest Tribunal in the country it is also known as the 'Mother Tribunal'.
2. The appeal against the order passed by the tribunal lies only to the Supreme Court.
3. It functions under the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.56) Solution (c)

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) is a quasi judicial institution set up in January, 1941 and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts. ITAT draws inspiration from its motto 'Nishpaksh Sulabh Satvar Nyay', which means impartial, easy and speedy justice. ITAT stands out for its uniqueness of imparting justice to the litigants, by an inexpensive, easily accessible forum free from technicalities, regarded for its expert knowledge on the subject of Direct Taxes, besides rendering expeditious justice.

ITAT is referred to as 'Mother Tribunal' being the oldest Tribunal in the country.

The orders passed by the ITAT are final and an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.

With a view to ensuring highest degree of independence of the ITAT, it functions under the Department of Legal Affairs in the Ministry of Law and Justice and is kept away from any kind of control by the Ministry of Finance.

Article Link: [Centre clears 31 appointments to NCLT, ITAT after SC rap](#)

Q.57) Nuakhai is an agricultural festival observed in:

- a) Mizoram
- b) Karnataka
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Odisha

Q.57) Solution (d)

Nuakhai is an agricultural festival mainly observed by people of Western Odisha and Southern Chhattisgarh.

Nuakhai is observed to welcome the new rice of the season. According to the calendar it is observed on panchami tithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada or Bhadraba (August–September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

Nuakhai is understood to have nine colours and as a consequence, nine sets of rituals are followed as a prelude to the actual day of celebration. These nine colours include:

1. Beheren (announcement of a meeting to set the date)
2. Lagna dekha (setting the exact date for partaking of new rice)
3. Daka haka (invitation)
4. Sapha sutra and lipa puchha (cleanliness)
5. Ghina bika (purchasing)
6. Nua dhan khuja (looking for the new crop)
7. Bali paka (final resolve for Nuakhai by taking the Prasad (the offering) to the deity)
8. Nuakhai (eating the new crop as Prasad after offering it to the deity, followed by dancing and singing)
9. Juhar bhet (respect to elders & gift transfers)

Article Link: [PM greets everyone on Nukhai](#)

Q.58) Samvatsari is a festival celebrated by:

- a) Svetambar Sect of Jainism
- b) Digambar Sect of Jainism
- c) Mahayana Buddhists
- d) Theravada Buddhists

Q.58) Solution (a)

Samvatsari is the last day of Paryushana Shwetambar sect of Jainism. It falls on Shukla Panchami each year in the Jain calendar month of Bhadrapada, somewhere between the middle of August and September in the Gregorian calendar.

On this day, Jains forgive and seek forgiveness for their mistakes committed knowingly or unknowingly from all the living beings.

Article Link: [PM greets people on the occasion of Samvatsari](#)

Q.59) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding NATGRID?

1. It is a project under Indian government for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance.
2. It is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.59) Solution (b)

NATGRID is conceptualised as a seamless and secure database for information on terrorists, economic crimes and similar incidents to help bolster India's capabilities.

The NATGRID has been envisaged as a robust mechanism to track suspects and prevent terrorist attacks with real-time data and access to classified information like immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels.

It is different from Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS) which is a project under Indian government for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance.

NATGRID database will be available to prominent federal agencies including, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Central Board of Direct Taxes (for Income Tax Department) (CBDT), Cabinet Secretariat, Intelligence Bureau (IB), Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Financial Intelligence Unit and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

NATGRID is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.

The project was supposed to go live by December 31 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Article Link: [NATGRID to finally see the light of day](#)

Q.60) With reference to the contribution of Swami Vivekananda in the socio-cultural reform movement of India, consider the following statements:

1. He was one of the main representatives of the philosophy of Neo-Vedanta.
2. He established Ramakrishna Mission which renounced the practice of image worship.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.60) Solution (a)

Narendranath Datta (1862-1902), who later came to be known as Swami Vivekananda spread Ramakrishna's message and tried to reconcile it to the needs of contemporary Indian society.

He was the one of the main proponents of the philosophy of Neo-Vedanta. The basis of the Neo-Vedanta philosophy was laid by Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886) and its superstructure was built by his ardent disciple Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902). They both emphasised the practical nature of Vedanta. By the Neo-Vedanta of Swami Vivekananda is meant the New Vedanta as distinguished from the old traditional Vedanta developed by Sankaracharya (c. 788-820 AD). Sankaracharya's Vedanta is known as Advaita or non-dualism, pure and simple. Hence it is sometimes referred to as unqualified monism.

Neo-Vedantism is a re-establishment and re-statement, reconstruction and revaluation, reorientation and reinterpretation of the Advaita Vedanta of Sankara with modern arguments, in modern language, suited to modern man, adjusting itself with all the modern challenges.

In 1897 he founded the Ramakrishna Mission. Unlike the Arya Samaj, the Mission recognises the utility and value of image worship in developing spiritual fervour and worship of the eternal omnipotent God, although it emphasises on the essential spirit and not the symbols or rituals. It believes that the philosophy of Vedanta will make a Christian a better Christian, and a Hindu a better Hindu.

Article Link: [PM recalls Swami Vivekananda's iconic 1893 speech at Chicago](#)

Q.61) Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary houses the conservation centre for:

- a) Fresh water crocodile
- b) Vulture
- c) Leopard
- d) Black Buck

Q.61) Solution (b)

Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Panchkula district of Haryana.

It is spread over an area of 767.30 hectares.

It houses the Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre in Pinjore.

In 2009, the Government of India declared it an Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ), as a result development is not permitted within a 5 kilometres radius.

Article Link: [8 critically-endangered Oriental white-backed vultures fly towards survival from Haryana](#)

Q.62) With reference to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements:

1. It is conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. Its objective is to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.62) Solution (b)

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was launched in 2017 by National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

The objectives of PLFS are:

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).
- to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives estimates of Key employment and unemployment Indicators like the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), etc.

Article Link: [Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\)](#)

Q.63) Consider the following statements:

1. Any ground that remains completely frozen for atleast five years strait is known as permafrost.
2. Permafrost covers about less than 1% of the land area of the globe.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.63) Solution (d)

Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder—for at least two years straight. These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes—near the North and South Poles.

Permafrost is made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand that are held together by ice. The soil and ice in permafrost stay frozen all year long.

Permafrost covers about 15% of the land area of the globe.

Immediate effects as permafrost melt due to increasing global temperatures:

- The first impacts that are very rapid will affect countries where roads or buildings were constructed on permafrost.
- The total quantity of carbon that is now buried in the permafrost is estimated at about 1500 billion tonnes and the top three meters of the ground has about 1000 billion tonnes. The world currently emits into the atmosphere, approximately 10 billion tonnes of carbon a year. So, if the permafrost thaws and releases even only one per cent of the frozen carbon in any one year, it can nullify anything that we do about industrial emissions.

Article Link: [Can thawing permafrost cause another pandemic?](#)

Q.64) Consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen produced using coal is known as Grey Hydrogen.
2. Hydrogen produced using Natural Gas is known as Brown Hydrogen.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.64) Solution (d)

The oldest way of producing hydrogen is by transforming coal into gas. Gasification processes convert organic or fossil-based carbonaceous materials into carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide. The gas generated via coal gasification is called syngas and the hydrogen can be separated from the other elements using adsorbers or special membranes. This hydrogen is known as brown or black depending of the type of coal used: brown (lignite) or black (bituminous) coal. It is the result of a highly polluting process since both CO₂ and carbon monoxide cannot be reused and are released in the atmosphere.

Hydrogen produced using natural gas is known as Grey Hydrogen. Most hydrogen nowadays comes from natural gas: it is bonded with carbon and can be separated from it via a process involving water called “steam reforming”, but the excess carbon generates CO₂. This hydrogen is called grey whenever the excess CO₂ is not captured. Grey hydrogen accounts for most of the production today and emits about 9.3kg of CO₂ per kg of hydrogen production. Sometimes, hydrogen is referred to as “grey” to indicate it was created from fossil fuels without capturing the greenhouse gases and the difference with brown or black hydrogen is just in the smaller amount of emissions generated in the process.

Article Link: [Ministry of Coal Constitutes Task Force and Expert Committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production](#)

Q.65) India launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) in collaboration with:

- a) United States
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Australia
- d) Japan

Q.65) Solution (a)

India and the United States of America (USA) has launched the “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)”. The CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders’ Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and US President Mr. Joseph Biden.

The dialogue will not only strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment but will also help to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.

Article Link: [India and US launch the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue \(CAFMD\)](#)

Q.66) REX MKII, seen recently in news, is:

- a) Unmanned aerial vehicles
- b) Remote-controlled armed robot
- c) Anti-tank guided missile
- d) Mobile surface-to-air missile

Q.66) Solution (b)

REX MKII is an Israeli remote-controlled armed robot can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire.

It is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield.

It is operated by an electronic tablet and can be equipped with two machine guns, cameras and sensors, said Rani Avni, deputy head of the company's autonomous systems division. The robot can gather intelligence for ground troops, carry injured soldiers and supplies in and out of battle, and strike nearby targets.

Article Link: [Israeli firm unveils armed robot to patrol volatile borders](#)

Q.67) Consider the following is/are the major natural ports of India:

1. Chennai
2. Mumbai
3. Paradip

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.67) Solution (d)

Paradip Port is a natural, deep-water port on the East coast of India in Odisha. It is situated at confluence of the Mahanadi River and the Bay of Bengal. It is administered by the Paradip Port Trust (PPT), administering under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 functioning under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Chennai Port is the second largest container port of India, behind Mumbai's Nhava Sheva. The port is the largest one in the Bay of Bengal. It is an artificial and all-weather port with wet docks.

Mumbai Port is a port which lies midway on the West coast of India, on the natural deep-water harbour of Mumbai (Bombay) in Maharashtra. The harbour opens to the south to the Arabian Sea.

Article Link: [Paradeep Port Trust aims to boost EXIM trade with installation of New Container Scanner](#)

Q.68) With reference to SVAMITVA scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It aims to reduce property related disputes in urban areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.68) Solution (d)

SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

The scheme seeks to achieve the following objectives: -

- Creation of accurate land records for rural planning and reduce property related disputes.
- To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
- Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
- Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
- To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.

Article Link: [Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh to inaugurate National Meet on SVAMITVA Scheme](#)

Q.69) Consider the following statements:

1. Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central government of a country.
2. Increasing money supply and reducing interest rates indicate an expansionary monetary policy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.69) Solution (b)

Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central bank. It involves management of money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic policy used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth and liquidity.

In India, monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India is aimed at managing the quantity of money in order to meet the requirements of different sectors of the economy and to increase the pace of economic growth.

The RBI implements the monetary policy through open market operations, bank rate policy, reserve system, credit control policy, moral persuasion and through many other instruments. Using any of these instruments will lead to changes in the interest rate, or the money supply in the economy.

Monetary policy can be expansionary and contractionary in nature. Increasing money supply and reducing interest rates indicate an expansionary policy. The reverse of this is a contractionary monetary policy.

Article Link: [Hamletian dilemma of monetary policy](#)

Q.70) Groudswell report, seen recently in news, is published by:

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) Germanwatch

Q.70) Solution (c)

Groundswell report is published by World Bank.

This report focuses on three regions—Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America that together represent 55 percent of the developing world's population.

Findings of the report:

- Climate change will push tens of millions of people to migrate within their countries by 2050.
- It projects that without concrete climate and development action, just over 143 million people—or around 2.8 percent of the population of these three regions—could be forced to move within their own countries to escape the slow-onset impacts of climate change.
- They will migrate from less viable areas with lower water availability and crop productivity and from areas affected by rising sea level and storm surges.
- The poorest and most climate vulnerable areas will be hardest hit.
- These trends, alongside the emergence of “hotspots” of climate in- and out-migration, will have major implications for climate-sensitive sectors and for the adequacy of infrastructure and social support systems.
- The report finds that internal climate migration will likely rise through 2050 and then accelerate unless there are significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and robust development action.

Article Link: [Groundswell : Preparing for Internal Climate Migration](#)

Q.71) Consider the following statements regarding Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:

1. It connects the countries of Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia to India.
2. It will reduce the need to transport good to the landlocked north eastern states of India through the narrow Siliguri corridor.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.71) Solution (b)

The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport is a project connecting the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea.

This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1,328 km and will reduce the need to transport goods through the narrow Siliguri corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck.

India has for years sought transit access through Bangladesh to ship goods to the landlocked north-eastern States. At present, the only route to this region from the rest of India is a rather circuitous one through a narrow strip of Indian territory nicknamed the Chicken's Neck in West Bengal, sandwiched between Bhutan and Bangladesh. The new route through Sittwe would significantly lower the cost and distance of movement from Kolkata to Mizoram and beyond.

Article Link: [ASEAN summit on Future of India-ASEAN Connectivity Partnerships](#)

Q.72) Consider the following statements regarding Shoonya Campaign, seen recently in news:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
2. It aims to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles in rural areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.72) Solution (d)

Shoonya Campaign is launched by Niti Aayog in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI).

It aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.

Urban freight vehicles account for 10 per cent of freight transportation-related CO2 emissions in India, and these emissions are expected to grow by 114 per cent by 2030.

EVs emit no tailpipe emissions, which can contribute immensely to an improved air quality. Even when accounting for their manufacture, they emit 15-40 percent less CO2 compared to their internal combustion engine counterparts and have lower operational cost.

Article Link: [NITI Aayog, RMI, and RMI India Launch 'Shoonya' Campaign](#)

Q.73) Which of the following states are the hotspots of Arsenic contamination in India?

1. West Bengal
2. Jharkhand
3. Karnataka

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.73) Solution (a)

Arsenic is a naturally occurring trace element found in rocks, soils and the water in contact with them. Arsenic has been recognized as a toxic element and is considered a human health hazard.

Arsenic contamination in groundwater:

The occurrence of Arsenic in ground water was first reported in 1980 in West Bengal in India. In West Bengal, 79 blocks in 8 districts have Arsenic beyond the permissible limit of 0.05 mg/l. The most affected areas are on the eastern side of Bhagirathi River in the districts of Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas and western side of the districts of Howrah, Hugli and Bardhaman. The occurrence of Arsenic in ground water is mainly in the aquifers up to 100 m depth. The deeper aquifers are free from Arsenic contamination.

Apart from West Bengal, Arsenic contamination in ground water has been found in the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The occurrence of Arsenic in the states of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh is in alluvial formations but in the state of Chhattisgarh, it is in the volcanic rocks exclusively confined to N-S trending Dongargarh- Kotri ancient rift zone. It has also been reported in Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sibsagar, Sonitpur districts of Assam.

Long-term intake of arsenic contaminated water leads to arsenic poisoning or arsenicosis, with cancer of skin, bladder, kidney or lung or diseases of skin (colour changes, and hard patches on palms and soles), or blood vessels of legs and feet. Fresh evidence indicates possible association between intake of contaminated water to onset of diabetes, hypertension and reproductive disorders.

Article Link: [Arsenic now in wheat, potato — and more than that in drinking water — in rural Bihar](#)

Q.74) Which of the following convention/protocol aims to regulates the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances?

- a) Vienna Convention
- b) Kyoto Protocol
- c) Montreal Protocol

d) Bonn Convention

Q.74) Solution (c)

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) is an international agreement made in 1987. It was designed to stop the production and import of ozone depleting substances and reduce their concentration in the atmosphere to help protect the earth's ozone layer.

The Montreal Protocol phases down the consumption and production of the different Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in a step-wise manner, with different timetables for developed and developing countries (referred to as "Article 5 countries").

Under this treaty, all parties have specific responsibilities related to the phase out of the different groups of ODS, control of ODS trade, annual reporting of data, national licensing systems to control ODS imports and exports, and other matters. Developing and developed countries have equal but differentiated responsibilities, but most importantly, both groups of countries have binding, time-targeted and measurable commitments.

Article Link: [World Ozone Day](#)

Q.75) Which of the following protected area is the only tiger habitat in the world with melanistic tigers?

- a) Buxa
- b) Panna
- c) Sariska
- d) Simlipal

Q.75) Solution (d)

A black tiger is a rare colour variant of the tiger, and is not a distinct species or geographic subspecies. So-called black tigers are due to pseudo-melanism. Pseudo-melanistic tigers have thick stripes so close together that the tawny background is barely visible between stripes. It is believed that inbreeding results in their thick black stripes.

Simlipal Tiger Reserve is the only tiger habitat in the world with melanistic tigers, which have broad black stripes running across their bodies and thicker than those seen on normal tigers, so much so that their tawny skin colour is barely visible.

Article Link: [Scientists unravel mystery behind Odisha's 'black tigers'](#)

Q.76) Which of the following countries are part of the grouping called AUKUS, seen recently in news?

- 1. UAE
- 2. UK

3. South Africa
4. Australia

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.76) Solution (c)

AUKUS is a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific between Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. (AUKUS). The grouping is security focused.

A central feature of the partnership would involve a trilateral 18-month effort to help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines which are quieter, more capable and can be deployed for longer periods, needing to surface less frequently.

The partnership would also involve a new architecture of meetings and engagements between the three countries and also cooperation across emerging technologies (applied AI, quantum technologies and undersea capabilities).

Article Link: [U.S., U.K., Australia form new partnership](#)

Q.77) Athikaraya, Srihati, Bhejri, seen recently in news, are:

- a) Traditional handicraft of Assam
- b) Endemic plant species of Lakshadweep Islands
- c) Folk varieties of rice
- d) Species of fish in Sundarbans

Q.77) Solution (c)

Recently, a study examined folk varieties of Indian rice that can supplement the nutritional demand of important fatty acids in undernourished mothers.

These rice varieties are:

- Athikaraya, Dudh-sar, Kayame, Neelam samba, Srihati, Maharaji and Bhejri are known in folk medicine to enhance milk production in lactating women.
- Kelas, DudheBolta and Bhutmoori are rich in iron and can be included in diet of mothers to treat anaemia.
- Seven rice varieties of North East India — Meghalaya lakang, Chingphourel, Manuikhamei, Kemenyakepeyu, Wainem, Thekrulha, and Koyajang — has the potential to resist leaf and neck blast disease in rice plants.

Rice contains various classes of fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, starch and a small amount of protein.

These rice varieties can be more cost-effective and reliable than marketed formula foods.

High-yield hybrids pushed out indigenous rice varieties and many of these varieties, called landraces are nearing extinction in India.

Article Link: Folk rice: [Researchers spot dozen Indian paddy varieties that can boost nourishment](#)

Q.78) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), seen recently in news?

1. It is incorporated under the Companies Act.
2. Government of India will maintain 51% ownership in NARCL.
3. It will help in reducing the burden of Non-Performing Assets from the banks.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.78) Solution (c)

National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) has been set up by banks to aggregate and consolidate stressed assets for their subsequent resolution. NARCL will acquire stressed assets worth about Rs 2 lakh crore from various commercial banks in different phases.

NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act and has applied to Reserve Bank of India for license as an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).

PSBs will maintain 51% ownership in NARCL.

NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above ₹500 crore each amounting to about ₹ 2 lakh crore. In phase I, fully provisioned assets of about Rs. 90,000 crores are expected to be transferred to NARCL, while the remaining assets with lower provisions would be transferred in phase II. It intends to acquire these through 15% Cash and 85% in Security Receipts (SRs).

Article Link: [Government sets up 'bad bank' to clear the NPA mess](#)

Q.79) Which of the following country is not a member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Azerbaijan

Q.79) Solution (d)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a political, economic, and security alliance.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Charter, formally establishing the organization, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.

Its members are: China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Heads of State Council (HSC) is supreme decision-making body in the SCO, it meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.

Military exercises are also regularly conducted among members to promote cooperation and coordination against terrorism and other external threats, and to maintain regional peace and stability.

The SCO is the largest regional organisation in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population, covering three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and nearly half of the human population.

Article Link: [Indian Military Contingent Participates in the 6th Edition of Exercise SCO Peaceful Mission 2021 at Orenburg, Russia](#)

Q.80) With reference to the Forest Rights Act, 2006, consider the following statements:

1. It gives ownership rights of minor forest produce to the forest-dwelling communities.
2. Under the act, the authority to initiate the process for determining Individual Forest Rights lies with the State Governments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.80) Solution (a)

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

Objective of the Act:

- To undo the historical injustice occurred to the forest dwelling communities
- To ensure land tenure, livelihood and food security of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers
- To strengthen the conservation regime of the forests by including the responsibilities and authority on Forest Rights holders for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance.

The act identifies following rights:

- Title rights - i.e. ownership - to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers as on 13 December 2005, subject to a maximum of 4 hectares; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family as on that date, meaning that no new lands are granted.
- Use rights - to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- Relief and development rights - to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement;[15] and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- Forest management rights - to protect forests and wildlife.

Section 6(1) of the Act provides that the gram sabha, or village assembly, will initially pass a resolution recommending whose rights to which resources should be recognised (i.e. which lands belong to whom, how much land was under the cultivation of each person as on 13 Dec 2005, etc.). This resolution is then screened and approved at the level of the sub-division (or taluka) and subsequently at the district level. The screening committees consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level. These committees also hear appeals.

Article Link: [J&K to implement Forest Rights Act, 2006](#)

Q.81) Which of the following are the pillars of WTO's Agreement on Agriculture?

1. Domestic Support
2. Inverted Duty Structure
3. Market Access
4. Export Subsidies

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.81) Solution (c)

The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is a WTO treaty that was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and formally ratified in 1994 at Marrakesh, Morocco. The AoA came into effect in 1995.

The Agreement on Agriculture consists of three pillars—domestic support, market access, and export subsidies.

- The first pillar of the Agreement on Agriculture is "domestic support". AoA divides domestic support into two categories: trade-distorting and non-trade-distorting (or minimally trade-distorting).

- Market access refers to the reduction of tariff (or non-tariff) barriers to trade by WTO members. The 1995 Agreement on Agriculture consists of tariff reductions of:
 - 36% average reduction - developed countries - with a minimum of 15% per-tariff line reduction in next six years.
 - 24% average reduction - developing countries - with a minimum of 10% per-tariff line reduction in next ten years.
 - Least developed countries (LDCs) were exempt from tariff reductions, but they either had to convert non-tariff barriers to tariffs—a process called tariffication—or "bind" their tariffs, creating a ceiling that could not be increased in future.
- Export subsidies are the third pillar. The 1995 Agreement on Agriculture required developed countries to reduce export subsidies by at least 36% (by value) or by 21% (by volume) over six years. For developing countries, the agreement required cuts were 24% (by value) and 14% (by volume) over ten years.

Article Link: [WTO agri-agreement tilted against developing nations: Piyush Goyal](#)

Q.82) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding GST Council:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is headed by the Prime Minister 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.82) Solution (d)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is an apex member committee to modify, reconcile or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of goods and services tax in India.

The 101st Amendment Act of 2016 paved the way for the introduction of a new tax regime (i.e. goods and services tax - GST) in the country. The smooth and efficient administration of this tax requires co-operation and coordination between the centre and the states. In order to facilitate this consultation process, the amendment provided for the establishment of a Goods and Services Tax Council or the GST Council.

Article 279-A empowered the President to constitute a GST Council by an order. Accordingly, the President issued the order in 2016 and constituted the Council. Thus it is a constitutional body.

The Council is a joint forum of the centre and the states and consists of the following members:

- The Union Finance Minister as the Chairperson
- The Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance
- The Minister in-charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government

The members of the Council from the states have to choose one amongst themselves to be the Vice-Chairperson of the Council. They can also decide his term.

Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall be taken at a meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting, in accordance with the following principles, namely:

- The vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast, and
- The votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

Article Link: [GST Council not for inclusion of petroleum products: Finance Minister](#)

Q.83) Consider the following statements regarding SPIN scheme, launched recently:

1. It is launched by KVIC.
2. Its objective is to facilitate handloom workers to get bank loans under MUDRA yojana.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.83) Solution (a)

SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India) scheme is launched recently by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). SPIN is a specially designed program to make potters self-sustainable.

Its objective is to facilitate potters to get easy loans from banks that will help the potters to diversify their activities and enhance their income.

SPIN Scheme enables the registered potters to get a direct loan from the banks under Pradhan Mantri Shishu Mudra Yojana.

Under the SPIN Scheme, KVIC is acting as a facilitator for financial aid to potters through RBL bank and also providing training to the artisans, opting for this scheme.

Under this scheme, there will be no financial burden on the exchequer and the loan will be repaid by the potter in easy instalments.

The SPIN scheme, thus, aims at infusing self-sustainability in the Indian pottery sector.

Article Link: [KVIC launches series of schemes to empower artisans in Varanasi](#)

Q.84) The report titled “United in Science 2021” is released recently by:

- a) International Science Council
- b) World Meteorological Organization
- c) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- d) International Energy Agency

Q.84) Solution (b)

The report titled, United in Science 2021, is released recently by the World Meteorological Organization, with inputs from the UN Environment Programme, World Health Organization, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Global Carbon Project, World Climate Research Programme and the Met Office (UK).

Findings of the report:

- Fossil CO₂ emissions from coal, oil, gas and cement peaked at 36.64 gigatonne carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂) in 2019. They then dropped significant drop to 1.98 GtCO₂, a decrease of 5.6 per cent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Concentrations of major greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continued to increase last year and during the first half of 2021.
- Global emissions in the power and industry sectors were already at the same level or higher in January-July 2021 than in the same period in 2019.
- Global mean sea levels rose 20 cm from 1900 to 2018.
- An excess of 103 billion potential work hours were lost globally in 2019, compared to 2000. This was due to heat-related mortality and work impairment, caused by rising temperatures.
- High latitude regions and the Sahel are likely to be wetter over 2021–2025, than the recent past.

The report called on more countries to develop long-term strategies that were consistent with the 2015 Paris Agreement. It added that net-zero commitments needed to be translated into strong near-term policies and action.

Article Link: [COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed climate change: UN](#)

Q.85) MusQan initiative, seen recently in news, is launched by:

- a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

Q.85) Solution (a)

The MusQan initiative is launched recently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

It aims to ensure provision of quality child-friendly services in public health facilities to reduce preventable newborn and child morbidity and mortality.

It targets children below 12 years of age. It is a new quality improvement initiative, within the existing National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) framework.

Q.86) With reference to the National Trust of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Its objective is to provide opportunities for capacity development of Persons with Disability.
3. It comes under the Ministry of Education.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.86) Solution (a)

The National Trust is a statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, set up under the “National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities” Act.

The National Trust works towards providing opportunities for capacity development of Persons with Disability and their families, fulfilling their rights, facilitating and promoting the creation of an enabling environment and an inclusive society.

The National Trust’s mission, or fundamental purpose, is to create an enabling environment, i.e. providing opportunities for Persons with Disabilities through comprehensive support systems which can also be done by collaborating with other Ministries, etc., which will lead towards development of an inclusive society.

The objectives of the National Trust in particular are:

- To enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to their community as possible;
- To facilitate the realisation of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability;
- To extend support to its registered organisations to provide need based services; and
- To evolve procedures for appointments of guardians and trustees for persons with disabilities.

Article Link: [Ministry of social justice organises meeting with officials of J-K, Ladakh for implementation of National Trust Act](#)

Q.87) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana?

1. This scheme provides loans up to 1 crore to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

2. Shishu MUDRA yojana cover loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5,00,000.

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.87) Solution (d)

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 8, 2015 for providing loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs.

Under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), MUDRA has created three products i.e. 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' as per the stage of growth and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit. These schemes cover loan amounts as below:

- Shishu: covering loans up to ₹50,000
- Kishore: covering loans above ₹50,000 and up to ₹5,00,000
- Tarun: covering loans above ₹5,00,000 and up to ₹10,00,000

All Non-Corporate Small Business Segment (NCSBS) comprising of proprietorship or partnership firms running as small manufacturing units, service sector units, shopkeepers, fruits/vegetable vendors, truck operators, food-service units, repair shops, machine operators, small industries, food processors and others in rural and urban areas, are eligible for assistance under Mudra.

Article Link: [KVIC launches series of schemes to empower artisans in Varanasi](#)

Q.88) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Sea Cucumber?

1. It is a marine herbivorous mammal.
2. It acts like garbage collectors of the oceans.
3. Dr KK Mohammed Koya conservation reserve is the first sea cucumber conservation area in the world.

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.88) Solution (d)

Sea cucumbers are marine invertebrates that live on the seafloor found generally in tropical regions. They're named for their unusual oblong shape that resembles a fat cucumber.

They are an integral part of the coral ecosystem as one of the main by-products of the sea cucumbers digestion of sand is calcium carbonate and this is essential for the survival of the coral reefs. They act like garbage collectors of the ocean world, and they recycle nutrients, thus playing an important role in keeping coral reefs in good condition.

The Dr KK Mohammed Koya Sea Cucumber Conservation Reserve is the first sea cucumber conservation area in the world. It is located in the Cheriyanani Reef in the Indian Union Territory of Lakshadweep. It was formed in 2020. It covers an area of 239 km².

In India, the sea cucumber is protected under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, according to which the sea cucumbers cannot be transported for commercial use. In 2002, the Environmental ministry of India banned the commercial harvesting of sea cucumbers.

Article Link: [Coast guard seizes 2000 kg sea cucumber](#)

Q.89) Which of the following country is not a part of Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve, seen recently in news?

- a) Austria
- b) Slovenia
- c) Switzerland
- d) Croatia

Q.89) Solution (c)

Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) was recently declared as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.

The total area of the reserve is a million hectares – in the so-called 'Amazon of Europe', which is now the largest riverine protected area in Europe.

The biosphere "represented an important contribution to the European Green Deal (climate action plan) and contributed to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the Mura-Drava-Danube region."

Article Link: [UNESCO declares world's first 5-country biosphere reserve in 'Amazon of Europe'](#)

Q.90) With reference to "G-33" which of the following statement is incorrect?

- a) It is a coalition of developed countries.
- b) It seeks to limit the degree of market opening required of developing countries required by WTO regarding agriculture.
- c) There are currently 48 member nations in G-33.
- d) India is a member of this group.

Q.90) Solution (a)

The G33 (or the Friends of Special Products in agriculture) is a coalition of developing countries.

It was established prior to the 2003 Cancun ministerial conference, that have coordinated during the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, specifically in regard to agriculture.

The group has "defensive" concerns regarding agriculture in relation to World Trade Organization negotiations, and seeks to limit the degree of market opening required of developing countries.

Developing countries aim to balance power through tariffs, in order to manage their own food security, stabilize of the livelihoods of their farming populations, and strengthen rural development.

The group has advocated the creation of a "special products" exemption, which would allow developing countries to exempt certain products from tariff reductions, and also a "special safeguard mechanism" which would permit tariff increases in response to import surges.

The group currently has 48 member nations including India.

Article Link: [India finally accepts G-33 proposal on MSP doles](#)

Q.91) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana?

1. It is demand led skill training at programme for the rural poor.
2. The scheme is implemented through National Skill Development Corporation.

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.91) Solution (b)

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme for skill training of youth implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.

Skill training is done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards.

In line with the scheme objectives, the scheme is applicable to any candidate of Indian nationality who:

- an unemployed youth, college / school dropout
- Has a verifiable identity proof - Aadhaar / Voter id and a bank account.

PMKVY 3.0 was launched in January 2021 envisages training of eight lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs. 948.90 crore. It will be more trainee- and learner-centric. The focus is on bridging the demand-supply gap by promoting skill development in areas of new-age and Industry 4.0 job roles. It will be a propagator of vocational education at an early level for youth to capitalize on industry-linked opportunities.

Article Link: [Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana \(RKVY\), a program under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana \(PMKVY\), launched](#)

Q.92) With reference to Humboldt Ocean Currents, consider the following statements:

1. The Humboldt Current is a warm water ocean current.
2. It flows from west coast of South America towards Antarctica.
3. It is largely responsible for the aridity of Atacama Desert.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.92) Solution (c)

The Humboldt Current, also called the Peru Current, is a cold, low-salinity ocean current that flows north along the western coast of South America.

It flows north from Antarctica along the west coast of South America, bringing nutrient rich water to the Galapagos Islands and helping to sustain the islands rich biodiversity.

The Humboldt Current is a highly productive ecosystem. It is the most productive eastern boundary current system. It accounts for roughly 18-20% of the total worldwide marine fish catch. The species are mostly pelagic: sardines, anchovies and jack mackerel.

The Humboldt has a considerable cooling influence on the climate of Chile, Peru and Ecuador. It is also largely responsible for the aridity of Atacama Desert in northern Chile and coastal areas of Peru and also of the aridity of southern Ecuador.

Article Link: [How are Humboldts different from other penguins?](#)

Q.93) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund?

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. It provides medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure.
3. Loans under the scheme have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore.

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.93) Solution (d)

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a pan India Central Sector Scheme called Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

The objective of the scheme is to provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

Benefits:

- All loans under this financing facility have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
- Further, credit guarantee coverage is available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore. The fee for this coverage is paid by the Government.
- In case of FPOs the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility created under FPO promotion scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DACFW).
- Moratorium for repayment under this financing facility may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.

Intended beneficiary:

Under the scheme, Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, Aggregation Infrastructure Providers and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Project.

Article Link: [How agri infra fund is strengthening primary agri co-op societies](#)

Q.94) With reference to the defence sector of India, HELINA is a:

- a) Short-range surface to surface ballistic missile
- b) Medium range surface to air missile
- c) Anti-tank guided missile
- d) Intercontinental ballistic missile

Q.94) Solution (c)

Helina is a third-generation, Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system.

It has all- weather day and night operational capabilities.

It can defeat battle tanks with conventional and explosive reactive armour (ERA).

It can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.

Article Link: [Anti-tank missile completes all trials](#)

Q.95) Kodo, Kutki and Sanwa are the indigenous varieties of:

- a) Wheat
- b) Rice
- c) Millet
- d) Corn

Q.95) Solution (c)

Millets are often known as ‘Superfood’ and ‘nutri-cereals’.

The three major millet crops currently growing in India are jowar (sorghum), bajra (pearl millet) and ragi (finger millet).

Along with that, India grows a rich array of bio-genetically diverse and indigenous varieties of “small millets” like kodo, kutki, chenna and sanwa.

Major producers include Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana.

High in dietary fibre, millets are a powerhouse of nutrients including iron, folate, calcium, zinc, magnesium, phosphorous, copper, vitamins and antioxidants. They are not only important for the healthy growth and development of children but have also been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease and diabetes in adults.

Usually grown by small and poor farmers on dry, low-fertile, mountainous, tribal and rain-fed areas, millets are good for the soil, have shorter cultivation cycles and require less cost-intensive cultivation. These unique features make millets suited for and resilient to India’s varied agro-climatic conditions. Moreover, unlike rice and wheat, millets are not water or input-intensive, making them a sustainable strategy for addressing climate change and building resilient agri-food systems.

Article Link: [India becoming destination country for healthy foods like millets: Tomar at G-20 agri meet](#)

Q.96) With reference to Global Innovation Index 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the World Bank.
2. India performed better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2021.
3. India ranks first among 34 lower middle-income group economies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Q.96) Solution (b)

The GII is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.

The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.

India's position:

- India ranks 46th among the 132 economies featured in the GII 2021.
- India performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2021.
- This year India ranks 57th in innovation inputs, the same as last year but higher than 2019.
- As for innovation outputs, India ranks 45th. This position is the same as last year but higher than 2019.
- India ranks 2nd among the 34 lower middle-income group economies.
- India ranks 1st among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

Article Link: [India scores 46th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2021](#)

Q.97) With reference to the State Food Safety Index, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by NITI Aayog.
2. Among the larger states Kerala ranks first in food safety parameters.

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.97) Solution (d)

The State Food Safety Index is developed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

It measures the performance of States across five parameters of food safety. The parameters include Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

This year, among the larger states, Gujarat was the top ranking state, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur.

Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks.

Article Link: [Union Health Minister releases 3rd State Food Safety Index](#)

Q.98) With reference to IPO grey market, consider the following statements:

1. It is a parallel market where the shares of a company are bought and sold outside the official trading channels.
2. In IPO Grey Market the trading takes place before shares are issued in a follow-on-public offer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.98) Solution (a)

An IPO grey market is one where a company's shares are bid and offered by traders unofficially. This takes place before the shares are even issued by the company in an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

Since this is an unofficial market, there are no rules and regulations. Market regulators like Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) are not involved in these transactions. The regulator doesn't endorse this either.

Grey markets are generally run by a small set of individuals. All deals are based on mutual trust.

Article Link: [Paras Defence IPO: GMP, subscription status](#)

Q.99) Lake Tanganyika forms the border between:

- a) Nigeria and Chad
- b) Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- c) Namibia and Botswana
- d) Zimbabwe and South Africa

Q.99) Solution (b)

Lake Tanganyika is the longest freshwater lake in the world and the second deepest. It is located in eastern Africa.

The lake is divided among four countries: Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Zambia with Tanzania (46%) and DRC (40%) possessing the majority of the lake.

Article Link: [Most internal displacement in East Africa's Burundi due to rise of Lake Tanganyika](#)

Q.100) The Canary Islands is an archipelago located in:

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

Q.100) Solution (c)

The Canary Islands is a Spanish archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, in a region known as Macaronesia.

At their closest point to the African mainland, they are 100 kilometres west of Morocco.

They are the southernmost of the autonomous communities of Spain, and are located in the African Tectonic Plate.

The archipelago is economically and politically European, and is part of the European Union.

Article Link: [Volcano spews lava in Spain's Canary Islands, dramatic videos capture intensity of disaster](#)

Q.101) Recently, two beaches in India have been given Blue Flag Certification. In this context consider the following statements:

1. Blue Flag Certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded to promote sustainable tourism.
2. Blue Flag Certification is given by the International Maritime Organization.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.101) Solution (a)

The 'Blue Flag' is a certification that can be obtained by a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator, and serves as an eco-label.

The certification is awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education, which sets stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria that applicants must meet and maintain.

It is awarded annually to beaches and marinas in FEE member countries.

The Blue Flag programme was started in France in 1985 and in areas out of Europe in 2001. The programme promotes sustainable development in freshwater and marine areas through four main criteria: water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety.

Forty-seven countries currently participate in the program, and 4,573 beaches, marinas, and boats have this certification.

Article Link: [Eden becomes first Puducherry beach to get coveted Blue Flag tag](#)

Q.102) Which of the following countries are part of “Five Eyes” coalition?

1. Australia
2. Russia
3. New Zealand
4. France

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.102) Solution (b)

The Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries are parties to the multilateral UKUSA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.

The origins of the FVEY can be traced back to informal secret meetings during World War II between British and US code-breakers that started before the US entry into the war, followed by the Atlantic Charter agreed by the Allies to lay out their goals for a post-war world.

In spite of continued controversy over its methods, the Five Eyes relationship remains one of the most comprehensive known espionage alliances in history.

Article Link: [Aukus powers up five eyes' anti-China plan, boosts Quad](#)

Q.103) Report titled “Transforming food system for rural prosperity”, released recently by:

- a) Food and Agricultural Organizations
- b) World Food Programme
- c) International Food Policy Research Institute
- d) International Fund for Agricultural Development

Q.103) Solution (d)

Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity report is released recently by the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Findings of the report:

- Food systems are responsible for 37 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and are also highly vulnerable to a changing climate.
- There are 800 million hungry people and yet high obesity rates.

- Nutritious diets are expensive yet many small-scale farmers are poor.
- Current food growing practices are not good for our environment.
- Farms of up to two hectares produce 31 per cent of the world's food on less than 11 per cent of the farmland.
- Over the past 70 years, a focus on industrial farming and producing more calories at low cost has been accompanied by growing malnutrition, increased food waste and a high environmental cost.

Recommendations of the report:

The report recommended concrete actions to be taken by governments:

- Rewarding farmers for ecosystem services such as maintaining healthy soil and regulating pests and incentives for nature-based practices and local, healthy diet.
- Making available innovations such as nature-based solutions, agro-ecology and affordable digital technologies to boost rural small-scale farmers' production. The measures will also enable the cultivators to be climate-resilient employing low-carbon and sustainable techniques
- Developing and focussing on pricing systems that reflect the full and true cost of production
- Shifting food systems towards circular resource use for sustainability and resilience

Article Link: [Dramatic changes needed in global food systems to address nutrition disparity, poverty: IFAD](#)

Q.104) Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, seen sometimes in news, is located in:

- a) Haryana
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Odisha
- d) Maharashtra

Q.104) Solution (c)

Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary is a wildlife reserve located in the south fringe of cuttack in Odisha.

It was designated as an elephant reserve in December 1982.

The Indian elephant is the flagship species and indicative of the potential productivity of the habitat. Chital, barking deer, mouse deer, wild boar, common langur, rhesus monkey, small Indian civet, common Indian mongoose, small Indian mongoose, ruddy mongoose, pangolin, sloth bear, ratel, Indian wolf and hyena are other mammals of the area.

The Zoological Survey of India (in 2002) reported 37 species of mammals, 167 species of birds, 33 species of reptiles, 13 species of amphibians and 28 species of fishes in this sanctuary.

Article Link: [Odisha readies radio collars for 7 elephants](#)

Q.105) Consider the following statements regarding Metal-Organic Frameworks, seen recently in news:

1. These are crystalline porous solids composed of a three-dimensional network of metal ions.
2. These materials can be used for waste water treatment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.105) Solution (c)

Metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) are a class of compounds consisting of metal ions or clusters coordinated to organic ligands to form one-, two-, or three-dimensional structures. They are a subclass of coordination polymers, with the special feature that they are often porous.

MOFs are considered good candidates to be employed in wastewater treatment technologies.

MOFs also find applications in the storage of gases such as hydrogen and carbon dioxide. Other possible applications of MOFs are in gas purification, in gas separation, in catalysis, as conducting solids and as supercapacitors.

Article Link: [Researchers develop super-hydrophobic cotton for oil-spill cleanup](#)

Q.106) Consider the following statements regarding VIPER mission:

1. It is a joint mission of ISRO, CNES and JAXA.
2. The objective of this mission is to explore the surface of Planet Venus.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.106) Solution (d)

Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER:

- VIPER the first resource mapping mission by NASA on another celestial body.
- It is a mobile robot that will go to the South Pole of the Moon to get a close-up view of the location and concentration of water ice that could eventually be harvested to sustain human exploration on the Moon, Mars — and beyond.
- It will explore the relatively nearby but extreme environment of the Moon in search of water ice and other potential resources.
- This mobile robot will land at the South Pole of the Moon in late 2023 on a 100-day mission.

- The critical information it provides will teach us about the origin and distribution of water on the Moon and help determine how we can harvest the Moon's resources for future human space exploration.
- NASA will use the data the rover collects to show where the Moon's water ice is most likely to be found and easiest to access, making VIPER the first-ever resource mapping mission on another celestial body.
- The first water maps of the Moon will mark a critical step forward in NASA's Artemis program to establish a sustainable human presence on the surface of the Moon by 2028.

Article Link: [Why has Nasa chosen the Nobile Crater of Moon's south pole as Viper's landing site?](#)

Q.107) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Light Fidelity (Li-Fi) technology:

1. It is a wireless technology that transmits data using radio waves.
2. It provides more secure data transfer than other data transfer technology.

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.107) Solution (b)

Li-Fi is a wireless communication technology which utilizes light to transmit data and position between devices.

In technical terms, Li-Fi is a light communication system that is capable of transmitting data at high speeds over the visible light, ultraviolet, and infrared spectrums. In its present state, only LED lamps can be used for the transmission of data in visible light

In terms of its end use, the technology is similar to Wi-Fi — the key technical difference being that Wi-Fi uses radio frequency to induce a voltage in an antenna to transmit data, whereas Li-Fi uses the modulation of light intensity to transmit data. Li-Fi can theoretically transmit at speeds of up to 100 Gbit/s. Data transfer can take place more securely as in Li-Fi light is blocked by walls.

Li-Fi technology is used airlines, undersea exploration etc.

Article Link: [India's highest altitude institute in Ladakh gets LiFi network for faster internet](#)

Q.108) With reference to Priority Sector Lending (PSL), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. All scheduled commercial banks are mandated to set aside 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit for PSL.
2. All Regional rural banks are mandated to allocate 75% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit to PSL.

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.108) Solution (c)

Priority Sector means those sectors which the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India consider as important for the development of the basic needs of the country and are to be given priority over other sectors. The banks are mandated to encourage the growth of such sectors with adequate and timely credit.

The categories of priority sector are as follows:

1. Agriculture
2. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
3. Export Credit
4. Education
5. Housing
6. Social Infrastructure
7. Renewable Energy
8. Others

Following targets are set by the Reserve Bank of India regarding priority Sector Lending:

- All scheduled commercial banks and foreign banks (with a sizable presence in India) are mandated to set aside 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC) for lending to these sectors.
- Regional rural banks, co-operative banks and small finance banks have to allocate 75% of ANDC to PSL.

Article Link: [Short of lending targets, banks seek priority sector tag for retail, infrastructure](#)

Q.109) Which of the following is not a Rabi crop?

- a) Barley
- b) Linseed
- c) Mustard
- d) Sorghum

Q.109) Solution (d)

The agricultural crop year in India is from July to June. The Indian cropping season is classified into two main seasons-(i) Kharif and (ii) Rabi based on the monsoon.

The terms 'kharif' and 'rabi' originate from Arabic language where Kharif means autumn and Rabi means spring.

The kharif cropping season is from July –October during the south-west monsoon and the Rabi cropping season is from October-March (winter).

The crops grown between March and June are summer crops or Zaid crops.

The kharif crops include rice, maize, sorghum, pearl millet/bajra, finger millet/ragi (cereals), arhar (pulses), soyabean, groundnut (oilseeds), cotton etc.

The rabi crops include wheat, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard (oilseeds) etc.

Article Link: [National conference on Agriculture for Rabi campaign 2021 held](#)

Q.110) As per recent data which of the following state is the largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the first four months of financial year 2021-22?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.110) Solution (c)

Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country. The following trends in India's Foreign Direct Investment are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors:

- India has attracted total FDI inflow of US\$ 27.37 billion during first four months of F.Y. 2021-22 which is 62% higher as compared to corresponding period of F.Y. 2020-21 (US\$ 16.92 billion).
- FDI equity inflow grew by 112% in the first four months of F.Y. 2021-22 (US\$ 20.42 billion) compared to the year ago period (US\$ 9.61 billion).
- Karnataka is the top recipient state during the F.Y. 2021-22 (upto July, 2021) with 45% share of the total FDI Equity inflows followed by Maharashtra (23%) and Delhi (12%).
- 'Automobile Industry' has emerged as the top sector during the first four months of F.Y. 2021-22 with 23% share of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by Computer Software & Hardware (18%) and Services Sector (10%) respectively.
- Under the sector 'Automobile Industry', majority of FDI Equity inflow (87%) was reported in the state of Karnataka during the first four months of the current financial year (2021-22).

Article Link: [FDI Inflows grow 62% during first four months of current Financial Year over corresponding period last year](#)

Q.111) Consider the following statements regarding scheme to promote medical device parks:

1. The initiative is launched by the ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

2. Its objective is to provide easy access to standard testing and infrastructure facilities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.111) Solution (b)

The scheme is notified by the department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- a) Easy access to standard testing and infrastructure facilities through creation of world class common infrastructure facilities for increased competitiveness will result into significant reduction of the cost of production of medical devices leading to better availability and affordability of medical devices in the domestic market.
- b) Reaping the benefits arising due to optimization of resources and economies of scale.

The total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs. 400 crore and the tenure of the scheme is from FY 2020-2021 to FY 2024-2025.

The financial assistance to a selected Medical Device Park would be 70% of the project cost of common infrastructure facilities. In case of North Eastern States and Hilly States, financial assistance would be 90% of the project cost. Maximum assistance under the scheme for one Medical Device Park would be limited to Rs. 100 crores.

Article Link: [Scheme for “Promotion of Medical Device Parks”, a key initiative to support the medical devices, notified](#)

Q.112) With reference to the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a tool to identify beneficiaries for government support.
2. It falls under the Census Act, 1948.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.112) Solution (a)

Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) is a study of socio economic status of rural and urban households and allows ranking of households based on predefined parameters.

SECC has three census components which were conducted by three separate authorities but under the overall coordination of Department of Rural Development in the Government of India.

- Census in Rural Area has been conducted by the Department of Rural Development (DoRD).
- Census in Urban areas is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA).

Caste Census is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs: Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner of India.

While Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.

SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support. All the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households.

Article Link: [SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support](#)

Q.113) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana?

1. It provides cover of 5 lakhs per family per year, for primary healthcare hospitalization.
2. It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses.
3. The National Health Authority is the nodal agency responsible for the implementation of the scheme.

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.113) Solution (d)

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world which aims at providing a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) that form the bottom 40% of the Indian population.

Key features of the PM-JAY:

- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.

- PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital.
- PM-JAY envisions to help mitigate catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment which pushes nearly 6 crore Indians into poverty each year.
- It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

Article Link: [People avail Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY benefits in Jammu- Kashmir's Poonch](#)

Q.114) As per IUCN Red List what is the conservation status of Pondicherry Shark?

- a) Endangered
- b) Vulnerable
- c) Critically Endangered
- d) Extinct in Wild

Q.114) Solution (c)

The Pondicherry shark is an extremely rare species of requiem shark, in the family Carcharhinidae.

The Pondicherry shark appears to have been broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific region.

It is among the 25 'most wanted lost' species that are the focus of Global Wildlife Conservation's "Search for Lost Species" initiative.

Q.115) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India recently became the external auditor of which of the following organization?

- a) Arctic Council
- b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- d) International Atomic Energy Agency

Q.115) Solution (d)

India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has been selected as the next External Auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for a six-year term (2022-27) at the General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna.

The election is a global acknowledgement of India's CAG's credentials, professionalism and experience.

Article Link: [India's CAG becomes the External Auditor of the IAEA](#)

Q.116) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports (SCALE)?

1. It is set up under the Ministry of External Affairs.
2. Main objective of this committee is to increase the demand of organic agricultural products from India in the international market.

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.116) Solution (d)

The Steering Committee for Local Value Addition, Manufacturing and Exports or SCALE is setup by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to revive manufacturing sector of India.

The aim of this committee is navigating Indian manufacturing away from the import-dependence pitfalls exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SCALE includes the top officials from three industry bodies — CII, FICCI and Asshocham — three representatives from government and three industry leaders.

The group is working on ideas for 17 sectors — from toys, textiles, furniture and e-cycles to drones, and even fisheries.

It shall have no deadlines and will follow a rigorous process of consultations to align different factions of industry with varying agendas at multiple levels.

Article Link: [Steep logistics costs and import duties on raw materials and machines are areas of concern, says Pawan Goenka](#)

Q.117) With reference to SAUBHAGYA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a household electrification drive.
2. The scheme primarily benefits rural areas.
3. The beneficiaries are identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

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.117) Solution (d)

The Saubhagya Scheme or Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana is an Indian government project to provide electricity to all households. The scheme was announced in 2017.

Saubhagya Scheme aims to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country.

The scheme primarily benefits rural areas, which have vast majority of households without power connections.

The beneficiaries for free electricity connection would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

Article Link: [SAUBHAGYA completes FOUR years of successful implementation](#)

Q.118) Consider the following statements:

1. Dark energy makes up about 68% of the universe.
2. Dark energy attracts and holds galaxies together.

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.118) Solution (a)

Dark Energy is a hypothetical form of energy that exerts a negative, repulsive pressure, behaving like the opposite of gravity. It is causing the rate of expansion of our universe to accelerate over time, rather than to slow down. That's contrary to what one might expect from a universe that began in a Big Bang.

Everything we see – the planets, moons, massive galaxies, you, me, this website – makes up less than 5% of the universe. About 27% is dark matter and 68% is dark energy. While dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together, dark energy repels and causes the expansion of our universe.

Despite both components being invisible, we know a lot more about dark matter, since its existence was suggested as early as the 1920s, while dark energy wasn't discovered until 1998.

Article Link: [What is dark energy?](#)

Q.119) “Tamenglong orange”, recently received GI tag belongs to:

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

Q.119) Solution (b)

Tamenglong orange is a species of mandarin group is a unique fruit crop found only in Tamenglong district of Manipur which contributes over 50 per cent of the state’s annual production. It is famous especially for its well blended sweetness and acidic taste. Usually each fruit contains 10-14 pods.

Article Link: [Manipur expects GI tag for its unique orange in Tamenglong](#)

Q.120) Kathaprasangam, seen recently in news, is a performing art of:

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

Q.120) Solution (d)

Kathaprasangam (lyrical narrative or story telling performance) is a performing art of Kerala, India.

It combines speaking, acting, and singing to present a story. The main artist, the Kaadhikan, tells the story, acts and sings with two or three accompanying instrumentalists.

Themes are largely from classical and popular literature. It originated from an earlier art form Harikathakalakshepam.

Q.121) With reference to the office of Speaker in the legislative assemblies of states, consider the following statements:

1. Article 93 of the Indian Constitution provides for the election of speaker to the legislative assembly of the state.
2. The Governor sets the date for the election of the Speaker in the legislative assembly of the state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.121) Solution (b)

Article 93 for Lok Sabha and Article 178 for state Assemblies state that these Houses “shall, as soon as may be, choose two of its members to be Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

In Lok Sabha and state legislatures, the President/Governor sets a date for the election of the Speaker, and it is the Speaker who decides the date for the election of the Deputy Speaker.

The legislators of the respective Houses vote to elect one among themselves to these offices.

The Constitution neither sets a time limit nor specifies the process for these elections. It leaves it to the legislatures to decide how to hold these elections.

Haryana and Uttar Pradesh specify a time-frame for holding the election to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker’s offices. In Haryana, the election of the Speaker has to take place as soon as possible after the election. And then the Deputy Speaker is to be elected within seven more days. The rules also specify that if a vacancy in these offices happens subsequently, then the election for these should occur within seven days of the legislature’s next session.

Uttar Pradesh has a 15-day limit for an election to the Speaker’s post if it falls vacant during the term of the Assembly. In the case of the Deputy Speaker, the date for the first election is to be decided by the Speaker, and 30 days is given for filling subsequent vacancies.

The Constitution provides that the office of the Speaker should never be empty. So, he continues in office until the beginning of the next House, except in the event of death or resignation.

Article Link: [Nimaben Acharya becomes first woman Speaker of Gujarat Assembly](#)

Q.122) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding International Criminal Court?

1. It is a primary judicial branch of the United Nations.
2. It consists of a panel of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council.
3. It derives its authority from Rome Statute.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.122) Solution (c)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague, Netherlands. It is not a part of the United Nations. However, they do work alongside each other and the United Nations Security Council can refer to situations involving international crimes to the ICC.

The ICC is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

The International Criminal Court is made up of 18 judges who make decisions on international criminal matters, where each judge serves a nine-year term. They all come from member-countries of the ICC however, no two of them can be from the same country.

The International Criminal Court derives its authority from the Rome Statute, which was ratified and became executable in 2002.

Article Link: [Prosecutor seeks to resume ICC probe in Afghanistan](#)

Q.123) Consider the following statements:

1. Government borrowing falls under capital receipts in the Budget document.
2. Majority of government's fiscal deficit comes from its interest obligation on past debt.

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.123) Solution (c)

Government borrowing:

Government borrows through issue of government securities called G-secs and Treasury Bills. Borrowing is a loan taken by the government and falls under capital receipts in the Budget document. It is essentially the total amount of money that the central government borrows to fund its spending on public services and benefits. As the tax and non-tax revenue fall short in financing government's spending programme, the government announces an annual borrowing programme in the Budget.

Bulk of government's fiscal deficit comes from its interest obligation on past debt. If the government resorts to larger borrowings, more than what it has projected, then its interest costs also go up risking higher fiscal deficit. That hurts government's finances. Larger borrowing programme means that the public debt will go up and especially at a time when the GDP growth is subdued, it will lead to a higher debt-to-GDP ratio.

Article Link: [Bonds gain as Govt sticks to FY22 borrowing target](#)

Q.124) Who among the following was instrumental in the passing of the Widow Remarriage Act, 1856?

- a) Radhakant Deb
- b) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- d) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Q.124) Solution (b)

Ishwar Chandra Bandyopadhyay was born in Birsingha village in Hooghly district of Bengal on September 26, 1820.

- He contributed to the removal of social justice, upliftment of women, allowing widow remarriage, and advocating against polygamy.
- He played a major part in being appointed as the Head Pandit of Fort William College on December 29, 1841.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar opened schools for girls and brought significant reforms in the education sector by bringing justice and equality for women through education.
- He brought social reforms to change the orthodox Hindu society from within.
- He was also a great intellectual activist of the 19th century who installed socio-religious reforms into modern history.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar established a number of model schools in Hooghly, Midnapore, Burdwan, and Nadia.
- He introduced monthly exams instead of annual ones, supervised schools, and changed the syllabus.
- He brought the study of English, Western Science, and Mathematics into the syllabus.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar also started the acceptance of tuition fees and admission fees and made Sunday a weekly holiday.
- The revolution in the education system in Bengal was also made by him.
- Because of his contribution towards such issues, the Widow Remarriage Act was passed in 1856, making the marriage of widows legal.

Article Link: [Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, 19th century visionary who humbled a king, wanted education for all](#)

Q.125) “Parshuram Kund”, development of which has been sanctioned under the PRASHAD scheme recently is located in:

- Uttarakhand
- Rajasthan
- Madhya Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh

Q.125) Solution (d)

Parshuram Kund is a Hindu pilgrimage sites situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River in Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Dedicated to sage Parshuram, the popular site attracts pilgrims from Nepal, from across India, and from nearby states of Manipur and Assam.

Article Link: [Shri G. Kishan Reddy lays the foundation stone for the development of Parshuram Kund in Arunachal Pradesh](#)

Q.126) Consider the following statements:

1. A political party is recognised as a national party if it wins two per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha at a general election and these candidates are elected from three states.
2. The Election Commission of India is empowered to de-register political parties on the grounds of violating the Constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.126) Solution (a)

The Election Commission registers political parties for the purpose of elections and grants them recognition as national or state parties on the basis of their poll performance.

A party is recognised as a national party if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

1. If it secures six per cent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly; and, in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states; or
2. If it wins two per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha at a general election; and these candidates are elected from three states; or
3. If it is recognised as a state party in four states.

Power of Deregistration: The ECI is not empowered to de-register parties on the grounds of violating the Constitution or breaching the undertaking given to it at the time of registration. ECI has the power to register parties under the Representation of the People Act, (RPA) 1951, but it does not have the power to deregister parties that are inactive.

Article Link: [ECI awaits Law Ministry nod to deregister inactive parties](#)

Q.127) Direct seeding of rice is seen as an efficient method of cultivating paddy than the transplantation method. In this context what is/are the benefits of direct seeding of rice?

1. Seed requirement is less
2. Saves labour cost
3. Reduces methane emission

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.127) Solution (b)

How is Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) different from normal transplanting of paddy?

In transplanting, farmers prepare nurseries where the paddy seeds are first sown and raised into young plants. These seedlings are then uprooted and replanted 25-35 days later in the main field. The nursery seed bed is 5-10% of the area to be transplanted. In DSR, there is no nursery preparation or transplantation. The seeds are instead directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine.

Main advantage with DSR:

- Reduces water requirement. The first irrigation under DSR is necessary only 21 days after sowing. This is unlike in transplanted paddy, where watering has to be done practically daily to ensure submerged/flooded conditions in the first three weeks.
- Less numbers of labourers required.
- Saves labour cost.
- Reduce methane emissions due to a shorter flooding period and decreased soil disturbance compared to transplanting rice seedlings

Drawbacks:

- The seed requirement for DSR is higher, at 8-10 kg/acre, compared to 4-5 kg in transplanting.
- Further, laser land levelling is compulsory in DSR. This is not so in transplanting.
- The sowing needs to be done timely so that the plants have come out properly before the monsoon rains arrive.

Article Link: [India gets first herbicide-tolerant & non-GM rice varieties](#)

Q.128) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a central sector scheme launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
2. It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.128) Solution (b)

Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food

processing industry and promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

With an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

Article Link: [Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in association with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, virtually launched the PMFME Scheme Seed Capital Module](#)

Q.129) Rat-hole mining is the primarily practiced mining technique in which of the following state of India?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Bihar
- d) Meghalaya

Q.129) Solution (d)

A rat-hole mine involves digging of very small tunnels, usually only 3-4 feet deep, in which workers, more often children, enter and extract coal. Rat-hole mining is broadly of two types – side-cutting and box-cutting.

Rat-hole mining is primarily practiced only in Meghalaya. Such cases are not witnessed in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh because the coal seams are thick in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh while in Meghalaya coal seams are very thin. So, economically it is not a good idea to do an open mining, and therefore, they prefer rat-hole mining.

Although the coal is of bad quality, people see it as a treasure-chest. In backward regions, where there is loss of livelihood, lack of employment opportunities and under-education, people see rat-hole mines as an opportunity to earn daily bread. A major portion of those involved in rat hole mining are children, who are preferred because of their thin body shape and ease to access depths.

Article Link: [Meghalaya to resume coal mining despite green concerns](#)

Q.130) The All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES) is prepared by:

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Central Statistical Organization
- c) Ministry of Commerce
- d) Labour Bureau

Q.130) Solution (d)

The All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) has been prepared by the Labour Bureau.

The AQEES has been taken up by the Labour Bureau to provide frequent (quarterly) updates about the employment and related variables of establishments, in both organised and unorganised segments of nine selected sectors. These sectors altogether account for a majority of the total employment in the non-farm establishments. These nine selected sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.

Of the total employment estimated in the selected nine sectors, Manufacturing accounts for nearly 41 percent followed by Education with 22 percent, and Health 8 percent. Trade as well as and IT/BPO each engaged 7 percent of the total estimated number of workers.

Article Link: [Shri Bhupender Yadav releases the report of Quarterly Employment Survey \(QES\) employing 10 plus workers.](#)

