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**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to the coffee cultivation in India:**

1. Robusta is grown in higher altitudes than Arabica.
2. Arabica is susceptible to pests & diseases and requires more shade than Robusta.

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

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

**Q.1) Solution (b)**

The two main varieties of coffee viz., Arabica and Robusta are grown in India. Arabica is mild coffee, but the beans being more aromatic, it has higher market value compared to Robusta beans. On the other hand Robusta has more strength and is, therefore, used in making various blends.

***Arabica is grown in higher altitudes than Robusta.***

Arabica requires more care & nurture and is more suitable for large holdings whereas Robusta is suitable irrespective of size of the farm.

Arabica is susceptible to pests & diseases such as White Stem Borer, leaf rust etc., and requires more shade than Robusta.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/local-growers-yet-to-savour-rising-global-coffee-prices/article37258424.ece>

<https://www.indiacoffee.org/IndexContent.html>

**Q.2) With respect to The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Rules, 2021, consider the following statements**

1. The vulnerable women in the rule includes minors, survivors of sexual assault and those with foetal malformation
2. The vulnerable women are allowed termination up to 24 weeks with the permission of four doctors.

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

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

**Q.2) Solution (a)**

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Rules, 2021, define new categories of vulnerable women who are allowed termination up to 24 weeks upon meeting certain conditions and ***with the permission of two doctors***.

**New categories**

These include minors, survivors of sexual assault and those with foetal malformation. Others may seek abortion up to 20 weeks with the permission of one doctor upon meeting certain criteria — earlier you needed the permission of one doctor for termination up to 12 weeks, and two doctors for 12 to 20 weeks. The amended law provides for setting up of State-level medical boards to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/abortion-rules-to-aid-minors/article37262540.ece>

**Q.3) With respect to The Trans-Arunachal Highway (TAH), consider the following statements:**

1. Trans-Arunachal Highway is the important enablers of Northeast development and India's Look East connectivity strategy.
2. The Trans-Arunachal Highway greatly helps in reducing isolation of the people by connecting the district headquarters

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

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

**Q.3) Solution (c)**

The Trans-Arunachal Highway, passing through the entire length of the state, roughly divides Arunachal Pradesh state in two parts - the upper two-third in north and east and lower one-third.

The Trans-Arunachal Highway greatly helps in reducing isolation of the people by connecting the district headquarters, major hydro electric power projects and other important places.

Trans-Arunachal Highway, along with the under-construction Arunachal East-West Corridor across the lower foothills inside Arunachal Pradesh along the Assam border and the proposed Arunachal

Frontier Highway along the China border, are important enablers of Northeast development and India's Look East connectivity strategy.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/chinese-build-up-in-ralp-a-matter-of-concern/article37262515.ece>

**Q.4) Minors were included as a special category in The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Rules, 2021 for which of the following reasons?**

1. Large number of them was approaching courts for permission to terminate pregnancies beyond 20 weeks.
2. They were the third largest category after those with foetal abnormalities and rape survivors.
3. The detection of pregnancies in case of minors gets delayed

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

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

**Q.4) Solution (d)**

Minors were included as a special category because it was found that a large number of them were approaching courts for permission to terminate pregnancies beyond 20 weeks. They were the third largest category after those with foetal abnormalities and rape survivors. Moreover, if you look at the social context, the detection of pregnancies in case of minors gets delayed, and then after that the need to negotiate and seeking relevant care becomes all the more difficult

POCSO Act, 2012, in providing services.

Section 19 of the Act requires any person aware of a minor engaging in sex to report the matter to the local police even if it was a consensual act as the law pegs the age of consent at 18.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/abortion-rules-to-aid-minors/article37262540.ece>

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to the Invasive alien species (IAS):**

1. They may lack natural predators in their new environments, allowing them to quickly increase their abundance and spread.
2. They can carry diseases, outcompete or prey on native species, alter food chains, and even change ecosystems

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

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

**Q.5) Solution (c)**

Invasive alien species are species that are introduced, accidentally or intentionally, outside of their natural geographic range and that become problematic. They are often introduced as a result of the globalisation of economies through the movement of people and goods, for instance via shipping, consignments of wood products carrying insects, or the transport of ornamental plants to new areas.

Invasive alien species (IAS) can have severe ecological effects on the invaded environments. They may lack natural predators in their new environments, allowing them to quickly increase their abundance and spread. They can carry diseases, outcompete or prey on native species, alter food chains, and even change ecosystems by, for example, altering soil composition or creating habitats that encourage wildfires. These impacts can lead to local or global extinctions of native species and eventual ecological devastation.

Article Link:

<https://www.iucn.org/regions/europe/our-work/biodiversity-conservation/invasive-alien-species>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/a-movement-to-root-out-invasive-alien-species/article37263098.ece>

**Q.6) With reference to India, the terms ‘chhau and paik’ pertain to**

- a) pre-historic paintings

- b) dance forms of Bengal
- c) musical instruments
- d) tribal languages

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

During Durga Puja, while festivities marked cities, these Bengal villages used art to fight COVID-19

The campaign is being organised by the community radio of Jadavpur University with support from UNICEF and is being executed by the Kolkata-based Chalchitra Academy. ‘chhau’ dance, ‘paik’ dance and ‘patachitra’ [showing artworks to the accompaniment of songs] to caution the people against COVID-19 and encourage them to get vaccinated.

Chhaau, is a semi classical Indian dance with martial and folk traditions, with origins in the Kalinga(Odisha) region from Mayurbhanj, and panned out to its variants in the states of West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Paik is a martial folk dance. The dancers are armed with wooden spears and shields and show off their skills and agility in infantry like formations.

Patachitra or Pattachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/during-durga-puja-while-festivities-marked-cities-these-bengal-villages-used-art-to-fight-covid-19/article37225598.ece>

**Q.7) With respect to Relay Cropping, consider the following statements**

- 1) Relay planting means the planting of different crops in the same plot
- 2) The second crop is planted even before the first crop is harvested in relay cropping

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

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

**Q.7) Solution (c)**

In relay cropping the second crop is planted even before the first crop is harvested. Thus, both crops share some part of the season. Thus relay planting means the planting of different crops in the same plot, one right after another, in the same season.

Relay Cropping - Relay planting means the planting of different crops in the same plot, one right after another, in the same season. Examples of such relay cropping would be planting rice (or wheat), cauliflower, onion, and summer gourd (or potato onion, lady's fingers and maize), in the same season. The risk is less since you do not have to depend on one crop alone.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sci-tech-and-agri/indian-farming-practices-learning-from-elsewhere-in-the-world/article37262554.ece>

**Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to Joro Spider — *Trichonephila clavata*:**

- 1) It is part of a group of spiders known as orb weavers for their highly organized, wheel-shaped webs.
- 2) It is common in Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan,

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

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

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

The Joro Spider — *Trichonephila clavata* — is part of a group of spiders known as orb weavers for their highly organized, wheel-shaped webs. Common in Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan, Joro females have colorful yellow, blue and red markings on their bodies. They can measure three inches across when their legs are fully extended.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sci-tech-and-agri/asian-spider-seen-in-georgia/article37262564.ece>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/joro-spiders-georgia-asia-invasive-species/>



**Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding cryptocurrencies:**

- 1) One of the important features of cryptocurrencies that is attracting investors is its limited supply.
- 2) China has imposed a complete ban on all cryptocurrencies

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

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

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

The most important feature of cryptocurrencies that is flaunted by their enthusiasts is their limited supply.

Cryptocurrencies possess no significant use value or exchange value to sustain their current high prices

Gold and silver have traditionally served as hedges against inflation because they possess fundamental value derived from their use as jewellery and money. But bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies neither offer direct use value nor possess significant exchange value — bitcoin can buy you very few real goods and services. In short, cryptocurrencies possess no significant fundamental value to sustain their current high prices.

China recently imposed a complete ban on all cryptocurrencies and plans to issue its own central bank-issued digital currency.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-crypto-conundrum/article37292276.ece>

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

- 1) Bridgmanite is the most volumetrically abundant mineral of the Earth's interior.
- 2) Bridgmanite is present in the upper mantle

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Q.10) Solution (a)**

Scientists find a mineral seen in the depths of the Earth in a meteorite

The study by IIT Kharagpur scientists adds a clue to the puzzle of the formation of the Moon

The key findings of a study led by IIT Kharagpur researchers could help us understand the formation and evolution of the Earth. They have studied a meteorite that fell near the town of Katol in Nagpur District of Maharashtra on May 22, 2012, reporting for the first time, presence of veins of the mineral bridgmanite, which is the most abundant mineral in the interior of the Earth, within the Katol L6 Chondrite meteorite. This finding adds evidence to the Moon-forming giant impact hypothesis.

Bridgmanite is the most volumetrically abundant mineral of the Earth's interior. It is present in the **lower mantle (from 660 to 2700 km)**.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/scientists-find-a-mineral-seen-in-the-depths-of-the-earth-in-a-meteorite/article37256589.ece>

**Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to the P-15 Bravo-class or Project-15B:**

1. It is also known as Visakhapatnam-class destroyers
2. It is the modified versions of the earlier Kolkata-class destroyers (P-15A)
3. The class consists of four vessels named as Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Porbandar

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

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

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

The first ship of the four Project-15B state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers, Visakhapatnam, being built at the Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Navy.

The four ships are named after major cities from all four corners of the country — Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat

The Visakhapatnam-class destroyers, or P-15 Bravo-class, or simply P-15B is a class of guided-missile destroyers currently being built for the Indian Navy. The P-15B destroyers are modified versions of the earlier Kolkata-class destroyers (P-15A). The class consists of four vessels – Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Porbandar, all four are being built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL). Noted for being the largest-ever destroyers built by India, the P-15B class features substantial improvements in design, technology and stealth, over the P-15A class.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/navy-takes-delivery-of-warship/article37276917.ece>

**Q.12) With respect to Ganges River Dolphins, consider the following statements**

1. The GRDs have been designated as the National Aquatic Animal of India
2. It is listed as Endangered under IUCN Red List

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

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

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

The Jal Shakti Ministry released a guide for the safe rescue and release of stranded Ganges River Dolphins.

The GRDs have been designated the National Aquatic Animal of India since 2010 and are listed as 'Endangered' under IUCN Red List Assessments, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972), Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The species, whose global population is estimated at 4,000, are (nearly 80%) found in the Indian subcontinent. They often accidentally enter canal channels in northern India and are often entrapped, and die as they are unable to swim up against the gradient, eventually getting stressed and harassed by the locals.

Only three species of freshwater dolphins are remaining on the earth after the functional extinction of the Chinese river Dolphin (Baiji) in 2006.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/ministry-releases-guide-for-safe-rescue-release-of-ganges-river-dolphins/article37292366.ece>

**Q.13) Recently Supreme Court banned using toxic chemicals like Barium salts in firecrackers. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. In industry, Barium Chloride is mainly used in the manufacture of heat treatment salts and case hardening of steel
2. The applicability of Barium Chloride is limited due to its toxicity

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

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

**Q.13) Solution (c)**

Although inexpensive, barium chloride finds limited applications in the laboratory and industry. In industry, barium chloride is mainly used in the purification of brine solution in caustic chlorine plants and also in the manufacture of heat treatment salts, case hardening of steel. Its toxicity limits its applicability.

Firecrackers most commonly use the composition known as flash powder, which can be a mixture of potassium perchlorate and aluminum powder in a ratio (by weight ONLY) of 70% potassium perchlorate to 30% of high pyro quality aluminum powder. No matter what the name of today's commercially produced firecracker (for example: M-100s, M-1000s...etc) ever since 1966, the maximum amount of explosive composition has been set at a 50mg limit. Before legislation passed in 1966, certain firecrackers used to contain several grams (there are 1,000mg per gram) of flash powder. There are many different ways of constructing various sizes of firecrackers and also many variants in the explosive compositions used.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/cannot-impose-blanket-ban-on-crackers-says-supreme-court/article37281403.ece>

**Q.14) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement 1**

Groundwater extraction which was at 35% in the 1960s and 1970s rose to 70% post the Green Revolution

**Statement 2**

Government subsidizing power for irrigation left tube wells running for hours.

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

- a) Both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct and statement 2 is the correct explanation for statement 1
- b) Both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct and statement 2 is the not the correct explanation for statement 1
- c) Statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct
- d) Statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct

**Q.14) Solution (a)**

82% of Punjab's land area has seen a huge decline in groundwater levels, wherein 109 out of 138 administrative blocks have been placed in the 'over exploited' category. Groundwater extraction which was at 35% in the 1960s and 1970s rose to 70% post the Green Revolution — a period which saw governments subsidizing power for irrigation that left tube wells running for hours.

Concomitantly, cultivation of water intensive crops such as paddy has further aggravated water depletion, even turning water saline. Immediate measures need to be taken to manage and replenish groundwater, especially through participatory groundwater management approaches with its combination of water budgeting, aquifer recharging and community involvement.

Ministry of Jal Shakti is a ministry under Government of India which was formed in May 2019. This was formed by merging of two ministries; Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Seeing India's looming water crisis through the locus of 'urban' and 'rural' not only allows a better grasp of the causative factors but also enables a stronger grip on the strategies to be deployed to reverse the water crisis. Fundamental to this is a preliminary understanding of the sources from which the country draws water to meet its varying needs. In the rural areas, 80%-90% of the drinking water and 75% of the water used for agriculture is drawn from groundwater sources. In urban areas, 50%-60% of the water supply is drawn from groundwater sources, whereas the remaining is sourced from surface water resources such as rivers, often located afar, in addition to lakes, tanks and reservoirs.

According to the composite water management index released by the think tank NITI Aayog in 2019, 21 major cities (including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad) were on the brink of exhausting groundwater resources, affecting about 100 million people. The study also points out that by 2030; the demand for water is projected to be twice the available supply.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/finding-a-way-out-of-indias-deepening-water-stress/article37292441.ece>

**Q.15) With respect to Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE), consider the following statements:**

1. The project aims at creating awareness through industry clusters/ geographical chambers that would address the challenge of involvement of MSMEs
2. It is funded by the World Bank

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

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

**Q.15) Solution (d)**

Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) is a new World Bank funded project that has been approved by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in November 2016 for a total cost of Rs. 2200 crore (US \$ 318 million). The project falls under the Programme for Results (P4R) based category of World Bank that ensures outcome based funding. The project aims at creating awareness through industry clusters/ geographical chambers that would address the challenge of involvement of micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). The Project would also aim at integrating and enhancing delivery quality of ITIs. In order to ensure achievement of outcome these ITI would be competitively selected for upgradation under the scheme.

Committee for Economic Affairs (CEA) has approved STRIVE and the loan agreement between Government of India & World Bank has been signed. The project management consultancy has been on-boarded. The operations manual has been prepared in consultation with World Bank and has been approved by National Steering Committee meeting chaired by Secretary, MSDE. Implementation of project has been started and workshops with states and industries clusters are planned.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/minister-khuba-launches-strive-programme/article37277553.ece>

**Q.16) Consider the following statement with respect to Methane:**

1. Methane is more short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide

2. Methane is 80 times more potent in warming the earth than carbon dioxide

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

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

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

Methane is more short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent in warming the earth. Cutting emissions of the gas, which is estimated to have accounted for 30% of global warming since pre-industrial times, is one of the most effective ways of slowing climate change.

World leaders pledge to save forests, cut methane emissions

90 countries join U.S.-EU plan at COP26; India, China, Russia yet to sign up

Among the signatories is Brazil — one of the five biggest emitters of methane, which is generated in cows' digestive systems, in landfill waste and in oil and gas production. Three others — China, Russia and India — have not signed up, while Australia has said it will not back the pledge.

COP26 aims to keep alive a receding target of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avert still greater damage from heat waves, droughts, floods and coastal damage that climate change is already causing.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/world-leaders-pledge-to-save-forests-cut-methane-emissions/article37315717.ece>

**Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:**

- 1. The Act applies to all Indian citizens outside India and to all persons on ships and aircraft registered in India.
- 2. Cannabis and its derivatives were legally sold in India until 1985

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

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.17) Solution (c)**

The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 deals with cases of drug offenses. The law restricts the use of narcotics and psychotropic chemicals. The NDPS Act, or the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Act, 1985, is the law that governs these compounds or drugs. The Drugs and Drugs Act of 1985 is another name for this law. Manufacturing, producing, developing, owning, buying, storing, transporting, consuming narcotics is illegal under this law, which was approved by Parliament in 1985.

The Act extends to the whole of India and it applies also to all Indian citizens outside India and to all persons on ships and aircraft registered in India.

Cannabis and its derivatives (marijuana, hashish/charas and bhang) were legally sold in India until 1985

Article Link:

<https://krishijagran.com/agripedia/ganja-cultivation-know-who-how-when-one-can-cultivate-it/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tribals-resist-destruction-of-ganja-crop/article37315713.ece>

**Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to Green Crackers:**

1. Green crackers do not emit fine particle matter in the air
2. Green crackers can only reduce emissions by up to 30% in comparison to regular ones.
3. Green crackers are branded differently with a 'Green fireworks' logo along with a QR code.

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

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

**Q.18) Solution (b)**

Green Crackers are not “completely free but are significantly less pollutive”, as compared to regular firecrackers.

Their efficacies are determined by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and as of today, green crackers can only reduce emissions by up to 30% in comparison to regular ones. They are not a dependable and safer replacement to regular firecrackers, but they are only a low-emission and less harmful alternative. Green crackers use alternative, yet harmful chemicals like potassium



nitrate and aluminium instead of magnesium and barium, and carbon instead of arsenic and other harmful pollutants,

Regular crackers emit anywhere between 160 decibels to even 200 decibels while green crackers are restricted to about 100-130 decibels,

**Green crackers don't solve any purpose because they too emit fine particle matter in the air.**

Green crackers are branded differently with a 'Green fireworks' logo along with a QR code.

The logo will carry a 'CSIR NEERI INDIA' certificate and a certificate number.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/the-curious-case-of-green-crackers/article37332230.ece>

**Q.19) India launches Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States (IRIS). In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. The IRIS initiative focuses on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.
2. IRIS will be a part of the India-USA Coalition for Disaster Resilient infrastructure (CDRI).

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

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

**Q.19) Solution (a)**

India launches Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States (IRIS)

The new initiative is the result of cooperation between India, the U.K. and Australia and included the participation of leaders of small island nations such as Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius.

India launched an ambitious initiative for developing the infrastructure of small island nations, which will give a new hope, a new confidence and satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries facing the biggest threat from climate change.

The Small Island Developing States or SIDS faces the biggest threat from climate change.

To mitigate this, India's space agency ISRO will build a special data window for them to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring etc. through satellite.

**IRIS will be a part of the India-UK Coalition for Disaster Resilient infrastructure (CDRI).**

The IRIS initiative is a part of the CDRI that would focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-to-help-countries-prone-to-climate-change/article37315653.ece>

**Q.20) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG)?**

1. It is being developed by India, UK jointly in collaboration with the World Bank and India's International Solar Alliance (ISA).
2. It will aid in developing a worldwide grid through which clean energy can be transmitted anywhere, anytime.

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

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

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

What is Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) Initiative?

With sustainable development and climate change mitigation at the heart of the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative, the (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative can aid in developing a common and strong global grid. The GGI-OSOWOG initiative is being developed by India, UK jointly in collaboration with the World Bank and India's International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The launch was followed by the One Sun declaration which has been endorsed by 83 ISA member countries. India is a member of the CGI-OSOWOG Steering Committee along with four countries namely the UK, the US, France, and Australia.

'One Sun One World One Grid' will aid in developing a worldwide grid through which clean energy can be transmitted anywhere, anytime.

'One Sun One World One Grid' will help in reducing storage needs and also enhancing the viability of solar projects. The OSOWOG initiative will aid in reducing carbon footprints and energy costs. It will launch new avenues for cooperation between different countries and regions.

Article Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/worlds-first-partnership-for-transnational-solar-power-grid-launched-in-glasgow/articleshow/87493863.cms?from=mdr>  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/modi-boris-johnson-launch-global-solar-grid-initiative/article37312605.ece>

**Q.21) Irular and Narikurava communities belong to which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Nagaland
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Odisha

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

The Narikuravar is an indigenous community from Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

During British rule in India Narikuravar were placed under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, and hence stigmatized for a long time, including after Independence. However, they were denotified in 1952, though the stigma continues.

Irula, also known as Iruliga, are a Tamizhian ethnic group inhabiting the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. A scheduled tribe, their population in this region is estimated at around 200,000 people. People of Irula ethnicity are called Irular, and speak Irula, which belongs to the Dravidian family.

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irula\\_people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irula_people)  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narikurava>

**Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to The Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)**

1. It is a lightweight high precision guided bomb designed to destroy ground targets.
2. It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

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

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

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

The DRDO Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) is a long-range precision-guided anti-airfield weapon developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It is designed to be capable of engaging ground targets with high precision up to a range of 100 kilometres (62 mi).

In September 2020, SAAW was approved for procurement by the Indian Government for the Navy and the Air Force

The SAAW has been developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), and other DRDO laboratories in collaboration with the Indian Air Force (IAF). It is a lightweight high precision guided bomb designed to destroy ground targets, such as runways, bunkers, aircraft hangars and other reinforced structures

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/drdo-iaf-jointly-test-smart-anti-airfield-weapon/article37332817.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DRDO\\_Smart\\_Anti-Airfield\\_Weapon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DRDO_Smart_Anti-Airfield_Weapon)

**Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to An Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs):**

1. It is like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure
2. The InvITs are regulated by the SEBI
3. InvITs cannot be established as a trust

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

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

**Q.23) Solution (a)**

An Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) is like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return. `

The InvITs are regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014

***InvITs can be established as a trust and registered with Sebi.*** An InvIT consists of four elements: 1) Trustee, 2) Sponsor(s), 3) Investment Manager and 4) Project Manager.

Article Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/infrastructure-investment-trusts>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/canada-funds-to-pick-up-50-in-nhai-invite/article37332577.ece>

**Q.24) Consider the following statements:**

1. White goods refer to heavy consumer durables or large home appliances, which were traditionally available only in white.
2. White goods include appliances such as washing machines, air conditioners, stoves, refrigerators, etc.

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

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

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

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme on White Goods is designed to create complete component ecosystem for Air Conditioners and LED Lights Industry in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains.

Only manufacturing of components of ACs and LED Lights will be incentivized under the Scheme.

White goods refer to heavy consumer durables or large home appliances, which were traditionally available only in white.

They include appliances such as washing machines, air conditioners, stoves, refrigerators, etc.

As the name suggests, the scheme provides incentives to companies for enhancing their domestic manufacturing apart from focusing on reducing import bills and improving the cost competitiveness of local goods.

PLI scheme offers incentives on incremental sales for products manufactured in India.

Article Link:

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/durables/42-firms-selected-under-  
pli-scheme-for-white-goods/articleshow/87511306.cms](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/durables/42-firms-selected-under-pli-scheme-for-white-goods/articleshow/87511306.cms)

**Q.25) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding GST compensation?**

1. Revenue shortfalls of the states arising from the transition to the new indirect taxes regime would be made from a pooled GST Compensation Fund
2. For the purpose of calculating the compensation amount payable in any financial year during the transition period, 2016 is taken as the base year.

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

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

**Q.25) Solution (c)**

What is the GST compensation?

The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016, was the law which created the mechanism for levying a nationwide GST.

Written into this law was a provision to compensate the States for loss of revenue arising out of implementation of the GST.

The adoption of the GST was made possible by the States ceding almost all their powers to impose local-level indirect taxes and agreeing to let the prevailing multiplicity of imposts be subsumed under the GST.

While the States would receive the SGST (State GST) component of the GST, and a share of the IGST (Integrated GST), it was agreed that revenue shortfalls arising from the transition to the new indirect taxes regime would be made good from a pooled GST Compensation Fund for a period of five years that is set to end in 2022.

This corpus in turn is funded through a compensation cess that is levied on so-called 'demerit' goods. The computation of the shortfall — the mechanism for which is spelt out in Section 7 of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 — is done annually by projecting a revenue assumption based on

14% compounded growth from the base year's (2015-2016) revenue and calculating the difference between that figure and the actual GST collections in that year.

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the revenue shortfall has been anticipated at ₹3 lakh crore, with the Compensation Fund expected to have only about ₹65,000 crore through cess accruals and balance to pay the compensation to the States.

For the purpose of calculating the compensation amount payable in any financial year during the transition period, the financial year ending 31st March, 2016, shall be taken as the base year.

Article Link:

<https://cbic-gst.gov.in/compensation-cess-bill-e.html>

**Q.26) Kaho villagers who assisted Indian soldiers during Chinese attack in 1962, belongs to which of the following Indian state?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh

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

Arunachal to showcase 'heroic village' near the China border

One of seven villages in the Kibithoo block bisected by the Lohit river, Kaho had weathered the Chinese attack in 1962. Its people had assisted the Indian soldiers who had been outnumbered.

Kaho and its people who belong to the Meyor community

According to the 2011 census, Kaho has only 65 residents and a literacy rate of 64.15%.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/arunachal-to-showcase-heroic-village-near-the-china-border/article37358696.ece>

**Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to Ossification Test:**

- 1. It is a test that determines age based on the "degree of fusion of bone" by taking the x-ray of a few bones.
- 2. The Juvenile Justice Act provides the legislative sanction for conduct of ossification test in the absence of other documentary proof of age

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

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

**Q.27) Solution (c)**

What is the bone ossification test?

The bone ossification test (“ossification test”) is a test that determines age based on the “degree of fusion of bone” by taking the x-ray of a few bones. In simple words, the ossification test or osteogenesis is the process of the bone formation based on the fusion of joints between birth and the age of twenty five years in an individual. Bone age is an indicator of the skeletal and biological maturity of an individual which assists in the determination of age

The Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act) provides the legislative sanction for conduct of ossification test or other medical age determination test available in the absence of other documentary proof of age i.e. matriculation certificate or birth certificate, which has to be given within 15 days from the date of such order. The test is to be conducted by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)

The High Court said the Investigating Officer shall ensure that the ossification test in relation to the juvenile is completed; a report is obtained and filed before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) within 15 days from the date the test is ordered by the board.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/age-determination-of-juvenile-offenders-shall-be-completed-in-15-days-hc/article37363837.ece>

[https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2021/08/02/bone-ossification-test/#\\_ftn3](https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2021/08/02/bone-ossification-test/#_ftn3)

**Q.28) India recorded a power supply shortage of 1,201 million units in October 2021 — the highest in 5.5 years — due to a crunch in coal stocks available with thermal plants. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. Indian coal reserve is of low calorific value and high ash content
2. The carbon content is high in India's coal
3. India is the second largest producer of coal in the world, after China

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

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



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

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

India recorded a power supply shortage of 1,201 million units in October 2021 — the highest in 5.5 years — due to a crunch in coal stocks available with thermal plants.

The shortage was mostly restricted to Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Coal supplies over 40% of energy in India. Around 30 % of coal is imported.

A large part of Indian coal reserve is similar to Gondwana coal. It is of low calorific value and high ash content. ***The carbon content is low in India's coal***

Health effects of coal ash are also a problem. Air pollution from coal-fired power plants is linked with asthma, cancer, heart and lung ailments, neurological problems, acid rain, global warming, and other severe environmental and public health impacts.

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

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal_in_India)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/october-2021-saw-highest-power-shortage-in-over-5-years/article37361732.ece>

**Q.29) Consider the following statements:**

1. Palm oil is grown only in the tropics
2. Palm oil offers a far greater yield at a lower cost of production than other vegetable oils.

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

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

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

Palm oil is a very productive crop. It offers a far greater yield at a lower cost of production than other vegetable oils.

Grown only in the tropics, the oil palm tree produces high-quality oil used primarily for cooking in developing countries. It is also used in food products, detergents, cosmetics and, to a small extent, biofuel. Palm oil is a small ingredient in the U.S. diet, but more than half of all packaged products Americans consume contain palm oil—it's found in lipstick, soaps, detergents and even ice cream.

Oil palm crop provides the excellent substitute of importing the oil. In India, oil palm is being cultivated in 13 states by covering about 3,15,000 hectares by 2017-18 under irrigated conditions. Potential states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Bihar

Article Link:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/industries/palm-oil>

**Q.30) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)?**

1. FPOs are agricultural cooperatives that are emerging as a practical approach towards empowering a great number of smallholder farmers and ensuring their prosperity.
2. FPOs are voluntary organizations which is open to all persons

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

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

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

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are agricultural cooperatives that are emerging as a practical approach towards empowering a great number of smallholder farmers and ensuring their prosperity.

FPO principles are the guidelines by which FPOs will put their values into practice.

***Voluntary and Open Membership***

FPOs are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

***Democratic Farmer Member Control***

FPOs are democratic organizations controlled by their farmer-members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are

accountable to the collective body of members. In primary FPOs farmer-members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and FPOs at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

Article Link:

[https://mofpi.nic.in/sites/default/files/fpo\\_policy\\_process\\_guidelines\\_1\\_april\\_2013.pdf](https://mofpi.nic.in/sites/default/files/fpo_policy_process_guidelines_1_april_2013.pdf)

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)**

1. It is a regulatory agency under Government of India to regulate tariff and other expenditure for major airports.
2. It is a statutory body

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

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

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

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India has been determining the tariffs of aeronautical charges at major airports in the country.

Under the present Act, a "major airport" has been defined to mean any airport which has, or is designated to have, annual passengers in excess of 35 lakh. However, it does not provide for determination of tariff for a group of airports

The central government may also designate any airport as a major airport by a notification.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is a regulatory agency under Government of India to regulate tariff and other expenditure & fees for major airports. It is a statutory body constituted under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act (AERA), 2008.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/srinagar-declared-a-major-airport/article37359558.ece>

**Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to Sunspots**

1. Sunspots are dark, planet-sized regions that appear on the surface of the Sun.
2. Sunspots are "dark" because they are hotter than their surroundings.

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

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

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

Sunspots are dark, planet-sized regions that appear on the "surface" of the Sun. ***Sunspots are "dark" because they are cooler than their surroundings.***

Solar flares are highly energetic phenomena that happen inside the sunspots.

Sometimes solar flares also cause hot plasma to be ejected from the Sun, causing a solar storm, and this is called Coronal Mass Ejection (CME).

The solar magnetic cycle that works in the deep interior of the Sun creates regions that rise to the surface and appear like dark spots. These are the sunspots. Solar flares are highly energetic phenomena that happen inside the sunspots.

In a solar flare, the energy stored in the Sun's magnetic structures is converted into light and heat energy. This causes the emission of high energy x-ray radiation and highly accelerated charged particles to leave the Sun's surface.

Sometimes solar flares also cause hot plasma to be ejected from the Sun, causing a solar storm, and this is called Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). Coronal Mass Ejections can harbor energies exceeding that of a billion atomic bombs.

The energy, radiation and high-energy particles emitted by the flares can affect Earth-bound objects and life on Earth – it can affect the electronics within satellites and affect astronauts. Very powerful Earth-directed coronal mass ejections can cause failure of power grids and affect oil pipelines and deep-sea cables. They can also cause spectacular aurorae in the high-latitude and polar countries. The last time a major blackout due to a coronal mass ejection was recorded was in 1989 – a powerful geomagnetic storm that took down the North American power grid, plunging large parts of Canada into darkness and triggering spectacular aurorae beyond the polar regions.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sci-tech-and-agri/the-sun-lights-up-aurorae-in-high-latitude-countries/article37363424.ece>

<https://scied.ucar.edu/learning-zone/sun-space-weather/sunspots>

**Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to The Siliguri corridor**

1. It is a stretch of land bordering Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal
2. It is formed by the creation of East Pakistan in 1948
3. It connects the northeast to the rest of the country

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

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

**Q.33) Solution (d)**

China is strengthening connectivity and increasing its depth in Chumbi valley in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), close to India's strategic and vulnerable Siliguri corridor, also called Chicken's neck,

The Siliguri corridor, located in West Bengal, is a stretch of land bordering Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal

The geostrategic significance of the Siliguri corridor came about in terms of it being a narrow piece of land that connects the northeast to the rest of the country through which major national highways, railway line, pipelines, Off-Shore Cable (OFC) connectivity and the rest pass.

The Siliguri Corridor is an especially important and sensitive territory for India, formed by the creation of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1948.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/china-strengthening-connectivity-in-chumbi-valley-close-to-siliguri-corridor/article37358027.ece>

**Q.34) Molnupiravir is used to treat COVID-19 in those infected by SARS-CoV-2. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. It is the first oral antiviral for treatment of Covid-19
2. It is approved for medical use in the USA
3. It is a pro-drug, which means that it needs to undergo processing in the body to become active.

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

- a) 3 only

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

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

The UK drug regulator announced that it has approved the first oral antiviral for treatment of Covid-19. The drug, molnupiravir, has been developed by Merck and Ridgeback. “Molnupiravir has been authorised for use in people who have mild to moderate COVID-19 and at least one risk factor for developing severe illness

Molnupiravir, sold under the brand name Lagevrio, is an antiviral medication that inhibits the replication of certain RNA viruses, and is used to treat COVID-19 in those infected by SARS-CoV-2.

***Molnupiravir was approved for medical use in the United Kingdom in November 2021***

Molnupiravir is a pro-drug, which means that it needs to undergo processing in the body to become active.

Molnupiravir developed initially to treat influenza, has been repurposed to treat Covid patients. It interferes with the replication of SARS-CoV-2, thereby reducing severity of disease.

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-two-new-oral-drugs-and-the-treatment-of-covid-19-7611923/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explained-molnupiravir-mercks-new-drug-to-treat-covid-19/article36788711.ece>

**Q.35) Mullaperiyar Dam dispute is the cause of dispute between which of the following Indian states?**

- a) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka and Goa.
- c) Kerala and Karnataka
- d) Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

**Q.35) Solution (a)**

Mullaperiyar Dam, is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala. It is located 881 m (2,890 ft) above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, India.

The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu.

The Periyar river which flows westward of Kerala in to the Arabian sea was diverted eastwards to flow towards the Bay of Bengal to provide water to the arid rain shadow region of Madurai in Madras Presidency which was in dire need of a greater supply of water than the small Vaigai River could provide.

The SC constituted a permanent Supervisory Committee in 2014 to oversee all the issues concerning Mullaperiyar dam. The dam is a source of friction between Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mullaperiyar\\_Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mullaperiyar_Dam)

**Q.36) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)?**

1. LeadIT is a group of countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement
2. It was launched by the governments of Sweden and India
3. It is supported by the World Bank

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

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

**Q.36) Solution (a)**

Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)

Launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the **World Economic Forum**.

Objectives - The Leadership Group for Industry Transition gathers countries and companies that are committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions from industry by 2050.

LeadIT is a group of countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement

Article Link:

[https://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/Leadership\\_Group\\_for\\_Industry\\_Transition\\_\(Lead IT\)](https://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/Leadership_Group_for_Industry_Transition_(Lead_IT))

**Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to Government Security (G-Sec)**

1. G-Sec acknowledges the Government's debt obligation
2. G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

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

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

**Q.37) Solution (c)**

The government and RBI are working on inclusion of Indian sovereign bonds in global bond indices

The move is expected to attract foreign inflows in the debt market, help the government in its market borrowing programme and keep a check on yields.

A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more). In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs). G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

Article Link:

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/FAQView.aspx?Id=79#1>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/government-securities-global-bond-indices-foreign-inflows-7611924/>

**Q.38) Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net-Zero India is released by**

- a) Germanwatch



- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) UNDP

**Q.38) Solution (b)**

According to Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net-Zero India, the country's transition to a net-zero economy could create over 50 million jobs and contribute more than \$1 trillion in economic impact by 2030 and around \$15 trillion by 2070.

It is released by World Economic Forum

Article Link:

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/mission-2070-a-green-new-deal-for-a-net-zero-india/>

**Q.39) PNS Tughril, the largest and most technologically-advanced warship is constructed by and delivered to which of the following nation?**

- a) Russia to India
- b) China to Pakistan
- c) UK to India
- d) India to Thailand

**Q.39) Solution (b)**

PNS Tughril is the first hull of four Type 054 frigates that are being designed and constructed for the Pakistan Navy by the China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC). Tughril is the largest and most advanced warship from Beijing to Islamabad.

PNS Tughril is the largest and most technologically-advanced warship that China has ever exported. The warship is highly capable with enormous surface-to-surface, surface-to-air and underwater firepower. PNS Tughril is designed and built by China State Ship building Corporation Limited (CSSC) for Pakistan Navy.

Article Link:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/international/article/what-is-pns-tughril-largest-and-most-advanced-warship-ever-exported-by-china-that-is-beijings-newest-gift-to-pakistan/830668>

**Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to The Padma Awards:**

1. The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
2. The nomination process is open to the public
3. Government servants including those working with PSUs, doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.

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

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

**Q.40) Solution (c)**

The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.

The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.

The nomination process is open to the public. Even self-nomination can be made.

All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, ***except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.***

Article Link:

<https://padmaawards.gov.in/AboutAwards.aspx>

**Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding the general consent given by the state government to the CBI**

1. It is to help the CBI in seamless investigation of cases of corruption against central government employees in their states.

2. All the Indian states have given the general consent to the CBI
3. The CBI is governed by the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008

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

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

**Q.41) Solution (c)**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is governed by The NIA Act, 2008, has jurisdiction across the country. **But the CBI is governed by The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**, and must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.

The consent of the state government can be either case-specific or general.

A “general consent” is normally given by states to help the CBI in seamless investigation of cases of corruption against central government employees in their states. Almost all states have traditionally given such consent, in the absence of which the CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case, and before taking even small actions.

***Eight states have currently withdrawn consent to the CBI: Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Mizoram.***

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/sc-state-government-consent-cbi-investigation-7617317/>

**Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)**

1. One of the major objectives of DTTI is the establishment of sustained leadership
2. The aim of DTTI is to enhance cooperation between India and the UK in the defence production and trade sectors

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Q.42) Solution (a)**

The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)

The aim of the group was to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment, the statement noted. Four Joint Working Groups focused on land, naval, air and aircraft carrier technologies had been established under DTTI to promote mutually agreed projects.

The two sides recently signed the first project agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle under the Joint Working Group Air Systems.

***The aim is to enhance cooperation between India and the USA in the defence production and trade sectors*** by overcoming impediments due to “unique national bureaucratic structures, acquisition models, and budget processes.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-us-hold-11th-defence-technology-and-trade-initiative-group-meeting/article37412505.ece>

**Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to e-AMRIT**

1. e-AMRIT is the portal for creating awareness about Dairy sector in India
2. e-AMRIT is the result of a joint initiative between NITI Aayog and the UK Government.

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

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

**Q.43) Solution (b)**

***e-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation) is the portal for creating awareness about electric mobility in India.***

The portal aims to serve as a ‘one-stop site’ to provide all the information related to the adoption of electric vehicles in India.

e-AMRIT is the result of a joint initiative between NITI Aayog and the UK Government.

By providing access to information, the e-AMRIT portal assists the users to:

- Switch to electric vehicles by providing insights about electric vehicle technologies, types of electric vehicles, insurance options, and financing options.
- Set up the electric vehicle or associated enterprise by providing insights on the key initiatives of central and state governments.
- Assess the benefits of electric vehicles with uniquely designed tools to determine the users' savings with electric vehicles compared to petrol/diesel vehicle
- Get all the information on the Indian electric vehicle market and industry and the key developments driving the e-mobility ecosystem forward.

Article Link:

<https://e-amrit.niti.gov.in/about-us>

**Q.44) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Nutrition Smart Village?**

1. The objectives of the initiative is to promote nutritional awareness and bring behavioural change in rural areas of the country
2. The initiative targets lactating women and school children

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

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

**Q.44) Solution (a)**

75 nutrition smart villages will strengthen India's campaign against malnutrition: Centre

The objectives of the initiative are promoting nutritional awareness, education, and behavioral change in rural areas involving **farm women & school children**, harnessing traditional knowledge through the local recipe to overcome malnutrition, and implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture through homestead agriculture and Nutri-garden.

The objectives are achieved through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Women in Agriculture. The project is in operation in 13 centres located in 12 states of the country. Each AICRP centre will adopt five villages. The rest of the villages are to be adopted by the ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research). This is being done under Prime Minister Modi's call to agricultural scientists and academicians to transform 75 villages.

Article Link:

<https://krishijagran.com/news/75-nutrition-smart-villages-to-reinforce-india-s-campaign-against-malnutrition/>

**Q.45) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in which of the following Indian state?**

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

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

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, India. It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 24 mangrove tree species and more than 120 bird species. It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture

The sanctuary is a part of the Godavari estuary and has extensive mangrove and dry deciduous tropical forest.

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coringa\\_Wildlife\\_Sanctuary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coringa_Wildlife_Sanctuary)

**Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to MPLADS:**

1. The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by Government of India
2. The process under MPLADS starts with the Members of Parliament recommending works to the Nodal District Authority.
3. The Nodal District concerned is responsible for implementing the eligible works recommended by the MP

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

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

**Q.46) Solution (d)**

For managing the health and adverse impacts of covid 19 in the society, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 6th April 2020, had decided not to operate MPLADS during the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 and place the fund at the disposal of Ministry of Finance for managing the impacts of covid 19 pandemic.

The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.

The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per Member of Parliament (MP) constituency is Rs.5 crore

The MPLAD scheme is governed by a set of guidelines, which are revised from time to time.

The process under MPLADS starts with the Members of Parliament recommending works to the Nodal District Authority.

The Nodal District concerned is responsible for implementing the eligible works recommended by the Members of Parliament and maintaining the details of individual works executed and amount spent under the Scheme.

Article Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1770523>

**Q.47) Onake Obavva, a woman warrior of 18th century is from which of the following state?**

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

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

From this year, the Karnataka government has decided to celebrate 'Onake Obavva Jayanti' on November 11 throughout the state.

Onake Obavva died fighting the troops of Hyder Ali, a ruler of the Mysore Kingdom and father of Tipu Sultan, when he invaded the Chitradurga Fort, which was ruled by Madakari Nayaka in the 18th century.

Obavva is considered to be the epitome of Kannada pride and celebrated along with other women warriors of Karnataka state like Abbakka Rani (first Tuluva Queen of Ullal in coastal Karnataka who fought the Portuguese), Keladi Chennamma (the queen of the Keladi Kingdom who is known for

fighting against Mughal emperor Aurangzeb), and Kittur Chennamma (Queen of Kittur known for the 1824 revolt against the British East India Company).

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/onake-obavva-warrior-woman-whose-birth-anniversary-karnataka-will-be-celebrating-7616751/>

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

1. When fossil fuels are burned, they release nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere, which contribute to the formation of smog and acid rain.
2. Ammonia is a nitrogen compound emitted to the air, primarily from agricultural activities and also from fossil fuels.

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

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

**Q.48) Solution (c)**

The burning of fossil fuels affects the Earth system in a variety of ways - Releasing the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) into the atmosphere, which intensifies the greenhouse effect (the re-radiation of heat in the atmosphere), increasing the Earth's average air temperatures. These greenhouse gases can remain in the atmosphere for decades to hundreds of years.

When fossil fuels are burned, they release nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere, which contribute to the formation of smog and acid rain. The most common nitrogen-related compounds emitted into the air by human activities are collectively referred to as nitrogen oxides. Ammonia is another nitrogen compound emitted to the air, primarily from agricultural activities, but also from fossil fuels.

Article Link:

<https://ugc.berkeley.edu/background-content/burning-of-fossil-fuels/>

**Q.49) The term Messier 87 is sometimes seen in the news with reference to:**



- a) It is a supergiant elliptical galaxy with several trillion stars in the constellation Virgo.
- b) It is the traditional medicine practice based on bioactive compounds in plants and animals.
- c) It is a biosensor that can detect the COVID-19 in saliva samples.
- d) None of the Above

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

Scientists studying the galaxy Messier 87 (M87) – which surrounds the only black hole to have been imaged so far – have come up with a theoretical model of the jets of material emanating from M87.

Messier 87 (also known as Virgo A or NGC 4486, generally abbreviated to M87) is a supergiant elliptical galaxy with several trillion stars in the constellation Virgo.

It is one of the brightest radio sources in the sky and a popular target for both amateur and professional astronomers.

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier\\_87](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier_87)

**Q.50) Kalaripayattu, is an Indian martial art originated in which of the following Indian state?**

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

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

Kalaripayattu, also known simply as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in modern-day Kerala, a state on the southwestern coast of India. Kalaripayattu is known for its long-standing history within Indian martial arts. It is believed to be the oldest surviving martial art in India.

Kalaripayattu is a martial art designed for the ancient battlefield (the word "Kalari" meaning "battlefield"), with weapons and combative techniques that are unique to India.

Article Link:

<https://insider.in/kalaripayattu-indian-martial-art-full-course-oct4-2021/event>

**Q.51) Which of the following is the major predisposing factors for the incidence of the Rice blast.**

- a) Relative humidity of 30% and a Temperature of 15 °C to 20 °C
- b) Relative humidity of more than 93% and rainfall below 5 mm per day
- c) Relative humidity of less than 50% and rainfall more than 5 mm per day
- d) None of the Above

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

Rice blast, a fungal disease affecting paddy, is haunting farmers who had raised “Manuvarna”, a new rice variety released by the Kerala Agricultural University recently, on more than 250 acres in Wayanad district.

The blast disease is caused by the fungus *Pyricularia oryzae* which is non-systemic in action. The spores of the fungus could have been released from hosts like Purple nutsedge and *Echinochloa crusgalli* (Muthanga and Kavada respectively in local parlance) which are abundantly present in the paddy fields, bunds, and on sides of irrigation channel of the affected area. This would have resulted in an increased concentration of spores in the air. Relative humidity of more than 93% and rainfall below 5 mm per day are the major predisposing factors especially during the mid tillering stage of the crop for the incidence of the blast.

The ‘Manuvarna’ variety of paddy was released for the low lands of Kerala, especially for the kole lands, wetland ecosystem

Adoption of prophylactic measures of management would have substantially reduced the severity of blast disease incidence. However, such measures were not taken properly in the affected area which led to severe damage due to the incidence of neck blast.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/rice-blast-disease-haunts-wayanad-farmers/article37467267.ece>

**Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to Norovirus, a highly contagious stomach bug that causes a range of symptoms**

1. Norovirus is an animal-borne disease transmitted through contaminated water and food
2. Norovirus is easily transmitted through close contact with people who have been infected

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

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.52) Solution (c)**

Norovirus, a highly contagious stomach bug that causes a range of symptoms,

Norovirus, an animal-borne disease transmitted through contaminated water and food

Norovirus causes gastrointestinal illness, including inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestines, severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

Norovirus does not significantly affect healthy people but it can be serious in young children, the elderly and people with comorbidities.

Norovirus is easily transmitted through close contact with people who have been infected, or by touching contaminated surfaces. It can also be spread by eating food that has been prepared or handled by someone with the stomach bug. The virus is spread through the excrement and vomit of an infected person.

What are the symptoms of norovirus?

Diarrhoea, abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, a high temperature, headache and body aches are some of the common symptoms of norovirus.

Experts say acute vomiting and diarrhoea can lead to dehydration and further complications.

Article Link:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/norovirus-confirmed-in-kerala-s-wayanad-here-s-what-you-need-to-know-101636717225374.html>

**Q.53) Consider the following statements with respect to The Comptroller and Auditor General of India**

1. CAG is defined as the “most important officer in the Constitution of India” by Dr B.R. Ambedkar
2. CAG is an independent jurisdiction authorised under Article 148 of the Indian Constitution.
3. The CAG enjoys the same status as a sitting judge of Supreme Court of India

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

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

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the Constitutional Authority in India, established under Article 148 of the Constitution of India. He is empowered to Audit all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the State Governments, including those of autonomous bodies and corporations substantially financed by the Government.

Articles 148 – 151 of the Constitution of India deal with the institution of the CAG of India.

The CAG is ranked 9th and enjoys the same status as a sitting judge of Supreme Court of India in order of precedence.

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India

CAG is defined as the “most important officer in the Constitution of India” by Dr B.R. Ambedkar. CAG is an independent jurisdiction authorised under Article 148 of the Indian Constitution. CAG of India, or also the “Guardian of the Public Purse”, is vested with the responsibility of inspecting and auditing all the expenditure of both the Central and the State Governments as well as of those organizations or the bodies which the government significantly funds.

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comptroller\\_and\\_Auditor\\_General\\_of\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comptroller_and_Auditor_General_of_India)

**Q.54) With respect to the crops grown in Cauvery Delta of Tamil Nadu state in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The short-term paddy varieties are sown in Kuruvai season
2. The short-term crops can be cultivated within 90 days
3. Medium and long term varieties of paddy crops is sown in Samba and Thaladi seasons

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

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

**Q.54) Solution (d)**

The delta region is called as the “Granary of South India” and once the farmers here used to cultivate paddy in three seasons – Kuruvai (June-July), Samba (August) and Thaladi (September-November).

Kuruvai, which means short-term, takes 90 to 120 days of cultivation. Samba and Thaladi take approximately 120 to 180 days.

“But now the days of the cropping seasons are getting reduced. For example, in the past, the Samba season was 180 days. It was gradually reduced to 160 and now it has become 130 to 150 days. So, when the days are decreasing, farmers are going for modern variety short-term crops instead of cultivating traditional paddy varieties which will take 190 days

The short-term paddy varieties which are sown in Kuruvai and Samba seasons

The short-term crops can be cultivated within 90 days. In order to make more profit, farmers sow immediately with whatever paddy variety is available in the market so that they won't miss a season.

“But that should not be the case. A farmer must know what kind of paddy variety must be sown in which season. For example, in Kuruvai, short-term paddy variety can be sown. Likewise, in Samba and Thaladi, they can sow medium and long term varieties so that the crops can withstand floods. On the contrary, most of the farmers now sow short-term variety in all seasons.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tn-seeks-time-for-farmers-to-insure-samba-thaladi-crop/article37464528.ece>

<https://thefederal.com/field-report/why-tn-delta-farmers-continue-to-struggle-with-short-term-cropping/>

**Q.55) Ahilyabai Holkar was the hereditary noble Queen of which of the following Indian empire?**

- a) Chola Empire
- b) Maratha Empire
- c) Vijayanagara Empire
- d) Chalukya Empire

**Q.55) Solution (b)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project on December 13 in Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency, alongside families of those who had been displaced due to the project.

At least 400 families were asked to vacate the area, many of the encroachments around the historic temple cleared to make way for the project that encapsulates the vision of the Holkar queen of Indore, Ahalya Bai Holkar who created a series of temples and vistas leading up to the Ganga ghat.

Ahilyabai Holkar was the hereditary noble Queen of the Maratha Empire, India.

Ahilyabai was a great pioneer and builder of Hindu temples and built hundreds of temples and Dharmashalas throughout India. Her greatest achievement was to rebuild the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in 1776, which was dedicated to Shiva; the presiding deity of the city of Varanasi,

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-to-inaugurate-kashi-temple-corridor-on-dec-13/article37453921.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahilyabai\\_Holkar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahilyabai_Holkar)

**Q.56) Consider the following statement:**

1. Monazite is a radioactive atomic mineral used for production of thorium
2. The majority of the thorium reserve is found in the coastal states of India

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

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

**Q.56) Solution (c)**

The Madras High Court has directed the State government and private beach sand mineral exporters to respond to a claim made by an amicus curiae that 37,024 tonnes of monazite, a radioactive atomic mineral used for production of thorium, can be extracted from several lakh tonnes of raw/processed/semi-processed sand now lying in the sealed godowns, stockyards and factories in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts.

Monazite is radioactive due to the presence of thorium and, less commonly, uranium.

Monazite is an element that contains rare earth elements and is a reddish-brown phosphate material. It is considered a group of minerals. It is an important ore for lanthanum, cerium, and thorium. The countries of India, South Africa, and Madagascar have large deposits of monazite sand. The deposits of monazite sand that are in India are particularly rich in monazite.

Monazite contains 2.5% thorium and it is found in most rocks and in the soil. India has a thorium reserve of 11.93 million tonnes and the majority is found in the coastal states of India namely Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/37024-tonnes-of-monazite-can-be-extracted-from-beach-sand-stored-by-private-miners/article37480983.ece>

**Q.57) Consider the following statements with respect to S-400 Triumph**

1. It is a mobile, surface-to-air missile (SAM) system
2. It is designed by DRDO and developed by Russia
3. India is the first foreign buyer to broker a government deal with Russia for the system

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

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

**Q.57) Solution (c)**

The S-400 Triumph is a mobile, surface-to-air missile (SAM) system ***designed and developed in the 1990s by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering*** as an upgrade to the S-300 family.

***China was the first foreign buyer to broker a government deal with Russia in 2014;*** while Saudi Arabia, Turkey, India and Belarus have all acquired, or expressed interest, in the system since.

The S-400 Triumph air defence missile system will give a major boost to India's capabilities to take out enemy fighter aircraft and cruise missiles at long range. The Indian Air Force (IAF) will induct the first unit of S-400 systems at a time when India is locked in a standoff with China in the Ladakh sector.

China has already deployed two S-400 squadrons at Ngari Gar Gunsa and Nyingchi airbase in Tibet, across Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh respectively.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/russia-starts-delivery-of-s-400-missile-systems-to-india-says-russian-official/article37487108.ece>

**Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to Retail Direct Scheme**

1. Under this scheme, small investors can buy or sell government securities or bonds, directly without having to go through an intermediary like a mutual fund.
2. As the government being the borrower, there is a sovereign guarantee for the funds and hence zero risk of default.

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

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

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

The RBI had in February announced proposals for the Retail Direct Scheme for investors in government securities and the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

Under the Retail Direct Scheme, small investors can now buy or sell government securities (G-Secs), or bonds, directly without having to go through an intermediary like a mutual fund. It is similar to placing funds in debt instruments such as fixed deposits in banks. However, the same tax rules apply to income from G-Secs. But, with the Government being the borrower, there is a sovereign guarantee for the funds and hence zero risk of default.

Investors wishing to open a Retail Direct Gilt account directly with the RBI can do so through an online portal set up for the purpose of the scheme.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/gilts-for-all/article37482924.ece>

**Q.59) Kattupaniya, a nomadic tribal group belongs to which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Nagaland
- d) Karnataka

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



Members of Kattupaniya, a nomadic tribal group that was rehabilitated from caves near the South Wayanad-Nilambur Forest Division in Kerala a few years ago, have enrolled for Aadhaar cards on the intervention of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Kattupaniya members were deprived of Govt. incentives, including free ration, during pandemic

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/nomadic-tribal-group-gets-aadhaar/article37494731.ece>

**Q.60) A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when**

- a) the Sun, Earth, and the Moon are imperfectly aligned
- b) the entire Moon falls within the darkest part of Earth's shadow
- c) a part of the Moon passes through the centre of Earth's shadow
- d) None of the Above

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

A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and the Moon are imperfectly aligned. When this happens, the Earth blocks some of the Sun's light from directly reaching the Moon's surface and covers all or part of the Moon with the outer part of its shadow, also known as the penumbra.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon align so that the Moon passes into Earth's shadow. In a total lunar eclipse, the entire Moon falls within the darkest part of Earth's shadow, called the umbra.

A central lunar eclipse is a lunar eclipse in which part of the Moon passes through the center of Earth's shadow. Central lunar eclipses are always total lunar eclipses and have large umbral eclipse magnitude, long duration and small value of gamma.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/longest-partial-lunar-eclipse-in-580-yrs-on-nov-19/article37483576.ece>

**Q.61) The Union Health Ministry recently revised the post-mortem protocols to allow for conducting the procedure after sunset. Which of the following is/are the main aims of the revised protocol?**

- 1. To speed up the cases under categories such as homicide, suicide, rape, decomposed bodies.
- 2. Stipulating organ transplant process

## 3. Promoting organ donation

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

**Q.61) Solution (b)**

The Union Health Ministry recently revised the post-mortem protocols to allow for conducting the procedure after sunset.

Apart from aiding the family of the deceased, the revision was also aimed at promoting organ donation and transplant as organs could be harvested in the stipulated time window after the procedure

The protocol stipulated that post-mortem for organ donation be taken up on priority

The fitness and adequacy of infrastructure etc. shall be assessed by the hospital in charge to ensure that there was no dilution of evidentiary value. It was also to be ensured by the facility that video recording shall be done for all such post-mortem at night to rule out any suspicion and preserved for future reference for legal purposes

***Cases under categories such as homicide, suicide, rape, decomposed bodies and suspected foul play should not be subjected for post-mortem during night unless there was a law and order situation.***

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/now-autopsy-can-be-done-after-sunset/article37506890.ece>

**Q.62) Kaiser-i-Hind, recently seen in the news, refers to –**

- a) A Sufi saint during the reign of Emperor Akbar
- b) It is a militant group operating in the Kashmir region.
- c) It is Arunachal Pradesh's State butterfly
- d) None of the Above

**Q.62) Solution (c)**

Kaiser-i-Hind is Arunachal's State butterfly

An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying 'India' in its name and found in next-door China will become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

Kaiser-i-Hind (*Teinopalpus imperialis*) literally means Emperor of India. This butterfly with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in six States along the Eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain.

The butterfly also flutters in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China.

Although the Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is hunted for supply to butterfly collectors.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/kaiser-i-hind-carrying-india-in-its-name-is-arunachals-state-butterfly/article37484986.ece>

**Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)**

1. It aims to impose sanctions, including new blocking and secondary sanctions, on foreign governments and persons that interfere in any U.S. federal election
2. The sanction under CAATSA includes stopping credit lines from U.S. and international banks such as the IMF

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

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

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

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia.

What is CAATSA?

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is intended to ensure that no country may strengthen military involvement with Iran, North Korea, or Russia without incurring serious actions from the United States.

No country is obligated to accept the penalties because they are unilateral and not part of any UN decision.

This policy makes it illegal for US trading partners to enter into bilateral deals with these three nations.

Sanctions under CAATSA?

Section 231 states that the President must impose at least five sanctions on any government that engages into a serious defense or intelligence agreement with Russia.

Section 235 includes the following options:

- stopping credit lines from U.S. and international banks such as the IMF
- blocking sales of licensed goods and technology,
- banning banks, manufacturers and suppliers,

***The Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines Act, known by the acronym DETER, aims to impose sanctions, including new blocking and secondary sanctions, on foreign (primarily, Russian) governments and persons that interfere in any U.S. federal election***

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/russia-starts-delivery-of-s-400-missile-systems-to-india-says-russian-official/article37487108.ece>

**Q.64) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Birsa Munda?**

1. His birth anniversary is marked as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, to remember the contribution of tribal freedom fighters
2. He is the only tribal leader whose portrait hangs in the Indian Parliament Museum

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

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



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**Q.64) Solution (c)**

Birsa Munda was an 16th-century Indian tribal freedom fighter, religious leader, and folk hero who belonged to the Munda tribe. He spearheaded a tribal religious millenarian movement that arose in the Bengal Presidency (now Jharkhand) in the late 19th century, during the British Raj, thereby making him an important figure in the history of the Indian independence movement. The revolt mainly concentrated in the Munda belt of Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada and Bandgaon.

His portrait hangs in the Indian Parliament Museum he is the only tribal leader to have been so honored

His birth anniversary is marked as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, to remember the contribution of tribal freedom fighters

Article Link:

<https://thecommunemag.com/pm-launches-multiple-initiatives-for-welfare-of-janjatiya-community/>

**Q.65) Amrabad Tiger Reserve is situated in which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Telangana
- b) West Bengal
- c) Karnataka
- d) Gujarat

**Q.65) Solution (a)**

Amrabad Tiger Reserve is one of the largest tiger reserves in India that extends about 2611.4 Sq Km over Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts of Telangana State. Amrabad Tiger Reserve a well-known and well-preserved nature reserve in Nallamala Hills, part of the Eastern Ghats chain. This is the second-largest Tiger Reserve in terms of core area but the sixth-largest tiger reserve in terms of total area among 51 Tiger Reserves in India.

The Telangana Forest Department has come out with a CBET (Community Based Eco Tourism) model in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve area.

Youth from the local Chenchu tribe will accompany the tourists on the ride and explain about the culture of the particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG), besides providing assistance in spotting the wild animals.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/tiger-tourism-in-nallamala-hills/article37494914.ece>

**Q.66) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Global Climate Risk Index (GCRI)?**

1. It is published annually by GermanWatch
2. The index accounts for information on geological incidents like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis.
3. The index also accounts for information on weather-related events like storms, floods, temperature extremes and mass movements.

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

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

**Q.66) Solution (a)**

Recent discussions around climate risk assessment and management have been based on the “Global Climate Risk Index” (GCRI), published annually by GermanWatch, a non-profit organisation. The latest version of the GCRI, published in January 2021, ranked 180 countries based on the impact of extreme weather events and associated socio-economic data from 2000-2019. According to the publishing agency, the rankings are meant to forewarn countries about the possibility of more frequent and/or severe climate-related events in the future. This index uses historical data to provide insights on exposure to extreme events.

The GCRI ranks countries based on four key indicators: number of deaths; number of deaths per 1,00,000 inhabitants; sum of losses in Purchasing Power Parity (in U.S. dollars); and losses per unit of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Of these indicators, two are absolute while the other two are relative. However, the GCRI report does not provide a rationale for the selection of these macro indicators.

***The index accounts for information on weather-related events like storms, floods, temperature extremes and mass movements. However, it omits geological incidents like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis, which may be potentially triggered by climate change and can have economic and humanitarian impact.***

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/wide-fault-lines-within-the-global-climate-risk-index/article37550274.ece>

**Q.67) Consider the following statements with respect to Sabz Burj**

1. Sabz Burj is one of Delhi's earliest Mughal-era monuments
2. It is the tomb of the first Mughal emperor Babur

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

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

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

Sabz Burj restored to its Mughal-era glory.

Sabz Burj is one of Delhi's earliest Mughal-era monuments

The monument stands at the entrance to Humayun's Tomb

***The tomb, which was built in 1530, does not have any markings pointing to the identity of those buried under it.*** However, it is of immense significance due to the ceiling on its double dome structure painted in pure gold and lapis

Conservationists believe that the painting on the ceiling that has floral motifs predates similar work that was seen in miniature paintings and textiles from the Mughal era

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/sabz-burj-restored-to-its-mughal-era-glory/article37551558.ece>

**Q.68) Pochampally village which was recently named as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation is situated in which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Karnataka
- d) Telangana

**Q.68) Solution (d)**



Pochampally village in Telangana is set to be named as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation

India had nominated two other villages in the same category Kongthong in Meghalaya and Ladhpura Khas in Madhya Pradesh.

Pochampally about 50 kilometres from Hyderabad is an artisanal village known for its exceptional Ikat weaves and textures.

Pochampally Ikat received Geographical Indication status in 2004.

Recent UNESCO heritage tag for Ramappa Temple and now the Best Tourism Village Award to Pochampally will significantly boost tourism in Telangana

The UNWTO is a world body for promoting sustainable tourism and its meetings are considered the biggest tourism events in the world.

The Tourism Villages is a global initiative to highlight those villages where tourism preserves cultures and traditions, celebrates diversity, provides opportunities and safeguards biodiversity, according to UNWTO.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/pochampally-makes-it-to-list-of-best-tourism-villages-in-the-world/article37520208.ece>

**Q.69) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding STARS programme?**

1. The STARS programme is partly funded by the World Bank.
2. The objective is to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.
3. A major component of the project is the establishment of PARAKH as a National Assessment Centre.

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

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

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

The STARS programme is partly funded by the World Bank.

The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project

A major component of the project is the establishment of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) as a National Assessment Centre.

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

The objective is to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.

Six states are– Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

Article Link:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/01/28/world-bank-signs-project-to-improve-quality-of-india-s-education-system>

**Q.70) Consider the following statements**

1. Meghalaya's Kongthong village is also known as the 'whistling village'.
2. People of this village use whistling as a method of conveying their messages to their fellow villagers and that is why it is known as the 'whistling village'
3. Recently this village was named as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organization

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

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

**Q.70) Solution (c)**

The Ministry of Tourism has selected Meghalaya's Kongthong village, which is also known as the 'whistling village', for entry to UNWTO's (The World Tourism Organisation) "Best Tourism Villages" award along with two other villages in the country.

Kongthong village is located in the East Khasi Hills district, which is 60 km from Meghalaya's capital city Shillong. People of this village have used whistling as a method of conveying their messages to their fellow villagers and that is why it is known as the 'whistling village'.

The villagers here call each other with a unique tune. Each of them has a unique tune for calling each other and this tradition has been going on for generations.

The villagers have called this tune Jingrwai Lawbei which means mother's love song.

The villagers have two names - one is a regular name and another is a song name.

The song names are two versions - a long song and a short song and the short song is normally used at home.

Article Link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/lifestyle/travel/story/meghalaya-s-whistling-village-kongthong-selected-for-entry-to-best-tourism-village-1852743-2021-09-14>

**Q.71) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding The International Commission to Reignite the Fight Against Smoking?**

1. The commission was established to recommend a set of actions to accelerate an end to adult smoking and other toxic tobacco use.
2. Tobacco prevalence in India is three times higher among women than men.
3. The USA, the UK, South Africa, Indonesia and India are the member nations of the commission

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

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

**Q.71) Solution (a)**

India is among countries with the lowest quit rates for smoking. The quit rates for men are less than 20%, states a report released by 'The International Commission to Reignite the Fight Against Smoking', which makes specific recommendations to achieve the goal of ending smoking worldwide.

China and India are home to more than 500 million tobacco users between the ages of 16 and 64. India ranks second with 250,002,133 smokers between the age of 16 and 64. **Tobacco prevalence in**

**India is three times higher among men than women.** India also accounts for some of the highest rates of smokeless tobacco use and oral cancer in the world.

The commission, which has members from the U.S., the U.K., South Africa, Indonesia and India, examines several important issues, including the trends in tobacco use, challenges to cessation efforts, the emergence of technological innovations, the role of physicians, the function of industry, economic and regulatory policy, smoking and youth, and lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mission: The commission was established to recommend a set of actions to accelerate an end to adult smoking and other toxic tobacco use.

The Commission was established with the belief that efforts to prevent premature death and disease from tobacco use require much greater imagination and ambition.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/india-among-countries-with-lowest-quit-rates-for-smoking-report/article37566741.ece>

**Q.72) Why Russia's Hypersonic Missile Zircon can't be seen on Radar?**

1. Zircon flies at a speed of up to 6 times the speed of the sound and at a low atmospheric-ballistic trajectory.
2. The speed of the missile makes the air pressure in front of the weapon form a plasma cloud as it moves, absorbing radio waves and making it practically invisible to active radar systems.

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

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

**Q.72) Solution (c)**

Russia test-fires new hypersonic missile Zircon from submarine

Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines. It is one of several hypersonic missiles under development in Russia.

Hypersonic weapons such as Russia's 3M22 Zircon fly so fast and low -- at speeds of up to 6 times the speed of sound and at a low atmospheric-ballistic trajectory -- that they can penetrate traditional anti-missile defense systems.

The missile flies with an advanced fuel that the Russians say gives it a range of up to 1,000 kilometers. And it's so fast that the air pressure in front of the weapon forms a plasma cloud as it moves, absorbing radio waves and making it practically invisible to active radar systems.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-test-fires-new-hypersonic-missile-from-submarine/article36820524.ece>

**Q.73) Consider the following statements with respect to the project 'Samhati':**

1. The 'Samhati' project aims to alleviate the language issues faced by tribal students in early grades or elementary classes.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme

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

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

**Q.73) Solution (a)**

***With National Education Policy mandate, Odisha bats for mother tongue of tribals***

The new National Education Policy lays emphasis on imparting teaching in mother tongue in primary classes

The 'Samhati' project aims to alleviate the linguistic barriers that tribal pupils confront in early grades or elementary school.

***The ST and SC Development Department of the Odisha State government has already started working on project called 'Samhati'*** to address the language issues faced by tribal students in early grades or elementary classes. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) along with the Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC), Bhubaneswar are implementing the project.

Now, under Samhati, it has been decided that all teachers of primary level would be provided functional knowledge of tribal languages and way of communicating with tribal students. In the first phase, 1,000 teachers would be asked to obtain these language skills.

Of the 21 languages in Odisha, Santhali — the only language which has been included in eighth schedule of Constitution — is taught in its own Ol Chiki script while rest of tribal languages have Odia scripts.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/with-national-education-policy-mandate-odisha-bats-for-mother-tongue-of-tribals/article37588923.ece>

**Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to NavIC**

1. NavIC is India's own navigation system
2. It is designed by DRDO

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

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

**Q.74) Solution (a)**

Smartphones with the latest Qualcomm chipsets can now latch on to NavIC.

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is the regional geo-positioning system **designed in the country by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to provide accurate positioning in India and 1,500 km around the Indian mainland.

NavIC is India's own navigation system, similar to the U.S.' GPS. It works based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

There are currently eight IRNSS satellites in geosynchronous and geostationary orbits. The IRNSS-1A launched in 2013 was India's first navigation satellite.

NavIC is designed for position accuracy better than 20 meters in India, its primary coverage area. An area of 1,500 km from the Indian boundary will also be covered by this system.

NavIC will provide drivers and other users in India with visual and voice navigation. Its primary beneficiaries will be Indian mariners and fishermen, who are being provided with NavIC handsets.

Article Link:

<https://www.isro.gov.in/irnss-programme>

**Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to The POCSO Act:**

1. The Act defines a child as any person below fifteen years of age
2. According to the Section 7 of the act, the offender is said to have committed the sexual assault if he touches a child with the sexual intent.

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

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

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

The Supreme Court quashed a Bombay High Court decision to acquit a man charged with assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) solely on the grounds that he groped the child over her clothes without 'skin-to-skin' contact.

Section 7 mandates that "whoever with sexual intent touches the vagina, penis, anus or breast of the child or makes the child touch the vagina, penis, anus or breast of such person or any other person, or does any other act with sexual intent which involves physical contact without penetration is said to commit sexual assault".

The Bench said the most important ingredient in Section 7 was the sexual intent of the offender and not skin-to-skin contact.

***Salient features of the Act***

The Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.

***The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age.***

It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography

People who traffic children for sexual purposes are also punishable under the provisions relating to abetment in the Act.

The Act prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence, with a maximum term of rigorous imprisonment for life, and fine.

It defines "child pornography" as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child which include photograph, video, digital or computer generated image indistinguishable from an actual child, and image created, adapted, or modified, but appear to depict a child;'

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/skin-to-skin-touch-with-sexual-intent-amounts-to-assault-under-pocso-holds-supreme-court/article37555081.ece>

**Q.76) Which of the following is the main aim of NASA's DART mission?**

- a) Test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future
- b) To conduct detailed reconnaissance of Jupiter's moon Europa and investigate whether the icy moon could have conditions suitable for life.
- c) It is a high-altitude balloon mission for studying astrophysical phenomena.
- d) It is a planned mission to investigate the profound cosmic mysteries of dark matter and dark energy, has passed its preliminary design review.

**Q.76) Solution (a)**

NASA's planetary defence test is set to intentionally crash a spacecraft into an asteroid to deflect its path. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) will attempt to hit the moonlet asteroid Dimorphos, which orbits a larger asteroid called Didymos.

None of these asteroids pose any threat to Earth and this mission is only intended as a test and technology demonstrator, according to the space agency.

The mission, which will primarily give a nudge to Dimorphos to deflect its trajectory, will be monitored via Earth-based telescopes and equipment throughout its journey.

The main aim of the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course.

Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for "twin") which has a diameter of 780 metres. The asteroid and the moonlet do not pose any threat to Earth and the mission is to test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future.

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/nasa-dart-mission-asteroid-explained-7617692/>

**Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to Main-sequence Radio Pulse emitters (MRPs)**

1. The MRPs are stars hotter than the Sun with unusually strong magnetic fields



2. The Indian astronomers discovered these stars by using Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) located near Pune.

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

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

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

Indian astronomers have now found stars that are hotter than the Sun.

These stars, eight in all, belong to a rare class called 'MRPs' or Main-sequence Radio Pulse emitters. The Pune-based astronomers have discovered the stars by using Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) located near Pune.

The MRPs are stars hotter than the Sun with unusually strong magnetic fields, and much stronger stellar wind. Due to this, they emit bright radio pulses like a lighthouse, the research outfit said. Though the first MRP was discovered in 2000, it was only due to the high sensitivity of the upgraded GMRT (uGMRT) that the number of such stars known have increased multiple times in recent years, with 11 of the 15 discovered using the high-tech telescope

Article Link:

<https://www.wionews.com/science/indian-astronomers-discover-stars-hotter-than-sun-430818>

**Q.78) The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recommended the creation of a National Digital Drugs Databank and strict enforcement of drug quality standards to boost price competition among generic drugs in India. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. CCI is a statutory body within the Ministry of Finance
2. The Chairperson of CCI is appointed by the President of India
3. CCI is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002

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

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

**Q.78) Solution (b)**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recommended the creation of a National Digital Drugs Databank and strict enforcement of drug quality standards to boost price competition among generic drugs in India. We examine the findings and recommendations of the CCI's market study in the pharmaceutical sector in India.

What are the key findings of the CCI?

The CCI found that the market for generic drugs is driven by brand competition instead of price competition despite such drugs being functionally and chemically identical. Generic drugs are chemically identical to drugs that once had patent protection.

The study concluded that brand differentiation in terms of a perception of different levels of quality and trade margins offered to incentivise chemists were key drivers of brand competition in India's markets for generics.

The CCI noted while the share of online pharmacies stood at 2.8 per cent in 2018, the online pharmacy sector's reach has expanded during the pandemic to 8.8 million households from 3.5 million households prior to the pandemic.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the chief national competition regulator in India. ***It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 in order to promote competition and prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.***

The commission was established on 14 October 2003. It became fully functional in May 2009

***The Commission comprises a Chairperson and not less than 2 and not more than 6 other members appointed by the Central Government.***

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/pharma-sector-cci-market-study-explained-7631961/>

**Q.79) Consider the following statements:**

1. Shale oil is found in smaller batches and deeper than conventional crude deposits
2. Shale oil is rich in kerogen
3. Currently, there is no large-scale commercial production of shale oil and gas in India.

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

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

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

Cairn Oil & Gas has announced that it is partnering US-based Halliburton to start shale exploration in the Lower Barmer Hill formation, Western Rajasthan.

The key difference between shale oil and conventional crude is that the former, also called 'tight oil', is found in smaller batches, and deeper than conventional crude deposits. Its extraction requires creation of fractures in oil and gas rich shale to release hydrocarbons through a process called hydraulic fracking.

Currently, there is no large-scale commercial production of shale oil and gas in India. State-owned ONGC had, in 2013, started exploration and, by the end of FY21, assessed shale oil and gas potential in 25 nomination blocks, but has reduced investments over the past few years after only getting limited success in shale exploration efforts.

Russia and the US are among the largest shale oil producers in the world, with a surge in shale oil production in the US having played a key role in turning the country from an importer of crude to a net exporter in 2019.

Shale oil and gas exploration faces several challenges other than environmental concerns around massive water requirements for fracking and potential for ground water contamination.

While sometimes called "shale oil", tight oil should not be confused with *oil shale (shale rich in kerogen)* or shale oil (oil produced from oil shales). Therefore, the International Energy Agency recommends using the term "light tight oil" for oil produced from shales or other very low permeability formations, while the World Energy Resources 2013 report by the World Energy Council uses the terms "tight oil" and "shale-hosted oil"

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/shale-oil-exploration-potential-explained-7630082/>

**Q.80) Consider the following statements with respect to The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

1. The 2021 APEC Economic Leaders adopted a declaration under the theme of 'Join, Work, Grow, Together'.
2. India is one of its founding member nations

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Q.80) Solution (a)**

The idea of APEC was firstly publicly broached by former Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke during a speech in Seoul, Korea, on 31 January 1989. Ten months later, 12 Asia-Pacific economies met in Canberra, Australia, to establish APEC. The founding members were Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; and the United States.

APEC's 21 member economies account for 38 percent of the world's population and over 60 percent of its GDP. China, Japan, Russia, and the United States are among the group's political and economic heavyweights.

APEC 2021 is the most important meeting New Zealand has hosted in a generation. Our theme focuses on three key points: Join, Work, Grow. Together.

Article Link:

<https://thediomat.com/2021/11/new-zealands-apec-moment-is-virtually-here/>

**Q.81) Recently INS Visakhapatnam was commissioned at the Naval dockyard in Mumbai. In this regard consider the following statement:**

1. INS Visakhapatnam is a guided missile destroyer
2. The ship is equipped to fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.
3. The ship was made under the Make in India initiative.

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

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

**Q.81) Solution (d)**

INS Visakhapatnam is a P15B stealth-guided missile destroyer. It is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai

Named after the historic city of Andhra Pradesh on the east coast, Visakhapatnam, the 'City of Destiny', the ship is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as surface-to-surface missile and surface-to-air missiles.

It marks a milestone for India as the first indigenously built stealth guided-missile destroyer ship, under the Make in India initiative.

The release further informed that the ship is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as Surface-to-Surface missile and Surface-to-Air missiles. It is fitted with modern surveillance radar which provides target data to the gunnery weapon systems of the ship.

The ship is equipped to fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.

Some of the major indigenised equipment/system onboard INS Visakhapatnam include Combat Management System, Rocket Launcher, Torpedo Tube Launcher, Integrated Platform Management System, Automated Power Management System, Foldable Hangar Doors, Helo Traversing system, Close-in Weapon System and the Bow mounted SONAR.

Article Link:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/221121/indias-powerful-destroyer-ins-visakhapatnam-commissioned.html>

**Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to “Mother on Campus” initiative:**

1. It is a central government initiative
2. It will allow only biological mothers to stay with their children on campus.

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

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

**Q.82) Solution (d)**

Mothers of children staying in *state-run hostels and boarding schools in Tripura* can now stay with their off-springs. **The initiative is titled ‘Mother on Campus’, and will allow biological or legally-authenticated mothers to stay with their children on campus.**

With the implementation of this scheme in the state, the government will ensure that a clean atmosphere is maintained in the hostels, which is crucial for the academic development of children

Moreover, during the stay, mothers will be asked to give feedback regarding aspects like cleanliness, nutrition, among others, in the hostel. The feedback will help the administration and employees at the hostel create better living conditions for children.

Article Link:

<https://www.news18.com/news/education-career/tripura-education-minister-announces-mother-on-campus-scheme-for-hostel-dwellers-4459097.html>

**Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to “Stop Soros”**

1. It is a law passed by Hungary’s parliament
2. Under this law, individuals or groups that help illegal migrants gain status to stay in the country will be liable to prison terms.

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

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

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

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that legislation passed in Hungary in 2018 threatening jail time for people who support asylum-seekers is in violation of EU law.

The law, which targeted migrant rights NGOs, was named "Stop Soros" — a reference to the Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor and US-based billionaire George Soros.

The legislation restricts the ability of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to act in asylum cases and was passed in defiance of the European Union and human rights groups.

Under the law, officially called “Stop Soros”, individuals or groups that help illegal migrants gain status to stay in Hungary will be liable to prison terms.

Article Link:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/16/top-eu-court-hits-hungary-over-stop-soros-migrant-law>

**Q.84) A new tree species of the genus *Cryptocarya* has been named as *Cryptocarya muthuvariana* after a tribe from the locality. Muthuvar tribe belongs to which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Nagaland
- d) Odisha

**Q.84) Solution (b)**

A new tree species of the genus *Cryptocarya* spotted in Edamalakkudy in Idukki district of Kerala has been named after a tribe from the locality.

'*Cryptocarya muthuvariana*' has been named so to honour the Muthuvar tribe and as it was discovered in their neighbourhood, researchers responsible for the identification said.

Belonging to the Lauraceae family, the genus *Cryptocarya* comprises over 300 species that are widely distributed over South America, South Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Australia and Oceania.

The 'Muthuvan' people were loyal subjects of the dynasty of Madurai, according to tribal legend. When the dynasty was deposed, the surviving royal members migrated to Travancore, central Kerala. On their way to Kerala, the Muthuvas carried the idols of Madurai Meenakshi, the deity of the royal family, on their backs.

The Muthuva tribe grows ragi, cardamom and lemon grass. Now they are also cultivating banana and tapioca for their daily usage.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/new-tree-species-named-after-muthuvar-tribe/article37579221.ece#:~:text=Cryptocarya%20muthuvariana-,'Cryptocarya%20muthuvariana'%20spotted%20in%20Edamalakkudy,a%20tribe%20from%20the%20locality.>

**Q.85) Recently the term Nihangs seen in news refers to**

- a) musical instrument
- b) an order of Sikh warriors
- c) tribal language
- d) leader of Swadeshi Movement

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

Nihangs or Nihang Singhs, originally known as Akalis or Akali Nihangs, are designated the Guru's knights or the Guru's beloved, and their origin is associated with the founding of the 'Khalsa Panth' by the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh.

They constitute a distinctive order among Sikhs and are readily recognised by their dark blue loose apparel and their ample, peaked turbans festooned with quoits, insignia of the Khalsa and rosaries, all made of steel.

They are always armed and are usually seen mounted heavily laden with weapons such as swords, daggers, spears, rifles, shotguns and pistols.

The term 'Nihang' signifies the characteristic qualities of the clan — their freedom from fear of danger or death, readiness for action and non-attachment to worldly possessions.

Instead of saffron they hoist a blue Nishan Sahib (flag) atop their shrines. They use the slogans 'chhardi kala' (forever in high spirits)

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explained-who-are-the-nihangs/article37019497.ece>

**Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB):**

1. KIIFB is the first ever State Government agency in India to access the offshore debt market
2. KIIFB raises funds through a chit fund scheme for non-resident Indians (Pravasi chitti scheme).
3. KIIFB is also assured of funding from the State Government

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

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

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

The Finance Minister of Kerala had strongly objected to observations in a recent audit report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for 2020 (the State Finance Report that was tabled in the Assembly on November 11 on the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)'s "off-Budget borrowings



Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) is a body corporate constituted by the Government of Kerala to mobilize financial resources for infrastructure development of the State. It was established on November 11, 1999 through legislation -- Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Act 1999 -- passed by the Kerala State Assembly

KIIFB intends to raise funds through term loans from public sector banks and other financial institutions. Another source is the money raised through a chit fund scheme for non-resident Indians (Pravasi chitti scheme). In addition, in May 2019, KIIFB became the first ever State Government agency in India to access the offshore debt market when it raised ₹2,150 crore through Masala bonds, an instrument approved by the Reserve Bank of India.

At the same time, KIIFB is assured of funding from the State Government,

The CAG pointed out that the borrowings by KIIFB are outside of the State budget and, therefore, do not have legislative approval. At the same time, the CAG expressed fears that the State Government may have to repay the liabilities of KIIFB in future.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kiifb-debt-financed-expenditure-offering-a-lifeline-during-a-difficult-financial-period/article37619922.ece>

**Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM):**

1. The government and the private companies shares the total project cost in the ratio of 40:60 respectively.
2. Apart from 60% project cost, the private player will also build the road and on completion will hand it over to the government.
3. The private player shoulders the responsibility of revenue collection by toll.

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

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

**Q.87) Solution (b)**

Government has approved the hybrid annuity model (HAM) for building National Highways (NH) to speed up the construction of roads in the country by renewing interest of private developers in highway projects. 40% the Project Cost is to be provided by the Government as Construction Support during the construction period and the balance 60% as annuity payments over the operations period along with interest thereon to the concessionaire.

The objective is to maximize the quantum of implemented projects within the available financial resources of the Government and to revive private sector participation in the sector. Toll fee collection from the highways projects developed under the hybrid annuity model is the responsibility of the Government/Authority.

In BOT model all risks is borne by private sector.

The HAM is a mix EPC and BOT model, with the government and the private companies sharing the total project cost in the ratio of 40:60 respectively.

Apart from 60% project cost, the private player will also build the road and on completion will hand it over to the government.

**The government shoulders the responsibility of revenue collection (by toll).** The government will then pay the fixed amount of annuity annually to the private player for the defined period.

The government will select that private player in competitive bidding

Article Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1592673>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/central-nod-for-six-laning-of-nh-66/article37618456.ece>

**Q.88) Consider the following statements with respect to The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize**

1. It is accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust to individuals or organizations
2. The recipients are chosen from a pool of national nominees only.

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

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

**Q.88) Solution (a)**

The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, also known as Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, is the prestigious award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust to individuals or organizations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order; ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity, and enlarging the scope of freedom.

The prize carries a cash award of 2.5 million Indian rupees and a citation.

A written work, in order to be eligible for consideration, should have been published.

The panel constituted by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust consists of prominent national and international personalities including previous recipients. ***The recipients are chosen from a pool of national and international nominees.***

Pratham, a civil society organisation dedicated to improving the quality of education among underprivileged children in India and across the world, has been conferred the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pratham-awarded-indira-gandhi-prize-for-peace-for-2021/article37613070.ece#:~:text=Pratham%2C%20a%20civil%20society%20organisation,Disarmament%20and%20Development%20for%202021.>

**Q.89) The vision of the investor charter brought by markets regulator SEBI is**

- a) to regulate the operations of depositories, participants, custodians of securities, foreign portfolio investors, and credit rating agencies.
- b) to protect the interest of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved in the securities market
- c) to prohibit insider trading, i.e. fraudulent and unfair trade practices related to the securities market.
- d) None of the Above

**Q.89) Solution (b)**

Markets regulator SEBI came out with an investor charter aimed at protecting the interest of investors in the securities market

The move is to ensure transparency, timely delivery of services

***The vision of the investor charter is “to protect the interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner.”***

The rights include getting fair and equitable treatment, and expecting redressal of investor grievances filed in the SCORES portal in a time-bound manner.

“This also includes getting quality services from SEBI-recognised market infrastructure institutions and SEBI-registered intermediaries, regulated entities and asset management companies,” the charter said.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/markets/sebi-unveils-investor-charter/article37549577.ece>

**Q.90) Addu Atoll is located in which of the following Country?**

- a) Indonesia
- b) Maldives
- c) Marshall Islands
- d) Malaysia

**Q.90) Solution (b)**

The Maldives has made no decision on opening an Indian consulate in its southern Addu Atoll, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih said after the Indian Cabinet cleared a proposal for it

Apart from its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, Addu is the second largest city in the Indian Ocean archipelago, home to over 30,000 people. Indian government sources familiar with the proposal said the rationale for the consulate was to help Addu residents with speedy visa services.

Addu Atoll, also known as Seenu Atoll, is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives.

Unlike other atolls of the Maldives, Addu Atoll has a lagoon that is a natural anchorage, accessible through four natural channels.

An atoll sometimes known as a coral atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef, including a coral rim that encircles a lagoon partially or completely. There may be coral islands or cays on the rim. Atolls are located in warm tropical or subtropical oceans and seas where corals can grow. Most of the approximately 440 atolls in the world are in the Pacific Ocean.

Article Link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addu\\_Atoll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addu_Atoll)

**Q.91) Consider the following statement:**

1. AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Afghanistan, the United Kingdom and the United States
2. Under the pact, the US and the UK will help Afghanistan by providing support so they could rebuild their lives, find work, pursue education and integrate into their local communities

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

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.91) Solution (d)**

Australia formally embarked on a hotly contested programme to equip its Navy with nuclear-powered submarines in a new defence alliance with Britain and the United States.

It is the first agreement on the technology to be publicly signed since the three countries announced in September the formation of a defence alliance, AUKUS, to confront strategic tensions in the Pacific where China-US rivalry is growing.

Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would obtain eight state-of-the-arts, nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines capable of stealthy, long-range missions

***AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, announced on 15 September 2021 for the Indo-Pacific region. Under the pact, the US and the UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines***

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/australia-signs-sub-deal-with-us-uk/article37633367.ece>

**Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to the Swachh Survekshan 2021:**

1. Indore has been given the title of India's cleanest city for the fifth consecutive year
2. Indore has also been given the tag of India's first "Water Plus" city
3. Water Plus city is a certificate provided to a city for providing safe and adequate drinking water to all households in the city.

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

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

**Q.92) Solution (a)**

Madhya Pradesh's Indore has been given the title of India's cleanest city for the fifth consecutive year, as per the Swachh Survekshan 2021 – the annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns of the country.

Surat and Vijaywada were ranked second and third cleanest cities in the Swachh Survekshan 2021 list, whereas, in states, Chattisgarh was ranked on top for the third consecutive year, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021 included the cleanest State honour for Chhattisgarh for the third time, in the category of States with more than 100 urban local bodies. Varanasi, won the award for the cleanest “Ganga city”.

Along with all this, Indore has also been given the tag of India’s first “**water plus**” city, which is a **certificate provided to a city for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains under its administration**. According to the guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission, a city can be declared as Water Plus only after all wastewater released from households, commercial establishments, is treated to a satisfactory level before releasing the treated wastewater into the environment.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indore-cleanest-city-for-5th-time-in-a-row-in-centres-annual-cleanliness-survey/article37592873.ece>

<https://swachhindia.ndtv.com/swachh-survekshan-2021-how-has-indore-become-indias-cleanest-city-for-5th-year-in-a-row-64881/>

**Q.93) Consider the following statements with respect to a Certificate of Origin (COO)**

1. COO is a document commonly used in international trade
2. Only the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is authorized to issue COO
3. The DGFT allows self-certification of origin by exporter if the exporter is recognized by the DGFT

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

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

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

The Centre has suspended till January 31 a mandatory obligation imposed on exporters from November 1 to obtain online Certificates of Origin (CoO) for every outbound consignment

A Certificate of Origin (COO) is a document commonly used in international trade. It establishes the country of origin of the product, which is particularly important for an exporter claiming import duty

benefits against the product(s). It is often in the form of a statement attached to the commercial invoice, or a separate declaration, which gives a line item-wise list of the origin of all products.

A COO is signed by the exporter (or an authorized representative) and certified to be true and correct.

There are two categories of COO: preferential and non-preferential.

Under the preferential scheme, a COO is issued in case of exports for which India receives tariff preferences

A non-preferential COO certifies the origin of the goods but does not grant any preferential tariff rights to the exporter. ***The Indian government has nominated agencies across the country to issue COO as per Article II of the International Convention Relating to Simplification of Customs Formalities, 1923.***

All-India organizations authorized to issue COO are DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) and its regional offices, the Textile Committee and its offices, FIEO and its branches, CII and its branches, and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Apart from these, certain state-wise agencies have also been authorized to issue non-preferential COOs.

Self-certification of Origin

The DGFT also allows self-certification of origin by exporters. To be able to do so, the exporter must be recognized by the DGFT under the Approved Exporter System for Self-certification of Origin.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/markets/centre-allows-exporters-time-till-jan-31-on-origin-e-certificate/article37634200.ece>

**Q.94) Union Minister for Science and Technology launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), in Haryana. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. NBRC is a premier institute in India dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education
2. NBRC is an autonomous institute funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

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

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

**Q.94) Solution (c)**

Union Minister for Science and Technology launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar in Haryana. It is India's premier institute dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education.

This new facility can run intense scanning modalities very fast, which reduces the scanning time for patients by almost a quarter from earlier-generation machines. This is being used to develop human cohort data for patients suffering from common brain and mental health disorders including Parkinson's Disease, Alziemer's Disease, anxiety and depression.

National Brain Research Centre is a premier institute in India dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education

Located in the foothills of the Aravali range in Manesar, Haryana, NBRC is an autonomous institute funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and is also a Deemed-to-be University. NBRC has been recognised as an Institution of Excellence by Govt. of India.

Article Link:

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=World%26%2339%3Bs-most-sophisticated-MRI-facility-launched-at-National-Brain-Research-Centre-in-Manesar-Haryana&id=429957>

**Q.95) Which of the following article of the Indian Constitution provides for the transfer of High Court judges, including the Chief Justice?**

- a) Article 141
- b) Article 131
- c) Article 222
- d) Article 230

**Q.95) Solution (c)**

The transfer of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee from the Madras High Court to the Meghalaya High Court has given rise to a controversy over the question whether judicial transfers are made only for administrative reasons or have any element of 'punishment' behind them. In 2019, Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani, another Chief Justice of the Madras High Court who was transferred to Meghalaya, chose to resign.

What does the Constitution say on the transfer of judges?

**Article 222 of the Constitution provides for the transfer of High Court judges, including the Chief Justice.** It says the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, may transfer a judge from one High Court to any other High Court. It also provides for a compensatory allowance to the



transferred judge. This means that the executive could transfer a judge, but only after consulting the Chief Justice of India.

From time to time, there have been proposals that one-third of the composition of every High Court should have judges from other States.

As a matter of practice, the Supreme Court and the government do not disclose the reason for a transfer.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explained-why-are-judicial-transfers-riddled-by-controversies/article37603943.ece>

**Q.96) India has set a target of 20% ethanol-blending with petrol by 2025 and the ultimate goal is to have 100 per cent ethanol-run vehicles. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.
2. Ethanol is high in oxygen content, which therefore allows an engine to more thoroughly combust fuel.
3. Ethanol blending will also, to a large extent provides security to sugarcane farmers.

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

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

**Q.96) Solution (d)**

India has set a target of 20% ethanol-blending with petrol by 2023-24 and the ultimate goal is to have 100 per cent ethanol-run vehicles.

Ethanol can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc which are having high starch content.

In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.

Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form different blends. As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution.

Mixing ethanol in auto fuel can result in savings and also protect against climate change.

Ethanol in India is obtained primarily from sugarcane via a fermentation process. Ethanol is high in oxygen content, which therefore allows an engine to more thoroughly combust fuel.

It can be mixed with fuel in different quantities and can help reduce vehicular emissions. Also, since it is plant-based, it is considered to be a renewable fuel.

Ethanol is less polluting than other fuels and, per the NITI Aayog paper, "offers equivalent efficiency at lower cost than petrol".

Ethanol blending will also, to a large extent, solve the problem of agricultural waste as well as sugar rates plummeting due to excess production, therefore providing security to sugarcane farmers.

Article Link:

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/explained-what-is-ethanol-blending-in-petrol-and-why-it-can-be-beneficial-for-india-9692861.html>

**Q.97) To promote and attract tourism business, the Indian Railways launched Bharat Gaurav trains. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. Bharat Gaurav trains will be operated by private players and run on theme-based circuits
2. IRCTC will decide the route, the halts, the services provided, and the tariff
3. These trains cannot be used as an ordinary transport trains between an origin and destination

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

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

**Q.97) Solution (a)**

Theme-based trains on the anvil

Service providers, who can be an individual, company, society, trust, joint venture or consortium, will be free to decide themes and circuits such as Guru Kripa trains for covering important places of Sikh culture or the Ramayana Express for places connected with Lord Ram.

Bharat Gaurav trains that will be operated by private players and run on theme-based circuits

According to the Bharat Gaurav policy, any operator or service provider, or virtually anyone, can lease trains from Indian Railways to run on a theme-based circuit as a special tourism package. The tenure of the arrangement is a minimum of two years and maximum of the codal life of the coach. **The**

***operator has the freedom to decide the route, the halts, the services provided, and, most importantly, the tariff.***

The Bharat Gaurav operator will also have to propose a similar business model wherein it takes care of local transport, sightseeing, food, local stays, etc. along with operating the trains.

If the operator finds it feasible, then it can even purchase rakes from Indian Railway production units and run them. These trains cannot be used as ordinary transport trains between an origin and destination.

Indian Railways will provide staff to drive the trains, guards and also maintenance staff on board for the coaches. Other staff, like housekeeping and catering, etc, will be deployed by the operator.

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/indian-railways-bharat-gaurav-scheme-explained-7640296/>

**Q.98) Consider the following statements:**

1. A space station is essentially a large spacecraft that remains in low-earth orbit for extended periods of time.
2. It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada)

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

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

**Q.98) Solution (c)**

Why does Russia want to leave the International Space Station?

Russia has announced that it would be withdrawing from the International Space Station in 2025, and build and manage its own floating laboratory that will be launched into orbit by 2030.

What does the International Space Station do?

A space station is essentially a large spacecraft that remains in low-earth orbit for extended periods of time. It is like a large laboratory in space, and allows astronauts to come aboard and stay for weeks or months to carry out experiments in microgravity.

The Mir space station of the former Soviet Union, and later operated by Russia, was functional from 1986 to 2001. The ISS has been in space since 1998, and has been known for the exemplary

cooperation between the five participating space agencies that have been running it: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).

Russia was also indispensable because of its Soyuz passenger vehicle, which served as the only way for transporting astronauts to the ISS ever since the US retired its Space Shuttle Program in 2011. This reliance on Russia ended last year, however, when the US started to use the SpaceX system developed by Elon Musk.

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-russia-wants-to-leave-the-international-space-station-7288790/>

**Q.99) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)?**

1. CBDC is a digital form of fiat currency that can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain and is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. CBDCs enable the user to conduct both domestic and cross-border transactions that do not require a third party or bank

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

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

**Q.99) Solution (c)**

The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, listed for introduction in Parliament's Winter Session, seeks to "create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India".

The Bill "seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India, however, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses".

How would a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) work?

The Reserve Bank of India plans to launch its CBDC, a digital form of fiat currency that can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain, and which is regulated by the central bank. Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by Bitcoin, it is different from decentralised virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the state, and lack the 'legal tender' status declared by the government.

CBDCs enable the user to conduct both domestic and cross-border transactions that do not require a third party or bank. Since several countries are running pilot projects in this space, it is important for India to launch its own CBDC, making the rupee competitive in international financial markets.

While CBDC too is a digital or virtual currency, it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies that have mushroomed over the last decade.

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/cryptocurrency-and-regulation-of-official-digital-currency-bill-rbi-parliament-winter-session-7639969/>

**Q.100) India's Strategic crude oil storages are located in?**

1. Mangalore
2. Visakhapatnam
3. Rajkot
4. Padur

**Select the correct options:**

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

**Q.100) Solution (c)**

Global push to cap oil prices: India to release 5 mn barrels from reserves

The stocks will be sold to Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) which are connected by pipeline to the strategic reserves.

INDIA IS set to release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its strategic reserves as part of a coordinated move along with the US, China, Japan and South Korea aimed at lowering international prices. The US will release 50 million barrels of crude oil from its reserves as part of the effort.

***India has built 1.33 million tonnes of storage at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, 1.5 million tonnes at Mangaluru and 2.5 million tonnes at Padur (both in Karnataka).***

ADNOC of UAE has leased half of the Mangalore storage, while the remaining is with state-owned Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL). State-owned firms and the government have stocked oil at the other facilities.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/india-to-release-5-million-barrels-of-crude-oil-from-strategic-reserves/article37640438.ece>

**Q.101) Consider the following statements**

1. A unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over \$10 billion
2. Delhi has the maximum number of unicorns in India

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

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

**Q.101) Solution (d)**

***A unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion***

As for decacorn, it is a term for a company valued at more than US \$10 Billion, while hectocorn is used for a company valued over US \$100 Billion.

Rather than being derived from its past years' performances, the valuations that lead to startup companies becoming unicorns, decacorns and hectocorns stem from their growth opportunities and expected development for their potential market. Valuations for startups could also come from funding rounds of venture capital firms. Valuations of startup companies could also be considered from the numbers that are given when a much larger company buys them out.

***Bengaluru has the maximum number of unicorns with one-third of country's unicorns headquartered in the southern city, followed by Delhi-National Capital Region with 20 per cent.***

India currently has three decacorns, companies with valuation of over \$10 billion – Byju's, Paytm and Flipkart.

According to RBI reports, India is currently third on the global list of nations with the most unicorns, after only the United States and China.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/over-valued-unicorns-in-a-distressed-economy/article37653501.ece>

**Q.102) Which of the following statements is/are *not correct* regarding National Automobile Scrappage Policy?**

1. Under this policy, consumers who scrap old vehicles will receive a certificate.
2. Those having this certificate will not be charged any registration fee on the purchase of a new vehicle.
3. Scrappage should be done in the city where the vehicle was registered.

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

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

**Q.102) Solution (c)**

Earlier in August 2021, Prime Minister launched the National Automobile Scrappage Policy to phase out unfit and polluting vehicles. Under this policy, consumers who scrap old vehicles will receive a certificate. Those having this certificate will not be charged any registration fee on the purchase of a new vehicle.

The vehicle scrappage policy is important not only to reduce vehicular pollution but also to strengthen the economy. The policy will ease the process of scrapping old cars, generate fresh investments and create employment.

It further recommends mandatory scrapping of all government vehicles that are more than 15 years old but is applicable only on four-wheelers.

The fitness tests will be done at government-certified fitness centers, appointments for which can be made online. Test reports will be generated in online mode.

***Also, scrappage can be done anywhere in the country, regardless of the place of vehicle registration.***

Under the new policy, the Centre had said the states and Union Territories (UTs) will provide up to 25 per cent tax rebate on road tax for vehicles that are purchased after scrapping old vehicles.

Maruti Suzuki Toyotsu India Private Limited's (MSTI's) government-approved End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) scrapping and recycling unit in Noida.

MSTI, a joint venture between Maruti Suzuki and Toyota Tsusho group, said the 10,993 sq m facility has a capacity to scrap and recycle over 24,000 ELVs annually and has been built with an investment of over ₹44 crores. All the equipment being used at the facility are manufactured in India

Article Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/govt-plans-to-provide-more-tax-concessions-on-vehicles-bought-after-scrapping-old-ones-nitin-gadkari/articleshow/87868111.cms?from=mdr>

**Q.103) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Lithium?**

1. Lithium is mostly used in production of rechargeable batteries, ceramics, glass and lubricating greases
2. Argentina has the largest Lithium reserves in the world
3. Lithium is approved by the FDA as a prescription medication for use in bipolar disorder

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

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

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

With Taliban nod, companies have begun ‘inspections’ of possible projects to tap lithium deposits

Lithium is one of many resources in Afghanistan present in large deposits but as yet untapped, largely because of years of political instability and the lack of infrastructure. A Chinese company secured the rights to mine one of the world’s biggest copper reserves in Afghanistan at Aynak more than a decade ago, but has not yet begun work on extraction.

Lithium is considered key to the new green global agenda of switching to electric vehicles. China had mandated last year that electric vehicles would make up 40 per cent of all auto sales by 2030.

Lithium is mostly used in rechargeable batteries including the ones used in laptops, mobile phones and (65 per cent); ceramics and glass (18 per cent); lubricating greases (5 per cent); and polymer production (3 per cent)

One third of the “lithium triangle” in South America – which also comprises second and third-placed Argentina and Chile – ***Bolivia is home to the world’s biggest lithium reserves.***

Argentina has the world’s second-largest lithium reserves,

Lithium is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a prescription medication for use in bipolar disorder. People also sometimes use lithium supplements as medicine, but these supplements contain much lower doses of lithium.



Article Link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/global-players-eyeing-afghanistan-vast-mineral-reserves-1846218-2021-08-27>

**Q.104) Which of the following is the fourth Stealth Scorpene Class Submarine under Project 75 recently commissioned by the Indian Navy?**

- a) INS Khanderi
- b) INS Karanj
- c) INS Vela
- d) INS Vagsheer

**Q.104) Solution (c)**

What is INS Vela, the submarine commissioned by Indian Navy?

Vela is named after a decommissioned submarine Vela, which served the Navy from 1973 to 2010. The earlier Vela belonged to Foxtrot class submarine of Soviet origin.

What is Project 75?

Conceptualized for the acquisition for 25 submarines at the time of the I.K. Gujral government, P 75 evolved into a 30-year plan for building submarines. In 2005, India and France signed a \$ 3.75 billion contract for building six Scorpene class submarines. The executing company on the Indian side is Mazgaon Docks Ltd, and on the French side, it is DCNS, which is now called Naval Group.

After INS Kalvari, two more submarines under the contract, INS Khanderi and INS Karanj, were commissioned. INS Vela is the fourth, and sea trials are ongoing for INS Vagir, while the sixth, INS Vagsheer, is under construction.

Article Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-ins-vela-submarine-indian-navy-7639778/>

**Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to coral spawning:**

1. Coral spawning is an annual event where corals reproduce simultaneously
2. Spawning only happens at night
3. The timing of spawning is impacted by the length of the day, the tide and salinity levels in the water.

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

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

**Q.105) Solution (d)**

What is coral spawning?

Coral spawning is an annual event where corals simultaneously reproduce.

During this synchronized breeding, coral polyps release millions of tiny egg and sperm bundles into the water.

Each bundle must find another bundle from the same species to fertilize. By spawning on mass, corals increase the likelihood of finding and fertilizing a matching bundle.

***When does coral spawn?***

This depends on a number of factors including their location, the water temperature and tides.

Spawning follows a full moon and water temperatures must have risen enough to stimulate the maturation of the egg and sperm bundles. The timing of spawning is also impacted by the length of the day, the tide and salinity levels in the water.

Spawning only happens at night and lasts from a few days up to a week. Different species of coral spawn on different days to prevent cross-breeding.

Even those that make it to the ocean floor must find a spot that is clear of algae and sediment, but with enough sunlight to grow, otherwise they perish.

Article Link:

<https://www.barrierreef.org/news/blog/what-is-coral-spawning-great-barrier-reef>

**Q.106) Tundra, also known as EKS or Unified Space System (USS), is a constellation of Missile Early Warning Satellites established by which of the following country?**

- a) USA
- b) India
- c) Russia
- d) China

**Q.106) Solution (c)**

Tundra Satellite

Tundra, also known as EKS or Unified Space System (USS), is a constellation of Missile Early Warning Satellites established by Russia between 2015 and 2020 to close a gap in space-based missile tracking capabilities. Russia launched the last satellite in its previous Early Warning Constellation in 2012. This final Oko satellite reportedly stopped operating in mid 2014, leaving Russia relying on ground-based missile detection systems only as the next generation of EW satellites was not yet ready for launch.

Kupol, which was introduced in 2019, is designed to detect launches of ballistic missiles and track them to their landing sites, but its configuration is unknown.

EKS, Kupol is a developing programme of Russian early warning satellites as a replacement for the US-KMO and US-K satellites of the Oko programme. The satellites are designed to identify any possible future ballistic missile launches, from outer space, and complement early warning radars such as the Voronezh.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-puts-into-orbit-classified-military-satellite/article37691644.ece>

<https://myind.net/Home/viewArticle/russia-launches-classified-military-satellite>

<https://spaceflight101.com/spacecraft/tundra/>

**Q.107) 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is the dialogue between two countries' defence and external affairs ministries. India does not hold such talks with which of the following nations?**

- a) Australia
- b) Japan
- c) UK
- d) USA

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

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) which met under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the long-pending deal for the manufacture of 6.71 lakh AK-203 assault rifles in India, according to a defence source.

Another deal likely to make progress is for Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) systems. The Ka-226T utility helicopter deal is unlikely to be cleared, according to official sources.

'2+2 talks' is a term adopted in foreign diplomacy that implies a dialogue between two countries' defence and external affairs ministries. India holds such talks with Japan and Australia as well but at the foreign secretary and defence secretary level. It is only with the US that India holds ministerial-level talks.

2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries.

India holds '2+2 talks' with Australia, Japan and the USA.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/dac-clears-ak-203-deal-with-russia/article37652359.ece>

**Q.108) Consider the following statements with respect to Digital banks (DBs)**

1. DBs are banks as defined in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
2. DBs will issue deposits, make loans and offer the full suite of services that the BR Act empowers them to.

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

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

**Q.108) Solution (c)**

Digital banks or DBs are banks as defined in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act)

A discussion paper unveiled by government think-tank Niti Niti Aayog has floated the idea of full-stack digital banks to deepen banking services and bridge credit gaps across the country, leveraging technology and massive digitalization achieved so far.

"In other words, these entities will issue deposits, make loans and offer the full suite of services that the BR Act empowers them to. As the name suggests however, DBs will principally rely on the internet and other proximate channels to offer their services and not physical branches

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/niti-aayog-bats-for-full-stack-digital-banks/article37670755.ece>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/niti-aayog-paper-moots-full-stack-digital-banks/articleshow/87900432.cms>

**Q.109) Consider the following statements with respect to the Gopal Ratna Awards:**

1. It is the National Awards for achievements in Cattle and Dairy sector
2. The eligible farmers or dairy cooperative societies or Artificial Insemination Technician can apply for the award

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

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

**Q.109) Solution (c)**

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, is organizing National Gopal Ratna Awards to commemorate the birth centenary of Dr. Varghese Kurien (Milk Man of India), which is celebrated as National Milk Day, on November 26, 2021.

Every year, the first day of June is observed as World Milk Day.

The Minister announced the launch of the National Awards for the Cattle and Dairy sector, the Gopal Ratna Awards. The award has three categories - i) Best Dairy farmer, ii) Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) and Best Dairy Cooperative/ Milk producer Company/ Farmer Producer Organisation. The eligible farmers/dairy cooperative societies/ AI technicians can apply for award online

e-Gopala App is integrated with UMANG platform so that 3.1 Crore users of Umang platform will get access to App. e-GOPALA app (Generation of wealth through Productive Livestock), a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers

Dairy sector provides livelihood support to 8 crore dairy farmers engaged in dairying mainly small & marginal and landless labourers.

Article Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1723395>

**Q.110) Consider the following statements with respect to the Namda Craft:**

1. It is a traditional craft of the state of Maharashtra

2. Namda is a fabric made of cotton and silk which is woven together with the use of a special loom

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

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

**Q.110) Solution (d)**

Union Minister of State, launched a pilot project to revive and promote traditional 'Namda' craft in Jammu and Kashmir and said that efforts are afoot to increase the carpet export from ₹600 crore to ₹6,000 crore.

The objective of these projects is to boost and preserve the **traditional Namda craft of Kashmir** and upskill the local weavers and artisans of the UT to enhance their productivity through RPL assessment and certification

**Namda is a rug made of sheep wool through felting technique instead of normal weaving process.** Due to low availability of raw material, lack of skilled manpower and marketing techniques, the export of this craft has declined almost 100 per cent between 1998 and 2008.

The Namda project will be an industry-based training programme with beneficiaries involved in Namda Crafts Production who will contribute towards preserving and reviving the rich heritage associated with the unique craft in Kashmir.

It was observed that the heritage and traditional skill clusters required skilled artisans from villages to meet the demand for traditional crafts in Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative aims at industry and market linkage, encouraging micro-entrepreneurship.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/pilot-project-to-revive-namda-craft-in-jk-launched/article37728863.ece>

**Q.111) Consider the following statement:**

1. Rural circuit has been identified as one of the thematic circuits under 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme'.
2. Swadesh Darshan is a central sector scheme

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

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

**Q.111) Solution (c)**

The Ministry of Tourism has formulated a 'Draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Development of Rural Tourism in India', an initiative towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. Driven by the spirit of 'Vocal for Local', rural tourism can contribute significantly to the mission of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

A rural circuit has been identified as one of the thematic circuits under 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' for development aimed at leveraging tourism as a force multiplier for revitalising the rural economy and for giving both domestic and international tourist a glimpse of the rural aspects of the country

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/towards-boosting-rural-tourism/article35427095.ece>

**Q.112) Which of the following is/are the reasons for the rise in the C-section deliveries in India?**

1. Women having babies at a later age
2. Increase in in-vitro fertility
3. Sedentary lifestyle of mothers

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.112) Solution (d)**

According to WHO, the ideal rate of C-section deliveries is between 5% and 15% in India.

One in two women who go to a private hospital undergoes a Caesarean section (C-section), according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data.

When medically justified, a C-section can effectively prevent maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity.

***There are different factors at play for the rise in the operations- Women having babies at a later age, increase in in-vitro fertility and sedentary lifestyle of mothers are some of the reasons.***

There are also caregiver and hospital factors. Doctors doing solo-practice and delivering 20-25 babies in a month can't stay awake in the night so they prefer to schedule an operation. As far as corporate hospitals are concerned, there is an emphasis on more numbers and doctors spending 20-30 days on 10 deliveries is frowned upon

Public hospitals see a rise in C-sections because of poor doctor-patient ratio and concentration of high-risk pregnancies at one place with less doctors and less caregivers.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/one-in-two-women-undergoes-c-section-in-private-hospitals-shows-nfhs-data/article37715642.ece>

**Q.113) Wifi services in flights were approved by the government three years ago, but Indian flyers are still to experience it in reality. In this regard consider the following statements:**

1. Domestic carriers have been slow in offering the service because the retrofit of aircraft with the required antenna is an expensive affair
2. WiFi in airplanes allows us to use our gadgets with an internet connection with the flight mode turned on.

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

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

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

Wifi services in flights were approved by the government three years ago, but Indian flyers are still to experience it in reality. This is because most air service providers cannot cope with the high installation charges in a market that thrives on providing the cheapest ticket. The equipment for in-flight Wifi costs Rs 3-4 crore per aircraft

Domestic carriers have been slow in offering the service because the retrofit of aircraft with the required antenna is an expensive affair that takes nearly 12 hours.

Those airlines that have started to offer the service are rolling it out only on new aircraft that come equipped with the antenna.



Full-service carrier Vistara is the only Indian airline to offer the service to its customers since September 2020.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/in-flight-wifi-hits-a-dead-zone-in-india/article37742511.ece>

**Q.114) Jaitapur would be the world's most powerful nuclear power plant, is situated in which of the following Indian state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

**Q.114) Solution (b)**

After 11 years of being on the drawing board, there is some progress in the Jaitapur nuclear power project in Maharashtra with the French company EDF and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) working together to take this project off the ground

EDF and NPCIL teams are working actively together. This project is a key component of the strategic partnership between India and France as stated by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on several occasions.

Jaitapur would be the world's most powerful nuclear power plant. There would be six state-of-the-art EPR reactors with an installed capacity of 9.6 GWe that will produce low carbon electricity.

This project will embody the strong partnership between India and France, a commitment to low carbon future, and will directly benefit Maharashtra with thousands of local jobs.

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jaitapur-would-be-the-worlds-most-powerful-nuclear-plant/article37731290.ece>

**Q.115) Which of the following article of the Indian Constitution allows the President to appoint the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts?**

- a) Article 74
- b) Article 214
- c) Article 80

d) Article 217

**Q.115) Solution (d)**

President Ram Nath Kovind said judges must exercise 'utmost discretion' while making utterances in courtrooms and quoted an American judge to argue that "courts are not representative bodies and are not designed to be a good reflex of a democratic society."

President also wondered if "there can be better way to appoint judges to the higher judiciary without diluting the independence of the judiciary even to the slightest degree".

The President quoted Justice Frankfurter of the U.S. Supreme Court in the Dennis versus United States case of 1951, in which the judge had observed, "Courts are not representative bodies. They are not designed to be a good reflex of a democratic society. Their essential quality is detachment, founded on independence".

***The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts are to be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution.***

Article Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/judges-should-maintain-utmost-discretion-while-making-utterances-in-court-rooms-president/article37727988.ece>