



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

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Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Commission for Women'

1. It was initially a statutory body which later got Constitutional status by the 102nd Amendment Act
2. The Commission has all the powers of a civil court in respect of summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India
3. The chairperson of the Commission is appointed by the President of 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.1) Solution(b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No. 20 of 1990 of Govt.of India) to : review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women ; recommend remedial legislative measures ; facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women. It is still a statutory body	The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in clause (a) or sub-clause (i) of clause (f) of sub-section (1), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and, in particular in respect of the following matters, namely :- summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath, requiring the discovery and production of any document, receiving evidence on affidavits, requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office, issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents, and any other matter which may be prescribed.	The Commission shall consist of :- A Chairperson, committed to the cause of women, to be nominated by the Central Government. five Members to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing who have had experience in law or legislation, trade unionism, management of an industry potential of women, women's voluntary organisations (including women activist), administration, economic development, health, education or social welfare; Provided that at least one Member each shall be from amongst persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively;

Context - President of India graced the 31 st Foundation Day celebration of the National Commission for Women

Q.2) With reference to 'Nitrate radicals', consider the following statements

1. Nitrate radicals can oxidise gas pollutants such as volatile organic compounds(VOCs) and lead to production of ozone
2. The synthesis of nitrate radicals rises during clear skies in some regions of India particularly in northern India

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.2) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Nitrate radical is an oxide of nitrogen that consists of three oxygen atoms bound to a nitrogen atom. Nitrate radicals will oxidise gas pollutants such as volatile organic compounds(VOCs), which will then generate ozone and secondary organic aerosol. So this deteriorates air quality. Ozone is an air pollutant that affects human health and crop yield. Secondary organic aerosol is an important component of PM2.5	The synthesis of nitrate radicals rises at night in some regions of India, particularly in northern India. Reducing the emissions of VOCs could reduce this night-time oxidation in India and China.

Context - A new study has found that parts of India and China are hotspots for the night-time production of nitrate radicals that can increase the amount of deadly ozone and PM2.5 particulate matter in the atmosphere.

Q.3) Project ELLORA seen in news is associated with

- a) Restoring ancient monuments
- b) Promoting heritage tourism
- c) Encouraging traditional dance forms
- d) Preserving languages

Q.3) Solution(d)

Project ELLORA's core aim is to make sure these languages — which have very few written resources, let alone any digital presence at all — are not left behind when it comes to some of the advances that language technology is witnessing these days thanks to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced natural language models. Microsoft research has chosen to focus on three languages namely; Gondi, Mundari and Idu Mishmi.

Context - How Microsoft's Project ELLORA is helping small languages like Gondi, Mundari become eloquent for the digital world

Q.4) With reference to 'Indus Water Treaty', consider the following statements

1. It is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan negotiated by the World Bank to use the water in the Indus River and its tributaries
2. The IWT provides a two-step dispute resolution mechanism where the appeals from the Permanent Indus Commission are heard by International Court of Justice
3. India is granted unlimited non-consumptive usage of the western river waters for purposes like power generation

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.4) Solution(c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, arranged and negotiated by the World Bank, to use the water available in the Indus River and its tributaries. It was signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960	The Treaty gives control over the waters of the three "eastern rivers" — the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej with a mean annual flow of 41 billion m ³ (33 million acre·ft) — to India, while control over the waters of the three "western rivers" — the Indus, Chenab and	The IWT provides a three-step dispute resolution mechanism under Article IX of the Indus Waters Treaty, under which "questions" on both sides can be resolved at the Permanent Commission, or can also be taken up at the inter-government level.

<p>by then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistani president Ayub Khan</p>	<p>Jhelum with a mean annual flow of 99 billion m³ — to Pakistan. India has about 20% of the total water carried by the Indus system while Pakistan has 80%. The treaty allows India to use the western river waters for limited irrigation use and unlimited non-consumptive use for such applications as power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc.</p>	<p>In case of unresolved questions or “differences” between the countries on water-sharing, such as technical differences, either side can approach the World Bank to appoint a Neutral Expert (NE) to come to a decision. And eventually, if either party is not satisfied with the NE’s decision or in case of “disputes” in the interpretation and extent of the treaty, matters can be referred to a Court of Arbitration.</p>
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Context – There are demands for renegotiating the terms of the Indus Water Treaty

Q.5) Consider the following statements about ‘Leprosy’

1. It is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of virus which predominantly affects the skin and peripheral nerves
2. India has achieved the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.5) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria, Mycobacterium leprae. The disease predominantly affects the skin and peripheral nerves if left untreated, the disease may cause progressive and permanent disabilities.</p>	<p>India has achieved the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem i.e., defined as less than 1 case per 10,000 populations, at the National level. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that leprosy is endemic in several Indian states and union territories, with an annual case detection rate of 4.56 per 10,000</p>

	population. India reports more than 1,25,000 new patients of leprosy every year.
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Context – World Leprosy Day was celebrated recently

Q.6) 'Bhujodi, Ghongadi, Donkha' seen in news recently are

- a) Indigenous toys
- b) Woolen handloom products
- c) Local varieties of mangoes
- d) Traditional Methods of Rain-Water Harvesting

Q.6) Solution(b)

Bhujodi, Ghongadi, Donkha are some woolen handloom products drawn from some of the exotic locations of India. The uniqueness of woolen products such as Kani shawl, Pashmina Shawl, Kullu Shawl, Jacket, Muffler, Stoles, Coat, Woolen Suits to name a few attracts customers across the globe with exclusives weaves, designs and traditional motifs.

Context - Wool Fab, an exclusive handloom exhibition of woolen product started today in Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi.

Q.7) With reference to 'International Seabed Authority', consider the following statements

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
2. ISA aims to protect the ecosystem of the seabed, ocean floor and subsoil in the Area beyond national jurisdiction
3. The "Mining Code" has been framed by the ISA to regulate prospecting, exploration and exploitation of marine minerals in the international seabed Area

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.7) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994 Agreement). It is an observer at the United Nations.	The ISA's dual mission is to authorize and control development of mineral related operations in the international seabed considered the "common heritage of all mankind" and also protect the ecosystem of the seabed, ocean floor and subsoil in "The Area" beyond national jurisdiction.	The "Mining Code" refers to the whole of the comprehensive set of rules, regulations and procedures issued by ISA to regulate prospecting, exploration and exploitation of marine minerals in the international seabed Area, or the "Area" (defined as the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction).

Context - International Seabed Authority and M/o Earth Sciences exchange PMN (Polymetallic Nodules) exploration extension contract

Q.8) Consider the following statements

1. A qubit (quantum bit) can represent any proportion of 0 and 1 in superposition of both states but not 0 and 1
2. Quantum coherence refers to a situation in which two or more particles are linked in a such a way each particle of the group cannot be described independently of the state of the others

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.8) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
A qubit (or quantum bit) is the quantum mechanical analogue of a classical bit. A classical binary bit can only represent a single binary value, such as 0 or 1. A qubit, however, can represent a	Quantum entanglement refers to a situation in which two or more particles are linked in a such a way each particle of the group cannot be described independently of the state of the others. Quantum

0, a 1, or any proportion of 0 and 1 in superposition of both states. In quantum computing the information is encoded in qubits.

coherence deals with the idea that all objects have wave-like properties. It states that, if an object's wave-like nature is split in two, then the two waves may coherently interfere with each other in such a way as to form a single state that is a superposition of the two states.

Context - An international team of scientists has made a breakthrough in retaining the quantum coherence of quantum dot spin qubits.

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Finance Commission'

1. The Finance Commission is constituted by the President at the end of every fifth year or earlier as deemed necessary
2. Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act provides the requisite qualifications for appointment as members of the Commission
3. The recommendations of the Finance Commission are not binding on the government and the members are not eligible for re-appointment

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.9) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution. It is constituted at the end of every fifth year or earlier, as the deemed necessary by the President.	Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951 was passed by the Parliament to determine the requisite qualifications for appointment as members of the Commission and the procedure of their selection.	Every member will be in office for the time period as specified in the order of the President and is eligible for reappointment. The recommendations of the Finance Commission are not binding on the government.

Context - The Central government will soon start off the process to set up the Sixteenth Finance Commission

Q.10) Consider the following statements about 'Economic Survey'

1. It is an annual document presented to the Parliament and is not governed by any specific act or legislation
2. It is prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Finance under the overall guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.10) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Economic Survey of India is an annual document presented to the Parliament by the Ministry of Finance and is not governed by any specific act or legislation.	The Economic Survey is prepared by the Economics Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry under the overall guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser and is released after it is approved by the finance minister.

Context – The Economic Survey was released recently.

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mahila Samman Saving Certificate' Scheme'

1. The scheme offers deposit facility up to Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls
2. It offers tax benefits and complete withdrawal after a certain period is allowed in this scheme

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.11) Solution(a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The scheme offers deposit facility up to Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of 2 years. It will have a fixed interest rate of 7.5% for two years.	There are no tax benefits, but partial withdrawal is allowed in this scheme. This is a one-time scheme announced in Budget 2023 and will remain available for a two-year period i.e. up to March 2025.

Context - The Finance Minister has announced a new small savings scheme for women called Mahila Samman Saving Certificate(MSSC)

Q.12) With reference to 'Sickle cell anemia', consider the following statements

1. It is an inherited disorder that results in an abnormality in the oxygen-carrying protein haemoglobin found in red blood cells
2. There is no cure for this disease but there are treatments that can help relieve symptoms and prolong life

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.12) Solution(b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of blood disorders typically inherited. The most common type is known as sickle cell anaemia. It results in an abnormality in the oxygen-carrying protein haemoglobin found in red blood cells.	The only cure for this disease is bone marrow or stem cell transplantation. However, there are treatments that can help relieve symptoms, lessen complications, and prolong life.

Context - A Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 will be launched to enable awareness, screening of 7 crore people (0-40 years age group) and counseling.

Q.13) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority'

1. It is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
2. It is headquartered in Delhi and has regional offices located in all the states for the promotion of exports
3. APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the import of sugar

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.13) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act. It functions under the Ministry of Commerce and industry.	APEDA has marked its presence in almost all agro potential states of India and has been providing services to agri-export community through its head office, 15 Regional offices. It does not have regional offices in all the states.	APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of scheduled products like fruits, vegetables and their products, meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products. In addition to this, APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the import of sugar as well.

Context - APEDA organizes Virtual-Buyer Seller Meet to harness export opportunities in UAE for millets

Q.14) 'Reverse Flipping' a term found in the Economic Survey is used in the context of

- a) Companies relying on input tax credit for clearing dues
- b) Companies showing profits in offshore locations to evade taxation
- c) Companies misusing inverted duty structure
- d) Companies shifting their domicile back to India

Q.14) Solution(d)

Indian start-ups are exploring 'reverse flipping', or shifting their domicile back to India, with easy access to capital from private equity and venture capital, changes in rules regarding round-tripping, and the growing maturity of India's capital markets, observed the Economic Survey 2022-23.

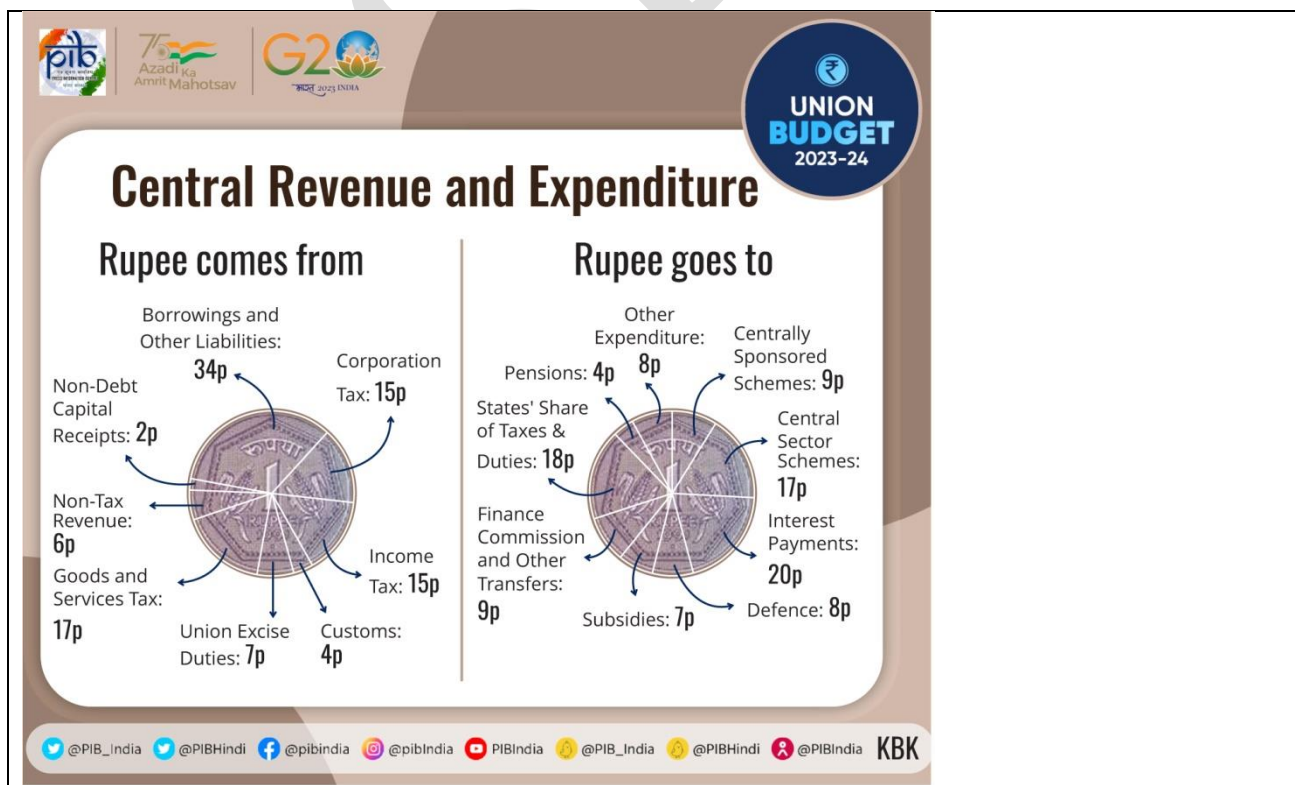
Context – The term was found in the survey

Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Union Budget 2022-23'

1. Goods and Services Tax forms the largest share of central revenue
2. Securities against small savings has the highest share in financing deficits
3. Effective Revenue Deficit as a percentage of GDP has consistently decreased over the last three years

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

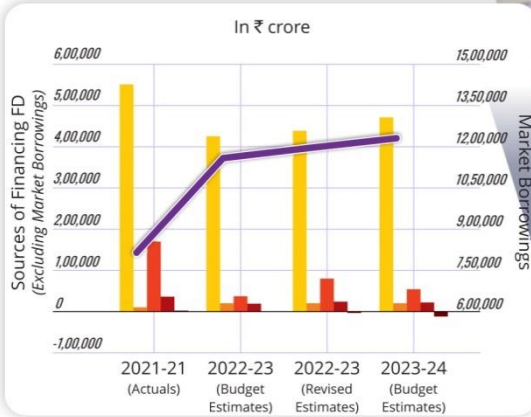
- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 only
- d) 3 only

Q.15) Solution(c)



Sources of Deficit Financing

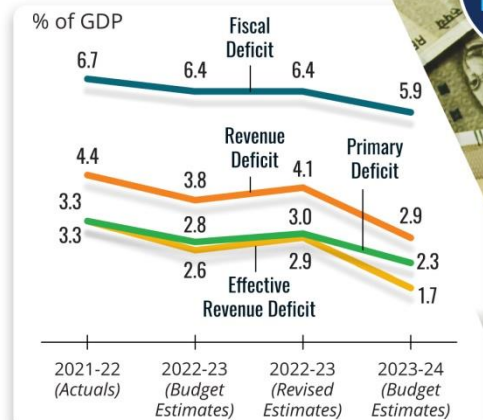
- Market Borrowings
- State Provident Funds
- External Debt
- Securities Against Small Savings
- Other Receipts (Internal Debt and Public Account)
- Draw Down of Cash Balance



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Trends in Deficit



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Context – Union Budget 2022-23 was announced recently.

Q.16) Consider the following statements about 'Export-Import Bank of India'

- It is a specialized financial institution wholly owned by the Government of India

2. Exim Bank extends Lines of Credit (LOCs) to overseas financial institutions, regional development banks and sovereign governments
3. Pre-shipment credit is provided by the bank in foreign currency alone to import raw materials and other inputs for export production

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.16) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
EXIM bank is a specialized financial institution wholly owned by the Government of India. It was established by the Government of India, under the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981	Exim Bank extends Lines of Credit (LOCs) to overseas financial institutions, regional development banks, sovereign governments and other entities overseas, to enable buyers in those countries to import developmental and infrastructure projects, equipment, goods and services from India, on deferred credit terms.	Pre-shipment credit is provided in Indian and foreign currency to support the company with appropriate access to finance at the manufacturing stage. Such credit facilities enable exporters to purchase raw materials and other inputs, and enables provision of Rupee/FC mobilization expenses for construction/turnkey projects. EXIM bank also provides foreign currency pre-shipment credit facility to import raw materials and other inputs for export production.

Context - Union Finance Minister recently announced the setting up of a subsidiary of EXIM Bank and data embassies at GIFT City in Gujarat

Q.17) With reference to 'Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)', consider the following statements

1. UIDF will be established through the use of priority sector lending shortfall and will be managed by the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Bank
2. The fund will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in tier-1 and tier-2 cities

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
Incorrect	Incorrect
UIDF will be established through the use of priority sector lending shortfall. It will be managed by the National Housing Bank. It will be established on the lines of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).	The fund will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. States will be encouraged to leverage resources from the grants of the 15th Finance Commission, as well as existing schemes, to adopt appropriate user charges while accessing the UIDF.

Context - Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) was announced by the Union Finance Minister during her speech for the 2023-24 budget

Q.18) Consider the following statements about 'Pradhan Mantri PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) Development Mission'

1. This mission aims to provide basic necessities such as housing, water, roads, internet connectivity, education, and health in areas inhabited by PVTGs
2. Rs.5,000 crore will be made available to implement the Mission in the next five years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.18) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
This mission aims to provide basic necessities such as housing, water, roads, telecom, education, and health in areas inhabited by PVTGs, who are the most vulnerable and backward tribes among the Scheduled Tribes.	Rs.15,000 crore will be made available to implement the Mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.

Context - Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched soon

Q.19) With reference to 'Red Sanders', consider the following statements

1. It is a flora species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in the Eastern Ghats
2. This tree is valued for the rich red colour of its wood and strong aroma
3. It usually grows in rocky, degraded and fallow lands with red Soil and hot and wet climate
4. It is classified as 'Endangered' under IUCN and is protected under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.19) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
Red Sanders, <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> , is an Indian endemic tree species, with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats. The species is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.	Red Sanders is valued for the rich red colour of its wood. The wood is traditionally considered not aromatic. The tree is not to be confused with the aromatic <i>Santalum</i> sandalwood trees that grow natively in Southern India.	It usually grows in rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and a hot and dry climate.	It is classified as 'Endangered' under IUCN and is protected under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. It comes under Appendix 2 of CITES

Context - About 20,000 tonnes of Red Sanders were smuggled from India between 2016 and 2020 according to The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) report.

Q.20) 'Yaya Tso' a lake seen in news recently is located in

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

Q.20) Solution(b)

Lake Yaya Tso is known as a bird's paradise for its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres in Ladakh. It is also one of the highest breeding sites of the black-necked crane in India. Yaya Tso is set to become Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site.

Context – It has been proposed as Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site (BHS).

Q.21) Consider the following statements about 'Asiatic black bear'

1. It is a land-dwelling species found throughout the peninsular region of India
2. It is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.21) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The Asian black bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>), also known as the Asiatic black bear, moon bear and white-chested bear, is a medium-sized bear species native to Asia that is largely adapted to an arboreal lifestyle. It lives in the Himalayas, southeastern Iran, the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent, the Korean Peninsula, China, the	It is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act. It also comes under Appendix I of CITES.

Russian Far East, the islands of Honshū and Shikoku in Japan, and Taiwan.	
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Context - The Kashmir Valley has bucked the trend of Asiatic black bear (Ursus thibetanus) attacks on humans rarely reported throughout the animal's global range, a new study has revealed.

Q.22) The city was constructed to a pre-existing geometrical plan consisting of three divisions – the citadel, the middle town, and the lower town. The most striking feature of the city is that all of its buildings are built of stone. One of the unique features of this city is the sophisticated water conservation system of channels and reservoirs. The ancient Indus Valley Civilization city is

- a) Mitathal
- b) Desalpur
- c) Dholavira
- d) Lothal

Q.22) Solution(c)

Dholavira is an archaeological site of immense importance associated with the Indus Valley Civilization. It represents the ruins of an ancient city of the Harappan civilization that was inhabited over a period of 1,200 years from 3000 BCE through 1800 BCE. Unlike Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, the city was constructed to a pre-existing geometrical plan consisting of three divisions – the citadel, the middle town, and the lower town. The most striking feature of the city is that all of its buildings, at least in their present state of preservation, are built of stone, whereas most other Harappan sites, including Harappa itself and Mohenjo-daro, are almost exclusively built of brick. One of the unique features of Dholavira is the sophisticated water conservation system of channels and reservoirs, the earliest found anywhere in the world, built completely of stone.

Context - The G20 delegates and participants will have a Yoga session at the White Rann of Kutch followed by a visit to Dholavira, the UNESCO world heritage site of the Harappan civilization.

Q.23) With reference to 'Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation', consider the following statements

1. It is an autonomous regulatory authority under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. CDSCO governs the approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act
3. CDSCO is solely responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products

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.23) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation(CDSCO)under Directorate General of Health Services,Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,Government of India is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.	Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, CDSCO is responsible for approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.	CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

Context - Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation bars Tamil Nadu-based firm from making eye lubricant

Q.24) With reference to ‘Vivad se Vishwas II scheme’, consider the following statements

1. The scheme is introduced to settle contractual disputes of government and government undertakings wherein arbitral award is under challenge in a court.
2. The scheme will come out with a framework where there is flexibility to negotiate the arbitral award and all appeals will be withdrawn

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.24) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Voluntary settlement scheme is introduced to settle contractual disputes of government and government undertakings; wherein arbitral award is under challenge in a court. This will be done by offering graded settlement terms depending on pendency level of the dispute.	the aim in this scheme is to provide a standardized framework, which is voluntary, that let us say there is an arbitral award given in favour of a contractor which has been challenged by a government agency in the High Court, the scheme will come out with a framework where a certain percentage is fixed in advance and in the scheme, non discretionary. So there's no discretion for the officer in the agency nor for the company to ask for more or less, it is a fixed amount.

Context - The budget has proposed a scheme for settling contractual dispute named Vivad se Vishwas II.

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sant Ravidas'

1. He abandoned saguna (with attributes, image) forms of supreme beings and focused on the nirguna (without attributes, abstract) form
2. He was a contemporary of Saint Ramanujacharya
3. His teachings and poems are included in the Adi Granth

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.25) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
He abandoned saguna (with attributes, image) forms of supreme beings, and focused on the nirguna (without attributes, abstract) form of supreme beings. The songs of Ravidas discuss Nirguna-Saguna themes, as well as ideas	Ravidas or Raidas was an Indian mystic poet-saint of the Bhakti movement during the 15th to 16th century CE whereas Saint Ramanuja	He is revered in the Sikh scripture, and 41 of Guru Ravidas' poems are included in the Adi Granth. These poems are one of the oldest

that are at the foundation of Nath Yoga philosophy of Hinduism.	was a 12 th century philosopher	attested source of his ideas and literary works
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Context – Sant Guru Ravidas jayanti was celebrated recently.

Q.26) 'Yuva Sangam' a portal which was launched recently aims to

- Involve the youth in grassroot politics
- Promote sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Connect the youth of North East Region with rest of India
- Map the skills of youth and find appropriate jobs

Q.26) Solution(c)

The "Yuva Sangam" registration portal launched at IGNCIA New Delhi today. The Yuva Sangam is an initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister to build close ties between the youth of North East Region and rest of India under the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. Over 20000 youth will travel across India and gain a unique opportunity of cross cultural learning. This Wide Cultural Exchange Program will also give an opportunity to our youth to celebrate the ancient culture and natural diversity of India.

Context – The portal was launched recently.

Q.27) With reference to 'Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)', consider the following statements

- It is being issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued
- It earns interest just like money deposited with banks
- The e₹-R offers features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality
- It is issued and distributed by the Reserve Bank of India and is treated as a liability

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

- 1 and 2
- 1 and 3
- 2 and 4
- 3 and 4

Q.27) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect

The e₹-R is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It is being issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued.	As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks.	The e₹-R offers features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality.	The RBI issues only one digital currency on behalf of Government of India, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), which is a liability of the Central Bank. It is being distributed through financial intermediaries, i.e., banks.
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Context – It was in news.

Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Muons'

1. Muons are subatomic particles raining from space that can either have a positive or a negative charge
2. Muons are very light that they can travel through hundreds of metres of rock or other matter before getting absorbed or decayed
3. Muon tomography is conceptually similar to X-ray but capable of scanning much larger and wider structures in three dimensions

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.28) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Muons are subatomic particles raining from space. They are created when the particles in Earth's atmosphere collide with cosmic rays — clusters of high-energy particles that move through space at just below the speed of light. It has two forms, the negatively charged muon	Muons are so heavy, they can travel through hundreds of metres of rock or other matter before getting absorbed or decaying into electrons and neutrinos They are highly unstable and exist for just 2.2 microseconds. These particles resemble electrons but are 207 times as massive. Therefore, they	Muon tomography is conceptually similar to X-ray but capable of scanning much larger and wider structures, owing to the penetration power of muons. All that is required is to place a muon detector underneath, within, or near the object of interest. The detector then

and its positively charged antiparticle.	are sometimes called “fat electrons”.	tracks the number of muons going through the object from different directions, to form a three-dimensional image.
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Context - Scientists used outer space particles to examine the fortress wall of Xi'an city.

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to 'World Wetlands Day'

1. It is observed every year all over the world to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
2. India is a founding party to the Convention and has so far declared more than 50 wetlands as Ramsar sites

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.29) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year all over the world to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971. The 2023 theme for World Wetlands Day is Wetland Restoration.	India is a party to the Convention since 1982 and has so far declared 75 wetlands as Ramsar sites covering 23 states and Union Territories.

Context - World Wetlands Day celebrated at all 75 Ramsar sites in India

Q.30) Consider the following statements about 'Just Energy Transition Partnership'

1. JETP is a mechanism for carbon trading by developed countries to support an energy transition in developing countries.
2. JETP was launched by G-7 countries at United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Sharm El Sheikh

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.30) Solution(d)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
JETP is a mechanism for multilateral financing by developed countries to support an energy transition in developing countries. It aims to reduce emissions in the energy sector and accelerate the coal phase-out Transition describes the gradual movement towards lower carbon technologies, while 'Just' qualifies that this transition will not negatively impact society, jobs and livelihoods.	The JETP was launched at the COP26 in Glasgow with the support of the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), France, Germany, and the European Union (EU) Following that G7 has announced for a similar partnership in India, Indonesia, Senegal, and Vietnam.

Context – It was in news due to talks of phasing out of coal by the developing countries.

Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)'

1. NISAR will be a Sun Synchronous Orbit observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO
2. NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies to measure changes in our planet's surface

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.31) Solution(c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) will be launched into a polar Sun-synchronous dawn-dusk orbit (crossing the poles, trailing Earth's shadow to remain in a perpetual sunrise or sunset). It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory being jointly developed by NASA and ISRO. NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days and provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation biomass, sea level rise, ground water and natural hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides.	This would be the first dual frequency radar imaging mission in L-Band & S-Band using an advanced Sweep SAR technique to provide L & S band space-borne SAR data with high repeat cycle, high resolution, and larger swath, with capability of full-polar metric and interferometric modes of operation. It carries L and S dual band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which operates with Sweep SAR technique to achieve large swath with high resolution data.

Context - NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), got a send-off ceremony at the American space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Q.32) India recently announced the setting up of a new Trade and Technology Council (TTC) with

- a) European Union
- b) Japan
- c) South Korea
- d) United Arab Emirates

Q.32) Solution(a)

India and the European Union announced setting up of a new Trade and Technology Council (TTC) that is expected to facilitate exchange of critical technologies relating to an array of domains, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and cybersecurity. The TTC with India is the European Union's second such technology partnership after the first one with the United States that was firmed up in June 2021.

Context - EU set up Trade & Technology Council with India after similar partnership with U.S.

Q.33) With reference to 'Green debt securities', consider the following statements

1. It is defined by The Energy and Resource Institute as one that is issued for the purpose of raising capital to be used for the cause of furthering energy efficiency
2. Green debt securities are further divided into three colors namely blue, white and magenta based on their utility

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.33) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
SEBI broadly defines a green debt security as one that is issued for the purpose of raising capital to be used for the cause of sustainable development or furthering energy efficiency.	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) strengthened the framework for green bonds by introducing the concept of 'blue' and 'yellow' bonds as new modes of sustainable finance. Blue bonds relate to water management and marine sector, while yellow bonds pertain to solar energy. These are sub-categories of green debt securities. For this, the SEBI amended norms governing the issue and listing of non-convertible securities. There is no magenta bond as such.

Context - SEBI introduced blue, yellow bonds to strengthen green financing.

Q.34) Consider the following statements about 'Bio-Fertilizers'

1. Bio-fertilizers are live microbial products which does not contain any nutrients
2. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops under All India Network Project (AINP)
3. The quality standards and names of the bio-fertilizers have been specified under The Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985

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.34) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Bio-fertilizers are live microbial products which does not contain any nutrients. The micro-organisms present in the bio-fertilizer ensure availability of nutrients from non-available form present within soil and air to available form which plants can uptake.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types under All India Network Project (AINP) on Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers and informed that Bio-fertilizers can improve crop yields by 10-25% and supplement costly chemical fertilizers (N, P) by nearly 20-25% in most of the cases when used along with chemical fertilizers without any reduction in production.	11 bio-fertilizers namely; Rhizobium, Azotobactor, Azospirillum, Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, Mycorrhizal Bio-fertilisers, Potassium Mobilizing Bio-fertilizers (KMB) Zinc Solubilizing Biofertilizers (ZSB) Acetobactor, Carrier Based Consortia, Liquid Consortia , and Phosphate Solubilising Fungus have been notified and included into the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. The quality standards of these bio-fertilizers have been specified under the FCO, 1985.

Context - Information regarding bio-fertilizers was given by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in a written reply in Lok Sabha

Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Maritime India Vision 2030'

1. It is a blueprint prepared by The Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways to ensure coordinated and accelerated growth of India's maritime sector in the next decade
2. A Riverine Development Fund (RDF) will be set up under this vision document to extend low-cost funding to finance inland vessels
3. MIV 2030 envisions an overall investment of INR 30,00,000-35,00,000 Cr across ports, shipping, and inland waterways categories.

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.35) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect

<p>Maritime Vision India 2030 has been prepared by the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways. The document is a blueprint to accelerate the growth of maritime sector over the next decade. It was released by The Prime Minister at the Maritime India Summit in November 2020</p>	<p>A Riverine Development Fund (RDF) will extend low-cost funding to finance inland vessels and for extending the coverage of the tonnage tax scheme to inland vessels. Further, The MVI 2030 will create the Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid, a project that will develop connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar.</p>	<p>MIV 2030 envisions an overall investment of INR 3,00,000-3,50,000 Cr across ports, shipping, and inland waterways categories. This vision roadmap is estimated to help unlock INR 20,000+ Cr worth of potential annual revenue for Indian Ports. Further, it is expected to create an additional -20,00,000+ jobs (direct and non-direct) in the Indian maritime sector.</p>
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Context – Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 estimates investments of Rs. 1,00,000–1,25,000 crore for capacity augmentation and development of world-class infrastructure at Indian Ports

Q.36) Consider the following statements about Atmospheric Rivers

1. They are long powerful streams of moisture in the sky.
2. They transport most of the water vapour outside of the tropics.
3. When they make landfall, they often release water vapour in the form of rain or snow.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

Q.36) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere, like rivers in the sky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They transport most of the water vapour outside of the tropics. • These columns of vapour move with the weather, carrying an amount of water vapour roughly equivalent to the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the atmospheric rivers make landfall, they often release this water vapour in the form of rain or snow. • Although atmospheric rivers come in many shapes and sizes, those that contain the largest amounts of water vapour and the strongest winds can create extreme rainfall and floods, often by stalling over watersheds vulnerable to flooding.

Context: Atmospheric rivers are becoming more frequent in the Arctic, and they're helping to drive dramatic shrinking of the Arctic's sea ice cover.

Q.37) Consider the following statements about Tele-MANAS Scheme

1. The scheme aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country 24*7.
2. It works under the National Tele Mental Health Programme.
3. The scheme is based on Maharashtra's initiative E-Manas.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.37) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tele-MANAS aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country 24x7, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) was launched under the National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initiative is based on Karnataka's initiative E-Manas. • E-Manas, the tele-counselling programme, was first launched by the Karnataka State government during the first wave of COVID-19 in association with NIMHANS. • The Union Government aims to open at least one Tele-MANAS Cell in each State/UT. • Presently there are 5 regional coordination centres along with 51 State/UT Tele MANAS cells.

Context: Recently Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) was launched under the National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP).

Q.38) Consider the following statements about 'Moment Magnitude Scale'

1. It is a logarithmic scale that measures the total amount of energy released by an earthquake.
2. The Moment Magnitude Scale is based on seismic records unlike Richter Scale which is based on observable data

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.38) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moment Magnitude Scale is a logarithmic scale that measures the total amount of energy released by an earthquake. It is the only scale capable of reliably measuring the magnitudes of the largest, most destructive earthquakes (that is, greater than magnitude 8). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moment magnitude estimates are about the same as Richter magnitudes for small to large earthquakes. But only the moment magnitude scale is capable of measuring M8 (read "magnitude 8") and greater events accurately. The Richter scale is a base-10 logarithmic scale, meaning each order of magnitude is 10 times more intensive than the last one.

Context: It was in news due to Turkey-Syria earthquakes

Q.39) Consider the following statements about Katkari Tribes:

1. They are part of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
2. They are located in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand.
3. The Bihu dance is performed by the Katkari tribes to mark the harvest festival.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q.39) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were historically forest dwellers. • The name is derived from a forest based activity, the making and bartering or sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are primarily located in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bihu belongs to the state of Assam, performed by the Bihu Tribes.

<p>of Catechu from the Khair tree (Acacia Katechu).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). • The British administration had classified them under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871. 		
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Context: After the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) cracked the whip on district officials in Maharashtra, for taking lightly the issue of Katkari tribe children being sold into bonded labour, the officials have now submitted an action taken report, complying with all directions.

Q.40) Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, recently seen in news is located in?

- Uttar Pradesh
- Rajasthan
- Punjab
- Maharashtra

Q.40) Solution (b)

Option b
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bharatpur - Keoladeo National Park, a World Heritage Site is popularly known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. • Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary is recognised as one of the world's most important bird breeding and feeding grounds. • It is spread across 29 Sq. Km area. • The park is home to over 370 species of birds and animals. • In 1982, Keoladeo was declared a national park and then later listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985.

Context: The Rajasthan state Forest Department has proposed to construct a zoo in Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

Q.41) Consider the following statements about 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies'

1. PACS are village level cooperative credit societies that are involved in short term lending
2. PACS come within the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and hence regulated by the Reserve Bank of India

Select the correct statement(s)

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.41) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
PACS are village level cooperative credit societies that serve as the last link in a three-tier cooperative credit structure headed by the State Cooperative Banks (SCB) at the state level. PACS are involved in short term lending — or what is known as crop loan. At the start of the cropping cycle, farmers avail credit to finance their requirement of seeds, fertilisers etc.	The rural co-operative credit system in India is primarily mandated to ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector. It comprises short-term and long-term co-operative credit structures. The short-term co-operative credit structure operates with a three-tier system - Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at the village level, Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs) at the district level and State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) at the State level. PACS are outside the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and hence not regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

Context - Union Budget announced Rs 2,516 crore for computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies

Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)'

1. It comes under the administrative control of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) for coordinated and unified development of industrial corridors
2. Government of India (GoI)'s contribution to NICDIT will be used as a revolving corpus
3. It is the implementing agency of the National Industrial Corridor Programme and also supports project development activities, appraisal and sanction of projects

Choose the INCORRECT statement(s) using the code given below

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

Q.42) Solution(d)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
NICDIT is an apex body under the administrative control of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) for coordinated and unified development of all the five industrial corridors in the country.	Investments into the SPVs by Government of India will be routed through NICDIT so that all debt service payments by SPVs and proceeds from equity disinvestment from SPVs including SPVs developed by Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) by utilizing grants given by GoI can be ploughed back into the corpus enabling NICDIT to support the development of more industrial cities in future.	The NICDIT is the implementing agency of the National Industrial Corridor Programme. NICDIT will support project development activities and appraisal, approval and sanction of projects as per extant delegation.

Context - Eight projects under National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) sanctioned and approved by Government

Q.43) With reference to 'Quasicrystals', consider the following statements

1. The atoms in quasicrystals are arranged in a pattern that repeats itself at irregular yet predictable intervals
2. Quasicrystals are manufactured artificially in laboratory settings and is not found in nature
3. They are good insulators and are used in surgical instruments, LED lights and nonstick frying pans

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.43) Solution(c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct

<p>Quasicrystal, also called quasi-periodic crystal, matter formed atomically in a manner somewhere between the amorphous solids of glasses and the precise pattern of crystals. In quasicrystals, the atoms are arranged in a pattern that repeats itself at irregular, yet predictable, intervals.</p>	<p>The American-Israeli scientist Dan Shechtman discovered quasicrystals in the lab in 1982. The first natural quasicrystal found was as microscopic grains in a fragment of the Khatyrka meteorite lying in the Koryak mountains of Russia. The second time scientists found natural quasicrystals in the remains of the Trinity test of the Manhattan Project. Recently in the Sand Hills dunes in northern Nebraska, where scientists found silicate glass which is a dodecagonal quasicrystal, rare even for quasicrystals.</p>	<p>Quasicrystals are used in surgical instruments, LED lights and nonstick frying pans. They have poor heat conductivity, which makes them good insulators.</p>
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Context - Scientists have discovered a third natural source of quasicrystals, extending the latter's reputation for violent origins.

Q.44) With reference to 'Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)', consider the following statements

1. QRSAM is a Short Range Surface to Air Missile system designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
2. The entire weapon system is configured on highly mobile platforms and can engage twenty targets simultaneously

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.44) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
QRSAM is a Short Range Surface to Air Missile system designed to protect moving armoured columns from aerial attacks. It was designed and developed by the	The entire weapon system is configured on highly mobile platforms and is capable of providing air defence on the move. It has a range

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

of 30 km and can engage 6 targets simultaneously.

Context - The indigenous Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to be tested again in April with some changes suggested by the Army

Q.45) 'Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG)' seen in news recently works under

- a) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- b) G20
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q.45) Solution(b)

The deliberations of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) under the G20 Sherpa Track commenced with the first meeting. ECSWG aims to collectively define a new development paradigm that supports stable and sustainable climate, environment, and biodiversity

Context - Deliberations of the First Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) commenced in Bengaluru with the Side Event on Ecosystem Restoration, and Biodiversity Enhancement

Q.46) Consider the following statements

1. Constitution of India specifies the different modes by which a citizen may lose citizenship
2. If a citizen of India automatically ceases to be an Indian citizen if he/she voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country
3. A citizen of India by naturalization, registration, birth or residence may be deprived of citizenship by the Central Government if it is satisfied that the citizen has unlawfully traded with the enemy during a war

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.46) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Citizenship Act 1955 lays down the three modes by which an Indian citizen, whether a citizen at the commencement of the Constitution or subsequent to it, may lose their citizenship. These are renunciation, termination and deprivation.	One way in which Indian citizenship can be taken away is termination. Termination takes place by operation of law when an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country. In this case, he or she automatically ceases to be an Indian citizen.	A citizen of India by naturalization, registration, domicile and residence may be deprived of his citizenship by order of the Central Government if it is satisfied that: The citizen has obtained the citizenship by means of fraud, false representation, or concealment of any material fact; The citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India; The citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war; The citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalization, been imprisoned in any country for two years; The citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years

Context - Over 16 lakh Indians have renounced their Indian citizenship since 2011 including 2,25,620 people last year, the highest during the period, while the lowest of 85,256 was in 2020, according to government data.

Q.47) Ongoing search and rescue operation initiated by the Government of India to aid Syria and Turkey is called

- a) Operation Madad
- b) Operation Suraksha
- c) Operation Searchlight
- d) Operation Dost

Q.47) Solution(d)

Operation Dost is an ongoing search and rescue operation initiated by the Government of India to aid Syria and Turkey, after a violent earthquake devastated both countries on 6 February 2023.

Context - Operation Dost launched by India to help Türkiye and Syria

Q.48) With reference to 'Small Satellite Launch Vehicle', consider the following statements

1. It is a small-lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO which can deliver payload to low Earth orbit and Sun-synchronous orbit
2. The launch vehicle consists of a single solid stage followed by a liquid-fuel-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM)

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.48) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a small-lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO with payload capacity to deliver 500 kg (1,100 lb) to low Earth orbit (500 km (310 mi)) or 300 kg (660 lb) to Sun-synchronous orbit (500 km (310 mi)) for launching small satellites, with the capability to support multiple orbital drop-offs. SSLV is made keeping low cost, low turnaround time in mind with launch-on-demand flexibility under minimal infrastructure requirements	The launch vehicle uses three solid stages followed by a liquid-fuel-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) to place satellites in orbit

Context - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the second edition of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2).

Q.49) Consider the following statements about 'Quality Council of India'

1. It is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry
2. The Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the industry to the government
3. Governing Council of the QCI has equal representation from the Government, Industry and other stakeholders

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Quality Council of India (QCI) is an autonomous organization under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Quality Council of India as a non-profit autonomous society registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 to establish an accreditation structure in the country and to spread quality movement in India by undertaking a National Quality Campaign.	The Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the industry to the government.	The Governing Council of QCI was initially constituted by the government as a part of the Cabinet decision in 1996. There were initially 31 constituent members, with equal representation from the Government, Industry and other stakeholders. Presently, the Governing Council comprises 38 members. Every member has one vote in the Governing Council.

Context - India's national accreditation system under the Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked 5th in the world in the recent Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021

Q.50) Consider the following pairs

Name of the spices park: Spice covered

1. Chhindwara: Garlic
2. Guntur: Chilli
3. Raebareli: Turmeric
4. Ramganjmandi: Coriander

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

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

Q.50) Solution(c)**Statement Analysis:**

Name of the Spices Park	Spices covered
Chhindwara	Garlic and Chilli
Guntur	Chilli
Raebareli	Mint
Ramganjmandi	Coriander

Context - Spices Board has established eight crop specific Spices Parks across the country

Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bhashini Mission'

1. It is a local language translation mission that aims to break the barrier by translating English into any Indian language
2. This online platform also has a separate 'Bhasadaan' section which allows individuals to type what they hear or have to validate texts transcribed by others

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.51) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
It is a local language translation mission that aims to break the barrier between various Indian tongues by using available technology. The mission aims to enable citizens to speak in their own language while talking to speakers of other Indian languages!	This online platform also has a separate 'Bhasadaan' section which allows individuals to contribute to multiple crowdsourcing initiatives and it is also accessible via respective Android and iOS apps. The contribution can be done in four ways -- Suno India, Likho India, Bolo India and Dekho India where users have to type what they hear or have to validate texts transcribed by others

Context - The Minister for Electronics & Information Technology informed that Mission Bhashini – National Language Translation Mission and Digital Payments have come together to make UPI 123 Pay available in local language. This will enable a common person to make payments in her local language interface through voice.

Q.52) 'AMRITPEX 2023' which was launched recently is a

- a) National security symposium
- b) Military exercise
- c) Philatelic exhibition
- d) Biotech research promotion

Q.52) Solution(c)

AMRITPEX 2023 is a National Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications. AMRITPEX 2023 has a number of workshops, panel discussions and cultural programs highlighting the culture and heritage of India. Interested citizens can be part of these events and explore the story of India through stamps. The exhibition for the first time in India has a number of technology artifacts like Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality.

Context - The Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways inaugurated AMRITPEX 2023

Q.53) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati'

1. He was the first to give the call for Swaraj as "India for Indians"
2. 'Sathyarth Prakash', a text on philosophy of the Vedas was written by him
3. He worked towards reviving Vedic ideologies, ritual worship and idolatry
4. He promoted the equal rights for women such as the right to education and reading of Indian scriptures

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.53) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Dayanand Saraswati also known as Maharshi Dayanand, was an Indian	Satyarth Prakash, which has remained a highly influential	Denouncing the idolatry and ritualistic worship, he worked towards reviving	Among Dayananda's contributions were his promoting of the equal

philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj, a reform movement of the Vedic dharma. He was the first to give the call for Swaraj as "India for Indians" in 1876, a call later taken up by Lokmanya Tilak.	text on the philosophy of the Vedas and clarifications of various ideas and duties of human beings was written by him.	Vedic ideologies. Dayananda Saraswati's creation, the Arya Samaj, condemned practices of several different religions and communities, including such practices as idol worship, animal sacrifice, pilgrimages, priest craft, offerings made in temples, the castes, child marriages, meat eating and discrimination against women. He argued that all of these practices ran contrary to good sense and the wisdom of the Vedas.	rights for women, such as the right to education and reading of Indian scriptures, and his commentary on the Vedas from Vedic Sanskrit in Sanskrit as well as in Hindi.
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Context - PM inaugurated the year long celebrations commemorating 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati

Q.54) With reference to 'Geological Survey of India', consider the following statements

1. GSI is the oldest survey organization founded in India
2. GSI is an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences
3. GSI carries out ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, natural hazards studies, and seismotectonic study to update national geoscientific information

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.54) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
GSI is one of the oldest of such organisations in the world and the second	GSI is an attached	The main functions of GSI relate to creation and updation of national geoscientific

oldest survey in India after Survey of India (founded in 1767), for conducting geological surveys and studies of India, and also as the prime provider of basic earth science information to government, industry and general public, as well as the official participant in steel, coal, metals, cement, power industries and international geoscientific forums.	office to the Ministry of Mines.	information and mineral resource assessment. These objectives are achieved through ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting and investigations, multi-disciplinary geoscientific, geo-technical, geo-environmental and natural hazards studies, glaciology, seismotectonic study, and carrying out fundamental research.
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Context - Geological Survey of India has for the first time established Lithium inferred resources (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes in Salal-Haimana area of Reasi District of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Q.55) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Solar Prominence'

1. They are large, loop-like structures on the edge of the solar disk sometimes stand out brightly against the dark background of space.
2. They are much hotter and denser than the surrounding plasma and extend outwards into the Sun's hot outer atmosphere, called the corona.

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.55) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Solar prominences are large, loop-like structures on the edge of the solar disk sometimes stand out brightly against the dark background of space.	They are much cooler and denser than the surrounding plasma in the Sun's corona. Prominences are anchored to the Sun's surface in the photosphere, and extend outwards into the Sun's hot outer atmosphere, called the corona. A prominence forms over timescales of about a day, and stable prominences may persist in the corona for several months, looping hundreds of thousands of miles into space.

Context - Recently, the sun puzzled many scientists with a large prominence near its north pole.

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India)'

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme designed to strengthen select existing schools being managed by State/ UT Government/ local bodies
2. PM SHRI Schools would be implemented through the existing administrative structure available for Samagra Shiksha, KVS & NVS

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.56) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
PM SHRI schools (PM Schools for Rising India) is to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a total project cost of Rs. 27360 crore which includes a central share of Rs. 18128 crore for the period of five years from year 2022-23 to 2026-27. This will be a new scheme for development of more than 14500 schools across the country as PM SHRI Schools by strengthening select existing schools being managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies. PM SHRI Schools will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020, act as exemplar schools and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.	PM SHRI Schools would be implemented through the existing administrative structure available for Samagra Shiksha, KVS & NVS. The other autonomous bodies would be involved on specific project basis as required. These schools shall be monitored vigorously to assess progress and understand the challenges faced in implementation of National Education Policy 2020.

Context – The scheme was in news.

Q.57) 'All India Survey on Domestic and Migrant Workers' has been conducted by

- a) National Statistical Office
- b) Labour Bureau
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Q.57) Solution(b)

The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has undertaken an All India Domestic Workers Survey by collecting information from the selected household across States and UTs including Maharashtra. All India Survey on Domestic and Migrant Workers has been conducted by selecting the sample households based on multi stage sampling design. The field works of All India survey on Domestic Workers is at final stages and the identity of the respondent households is never revealed and the results are released based on aggregation of numbers only.

Context - The Minister of State for Labour and Employment in a written reply to a question in informed Lok Sabha that the AIDWS is almost complete

Q.58) With reference to 'Lithium', consider the following statements

1. It is the lightest of all the solid elements and reacts vigorously with water
2. It occurs freely in nature but is found combined in small amounts in igneous rocks and in the waters of many mineral springs
3. China contains more than 75% of the world's lithium deposits

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.58) Solution(a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Lithium has the lowest density of all metals. It is the lightest of the solid elements. It reacts vigorously with water.	It never occurs freely in nature but is found combined in small amounts in nearly all igneous rocks and in the waters of many mineral springs. Spodumene, petalite, lepidolite, and amblygonite are the more important minerals containing lithium.	Lithium reserves are concentrated in the lithium triangle in South America – Argentina, Bolivia & Chile, with 50% of the deposits concentrated in these regions.

Context - The discovery of 5.9 tonnes of lithium deposits in Jammu and Kashmir was discovered recently.

Q.59) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC)'

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries formed to ensure the stabilization of oil prices in the international oil markets
2. A country must maintain crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports in order to become a member of OPEC
3. India imports more than half of its crude oil requirements from OPEC countries

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(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries. It aims to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and also ensure the stabilization of oil prices in the international oil markets, with a view to eliminating harmful and unnecessary fluctuations.	The OPEC Statute distinguishes between the Founder Members and Full Members - those countries whose applications for membership have been accepted by the Conference. The Statute stipulates that “any country with a substantial net export of crude petroleum, which has fundamentally similar interests to those of Member Countries, may become a Full Member of the Organization, if accepted by a majority of three-fourths of Full Members, including the concurring votes of all Founder Members.”	OPEC, is an inter-governmental organization of 14 major oil producing countries which together produces about 40 percent of the world's crude oil. OPEC oil exports represent about 60 percent of the total petroleum traded internationally. India is the world’s 3rd largest importer of crude oil behind only the United States and China. Our imports from OPEC countries constitute 85 percent of our total crude imports and 94 percent of the gas imports.

Context - OPEC’s top official urged countries to invest much more in oil to meet the world’s future energy needs and said climate policies need to be more “balanced and fair.

Q.60) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Aubrite Meteorites’

1. Aubrite meteorites are fine-grained igneous rocks that are formed in oxygen-poor conditions
2. Aubrites consist of very bright minerals, mostly silicates, formed at very low temperatures.

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.60) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Aubrite meteorites are coarse-grained igneous rocks that are formed in oxygen-poor conditions. They contain a variety of exotic minerals that are not found on Earth.	Aubrites consist of very bright minerals, mostly silicates, that formed in an oxygen-free, basaltic environment at very high temperatures. Only one out of every 1,000 meteorites that fall on Earth belong to this class.

Context - A recent analysis by a group of scientists at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, has revealed that two villages, Gujarat hit by Aubrite meteorites.

Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Council of Historical Research'

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture
2. The ICHR receives grants-in-aid from various Indian states, private donations and the proceeds of revenues from the sale of publications of the ICHR

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.61) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
ICHR is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. It was established in 1972 by an Administrative Order. ICHR was registered under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860) as a literary and charitable society.	The ICHR receives grants-in-aid from the Department of Higher Education, grants-in-aid from various Indian states, private donations, and the proceeds of revenues from the sale of publications of the ICHR. ICHR disburses funds for carrying out research to Indian as well as foreign scholars on their applications for fellowships, grants, and symposia, made to the ICHR or through the Ministry of Human Resource Development

Context - The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) has not launched any project to rewrite Indian history and it is only “filling gaps”, the government informed the Lok Sabha Monday.

Q.62) Consider the following statements about ‘Aadi Mahotsav’

1. It is an annual flagship event of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited which began in 2014
2. The festival will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, handloom, paintings, jewellery, cane & bamboo, pottery, food & natural products among other artefacts

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.62) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The Aadi Mahotsav, which celebrates the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine, commerce and traditional art, is an annual initiative of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It began in 2017	The festival, will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, handloom, paintings, jewellery, cane & bamboo, pottery, food & natural products, gifts & assortment, tribal cuisine and much more through 200 stalls to showcase this.

Context - PM to inaugurate Aadi Mahotsav on 16th February at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi

Q.63) 'Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary' recently seen in news is located in

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Assam
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Rajasthan

Q.63) Solution (c)

The Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Shahapur and Bhiwandi taluka of Thane district and Wada taluka of Palghar district. It is known to be a paradise for birdwatchers. It has two rivers, the Tansa and Vaitarna, and the sanctuary gets its name from the former, which divides the sanctuary into two parts. The Sanctuary has Southern Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest, with a few patches of Evergreen forest.

Context - 186 species spotted during bird survey in Tansa Sanctuary

Q.64) With reference to 'President's Colour Award', consider the following statements

1. The President's Colour is a special flag given to a military, paramilitary or police unit as a mark of recognition for its services to the nation
2. It is presented by the President of India only and it cannot be presented in his absence
3. It is one of the greatest honours bestowed upon in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation both during war and peace irrespective of the years of service

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.64) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The President's Colour is one of the highest	The presentation of the award or standards by the Supreme	The President's Colour is one of the highest honour that can be

<p>honour that can be awarded to any military unit, military training establishments, and state/UT Police Forces of India.</p>	<p>Commander of the Armed Forces of India (President of India) is an acknowledgement of the unit's meritorious service. In the absence of the President of India, the Vice President of India does not present colours to regiments, ships or air squadrons. The responsibility of being the guest of honour in his or her absence is prerogative of the Services Chiefs. When the president is absent, the federal Minister of Home Affairs or at times the Vice President or Prime Minister serves as delegate in any colour presentation ceremony to federal and/or state police forces.</p>	<p>awarded to any military unit, military training establishments and state/UT Police Forces of India. It is bestowed upon in recognition of exceptional service of at least 25 years rendered by a military unit to the nation, both during war and peace. It is also known as "Rashtrapati ka Nishaan" in Hindi.</p>
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Context - Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented President's Colour to Haryana Police

Q.65) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Marburg virus disease'

1. It is caused by the Marburg virus, a genetically unique zoonotic DNA virus of the filovirus family
2. It is a rare but severe hemorrhagic fever that affects both people and non-human primates
3. Marburg viruses are endemic in arid woodlands of equatorial Africa but outbreaks have occurred outside Africa too

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.65) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
MVD is caused by the Marburg virus, a genetically unique zoonotic (or animal-	Marburg virus disease (MVD) is a rare but severe hemorrhagic	Marburgviruses are endemic in arid woodlands of equatorial Africa. Most marburgvirus infections were repeatedly

borne) RNA virus of the filovirus family. The six species of Ebola virus are the only other known members of the filovirus family.	fever which affects both people and non-human primates.	associated with people visiting natural caves or working in mines. Marburg virus was first recognized in 1967, when outbreaks of hemorrhagic fever occurred simultaneously in laboratories in Marburg and Frankfurt, Germany and in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (now Serbia).
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Context - The World Health Organization says that Equatorial Guinea has confirmed its first-ever outbreak of Marburg disease

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Rail Vikas Kaushal Yojana’

1. It is a skill development scheme with a special focus on providing training for jobs that are relevant to the Railways under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
2. The training is provided free of cost to the candidates and there is a provision for providing employment under this scheme

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.66) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana is a skill development scheme with a special focus on providing training for jobs that are relevant to the Railways. It is a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).	The training is provided free of cost to the candidates. A dedicated website has been developed for monitoring RKVY. There is no provision of providing employment under this scheme. However, this scheme is a skill development programme for the unemployed youths of India to impart technical training in various trades to enhance their employability and entrepreneurship.

Context - To empower youth by providing them entry level skill training in Railway Training Institutes, “Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana” (RKVY) has been notified on Indian Railways.

Q.67) With reference to ‘Vibrant Villages Programme’, consider the following statements

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that will provide funds for development of essential infrastructure along all the land borders of the country
2. Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats
3. More than half of the financial allocation under this scheme will be used for providing drinking water and electricity

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.67) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that will provide funds for development of essential infrastructure and creation of livelihood opportunities in 19 Districts and 46 Border blocks 4 states and 1 UT along the northern land border of the country which will help in achieving inclusive growth and retaining the population in the border areas. In the first phase 663 Villages will be taken up in the programme.	Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats. 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured.	Out of financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crore 2500 crore rupees will be used for roads. Key outcomes that have been attempted are, connectivity with all weather road, drinking water, 24x7 electricity – Solar and wind energy to be given focussed attention, mobile and internet connectivity. Tourist centers, multi-purpose centers and health and wellness Centers.

Context - Cabinet approves Centrally Sponsored Scheme- “Vibrant Villages Programme” for the Financial Years 2022-23 to 2025-26 with financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crore

Q.68) Consider the following statements

1. The institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in India under the provisions of the Indian Councils Act of 1909 also known as Minto-Morley Reforms

2. The Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker's office when the Speaker is absent but not when the office is vacant
3. Deputy Speaker automatically becomes the chairman of a parliamentary committee whenever he is appointed as a member

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.68) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms).	The Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker's office when it is vacant. He also acts as the Speaker when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both the cases, he assumes all the powers of the Speaker.	The Deputy Speaker has one special privilege, that is, whenever he is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he automatically becomes its chairman. When the Speaker presides over the House, the Deputy Speaker is like any other ordinary member of the House.

Context - The Supreme Court issued notices to the Centre and five states — Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand — over the failure to elect a Deputy Speaker.

Q.69) With reference to 'River Cities Alliance', consider the following statements

1. It is a dedicated platform for river cities implemented jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
2. DHARA which stands for Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers is the annual meeting of the members of the River Cities Alliance (RCA) organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

Select the correct statement(s)

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.69) Solution(c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
RCA is a dedicated platform for river cities to ideate, discuss and exchange information for sustainable management of urban rivers. It includes cities from both the Ganga basin and non-Ganga basin states. It is being implemented by a partnership of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. River Cities Alliance (RCA) started with 30 cities in 2021 and currently has 95 cities as members across India.	DHARA which stands for Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers, the annual meeting of the members of the River Cities Alliance (RCA), is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

Context - DHARA - Annual Meeting Of Members Of The River Cities Alliance was held In Pune on 13th - 14th February, 2023

Q.70) Which one of the following statements best describes 'Data embassies'

- Embassy of a country which operates completely digitally without physical presence
- Server resources owned by a nation-state outside its territorial boundaries
- Platform where all the data with respect to citizens of foreign countries are stored
- Servers which store all the tax related and financial information for exchange between countries

Q.70) Solution(b)

A data embassy refers to server resources owned and maintained by a nation-state outside its territorial boundaries, according to its own laws. They are a set of servers that store one country's data and are under that country's jurisdiction while being located in another country. It is a physical data centre of trusted nations which enjoy diplomatic immunity from local laws.

Context - The government announced the setting up of Data embassies in its budget 2023-24.

Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority'

- It is a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Finance
- It is entrusted with protecting the interests of investors investing in securities and providing financial education to the investors

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.71) Solution(d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, of 2013. It comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs	The Authority is entrusted with the responsibility of administration of the Investor Education Protection Fund (IEPF) and making refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures etc. to investors and promote awareness among investors.

Context - IEPFA under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs organised a State Level Conference on Financial Literacy in Amrit Kaal - Empowering Investors in association with the Department of Tourism in Aizawl, Mizoram

Q.72) 'Omorgus Khandesh' which was discovered recently is a species of

- a) Honeybee
- b) Bird
- c) Beetle
- d) Tortoise

Q.72) Solution(c)

Omorgus Khandesh is a necrophagous and also called a keratin beetle. This species belongs to the Trogidae family. With the addition of this new species, now there are a total of 14 extant species of this family in India. The beetles of this group are sometimes called hide beetles as they tend to cover their body under the soil and hide.

Context - A new beetle species has been discovered in India, according to a paper published in the New Zealand-based journal Zootaxa.

Q.73) With reference to 'Khajuraho Group of Monuments', consider the following statements

1. It is a group of Hindu and Buddhist temples built in Nagara style of architecture

2. Famous travellers such as Xuanzang, Al-biruni and Ibn Battuta mention these monuments in their memoirs
3. All the temples here face sunrise and the territory is laid out in three triangles that converge to form a pentagon

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.73) Solution(b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Khajuraho Group of Monuments are a group of Hindu and Jain temples in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, India. They are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temples are famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and a few erotic sculptures	The first documented mention of Khajuraho was made in 641 by Xuanzang, a Chinese pilgrim who described encountering several dozen inactive Buddhist monasteries and a dozen Hindu temples with a thousand worshipping brahmins. In 1022 CE, Khajuraho was mentioned by Abu Rihan-al-Biruni, the Persian historian who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni in his raid of Kalinjar; he mentions Khajuraho as the capital of Jajahuti. Ibn Battuta, the Moroccan traveller in his memoirs about his stay in India from 1335 to 1342 AD, mentioned visiting Khajuraho temples, calling them "Kajarra"	All temples, except one (Chaturbhuj) face the sunrise – another symbolic feature that is predominant in Hindu temples. The relative layout of temples integrate masculine and feminine deities and symbols highlight the interdependence. The territory is laid out in three triangles that converge to form a pentagon. Scholars suggest that this reflects the Hindu symbolism for three realms or trilokinatha, and five cosmic substances or panchbhuteshvara

Context - Twenty-three repatriated Indian antiquities will be exhibited and each of their stories told to G-20 delegates at Khajuraho as part of efforts to strengthen the mechanism to prevent illicit trafficking in antiquities

Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Zinc Production in India'

1. India is the second largest producer of zinc in the world and most of the zinc produced is exported overseas
2. Rajasthan is endowed with the largest deposits of zinc in India and most of the deposits are found underground

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.74) Solution(a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
India is the fourth largest producer of Zinc in the world and 80% of Zinc produced in India is consumed domestically.	Rajasthan is endowed with the largest reserves/ resources of lead-zinc ore amounting to 670.34 million tonnes (89.44%), followed by Andhra Pradesh 22.69 million tonnes (3.03%), Madhya Pradesh 14.84 million tonnes (1.98%), Bihar 11.43 million tonnes (1.52%) and Maharashtra 9.27 million tonnes (1.24%). 80% of zinc mines are located underground, 8% are of the open pit type, with the remainder a combination of both. In terms of production volume, underground mines account for as much as 64% of overall zinc production, combined underground/open pit mines provide 21%, and the remaining 15% is sourced from open pit mines.

Context - Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation spoke about the potential of zinc for sectors like renewable energy, rural electrification, galvanizing the structure in smart cities

Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Organization for Migration'

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations working in the field of migration
2. It provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons
3. World Migration Report is the flagship publication of the IOM

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.75) Solution(b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization and it has been a related organization to the United Nations with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The IOM is the principal UN agency working in the field of migration.	It provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers. The IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and addressing forced migration.	Since 2000, IOM has been producing its flagship world migration reports every two years. The World Migration Report 2022, the eleventh in the world migration report series, has been produced to contribute to increased understanding of migration and mobility throughout the world

Context - The United Nations migration agency says at least 73 Europe-bound migrants are missing and presumed dead after a shipwreck off Libya's coast

Q.76) 'Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii, Staphylococcus aureus', a group of bacteria seen in news are known for

- a) Oil decomposition
- b) Probiotics
- c) Biofilm formation
- d) Denitrification

Q.76) Solution (c)

Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii, Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli are proven biofilm-forming bacteria. Researchers from ARCI, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have developed a nanocomposite coating ((named at ARCI as ATL)) by combining water repellence and biocidal property (combinatorial approach), which exhibits both hydrophobic and biocidal behaviour. ATL was deposited on different surgical sutures made of silk, nylon, and polyglactin 910 (vicryl) in addition to surgical instrument grade stainless steel 420 coupons and tested for biofilm inhibition against American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) and clinical isolate strains of proven biofilm-forming

bacteria such as Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii, Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli

Context - A newly developed nanocomposite coating can inhibit biofilm formation and also kill attached bacteria, thereby helping tackle growing post-operative infections, a common occurrence these days due to antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

Q.77) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act’

1. The Act empowers the Central government to designate an organization or an individual as a terrorist entity on the same grounds
2. The permission of the State government for prosecution is not required under any provision of the Act
3. Normal bail rules do not apply for charges under this Act and pre-charge sheet time is extended to 180 days

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.77) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism. The Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.	For prosecution under Section 13 of the UAPA, the permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is required. However, for prosecution under Sections 16,17 and 18, the permission of the respective State government is required. Section 25 allows the NIA to seize property it considers to be proceeds of terrorism, with the written consent of the Director General of Police (DGP) of the State.	The police normally have 60 to 90 days to investigate a case and submit a charge-sheet failing which the accused may obtain default bail. However, under the UAPA, this pre-charge sheet time is extended to 180 days. Further, normal bail rules do not apply to an accused under Section 43(d)5 of the UAPA

Context - The Central Government declared Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) as terrorist organizations under the provisions of the UAPA

Q.78) Consider the following statements

1. Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA) governs organ donations in India and it also legalizes the concept of brain death
2. Only a person not less than eighteen years of age and in good condition is eligible for organ donation

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.78) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The primary legislation governing organ transplantation in India is the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, passed in 1994. It provides a system to regulate the removal, storage, and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs. It also legalizes the concept of 'brain death', the permanent cessation of all brain functions.	Living Donor is any person not less than 18 years of age who voluntarily authorizes the removal of any of his organ and/or tissue, during their lifetime, as per prevalent medical practices for therapeutic purposes. The donor can be a family member, relative, friend, neighbour, or in-law. Deceased Donor is anyone, regardless of age, who can become an organ and tissue donor after their death (Brainstem/Cardiac). Consent of a near relative or a person in lawful possession of the dead body is required.

Context - Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare removed the clause that people beyond 65 years could not receive cadaver organ transplants.

Q.79) With reference to 'Payment aggregators', consider the following statements

1. Payment Aggregators are incorporated under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act and could either a bank or non-bank entity
2. Payment Aggregators require a license from Reserve Bank of India to operate as they handle funds

3. Payment aggregator is an intermediary while the payment gateway is the interface where the transactions are processed

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.79) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
A payment aggregator in India is incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 / 2013. Now, it can be a bank or a non-bank entity.	Since a PA handles funds, it requires a license from the Reserve Bank of India. However, only non-bank payment aggregators require unique authorization from RBI. This is because 'handling funds' is considered a part of the normal banking relationships for bank PAs.	A payment gateway acts as a transaction intermediary between merchants and customers for the payment of goods/services being purchased online. A payment aggregator is a further layer of an interface that allows any kind of transaction across online and /or offline touchpoints.

Context - The payments arm of big technology companies Amazon and Google are among 32 firms that have been given in-principle approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as online payment aggregators.

Q.80) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Lavani'

- 1. It is a combination of traditional song and dance popular in Maharashtra
- 2. It is an indigeneous art form which originated during the Peshwa era

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.80) Solution (a)

Statement analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Lavani is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra, India. Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance, which particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument. Lavani is noted for its powerful rhythm. Lavani has contributed substantially to the development of Marathi folk theatre. In Maharashtra and southern Madhya Pradesh it is performed by the female performers wearing nine-yard long sarees.	As an indigenous art form, Lavani has a history going back several centuries, and it attained particular popularity in the Peshwa era in the 18th century. Traditionally, performances were held in front of kings or lords, and for the entertainment of tired soldiers resting during breaks in fighting.

Context – the art form was in news**Q.81) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Pangolin'**

1. Indian Pangolin is widely distributed throughout all the regions of India except high Himalayas
2. It is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and classified as Endangered on IUCN Red List

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.81) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East. It can be found at elevation up to 2500 m. The species also occurs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The species is understood to occur in various types of tropical forests as well as open land, grasslands and degraded habitats,	It is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and classified as Endangered on IUCN Red List. The Indian pangolin is listed on CITES Appendix I since January 2017 and is protected in all range countries.

including in close proximity to villages. The species can adapt well to modified habitats, provided its ant and termite prey remains abundant.

Context - International non-profit organization TRAFFIC recently reported that 1,203 pangolins had been found in illegal wildlife trade in India from 2018 to 2022.

Q.82) If a geomagnetic storm reaches the Earth, which of the following are the possible effects on the Earth?

1. Disruption of global navigation systems
2. Slowing down of ocean currents
3. Creation of auroras at poles
4. Radio communication is affected
5. Intensification of glacier melting
6. Difficulty in controlling satellites
7. Harmful currents induced in power grid and pipelines

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- b) 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only
- c) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Q.82) Solution (c)

The hazards associated with geomagnetic storms are ->

1. Because the ionosphere is heated and distorted during storms, long range radio communication that relies on sub-ionospheric reflection can be difficult or impossible and global-positioning system (GPS) communications can be degraded.
2. Ionospheric expansion can increase satellite drag and make their orbits difficult to control.
3. During magnetic storms, satellite electronics can be damaged through the build up and discharge of static-electric charges. Astronauts and high altitude pilots can be subjected to increased levels of radiation.
4. Even though rapid magnetic field variations are generated by currents in space, very real effects can result down here on the Earth's surface. That includes voltage surges in power grids that cause blackouts.
5. The Aurora Borealis or "Northern Lights" and the Aurora Australis or "Southern Lights" occur during geomagnetic storms when charged particles impact the Earth's upper atmosphere

It is not known to cause slowing down of ocean currents and intensification of glacier melting.

Context - A Geomagnetic Storm was caused by a solar wind that passed through a gap created in the Earth's magnetic field recently.

Q.83) With reference to 'Rhododendrons', consider the following statements

1. Rhododendron is a large genus of woody flowering plants found mainly in Eastern Himalayas, Western Himalayas and central highlands
2. It is considered as an indicator species for climate change and used in traditional medicine
3. Around one-third of all rhododendrons in India are found in Sikkim and Darjeeling Himalayas

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.83) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Rhododendron is a large genus of flowering plants and is found mainly in Eastern Himalayas, Western Himalayas and Nilgiris. Some plants of Rhododendron are evergreen and some are deciduous in nature. The species is found in varied habitats from subtropical forests to alpine shrubs, rhododendrons range from dwarf shrubs to large trees. They are not found in central highlands	Rhododendron, meaning rose tree in Greek, is considered an indicator species for climate change. They have been used in traditional medicine for their medicinal properties. In some regions, the bark, leaves, and flowers of these plants are used to treat a range of ailments, including fever, headache, and inflammation.	Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas are home to more than one-third of all types of rhododendrons found in India. The publication titled ' Rhododendrons of Sikkim and Darjeeling Himalaya- An Illustrated Account' lists 45 taxa of rhododendrons (36 species, 1 subspecies, 1 variety, and 7 natural hybrids). There are 132 taxa (80 species, 25 subspecies and 27 varieties) of rhododendrons found in India. Of the 45 taxa recorded in the publication, 24 are found in the Darjeeling Himalayas and 44 in the Sikkim Himalayas.

Context – A report on rhododendrons in Sikkim and Darjeeling Himalayas was published

Q.84) 'Dharma Guardian' is a bilateral military exercise conducted between India and

- a) United Kingdom
- b) Indonesia
- c) Nepal
- d) Japan

Q.84) Solution (d)

Exercise Dharma Guardian-2023 is the 4th joint military exercise between India and Japan which is being conducted since 2018. The scope of this exercise covers platoon-level joint training on operations in jungle and semi-urban or urban terrain. Troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army and an Infantry Regiment from the Middle Army of the Japan Ground Self Defence Force are participating in the exercise.

Context - A joint military exercise Dharma Guardian between India and Japan to begin from 17 February 2023 at Camp Imazu in Japan.

Q.85) Consider the following statements about 'GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)'

1. It was established by the Central Government under The Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017
2. It will serve as a forum for the first appeal in GST laws and the first common forum for dispute resolution between Centre and States.

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.85) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Section 109 of Chapter XVIII Chapter of Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 Act empowers the Central Government to constitute an Appellate Tribunal known as the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal for hearing on the recommendation of Council, by notification, with effect from such date as	Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal is the form of the second appeal in GST laws and the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States. The appeals against the orders in first appeals issued by the Appellate Authorities under the Central GST

may be specified therein on the recommendation of GST Council.

(CGST) and State GST (SGST) Acts lie before the GST Appellate Tribunal.

Context - The GST Council in its 49th meeting accepted the Group of Ministers' (GoM) recommendations on long pending constitution of GST appellate tribunal in the country with some modifications

Q.86) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth – PM PRANAM scheme'

1. The scheme seeks to incentivise states that use lesser amounts of chemical fertilisers in a particular year against the average quantity of fertilisers used over the last year
2. The scheme will have a non-lapsable fund financed partly by the agriculture cess and partly by the Union budget

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.86) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The PM-PRANAM scheme seeks to incentivise states that use lesser amounts of chemical fertilisers in a particular year, something that will be gauged against the average quantity of fertilisers used by the state over the past three years.	The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be financed by the "savings of existing fertiliser subsidy" under schemes run by the Department of Fertilizers. Further, 50% subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money. 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to technological adoption of alternate fertilizers and alternate fertiliser production units at village, block and district levels. The remaining 30% grant money can be used for incentivizing farmers, panchayats, farmer producer organisations and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertiliser use and awareness generation.

Context - National Conference on Agriculture for Zaid Campaign-2023 was held recently where PM PRANAM scheme was mentioned.

Q.87) 'ADT 52' a term seen in news recently refers to

- a) A climate resilient crop variety
- b) A pathogen responsible for blight
- c) A spyware tool
- d) A blockchain prototype

Q.87) Solution (a)

ADT 52, which stands for 'Aduthurai 52', is a long-duration paddy variety. It takes at least 150 days for the plant to grow. It gives a high yield and can withstand the impact of unseasonal rains. It is resistant to gall midge and moderately resistant to leaf blast, neck blast, grain discoloration, and bacterial leaf blight.

Context - Testing the ADT-52 paddy crop among 10 farmers in the district, experts of the ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sikkal, Nagapattinam, found the crop to be resistant of rains.

Q.88) With reference to 'Uroosi', consider the following statements

1. It is a Mughal era architecture element introduced by Shah Jahan
2. They are wooden doors with sloping roof which can withstand seismic shocks
3. Uroosi work contains octagonal and decagonal ornamental pillars

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.88) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Uroosi is a Mughal-era home architectural element which was introduced by Shah Jahan to Kashmir.	Uroosis are wooden shutters used as partition walls within homes, instead of concrete walls. The wooden shutters could be rolled up to make one room, or rolled down from hanging grooves in ceiling chambers, to partition the space into separate areas. However, it	Uroosi work includes octagonal and decagonal ornamental pillars too.

	has the ability to absorb seismic shocks and withstand it.	
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Context - A Mughal-era architectural feature called Uroosi is one of Kashmir's answers to the seismic threat it faces

Q.89) Consider the following statements about 'Chandrayaan 3'

1. It is an interplanetary mission which has four major modules namely the Propulsion module, Lander module, Orbiter module and Rover
2. It will be launched by Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM 3) to the lunar orbit
3. Radio frequency links will be established between different modules for communication

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.89) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Chandrayaan-3 interplanetary mission has three major modules: the Propulsion module, Lander module, and Rover. It will not have an orbiter, but its propulsion module will behave like a communications relay satellite.	It will be launched by LVM3 from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota. The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit. The propulsion module has Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload to study the spectral and Polari metric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.	The mission's complexity calls for establishing radio-frequency (RF) communication links between the modules.

Context - Chandrayaan-3 successfully underwent EMI-EMC test(Electro-Magnetic Interference/ Electro-Magnetic Compatibility).

Q.90) Consider the following statements about 'Under water noise emissions'

1. It is measured to be more than hundred decibels in the Indian waters and is slightly more in the western coast than the eastern coast
2. Continuous shipping movement is identified to be a significant contributor to the increase in the global ocean noise level

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.90) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The UNE or underwater sound pressure levels in the Indian waters are 102-115 decibels, relative to one microPascal (dB re 1 μ Pa). The East Coast level is slightly higher than that of the West. There is an increase by a significant value of about 20 dB re 1 μ Pa.	Continuous shipping movement is identified to be a major contributor to the increase in the global ocean noise level, according to a new study titled Measuring Underwater Noise Levels Radiated by Ships in Indian Waters at the Visakhapatnam Port (for the East). "The frequencies of ships' underwater self-noise and machinery vibration levels are overlapping the marine species' communication frequencies in the low-frequency range of less than 500 Hz. This is called masking, which could have led to a change in the migration route of the marine species to the shallow regions and also making it difficult for them to go back to the deeper water.

Context - Underwater noise emissions by ships pose threat to Indian marine species, says study**Q.91) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Committee of Privileges'**

1. The Committee examines every question of privilege referred to it either by the House or by the Chairman
2. The Speaker may refer to the Committee any petition regarding disqualification of a member on ground of defection

3. The members of the Committee are elected by the respective houses separately

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.91) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Committee examines every question of privilege referred to it either by the House or by the Chairman and determines with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of privilege is involved and, if so, the nature of the breach, the circumstances leading to it and makes such recommendations as it deems fit.	The Speaker may refer to the Committee any petition regarding disqualification of a member on ground of defection for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him. The procedure to be followed by the Committee in these cases is so far as may be same as in applicable to questions of breach of privilege.	This committee consists of 15 members in Lok Sabha (10 in case of Rajya Sabha) nominated by the Speaker (Chairman in case of Rajya Sabha). In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges.

Context - Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has asked the committee of privileges to investigate the alleged breach of privilege by 12 opposition lawmakers

Q.92) 'Operation Golden Dawn' recently seen in news is related to

- a) Drug trafficking
- b) Illegal wildlife trade
- c) Counterfeit currency
- d) Gold smuggling

Q.92) Solution (d)

In a pan India operation Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a gold smuggling syndicate of Sudanese nationals operating through Nepal border. The seized gold, mostly in paste form, was being brought to Patna through the Indo-Nepal border and then transported via train or by air to different parts

of the country, largely to Mumbai. In the present operation, code named Golden Dawn, DRI seized a total of approximately 101.7 kg gold valued at ₹51 crore along with ₹74 lakh worth foreign currency

Context - DRI seizes 101.7 kg smuggled gold worth ₹51 crore in Golden Dawn Operation across India

Q.93) With reference to 'The UN Commission for Social Development', consider the following statements

1. It is one of the functional commissions established by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
2. The Chair of the CSocD is elected by the members of the Commission who in turn are elected by UN General Assembly

Select the correct 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
Incorrect	Incorrect
The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is one of the eight functional commissions established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1946 to advise and assist it in carrying its work.	The Commission for Social Development consists of 46 members elected by ECOSOC. The Bureau comprises a chair and four vice-chairs. Bureau members are elected by the Commission at the first meeting of a regular session, held immediately after the end of a regular session for the sole purpose of electing a new bureau

Context - India has been elected as the Chair of the UN Commission for Social Development for 62nd Session. This is the first time since 1975 that India has become Chair of the Commission for Social Development

Q.94) With reference to 'Jaadui Pitara', consider the following statements

1. It is a play-based learning material for children in the age group of three to eight years designed based on the motto of National Education Policy
2. It reflects the local culture, social context to accommodate the diverse needs of learners and is available in all the scheduled languages

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.94) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The 'Jaadui Pitara' or 'Magic Collection is a play-based learning material for children in the age group of three to eight years. It is launched by the Union Ministry of Education. "Jaadui Pitara" has been designed on the motto of "learning through play", as envisaged in the new National Education Policy (NEP)	'Jadui Pitara' comprises of playbooks, toys, puzzles, posters, flash cards, story books, worksheets as well as reflecting the local culture, social context and languages is designed to pique curiosity and accommodate the diverse needs of learners in the foundational stage. 'Jadui Pitara' developed under the National Curriculum Framework is available in 13 Indian languages

Context - As envisaged under National Education Policy 2020, Union Education Minister launched Learning - Teaching Material for Foundational Stage

Q.95) Consider the following statements

1. Bar Council Act of India defines two classes of advocates namely senior advocates and other advocates
2. Senior judges are assigned by the Full Court on the basis of simple majority held by secret ballot
3. The Chief Justice of India or any other judge could recommend the name of an advocate for designation to the committee

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.95) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
Under Section 16 of the Advocates Act 1961 two classes of advocates are classified; Senior Advocate and Junior or those who are not designated as seniors. A senior advocate is not permitted to appear without an Advocate-on-record or any junior.	The proposal for designation is published on the official website of the concerned court, inviting suggestions and views. After that, the permanent secretariat forwards these proposals to the permanent committee for scrutiny. The committee then interviews the candidate and makes an overall evaluation based on years of practice, pro-bono work undertaken, judgments, publications, and a personality test. Once a candidate's name is approved, it will be forwarded to the Full Court to decide on the basis of the majority. If the candidate gets the apt votes, then he is allowed to be designated as a senior advocate but if rejected then the applicant can send the application again only after the lapse of two years. The Full Court can also recall the designation of a senior advocate.	The CJI or any other judge could recommend the name of an advocate for designation. Alternatively, advocates could submit their applications, to be evaluated on criteria like 10-20 years of legal practice as an advocate, district judge, or judicial member of an Indian tribunal

Context - The Central government is seeking to change guidelines for the designation of senior lawyers, issued by the Supreme Court in the aftermath of its 2017 ruling in the case of 'Indira Jaising vs. Union of India'.

Q.96) With reference to 'Mulethi', consider the following statements

1. It is a fungus grown in the foothills of Himalayas
2. It is endemic to India
3. It has a sweet taste due to the presence of glycyrrhizin
4. Himachal Pradesh became the first state to have organized cultivation of Mulethi
5. India is one of the top exporters of Mulethi

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

- a) 1, 3 and 5

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

Q.96) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4	Statement 5
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct	Correct	Incorrect
It is a perennial herb grown in temperate zones. The plant parts used are runners and roots, which are collected in the fall season. Mulethi is the common name of Glycyrrhiza glabra, a flowering plant of the bean family Fabaceae, from the root of which a sweet, aromatic flavouring can be extracted.	The liquorice plant is an herbaceous perennial legume native to Western Asia, North Africa, and Southern Europe.	The roots have a sweet taste due to the presence of glycyrrhizin, which is 50 times sweeter than sucrose.	Himachal Pradesh has recently begun the commercial cultivation of licorice (Mulethi) to become the first state in India to have organized cultivation of Mulethi.	Mulethi is grown mainly in Afghanistan, while minor producing countries include Pakistan, China, Nepal and India. India imports 8047 tonnes of liquorice annually from Afghanistan

Context - Himachal Pradesh has recently begun the commercial cultivation of licorice (Mulethi)**Q.97) With reference to 'Astrosat', consider the following statements**

1. It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously
2. The mission aims to understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes and study star birth regions lying beyond our galaxy

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.97) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously. One of the unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.	The objectives of the mission are - To understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes, estimate magnetic fields of neutron stars, study star birth regions and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy, detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky, perform a limited deep field survey of the Universe in the Ultraviolet region.

Context - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) to allow scientists and researchers to analyse data from the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission, AstroSat.

Q.98) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)'

1. The Convention established the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations charged with coordinating international air travel
2. It is one of the very few conventions which has never been amended since inception
3. The convention states that the non-scheduled international aircraft of contracting states have the right to make flights across other state's territories without obtaining prior permission

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.98) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the Chicago Convention, established the	The Convention has since been revised eight times (in 1959,	Article 5 of the convention states that each contracting State agrees that all aircraft of the other contracting States,

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations charged with coordinating international air travel.	1963, 1969, 1975, 1980, 1997, 2000 and 2006)	being aircraft not engaged in scheduled international air services shall have the right, to make stops for non-traffic purposes without the necessity of obtaining prior permission
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Context - Cabinet approves the ratification of three Protocols relating to amendments in the convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), 1944

Q.99) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Sansad Ratna Awards’

1. The awards were instituted based on the teachings of former President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
2. The jury committee of the awards consists of parliamentarians and civil society alike and given by the Government of India

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.99) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted in 2010, inspired by the teachings of former President APJ Abdul Kalam, who launched the first edition of the Award function in Chennai. They seek to recognise and felicitate the top performing Members of Parliament on the basis of their work in the apex legislative body.	The Sansad Ratna Awards Press Release mentions that its jury committee comprises “eminent Parliamentarians and (members of) civil society”. The Sansad Ratna Awards are not given by the Government of India, though over the years, its jury members have included individuals in the government. The awards were instead the brainchild of K Srinivasan, a communication strategist who founded the Prime Point Foundation in 1999.

Context - Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated his fellow Members of Parliament who will be conferred the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023

Q.100) ‘Wagner Group’ seen in news often is a/are

- a) Cybercrime group
- b) Private military organization
- c) Business lobbyists
- d) Paramedics involved in rescue operations

Q.100) Solution (b)

The Wagner Group is a Russian paramilitary organization. It is variously described as a private military company (PMC), a network of mercenaries, or a de facto private army of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The group operates beyond the law in Russia, where private military contractors are officially forbidden.

Context – The organization was in news due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war

Q.101) 'Sinthan Pass' connects which of the following two regions

- a) Chumbi Valley and Nubra Valley
- b) Upper Dibang Valley and Dihing Valley
- c) Breng Valley and Chenab Valley
- d) Jhelum Valley and Zoji La Valley

Q.101) Solution (c)

Sinthan Top is a mountain pass, a popular tourist destination located between South Kashmir's Breng Valley (Sub-District Kokernag) in Anantnag district and Kishtwar district of Chenab Valley in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Majority of the area lies on the Kishtwar side. The top acts as a sort of base camp to several alpine lakes in the region.

Context – The pass was reopened recently

Q.102) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968'

1. It specifies that the Election Commission of India is the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger
2. The order classifies the election symbols into reserved, frozen and free symbols
3. The order mentions the conditions for a party to be recognized as a national, state party and also for continued recognition of a party

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.102) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the ECI to recognise political parties and allot symbols. Under Paragraph 15 of the Order, the ECI is the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger.	The order classifies the election symbols into reserved and free symbols. A reserved symbol is a symbol which is reserved for a recognised political party for exclusive allotment to contesting candidates set up by that party and a free symbol is a symbol other than a reserved symbol	The order mentions the conditions for a party to be recognized as a national, state party and also for continued recognition of a party

Context – The order was in news due to allotment of a state party symbol to one faction recently.

Q.103) Consider the following statements about 'Keeladi excavations'

1. It is a Sangam period settlement lying on the bank of river Palar that is being excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India
2. This site is estimated to be from the period between the 5th century BCE and the 3rd century CE and evidences of Tamil-Brahmi script have been found

Select the correct statement(s)

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Keeladi excavation site is a Sangam period settlement that is being excavated by the Archaeological Survey of	In the fourth phase of excavations at Keezhadi, 72 potsherds with Tamil-Brahmi

India and the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department. The settlement lies on the bank of the Vaigai River. This is a large-scale excavation carried out in Tamil Nadu after the Adichanallur archaeological site.

script were discovered at the site. Some of these artifacts have inscribed graffiti marks, similar to graffiti marks which some believe to have evolved from the Indus script.

Context - The excavations here from 2015 prove that an urban civilisation existed in Tamil Nadu in the Sangam age on the banks of the Vaigai river.

Q.104) Consider the following statements about 'Law Commission of India'

1. It is statutory body constituted by the Government of India under the Ministry of Law and justice
2. The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era and was chaired by Lord Cornwallis
3. The recommendations of the commission are not binding on the government

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.104) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Law Commission of India is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India. The commission's function is to research and advise the government on legal reform, and is composed of legal experts, and headed by a retired judge. The commission is established for a fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.	The first Law Commission was established in 1834 by the British government under the chairmanship of Lord Macaulay.	The recommendations of the commission are not binding on the government. "They are recommendations. They may be accepted or rejected. Action on the said recommendations depends on the ministries/departments, which are concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations." This has resulted in a number of important and critical recommendations not being implemented.

Context - Term of 22nd Law Commission extended till August, 2024

Q.105) With reference to 'LORA (Long-Range Artillery) Weapon System', consider the following statements

1. It is a sea-to-ground and ground-to-ground system which comprises a long-range ballistic missile and an unique launcher
2. Its guidance system is solely based on Inertial Navigation System (INS) and does not require Global Positioning System (GPS)

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.105) Solution (a)

Statement analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
It is a sea-to-ground and ground-to-ground system which comprises a long-range ballistic missile, a unique launcher, a command and control system, and a ground/marine support system. It provides ballistic assault capabilities for multiple ranges with a precision level of 10 meters CEP (circular error probable). The LORA uses a shaped trajectory flight mode. LORA is stored in a sealed canister, enabling very low maintenance costs.	Its guidance system is based on both the Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Inertial Navigation System (INS), with possible in-flight maneuvering capability.

Context - Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has signed an MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for domestic manufacture and supply of its LORA Weapon System for the Indian Tri-services.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy report'

1. The report captures the role of language in education and the fundamental concepts children require to become skilled readers
2. The report's findings cover the role of nutrition, access to digital technology and language-focused instructional approach
3. It is released by the Ministry of Education in association with NGO Pratham

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.106) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) report captures the role of language in education and focuses on improving the learning outcomes using appropriate assessments and medium of instruction. It captures the fundamental concepts children require to become skilled readers and highlights distinct challenges faced in a multilingual environment.	The report's findings cover the role of nutrition, access to digital technology and language-focused instructional approach. The report continues to be a benchmark for states and union territories to track their performance relative to their peers in achieving universal foundational learning by 2026-27.	It was prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness, India at Harvard Business School.

Context - The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Report submitted to EAC-PM by IFC released by Dr Bibek Debroy in the India dialog conference

Q.107) 'Borthequera' a plant seen in news recently is mentioned in the context of

- a) Biofuel production
- b) Threat to endemism
- c) Medicinal applications
- d) Textile manufacturing

Q.107) Solution (c)

Garcinia pedunculata, a medicinal plant commonly called 'Borthequera' in the Assamese language, traditionally forbidden for raw consumption, has been found to protect from heart diseases. Administration of the dried pulp of the ripe fruit of the medicinal plant reduced cardiac hypertrophy indicators and oxidative stress and heart inflammation brought on by ISO. The sun-dried slices of the ripe fruit are used for culinary and medicinal purposes and are known to have therapeutic properties like anti-inflammatory, anthelmintic, antibacterial, antifungal, antidiabetic, hypolipidemic, nephroprotective, and even neuroprotective activity.

Context - Medicinal plant commonly called Borthekera in Assamese found to have cardioprotective potential

Q.108) With reference to 'Social Stock Exchange', consider the following statements

1. It is a platform where non-profit or non-government organizations are allowed to be listed to raise funds
2. It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India in association with National Stock Exchange

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.108) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Social Stock Exchange allows the listing of non-profit or non-government organizations on stock exchanges, providing them with an alternative fund-raising structure. It may be listed on BSE or NSE. The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of 16 broad activities listed by the regulator. The eligible activities include- Eradicating hunger poverty, malnutrition and inequality, promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability and livelihoods, empowerment of women-LGBTQIA communities and supporting incubators of social enterprise.	It is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India. According to Sebi's framework, a minimum issue size of ₹1 crore and a minimum application size for the subscription of ₹2 lakh are currently required for SSE.

Context - The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to set up a Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

Q.109) Consider the following statements about 'Dekho Apna Desh scheme'

1. The scheme aims to push people especially the middle-class citizens to travel broadly in India rather than flying abroad
2. The scheme will provide financial assistance to those travelling to less frequented or far off destinations

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.109) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The scheme aims to promote tourism and encourage people to explore the rich cultural heritage and diversity of India. This scheme primarily targets the middle-class citizens of the country, encouraging them to travel within India rather than abroad.	The 'Dekho Apna Desh' scheme will provide financial assistance to those travelling to less frequented or far off destinations. Under the scheme, travellers will get to enjoy several benefits in hotel rates, travel and entrance fees. Under this plan, around 50 destinations in the country will be developed and promoted to attract tourists.

Context - IRCTC to operate Baba Saheb Ambedkar Yatra tour package under “Dekho Apna Desh” initiative

Q.110) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child’

1. The convention defines a child as any human being under the age of sixteen
2. It is the only convention where all the members of United Nations are party to
3. There are certain optional protocols under this convention
4. The Committee established to implement the convention submits the report to UN General Assembly

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.110) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation	As of 22 February 2023, 196 countries are party to it, including every member of the United Nations except the United States	There are three optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They are Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure	The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, composed of 18 independent experts, is responsible for supervising the implementation of the convention by the states that have ratified it. Once a year, the committee submits a report to the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, which also hears a statement from the CRC Chair, and the Assembly adopts a Resolution on the Rights of the Child

Context – The convention was in news due to recent Supreme Court ruling on children’s right to protect their genetic information

Q.111) ‘International Intellectual Property (IP) Index’ is released by

- a) World Intellectual Property Organization
- b) US Chamber of Commerce
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Trade Organization

Q.111) Solution (b)

International IP Index is released annually by the US Chamber of Commerce. The index evaluates IP rights in 55 global economies across 50 unique indicators. The indicators include patent and copyright policies to commercialization of IP assets, and ratification of international treaties. The United States is ranked first, followed by the UK and France. India is ranked 42nd in the index.

Context - India was ranked 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the recently released International IP Index.

Q.112) With reference to ‘Neutrinos’, consider the following statements

1. Neutrino is a fermion that interacts only via the weak interaction and gravity.
2. Neutrinos are the most abundant particles in the universe
3. For each neutrino there also exists a corresponding antiparticle, called an antineutrino with opposite charge

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.112) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
A Neutrino is a fermion (an elementary particle with spin of $1/2$) that interacts only via the weak interaction and gravity. The neutrino is so named because it is electrically neutral and because its rest mass is so small (-ino) that it was long thought to be zero.	Neutrinos are the second most abundant particles in the cosmos, produced in copious amounts in the cores of stars. Neutrinos are the second-most abundant particle in the universe after light particles (photons)	For each neutrino, there also exists a corresponding antiparticle, called an antineutrino, which also has spin of $1/2$ and no electric charge. Antineutrinos are distinguished from neutrinos by having opposite-signed lepton number and weak isospin, and right-handed instead of left-handed chirality.

Context - The Kamioka Liquid Scintillator Antineutrino Detector (KamLAND) experiment in Japan has found no evidence that neutrinos are their own antiparticles.

Q.113) Consider the following statements about 'Financial Stability Board (FSB)'

1. The Financial Stability Board (FSB) is an international body that monitors and advises on market developments and their implications for regulatory policy
2. The FSB has member institutions comprising ministries of finance, central banks, supervisory and regulatory authorities and standard-setting bodies
3. The Steering Committee is the sole decision-making body of the FSB and the decisions are taken by consensus

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.113) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Financial Stability Board (FSB) is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system. The FSB was established to: promote coordination and information exchange among authorities responsible for financial stability, monitor and advise on market developments and their implications for regulatory policy, Monitor and advise on best practice in meeting regulatory standards among other objectives	The FSB has 71 member institutions, comprising ministries of finance, central banks, and supervisory and regulatory authorities from 25 jurisdictions as well as 13 international organizations and standard-setting bodies, and 6 Regional Consultative Groups reaching out to 65 other jurisdictions around the world	The FSB is a member-driven organisation and decisions are taken by consensus. The Plenary is the sole decision-making body of the FSB. It consists of representatives of all Members. The Steering Committee provides operational guidance between Plenary meetings to carry forward the directions of the FSB and prepare the Plenary meetings in order to allow the Plenary to efficiently fulfil its mandate.

Context - India recently asked the IMF and Financial Stability Board (FSB) to jointly prepare a technical paper on crypto assets.

Q.114) Consider the following statements about 'Mad Cow disease'

1. It is an infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease which causes degeneration in the nervous system of cattle
2. There are certain vaccines to prevent the disease but no treatment exists once the symptoms begin to appear

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.114) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) (commonly known as mad cow disease), is an incurable and invariably fatal neurodegenerative disease of cattle. It is caused by a protein called a prion, which is normally found on cell surfaces, called a prion, A cow gets BSE by eating feed contaminated with parts that came from another cow that was sick with BSE.	There is no treatment for BSE and no vaccine to prevent it. Currently, there is no reliable way to test for BSE in a live cow. After a cow dies, scientists can tell if it had BSE by looking at its brain tissue under a microscope and seeing the spongy appearance.

Context - Brazil has halted its beef exports to China after a case of mad cow disease was confirmed in the northern state of Para.

Q.115) Consider the following statements about 'Himalayan Griffon'

1. It is one of the largest Old World vultures native to the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau
2. It is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List and is protected under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.115) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Himalayan vulture (<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>) or Himalayan griffon vulture is an Old World vulture native to the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau. It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors.	It is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List and also protected under CITES Appendix II, CMS Appendix II.

Context - Among the species sighted in the Patrampur and Bail Parao ranges of the Terai forest range after nearly 15 years is the Himalayan Griffon or Himalayan vulture

Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Seagrasses'

1. Seagrasses are flowering plants that grow submerged in shallow marine waters like bays and lagoons
2. The temperate waters of the Atlantic hold the highest diversity of seagrasses in the world
3. Seagrasses undergo photosynthesis and manufactures their own food and produce oxygen

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.116) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Seagrasses are the only flowering plants which grow in marine environments. Seagrasses are flowering plants that grow submerged in shallow marine waters like bays and lagoons. Seagrasses have roots, stems, and leaves and produce flowers and seeds.	The tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific hold the highest diversity of seagrasses in the world, supporting 14 different species. This is probably because seagrasses evolved first in this part of the world	Like all autotrophic plants, seagrasses photosynthesize, in the submerged photic zone, and most occur in shallow and sheltered coastal waters anchored in sand or mud bottoms. Like all autotrophic plants, seagrasses photosynthesize, in the submerged photic zone, and most occur in shallow and sheltered coastal waters anchored in sand or mud bottoms.

Context - A species of marine seagrass found in the Mandapam region near Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu has the potential to be used in chemotherapy treatment for liver cancer according to a study.

Q.117) With reference to 'Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre Array (ALMA) Telescope', consider the following statements

1. ALMA can provide insights on star birth and detailed imaging of local star and planet formation.
2. It is a part of the Event Horizon Telescope project, a large telescope array consisting of a global network of radio telescopes

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.117) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is an astronomical interferometer of 66 radio telescopes in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile, which observe electromagnetic radiation at millimeter and submillimeter wavelengths. ALMA provides insight on star birth during the early Stelliferous era and detailed imaging of local star and planet formation	ALMA is an international partnership amongst Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Chile. As part of the Event Horizon Telescope project, a large telescope array consisting of a global network of radio telescopes, it provided the first image of the supermassive black hole at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy.

Context - The Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre Array (ALMA), a radio telescope comprising 66 antennas is set to get software and hardware upgrades.

Q.118) 'Pink Bollworm' a pest seen in news is mostly known for affecting

- a) Wheat
- b) Cotton
- c) Areca nut
- d) Chilli

Q.118) Solution (b)

The pink bollworm is an insect known for being a pest in cotton farming. The adult is a small, thin, gray moth with fringed wings. The pink bollworm is native to Asia, but has become an invasive species in most of the world's cotton-growing regions. In parts of India, the pink bollworm is now resistant to first generation transgenic Bt cotton (Bollgard cotton) that expresses a single Bt gene (Cry1Ac).

Context - The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) recently approved confined field trials for Pink Bollworm-resistant GM cotton in Hisar, Haryana

Q.119) With reference to 'Atmanirbhar Clean plant program', consider the following statements

1. The program will aim to enhance the yield of horticulture crops and protect the ecosystem through proactive virus and disease control measures
2. The program will be anchored by National Institute of Plant Health management which in turn will set up Clean Plant Centres across the country

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.119) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The clean plant programme will aim to enhance the yield of horticulture crops, dissemination and adoption of climate resilient varieties; protect the ecosystem through proactive virus and disease control measures. The centres will work with the stakeholders so that they adopt clean plant seeds and nurseries. The national horticulture board may also tie up with the Asian Development Bank	The outlay of the new programme will be Rs. 2,200 crore. The programme will be anchored by the national horticulture board which in turn will set up Clean Plant Centres across the country. These centres will ensure access to disease-free horticulture planting material for the global competitiveness of Indian horticulture sector.

Context - In order to increase domestic production, the Center plans to establish 10 "Clean Plant Centers" as the demand for fruits like apple, avocado and blueberry has increased over time.

Q.120) Consider the following factors

1. Warmer Arabian Sea
2. Direction of wind flow
3. Upper atmospheric westerly winds
4. Increasing lapse rate
5. Expansion of air

Which of the factor(s) given above are the causes of heat wave in Indian context

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.120) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4	Statement 5
Correct	Correct	Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The air flowing in over the oceans is expected to bring cooler air, since land warms faster than the oceans. However, this does not happen as the Arabian Sea is warming faster than most other ocean regions.	In spring, India typically has air flowing in from the west-northwest. The Middle East is warming faster than other regions in latitudes similarly close to the equator, and serves as a source of the warm air that blows into India.	The strong upper atmospheric westerly winds that come in from the Atlantic Ocean over to India during spring control the near-surface winds. The energy to run past the earth near the surface, against the surface friction, can only come from above. This descending air compresses and warms up to generate some heat waves.	It should be noted that the lapse rate is declining under global warming. In other words, global warming tends to warm the upper atmosphere faster than the air near the surface. Hence, the sinking air is warmer due to global warming, and thus produces heat waves as it sinks and compresses.	Air flowing in from the northwest rolls in over the mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan. As a result, some of the compression also happens on the leeward side of these mountains, entering India with a bristling warmth.

Context - The India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that the maximum temperatures over northwest, west, and central India would be 3-5° C higher than the long-term average.