



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

**January-2023**

**9169191888**

**[www.iasbaba.com](http://www.iasbaba.com)**



**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Ethylene Glycol**

1. Ethylene glycol is a colourless and odourless alcoholic compound that can be fatal if consumed.
2. Both diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are adulterants used as solvents in liquid drugs.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethylene glycol is a colourless and odourless alcoholic compound that can be fatal if consumed.</li> <li>The sweet-tasting ethylene glycol is a syrupy or viscous liquid at room temperature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are adulterants that are sometimes illegally used as solvents in liquid drugs.</li> <li>Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol may be used by pharma companies as an alternative to non-toxic solvents such as glycerine or propylene glycol to cut costs.</li> </ul>

**Context:** The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers issued a gazette notification titled Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2022.

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)**

1. It includes areas within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
2. They are notified by Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
3. These Zones are restricted for activities like commercial wood usage, mining and tourism.

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ) are the areas designated to protect the biodiversity and conservation of natural habitats for specific species.</li> <li>• It includes areas within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, considered eco-fragile zones and protected by regulations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecologically Sensitive Zones are notified by the Central Government through the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change under the Environment Protection Act 1986.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These Zones are restricted for activities like commercial wood usage, set up of industries, mining, and tourism.</li> <li>• The discharge of solid or fluid waste, production of hazardous substances, and operations leading to any kind of pollution are also strictly prohibited.</li> </ul>
---	---	--

**Context:** The Supreme Court's directive to mark a 1 km aerial distance from the boundaries of all protected areas as ecologically sensitive has led to protests in Kerala.

**Q.3) With which of the following nation(s) India has signed the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)?**

1. Bangladesh
2. Saudi Arabia
3. France
4. UAE

**Choose the correct code:**

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

**Q.3) Solution (a)**

<b>Option a</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India and Saudi Arabia are in talks to sign a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to obtain formal assistance from each other in investigations related to criminal cases.</li> <li>• Saudi Arabia is only among a dozen other countries that does not have either an MLAT or any other bilateral agreement with India to facilitate such investigations.</li> <li>• India has so far signed MLATs with 45 countries, and is also in talks to finalise MLATs with Italy and Germany.</li> <li>• India has signed MLAT in civil and commercial matters with Bahrain, France, Russia, Azerbaijan, UAE, and Mongolia.</li> </ul>

**Figure 1.1: List of countries having MLAT/Bilateral Agreements with India**

Arab Republic of Egypt (2009)	Kingdom of Morocco* (2018)	Republic of Kazakhstan (2000)	Russian Federation (2000)
Bosnia & Herzegovina (2010)	Kingdom of Spain (2007)	Republic of Korea (2005)	State of Israel (2015)
Canada (1998)	Kingdom of Thailand (2004)	Republic of Maldives* (2019)	State of Kuwait (2007)
Commonwealth of Australia (2011)	Kyrgyz Republic (2014)	Republic of Mauritius (2006)	Sultanate of Oman (2015)
Confederation of Switzerland (1989)	Malaysia (2012)	Republic of Singapore (2005)	Ukraine (2003)
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (2010)	Mongolia (2004)	Republic of South Africa (2005)	Union of Myanmar (2010)
French Republic (2005)	People's Republic of Bangladesh (2011)	Republic of Tajikistan (2003)	United Arab Emirates (2000)
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (2009)	Republic of Azerbaijan (2013)	Republic of Turkey (1993)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1995)
Islamic Republic of Iran (2010)	Republic of Belarus (2006)	Republic of Uzbekistan (2001)	United Mexican States (2009)
Kingdom of Bahrain (2005)	Republic of Bulgaria (2008)	Republic of Vietnam (2008)	United States of America (2005)
Kingdom of Cambodia* (2018)	Republic of Indonesia (2011)		

**Context:** India and Saudi Arabia are in talks to sign a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to obtain formal assistance from each other in investigations related to criminal cases.

#### Q.4) Consider the following statements about Pralay Missile

1. Pralay is an indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile.
2. It is India's first tactical quasi-ballistic missile.
3. The canisterised Pralay missile, has a range of 1000 - 1500 kilometres.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

#### Q.4) Solution (b)

#### Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pralay is an indigenous short-range ballistic surface-to-surface missile.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The missile will be India's first tactical quasi-ballistic missile and will give the armed forces the capability to hit enemy positions and key installations in actual battlefield areas.</li> <li>• Developed by: The solid-fuel, battlefield missile developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is capable of carrying a conventional warhead of about 350 kg to 700 kg, which gives it a deadly punitive capability.</li> <li>• Range: The canisterised Pralay missile, has a range of 150-500 kilometres.</li> </ul>

**Context:** In a major boost to the striking capabilities of the Indian armed forces, the defense ministry has recently cleared a proposal to purchase 120 Pralay missiles for the Indian Air Force and Army.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Nilgiri Tahr**

1. Nilgiri Tahr is the State animal of Tamil nadu and Kerala.
2. They are endemic to the Western Ghats.
3. It's Conservation Status under IUCN is Endangered.

**Choose the correct code:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nilgiri Tahr is the State animal of Tamilnadu.</li> <li>• The Nilgiri Tahr had multiple references in Tamil Sangam literature.</li> <li>• The late Mesolithic (10,000-4,000 BC) paintings also highlights the Nilgiri Tahr's cultural significance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are endemic to the Western Ghats and used to inhabit a large part of the Western Ghats between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.</li> </ul>	Conservation Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN - Endangered</li> <li>• Wildlife (protection) Act of India, 1972 - Schedule I</li> </ul>

**Context:** The Tamil Nadu government launched an initiative for the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr at a cost of Rs 25 crore.

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about National Geospatial Policy of 2022**

1. The policy aims to make India a world leader in global geospatial space
2. It was notified by the Ministry of Earth Sciences
3. Geospatial Data Promotion and Development Committee ('GDPDC') will be constituted for implementing appropriate guidelines for the promotion of Geospatial sector

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.6) Solution(b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The policy aims to make India a World Leader in Global Geospatial space with the best in the class ecosystem for innovation; To develop a coherent national framework in the country and leverage it to move towards a digital economy and improve services to citizens; To enable easy availability of valuable Geospatial data collected utilising public funds, to businesses and the public; To have a thriving Geospatial industry in the country involving private enterprise.	The Ministry of Science and Technology has recently notified the National Geospatial Policy 2022.	The Government will constitute a Geospatial Data Promotion and Development Committee ('GDPDC'). It will be the apex body for formulating and implementing appropriate guidelines, strategies, and programs for the promotion of activities related to the Geospatial sector.

**Context – The policy was notified recently**

**Q.7) With reference to 'Remote Electronic Voting Machine', consider the following statements**

1. The RVMs are stand-alone networked systems which will effectively be providing the voter the same experience as currently used EVMs
2. A Radio-frequency based scanning system will be used to read the voter's constituency cards and display the requisite candidates based on the constituency number

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.7) Solution(d)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The RVMs are stand alone, non-networked systems, which will effectively be providing the voter the same experience as currently used EVMs. The unique feature of RVMs is that a single Remote Ballot Unit (RBU) will be able to cater to multiple constituencies (as many as 72) by using a “dynamic ballot display board” instead of the usual printed paper ballot sheet on EVMs.	After verifying a voter’s identity, their constituency card will be read with a public display showing the constituency details and candidates. This will also be displayed privately, on the BUOD in the RVM’s RBU. The Ballot Unit Overlay Display (BUOD) will show the requisite candidates based on the constituency number read on the voter’s Constituency card. A barcode scanning system will be used to read these cards.

**Context - the Election Commission (EC) announced that it is ready to pilot remote voting for domestic migrants.**

**Q.8) ‘Tanchoi, Jangla and Bomkai’ seen in news recently are**

- a) GI tagged varieties of areca nuts
- b) Particularly vulnerable tribal groups
- c) Handloom saris
- d) Endangered languages

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

The Ministry of Textiles is organizing Sari Festival “VIRAASAT”, The second phase, having 90 participants from different parts of the country, brings enhanced attraction by participation of famous Handcrafted varieties of Saris like Tie and Dye, Chikan embroidered Saris, Hand Block Saris, Kalamkari printed Saris, Ajrakh, Kantha and Phulkari. These will be in addition to the exclusive handloom Saris of Jamdani, Ikat, Pochampally, Banaras Brocade, Tussar Silk (Champa), Baluchari, Bhagalpuri Sik, Tangail, Chanderi, Lalitpuri, Patola, Paithani etc. Also available will be Handloom Saris like Tanchoi, Jangla, Kota Doria, Cutwork, Maheshwari, Bhujodi, Santipuri, Bomkai and several other varieties like Garad Korial, Khandua and Arni Silk Saris.

**Context - The second phase of the 'VIRASAAT'- Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India will begin from 3rd to 17th January 2023 at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi.**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Atomic Energy Regulatory Board'**

1. The regulatory authority of AERB is derived from the rules and notifications promulgated under the Atomic Energy Act and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
2. The Mission of the AERB is to ensure the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India is safely harnessed and used only for peaceful purposes like power generation

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.9) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The AERB was constituted on November 15, 1983, by the President of India by exercising the powers conferred by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions under the Act. The regulatory authority of AERB is derived from the rules and notifications promulgated under the Atomic Energy Act and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The AERB shall have authority to administer the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, the industrial safety for the units of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) as per Section 23 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.	The Mission of the AERB is to ensure the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to the health of people and the environment.

**Context - Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was in news**

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Satyendra Nath Bose'**

1. Bosons which are the class of particles that obey Bose-Einstein statistics was named after Bose by Einstein
2. He wrote a paper deriving Planck's quantum radiation law without any reference to classical physics by using a novel way of counting states with identical particles



3. Bose was awarded Bharat Ratna by the Indian government in 1954

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.10) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Bose collaborated with Einstein to develop what we now know as the Bose-Einstein statistics. The class of particles that obey Bose statistics, bosons, was named after Bose by Paul Dirac.	Bose wrote a paper deriving Planck's quantum radiation law without any reference to classical physics by using a novel way of counting states with identical particles. This paper was seminal in creating the important field of quantum statistics.	A Fellow of the Royal Society, he was awarded India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in 1954 by the Government of India

**Context - 129th birth anniversary of Satyendra Nath Bose took place recently**

**Q.11) 'Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement' was signed recently between India and**

- a) Canada
- b) Austria
- c) Netherlands
- d) Kuwait

**Q.11) Solution(b)**

India signed a 'Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement' (MMPA) with Austria for migration and mobility of Indian students and professionals. MMPA aims at the facilitation of mobility of students, academics, and researchers, migration for professional and economic reasons, and abiding by equal treatment of nationals of both Parties in a similar situation. The provisions of this Agreement will be without prejudice to the application of national laws on the stay of foreigners on all the points that are not dealt with in this Agreement. Along similar lines, India has also signed agreements with other European countries namely, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Finland.

**Context - India, Austria sign pact to curb illegal migration**

**Q.12) Consider the following statements with respect to Savitribai Phule**

1. Savitribai Phule advocated inter-caste marriages, widow remarriage, and eradication of child marriage among other social issues
2. She established a women's rights advocacy organization called Bharat Stree Mahamandal
3. She became a prolific writer and published a book named Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Savitribai Phule also advocated inter-caste marriages, widow remarriage, and eradication of child marriage, sati and dowry systems, among other social issues. In 1873, the Phules set up the Satyashodhak Samaj ('Truth-seekers' society'), a platform open to all, irrespective of their caste, religion or class hierarchies, with the sole aim of bringing social equity.	She established the Mahila Seva Mandal to raise awareness for issues concerning women's rights. She also called for a gathering place for women that was free of caste discrimination or differentiation of any kind.	She became a prolific writer and published two books: Kavya Phule (1854); Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892). She also wrote the poem entitled, 'Go Get Education' in which she encouraged those who are oppressed to free themselves by obtaining an education.

**Context - The Prime Minister paid homage to Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary.**

**Q.13) With reference to 'Indian Science Congress', consider the following statements**

1. It is an annual gathering of researchers in the country organised by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
2. The focal theme of this year's ISC is "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Self-reliance"

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.13) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Indian Science Congress, the annual gathering of researchers in the country is organised by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). The first meeting of the Congress was held from January 15-17, 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta. Established in 1914, ISCA is a professional body under Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.	The focal theme of this year's ISC is "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment" which will witness discussions on issues of sustainable development, women empowerment and the role of science & technology in achieving this.

**Context - The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC)**

**Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)'**

1. HEFA is a non-profit Non-Banking Financing Company (NBFC) and is a joint venture between the Union Ministry of Education and the Canara Bank
2. Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) finances creation of capital assets in all premier educational institutions in India except school education

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>

HEFA is a non-profit Non-Banking Financing Company (NBFC), is a joint venture between the Union Ministry of Education and the Canara Bank to finance infrastructure development in educational institutions through long-term loans.

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is set up for financing creation of capital assets in premier educational institutions in India as part of rising 2022 HEFA's scope is greatly expanded to cover school education, educational institutes under Ministry of health etc.

**Context - The Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) has fallen short of the government's target of mobilising Rs 1 lakh crore by 2022**

**Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022'**

1. Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 have been promulgated solely to implement the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. The consent of Gram Sabha has been explicitly mentioned and has been made mandatory for the diversion of forest land
3. The settling of forest rights now needs to be carried out by the Central government instead of the State as was the case earlier

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.15) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 have been promulgated solely to implement the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Process as envisaged in the Act and the rules framed there under is a parallel process with other statutory processes. The Rules do not inhibit the commencement of processes envisaged in other laws like Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,	According to the government, FCR 2022 already provides for diversion of forest land "only after fulfilment and compliance of all provisions, including settlement of rights under the Forest Rights Act" and also does not bar or infringe upon the operation of other laws mandating consent of Gram Sabhas. But it does	The settling of forest rights under the new rules now needs to be carried out by the state government instead of the Centre, as was the case earlier.

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Land Acquisition Act, 1896, Forest Rights Act, 2006, etc.	not mention the consent of Gram Sabha explicitly.	
---	--	--

**Context - Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 was in news**

**Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Heat Dome'**

1. A heat dome occurs when an area of low-pressure traps warm air over a region
2. It also prevents clouds formation causing more Sun's radiation to reach the Earth's surface

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.16) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
A heat dome occurs when an area of high-pressure traps warm air over a region, for an extended period. The longer that air remains trapped, the more the sun works to heat the air, producing warmer conditions with every passing day. Heat domes generally stay for a few days but sometimes they can extend up to weeks, which might cause deadly heat waves. Moreover, when air sinks, it gets drier and further raises the temperature of the area.	When a high-pressure area builds up within a jet stream, the air descends towards the surface and gets compressed towards the ground, forming a heat dome. Air is crowded within a smaller volume, so it is forced to heat up. The layer of high-pressure blocks the hot air from rising and prevents clouds from forming, allowing more radiation from the sun to hit the ground.

**Context - At least seven countries in Europe recorded their hottest January weather ever.**

**Q.17) With reference to 'Centrally Protected Monuments', consider the following statements**

1. Centrally Protected Monuments are those that are protected under the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
2. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of Centrally Protected Monuments in the country

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.17) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Centrally Protected Monuments are those that are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Under this Act, construction activities are prohibited within 100 meters of a centrally protected monument and construction within 100 to 200 meters of these structures is strictly regulated. The regulations under this Act are implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).	<b>Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of Centrally Protected monuments in the country at 743, followed by Tamil Nadu which has 412.</b>

**Context - The Ministry of Culture reported to Parliament that 50 of India's 3,693 centrally protected monuments were missing.**

**Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to 'United Nations Conference on the Human Environment - Stockholm Conference'**

1. The United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm was a result based on the findings of Brundtland Commission
2. The conference resulted in the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
3. Stockholm Convention which is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) was discussed in this conference but was not adopted

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm was the first world conference to make the environment a major issue. In December 1983, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, asked the former Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland, to create an organization independent of the UN to focus on environmental and developmental problems and solutions after an affirmation by the General Assembly resolution in the fall of 1983	One of the major results of the Stockholm conference was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international environmental treaty, signed on 22 May 2001 in Stockholm and effective from 17 May 2004. It is not related to this Conference

**Context – The Conference was in news.**

**Q.19) The official data on “Employment–Unemployment” is released by**

- The Ministry of Labour
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs

**Q.19) Solution(c)**

The official data on “Employment–Unemployment” is released by Ministry of Statistical and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) based on Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). The latest Annual PLFS report is available for the survey period July, 2020 to June, 2021 for estimates at all India level. The quarterly PLFS report is also released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for Urban areas.

**Context - PLFS indicates that the employment market has not only recovered the jolt of Covid-19 pandemic, but also is at levels higher than the pre-pandemic level.**

**Q.20) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934’**

- The Act contains the definition of the scheduled banks and they are mentioned in the first Schedule of the Act
- A certain section the Act allows on the recommendation of the Central Government the Central Board of the RBI to demonetize legal tender
- The Act provides provisions for the RBI to accept deposits from the central and state governments without interest

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.20) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The RBI defines the scheduled banks which are mentioned in the 2nd Schedule of the Act. These are banks which have paid up capital and reserves above 5 lakh.	Section 26(2) of the Act says – “On recommendation of the Central Board the Central Government may, by notification in the Gazette of India, declare that, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, any series of bank notes of any denomination shall cease to be legal tender [save at such office or agency of the Bank and to such extent as may be specified in the notification.” The Supreme Court held that the power available to the Central Government u/s 26(2) of the RBI Act, 1934 cannot be restricted to mean that it can be exercised only for one or some series of banknotes and not for all the series of bank notes.	Section 17 of the deals with the functioning of RBI. . The RBI can accept deposits from the central and state governments without interest. It can purchase and discount bills of exchange from commercial banks. It can purchase foreign exchange from banks and sell it to them. It can provide loans to banks and state financial corporations. It can provide advances to the central government and state governments. It can buy or sell government securities. It can deal in derivative, repo and reverse repo.

**Context – Section 26(2) of the Act was in news due to Supreme Court ruling on demonetization**

**Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘National Green Hydrogen Mission’**

1. The mission aims to make India a Global Hub for production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives
2. Ministry of Science and Technology will be responsible for overall coordination and implementation of the Mission
3. A distinct financial incentive mechanism targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of Green Hydrogen will be provided under the Mission



Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.21) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The mission aims to make India a Global Hub for production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. Other benefits are decarbonisation of industrial, mobility and energy sectors; reduction in dependence on imported fossil fuels and feedstock; development of indigenous manufacturing capabilities; creation of employment opportunities; and development of cutting-edge technologies.	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy will be responsible for overall coordination and implementation of the Mission.	Under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT), two distinct financial incentive mechanisms – targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of Green Hydrogen – will be provided under the Mission. The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways.

**Context - Cabinet approved National Green Hydrogen Mission**

**Q.22) With reference to 'Black Carbon Aerosols', consider the following statements**

1. Black carbon deposition on snow reduces the albedo of surfaces and increases light absorption
2. Black carbon decreases the number of cloud condensation nuclei in the atmosphere

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.22) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Black carbon aerosols are produced by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass, and are characterised by strong light absorption. Black carbon deposition in snow reduces the albedo of surfaces -- a measure of how much of Sun's radiations are reflected -- which may accelerate the melting of glaciers and snow cover, thus changing the hydrological process and water resources in the region.	Black carbon also increases the number of cloud condensation nuclei in the atmosphere. These changes in meteorological conditions caused by black carbon aerosols make more water vapour form precipitation in South Asia, and the northward transport to the Tibetan Plateau was weakened.

**Context – According to a study, South Asian black carbon aerosols increase glacial mass loss over Tibetan plateau**

**Q.23) 'Virovore' an organism in news is best known for**

- Rapidly decomposing oil
- Surviving extremities of temperature
- Consumption of viruses
- Causing dieback disease in trees

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

The organisms which eat viruses are called virovore. It has been identified as an actual species of protist that feasts on viruses. These virus-eating species of protists which are their kingdom on the tree of life and are not an animal, plants, or fungi are now classified as Virovores. These organisms can sustain themselves with viruses, consuming many and growing in size.

**Context – The organism was recently discovered.**

**Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) Scheme'**

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which provides financial support for the infrastructure development of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD)
- A major priority area of the scheme is the development of high-quality content for both domestic and international audience

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- 1 only

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

**Q.24) Solution(b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It is a Central Sector Scheme which provides financial support for the infrastructure development of Prasar Bharati i.e. All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD). This scheme will enable the public broadcaster to undertake a major upgradation of its facilities with better infrastructure which will widen its reach, including in the LWE, border and strategic areas and provide high-quality content to the viewers.	A major priority area of the scheme is the development of high-quality content for both domestic and international audiences and ensuring the availability of diverse content to the viewers by upgradation of the capacity of the DTH platform to accommodate more channels.

**Context - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved Central Sector 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)' Scheme****Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Corporate Tax'**

1. Corporate Tax is a direct tax levied at a certain rate according to the Income Tax Act of 1961
2. Corporate tax collections has always been higher than Income Tax collections since the last decade
3. Corporation tax is applicable only to private companies registered in India under the Companies Act 1956.

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.25) Solution(a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>

Corporation tax is a direct tax placed on a company's net income or profit from its operations. According to the requirements of the Income Tax Act of 1961, this tax is levied at a certain rate.	Corporate tax collections were higher than Income tax collections in the last decade until 2020-21 when Income tax collections surpassed corporate tax collections in 12 years.	Corporation tax is payable by both public and private companies registered in India under the Companies Act 1956.
--	---	---

**Context - Corporate tax collections exceeded 3 per cent of the GDP after a gap of two years in 2021-22**

**Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve'**

1. The NBR harbors a wide spectrum of ecosystem types such as tropical evergreen forests, Montane sholas and grasslands, dry deciduous forests and thorn forests
2. It is the largest protected forest area in India spread across two states
3. Protected Areas within the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve include Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park and Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.26) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The NBR harbors a wide spectrum of ecosystem types such as tropical evergreen forests, Montane sholas and grasslands, semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests and thorn forests.	It is the largest protected forest area in India, spreading across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.	It includes the protected areas Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Nagarhole National Park, Bandipur National Park, both in Karnataka; Silent Valley National Park, Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, and Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, and Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve are part of Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

**Context - Endangered Asian elephant has lost most of its optimal habitat in Nilgiri Reserve: Study**

**Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Decennial Census'**

1. The first census was started under British Viceroy Lord Ripon and the first synchronous census in India was held in 1881.
2. A census can be conducted only six months after the freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils as per norms
3. The decennial Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.27) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
In India, the census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872 and the first synchronous census in India was held in 1881.	As per norms, a census can be conducted only three months after the freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations.	The decennial Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs. Census is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, of 1948. The population census is a Union subject under Article 246 of the Indian Constitution

**Context - Decennial census put off till September to freeze boundaries**

**Q.28) With reference to 'Y20 Summit', consider the following statements**

1. The Y20 is the official youth engagement group for the G20 (Group of 20)
2. India is hosting the Y20 summit for the first time

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

- a) 1 only

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

**Q.28) Solution(d)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Y20 is the official youth engagement group for the G20 (Group of 20), the forum for the world's largest and most advanced economies. The Y20 is a process which brings together young leaders from across the globe, to discuss and debate global challenges and agree policy recommendations they would like to see G20 leaders take forward.	India is hosting the Y20 summit for the first time.

**Context - Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur will launch the themes of the Y20 summit, logo, and website in New Delhi today in the curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India.**

**Q.29) 'Fipronil, Tebuconazole, and Imidacloprid' seen in news recently are**

- a) Insecticides
- b) Fruit ripening substances
- c) Cancer fighting drugs
- d) Food preservatives

**Q.29) Solution(a)**

Fipronil, Tebuconazole, and Imidacloprid are insecticides. The samples of cardamom supplied by the contractor for use at the Sabarimala contained insecticide residues exceeding Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) stipulated by the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants Toxins and Residues) Regulations, according to a certificate of examination issued by the Government Analyst's Laboratory at Thiruvananthapuram after examination of the samples.

**Context - Cardamom samples supplied by contractor for use at Sabarimala contain exceeding level of insecticide residue**

**Q.30) Consider the following statements**

1. Article 19 of the Constitution of India which guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression can only be invoked against the state
2. The right of free speech and expression guaranteed under the Article 19(1)(a) cannot be curbed by any additional grounds other than those already laid down in the same article

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.30) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression, and is typically invoked against the state. The Supreme Court has ruled that a fundamental right under Article 19 can be enforced even against persons other than the State or its instrumentalities.	The Supreme Court ruled that the right of free speech and expression guaranteed under the Article 19(1)(a) cannot be curbed by any additional grounds other than those already laid down in Article 19(2).

**Context - Supreme Court expanded the ambit of Article 19 ambit**

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sagol Kangjei'**

1. Modern polo is said to have originated from Sagol Kangjei, a sport indigenous to Mizoram
2. There are no goalposts in this game unlike the modern version of Polo

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.31) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>

Modern polo is said to have originated from Sagol Kangjei, a sport indigenous to Manipur, in which players ride horses, specifically the Manipur Ponies, which are referenced in records dating back to the 14th century.

There are no goalposts in this game. Goal lines determine the end of the two boundaries of the rectangular field. The ball ( hang drum ) is white. To score a goal the ball must cross the line. This is a seasonal game and is played in the Manipuri month of September / October and in June / July.

**Context - Union Home Minister inaugurated a Sagol Kangjei (Polo) Statue at Heingang in Imphal.**

**Q.32) With reference to 'Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)', consider the following statements**

1. It is the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India which was set up post-independence
2. It is an autonomous office under the Ministry of Science and Technology
3. Union Minister of Science and Technology is the President of this organization

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.32) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was established by the Government of India in September 1942 as an autonomous body that has emerged as the largest research and development organisation in India.	It is an autonomous office Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, under the Ministry of Science and Technology	The Prime Minister of India (Ex-officio) is the President of this organization. The Vice President: Union Minister of Science and Technology (Ex-officio) Governing Body: The Director-General is the head of the governing body.

**Context - The One Week One lab campaign of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) was launched recently.**



**Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Floatovoltaics'**

1. They are panel structures that are installed on water bodies like lakes, reservoirs and solid structures like a roof or terraces
2. Floating solar panels are more efficient than the land based ones and they also prevent evaporation of water
3. The largest floating solar power plant in India is currently the Ramagundam plant in Telangana

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.33) Solution(c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Floatovoltaics, floating solar plants, or FSPV (floating solar photovoltaic) are panel structures that are installed on water bodies like lakes, basins, and reservoirs instead of on solid structures like a roof or terraces.	The water's cooling effect makes floating solar panels more efficient than land-based ones. Other advantages are that they don't interfere with desert ecosystems; and they keep precious water from evaporating.	The largest floating solar power plant in India is currently the Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana, with a capacity of 100 MW. Currently a plant is being built on the Narmada' Omkareshwar Dam in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh is being built with a capacity of 600 MW, which will soon be the largest floating solar power plant in the world.

**Context - Covering 10% of the world's hydropower reservoirs with 'floatovoltaics' would install electrical capacity equivalent to that provided by all electricity-generating fossil fuel plants in operation worldwide**

**Q.34) Consider the following with respect to 'Mercury'**

1. It is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil and is the oldest known superconductor
2. It is released into the atmosphere through natural processes such as weathering of rocks, volcanoes, forest fires and soils

Select the correct statement(s)

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Mercury is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil. Despite being the oldest known superconductor, solid mercury is mysteriously absent from all current computational databases of superconductors.	Mercury is emitted into the air naturally from volcanoes, the weathering of rocks, forest fires, and soils. It is emitted into the air from the burning of fossil fuels and municipal or medical waste

**Context - A clear picture of how mercury becomes a superconductor was recently understood**

**Q.35) 'Veer Guardian-2023' is a joint Air Exercise conducted between India and**

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

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

To promote Air Defence cooperation between the countries, India and Japan are all set to hold the joint Air Exercise, 'Veer Guardian-2023' involving the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) at Hyakuri Air Base, Japan from 12 January 2023 to 26 January 2023. The Indian contingent participating in the air exercise will include four Su-30 MKI, two C-17 & one IL-78 aircraft, while the JASDF will be participating with four F-2 & four F-15 aircraft.

**Context - IAF & JAPAN AIR SELF DEFENCE FORCE SET TO EXERCISE JOINTLY IN JAPAN**

**Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas'**

1. It is held on the day that marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa in 1916

2. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Government of India and is held every year

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.36) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
9th January was chosen as the day to celebrate PBD, as it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, who returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle.	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Government of India and is held once in every two years. The theme of this PBD Convention is 'Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal'.

**Context - PM inaugurated 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh**

**Q.37) With reference to 'Parashuram Kund, consider the following statements**

- 1. It is a Hindu pilgrimage site situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Subanasiri River
- 2. Devotees and sadhus take a holy dip in its water each year on the occasion of Makar Sankranti and it is known as the Kumbh of the Northeast

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.37) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It is a Hindu pilgrimage site situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River and 21 km north of Tezu in the Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh, India.	Devotees and sadhus take a holy dip in its water each year on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, in January. It is also known as the Kumbh of the Northeast. It is dedicated to a mythological figure sage Parshuram. This popular festival attracts pilgrims from Nepal, from across India, and from nearby states of Manipur and Assam.

**Context - The Prime Minister has shared glimpses of Parshuram Kund Festival in Arunachal Pradesh.**

**Q.38) Consider the following statements with respect to 'African Swine Flu'**

1. African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious zoonotic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs
2. It is endemic to sub-Saharan Africa but has spread to many other regions of the world including Asia and Europe
3. There is no cure or precaution available for the infection and no vaccine has been approved as yet

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, whose mortality rate can reach 100%. The virus belongs to Asfarviridae family. It is not known to affect human beings and hence not a zoonotic disease	It is endemic to sub-Saharan Africa but has spread to many other regions of the world, including Asia and Europe.	There is no cure or precaution available for the infection yet and no approved vaccine, so the only way to stop it spreading is by culling the animals.

**Context - The district administration of Damoh in Madhya Pradesh has killed 700 pigs in the last two days amid fear of African Swine Fever in the area, news agency ANI reported.**

**Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Health Authority'**

1. It is the apex body responsible for implementing AB PM-JAY and the implementation of "National Digital Health Mission" to create a National Digital Health Eco-system
2. It is an attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is chaired by the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare
3. NHA determines the central ceiling for premium (or maximum central contribution for trusts) per family per year to be provided to the States/UTs

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.39) Solution(b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana" & has been entrusted with the role of designing strategy, building technological infrastructure and implementation of "National Digital Health Mission" to create a National Digital Health Eco-system.	NHA has been set-up to implement PM-JAY, as it is popularly known, at the national level. An attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy, NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.	Functions of NHA under PM-JAY include: Formulation of various operational guidelines related to PM-JAY, model documents and contracts to ensure standardization and interoperability and determining the central ceiling for premium (or maximum central contribution for trusts) per family per year to be provided to the States/UTs and review it from time to time, based on field evidence and actuarial analysis.

**Context - National Health Authority (NHA) introduces new system to measure and grade performance of hospitals empaneled under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme.**

**Q.40) Which two rivers meet at the confluence of Vishnu Prayag overlooking the town of Joshimath**

- a) Alaknanda and Dhauliganga
- b) Mandakini and Alaknanda
- c) Bhagirathi and Alaknanda
- d) Pindar and Dhauliganga

**Q.40) Solution(a)**

Joshimath is situated in the middle slopes of a hill bounded by the Karmanasa and Dhaknala streams on the west and the east and the Dhauliganga and Alaknanda rivers on the south and the north. Alaknanda and Dhauliganga meet at the confluence of Vishnuprayag overlooking the town of Joshimath. Also known as Jyotirmath, it is a town in the Garhwal Himalayas in Chamoli District in Uttarakhand.

**Context – The place was in news due to subsidence**

**Q.41) Consider the following statements**

1. The Governor's address to the first sitting of the legislature each year is a Constitutional requirement
2. A session of a new or a continuing legislature cannot begin without the completion of Governor's address
3. After the Governor delivers the address, a debate must take place only on the contents of the address and is subject to vote

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.41) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Article 176 of the Constitution – At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the	The Constitution gives the President and the Governor the power to address a sitting of the legislature. The special power is	After the President or Governor delivers the address, a debate takes place not only on the

commencement of the first session of each year, the Governor shall address the Legislative Assembly and inform the Legislature of the causes of its summons. In the case of a State having a Legislative Council, both Houses assembled together.

with regard to two occasions. The first is to address the opening session of a new legislature after a general election. The second is to address the first sitting of the legislature each year. Commonly referred to as the President's or Governor's Address, they are a constitutional requirement. A session of a new or a continuing legislature cannot begin without fulfilling this requirement.

contents of the address but also the broad issues of governance in the country. This then paves the way for discussion on the Budget.

**Context – Tamil Nadu Governor walked out of House as Chief Minister objected to deviation from speech.**

**Q.42) This National Park is a network of creeks and canals which are inundated with waters from rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra and Patasala forming a unique ecosystem. It is home to the largest congregation of endangered Salt Water Crocodiles in the country. It is India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem. The National Park is**

- a) Simlipal National Park
- b) Vansda National Park
- c) Sundarbans National Park
- d) Bhitarkanika National Park

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

Bhitarkanika National Park is India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem after the Sunderbans. This National Park is a network of creeks and canals which are inundated with waters from rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra and Patasala forming a unique ecosystem. It is home to the largest congregation of endangered Salt Water Crocodiles in the country. The Gahirmatha Beach which forms the boundary of the sanctuary in the east is the largest colony of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. Bhitarkanika is also home to eight varieties of Kingfisher birds which is also a rarity.

**Context - The recent census report of birds released by the forest department in Odisha said that the number of migratory birds in Bhitarkanika National Park has risen**

**Q.43) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Young Professionals Scheme'**

1. The Scheme was conceived as part of an India-U.K. Migration and Mobility MoU signed and announced at the G20 Summit in Bali

2. The scheme will permit up to 10,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other's countries for a period of five years

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.43) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Young Professionals Scheme was conceived as part of an India-U.K. Migration and Mobility MoU signed in May 2021 and was announced in November at the G20 summit in Bali.	It will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other's countries for two years. The programme will be reciprocal, also allowing UK professionals in the same position to participate in a professional exchange by living and working in India.

**Context - India and the United Kingdom signed and exchanged letters for Young Professionals Scheme in London.**

**Q.44) With respect to 'Ozone layer', consider the following statements**

- 1. The thickness of the ozone layer varies worldwide and is generally thicker near the equator and thinner near the poles
- 2. Earth is the only planet in the solar system which contains an ozone layer
- 3. The ozone layer is mainly found in the lower portion of the stratosphere and is formed naturally through the interaction of solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation with molecular oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>)

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.44) Solution(b)**



**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The thickness of the ozone layer varies worldwide and is generally thinner near the equator and thicker near the poles. Thickness refers to how much ozone is in a column over a given area and varies from season to season. The reasons for these variations are due to atmospheric circulation patterns and solar intensity.	Venus also has a thin ozone layer at an altitude of 100 kilometers above the planet's surface.	The ozone layer is mainly found in the lower portion of the stratosphere, from approximately 15 to 35 kilometers (9 to 22 mi) above Earth, although its thickness varies seasonally and geographically. Stratospheric ozone is formed naturally through the interaction of solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation with molecular oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> ).

**Context - Earth's ozone layer is slowly recovering according to a United Nations report**

**Q.45) With reference to 'National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)', consider the following statements**

1. It is a committee set up under the National Disaster Management Authority for effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations
2. It is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and also has Agriculture Secretary as one of its members

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
A National Crisis Management Committee is a committee set up by the Government of India in the wake of a natural calamity for effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations. A National Crisis Management Committee(NCMC) has been constituted in the Cabinet Secretariat.	It is headed by Cabinet Secretary. On the constitution of such a committee, the Agriculture Secretary shall provide all necessary information to and seek directions. The composition of the Committee is as under:- Cabinet Secretary Chairman, Secretary to Prime Minister Member, Secretary (MHA) Member, Secretary (MCD)

Member, Director (IB) Member, Secretary (R&AW) Member, Secretary (Agri & Coopn.) Co-opted Member, An officer of Cabinet Secretariat. Convenor
---

**Context - The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary met today and reviewed the situation in Joshimath.**

**Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 'VSHORAD missile system'**

1. These are short-range and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups
2. It is designed and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited and can engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 kilometres

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.46) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
VSHORAD missile system is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS). These are short-range, lightweight and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups to destroy aircraft or helicopters.	It is designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners. They have a maximum range of 8 kilometres and can engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 km.

**Context – Defence Acquisition Council gave nod to VSHORAD missile systems being designed by DRDO**

**Q.47) With reference to 'Spices Board of India', consider the following statements**

1. Spices Board is a statutory board constituted under Spices Board Act
2. Spices Board is one of the Commodity Boards functioning under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
3. It is headquartered in Vishakapatnam

4. Registration and licensing of all spice exporters is one of the functions of Spices Board

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.47) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Spices Board was constituted on 26th February 1987 under the Spices Board Act 1986 (No. 10 of 1986) with the merger of the erstwhile Cardamom Board (1968) and Spices Export Promotion Council (1960).	Spices Board is one of the five Commodity Boards functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It is an autonomous body responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and development of Cardamom (Small & Large).	It is headquartered in Kochi.	Registration and licensing of all spice exporters, Assistance for studies and research on better processing practices, foolproof quality management systems, improved grading methods and effective packaging techniques, Production of promotional and educative materials in a variety of media for the benefit of exporters and importers are some of the functions of the Spices Board

**Context - World Spice Congress 2023 will be held in Mumbai from 16-18 February 2023.**

**Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Blackbuck'**

1. The Blackbuck is found only on the Indian Subcontinent
2. It is a Schedule-1 animal according to the Wildlife Protection Act and classified as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List
3. It is widespread in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and other areas throughout peninsular India

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

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

**Q.48) Solution(c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The blackbuck is found only in the Indian subcontinent. While males have corkscrew-shaped horns and black-to-dark brown coats, the females are fawn-coloured. It is an antelope native to India and Nepal.	It is a Schedule-1 animal according to the Wildlife Protection Act and classified as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List	The animals are mainly seen in three broad clusters across India the northern, southern, and eastern regions. It is widespread in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and other areas throughout peninsular India.

**Context - Indian Institute of Science (IISc) study has shed light on how blackbuck in India has fared in the face of natural and human-induced challenges to their survival.**

**Q.49) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Nickel alloy coatings'**

1. The process uses direct current electroplating which is environmentally benign with high production capacity
2. The coatings are virtually porosity free with minimal hydrogen uptake and finds application across many industries including plastic bottling

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.49) Solution(b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The process of Nickel alloy coating uses pulsed current electroplating, which is	Unlike in conventional direct current plating, the coatings were virtually porosity free, crack free with minimal

environmentally benign with high production capacity. In contrast to conventional, direct current used for chrome plating

hydrogen uptake. They were successfully applied to die-casting components used in plastic bottling industry, wherein the temperatures at the die interface can be over 280°C. With numerous applications in automotive, defense, and aerospace for these coatings, the process know-how is ready for transfer as a replacement for conventional chrome plating.

**Context - New technique of corrosion-resistant nickel alloy coatings can replace toxic chrome plating**

**Q.50) 'Section 6A of Citizenship Act, 1955' which has been referred to the Constitution Bench deals with**

- a) Deportation of persons identified as foreigners
- b) Grant of refugee status
- c) Registration of persons detected as foreigners
- d) Deprivation of citizenship

**Q.50) Solution(c)**

Section 6A created a special provision for Assam by which persons who entered between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971, and who are residing in the state, upon being detected as foreigners, will be allowed to register. Upon registration, such a person will have the same rights and obligations as a citizen of India, but will not be entitled to be included in any electoral roll for a period of 10 years.

**Context - A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud will take up for Section 6A of the Citizenship Act for preliminary determination**

**Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)'**

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Panchayat Raj
2. Record of Rights, Computerization of Land Records, Map digitization are some of the components of the Programme
3. The Programme attempts to develop an Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS) across the country where different states can add state-specific needs

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.51) Solution(c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It is a Central Sector scheme that has been extended to 2023-24, to complete its original targets as well as expand its ambit with a slew of new schemes. It is being implemented by the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development.	Record of Rights, Computerization of Land Records, Map digitization, Modern Record Room, Survey resurvey are some of the components of the Programme	It attempts to build upon the commonalities that exist in the arena of land records in various States to develop an appropriate Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS) across the country, on which different States can also add State-specific needs as they may deem relevant and appropriate. ILIMS system contains information on parcel ownership, land use, taxation, location boundaries, land value, encumbrances and many more.

**Context - The Union government has informed the Supreme Court that significant progress has been made in the computerisation of land ownership records, as cadastral maps of 35% of over six lakh villages in the country have so far been geo-referenced.**

**Q.52) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)'**

1. NMET is a Trust set up as a non-profit body by the Central Government for the purposes of regional and detailed exploration of minerals
2. To implement welfare projects in mining affected areas that complement the ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government is one of the objectives of NMET
3. The NMET Fund receives money from holders of mining lease or a prospecting license-cum-mining lease

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
NMET is a Trust set up as a non-profit body by the Central Government for the purposes of regional and detailed exploration of minerals using the funds accrued to it and in such manner as prescribed by the Central Government. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, (MMRDA) mandated the setting up of the NMET.	To implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government is one of the objectives of Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana	The NMET Fund receives money from holders of mining lease or a prospecting license-cum-mining lease, an amount equivalent to two percent of royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule of the MMDR Act.

**Context - Government of India has sanctioned ₹154.84 crore to National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) for mineral exploration and boosting capabilities.**

**Q.53) With reference to 'Curative Petition', consider the following statements**

1. A curative petition is the last resort for a plaintiff after an adverse judgement has been delivered and the plea for its review rejected
2. Curative petition cannot be entertained only if the petitioner establishes that there was a violation of the principles of natural justice
3. A curative petition must be first circulated to a bench of the three senior-most judges excluding the judges who passed the concerned judgment

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.53) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
A curative petition is the last resort for a plaintiff	The court ruled that a curative petition can be entertained if the	A curative petition must be first circulated to a bench of the three

<p>after an adverse judgement has been delivered and the plea for its review rejected. It is meant to ensure there is no miscarriage of justice, and to prevent abuse of process.</p>	<p>petitioner establishes there was a violation of the principles of natural justice, and that he was not heard by the court before passing an order. It will also be admitted where a judge failed to disclose facts that raise the apprehension of bias.</p>	<p>senior-most judges, and the judges who passed the concerned judgment, if available. Only when a majority of the judges conclude that the matter needs hearing should it be listed — as far as possible, before the same Bench. A curative petition is usually decided by judges in chamber, unless a specific request for an open-court hearing is allowed.</p>
---	--	--

**Context - The Supreme Court told the Centre to decide on its curative plea seeking an additional Rs 7,844 crore from the successor firms of Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) for giving compensation to the victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.**

**Q.54) With reference to 'National Youth Day', consider the following statements**

1. It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda to honour and cherish his ideals, teachings, and contributions
2. The Indian Government is celebrating this day(Jan 12) as National Youth Day since 1985

**Choose the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
National Youth Day, also known as Vivekananda Jayanti, is celebrated on 12 January, being the birthday of Swami Vivekananda to honour and cherish his ideals, teachings, and contributions.	In 1984, the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.

**Context – It was celebrated recently.**

**Q.55) 'Bureau of Energy Efficiency' recently seen in news comes under the**



- a) Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- b) Ministry of Power
- c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency is an agency of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Power created in March 2002 under the provisions of the nation's 2001 Energy Conservation Act. The agency's function is to develop programs which will increase the conservation and efficient use of energy in India.

**Context - Ceiling fans have come under the ambit of mandatory star labelling from January 1, as per the revised Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) norms.**

**Q.56) 'Global Risks Report' was recently released by**

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Food and Agriculture Organization

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

World Economic Forum (WEF) released Global Risks Report 2023. This is the year of the polycrisis, where risks are more interdependent and reciprocally damaging than ever. The urgency of a cost of living crisis dominates 2023's Global Risks Report, which is in danger of deprioritizing other risks.

**Context – The report was recently released.**

**Q.57) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)'**

1. It is a regulatory body established based on the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
2. It has the authority to pass orders for refund or inquire into matters relating to consumer rights but not the power to recall goods or withdrawal of services
3. The District Collector has the power to investigate the complaint or a reference made to him by the Central Authority

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

d) 3 only

**Q.57) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
CCPA is a regulatory body established in 2020 based on the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. CCPA works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.	Powers and Functions include Inquiring or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo moto, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government, recalling goods or withdrawal of services that are “dangerous, hazardous, or unsafe, passing an order for refund the prices of goods or services so recalled to purchasers of such goods or services; discontinuation of practices which are unfair and prejudicial to consumer’s interest”.	The District Collector has the power to investigate the complaint or a reference made to him by the Central Authority or the Commissioner of a regional office regarding misleading advertisement.

**Context - The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued notices to e-commerce entities, Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal for sale of toys in violation to standards directed for compulsory use by the Central Government.**

**Q.58) With reference to ‘Basic Structure Doctrine’, consider the following statements**

1. It is a form of judicial review that is used to test the legality of any legislation by the courts
2. It is a judicial innovation that originated in India and has been adopted by many democracies across the world

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.58) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Doctrine of Basic Structure is a form of judicial review that is used to test the legality of any legislation by the courts. It was evolved by the Supreme Court in the 1973 landmark ruling in Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala. In a 7-6 verdict, a 13-judge Constitution Bench ruled that the 'basic structure' of the Constitution is inviolable and cannot be amended by Parliament.	The origins of the basic structure doctrine are found in the post-war German Constitution law which, after the Nazi regime, was amended to protect some basic laws. Jurist Nambhoy Palkhivala who appeared against the government relied on the writings of Professor Dietrich Conrad in support of the basic structure doctrine.

**Context - Recently, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar sparked a debate on the separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary.**

**Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Basmati Rice'**

1. It is cultivated in the Gangetic plains and is universally known for its long grain size, heavy texture and unique inherent aroma and flavor
2. Like semi-dwarf rice varieties, Basmati varieties require prolonged sunshine, high humidity and assured water supply.
3. Haryana has the highest area under Basmati rice in the country

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Basmati rice is a premium variety of rice cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of the Indian sub-continent and is universally known for its long grain size,	Like semi-dwarf rice varieties, Basmati varieties require prolonged sunshine, high humidity and assured water supply. Basmati varieties with superior cooking and	The total area presently under cultivation of Basmati rice is about 7,76,000 hectares in India and its production estimated at about 11,96,000

fluffy texture and unique inherent aroma and flavour. Due to its unique quality attributes, Basmati is a widely consumed variety of rice both domestically and globally and India accounts for two thirds of its global supply.	eating characteristics can be produced if the crop matures in relatively cooler temperature. The high temperature during grain filling period reduces the cooking and eating quality features of basmati rice like kernel elongation and non-stickiness of cooked rice.	tonnes during 1998-99. The largest area under Basmati rice is in the state of Haryana (60%) followed by Uttar Pradesh (17.1%) and Punjab (16.1%).
---	---	---

**Context - For the first time in the country, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has specified the identity standards for Basmati Rice (including Brown Basmati Rice, Milled Basmati Rice, Parboiled Brown Basmati Rice and Milled Parboiled Basmati Rice) vide Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2023**

**Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘All India Presiding Officers’ Conference’**

1. The All India Presiding Officers’ Conference (AIPOC) is the apex body of the Legislatures in India that completed its hundred years in 2021.
2. The recently held Conference concluded with all the state assemblies and councils joining the National Grid for Legislative Bodies

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

**Q.60) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The All India Presiding Officers’ Conference (AIPOC) is the apex body of the Legislatures in India that completed its hundred years in 2021. The first Conference was held in Shimla in 1921.	AIPOC resolved that all legislative bodies will take all steps to join the National Digital Grid for Legislative Bodies in the interest of greater efficiency, transparency and interconnectedness. AIPOC resolved that Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of legislative bodies be reviewed comprehensively and model uniform Rules be formulated incorporating best practices in order to secure greater participation of Members and productive functioning of the Houses of legislature

**Context - 83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference concluded recently.**

**Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)'**

1. It is a neglected tropical disease which occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes
2. WHO established Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis to stop the transmission of infection by preventive chemotherapy to treat the entire at-risk population

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.61) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease. Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes. Infection is usually acquired in childhood causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system.	WHO launched the Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF) in 2000. The elimination strategy has two components: (1) to stop the spread of infection (interrupting transmission); and (2) to alleviate the suffering of affected populations (controlling morbidity). In order to interrupt transmission, districts in which lymphatic filariasis is endemic must be mapped and a strategy of preventive chemotherapy called mass drug administration (MDA) implemented to treat the entire at-risk population.

**Context - Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare chaired National Symposium on India's Roadmap to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)**

**Q.62) With reference to 'Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)', consider the following statements**

1. It's a government body set up under the Department of Financial Services headed by the Union Minister of Finance
2. It is entrusted with the appointment of full-time directors and non-executive chairman of state-run financial services institutions

3. FSIB will also be involved in formulating and developing business strategies for state-run banks and help them in their fund-raising plans

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) is a government body set up under the Department of Financial Services. FSIB would be headed by a chairman, a central government nominee. The board would comprise the Secretaries of the DFS, the chairman of IRDAI, and a deputy governor of the RBI. Additionally, it will have three part-time members who are experts in banking and three more from the insurance sector.	FSIB is entrusted with making recommendations for the appointment of full-time directors and non-executive chairman of state-run financial services institutions. The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister.	FSIB would also issue guidelines for selecting general managers and directors of public sector general insurance companies. It will also be involved in formulating and developing business strategies for state-run banks and help them in their fund-raising plans. It would also monitor and assess the performance of public sector banks, government-owned financial institutions and insurance companies.

**Context - FSIB recommended names for MD posts of Bank of Baroda, Bank of India**

**Q.63) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Company Law Tribunal'**

- 1. NCLT was formed based on the recommendation of the Injeti Srinivas committee on law relating to the insolvency and the winding up of companies
- 2. The Tribunal has the power to control its own procedure and is guided by the principles of natural justice
- 3. NCLT has the power to convert a public limited company into a private limited company

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
NCLT was formed based on the recommendation of the Balakrishna Eradi committee on law relating to the insolvency and the winding up of companies. National Company Law Tribunal is the adjudicating authority for the insolvency resolution process of companies and limited liability partnerships under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.	The Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal is bound by the rules laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure and is guided by the principles of natural justice, subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules that are made by the Central Government. The Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal has the power to control its own procedure.	NCLT has the following powers: Power to investigate into the ownership of the company, Power to freeze assets of the company, Power to impose restriction on any securities of the company, Conversion of public limited company into private limited company.

**Context - NCLT allowed ownership transfer of Jet Airways to Jalan-Kalrock consortium**

**Q.64) Consider the following pairs**

**Species: Conservation status**

1. Spot-billed Pelican: Near Threatened
2. Oriental Darter: Vulnerable
3. Nicobar long-tailed Macaque: Endangered
4. Indian Skimmers: Least Concern

**Which of the pair(s) given above are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All the pairs

**Q.64) Solution(a)**

Spot-billed Pelican	Near Threatened
Oriental Darter	Near Threatened
Nicobar long-tailed Macaque	Vulnerable
Indian Skimmers	Endangered

**Context – The species were in news**

**Q.65) 'MAARG platform (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth)' is set to be launched under the**

- a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

**Q.65) Solution(c)**

MAARG PLATFORM is the National Mentorship Platform by Start-up India to help and guide new start-ups to grow and flourish. It is a one-stop platform to facilitate mentorship for start-ups across diverse sectors, functions, stages, geographies, and backgrounds. Nodal Ministry: Launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**Context – The platform is set to be launched**

**Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment Scheme'**

1. Financial assistance is provided to the States Governments in the form of a 50-year interest free loan for capital investment projects under this Scheme
2. The loan provided under the scheme will be over and above the normal borrowing ceiling allowed to the States
3. Projects with capital outlay of less than 5 crore (2 crore for North East) would be given as grants immediately irrespective of the sector
4. The scheme is eligible only for new projects and cannot be used for ongoing projects or for settling pending bills in ongoing capital projects

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 4



- c) 1 and 3
- d) 3 and 4

**Q.66) Solution(a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States Governments in the form of a 50-year interest free loan for capital investment projects. To avail the benefit for investments made this fiscal, states will have to submit details like name of the project, capital outlay, completion period and its economic justification to the expenditure department of the Union finance ministry.	The loan provided under the scheme will be over and above the normal borrowing ceiling allowed to the States.	Projects with capital outlay of less than 5 crore (2 crore for North East) and repair and maintenance projects irrespective of capital outlay are not eligible	Eligible Parts of the Scheme include new or ongoing projects or for settling pending bills in ongoing capital projects. States may submit projects of higher value than the funds allocated, indicating their preference/priority.

**Context - The Union Government will give an additional ₹2,000 crore to States under the Special Assistance for Capital Investment scheme to incentivise them to scrap old vehicles and also provide tax concessions to individuals for it.**

**Q.67) 'Local Bubble' a term seen in news recently is used in the context of**

- a) Underwater earthquakes
- b) Cavity in the interstellar medium
- c) Eye of a cyclone
- d) Lithospheric rupture

**Q.67) Solution(b)**

The Local Bubble, or Local Cavity, is a relative cavity in the interstellar medium (ISM) of the Orion Arm in the Milky Way. It contains the closest of celestial neighbours and among others, the Local Interstellar Cloud (which contains the Solar System), the neighbouring G-Cloud, the Ursa Major Moving Group (the closest stellar moving group) and the Hyades (the nearest open cluster). It is thought to have originated from supernovae roughly 14 million years ago.

**Context - Researchers from the Center for Astrophysics (CfA) | Harvard & Smithsonian have generated a 3D magnetic map of the cavity called Local Bubble, according to a preprint study published in the journal *Astrophysical Journal*.**

**Q.68) With reference to 'Doppler Weather Radar', consider the following statements**

1. Doppler radars can provide information on both the position of targets as well as their movement
2. Doppler radars help forecasters to observe the advance of cloud formations over a region and subsequently monitoring thunderstorms and lightning in real-time
3. New Delhi is the only city in India to have three doppler radars

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.68) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Doppler radars can provide information on both the position of targets as well as their movement. It does this by tracking the 'phase' of transmitted radio wave pulses; phase meaning the shape, position, and form of those pulses. As computers measure the shift in phase between the original pulse and the received echo, the movement of raindrops can be calculated.	Doppler radars help forecasters to observe rainfall, the advance of cloud formations over a region and subsequently monitoring thunderstorms and lightning in real-time. The radar operations are particularly crucial during extreme weather events like heavy rainfall and data from these are used in predicting flash floods in local regions.	Delhi as well as Chennai have got three Doppler radars.

**Context - The Union Minister dedicated 4 Doppler Weather Radar Systems to the Western Himalayan States of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.**

**Q.69) Consider the following statements**

1. A Stupa is a hemispherical structure which symbolizes the burial mound of Buddha and rose to prominence after the end of Ashoka's reign
2. The stupa shape has become associated with the Buddhist goal of attaining Nirvana

3. Votive stupa has a tiered base and is crowned with a series of stylized umbrellas that symbolize royalty and divine status

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
A Stupa is a hemispherical structure which symbolizes the burial mound of Buddha. It rose to prominence after the advent of Buddhism and peaked during Ashoka's reign. Stupas evolved as Chorten in Tibet and pagodas in East Asia.	The stupa shape has become associated with the Buddhist goal of release from the cycles of suffering and rebirth.	In addition to the drum, this stupa has a tiered base and is crowned with a series of stylized umbrellas that symbolize royalty and divine status.

**Context – 1200 years old miniature votive stupas have been discovered in Nalanda.**

**Q.70) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Saltwater Crocodiles'**

1. It is the largest of all living reptiles and is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN.
2. It is found along the eastern coast of the country and the Nicobar and Andaman Islands

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

**Q.70) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct

It is the largest of all living reptiles and it is listed as least concern by IUCN.

The saltwater crocodile is found in the eastern states of Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Saltwater crocodiles live in the mangroves of Bhattarkanika and Sunderbans, Mahanadi Delta, and in the swamplands in Odisha and West Bengal (including rivers). It is also found in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Context – Saltie Census 2023 took place recently**

**Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Global Overturning Circulation’**

1. It is the equatorward transport of cold, near-surface waters and the poleward transport of warm, deep waters.
2. The Global Overturning Circulation (GOC) is responsible for the transport of carbon and heat among the ocean basins and between the ocean and the atmosphere.

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.71) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
GOC is the equatorward transport of cold, deep waters and the poleward transport of warm, near-surface waters.	The Global Overturning Circulation (GOC) is responsible for the transport of carbon and heat among the ocean basins and between the ocean and the atmosphere. GOC also controls the exchange of ocean carbon and nutrients between the deep ocean and the euphotic zone where photosynthesis occurs.

**Context - New studies have shown that the global overturning circulation controls ocean heat distribution and atmospheric carbon dioxide levels**

**Q.72) With reference to ‘Default Bail’, consider the following statements**

1. This is a right to bail that accrues when the police fail to complete investigation within a specified period in respect of a person in police custody
2. It is a right which applies to crimes which is punishable with simple imprisonment only

3. The Supreme Court has held that default bail under the Criminal Procedure Code is a fundamental right and not merely a statutory right

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.72) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Default bail is a right to bail that accrues when the police fail to complete investigation within a specified period in respect of a person in judicial custody. This is enshrined in Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) where it is not possible for the police to complete an investigation in 24 hours, the police produce the suspect in court and seek orders for either police or judicial custody.	It is a right, regardless of the nature of the crime.	The Supreme Court while hearing an appeal regarding default bail said that default bail under first proviso of Section 167(2) of the Cr.P.C. is a fundamental right and not merely a statutory right as it is, a procedure established by law under Article 21 of the Constitution.

**Context - the Supreme Court said that grant of default bail will not operate as an absolute bar to canceling it once the charge sheet is filed and the same can be considered if a strong case is made out**

**Q.73) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Snow Leopards'**

- 1. It is listed under Appendix – I of CITES and is found in the mountainous regions of central and southern Asia.
- 2. Bishkek Declaration was signed by the Snow Leopard Range Countries to ensure the conservation of snow leopards last year

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.73) Solution(a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Snow Leopard is found in the mountainous regions of central and southern Asia. In India, it is seen in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. It is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and under CITES it is listed in Appendix I	By the adoption of the Bishkek Declaration, the Snow Leopard Range Countries pledged to ensure that snow leopards and the people who live among them thrive in healthy ecosystems that contribute to the prosperity and well-being of our countries and the planet. It was adopted by the 12 snow leopard range countries in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, October 23, 2013.

**Context - 4 snow leopards were spotted in a rare sighting in Himachal Pradesh recently**

**Q.74) With reference to 'Indian Bureau of Mines', consider the following statements**

1. It is an autonomous statutory body under the Ministry of Mines
2. It is engaged in the promotion of scientific development of mineral resources of the country including coal, petroleum and natural gas and atomic minerals
3. It performs regulatory functions with respect to the relevant provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.74) Solution(b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) is a subordinate office	It is engaged in the promotion of scientific development of mineral resources of the country,	It performs regulatory functions with respect to the relevant provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act,

under the Ministry of Mines.	conservation of minerals, protection of environment in mines, other than coal, petroleum and natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals.	1957 and enforcement of the rules framed there under, namely Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988/2017 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960/ 2016 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made there under.
------------------------------	---	--

**Context – As per Indian Bureau of Mines, Mineral Production went up by 9.7% in November, 2022**

**Q.75) 'Soul of Steel' challenge recently seen in news was organized by**

- a) Wildlife Institute of India
- b) CLAW Global
- c) Centre for Civil Society
- d) Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

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

In an effort to test one's high-altitude endurance, a new challenge called "Soul of Steel" will be launched in India. Spearheaded by venture CLAW Global, which is run by veterans and supported by the Indian Army, the challenge will take place in the state of Uttarakhand and is similar to the "Ironman triathlon" long-distance triathlon challenge in Europe. The expedition will officially launch on January 14th, and will include 12 Indian participants and six international teams, with the age group for applicants being between 18 and 30 years

**Context – It was launched recently**

**Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Coal Index'**

1. The NCI is a price index which reflects the change in the price level of coal on a particular month relative to the fixed base year
2. The concept and design of the Index as well as the Representative Prices have been developed by the Coal Controller Organization

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The NCI is a price index which reflects the change in the price level of coal on a particular month relative to the fixed base year. This price index combines the prices of coal from all the sales channels- Notified Prices, Auction Prices and Import Prices. The base year is FY 2017-18.	The concept and design of the Index as well as the Representative Prices have been developed by the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

**Context - The ministry of Coal decided to annually revise the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) based on the National Coal Index (NCI) for April at the beginning of the year 2023.**

**Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to 'United Nations Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee'**

1. This Committee was set up post the 9/11 attacks in 2001
2. The sanctions committee allows any UN member state to propose adding the name of a terrorist or terror group that has affiliations to Al Qaeda and ISIS
3. The listing of a terrorist in the blacklist is decided by a two- thirds majority vote of the Committee

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.77) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It was established as the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee in 1999, after UNSC Resolution 1267 designated al-Qaeda and the Taliban as terrorist bodies. In 2011, a separate	The sanctions committee allows any UN member state to propose adding the name of a terrorist or terror group that has affiliations to Al Qaeda and ISIS to a consolidated list, maintained by the Committee. The other two committees with similar roles are The Counter-Terrorism	The listing will be adopted according to a "no-objections" procedure and if any member of the Committee objects, the listing cannot be adopted. As a permanent member of the UNSC, China can do this any number of times as its term doesn't run out,



committee was formed for the Taliban.	Committee and The Security Council Committee	and it carries a veto vote. The Committee is bound to resolve these issues within 6 months and at the end of this period, the holding country has to decide whether to accept the listing or place a permanent objection to it.
---------------------------------------	--	---

**Context - UNSC sanctions committee blacklists Lashkar's Makki**

**Q.78) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Subhash Chandra Bose'**

1. He was strongly influenced by Swami Vivekananda's teachings and was known for his patriotic zeal as a student.
2. He was the first person to call Mahatma Gandhi as "Father of the Nation" in his address from Rangoon
3. He earned the title 'Netaji' in Germany by the Indian soldiers of the Azad Hind Fauj
4. He formed the All India Forward Bloc within the Congress after resigning from presidency in Haripur

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Netaji was strongly influenced by Swami Vivekananda's teachings and was known for his patriotic zeal as a student. He was known in particular for his militant approach to independence and his push for socialist policies.	He was the first person to call Mahatma Gandhi "Father of the Nation", in his address from Singapore.	He earned the title 'Netaji', in Germany by the Indian soldiers of the Azad Hind Fauj in 1942	Netaji was re-elected as President of INC in Tripuri. However, soon resigned from the presidency and formed the All India Forward Bloc, a faction within the Congress that aimed at consolidating the political left.

**Context - 126th birth anniversary of Netaji is going to be held on Jan 23**

**Q.79) With reference to 'Advance Medical Directive/Living will', consider the following statements**

1. It is a document prescribing a person's wishes regarding the medical treatment the person would want if he/she is unconscious or in a coma
2. There can be more than one valid advance medical directives and the most recent one is considered to be the last expression of the patient's wish

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

**Q.79) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It is a document prescribing a person's wishes regarding the medical treatment the person would want if he/she was unable to share his/her wishes or not in a position to make an informed decision by reason of being unconscious or in a coma. An adult who is of a sound and healthy mind and in a position to communicate, relate and comprehend the purpose and consequences of executing the document.	In the event that there is more than one valid Advance Directive, none of which have been revoked, the most recently signed Advance Directive will be considered as the last expression of the patient's wishes and will be given effect to.

**Context - Constitution bench of the Supreme Court (SC) questioned the utility of executing an advanced medical directive in India when a person is anyway free to refuse invasive treatment and accept death.**

**Q.80) 'Windfall Tax' sometimes seen in news refers to**

- a) Tax levied on non-renewable energy consuming industries
- b) Tax on profit accrued from unprecedented events
- c) Tax levied on import of luxury goods
- d) Tax on companies earning profits from foreign locations

**Q.80) Solution(b)**

Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event— for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These

are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business.

**Context – Centre cut windfall tax on export of diesel, ATF**

**Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Forest Advisory Committee'**

1. Forest Advisory Committee is a statutory body constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act 2006
2. It is an apex body tasked with adjudicating requests by the industry to raze forest land for commercial gains.
3. All proposals involving diversion of forest land above 40 hectares will be granted by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.81) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Forest Advisory Committee is a statutory body constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).	It is an apex body tasked with adjudicating requests by the industry to raze forest land for commercial gains. It considers questions on the diversion of forest land for non-forest uses such as mining, industrial projects, townships. It also advises the government on the issue of granting forest clearances. However, its role is advisory.	All proposals involving up to forty hectares (40ha) of forest land, clearance is granted by Regional Empowered Committee (REC) and proposals above forty hectares(40ha) of forest land will be granted by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) at central government (MoEF&CC).

**Context - The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Union Environment Ministry has asked the Arunachal Pradesh government to submit a revised request for permission to divert 1,165 hectares of forest land for the Etalin hydropower project**

**Q.82) Consider the following statements with respect to 'United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea'**

1. It is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities
2. Territorial waters under (UNCLOS) is that area of the sea immediately adjacent to the shores of a country and extends up to 20 nautical miles into the sea
3. 'Innocent passage' under the convention allows the passage of ships, vessels and submarines of all countries to navigate through the territorial waters of another country

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea Treaty, is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities	Territorial waters, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is that area of the sea immediately adjacent to the shores of a country and subject to the territorial jurisdiction of that country. The territorial sea extends to a limit of 12 nautical miles from the baseline of a country's coast.	Innocent passage is defined by the convention as passing through waters in an expeditious and continuous manner, which is not "prejudicial to the peace, good order or the security" of the coastal state. Fishing, polluting, weapons practice, and spying are not "innocent", and submarines and other underwater vehicles are required to navigate on the surface and to show their flag. Nations can also temporarily suspend innocent passage in specific areas of their territorial seas, if doing so is essential for the protection of their security.

**Context - The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its order on an interim plea by fishermen using purse seine nets to be allowed to operate in waters beyond the 12-nautical-mile limit off Tamil Nadu's coast.**

**Q.83) With reference to 'Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)', consider the following statements**

1. It is a school based sampling survey that provides estimates of the basic reading and arithmetic levels of children at the national, state and district level
2. The latest report by ASER shows that the proportion of children not enrolled in school continued to decline until the pandemic where there was a sudden rise

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.83) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It is a citizen-led household survey that provides estimates of the enrolment status of children aged 3-16 and the basic reading and arithmetic levels of children aged 5-16 at the national, state and district level. ASER is published by NGO Pratham, and the survey has been conducted every year since 2005. It uses household rather than school-based sampling.	Percentage of children not going to school has dropped to 2% or below for the first time in 2022. Even after prolonged school closures during the pandemic period, the proportion of children not enrolled in school continued to decline between 2018 and 2022.

**Context - The ASER Report 2022 was released recently**

**Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Advance Authorisation Scheme'**

1. The scheme allows duty-free import of inputs which have to be mandatorily used in products that are required to be exported within a specified time
2. Advance Authorisation does not cover manufacturer exporters or merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturer(s)

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.84) Solution(a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
An advance authorisation scheme allows duty-free import of inputs, which have to be mandatorily used in products that are required to be exported within a specified time. They are not allowed to sell the products in the domestic market.	Advance Authorisation covers manufacturer exporters or merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturer(s). Advance Authorization is valid for 12 months from the date of issue of such Authorization.

**Context - The directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) simplifies the composition fee for export obligation extension under the advance authorisation scheme.**

**Q.85) 'First Movers Coalition' seen in news recently is concerned with**

- a) Exploring rare minerals
- b) Global supply chain resilience
- c) Electric vehicle adoption
- d) Decarbonizing heavy industries

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

First Movers Coalition is a flagship public-private partnership launched by US and WEF to clean up the most carbon-intensive sectors. The coalition also saw 50 new corporate members with collective market cap of USD 8.5 trillion joining the force. Since it was launched at COP26, the First Movers Coalition has brought together global companies with supply chains across carbon-intensive sectors. India has joined the First Movers Coalition to decarbonise the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors that are responsible for 30 per cent of global emissions.

**Context - India participated in the First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting of the World Economic Forum recently**

**Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Level Multistate Cooperative Export Society'**

1. It is established under the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act of 2002
2. The society will have an authorized share capital of ₹20,000 crore with an area of operation all over the country
3. Dividends will be shared with the manufacturer instantly with a small brokerage fee of 0.5%

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
This will be the largest of the three proposed national cooperative societies to be established under the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. Other being National multi-state cooperative organic society; and national level multi-state seed cooperative.	The society will have an authorized share capital of ₹2,000 crore with the area of operation all over the country. It will act as an umbrella organization for export of surplus goods/services produced by various cooperative societies across the country.	Dividends will be shared with the manufacturer instantly and without any brokerage fee. It will open foreign bank accounts and complete all the formalities, including necessary permissions for exporting a product.

**Context - National Export Co-operative Society to export farm, non-farming products in three months**

**Q.87) With reference to 'International Energy Agency', consider the following statements**

1. It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization established under the framework of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC)
2. All IEA member countries have signed the Paris Agreement which aims to limit warming to 1.5 °C
3. India is an accession member of the IEA

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.87) Solution(b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation, established in 1974, that provides policy recommendations, analysis and data on the entire global energy sector, with a recent focus on curbing carbon emissions. The IEA was set up under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the aftermath of the 1973 oil crisis	All IEA member countries have signed the Paris Agreement which aims to limit warming to 1.5 °C, and two thirds of IEA member governments have made commitments to emission neutrality by 2050.	India became an associate member of IEA in 2017.

**Context – The organization was in news.**

**Q.88) Consider the following pairs****Hills: State**

1. Parasnath: Gujarat
2. Chamundi: Andhra Pradesh
3. Kallipara: Tamil Nadu
4. Mishmi: Arunachal Pradesh

**Which of the pair(s) given above are correctly matched**

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All the pairs

**Q.88) Solution(a)**

Hills	State
Parasnath	Jharkhand
Chamundi	Karnataka
Kallipara	Kerala
Mishmi	Arunachal Pradesh



**Context – All the hills were in news recently**

**Q.89) “Exercise Cyclone-I”, is the first ever joint exercise conducted between the special forces of India and**

- a) Singapore
- b) Australia
- c) Egypt
- d) France

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

The first ever joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army named “Exercise Cyclone-I” is in progress at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan since 14 January 2023. The exercise aims to bolster defence co-operation between the two nations and focus on sharing professional skills and interoperability of Special Forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter terrorism, reconnaissance, raids and other special operations.

**Context - Inaugural Edition of Indo-Egypt Joint Training Exercise Cyclone - I Commenced in Rajasthan**

**Q.90) With reference to ‘Eco- Sensitive Zones’, consider the following statements**

1. The term ‘Eco- Sensitive Zone’ has been mentioned in the Environment Protection Act (EPA) 1986
2. Commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables and drastic change of agriculture system are prohibited in Eco- Sensitive Zones

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ), also known as Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas in India	Activities in ESZs have been classified into three kinds. <b>Prohibited Activities:</b> Commercial mining,

notified by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. Though the Environment Protection Act (EPA) 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones", it has been effectively used by the government to declare ESZ.

saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood. Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.  
**Regulated Activities:** Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g., adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads.  
**Permitted Activities:** Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities.

**Context - The state of Kerala recently petitioned the Supreme Court for a relaxation of its earlier order mandating a minimum 1 Km Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around all protected forests in the state, which sparked protests in the state.**

**Q.91) Consider the following statements**

1. A Charge sheet is a written document prepared by a Police officer based on information given by an aggrieved person about the commission of a Cognizable Offence.
2. The accused has a right to default bail if the charge sheet is not filed within the prescribed time
3. A charge sheet can only be filed by police officers unlike First Information Reports (FIR's) which can be filed by anyone

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.91) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct

<p>First Information Report (FIR) is a written document prepared by a Police officer based on information given by an aggrieved person or any other person either in writing or made orally about the commission of a Cognizable Offence. Chargesheet contains all the stringent records right from the commencement of investigation procedure of lodging an FIR to till the completion of investigation and preparation of final report.</p>	<p>Anyone who knows about the commission of a cognizable offence can file an FIR. It is not necessary that only the victim of the crime should file an FIR. A police officer who comes to know about a cognizable offence can file an FIR himself/herself. According to Section 173 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), a charge sheet is a report generated by police officers after investigating a case.</p>	<p>Charge Sheet is to be filed within 60 days from the date of arrest of the accused in cases triable by lower courts and 90 days in cases triable by Court of Sessions. If the charge sheet is not filed within the prescribed time mentioned above, the accused has a right to default bail.</p>
--	---	--

**Context - The Supreme Court recently held the state is not obliged to provide the public free access to chargesheets**

**Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)'**

1. It is a statutory body established under The Employees' Compensation Act
2. The schemes offered by EPFO cover Indian workers and international workers
3. It is responsible for regulation and management of provident funds in India

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It is a statutory body under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Act, 1952. It is under the administrative control of the	The schemes offered by EPFO cover Indian workers and international workers. The international workers (except excluded employees) are mandatory to contribute 12 percent	The EPFO administers the mandatory provident fund, a basic pension scheme and a disability/death insurance scheme. It also manages social

Union Ministry of Labor and Employment.	of their salaries (not subject to any cap) to the Indian Provident Fund scheme.	security agreements with other countries.
---	---	---

**Context - Implementing the recent Supreme Court order on higher provident fund pensions, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made a provision in the member's portal so that retired workers can opt for higher pension.**

**Q.93) With reference to 'Charaideo Maidams', consider the following statements**

1. It was the original capital of The Ahoms built by Chaolung Sukhapa, the founder of the dynasty
2. It contains sacred burial grounds of Ahom kings and queens and is also the place of the ancestral Gods of the Ahoms

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

**Q.93) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Charaideo commonly known as 'Pyramids of Assam' was the original capital of the Ahom Kings. It was built by Chaolung Sukhapa the founder of the dynasty in about 1229 CE. Charaideo remained the symbolic center of Ahom Kingdom even though the capital of the kingdom moved many times	Charaideo known as 'Pyramids of Assam' contains sacred burial grounds of Ahom kings and queens and is also the place of the ancestral Gods of the Ahoms. It comprises a massive underground vault with one or more chambers having domical superstructure and covered by a heap of earthen mound and externally it appears a hemispherical mound.

**Context – Centre chooses Assam's Charaideo Maidams to be nominated for World Heritage Site status**

**Q.94) 'Mahabali Frog' seen in news recently is endemic to**

- a) Central Highlands
- b) Western Ghats
- c) Lower Himalayas
- d) Eastern Ghats

**Q.94) Solution(b)**

The Mahabali frog is endemic to the Western Ghat. These frogs prefer loose, damp and well-aerated soil close to ponds and ditches or streams. Unlike other frogs, it has very short hind legs, which do not allow it to leap from one spot to another. It buries itself all through the year and surfaces only one day to lay eggs. IUCN Status is endangered.

**Context – The species was in news.**

**Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees (RE-HAB) Project'**

1. Bee-fences are created by setting up bee boxes in the passageways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories under this project
2. It is an initiative of the Wildlife Institute of India, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Under this project, Bee-fences are created by setting up bee boxes in the passageways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories. It is a cost-effective way of reducing human-wild conflicts without causing any harm to the animals.	It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under the submission of the National Honey Mission.

**Context - KVIC through RE-HAB project of the Honey Mission Programme aims to reduce elephant attacks on humans and farmers' crops**

**Q.96) Consider the following statements about "Immune Imprinting"**

1. Immune imprinting is a tendency of the body to repeat its immune response based on the first variant of a pathogen it encountered.
2. Immune imprinting can occur through infection or vaccination.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immune imprinting is a tendency of the body to repeat its immune response based on the first variant it encountered - when it comes across a newer or slightly different variant of the same pathogen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immune imprinting can occur through infection or vaccination.</li> <li>• It was first observed in 1947, when “people who had previously had flu, and were then vaccinated against the current circulating strain, produced antibodies against the first strain they had encountered.</li> <li>• At the time, this phenomenon was termed the ‘original antigenic sin’ but today, it’s commonly known as imprinting.</li> </ul>

**Context:** Recently, scientists have observed that an ineffectiveness of the bivalent or variant-specific boosters is due to immune imprinting.

**Q.97) Consider the following statements**

1. A pangenome is the entire set of genes from all strains within a clade.
2. A transcriptome is the full range of messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules expressed by an organism.
3. Pantranscriptome contains genetic material from a cohort of diverse individuals, rather than just a single linear strand.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 only
- d) None

**Q.97) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the fields of molecular biology and genetics, a pan-genome (pangenome or supragenome) is the entire set of genes from all strains within a clade.</li> <li>Clade – a group of organisms believed to comprise all the evolutionary descendants of a common ancestor.</li> <li>More generally, it is the union of all the genomes of a clade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A transcriptome is the full range of messenger RNA, or mRNA, molecules expressed by an organism.</li> <li>The term transcriptome can also be used to describe the array of mRNA transcripts produced in a particular cell or tissue type.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pantranscriptome-concept builds on the emerging concept of pangenomics in the genomics field.</li> <li>Pantranscriptome, which combines a transcriptome and a pangenome, a reference that contains genetic material from a cohort of diverse individuals, rather than just a single linear strand.</li> <li>Cohort – a group of people with a shared characteristic.</li> </ul>

**Context:** Researchers at the University of California now reported on what they suggest is the first-ever method for analyzing RNA sequencing data genome-wide using a “pantranscriptome,” which combines a transcriptome and a pangenome

**Q.98) Consider the following statements about Yellow Band disease**

- It is the disease that affects the corals by turning them into yellow band before destroying them.
- It is caused by the bacteria *Ideonella sakaiensis*.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yellow-band disease—named for the colour it turns corals before destroying them—was first spotted decades ago and has caused widespread damage to reefs in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no known cure for this disease and unlike coral, bleaching corals will not be restored once they get infected by this disease.</li> <li>Scientists believe overfishing, pollution and rising water temperatures because of climate change may be making the reefs more vulnerable to yellow-band disease.</li> </ul>

- Ideonella sakaiensis is a bacterium from the genus Ideonella and family Comamonadaceae capable of breaking down and consuming the plastic polyethylene terephthalate (PET) using it as both a carbon and energy source

**Context:** Recently, scientists found that corals of eastern Thailand are getting affected by Yellow band Disease which is killing corals over vast stretches of the sea floor.

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

1. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is natural gas cryogenically reduced to a liquid state through intense cooling.
2. LNG emits about twice as much greenhouse gas as ordinary natural gas.
3. India has a target of a 15% share for natural gas in India's total energy mix by 2030.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.99) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNG is natural gas cryogenically reduced to a liquid state through intense cooling to around -161 degrees Celsius (-259 Fahrenheit).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNG emits about twice as much greenhouse gas as ordinary natural gas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India has a target of a 15% share for natural gas in India's total energy mix by 2030. For this, the government will invest around 60 billion USD in creating gas infrastructure in the country till 2024.</li> </ul>

**Context:** The European Union is weaning itself off piped Russian gas by rapidly expanding imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

**Q.100) The Bhoj Wetland, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?**

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

**Q.100) Solution (a)**



<b>Option a</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is located in Bhopal, in the state of Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>It has two lakes, Upper Lake, also called Bhojtal and Lower Lake or Chhota Talaab.</li> <li>It is also part of the Ramsar site of international importance.</li> </ul>



**Context:** The National Green Tribunal has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) to periodically monitor the activities of a cruise vessel polluting the Bhoj wetland.

**Q.101) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Trans Fat'**

- They are unsaturated fatty acids that come from either natural or industrial sources
- REPLACE campaign was launched by Food and Agriculture Organization for global-level elimination of trans-fats

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.101) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Trans fat, or trans-fatty acids, are unsaturated fatty acids that come from either natural or industrial sources. Naturally-occurring trans-fat comes from ruminants (cows and sheep). Industrially-produced trans-fat is formed in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to vegetable oil converting the liquid into a solid, resulting in "partially hydrogenated" oil (PHO).	World Health Organisation launched a REPLACE campaign in 2018 for global-level elimination of trans-fats in industrially produced edible oils by 2023. Foods Standards and Safety Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a "Trans Fat-Free" logo for voluntary labelling to promote TFA-free products.

**Context - 5 billion people globally exposed to toxic trans-fat linked to heart disease: WHO**

**Q.102) With reference to 'Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme', consider the following statements**

- The ECLGS aims to provide 100 percent guaranteed coverage to the banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs)

2. It is not a demand driven scheme and disbursements are made by lending institutions uniformly based on classification of industry
3. National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) was set up by the Union Ministry of Finance to manage and provide guarantees to these loans

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.102) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The ECLGS aims to provide 100 percent guaranteed coverage to the banks, non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) and other lending institutions. The idea was to enable these lending institutions to extend emergency credit to business entities that have suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are struggling to meet their working capital requirements.	ECLGS is a demand driven scheme. Hence, sanctions/disbursements are made by lending institutions based on assessment of borrower's requirement and their eligibility.	National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) has been set up by the Union Ministry of Finance to manage and provide guarantees to these loans. The scheme is under the operational domain of Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services (DFS).

**Context - According to an SBI Research analysis, at least 14.6 lakh micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) accounts were saved due to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).**

**Q.103) With reference to 'Param Vir Chakra', consider the following statements**

1. It is India's highest military decoration awarded posthumously for displaying distinguished acts of valour
2. **The medal is cast in gold and on a raised circle in the center is the state emblem surrounded by four replicas of Indra's Vajra**

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- a) **1 only**

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

**Q.103) Solution(d)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It is India's highest military decoration awarded for the highest degree of valour or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy. Till now, only 21 people had been given the Param Vir Chakra award of which 14 are posthumous.	The medal was designed by Mrs. Savitri Khanolkar. The designer drew inspiration from sage Dadhichi, a vedic rishi who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up his body so that the Gods could make a deadly weapon called Vajra or Thunderbolt from his spine. The medal is cast in bronze. In the centre, on a raised circle, is the state emblem, surrounded by four replicas of Indra's Vajra, flanked by the sword of Shivaji. The decoration is suspended from a straight swiveling suspension bar, and is held by a 32 mm purple ribbon.

**Context - The Prime Minister recently named the 21 largest unnamed islands of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.**

**Q.104) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies'**

1. The agreement will prohibit subsidies from being provided for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, fishing in high seas and overfished stocks
2. The Agreement was adopted at the latest Ministerial Conference of the WTO recently held in Bali
3. Acceptance of more than half of the WTO members is needed for the agreement to come into effect

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.104) Solution(a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It will prohibit subsidies from being provided for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfished stocks. The agreement also prohibits providing subsidies for fishing on high seas, which are outside the jurisdiction of coastal countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations/ Arrangements.	At the 12th Ministerial Conference, held on 12-17 June 2022 in Geneva, WTO members forged an historic Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which sets new rules to curb harmful subsidies and protect global fish stocks in a manner that also recognizes the needs of fishers in developing and least-developed countries (LDCs).	Acceptance of 2/3rd of WTO members is needed for the agreement to come into effect. It is the 1st WTO agreement (for the environment) and the 2nd agreement reached at WTO since its inception.

**Context - Switzerland became the first WTO member to formally submit its acceptance of the WTO's new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**

**Q.105) 'BharOS' recently seen in news is a/an**

- a) Anti-virus
- b) Chatbot
- c) Mobile operating system
- d) Positioning system

**Q.105) Solution(c)**

The BharOS is an operating system used in mobile phones. It was developed by JandK Operations Private Limited. IIT Madras was the pioneer in developing the app. There are No Default Apps in the OS. Funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the indigenous mobile operating system wants to cater to the approximately 100 crore mobile phone users in India.

**Context – BharOS , a mobile operating system was launched recently**

**Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Norovirus'**

1. It is a highly contagious and is commonly spread by consuming contaminated food or water
2. The symptoms of the disease appear after a minimum of two weeks which makes the treatment less effective

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.106) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Norovirus, also known as the "winter vomiting bug," causes vomiting and diarrhoea. The most common infective agent is contaminated water or food. The virus spreads via faeces to the mouth. Consuming contaminated food or liquids, touching contaminated surfaces or objects, or coming into direct contact with an infected person.	The symptoms usually appear 12 to 48 hours after the virus has been exposed. There is no specific treatment for the disease.

**Context – Norovirus cases have been confirmed in Kerala**

**Q.107) Consider the following statements**

1. The inner core generates its own magnetic field but spins a bit slower than the rest of the planet
2. The boundary between the inner and outer core is called Guttenburg discontinuity
3. The inner core is solid in nature and is mainly composed of iron

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.107) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The inner core is predicted to have very high thermal and electrical conductivity. The inner core generates its own magnetic field and spins a bit	The inner core has an average radius of 1220 km. The boundary between the inner and outer cores is located at approximately 5150 km below the surface of the Earth. This boundary is	The inner core is a solid metallic ball made mainly of iron. The inner core is solid due to the pressure caused by the weight put on it by the Earth's other

faster than the rest of the planet.	called the Lehman Seismic Discontinuity.	top layers. It is distinct from the outer core, which is a liquid.
-------------------------------------	--	--

**Context - A recent study says that the inner core of Earth seems to have stopped spinning in the same direction as the rest of the planet.**

**Q.108) Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) seen in news recently is associated with**

- a) World Health Organization
- b) United Nations Environment Programme
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

**Q.108) Solution(c)**

The Working Group, established by the FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), functions to review technical issues, advise and make recommendations to the Commission and further implement the Commission's programme related to AnGR at global level.

**Context - India elected as Vice-Chair at the 12th session of FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) for Food and Agriculture**

**Q.109) Consider the following statements on 'Open Market Sale Scheme'**

1. Food Corporation of India sells surplus stocks under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) at pre-determined prices through e-auction in the open market
2. The commodities available under this scheme includes wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds
3. The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are also allowed to participate in the e-auction if they require wheat and rice outside TPDS & OWS

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.109) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Food Corporation of India sells surplus stocks of wheat and rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) at pre-determined prices through e-auction in the open market from time to time to enhance the supply of food grains, especially wheat during the lean season and thereby moderate the open market prices specially in the deficit regions.	Open Market Sale Scheme does not include pulses and oilseeds	The FCI conducts a weekly auction to conduct this scheme in the open market using the platform of commodity exchange NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited). The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are also allowed to participate in the e-auction if they require wheat and rice outside TPDS & OWS.

**Context - Govt. approves proposal for sale of 30 LMT of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme**

**Q.110) With reference to 'Olive Ridley Turtles', consider the following statements**

1. The Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest and most scarce of all sea turtles found in the world.
2. Olive Ridley turtles do not nest on the western coast of India and prefers the coasts of Odisha for nesting

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.110) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. They are mainly found in the warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is known as the world's largest rookery (a colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles.	Olive Ridley Turtles have been known to nest on the western coast of India. But, it most frequently nests on the eastern coasts of India.

**Context - Hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles were found dead in their breeding grounds between Kakinada and Antarvedi in the Godavari region of India's east coast.**

**Q.111) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Air Independent Propulsion system'**

1. It is any marine propulsion technology that allows nuclear submarines to operate without access to atmospheric oxygen
2. Fuel cell based Air Independent Propulsion can generate hydrogen as a by-product

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.111) Solution(b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Air Independent Propulsion or Air Independent Power is any marine propulsion technology that allows non-nuclear submarines to operate without access to atmospheric oxygen. An AIP can augment or replace the diesel-electric propulsion system of non-nuclear vessels.	The AIP has a force multiplier effect on lethality of a diesel electric submarine as it enhances the submerged endurance by several folds. It has merits in performance compared to other technologies and is unique as the hydrogen is generated onboard. This technology has been successfully developed by NMRL with the support of Indian industry partners. The technology has now reached the stage of maturity for industrialisation.

**Context - Fuel Cell-based Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system of DRDO's Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) will soon be fitted onboard INS Kalvari**

**Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Padma Awards'**

1. The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the President every year
2. The nominations to these awards is open to public and even self-nomination can be made
3. The award does not amount to a title and can be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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



d) 3 only

**Q.112) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year. The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.	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.	The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name

**Context – The awards were announced recently.**

**Q.113) 'Soledar' a place frequently seen in news is located in**

- a) Peru
- b) South Sudan
- c) Armenia
- d) Ukraine

**Q.113) Solution(d)**

Soledar is a settlement in the Bakhmut Raion of Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine. It is a highly important salt-mining location, with the Soledar Salt Mine providing 95% of Ukraine's salt in 2021. The settlement was heavily damaged due to intense fighting during the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, after which it came under Russian control on 11 January 2023. Since then, it has been occupied by Russia as part of the Donetsk People's Republic.

**Context - Ukraine has pulled back its forces from the strategic town of Soledar after Russia took control of the salt-mining town earlier this month**

**Q.114) With reference to 'Mandatory minimum sentencing', consider the following statements**

1. It refers to a sentence which must be imposed without leaving any discretion to the court

2. Mandatory minimum sentences are prescribed for all sexual offenses under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.114) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The concept of mandatory minimum sentencing refers to “a sentence which must be imposed without leaving any discretion to the court. It means a quantum of punishment which cannot be reduced below the period fixed,” the Apex court held in its 2016 ruling in ‘Mohd Hashim vs State Of UP And Others’. No matter what the unique, individual circumstances of the offender or the offense might be, the court must mandatorily award this minimum period of sentencing for the offenses which prescribe it.	A concept that comes primarily from the Canadian and American legal systems; in India, such sentences are prescribed for all sexual offenses under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act except the offense of sexual harassment.

**Context – A CJI Chandrachud-led bench of the Supreme Court decided to examine a petition challenging the constitutional validity of Section 376 DB of the Indian Penal Code. This section describes the punishment for gangrape of a minor under 12 years of age, to the extent that it prescribes a ‘minimum mandatory sentence’ of life imprisonment for the remainder of the convict’s life and even death.**

**Q.115) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Monument Mitra Scheme’**

- 1. The scheme applies to all Centrally protected heritage properties
- 2. It was started under the Ministry of Culture in respect of the monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India
- 3. Corporate entities may take over the monuments as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility under this scheme

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

**Q.115) Solution(c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The scheme applies to all Centrally protected heritage properties.	The Scheme was started a few years back under the Ministry of Tourism. It is now transferred to the Ministry of Culture in respect of the monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India, the ASI.	The scheme aims at ensuring quality & inclusive provision of amenities and facilities across heritage, natural, & tourist sites through the active participation of private and public sector organizations and individuals. Corporate entities will take over these monuments as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

**Context - The government will hand over around 1,000 monuments to the private sector for their upkeep under the Monument Mitra Scheme.**

**Q.116) Consider the following statements about 'Etikoppaka toys'**

1. The toys are made out of wood and are coloured with natural dyes derived from seeds, bark, roots and leaves
2. It is a traditional craft of Telangana and has received Geographical Indication tag

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.116) Solution(a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The toys are made out of wood and are coloured with natural dyes derived from seeds, lacquer, bark, roots and leaves. The wood used to make the toys	These toys are made in the Etikoppaka region of Andhra Pradesh, these toys are made with lacquer color and are traditionally known as Etikoppaka

is soft in nature and the art of toy making is also known as Turned wood Lacquer craft. While making the Etikoppaka toys, lac, a colourless resinous secretion of numerous insects, is used.

toys or Etikoppaka Bommalu. The village is very famous for its toys made of wood. Etikoppaka toys received Geographical Indication (GI) tag IN 2017.

**Context - An Etikoppaka toy craftsman from Andhra Pradesh has been selected for this year's Padma Awards.**

**Q.117) With reference to 'Green India Mission', consider the following statements**

1. It is a central sector scheme and is one of the missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change
2. The Mission aims to increase forest/tree cover both on forest as well as non-forest lands
3. Activities under Green India Mission will be implemented under convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.117) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). GIM was made a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the year 2014	Objectives of the mission are: Increased forest/tree cover on 5 million hectares (mha) of forest/non-forest lands and improved quality of forest cover on another 5 mha (a total of 10 mha); Improved ecosystem services including biodiversity, hydrological services and carbon sequestration as a result of treatment of 10 mha; Increased forest-based livelihood income of about 3 million households living in and around the forests; Enhanced annual CO <sub>2</sub>	Activities under Green India Mission will be implemented under convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and the National Afforestation Programme (NAP).

	sequestration by 50 to 60 million tonnes in the year 2020.	
--	--	--

**Context - India is lagging behind in the targets to increase the number and quality of tree- and forest-cover plantations set in the Green India Mission, according to data accessed via the Right To Information Act.**

**Q.118) With reference to 'Aditya-L1 Mission', consider the following statements**

1. It is the first Indian space mission to observe the sun and study the solar corona
2. The mission will be placed in the first Lagrange point, L1, which is around 5 million km from the Earth towards the Sun
3. Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload on the mission will be capable of simultaneous imaging, spectroscopy and spectro-polarimetry close to the solar limb

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.118) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Aditya L1 is the India's first dedicated scientific mission to study the Sun and its corona	A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the first Lagrangian Point (L1) of the sun-earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the sun without any occultation/eclipses, the Aditya-1 mission was renamed as Aditya-L1 mission, which will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1—1.5 million km from the earth towards the sun.	VELC is the largest payload that would fly on the Aditya-L1 mission. It is an internally occulted solar coronagraph capable of simultaneous imaging, spectroscopy and spectro-polarimetry close to the solar limb. The VELC consists of a coronagraph, spectrograph, polarimetry module and detectors, aside from auxiliary optics.

**Context - India's first mission to study the Sun will be launched by June-July: ISRO chairman**

**Q.119) India recently signed 'Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Re-introduction of Cheetah' with**

- a) Botswana
- b) Iran
- c) Tanzania
- d) South Africa

**Q.119) Solution(d)**

The Republic of South Africa and the Republic of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Re-introduction of Cheetah to the Asian country. In terms of the agreement, an initial batch of 12 cheetahs are to be flown from South Africa to India during February 2023. The cats will join eight cheetah introduced to India from Namibia during 2022.

**Context – The agreement was signed recently.**

**Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Logistics Portal (Marine)'**

1. It is a project of national importance as envisaged by the Ministry of Ports Shipping Waterways and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry
2. NLP will be a single window for all trade processes of the logistics sector spread across the country covering all modes of transport in the waterways, roadways, and airways

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.120) Solution(c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The National Logistic Portal (marine) (NLP) is a project of national importance, as envisaged by the Ministry of Ports Shipping Waterways and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It is a one-stop platform aimed at connecting all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT, to improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and time delays and achieving easier, faster, and more competitive offerings	NLP will be a single window for all trade processes of the logistics sector spread across the country covering all modes of transport in the waterways, roadways, and airways along with an E-marketplace to provide a seamless end-to-end logistic service coverage.

of services, to promote the growth of the logistics sector and thereby improve trade.

**Context - Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush inaugurated The National Logistics Portal (marine) in New Delhi today.**

**Q.121) Consider the following statements about 'Tulasidas'**

1. He composed 'Ramcharitmanas' based on the Ramayana in Sanskrit
2. He was a contemporary of Emperor Jahangir
3. The Nirguna Brahman and Saguna Brahman are one and the same according to Tulasidas

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.121) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Ramcharitmanas is an epic poem in the Awadhi language, based on the Ramayana, and composed by the 16th-century Indian bhakti poet Tulasidas (c. 1532–1623). Tulasidas was a great scholar of Sanskrit. However, he wanted the story of Rama to be accessible to the general public, as many Apabhramsa languages had evolved from Sanskrit and at that time few people could understand Sanskrit. In order to make the story of Rama as accessible to the layman as to the scholar, Tulasidas chose to write in Awadhi	He was a contemporary of Emperor Akbar and is thought to have corresponded with Abdurrahim Khan-e-Khanan, the son of Akbar's commander Bairam Khan.	As per Tulasidas, the Nirguna Brahman (quality-less impersonal absolute) and Saguna Brahman (personal God with qualities) are one and the same. Both, Saguna (qualified Brahman) and Aguna (or Nirguna - unqualified Brahman) are Akath (unspeakable), Agaadh (unfathomable), Anaadi (without beginning, in existence since eternity) and Anupa (without parallel)

**Context – It was in news**

**Q.122) With reference to 'Asian Golden Cat', consider the following statements**

1. It is a wild cat which occurs in South-East Asia and is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List
2. The species is associated with wetlands, inhabiting swamps and marshy areas around oxbow lakes and mangrove forests

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.122) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Asian golden cat is a medium-sized wild cat native to the northeastern Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia and China. It has been listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List since 2008, and is threatened by poaching and habitat destruction, since Southeast Asian forests are undergoing the world's fastest regional deforestation	The Asian golden cat ranges from eastern Nepal, northeastern India and Bhutan to Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, southern China, Malaysia and Sumatra. It prefers forest habitats interspersed with rocky areas and inhabits dry deciduous, subtropical evergreen and tropical rainforests. The fishing cat is strongly associated with wetlands, inhabiting swamps and marshy areas around oxbow lakes, reed beds, tidal creeks and mangrove forests

**Context - Melanistic Asiatic golden cat captured on camera for first time in West Bengal**

**Q.123) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)'**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
2. The principal body is the Executive Council in which all countries participate with equal voting rights
3. OPCW is not a specialised agency of the United Nations but it cooperates both on policy and practical issues as a related organization
4. OPCW reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Security Council



Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Q.123) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force on 29 April 1997. The OPCW, with its 193 member states, has its seat in The Hague, Netherlands; it oversees the global endeavour for the permanent and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons.	The principal body is the Conference of the States Parties (CSP), which normally is convened yearly, and in which all countries can participate, with equal voting rights. Countries are generally represented in the conference by a permanent representative to the organisation	While the OPCW is not a specialised agency of the United Nations, it cooperates both on policy and practical issues as a related organisation. On 7 September 2000, the OPCW and the United Nations signed a cooperation agreement outlining how they were to coordinate their activities	OPCW report on its inspection and other activities to the UN through the office of the secretary-general.

**Context - OPCW blamed Syrian air force for Douma attack**

**Q.124) 'Jatar Deul temple' seen in news is located in**

- a) Odisha
- b) Jharkhand
- c) West Bengal
- d) Chhattisgarh

**Q.124) Solution(c)**

Jatar Deul also called tower temple (rekha-deul), is located in the numerous rivers criss-crossed by stone-free alluvial and bush landscape of the southern Sundarbans settlements in the Indian state of West

Bengal. The temple has been classified as a Monument of National Importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). A copper plate found near the temple in 1875 suggests that Raja Joychandra constructed the temple in 975 AD.

**Context – The temple is facing a threat due to climate change**

**Q.125) With reference to 'Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)', consider the following statements**

1. It was established under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021
2. The GAC will be a Committee which will operate both online and offline for seamless grievance redressal

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.125) Solution(a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Centre today established three Grievance Appellate Committees based on the recently amended Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules 2021"). The IT rules 2021 provide for creating avenues for grievance redressal apart from Courts and ensure that the Constitutional rights of Indian citizens are not contravened by any Big-tech Platform by ensuring new accountability standards for SSMLs.	The GAC will be a virtual Digital platform that will operate only online and digitally - wherein the entire appeal process, from filing of appeal to the decision thereof, shall be conducted digitally. Users will have the option to appeal against decision of the grievance officer of the social media intermediaries and other online intermediaries before this new appellate body. The Committee will endeavour to address the user's appeal within a period of 30 days.

**Context - Three Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) Notified on the recently amended "IT Rules 2021"**

**Q.126) Consider the following statements with respect to 'All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)'**

1. The Ministry of Education conducts All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory
2. The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teacher's data, infrastructural information and financial information

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.126) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Ministry of Education has been conducting All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since 2011, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory and imparting higher education in the country.	The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teacher's data, infrastructural information, financial information etc. For the first time, in AISHE 2020-21, HEIs have filled data using entirely online data collection platform through the Web Data Capture Format (DCF) developed by Department of Higher Education through the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

**Context - The Ministry of Education, Government of India has released All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021**

**Q.127) 'Soliga', a tribe recently seen in news are native of**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Kerala
- d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Q.127) Solution(b)**

Soligas are an indigenous tribe of Karnataka, inhabiting the peripheral forest areas near Biligiri Rangana Hills and Male Mahadeshwara in the Chamarajnagar district of Karnataka. They are the first tribal

community living inside the core area of a tiger reserve in India to get their forest rights officially recognised by a court of law.

**Context - A new genus of wasp named after the Soliga community in Karnataka**

**Q.128) In the context of digital technologies for entertainment, consider the following statements**

1. In Augmented Reality, the users still have access to the real world & they can fully interact in both dimensions
2. In Virtual Reality, virtual objects and imaginations are put up in the real world
3. Extended Reality (XR) is the combination of human & computer-generated graphics interaction, which is in reality as well as the virtual environment

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.128) Solution(c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The concept of augmented reality is that virtual objects and imaginations are put up in the real world. Augmented reality does not put us into any virtual or computer-generated graphics, rather it just creates a sense of illusion in digital gadgets. The users still have access to the real world & they can fully interact in both dimensions. The most common example is Pokémon-GO which used augmented reality so that the users can interact with the real as well as a virtual world with the help of	In virtual reality, the users are put into a fully virtual environment, where they can interact only in the virtual world. The graphics generated are mostly computer and artificial objects are designed to give a feel of being real. The users can feel every bit of virtual reality. Special VR devices are needed to put users into this environment which gives them a 360-degree view of the virtual world.	Extended Reality (XR) is the combination of human & computer-generated graphics interaction, which is in reality as well as the virtual environment. In basic terms, Extended Reality is a superset of Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) & Mixed Reality (MR). The concept of Extended Reality (XR) came into the picture when technologies like Augmented & Virtual reality, were being used by developers and tech-companies all across the globe.

digital gadgets. Other examples of Augmented reality are the filters that we see in many apps, these just create an illusion of being there, but they are not.

**Context - MeitY Startup Hub and Meta shortlists 120 Startups and Innovators for the XR Startup Program**

**Q.129) With reference to 'Manufactured Sand (M-Sand)', consider the following statements**

1. Manufactured Sand (M-Sand) can be obtained from crushed rock fines (crusher dust) and sand from Overburden (OB) of coal mines
2. Manufactured Sand has better workability as it has a more angular and rougher surface but requires washing before use
3. OB to M-Sand initiative was launched by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) recently to facilitating processing of waste overburden in its open cast (OC) mines

**Choose the correct answer using the code given below**

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

**Q.129) Solution(b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Sand Mining Framework (2018) prepared by Ministry of Mines envisages alternative sources of sand in the form of Manufactured Sand (M-Sand) from crushed rock fines (crusher dust), sand from Overburden (OB) of coal mines.	Manufactured sand is more angular and has a rougher surface, which makes it more workable for construction projects. Using manufactured sand can help to reduce the amount of water required for construction projects, as it does not require washing before use.	Coal India Ltd (CIL) has envisaged to process the overburden rocks for sand production in mines where OB material contain about 60% sandstone by volume which is harnessed through crushing and processing of Overburden. OB to M-Sand initiative of CIL is facilitating processing of waste overburden in its OC Mines.

**Context - Coal India Ltd to Launch M-Sand Projects in a Big Way**

**Q.130) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Shumang Leela'**

1. It is a traditional theatre form of Assam where the roles are only played by men
2. It began as a mythological genre presented to kings and nobles, which evolved into the present form of courtyard drama

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.130) Solution(d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur where the roles of women are all played by men, called Nupi Shabis. In the case of women's theatre groups, the roles of men are played by women. Shumang Leela translates to "courtyard performance". It is performed in an open courtyard surrounded by spectators on all four sides.	Shumang Leela began as a comedy genre presented to kings and nobles, which evolved into the present form of courtyard drama. The Shumang Leela of those days tried to preserve and promote humanity, tolerance, self-confidence, devotion, truth and justice through its performances. In the present day Shumang Leela is trying to focus on issues of moral values, unity and integrity

**Context - Manipur's traditional theatre form of Shumang Leela has continued to inform and entertain down the ages**