



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

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Q.1) With reference to 'Raisina Dialogue', consider the following statements

1. It is India's premier conference on geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community
2. It is organized by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.1) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. It is held annually since 2016 in New Delhi.	It is organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion involving heads of state, cabinet ministers, and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media, and academia.

Context - The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) recently announced that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni would be the chief guest and keynote speaker at the 8th Raisina Dialogue.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)'

1. It is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
2. The Commission while inquiring into any matter under its ambit has the same powers as are vested in a civil court
3. The NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

- a) 1 and 3 only

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
With the lapsing of the “The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993”, the Commission is acting as a Non-Statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Commission’s tenure is extended from time to time through Government Resolutions	The mandate of the Commission lays down that it has the power to Investigate specific grievances and take suo-motu notice of matters relating to non-implementation of: - programmes or schemes in respect of any group of Safai Karamcharis decisions, and take up such matters with the concerned authorities or with the Central or State Governments. But it does not have the power as are vested in civil courts	With the enactment of “The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013”, the mandate and scope of the Commission has also been enlarged. The Commission shall perform the following functions, namely:- To monitor the implementation of the Act, to enquire into complaints regarding contravention of the provisions of the Act, and to convey its findings to the concerned authorities with recommendations requiring further action.

Context - The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) has got a new chairperson, vice-chairperson and member on board.

Q.3) With reference to ‘Radio Galaxies’, consider the following statements

- It is a particular type of active galaxy that emits more light at radio wavelengths than at visible wavelengths
- Radio galaxies are driven by thermal emissions and are much bigger than most of the other galaxies in the universe

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.3) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Radio Galaxies, also known as radio-luminous galaxies or radio-loud galaxies, are a particular type of active galaxy that emits more light at radio wavelengths than at visible wavelengths. These happen through the interaction between charged particles and strong magnetic fields related to supermassive black holes at the galaxies' center.	Radio galaxies are driven by non-thermal emissions. They are much bigger than most of the other galaxies in the universe. There are two broad classes of radio galaxies: Core-halo radio galaxies: They exhibit radio emission from a region concentrated around the nucleus of the galaxy. The region of radio emission is comparable in size to the optically visible galaxy. Lobed radio galaxies: They display great lobes of radio emission extending, in some cases, for millions of light years beyond the optical part of the galaxy.

Context - A team of astronomers recently discovered several 'elusive dying radio galaxies'.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'E-Waste (Management) Rules 2022'

1. The rules provide for the registration of stakeholders like manufacturer, producer, recycler, refurbisher unlike the earlier rules
2. Any manufacturer, producer, recycler or refurbisher under the rules can store the e-waste only for a period of up to 120 days
3. The rules shall also apply to waste batteries, packaging plastics, micro-enterprises and radioactive wastes

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.4) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The Rules provide for Registration of stakeholders like manufacturer, producer, recycler, refurbisher shall be required to apply for EPR registration. These entities are not allowed to deal with unregistered manufacturers, producers, recyclers and refurbishers.	Any manufacturer, producer, recycler or refurbisher can store the e-waste only for a period of up to 180 days are required to maintain the record of its sale, transfer or storage. The CPCB has the power to extend storage period up to 365 days specifically for recycling or reuse of e-waste.	The products on which e-waste management rules apply can be bifurcated into two categories as follows: Consumer Electricals and Electronics IT and Telecommunication Equipment. However, these shall not apply to waste batteries, packaging plastics, micro-enterprises and radioactive wastes

Context – E- waste Rules were rolled out recently.

Q.5) 'Siang Unying Festival' seen in news is celebrated in

- a) Sikkim
- b) Mizoram
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Manipur

Q.5) Solution (c)

The festival of Unying is celebrated to herald the season of cultivation, beginning of the Adi community's new year, arrival of spring seasons as well as a great way to strengthen the bond among the community. The Adi constitute a major group and inhabit the lower part of the Lower Dibang Valley district, especially the Roing and Dambuk areas of Arunachal Pradesh. They are experts in making cane and bamboo items.

Context - Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, attended the colourful Siang Unying Festival - which is an important festival of the Adi community at Boleng ,Arunachal Pradesh.

Q.6) With respect to 'Controller General of Accounts', consider the following statements

1. CGA is not a constitutional body but derives its mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution
2. CGA is the Principal Advisor on accounting matters to the Union Government
3. CGA is an office under the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance
4. The office is responsible for framing general principles of accounting related to Union or State Governments

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Controller General of Accounts derives his mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution. CGA is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.	Controller General of Accounts (CGA) is: The Principal Advisor on Accounting matters to the Union Government, responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System, responsible for preparation and submission of the accounts of the Union Government Responsible for exchequer control and internal audits	CGA is an office under the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance	Allocation of Business Rules 1961 brings out the duties and responsibilities of CGA as below: (a) General principles of Government accounting relating to Union or State Governments and form of accounts, and framing or revision of rules and manuals relating thereto; (b) Reconciliation of cash balance of Union Government with Reserve Bank in general and, in particular, of Reserve Deposits pertaining to Civil Ministries or Departments; (c) Overseeing the maintenance of adequate standards of accounting by Central Civil Accounts Offices;

Context - Controller General of Accounts celebrated 47th Civil Accounts Day**Q.7) Consider the following statements about 'Westerlies'**

1. Westerlies are the permanent winds that blow from the subtropical high-pressure belts towards sub-polar low-pressure belts
2. The westerlies of the Northern hemisphere are more robust and constant than the westerlies of the Southern hemisphere

Select the correct statement(s)

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Westerlies are the Permanent winds that blow in the middle latitudes. They blow from the subtropical high-pressure belts towards sub-polar low-pressure belts.	The westerlies of the Southern hemisphere are more robust and constant than the westerlies of the Northern hemisphere. The westerlies are particularly strong, especially in the Southern Hemisphere (called also 'Brave West winds' at striking Chile, Tasmania and New Zealand), in areas where land is absent, because land amplifies the flow pattern, making the current more north-south oriented, slowing the westerlies.

Context - A recent study has shown that the Westerlies had a bigger impact on the climate and landscape of the Trans-Himalayan region the evolution of its landscape, particularly during the Mid-Holocene Thermal Maxima

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to 'CE-20 Cryogenic Engine'

1. It will power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
2. It is designed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) and is the last Indian cryogenic engine to feature a gas-generator cycle

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.8) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
CE-20 cryogenic engine will power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-3	It has been designed and developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) , a

mission. The high thrust cryogenic engine is the most powerful upper stage cryogenic engine in operational service

subsidiary of ISRO. It is the first Indian cryogenic engine to feature a gas-generator cycle.

Context - ISRO recently conducted a flight test of cryogenic engine for the Chandrayan-3 mission.

Q.9) 'Windsor Framework' recently seen in news is referred to in the context of

- a) Climate financing
- b) Trade rules
- c) Cyber security
- d) Tax transparency

Q.9) Solution (b)

The Windsor Framework is a proposed post-Brexit legal agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom which was announced on 27 February 2023. It is designed to address the problem of the movement of goods between the European Single Market and the United Kingdom in the current Northern Ireland Protocol. The framework has two crucial aspects – the introduction of a two lanes system and the 'Stormont Brake'.

Context - The 'Windsor Framework' will replace the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Q.10) Consider the following statements about 'International Court of Justice'

1. It is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes
2. The rulings and opinions of ICJ serve as primary sources of international law
3. The court's judgments in contentious cases are final and binding on the parties to a case and without appeal

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.10) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The International Criminal Court is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal seated in The Hague, Netherlands. It is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. It is distinct from the International Court of Justice, an organ of the United Nations that hears disputes between states	The ICJ is the only international court that adjudicates general disputes between countries, with its rulings and opinions serving as primary sources of international law (subject to Article 59 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice).	The court's judgments in contentious cases are final and binding on the parties to a case and without appeal. Unlike the Court's judgments, advisory opinions are not binding.

Context - A group of 16 countries led by Vanuatu - an island country in the South Pacific Ocean, recently launched sought an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the issue of climate change

Q.11) Consider the following statements about 'Press Council of India'

1. It is a non-statutory body established to check the media practice and to maintain the freedom of the press
2. It has quasi-judicial powers and adjudicates the complaints against the Press for violation of journalistic ethics

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.11) Solution (b)

Statement analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The PCI was first set up in 1966 by the parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission under the chairmanship of Justice J.R Mudholkar. The	It is a quasi-judicial body which adjudicates the complaints either against the Press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the Press for

present council functions under the Press Council Act 1978. Primary function of PCI is to check the media practice and to keep an eye on the freedom of the press.

interference with its freedom. The council shall have the same powers throughout India as are vested in a Civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Context - The Press Council of India (PCI) recently issued an advisory to the print media on 'paid news'.

Q.12) With reference to 'VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme', consider the following statements

1. The fellowship offers Indian researchers an opportunity to work with a research institution or an academic institution abroad
2. Researchers from institutions featuring in the top 100 National Institutional Ranking Framework Rankings will be eligible for the fellowship

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.12) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme offers Non-Resident Indian (NRI) researchers an opportunity to work for a minimum of one month to a maximum of two months a year with a research institution or an academic institution in India. The scheme aims to Improve the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.	Researchers from institutions featuring in the top 500 QS World University Rankings will be eligible for the fellowship. The applicant should be a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Person of Indian Origin (PIO) or Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and she or he must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University.

Context - Union Minister of State Science & Technology launched the VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme for the Indian Diaspora abroad.

Q.13) Consider the following statements about 'Proton Beam Therapy'

1. Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses high-powered energy to treat cancer and some noncancerous tumors
2. It can precisely target the tumour while minimising radiation exposure to surrounding healthy tissue unlike traditional radiation therapies
3. This method uses energy from positively charged particles (protons) and not harmful radiation like X rays and hence does not cause any side effects

Choose the correct answer using the code give below

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

Q.13) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy — a treatment that uses high-powered energy to treat cancer and some noncancerous tumors. Radiation therapy using X-rays has long been used to treat these conditions. Proton therapy is a newer type of radiation therapy that uses energy from positively charged particles (protons).	Unlike traditional radiation therapy, which uses X-rays, PBT can precisely target the tumour while minimising radiation exposure to surrounding healthy tissue. A proton beam delivers some radiation to healthy tissue in reaching the tumour but very little radiation beyond the edge of the tumour being treated. This means PBT is able to treat cancers just as effectively but delivers less radiation to other healthy parts of the body which surround the tumour.	Proton therapy is a type of external beam radiotherapy, and shares risks and side effects of other forms of radiation therapy. The dose outside of the treatment region can be significantly less for deep-tissue tumors than X-ray therapy, because proton therapy takes full advantage of the Bragg peak.

Context - It was in news because there are no government facilities that offer proton beam therapy treatment in India.

Q.14) 'Erythritol' a substance seen in news is mostly used as

- a) Antibiotic
- b) Food preservative

- c) Artificial sweetener
- d) Colouring agent

Q.14) Solution (c)

Erythritol is a popular artificial sweetener that is widely available throughout the world. It is an organic compound - a naturally occurring, four-carbon sugar alcohol (or polyol). It is used as a food additive and sugar substitute. Erythritol is 60–70% as sweet as sucrose (table sugar). However, it is almost completely noncaloric and does not affect blood sugar or cause tooth decay.

Context - A new research by Cleveland Clinic has shown that Erythritol, a popular artificial sweetener, is associated with an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Q.15) With reference to military exercises India participates in, consider the following pairs**Military exercise: Associated country**

1. Desert Flag VIII: United Arab Emirates
2. Shinyuu Maitri: Vietnam
3. Cobra Warrior: United States of America
4. DUSTLIK: Kazakhstan

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

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

Q.15) Solution (a)

Military Exercise	Associated country
Desert Flag	United Arab Emirates
Shunyuu Maitri	Japan
Cobra Warrior	United Kingdom
DUSTLIK	Uzbekistan

Context – The military exercises were conducted over the last month

Q.16) 'Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications' was signed by India with which of the following countries

- a) Canada

- b) Australia
- c) Sweden
- d) Brazil

Q.16) Solution (b)

India and Australia signed a Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications that will help ease the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries. This agreement is part of the commitment by Prime Ministers of both countries at the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit held on 21st March 2022, wherein they had agreed to establish a Joint Taskforce for mutual recognition of qualifications. A Task Force was accordingly set up consisting of senior officials of education and skill ministries and regulators on both sides.

Context - India and Australia signed a Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications

Q.17) Consider the following statements

1. A DNA vaccine puts a specific DNA sequence that codes for an antigen into an organism using plasmid vectors
2. DNA vaccines enter the cell nucleus and integrate with the host genome unlike RNA vaccines

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.17) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
A DNA vaccine is a vaccine that puts a specific DNA sequence that codes for an antigen into an organism's cells to trigger an immune response. The basic working principle behind DNA vaccine involves the use of a DNA plasmid that encodes for a protein that originated from the pathogen in which the vaccine will be targeted.	DNA vaccine will avoid extracellular degradation and successfully enter the nucleus of target cells to induce a long-term immune response. DNA Vaccines might integrate with the natural genome of the host unlike RNA vaccines which do not enter the cell nucleus and integrate with the host genome.

Context - India's first and only DNA vaccine candidate for dengue has shown promising results.

Q.18) With reference to 'SWAYATT initiative', consider the following statements

1. The initiative facilitates training and registrations of women and youth manufacturers and encourages participation of the MSME sector in public procurement
2. The initiative is a joint effort between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Women and Child Development

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.18) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
It is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women, and Youth advantage through e-transactions on Government e-Marketplace (GeM). It facilitates training and registrations of women and youth manufacturers and sellers and encourages participation of the MSME sector and startups in public procurement.	It was launched in February 2019 by the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The intent was to promote the inclusiveness of various categories of sellers and service providers on the portal.

Context - Government e-Marketplace (GeM) commemorated the success of "SWAYATT"

Q.19) With reference to 'Competition Commission of India', consider the following statements

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which aims to promote competition and prevent activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India
2. The Commission consists of a Chairperson and 10 members appointed by the Central Government
3. The Commission is required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law

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.19) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the chief national competition regulator in India. It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 to promote competition and prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.	The commission comprises a chairperson and not less than two and not more than six other members appointed by the Central Government.	It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India. The Commission is also required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

Context - CCI organized 8th edition of National Conference on Economics of Competition Law

Q.20) Consider the following statements about 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002'

1. The PMLA was enacted in response to India's global commitment to combat the menace of money laundering under Vienna Convention
2. The provisions of this act are applicable to all financial institutions, central bank, mutual funds, insurance companies, and their financial intermediaries
3. The Adjudicating Authority established under this Act shall be guided by the principles of natural justice

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.20) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
The PMLA was enacted in response to India's global commitment (Vienna Convention) to combat the menace of money laundering. These include: United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 Basle Statement of Principles, 1989 Forty Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, 1990 Political Declaration and Global Program of Action adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990.	The provisions of this act are applicable to all financial institutions, banks (Including RBI), mutual funds, insurance companies, and their financial intermediaries.	The Adjudicating Authority is the authority appointed by the central government through notification to exercise jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred under PMLA. The Adjudicating Authority shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and subject to the other provisions of PMLA.

Context - Delhi High Court has directed the Union Government to take expeditious steps for appointing Chairperson and other members of the Appellate tribunal under PMLA 2002.

Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Virtual digital assets'

1. It refers to any information, code, number, or token generated through cryptographic means excluding any form of currency
2. It is defined and regulated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
3. It also includes non-fungible tokens or any other token of similar nature by whatever name is called

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.21) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
'Virtual Digital Asset' refers to any information, code, number, or token (not being Indian currency or foreign currency) generated through cryptographic means or otherwise and can be called by whatever name.	It is defined under Income Tax Act but regulated under Prevention of Money Laundering Act	The definition of VDA also specifically includes a non-fungible token, i.e., NFT, or any other token of similar nature, by whatever name is called.

Context - The Finance Ministry's March 7 notification placed all transactions involving virtual digital assets under the purview of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

Q.22) 'Safe harbor clause' seen in news is used in the context of

- a) Maritime security
- b) Tax avoidance
- c) Data intermediaries
- d) Currency swap deals

Q.22) Solution (c)

Safe harbor as prescribed under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 – is legal immunity that online intermediaries enjoy against content posted by users on their platforms. This is available as long as these platforms abide by certain due diligence requirements, such as censoring content when asked by the government or courts. It is a crucial tenet for ensuring free speech on the Internet since platforms only have to act on speech that is deemed illegal.

Context – There is an ongoing debate whether the new Digital India bill must incorporate this provision.

Q.23) With reference to 'MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme', consider the following statements

1. The scheme can enable MSMEs to reduce wastage substantially, increase productivity and expand their markets
2. The government provides the entire implementation cost for MSME's owned by women and those located in North East region
3. National Productivity Council has been appointed as one of the Implementing Agency in the implementation of MSME Competitive (Lean) Scheme

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

- a) 1 only

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

Q.23) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Through the LEAN journey, MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, improve quality, work safely, expanding their markets, and finally becoming competitive and profitable. Under the scheme, MSMEs will implement LEAN manufacturing tools like 5S, Kaizen, KANBAN, Visual workplace, Poka Yoka etc under the able guidance of trained and competent LEAN Consultants to attain LEAN levels like Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.	The government will contribute 90% of implementation cost for handholding and consultancy fees. There will be an additional contribution of 5% for the MSMEs which are part of SFURTI clusters, owned by Women/SC/ST and located in Northeast region.	NPC has been appointed as one of the Implementing Agency which will assist Ministry of MSME in the implementation of MSME Competitive (Lean) Scheme.

Context - Union Minister for MSME launched the MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme recently

Q.24) Consider the following statements about 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar'

1. It is an award to recognize the contribution and service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management
2. Any individual or organization is eligible to apply for this award but must have worked in area of Disaster Management like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness and rescue etc.

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
It is an award to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in the case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in the case of an individual.	Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions are eligible to apply for the award. Institutions, voluntary organisations, corporate entities, academic/research institutions, response/ uniformed forces or any other institution may apply as an institution for the award. The candidate for the award must have worked in the area of Disaster Management like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Rescue, Response, Relief, Rehabilitation, Research/ Innovations or Early Warning related work in India.

Context - Prime Minister felicitated awardees of the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar recently

Q.25) Consider the following statements about 'National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)'

1. It is an autonomous body funded by the Higher Education Financing Agency that assesses and accredits Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
2. It categorizes institutes into six categories and presently done on a voluntary basis

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.25) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is a government organisation in India that assesses and accredits Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It is an autonomous body funded by the University Grants Commission and headquartered in Bangalore.	NAAC grades institutes on an eight-grade ladder. The ratings of institutions range from A++ to C. If an institution is graded D, it means it is not accredited. At present, the Assessment and Accreditation by NAAC is done on a voluntary basis.

Context - A recent report by the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) pointed out glaring discrepancies in the assessment and accreditation of higher education institutions by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Q.26) Consider the following statements about 'Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal'

1. He was a social reformer who contributed to the modernization of Hindu society in South Travancore
2. He condemned those who divided society into many groups and considered them "nisas"
3. He was a contemporary of Saint Manikkavasagar

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.26) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal was a thinker and social reformer of the 19th century. Sri Vaikunda Swamikal contributed a great deal for the modernization of the Hindu society in South Travancore.	He condemned those who divided the society into many groups and considered as "nisas". He wanted to unite all the castes. The custom-ridden society underwent revolutionary changes by his efforts. He tirelessly strived to remove the inequality based on birth and to establish a casteless society. He preached equality among all the people.	Manikkavacakar, or Maanikkavaasagar was a 9th-century Tamil saint whereas Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal lived in the 19 th century

Context - The Prime Minister of India recently paid his respect to Sri Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal on his birth anniversary.

Q.27) With reference to 'National Youth Conclave – 2023', consider the following statements

1. The event is organized under the aegis of India's G20 presidency and it brings together the country's youth and government leadership
2. It is being organized by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in association with NITI Aayog and Department of Youth Affairs

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.27) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The event is organized under the aegis of India's G20 presidency in 2023, aligning with the Urban20 and Youth20 engagement groups. The National Youth Conclave, which brings together the country's youth and government leadership, is an opportunity for cross-learning.	India's biggest youth summit- 'National Youth Conclave' is being organized by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in association with Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA and Department of Youth Affairs, MYAS.

Context - National Youth Conclave' began on 13-14 March 2023

Q.28) 'Mount Merapi', a volcano which erupted recently is located in

- a) Philippines
- b) Italy
- c) Indonesia
- d) Japan

Q.28) Solution (c)

Mount Merapi, Gunung Merapi (literally Fire Mountain in Indonesian and Javanese), is an active stratovolcano located on the border between the province of Central Java and the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548. It rises to 9,551 feet and has steep slopes with dense vegetation on its lower flanks.

Context – The volcano erupted recently.

Q.29) Consider the following statements about 'Fluorescence Microscopy'

1. It requires intense, near-monochromatic, illumination which some widespread light sources like halogen lamps cannot provide

2. This basic principle of fluorescence microscopy is viewing an object by studying how it re-emits light that it has absorbed
3. It allows the use of multicolor staining, labeling of structures within cells and is the most popular method for studying the dynamic behavior exhibited in live-cell imaging

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.29) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Fluorescence microscopy requires intense, near-monochromatic, illumination which some widespread light sources, like halogen lamps cannot provide. Four main types of light source are used, including xenon arc lamps or mercury-vapor lamps with an excitation filter, lasers, supercontinuum sources, and high-power LEDs.	A fluorescence microscope views an object by studying how it re-emits light that it has absorbed, i.e., how it fluoresces. This is its basic principle. The object is illuminated with light of a specific wavelength. Particles in the object absorb this light and re-emit it at a higher wavelength (i.e., different color). These particles are called fluorophores. When the fluorophores fluoresce, a fluorescent microscope can track them as they move inside the object, revealing the object's internal shape and other characteristics.	Fluorescence microscopy is used to image specific features of small specimens such as microbes. It allows the use of multicolor staining, labeling of structures within cells, and the measurement of the physiological state of a cell. It is the most popular method for studying the dynamic behavior exhibited in live-cell imaging.

Context - Researchers at Winona State University, Minnesota, have created a design for a 'glowscope', a device that could democratise access to fluorescence microscopy

Q.30) Consider the following statements about 'Landslide Atlas of India'

1. It is released by the Geological Survey of India and provides details about landslide hotspots in the country

2. Mizoram reported the highest number of landslides in the last twenty five according to the report

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.30) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the Landslide Atlas of India, a detailed guide identifying Landslide Hotspots in the country.	Uttarakhand, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh reported the highest number of landslides during 1998 – 2022. Mizoram topped the list, recording 12,385 landslide events in the past 25 years, of which 8,926 were recorded in 2017 alone. Mizoram is followed by Uttarakhand (11,219) and Kerala

Context - ISRO released the Landslide Atlas of India.

Q.31) Consider the following statements about 'Water Heritage Sites'

- 1. Water heritage sites are declared under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958
- 2. At present there is only central fund allocated/disbursed for maintenance of these sites

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.31) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
There is no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 to declare a site as a "Water Heritage Site" under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). However, the Ministry of Jal Shakti had constituted a Committee to identify 75 Water Heritage Structure (WHS) in reference to 75 years of India's Independence.	At present there is no central fund allocated/dispensed for maintenance of these sites. The Committee has recommended 75 water heritage structures, which includes 5 Water Heritage Structure from Gujarat and 4 Water Heritage Structure from Andhra Pradesh respectively.

Context - The Minister of State for Jal Shakti informed Rajya Sabha about the Water Heritage sites of India.

Q.32) 'Doha Political Declaration' which was adopted recently is related to

- a) War induced displacement
- b) Least developed countries
- c) South-South cooperation
- d) Minority rights

Q.32) Solution (b)

Doha Political Declaration welcomed the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and strongly committed to its implementation throughout the coming decade. The 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) concluded with adoption of the 'Doha Political Declaration' by the world leaders.

Context – The declaration was adopted recently

Q.33) With reference to 'Dragon Fruit', consider the following statements

1. It is a tropical fruit native to South-East Asia
2. It grows in all kinds of soil and does not require much water
3. Malaysia is the largest producer and exporter of Dragon Fruit
4. It can endure temperatures up to 40 °C and short periods of frost

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.33) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Pitaya or dragon fruit is native to the region of southern Mexico and along the Pacific coasts of Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. The dragon fruit is cultivated in East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the United States, the Caribbean, Australia, and throughout tropical and subtropical regions of the world	It grows in all kinds of soil and does not require much water. The plant sustains yield for more than 20 years, is high in nutraceutical properties (medicinal effects) and good for value-added processing industries.	The world's largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit is Vietnam, where the plant was brought by the French in the 19th century.	The plants can endure temperatures up to 40 °C (104 °F) and short periods of frost, but will not survive long exposure to freezing temperatures.

Context - The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare approved a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Dragon Fruit (Kamalam Fruit)

Q.34) Consider the following statements about 'Indian Black Turtle'

1. It is a medium-sized freshwater turtle found across the Indian subcontinent
2. It is classified as 'Near Threatened' under the 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.34) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Indian black turtle (<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>) or Indian pond terrapin is a species of medium-sized freshwater turtle found in South Asia. The distribution in India	It is classified as 'Least Concern'

includes the hill ranges of the Western Ghats, south of Gujarat, and the southeast coast, and then a separate disjunct distribution in northern and northeastern India.	under the IUCN Red List
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Context – It was in news due to smuggling of the species in Puducherry

Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA)'

1. DEPA enables consented sharing of consumer data from Data Providers to Data Consumers via Consent Managers
2. This data-sharing architecture requests for data portability from multiple controllers to the desired destination rather than allowing flow of data
3. It is a joint public-private effort for improved data governance and launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.35) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
DEPA enables consented sharing of consumer data from Data Providers (entities which collect or generate consumer data) to Data Consumers (other entities which wish to provide a service or a product based on the data) via Consent Managers.	Instead of requesting data portability, this data-sharing architecture allows the flow of data from multiple controllers to the desired destination. At the same time, the user can determine the terms of data flow such as the scope and duration of data sharing, and can revoke the same	It is a joint public-private effort (launched by NITI Aayog in 2020) for an improved data governance approach that creates a digital framework allowing users to share their data on their own terms.

Context – DEPA was in news

Q.36) Consider the following statements

1. Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (AATA) defines “antiquity” as any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or craftsmanship that has been in existence for not less than 150 years
2. Subjects related to cultural heritage are found in Union, State as well as Concurrent list of the Constitution
3. India is a founding signatory to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.36) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
India's Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (AATA), 1972, defines “antiquity” as any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship that has been in existence for not less than 100 years. For a manuscript, record or other documents which are of scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value, this duration is not less than 75 years.	All the Union, State and Concurrent Lists of the Schedule VII of the Indian Constitution deal with the country's heritage. Item-67 of the Union List, Item-12 of the State List, and Item-40 of the Concurrent List of the Constitution deal with the country's heritage.	India is a signatory to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. But, not a founding signatory. The convention came into force on 24 April 1972. India ratified it on 24 January 1977

Context - According to an RTI, only 486 antiquities have been reported as missing (since Independence) from the 3,696 monuments protected and maintained by the ASI.

Q.37) ‘Bumchu Festival’ recently seen in news is celebrated in

- a) Ladakh
- b) Sikkim
- c) Mizoram
- d) Uttarakhand

Q.37) Solution (b)

Bumchu Festival is the Tashiding holy water vase ritual which is a unique and important occasion that draws travellers from all over the world. In Sikkim, the Bumchu festival is a time of intense delight and celebration. At the event, pilgrims travel to Tashiding from all around India as well as from close by nations like Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Context – The festival was seen in news

Q.38) With reference to 'Indian Post Payments Bank (IPPB)', consider the following statements

1. IPPB has been established under the Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Government of India
2. The bank cannot issue credit cards and cannot loan money and the maximum limit on deposits for current and savings account is Rs. 5 lakh

Select the correct statement(s)

- 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
IPPB has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, with 100% equity owned by the Government of India.	They can issue debit cards and ATM cards, but they cannot issue credit cards and cannot loan money. It will accept deposits upto Rs 2 lakh, beyond which the account will be automatically converted into a post office savings account.

Context - CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) recently said that IPPB wants to convert itself to a universal bank.

Q.39) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Learning Science via Standards' initiative

1. The initiative focuses on a series of lesson plans aimed to use scientific concepts, principles and laws governing the Indian standards system
2. It has been launched by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India

Select the correct statement(s)

- a) 1 only

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The 'Learning Science via Standards' initiative focuses on a series of lesson plans aimed to use scientific concepts, principles and laws to help students understand their practical applications in manufacturing, functioning and testing of quality characteristics of different products as stated in the relevant Indian Standards.	The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India has announced the launch of 'Learning Science via Standards', a unique initiative for students for learning science via standards.

Context - BIS launched 'Learning Science via Standards' Series**Q.40) Consider the following statements**

- India remains the world's largest arms importer in the last five-year period
- United States of America is the largest supplier of arms to India
- The United States of America's share of global arms exports increased while that of Russia's fell in the recent times

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
India remained the world's largest arms importer for the five-year period between 2018-	Russia accounted for 45% is India's imports, followed by France (29%) and the US (11%). Russia was the largest	The US's share of global arms exports increased from 33% to 40%, while Russia's share

22. India accounted for an 11 percent share of total global arms imports in 2018–22. India has seen an 11 percent drop in its arms import between 2013-17 and 2018-22.	supplier of arms to India in both 2013–17 and 2018–22, but its share of total Indian arms imports fell from 64% to 45%. India was the biggest arms export market to three countries — Russia, France, and Israel and the second largest export market to South Korea.	(2nd most top exporter) fell from 22% to 16%, and France's (3rd most top exporter) share increased from about 7% to 11%.
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Context - India remained the world's largest arms importer for the five-year period between 2018-22 even though its arms imports dropped by 11% between 2013–17 and 2018–22, according to the Swedish Think Tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Q.41) Consider the following statements about 'Eurasian Otter'

1. It is a semi-aquatic herbivorous mammal inhabiting highland and lowland lakes, swamp forest, rivers and streams
2. It is regarded as a flagship species and indicator of high-quality aquatic habitats and classified as 'Near Threatened' on the 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.41) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Eurasian Otter is a semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal. It lives in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, including highland and lowland lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamp forests, and coastal areas. In the Indian sub-continent, Eurasian otters occur in cold hill and mountain streams.	It is regarded as a flagship species and indicator of high-quality aquatic habitats and it is classified as 'near threatened' on the IUCN Red List.

Context - The first photographic record of an elusive semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal has indicated that not all is lost for a Jammu and Kashmir stream.

Q.42) With reference to 'McMahon Line', consider the following statements

1. It is a geographical border between India and China which runs from Kashmir to Uttarakhand bordering Nepal
2. It was negotiated between Tibet and Great Britain at the Lhasa Conference in 1914

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.42) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The McMahon Line serves as the de facto boundary between China and India in the Eastern Sector. It specifically represents the boundary between Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, from Bhutan in the west to Myanmar in the east.	The McMahon Line was drawn during the Shimla Convention of 1914, officially described as the Convention Between Great Britain, China, and Tibet. The McMahon Line delimited the respective spheres of influence of Tibet and British India in the eastern Himalayan region in what is today India's Northeast and northern Myanmar. The border in this region was undefined prior to the signing of the convention.

Context - A recent bipartisan Senate resolution in the United States recognizes the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh.

Q.43) 'Exercise BOLD Kurukshetra' is a bilateral military exercise conducted between India and

- a) Bhutan
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Singapore
- d) United Kingdom

Q.43) Solution (c)

Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is conducted under the ambit of the bilateral arrangement for the joint Army Training and exercises between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army. First conducted in 2005, this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries

and enhances cooperation between the two armies. Both defence establishments also interact regularly through high-level visits, policy dialogues, courses and other professional exchanges.

Context - The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise from 06-13 March 2023 at Jodhpur Military Station, India.

Q.44) With reference to 'Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana', consider the following statements

1. It is a central sector scheme implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
2. The scheme has three components for the empowerment of senior citizens namely– Integrated program, state action plan and community action plan
3. Grant in aid is provided to NGOs/ Voluntary Organisations (VOs) for maintenance of old age homes under the Integrated Program for Senior Citizens (IPSrC) component

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.44) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
It is a Central Sector Scheme, which is formerly known as National Action Plan for Senior Citizens. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, under The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme	It has two components – the Integrated Program for Senior Citizens (IPSrC) and the State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC). IPSrC: It entails setting up homes to improve the quality of life of senior citizens, especially indigent senior citizens for writing basic amenities. SAPSrC: Each state/union territories expected to frame its own action plan	Under IPSrC component grant in aid is provided to NGOs/ Voluntary Organisations (VOs) for running and maintenance of old age homes, Continuous Care Homes.

	for the welfare of senior citizens.	
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Context - The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC), a component of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana.

Q.45) Consider the following statements about 'Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)'

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is required to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs under the D-SIB Framework
2. Banks having a minimum share of 2% of the Gross Domestic Product is one of the criteria for being designated as D-SIBs
3. D-SIBs have a lesser requirement of common equity requirements as compared to normal banks due to the bank's size, cross-jurisdictional activities and interconnectedness.

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.45) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Under the D-SIB framework announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2014, the central bank was required to – Disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs, and place them in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).	A sample of banks to be assessed for their systemic importance is decided. All banks are not considered, as burdening smaller banks with onerous data requirements on a regular basis may not be prudent. Banks are selected based on an analysis of their size (based on Basel-III Leverage Ratio Exposure Measure) as a percentage of GDP. Banks having a size beyond 2% of GDP will be selected in the sample. Based on a range of indicators, a composite	Depending on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement [Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)] is applicable to it. Tier 1 capital (measured by the capital adequacy ratio (CAR)) is the core measure of a bank's financial strength from a regulator's point of view. It means that these banks have to earmark additional capital and provisions to safeguard their operations.

	score of systemic importance is computed for each bank.	
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Context - India has established Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)/Too-Big-To-Fail banks to protect itself from 2008/SVB-like episodes.

Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Low-temperature thermal desalination Technology'

1. It is a process under which the warm surface seawater is flash evaporated at high pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep seawater
2. This technique exploits the difference in temperature of nearly 15°C in the ocean water at the surface and at depths of about 60 feet

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.46) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The LTTD is a process under which the warm surface seawater is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep seawater. The pressured water vapourises and is trapped in tubes or a chamber. Cold water plumbed from the ocean depths is passed over these tubes and the vapour condenses into fresh water and the resulting salt is diverted away.	LTTD which stands for Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination exploits the difference in temperature (nearly 15°C) in the ocean water at the surface and at depths of about 600 feet.

Context - National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is working at making the Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination technology process free of emissions.

Q.47) 'Kappaphycus alvarezii', a species seen in news recently is a

- a) Seaweed
- b) Pit-viper
- c) Reef fish

d) Honey bee

Q.47) Solution (a)

Kappaphycus alvarezii is seaweed (alga) which is native to the Indo-Pacific region. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists it as one of the world's 100 most invasive species. It is one of the prime threats that killed the corals near Kurusadai which was deliberately introduced in Ramanathapuram for commercial cultivation some two decades ago.

Context - The government plans a seaweed park in Tamil Nadu, ignoring the threat that Kappaphycus, a widely grown invasive seaweed, poses to corals in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park running along the state's coastline

Q.48) With reference to 'Peptides', consider the following statements

1. They are naturally occurring short chains of amino acid monomers connected by amide bonds
2. They are found in all living organisms, and play a key role in the biological activity of any sort
3. They find application in anti-ageing creams, artificial sweeteners and body imaging

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.48) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Peptides are naturally occurring short chains of amino acid monomers connected by amide bonds.	Peptides are found in all living organisms, and play a key role in the biological activity of any sort. The peptides are biological molecules that occur naturally. Like proteins, peptides are naturally produced (synthesized) from transcriptions of a genetic code sequence, DNA. They include many antibiotics, hormones and other	Peptides are used in many anti-ageing creams. The most commonly used peptides are those that are obtained from ocean plants like sea jasmine, sea fennel and sea beet. Aspartame which is a synthesized peptide used as an artificial sweetener with zero calories found in many diet foods is produced in labs and is 200 times sweeter than sugar. They are also used in body scans where

	substances that involve in the biological functions of living beings.	they work by sending dyes through the bloodstream that fluoresce when they come in contact with certain tissues. These imaging techniques can help doctors to detect life-threatening cancer at its early stages.
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Context - Recently, researchers from the Institute of Advanced Studies in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, revealed that peptides derived from snake venom nerve growth factors can impede the progression of Parkinson's disease.

Q.49) With reference to 'Prime Minister MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) scheme', consider the following statements

1. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of textiles and envisages to leverage the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for fast paced implementation
2. The selection of Park sites will be done in Challenge Method where the selected proposals may be given specific challenges complete in order to demonstrate the feasibility
3. These parks will be set up on the basis of proposals received from State Governments having ready availability of contiguous land parcels of minimum 100 acres

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.49) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Ministry of Textiles has launched (2021) the scheme to strengthen the Indian textile industry to develop an integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility (parks) for total value-chain (spinning, weaving, processing, printing, etc)	The selection of PM MITRA Park sites will be done in a two stage (Selection of Sites, Development of the Park) selection process on Challenge Method. The "Challenge Method" is a type of selection process that is often used in competitions and challenges to	These parks will be set up on the basis of proposals received from State Governments having ready availability of contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcels of minimum 1000 acres. The State Government will transfer land to the Special Purpose

of the textile industry. The scheme envisages to leverage the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for fast paced implementation in a time-bound manner.	determine the best candidate or solution. In the context of the PM MITRA Park sites, the challenge method involves a two-stage process. Interested parties first submit their proposals for the development of the park sites. Then a select number of proposals are chosen to move on to the second stage. During the second stage, the selected proposals may be given specific challenges or tasks to complete in order to further demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of their proposal. At the end of the challenge method process, the proposal that best meets the criteria and objectives of the PM MITRA Park sites project will be selected for implementation.	Vehicle (SPV), which will be a legal entity (with 51% equity shareholding of State and 49% of Central Government).
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Context - Prime Minister announced that PM MITRA (PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) mega textile parks would be set up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Q.50) Consider the following statements about 'Defence Acquisition Council'

1. It is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services
2. The members of DAC include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), National Security Advisor (NSA) and chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.50) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The DAC is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard. The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council	Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. National Security Advisor is not a part of DAC

Context - The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) recently approved the capital acquisition of indigenously-developed military hardware worth Rs 70,584 crore.

Q.51) With reference to 'Parole', consider the following statements

1. Parole is a system of releasing a prisoner without suspension of the sentence.
2. It is not a right of a prisoner and may be denied to a prisoner even when he makes out a sufficient case

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
Parole is a system of releasing a prisoner with a suspension of the sentence. The release is conditional, usually subject to behaviour, and requires periodic reporting to the authorities for a set period of time.	It is not a right of a prisoner and may be denied to a prisoner even when he makes out a sufficient case. While furlough is seen as a matter of right, to be granted periodically irrespective of any reason and merely to enable the prisoner to retain family and social ties,

Context - The Supreme Court on Friday held that the period of parole granted to convicts during the Covid-19 pandemic to prevent overcrowding in prisons and avoid the risk of spread of infection, cannot be counted as part of their actual sentence period and has to be excluded from it

Q.52) Consider the following statements about 'Aravalli Green Wall Project'

1. The project is a major initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around Aravalli Hill
2. The project will involve planting exotic species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land
3. The project covers states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi - where the Aravalli hills landscape is spread across

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.52) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The project is a major initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around Aravalli Hill. The Aravalli Green Wall Project is part of the Union Environment Ministry's vision to create green corridors across the country to combat land degradation and desertification.	The project will involve planting native species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land, along with rejuvenating and restoring surface water bodies such as ponds, lakes and streams. The project will also focus on agroforestry and pasture development to enhance the livelihoods of local communities.	The project covers states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi - where the Aravalli hills landscape span over 6 million hectares of land.

Context - Recently, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project

Q.53) 'Vedic heritage portal' seen in news recently was developed by

- a) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
- b) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
- c) Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha
- d) Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

Q.53) Solution (b)

Vedic heritage portal was developed by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. The portal will be a one-stop solution for the user, who would like to search for any information regarding the Vedic heritage. The audio-visual recording of four Vedas has been uploaded on the Vedic Heritage portal. The objective of the portal is to secure knowledge from ancient scriptures and manuscripts for future generations through technology.

Context - Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday inaugurated the Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi.

Q.54) Consider the following statements about 'Ibisbill'

1. It is a bird related to the waders which occurs on the shingle riverbanks of the high plateau of central Asia and the Himalayas.
2. This species has an extremely small range which is thought to be declining and is evaluated as Endangered by the IUCN

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.54) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The ibisbill (<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>) is a bird related to the waders, but sufficiently distinctive to merit its own family Ibidorhynchidae. It occurs on the shingle riverbanks of the high plateau of central Asia and the Himalayas.	This species has an extremely large range, estimated at 5 million square kilometres (1.9 million square miles) which is not believed to be declining or fragmenting. Although its population is unknown, it is not thought to be declining. For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern by the IUCN.

Context - Researchers recently highlighted that ground-nesting birds, including the ibisbill, can be impacted by changing climatic patterns in the Indian Himalayas.

Q.55) Consider the following statements about 'Western Disturbance'

1. The moisture in these storms usually originates over the Caspian Sea and the Mediterranean Sea
2. These travel eastwards on high-altitude westerly jet streams

3. It is an extra-tropical storm which carries the moisture in the lower atmosphere, unlike their tropical counterparts where the moisture is carried in the upper atmosphere
4. Western disturbances are usually associated with cloudy sky, higher night temperatures and unusual rain

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.55) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
A western disturbance is an extra-tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent. It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies. The moisture in these storms usually originates over the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea	These travel eastwards on high-altitude westerly jet streams—massive ribbons of fast winds traversing the earth from west to east.	Extratropical storms are a global phenomena with moisture usually carried in the upper atmosphere, unlike their tropical counterparts where the moisture is carried in the lower atmosphere.	Western disturbances are usually associated with cloudy sky, higher night temperatures and unusual rain. Excessive precipitation due to western disturbances can cause crop damage, landslides, floods and avalanches.

Context - Climate change is causing Western Disturbances to weaken according to a study

Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Biotransformation Technology'

1. The technology would digest the plastic packaging waste naturally with the help of microbes without leaving behind any microplastics.
2. Plastics made using this technology are given a pre-programmed time during which it functions like conventional plastics and turns into bioavailable wax after expiry

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
Biotransformation technology is a process that alters the state of plastics and make them biodegradable. The technology would digest the plastic packaging waste naturally with the help of microbes without leaving behind any microplastics.	Plastics made using this technology are given a pre-programmed time during which it looks and functions like conventional plastics. After expiry and exposure to the external environment, it self-destructs and biotransforms into bioavailable wax. This wax is then consumed by microorganisms, converting waste into water, CO ₂ , and biomass.

Context - A UK-based startup claims to have developed Biotransformation technology that can alter the state of plastics and make them biodegradable without leaving behind any microplastics

Q.57) With reference to 'Sea Slugs', consider the following statements

- It is a common name for some marine invertebrates which are occur in seas worldwide and are found at virtually all depths
- They are usually found in coral reefs and their presence is a significant indicator of a dying coral ecosystem

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.57) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Nudibranchs are often casually called sea slugs. Nudibranchs occur in seas worldwide, ranging from the Arctic, through temperate and tropical regions, to the Southern Ocean around Antarctica. They are almost entirely restricted to salt water, although a few species are known to inhabit lower salinities in brackish water. Nudibranchs live at virtually all depths, from the intertidal zone to depths well over 700 m (2,300 ft)	Sea slugs are found in places with abundant prey bases which may vary from sponges, hydroids and algae. The nudibranchs are usually found in coral reefs and their presence is a significant indicator of a strong coral ecosystem. They mainly feed on algae and are usually seen in large numbers when there is an algal bloom.

Context - A citizen science project documented unique sea slugs from Visakhapatnam coast

Q.58) 'Gorata massacre' which was seen in news is related to

- a) Independence of Goa
- b) Referendum of Junagadh
- c) Liberation of Hyderabad
- d) Merger of Sikkim

Q.58) Solution (c)

Gorata village in Bidar district of Karnataka was then a part of the Nizam-ruled Hyderabad State. The Hyderabad rulers opposed the erstwhile princely state's unification with India after India's independence. Razakar commander Shamshuddin had attacked Gorata village where the locals had hoisted a 2.5-ft tall National Flag. The villagers had retaliated and killed Shamshuddin. Following this, on May 9, 1948 at Gorata village more than 200 people have been massacred by the Razakars of Nizam. The Hyderabad state was liberated from Nizam's rule on September 17, 1948.

Context - The Union Home Minister inaugurates Gorata Martyr Memorial and hoisted the 103 feet high tricolor at Gorata Maidan in Bidar, Karnataka.

Q.59) Consider the following statements

1. A certain provision of the Constitution allows members of parliament sentenced to imprisonment for at least two years to be disqualified
2. A certain provision of the Constitution confers on the President the power to decide on the disqualification of sitting members of the Parliament
3. A certain provision of the Constitution prescribes for disqualification of members of Parliament if he/she is convicted for promoting enmity between two groups and holding an office of profit

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.59) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA) lays down automatic disqualification of a legislator from the Parliament or State assembly upon conviction in a criminal case. It states that a person who has been found guilty of a crime and given a sentence of at least two years shall be disqualified starting on the day of their conviction and for an additional six years after their release.	Article 103 states that the President of India is the authority who decides that a sitting member has become subject to disqualification in all cases which come under Article 102(1).	The disqualification is triggered for conviction under certain offences listed in Section 8(1) of RPA, 1951. This includes specific offences such as promoting enmity between two groups, bribery, and undue influence or personation at an election. Article 102(1) of the Constitution of India prescribes for disqualification for being, a member of either House of Parliament upon following conditions if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;

Context – It is in news due to a disqualification of an MP after conviction

Q.60) With reference to 'Depleted uranium munitions', consider the following statements

- Depleted uranium is not radioactive but widely used in weapons as it can easily penetrate armour plating due to high density
- They are not classified as nuclear weapons as per the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons
- Depleted uranium munitions were first deployed in World War 2 by United States of America against Japan

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.60) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
In comparison to enriched uranium, depleted uranium is much less radioactive and is incapable of generating a nuclear reaction. However, due to its high density — it's more dense than lead — depleted uranium is widely used in weapons as it can easily penetrate armour plating.	They are not classified as nuclear weapons, as per the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons.	Depleted uranium munitions were used in the 1991 Gulf War to destroy T-72 tanks in Iraq. These weapons were again used in the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia and then during the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Context - British government recently said that it would provide Ukraine with armour-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium.

Q.61) Consider the following statements Salt Flats

1. A salt flat forms from a natural water body whose recharge rate is lower than the evaporation rate.
2. Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia is the world's largest known salt flat.
3. Salar de Uyuni contains more than half of the planet's lithium reserves.

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A salt flat is a natural landscape in which a large area of flat land is covered by salt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia is the largest known salt flats in the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia also contains more than half of the planet's lithium reserves.

- A salt flat forms from a natural water body whose recharge rate is lower than the evaporation rate.

Context: In a new study, researchers have found the reasons why the salt on the surface forms ridges that join together in a patchwork of pentagons and hexagons.

Q.62) Consider the following statements with respect to Whip

1. The office of 'whip' is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.
2. Whip can direct a Member of Parliament (MP) or Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) on whom to vote during Presidential election.
3. If an MP violates his party's whip, he faces expulsion from the House under the Anti-Defection Act.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.62) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional status: The office of 'whip', is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-applicability of Whip: There are some cases such as Presidential elections where whips cannot direct a Member of Parliament (MP) or Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) on whom to vote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violation of whip: If an MP violates his party's whip, he faces expulsion from the House under the Anti-Defection Act. • The only exception is when more than a third of legislators vote against a directive, effectively splitting the party.

Context: Recently Supreme Court observed that Members of a House are bound by the 'whip'

Q.63) Consider the following statements regarding the CITES Agreement

1. The Conference of the Parties to the CITES is the supreme consensus-based decision-making body of the Convention

2. UNGA has declared March 3 as World Wildlife Day (WWD) to commemorate the signature of the CITES treaty 1973
3. The theme for WWD 2023, is 'Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration'.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.63) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CITES is an international agreement between governments which aims to ensure the international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. The Conference of the Parties to the CITES is the supreme consensus-based decision-making body of the Convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 3 was celebrated as World Wildlife Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 It was chosen to commemorate the signature of the CITES on 3 March 1973. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme for WWD 2023, is 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'

Context: March 3 marks the 50th anniversary of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

Q.64) Consider the following statements about SWAMIH Fund

1. It is India's largest social impact fund specifically formed for completing stressed and stalled residential projects.
2. The Fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.64) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund I is India's largest social impact fund specifically formed for completing stressed and stalled residential projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and is managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd., a State Bank Group company.

Context: Since its inception in 2019, the SWAMIH Fund has completed over 20,557 homes

Q.65) Kermadec Islands, recently in news is located in?

- a) Italy
- b) Japan
- c) New Zealand
- d) Russia

Q.65) Solution (c)

Option c
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are volcanic island group in the South Pacific Ocean, 600 mi (1,000 km) northeast of Auckland, New Zealand. They are a dependency of New Zealand. The islands are a volcanic island arc, formed at the convergent boundary where the Pacific Plate subducts under the Indo-Australian Plate. They are the tiny emergent part of a chain of submarine volcanoes that define the Kermadec ridge. They are uninhabited, except for Raoul Island where a team of Department of Conservation staff carry out weed control work and make meteorological observations. The climate of the islands is subtropical. The islands are seismically active.

Context: An earthquake of magnitude 6.9 struck the Kermadec Islands region in New Zealand recently

Q.66) Consider the following statements about United Nations High Seas Treaty

1. It is a legally binding treaty to protect marine life in international waters.
2. It aims to place 50% of the seas into protected areas by 2030.
3. The treaty includes a pledge by signatories to share ocean resources.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.66) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the first-ever treaty to protect the world's oceans that lie outside national boundaries. It is also known as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean.' It is a legally binding treaty to protect marine life in international waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030 (a pledge made by countries at the UN biodiversity conference in 2022). It will provide a legal framework for establishing vast marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect against the loss of wildlife and share out the genetic resources of the high seas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will establish a conference of the parties (CoP) that will meet periodically and enable member states to be held to account on issues such as governance and biodiversity. The treaty also includes a pledge by signatories to share ocean resources. The treaty is built on the legacy of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Context: After more than a decade of negotiations, the countries of the United Nations have recently agreed to the High Seas Treaty.

Q.67) Consider the following statements about One Nation One Challan Initiative

- It is an initiative to bring all related agencies under one platform to enable seamless data collection of challans and data transfer.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an initiative to bring all related agencies such as traffic police and RTO on one platform to enable seamless data collection of challans and data transfer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an initiative of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Traffic rules violator have to pay the challan amount within 90 days or else it will send to

- The integrated system involves detection of traffic violations through the CCTV network and getting the registration number of the erring vehicles.
- Applications like VAHAN (detecting the vehicle's ownership details) and SARATHI (compilation of driving licenses) are used.

a virtual court and proceedings will be initiated.

Context: The Gujarat government recently told that it is setting up virtual traffic courts in the state, under the 'One Nation One Challan' initiative.

Q.68) Consider the following statements about Lewis Super Acids

1. Lewis super-acids' are used as catalysts to accelerate reactions.
2. These are compounds that add proton pairs to the reactions.
3. It enables non-biodegradable fluorinated hydrocarbons to be converted back into sustainable chemicals.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.68) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Lewis super-acids' are derived from Lewis acids, named after the chemist, G N Lewis. • Lewis super-acids' are used as catalysts in chemistry to accelerate reactions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are compounds that add electron pairs. • These can be used to break strong chemical bonds and speed up reactions. • These are highly reactive reagents, thus difficult to produce and use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance - It enables non-biodegradable fluorinated hydrocarbons (similar to Teflon) to be converted back into sustainable chemicals.

Context: Researchers at the Paderborn University, Germany have been able to make a unique class of catalysts called "Lewis super-acids".

Q.69) Consider the following statements

1. Armed Forces Tribunal should only be headed by a retired Supreme Court Judges
2. The president of India can use his judicial power under Article 72 of the Constitution to pardon the punishment given by a court martial.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.69) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007 was passed by the Parliament and led to the formation of the Armed Forces Tribunal. Composition of the Armed Forces Tribunal The Judicial Members are retired High Court Judges and Administrative Members are retired Members of the Armed Forces who have held the rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more. Judge Advocate General (JAG) who has held the appointment for at least one year is also entitled to be appointed as the Administrative Member. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pardoning power: The president of India can use his judicial power under Article 72 of the Constitution to pardon, reprieve, respite or remission of punishment or sentence given by a court martial.

Context: An Army court martial in Jammu and Kashmir has recommended life imprisonment for a Captain in connection with the killing of three men.

Q.70) Sultanpur National Park, recently seen in news is located in?

- a) Haryana
- b) Odisha
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Rajasthan

Q.70) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sultanpur National Park, formerly known as Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, is located in the Gurgaon district in Haryana.

- It is spread over 1.42 sq km, comprising mainly wetlands.
- This national park is a major habitat for aquatic birds, including migratory and resident birds.
- It was notified as a Ramsar site, a wetland of international importance, in 2021.
- Vegetation: Tropical and dry deciduous.

Context: The G20 delegates recently visited the Sultanpur National Park, which is one of the 75 Ramsar sites in the country.

Q.71) Consider the following statements about National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)

1. It is a multi-stakeholder national platform established in 2010.
2. The NPDRR is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
3. It's one of the objective is to review the National Disaster Management Policy.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.71) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of India has constituted a multi-stakeholder National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in 2013. • It aims to bring together the whole range of India's disaster risk community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPDRR is chaired by the Union Home Minister and the Minister of State in-charge of Disaster Management in the Ministry of Home Affairs. • Vice-Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority is the Vice-Chairperson of the NPDRR. 	<p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the progress made in the field of disaster management from time to time. • To review the National Disaster Management Policy.

Context: Prime Minister of India will inaugurate the 3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 10th March 2023.

Q.72) Consider the following statements about Nallamala Forest

1. It is located in Nallamala Hills, which is a part of the Eastern Ghats.
2. It lies south of the Krishna river.
3. A part of the forest belongs to the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.72) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is spread over five districts in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It is located in Nallamala Hills, which is a part of the Eastern Ghats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It lies south of the Krishna river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forest has a good tiger population, and a part of the forest belongs to the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, the largest tiger reserve in the country.

Context: Nallamala forest is witnessing frequent forest fires due to rising temperatures, where the day temperature is almost touching 40 degrees Celsius.

Q.73) Which of the following offices will be selected based on the recommendation of a selection committee, where the Leader of Opposition is one of the member?

1. NHRC Chairperson
2. Chief Election Commissioner
3. CBI Director
4. Central Vigilance Commissioner
5. Chief Information Commissioner
6. Chairperson of Lokpal

Choose the correct code:

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

Q.73) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court has recently gave a say to the Opposition in the selection of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

- It ruled that these officials would be appointed by the President based on the recommendation of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and Chief Justice of India (CJI).

Similar high-power panels involves the selection of:

- The CBI Director
- Chief Election Commissioner
- NHRC Chairperson and members
- CIC and Information Commissioners
- Chairperson and Members of Lokpal
- Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners

Context: The Supreme Court has recently gave a say to the Opposition in the selection of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

Q.74) Consider the following statements about Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

1. It enables buyers and sellers to transact with each other irrespective of the e-commerce platform on which either of them are registered.
2. It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.74) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an open-source network set up to enable buyers and sellers to transact with each other irrespective of the e-commerce platform on which either of them are registered. • It offers small retailers an opportunity to provide their services, and goods to buyers across the country through an e-commerce system. • ONDC enables merchants to save their data to build credit history and reach consumers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. • It comprises of buyer-side apps where consumers can place orders, seller-side apps that onboard merchants and display their listings, and logistics platforms that handle deliveries.

Context: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry recently said that the ONDC will help small retailers survive the onslaught of large tech-based e-commerce companies.

Q.75) Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in news is located in?

- a) North Andaman
- b) Great Nicobar
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

Q.75) Solution (c)

Option c
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary was established in the year of 1967 and is situated in the state of Tamil Nadu. It houses the famous bird sanctuary of Vedaranyam and the Talaignayar forests. It is flanked by the Bay of Bengal in the east, and Palk Strait in the south. It primarily focuses on the protection and conservation of the black antelopes, an endangered and endemic species that are found in this region. It is designated as a Ramsar site. Flora: It has mangroves, tropical evergreen forests, and grassland ecosystems. Fauna: Wild boar, macaque, black buck, chital, Great flamingo, Painted Stork, Little Stint, Seagull and Brown-headed gull are normally found in the sanctuary.

Context: During the Synchronised Bird Census 2023 at Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary as many as 69 species of terrestrial birds were observed.

Q.76) Consider the following statements about Bio-computers

- Brain organoids developed in the lab using 3D cultures of brain tissue will be combined with modern computing methods to create bio computers.
- Brain organoids can also be developed using stem cells from individuals with cognitive disorders.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.76) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brain organoids – They are 3D cultures of brain tissue developed in the lab. They are used to study human brain development and test drugs to see how they respond. Bio computers – The brain organoids will be combined with modern computing methods to create bio computers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brain organoids can also be developed using stem cells from individuals with neurodegenerative diseases or cognitive disorders. Comparing the data on brain structure between 'healthy' and 'patient-derived' organoids can reveal the biological basis of human cognition, learning, and memory. They could also help decode the pathology of and drug development for devastating Parkinson's disease and microcephaly.

Context: Scientists at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) recently outlined a plan for a potentially revolutionary new area of research called “organoid intelligence”, which aims to create “biocomputers”

Q.77) Consider the following statements about National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

1. The NAAC is an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC).
2. The NAAC accreditation does not cover distance education units of Higher-level Educational Institutions (HEIs)
3. Paramarsh is a scheme for mentoring NAAC to promote quality assurance in Higher Education.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.77) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NAAC is an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC). Its core function is to assess and certify Higher-level Educational Institutions (HEIs) with grading. It evaluates whether a higher education institution meets the standards of quality in terms of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NAAC accreditation does not cover distance education units of HEIs and offshore campuses. It also does not accredit institutions providing technical education by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paramarsh scheme - To mentor National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation aspirant institutions for promoting quality assurance in higher education.

curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, research, and other parameters.		
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Context: The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC), is facing allegations of irregularities in the way it operates.

Q.78) Consider the following statements

1. Rashsundari Devi was the first women to participate in Individual Satyagraha.
2. Rashsundari Devi's "Amar Jiban" is the first full-scale autobiography written by an Indian woman.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.78) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rashsundari Devi (1809-1899) – was not alive during Individual Satyagraha • Rashsundari was an upper-caste Bengali woman who had no formal education and was not allowed to learn to read. However, at the age of 25, she taught herself to read in secret. • S.N. Sundarambal of Tirupur was pregnant when she was arrested for taking part in Individual Satyagraha in the early 1940s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rashsundari Devi's "Amar Jiban" (My Life) is the first full-scale autobiography written by an Indian woman, published in 1876.

Context: On the occasion of International Women's Day, Rashsundari Devi was in news

Q.79) Consider the following statements about Kuno National Park

1. The park falls under the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forest eco-region.
2. Kuno River, one of the lifeline of this National park, is a tributary of Chambal River

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.79) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is located in the Vindhyan Hills of Central India, in the State of Madhya Pradesh. It is a protected area and received the status of national park in 2018. The protected area was established in 1981 as a wildlife sanctuary. It is in the Khatiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kuno River which flows through the park originates from the Shivpuri Plateau and one of the main tributaries of the Chambal River. The Park's forest area is mainly dominated by Kardhai, Salai, Khair trees.

Context: Kuno National Park is all set for release of some cheetahs in the wild

Q.80) Yaoshang Festival, recently seen in news is celebrated in which of the following state?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Assam
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

Q.80) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The festival is celebrated every year on the full moon of Lamta month (February-March) of the Meitei lunar calendar. The festival is celebrated by the Meitei people who are predominantly Hindu. It is celebrated at the same time as Holi and known as 'Manipur's version of Holi'. The festival marks the rejuvenation of the spirit of life and commemorates the birthday of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. On the first day 'Yaoshang' (a small thatch hut/straw hut) is constructed with bamboo and straws. The image of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the thatched hut is worshipped. Just after sunset the festival begins with Yaoshang Mei thaba, also known as 'Burning of the Straw Hut'. Children visit neighbours to ask for monetary donations, called nakatheng. Events - During these 5 days sporting events happen during the day and traditional 'thabal chongba' dance in the night.

Context: The five-day-long Yaoshang festival, Manipur's version of Holi, has begun this year.

Q.81) Consider the following statements about Securities-Based Lending

1. It is the practice of raising a loan by offering your existing investments in stocks/mutual funds/ Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) as collaterals.
2. This loan cannot be used for making further security purchases.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.81) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the practice of raising a loan by offering your existing investments in stocks/mutual funds/ Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) as collaterals. • These kinds of loans are generally offered to high-net-worth individuals by large financial institutions and private banks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loan can then be used for making purchases like real estate or personal items. • This loan cannot be used for making further security purchases. • Due to the inherent volatility in the nature of stocks/mutual funds, the risk of forced liquidation tends to be very high for these loans.

Context: The Adani Group have recently prepaid loans backed by shares worth \$902 million or 7,374 crores to foreign banks and Indian lenders ahead of their maturity in April 2025.

Q.82) Consider the following statements about Abhra Weapon System

1. It is a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile.
2. It is a high response vertically launched supersonic missile.
3. It is a joint venture of DRDO and Israeli Aerospace Industries.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<p>Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This weapon system also called the 'Abhra' Weapon System is a state-of-the-art medium-range air defence weapon system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a joint venture of DRDO and Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) and is produced at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a high response, quick reaction, vertically launched supersonic missile, designed to neutralize enemy aerial threats – missiles, aircraft, guided bombs, helicopters. Supersonic missiles exceed the speed of sound (Mach 1) but they are not faster than Mach-3.

Context: Recently, the Indian Navy has carried out a successful test-firing of a Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) and a ship-launched version of BrahMos missile.

Q.83) Which of the following condition is/are the pre-requisite for the development of Hailstorm?

- Highly developed Cumulonimbus clouds
- Strong currents of air ascending through the clouds
- High concentrations of supercooled liquid water

Choose the correct code:

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

Q.83) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<p>About Hailstorm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hail is a type of solid rain made up of balls or lumps of ice. Storms that produce hail which reaches the ground are known as hailstorms. Conditions for Hailstorms to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly developed Cumulonimbus clouds need to be present. These are the massive anvil or mushroom-shaped clouds that are seen during thunderstorms which can reach heights up to 65,000 feet. There must be strong currents of air ascending through these clouds. These currents are commonly known as updrafts. The clouds will need to contain high concentrations of supercooled liquid water. <p>How are Hails formed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It begins as a water droplet that is swept up by an updraft inside of a thundercloud.

- Other supercooled water droplets which are already present inside the cloud will adhere to the water droplet's surface, forming layers of ice around
- As the water droplet reaches higher elevations within the cloud, it comes into contact with more and more supercooled particles.
- The hail embryo will grow larger and larger as it reaches higher altitudes in the updraft.
- Finally, it will reach a size and weight where gravity will begin to act on it and pull it down.

Context: The sudden change in the weather conditions in Madhya Pradesh hit the state's farmers as their crops were damaged due to the heavy rain and hailstorm.

Q.84) Consider the following statements

1. A transit anticipatory bail is sought when a case against a person has been filed in a state different from the one in which the person is likely to be arrested.
2. The concept of transit anticipatory bail is codified in Indian law of Criminal Procedure Code.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.84) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>About Transit Anticipatory Bail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transit anticipatory bail is sought when a case against a person has been or is likely to be filed in a state different from the one in which the person is likely to be arrested. • The purpose of transit bail is to allow the person bail, so they can approach the appropriate court in the state in which the case has been filed for anticipatory bail. • In the absence of transit anticipatory bail, the result would be that another state's police could arrest a person from their home state without them having the opportunity to apply for anticipatory bail at all. • The procedure to be followed in transit anticipatory bail is exactly the same as of any other anticipatory bail application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of transit anticipatory bail is not codified in Indian law but has found its identity through judicial practice and legal precedents

Context: The Delhi High Court recently granted transit anticipatory bail to a person in an First Information Report (FIR) lodged against him by the Tamil Nadu police.

Q.85) Guindy National Park, recently seen in news is located in?

- a) Tripura
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q.85) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
<p>About Guindy National Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guindy is India's eighth-smallest national park and one of the very few national parks located inside a city. • It is located in the heart of Chennai's metropolitan area of Tamil Nadu. • It is one of the last remnants of the tropical dry evergreen forests of the Coromandel Coast. • Flora: Tropical dry evergreen forest, Scrub and thorn forests. • Fauna: Blackbuck, Toddy cat, Civet cat, Jungle cat, Pangolin, Hedgehog, Shrew and black-naped hare etc.

Context: A total of 421 birds of 63 species were spotted during the two-day annual bird census at the Guindy National Park.

Q.86) Consider the following statements about Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

1. The institutions of Deputy Speaker originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919.
2. Deputy Speaker is directly responsible to the House.
3. He presides over the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament in case the Speaker is absent from such a sitting.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.86) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). In 1921, Frederick Whyte and Sachidanand Sinha were appointed by the Governor-General of India as the first Speaker and the first Deputy Speaker (respectively) of the Central Legislative Assembly. At that time, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were called the President and Deputy President, respectively, and the same nomenclature continued till 1947. Mavalankar and Ananthasayanam Ayyangar had the distinction of being the first Speaker and the first Deputy Speaker (respectively) of the Lok Sabha. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Speaker is not subordinate to the Speaker. He is directly responsible to the House. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He also presides over the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament in case the Speaker is absent from such a sitting. 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. He can speak in the House, participate in its proceedings, and vote on any question before the House.

Context: Constitutional experts and opposition parties have termed the 'non-election for the post of deputy speaker' as unprecedented and unconstitutional.

Q.87) Consider the following statements about International Criminal Court (ICC)

- It is the only permanent international criminal tribunal.
- The UNSC can refer the situation/case to the ICC by granting jurisdiction.
- India is not a member to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Choose the incorrect statements:

- 1 and 2
- 3 only
- 2 only
- None

Q.87) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the only permanent international criminal tribunal. It was created by the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (its founding and governing document), and began functioning on 1 July 2002 when the Statute came into force. Mandate: It investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. 	<p>Relation with UN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While not a United Nations organization, the Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations. When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC, granting it jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HQ: Hague, Netherlands. Members: 123 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognize the ICC's authority; the notable exceptions being the US, China, Russia, and India.

Context: The New York Times recently reported that the Pentagon — United States Ministry Of Defence — is blocking any evidence-sharing with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to punish Russia for the alleged atrocities in Ukraine.

Q.88) Consider the following statements about NISAR satellite

- It is a cooperation between ISRO and NASA.
- NISAR is the first satellite mission that will collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth ranges.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.88) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) received the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NISAR is the first satellite mission that will collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth ranges. L-band (1-2 GHz, commonly used for satellite communication and remote sensing)

Radar (NISAR) satellite from the U.S. space agency in Bengaluru.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S-band (2-4 GHz, commonly used for satellite communication and weather monitoring). ‘ • ‘SAR’ is a type of remote-sensing technology that uses radars instead of optical sensors to create high-resolution images of the earth’s surface. • It can penetrate clouds and vegetation to generate accurate data. • NISAR will image the entire land and ice masses of the earth four to six times a month.
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Context: Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) received the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite from the U.S. space agency in Bengaluru.

Q.89) Consider the followings statements about Project Greensand

1. Project Greensand will be the world’s first cross-border carbon storage project.
2. The project aims to bury vast amounts of planet-heating carbon dioxide gas beneath the North Sea floor.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.89) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Greensand is a carbon storage project in Denmark's North Sea. • Project Greensand will be the world’s first cross-border carbon storage project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project aims to bury vast amounts of planet-heating carbon dioxide gas beneath the North Sea floor. • It hopes that it can help the Nordic nation and others meet climate targets. • It reverses the traffic in the pipes by pumping CO2 into the depleted reservoir of the Nini West oil field in Denmark.

Context: Denmark hopes to pump some climate gas beneath the sea floor

Q.90) Madhav National Park, recently is in news is located in?

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

d) Andhra Pradesh

Q.90) Solution (c)

Option c

Correct

About Madhav National Park:

Location:

- It is situated near Shivpuri town in Shivpuri District, which lies in the northwest region of Madhya Pradesh.
- It lies on the northern fringe of the Central Highlands of India, forming a part of the Upper Vindhyan Hills intermixed with plateaus and valley sections.

It was named after Madho Rao Scindia, the Maharaja of Gwalior belonging to the Scindia dynasty of the Marathas.

- The Park was the hunting ground of Mughal emperors and Maharaja of Gwalior.
- It got the status of a National Park in 1958.
- The Sakhya and Madhav Sagar lakes are two of the most critical zones of the park and are always surrounded by animals and birds seeking relief from the heat.
- The Park is gifted with a diverse ecosystem comprising lakes, forests, and grasslands

Context: Three Tigers, as part of a tiger reintroduction project, will soon be released in Madhav National Park.

Q.91) Consider the following statements

1. The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body established under the Advocates Act, 1961.
2. BCI regulates legal practice and legal education in India.
3. According to the Advocates Act 1961, advocates enrolled with the Bar Council alone are entitled to practise law in India.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.91) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bar Council of India is a statutory body created by Parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It performs the regulatory function by prescribing standards of professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, the Bar Council of India (BCI) has notified Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and

under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent the Indian bar.	<p>conduct and etiquette and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It also sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate. 	<p>Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022, allowing foreign lawyers and law firms to practice in India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, it did not allow them to appear before courts, tribunals or other statutory or regulatory authorities. The notification allows foreign lawyers and law firms to register with BCI to practice in India if they are entitled to practice law in their home countries. However, they cannot practice Indian law. According to the Advocates Act 1961, advocates enrolled with the Bar Council alone are entitled to practise law in India. All others, such as a litigant, can appear only with the permission of the court, authority or person before whom the proceedings are pending.
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Context: Recently, the Bar Council of India (BCI) has notified Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022, allowing foreign lawyers and law firms to practice in India.

Q.92) Consider the following statements about River Pennaiyar

- The river flows through Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu states.
- This is the 2nd longest river in Tamil Nadu after Cauvery.
- Sathanur Dam is the largest dam on this river near Tiruvannamalai.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.92) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
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Incorrect	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a non-perennial river. The river originates in the Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka and flows through Tamil Nadu to enter the Bay of Bengal at Cuddalore. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the 2nd longest river in Tamil Nadu after Kaveri. Major tributaries - the Chinnar, Markanda, Vaniar, and Pamban. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The river is extensively dammed for irrigation, especially in Tamil Nadu. There are also reservoirs at Krishnagiri and Sathanur. Sathanur Dam is the largest dam on this river near Tiruvannamalai.

Context: The time limit fixed by the Supreme Court for the constitution of an inter-State river water disputes tribunal for Pennaiyar River expired recently.

Q.93) Consider the following statements about International Criminal Court (ICC)

- ICC is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal.
- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
- It has the jurisdiction to prosecute international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- India is a signatory to the Rome Statute which establishes the ICC.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.93) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Option d
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICC is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal. It is the world's first permanent international criminal court. Headquarter - The Hague, Netherlands. It has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity (CAH), crime of aggression and war crimes. States which become party to the Rome Statute becomes member of ICC. India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute.

Context: Recently, International Criminal Court (ICC) issues arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin (Russian President) over Ukraine 'war crimes'.

Q.94) Consider the following statements about Mission Sahbhagita

1. The Ministry of Rural Development and NITI Aayog launched Mission Sahbhagita, on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
2. The initiative aims to enable rural SHG women to earn at least Rs.1 lakh per annum.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.94) Solution (c)**Statements Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched Mission Sahbhagita, on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It enables a society ownership approach for participatory conservation and wise use of Wetlands.

Context: Central assistance given for conservation of 165 wetlands, including 42 Ramsar sites across the country.

Q.95) Which of the following Country host the Exercise Sea Dragon 23, which was recently seen in news?

- a) United States of America
- b) France
- c) Australia
- d) Japan

Q.95) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<p>Exercise Sea Dragon 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a biennial, multi-national naval exercise focused on Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) training, tactics, and procedures. The exercise has been held since 2015. Host - US Navy. The exercise involves the participation of naval forces from multiple countries in the Indo-Pacific region, including India, Japan, Canada, and the Republic of Korea. The aim of the exercise is to enhance the collective ASW capabilities of the participating navies, while also promoting mutual trust and cooperation between friendly nations.

Context: A P8I aircraft of the Indian Navy arrived at Guam, USA to participate in 'Exercise Sea Dragon 23', conducted by the US Navy recently.

Q.96) Consider the following statements about Samudrayaan mission

1. The mission aimed to send 3 aquanauts to 6000 metre depth in MATSYA-6000, a submersible vehicle.
2. MATSYA-6000 is an indigenous vehicle built by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).
3. The mission aims to explore marine biodiversity and potential of the seabed.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.96) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission is aimed at sending three personnel to 6000-metre depth in a vehicle called 'MATSYA 6000' for the exploration of deep-sea resources like minerals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'MATSYA 6000' vehicle is being designed and developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under Ministry of Earth Sciences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission aims to explore marine biodiversity and potential of the seabed. The mission's one of the objective is to explore and extract polymetallic nodules of deep ocean.

Context: The National Institute of Ocean Technology is set to spearhead a 6,000-metre dive into the Indian Ocean, a mission to explore marine biodiversity and potential of the seabed

Q.97) Consider the following statements about Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform

1. It is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers.
2. These receivables can only be due from corporates and other buyers but not the Government Departments and PSUs.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.97) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing/discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers. Purpose: To allow MSME sellers to discount invoices raised against major corporations, which helps them manage their working capital demands. The platform enables MSMEs to receive payments more quickly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These receivables can be due from corporates and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor recently said that the TReDS platform introduced in 2014 for MSMEs to finance or discount their invoices — finances around 35,000 factoring units (FUs) monthly.

Q.98) Consider the following statements about Project Unnati

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- It is intended to upgrade the skill base of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries.
- The candidates undergoing training are paid a stipend for a maximum period of 100 days.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.98) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b
Correct
<p>Project Unnati:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is under the Union Rural Development Ministry. It is a skill-upgrading initiative established in 2020. <p>Objectives:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhancing the beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA's skill base and enhancing their quality of life.

- to offer training to one adult household member (between the ages of 18 and 45) who has worked 100 days under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the fiscal year prior to the project's start.
- Under the project, the selected candidates are skilled using three established training programmes: the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY), the Rural Self Training Institute (RSETI) and the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.
- This project is meant for providing training for one adult member (of age 18-45 years old) of a household who has completed 100 days of work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the previous financial year from the year of commencement of the project.
- The family from which training candidates are chosen continues to get 100 days of labour under the MGNREGA.
- The applicants undergoing training are paid a stipend for a maximum of 100 days and for one programme per household at the going wage rate in the relevant State/UT.
- The Central Government bears all costs associated with a stipend in exchange for wage loss benefits.

Context: Recently, the President attended celebrations of Kudumbashree and Project Unnati-associated events in Kerala.

Q.99) Consider the following statements about India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP)

1. This is the first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh.
2. It is a pipeline project that connects Siliguri in India with Parbatipur in Bangladesh.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.99) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pipeline foundation laid on September, 2018. • This is the first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh and second cross-border energy pipeline between India and its neighbors. • With this pipeline, 1 million metric tonnes of high-speed diesel can be supplied to various districts of Northern Bangladesh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This 130-kilometre pipeline project will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. • Implementing Agencies - Numaligarh Refinery Limited of India and Meghna Petroleum Limited of Bangladesh.

Context: India and Bangladesh on Saturday inaugurated a cross-border pipeline that will have the capacity to supply one million metric tonnes of diesel a year from Assam's Numaligarh refinery to the northern parts of the neighbouring country.

Q.100) Trindade Island, recently seen in news is located in?

- a) North Pacific Ocean
- b) Arctic Ocean
- c) South Atlantic Ocean
- d) South Pacific Ocean

Q.100) Solution (c)

Option c

Correct



- Trindade Island is the easternmost and most remote point in Brazilian territory.
- It is located about 1,140 km from the mainland of Brazil.
- Plastic reaching the remote island of Trindade was an evidence of humans' growing influence over the earth's geological cycles.
- The plastic rock was found in the permanently preserved area, near the place green turtles lay their eggs.

Context: A rock made of plastic debris, discovered in the Trindade Island is an evidence of humans' growing influence over the earth's geological cycles.

Q.101) Consider the following statements

1. The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) is a planet-scale array of eight ground-based radio telescopes forged through international collaboration.
2. The Hanle observatory at Ladakh is part of the Event Horizon Telescope.
3. The region of space beyond the black hole is called the Event Horizon.

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3

- c) 3 only
d) 1 and 3

Q.101) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) is a planet-scale array of eight ground-based radio telescopes forged through international collaboration. The EHT links telescopes around the globe to form an Earth-sized virtual telescope with unprecedented sensitivity and resolution.	Following Telescopes are part of it – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atacama Large Millimeter Array • Atacama Pathfinder Experiment • Heinrich Hertz Submillimeter Telescope • IRAM 30m telescope • James Clerk Maxwell Telescope • Large Millimeter Telescope • South Pole Telescope • Sub-millimeter Array 	Event Horizon There is a region of space beyond the black hole called the event horizon. This is a "point of no return", beyond which it is impossible to escape the gravitational effects of the black hole.

Context: The next generation Event Horizon Telescope (ngEHT) will capture the sharpest images and even videos of black holes.

Q.102) Which of the below given pairs are not correctly matched?

Pass	Connects
Khardung La	Leh and Srinagar
Chang-La	Ladakh and Tibet
Zoji La	Leh and Siachen
Umling La	Leh to Pangong Lake

Choose the correct code:

- a) One pair only
b) Two pairs only
c) Three pairs only
d) All the pairs

Q.102) Solution (b)

Option b
Correct
Umling La - It is the country's highest motorable pass. It connects Leh to Pangong Lake. Khardung La - It is the country's second-highest motorable pass. It connects the glaciers of Leh and Siachen. During the winter, this pass is closed. Chang-La - It is a high mountain pass in the Himalayan range. It links Ladakh and Tibet. Zoji Law - It links Leh with Srinagar.

Context: Recently, the Zojila Pass connecting Kashmir with Ladakh opened in a record 68 days.

Q.103) Consider the following statements about Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

1. IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
2. It was established by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1968.
3. It prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports on climate change and Special Reports on topics agreed to by its member governments.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.103) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was established by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports on climate change and Special Reports on topics agreed to by its member governments. <p>The IPCC has 3 working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group I - Physical science basis of climate change Working Group II - Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability Working Group III - The mitigation of climate change

Context: The Synthesis Report of the 6th Assessment Cycle (AR6) of the IPCC was adopted at the 58th Session of the IPCC at Interlaken, Switzerland.

Q.104) Consider the following statements about Zealandia

1. It is a long, narrow microcontinent that is mostly submerged in the South Pacific Ocean.
2. It was formally one of the constituent continents of the ancient supercontinent called Gondwana.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.104) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Option d
Correct
<p>About Zealandia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a long, narrow microcontinent that is mostly submerged in the South Pacific Ocean. Zealandia or Te Riu-a-Māui in the Māori language was formally one of the constituent continents of the ancient supercontinent called Gondwana, which also included Western Antarctica and Eastern Australia over 500 million years ago. It began to "pull away" from Gondwana roughly 105 million years ago. As Zealandia started pulling away, it began to sink beneath the waves, with over 94 percent remaining underwater for millennia. It is approximately 1.89 million square miles (4.9 million square km) in size, about half the size of Australia. The vast majority of this new continent lies beneath 6,560 feet (2km) of water. The part of Zealandia which is above water forms the foundation of New Zealand's north and south islands as well as the island of New Caledonia. The existence of Zealandia was first recorded in 1642 by Dutch businessman and sailor Abel Tasman, who was on a mission to find the "great Southern Continent," or Terra Australis.

Q.105) The Global Terrorism Index (GTI), recently seen in news is published by?

- a) The Centre for Strategic and International Studies
- b) Transparency International
- c) World Bank
- d) Institute for Economics & Peace

Q.105) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), a think tank, using data from TerrorismTracker and other sources.

- India ranks 13th on The Global Terrorism Index (GTI). The report shows that Afghanistan continues to be the country most affected by terrorism for the 4th year in a row, even though attacks and deaths decreased.
- Globally, deaths from terrorism fell by 9% to 6,701 deaths, marking a 38% decrease from its peak in 2015.
- Pakistan recorded the second largest surge in terror-related deaths worldwide in 2022, the toll increasing significantly to 643.
- South Asia remains the region with the worst average GTI score.

Context: GTI was recently published.

Q.106) Consider the following statements about Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

1. It empowers the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with powers to enter, search and seize the suspected property without judicial permission.
2. The PMLA deals with the confiscation of both movable and immovable property.
3. Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) are included under the ambit of PMLA.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main focus of the PMLA is • To prevent money-laundering • To provide for confiscation of property derived from or involved in money-laundering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It empowers the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with powers to enter, search and seize the suspected property without judicial permission. 	<p>Recent changes in the PMLA</p> <p>Bringing five types of activities under PMLA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange between virtual digital assets (VDA) and fiat currencies • Exchange between one or more forms of VDA • Transfer of VDA • Safekeeping or administration of VDA or instruments enabling control over them

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in and provision of financial services related to an issuer's offer and sale of a VDA.
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Context: 1,064 prosecution complaints pending for completion of trial under PMLA.

Q.107) Consider the following statements about Electoral Bonds

1. Electoral bonds are money instruments which can be bought by individuals from the State Bank of India (SBI).
2. Only the political parties which secured at least 10% of votes polled in the last General Election to the Lok Sabha are eligible to receive Electoral Bonds.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.107) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Option a
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electoral bonds are money instruments which can be bought by companies and individuals from the State Bank of India (SBI) It is an anonymous donation to a political party. The bonds are sold in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore. It can be bought via cheque or digital mechanism. The bonds will likely be bearer bonds and the identity of the donor will not be known to the receiver. The party can convert these bonds back into money via their bank accounts. The donor can then give this bond to the parties of their choice. The political parties can choose to encash such bonds within 15 days of receiving them and fund their electoral expenses. Electoral bonds can be bought only during specific windows of time. Political party should have meet two criteria to receive electoral bonds that are Political parties should registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 195 Political party should secured not less than 1% of votes polled in the last general election to the Legislative Assembly of the State.

Context: The Supreme Court will hear on April 11 arguments on whether it should refer petitions challenging the electoral bonds scheme to a Constitution bench.

Q.108) Consider the following statements

1. The Right to Information is derived from our fundamental right of Expression under Article 18 of the Constitution of India.
2. Section 4 of the RTI Act requires suo motu disclosure of information by each public authority.

Choose the correct statements:

- 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
Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a law enacted by the Parliament of India "to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens. The Right to Information is derived from our fundamental right of Expression under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4 of the RTI Act requires suo motu disclosure of information by each public authority. However, such disclosures have remained less than satisfactory. Section 8 (1) mentions exemptions against furnishing information under RTI Act. Section 8 (2) provides for disclosure of information exempted under Official Secrets Act, 1923 if larger public interest is served.

Context: The Supreme Court recently directed all high courts to set up RTI websites within three months.

Q.109) Consider the following statements about Wular Lake

1. The Wular lake in Jammu and Kashmir is the largest freshwater lake in India.
2. The lake basin is fed by the Jhelum River.
3. The lake is the only Ramsar site of the Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir.

Choose the correct code:

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

Q.109) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wular lake in Jammu and Kashmir is the largest freshwater lake in India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lake basin was formed as a result of tectonic activity and is fed by the Jhelum River and stream Madhumati and Arin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hokera Wetland, Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve, Surinsar-Mansar Lakes and Wular Lake are the Ramsar sites of Jammu and Kashmir.

Context: Recently, Long-tailed duck species have been spotted at the iconic Wular Lake, Kashmir after 116 years.

Q.110) World Happiness Report 2023, recently seen in news is released by?

- United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- United Nations Development Programme
- World Bank
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Q.110) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an annual publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). It is based on global survey data from people in more than 150 countries. It is based on people's own assessment of their happiness, as well as economic and social data. The report considers six key factors: social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption. It assigns a happiness score based on an average of data over a three-year period.

Context: India has been ranked at the 126th place among 146 countries in the recently released World Happiness Report.

Q.111) Consider the following statements about Biodiversity Heritage Site

- BHS are notified under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- BHS are notified by Union Environment Ministry in consultation with the local bodies.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.111) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity heritage sites are well-defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems with high diversity of wild and domesticated species, presence of rare and threatened species, and keystone species. BHS are notified under the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per provision under Section 37(1) of 'Biological Diversity Act, 2002', The State Government may, from time to time in consultation with the local bodies, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as under this Act.

Context: The Odisha government has declared the Gandhamardan Hill Range in Bargarh and Balangir district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).

Q.112) Consider the following statements about Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

1. It is a US-led initiative that aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries.
2. Supply-chain resilience and Taxation & anti-corruption are among the four pillars IPEF negotiation.
3. India is not a member of the initiative.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.112) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a US-led initiative that aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. 	<p>The IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) but allows members to negotiate the parts they want to. The negotiations will be along four main "pillars".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply-chain resilience Clean energy, decarbonisation & infrastructure Taxation & anti-corruption Fair & resilient trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, India and 13 countries located in the Pacific Ocean are its members, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam.

Context: Recently, an Inter-Ministerial delegation from India led by the Department of Commerce participated in the second Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) negotiating round in Bali, Indonesia.

Q.113) Consider the following statements about International Monetary Fund (IMF)

1. The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
2. Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based on its relative position in the world economy to pay as their capital subscription.
3. Global Financial Development Report is released by International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.113) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s. • Aim - It sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding - The IMF's resources mainly come from the money that countries pay as their capital subscription (quotas) when they become members. • Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy. • Countries can then borrow from this pool when they fall into financial difficulty. • The IMF provides loans including emergency loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems. 	<p>IMF reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Economic Outlook - A Survey that usually published twice a year. • Global Financial Stability Report - Published twice a year. • Fiscal Monitor – Prepared twice a year. • Global Financial Development Report is released by World Bank.

Context: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility of \$2.9 billion to tide over the worst economic crisis in srilanka.

Q.114) Consider the following statements about PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2020.
2. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is the nodal agency to implement the scheme.
3. Under the scheme Micro enterprises will get credit linked subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a ceiling of Rs.10 lakh.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.114) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2020 with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore. Duration: It will be implemented over a 5-year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Fund Sharing: The expenditure under the scheme would be shared in a 60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments, a 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States, a 60:40 ratio with UTs with legislature, and 100% by Centre for other UTs. 	<p>Financial Support:</p> <p>Support to Individual micro-units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micro enterprises will get credit linked subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a ceiling of Rs.10 lakh. The beneficiary contribution will be minimum of 10% and the balance from the loan. <p>Support to FPOs/SHGs/Cooperatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed capital will be given to SHGs (at Rs. 4 lacks per SHG) for loans to members for working capital and small tools. Grant for backward/ forward linkages, common infrastructure, packaging, marketing & branding.

Context: Ministry Of Food Processing Industries recently informed that the PMFME scheme has received over 1,02,515 loan applications so far.

Q.115) Solomon Islands, recently seen in news is located in?

- a) Northeast Pacific Ocean
- b) Southwest Pacific Ocean
- c) Western Indian Ocean
- d) Southeast Atlantic Ocean

Q.115) Solution (b)

Option b
Correct
Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an island country consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania. It is situated in the southwest Pacific Ocean, approximately 2,000 km to the northeast of Australia. Capital: Its capital, Honiara, is located on the largest island, Guadalcanal.

Context: A state-backed Chinese company recently won a contract to develop a key port in the Solomon Islands.

Q.116) Consider the following statements

- Earth's magnetic field acts like a protective shield around the planet, repelling and trapping charged particles from the Sun.
- South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA) is a region at the Earth's surface where the intensity of the magnetic field is particularly low.
- SAA stretches out between South America and southwest Africa.

Choose the incorrect statements:

- 2 only
- 2 and 3
- 3 only
- None

Q.116) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth's magnetic field acts like a protective shield around the planet, repelling and trapping charged particles from the Sun. SAA exists because the Earth's inner Van Allen radiation belt comes closest to the planet's surface, causing an increased flux of energetic particles. 	South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a region at the Earth's surface where the intensity of the magnetic field is particularly low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAA stretches out between South America and southwest Africa.

- This leads to the penetration of solar energetic particles deep into Earth's atmosphere, posing severe problems for airplanes and ships' positioning systems as well as spacecraft electronic systems.

Context: NASA is actively monitoring a strange anomaly in Earth's magnetic field called the South Atlantic Anomaly.

Q.117) Consider the following statements

1. When the Kangaroo Closure motion is passed only the important clauses of a bill are discussed and voted.
2. Guillotine Closure is the time allocated for discussion of a particular bill or resolution is over, all the undiscussed clauses are put to vote along with the discussed ones.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.117) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Option c
Correct
<p>Types of Closure Motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple Closure: If the matter is sufficiently discussed then the member might move a Simple closure motion. • Closure by Compartments: For discussion, the bill or a resolution is grouped together into compartments. Therefore a particular section or group of sections in a bill can be put to vote. • Kangaroo Closure: When this type of closure motion is passed, only the important clauses of a bill are discussed and voted. The remaining clauses are deemed to be passed • Guillotine Closure: When the time allocated for discussion of a particular bill or resolution is over, all the undiscussed clauses are put to vote along with the discussed ones on the Guillotine.

Context: The Lok Sabha passed the demands for grants for ministries without any discussion due to disruptions in Parliamentary procedure.

Q.118) Consider the following statements

1. The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is a Central Sector Scheme for the rehabilitation of child labour.

2. It is being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
3. PENCIL portal ensure effective implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.118) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is a Central Sector Scheme for the rehabilitation of child labour. Under this Scheme, funds are provided directly to the District Project Societies headed by the District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner who in turn allocates the funds to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies, etc. for running Special Training Centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Labour & Employment is the nodal agency. 	<p>Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) -</p> <p>It is a separate online portal to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.</p>

Context: Recently, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment informed Rajya Sabha about the PENCIL portal and implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

Q.119) Consider the following statements

1. In a Tidally locked planet one side of the planet always faces the star.
2. The 'terminator line' is the dividing line between the 'day' and 'night' sides of the planet.
3. There is no terminator line for Earth.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.119) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidally locked planet - 'Tidally locked' is a gravitational phenomenon in which one side of the planet always faces the star. Most of the exoplanets are tidally locked and have a permanent day side and a permanent night side. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terminator Zone - The 'terminator' is the dividing line between the 'day' and 'night' sides of the planet. Terminator zones are the border region between light and dark halves of an exoplanet. Terminator zones are the regions that could exist in that sweet spot between too hot and too cold. They are also known as 'Twilight zones'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Earth, the terminator moves around over the course of a day, but on some planets it's fixed in place called tidally locked planets.

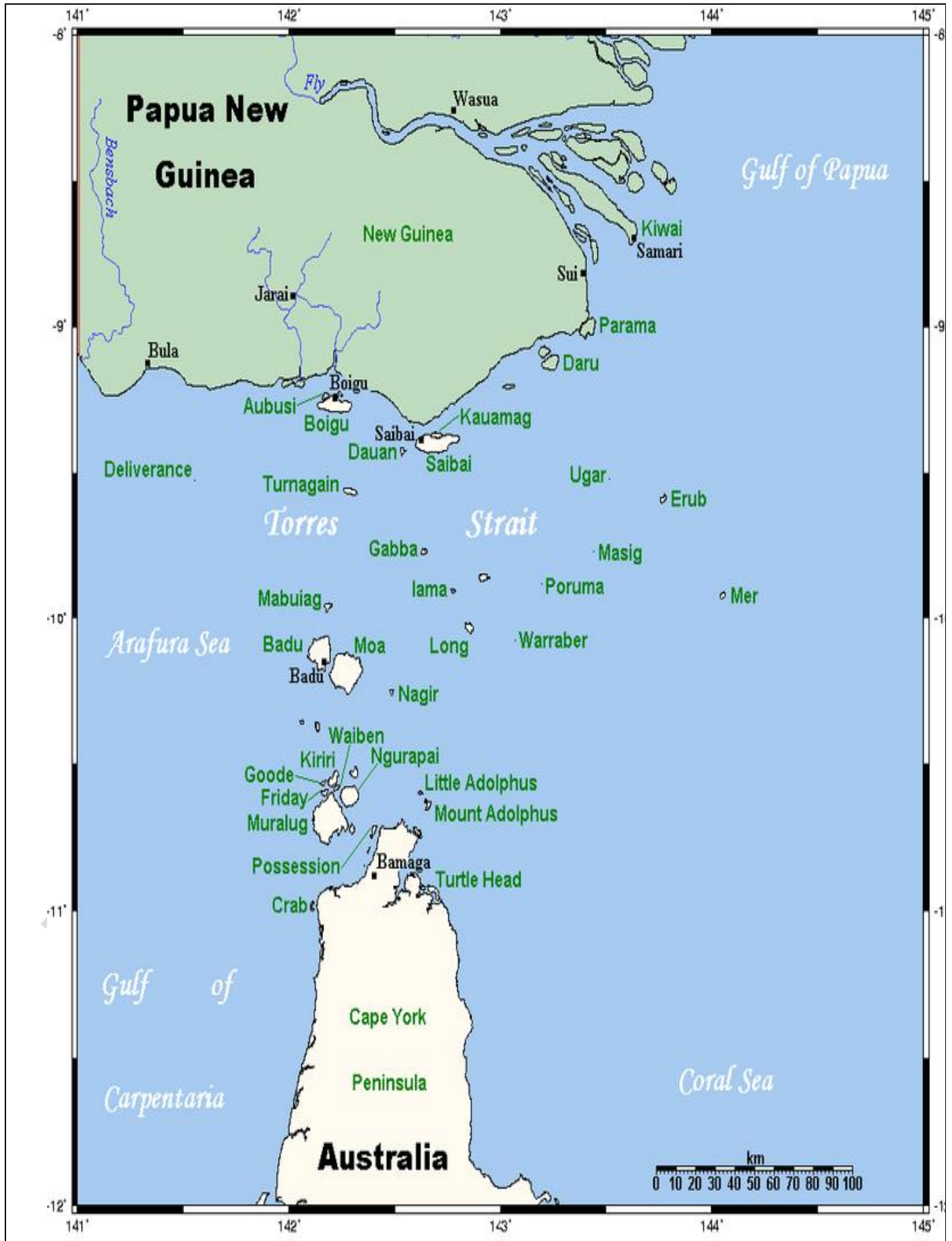
Context: A new study describes how extra-terrestrial life has the potential to exist on distant exoplanets inside a special area called the "terminator zone".

Q.120) Torres Strait, recently seen in news connects?

- Tasman Sea and South Pacific Ocean
- South China Sea and East China Sea
- Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean
- Coral Sea and Arafura Sea

Q.120) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torres Strait, passage between the Coral Sea, on the east, and the Arafura Sea, in the western Pacific Ocean. To the north lies New Guinea and to the south Cape York Peninsula, Australia. It has many reefs and shoals dangerous to navigation, and its larger islands are inhabited. Discovered (1606) by the Spanish mariner Luis Vaez de Torres, its existence was kept secret until 1764, the strait that still bears his name. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a unique place in Australia as the original inhabitants of the land. However, despite some improvements in recent years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Australia.



Context: The Australian government recently took a historical step with the referendum to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders recognition in the constitution.

Q.121) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Marine Protected Areas'

1. They are designated areas of the ocean that are set aside for the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity
2. These areas exclude fishing and other human activities but research work is allowed
3. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides a legal framework for establishing vast marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect against the loss of wildlife of the high seas.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.121) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
MPAs are designated areas of the ocean that are set aside for the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity. They support climate change adaptation and mitigation while providing other ecosystem services.	MPAs do not necessarily exclude fishing, research or other human activities; in fact, many MPAs are multi-purpose areas.	United Nations High Seas Treaty is the first-ever treaty to protect the world's oceans that lie outside national boundaries. It is also known as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean.' It is a legally binding treaty to protect marine life in international waters. It will provide a legal framework for establishing vast marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect against the loss of wildlife and share out the genetic resources of the high seas.

Context - The Union minister of state for science and technology and earth sciences recently said that India will continue to support setting up two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Antarctica to protect marine life and its ecosystem services.

Q.122) 'CRISP app' which was recently launched is related to

- a) Gene technology
- b) Venture funding
- c) Coal block allocation
- d) Rubber cultivation

Q.122) Solution (d)

The Comprehensive Rubber Information System Platform (CRISP) application has been developed by the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) in collaboration with the Digital University of Kerala. It gives information to rubber cultivators related to production and productivity enhancement, reduction of cultivation cost, maintenance of soil fertility, disease control measures, etc.

Context - The Rubber Board has launched a mobile app CRISP to inform growers about rubber cultivation and provides solutions online.

Q.123) With reference to 'LaQshya Programme', consider the following statements

1. The programme aims to eliminate maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths
2. It covers all Government Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals & equivalent health facilities in private settings

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.123) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
'LaQshya' programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims at improving quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT). It aims to reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.	It covers all Government Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals & equivalent health facilities, designated FRUs as well as high case load CHCs. It does not cover private hospitals.

Context - 2,660 Labour Rooms and 1989 Maternity Operation Theatres certified facilities under the LaQshya programme conducted the sensitization/ orientation of the latest Labour Room protocols

Q.124) With reference to 'International Monetary Fund Bailout', consider the following statements

1. The IMF lends money to the troubled economies often in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).
2. This lending is carried out by a number of lending programs such as extended credit facility, flexible credit line and stand-by agreements
3. India has sought IMF support only once and that was during Balance of Payments crisis in 1991

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.124) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The IMF lends money to the troubled economies often in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). SDRs simply represent a basket of five currencies, namely the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese yuan, the Japanese yen, and the British pound.	The IMF carries out its lending to troubled economies through a number of lending programs such as the extended credit facility, the flexible credit line, the stand-by agreement, etc.	India has sought financial assistance from the IMF seven times but never since 1993. The repayment of all the loans taken from the IMF were completed by May 2000.

Context - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) confirmed a \$3 billion bailout plan for Sri Lanka's struggling economy and is also in negotiations with Pakistan for a \$1.1 billion bailout plan.

Q.125) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sarus Crane'

1. It is a large migratory crane found in parts of the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia
2. It is classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List and is listed in Appendix II of CITES agreement

Select the correct statement(s)

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.125) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The sarus crane (<i>Antigone antigone</i>) is a large nonmigratory crane found in parts of the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and Australia. The tallest of the flying birds, standing at a height of up to 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in), they are a conspicuous species of open wetlands in South Asia	It is classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List and is listed in Appendix II of CITES agreement. The species is neither a novelty nor under threat in the Northern Indian landscape.

Context - Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) Forest Department has relocated a sarus crane, U.P. 's State bird, from Mandka village in Amethi to Raebareli's Samaspur Bird Sanctuary.

Q.126) 'TRAPPIST 1-b' seen in news recently is a/an

- a) Dwarf star
- b) Exo-planet
- c) Black hole
- d) Asteroid

Q.126) Solution (b)

TRAPPIST-1 b is a hot rocky exoplanet orbiting an ultracool red dwarf star TRAPPIST-1. It is the innermost of seven known planets in the TRAPPIST-1 system. It has 1.4 times the mass and 1.1 times the radius of Earth. It orbits its star at a distance of 0.011 astronomical unit (AU), completing one circuit in just 1.51 Earth days. It receives about four times the amount of energy that Earth gets from the Sun.

Context - The James Webb Space Telescope has looked at a planet that is Earth-like with a rocky surface. The planet is part of the Trappist-1

Q.127) Consider the following statements about 'Central Bureau of Narcotics'

1. It is an agency working under the Ministry of Home Affairs to regulate drug trafficking
2. It grants licenses to farmers to cultivate opium poppy and also procures it from them
3. It interacts with the Competent Authorities of other countries to verify genuineness of the transaction prior to authorizing the shipments.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.127) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Central Bureau of Narcotics is affiliated with India's Department of Revenue (IRS) and regulated by the country's Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. The main function of CBN is to stop opium production and trade, and to issue licenses for production of legal synthetic drugs. The Central Bureau of Narcotics headquarters is located at Gwalior.	The responsibilities of CBN cover the following: Supervision over licit cultivation of opium poppy in India which is spread across 22 Districts 102 Tehsils/ Parganas in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Issue of licences for manufacture of synthetic narcotic drugs. Issuance of Export Authorisations/ Import Certificate for export/ import of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.	CBN interacts with the International Narcotics Control Board, Vienna and the Competent Authorities of other countries to verify genuineness of the transaction prior to authorizing the shipments.

Context - Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) busted Drug syndicate in Delhi

Q.128) With reference to 'Cloning', consider the following statements

1. Cloning describes a number of natural or artificial processes that can be used to produce genetically identical copies of a biological entity.
2. The technique of organism cloning involves the transfer of a germ line cell nucleus into an enucleated egg

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.128) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Cloning describes a number of different processes that can be used to produce genetically identical copies of a biological entity. Cloning can be natural or artificial. Examples of cloning that occur naturally are as follows: Vegetative reproduction in plants, e.g. water hyacinth producing multiple copies of genetically identical plants through apomixis Binary fission in bacteria.	Organism cloning, or reproductive cloning, where a multicellular clone is created generally through somatic cell nuclear transfer. This technique involves the transfer of a somatic cell nucleus into an enucleated egg.

Context - The National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal has produced cloned female calves of the desi breed Gir.

Q.129) Consider the following statements about 'Certified Reference Materials (CRM)'

1. They are used as calibration standards for analytical methods, instrument performance evaluation, and data quality control in routine analysis
2. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) recently developed a Bauxite Certified Reference Material (CRM) which is the first of its kind in India

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.129) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
CRMs are used as calibration standards for analytical methods, instrument performance evaluation, and data quality control in routine analysis CRMs are blocks of metal that come with certificates indicating the concentration of their various constituent elements along with their uncertainty levels.	National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) have jointly developed India's first Bauxite Certified Reference Material (CRM) named BARC B1201. This is the fifth CRM of its kind in the world.

Context - NALCO-BARC Released India's 1st Bauxite CRM

Q.130) Consider the following statements about 'Institutes of Eminence (IoE) Scheme'

1. It is a recognition scheme under NITI Aayog that helps empower higher educational institutions
2. All the institutions under IOE tag will receive a government grant of ₹1,000 crore
3. All the central universities, Institutions of National Importance and State Universities set up under a law made by the Legislative Assembly of a State are eligible for the scheme

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.130) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Institute of Eminence (IoE) is a recognition scheme under University Grants Commission (UGC) that helps empower higher educational institutions. The Union Budget 2016-17 announced the Government of India's commitment to empower the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). Accordingly, the University Grant Commission (UGC) - a statutory body under the Ministry of Education launched the IoE scheme in 2017.	The public institutions under IOE tag will receive a government grant of ₹1,000 crore, while the private institutions will not get any funding under the scheme.	The Public Institutes that are eligible to apply under IoE are as follows: Central Universities, Government-owned and controlled Deemed to be Universities, Institutions of National Importance such as IITs, NITs, etc, State Universities set up under a law made by the Legislative Assembly of a State.

Context - A Parliamentary panel has sought status notes on the 2 public and 5 private higher education institutions which await the final IoE status, recommending that the process for granting the IoE status be "accelerated".

Q.131) With reference to 'Kharai Camels', consider the following statements

1. They are a rare breed of camel found in the salt marshes of the Sunderbans in West Bengal
2. They can swim long distances in the sea to reach their grazing areas, even in deep waters and mostly feed on mangroves

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.131) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Kharai Camel is a rare breed of camel found in the salt marshes of the Kutch district of Gujarat. They are considered a unique Ecotonal species as they survive in the dryland ecosystem as well as the coastal ecosystem.	It is well adapted to the saline desert environment and is known for its ability to swim (hence also known as 'swimming camel'). They swim long distances in the sea to reach their grazing areas, usually more than 3 km at a time, even in deep waters. Kharai camels mostly feed on mangroves.

Context - CAG found 117 hectares of mangroves destroyed in Kutch; asks govt to save 'Kharai' breed of camels from extinction

Q.132) 'Captive Employment Initiative' was launched by

- a) The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- b) The Ministry of Labour and Employment
- c) The Ministry of Rural Development
- d) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q.132) Solution (c)

Captive Employment is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at addressing the vision of a dynamic and demand-based skilling ecosystem catering to the requirements of industry partners assuring sustainable placements for rural poor youth. The Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) signed an MoU with 19 Captive Employers. It aims to train and provide jobs for rural youth under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

Context - The Union Minister for Rural Development launched the Captive Employment initiative which is an initiative under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in New Delhi

Q.133) Consider the following statements about 'Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)'

1. It is a member-based trade association established under the International Renewable Energy Agency
2. The members of GWEC include manufacturers, research institutes, national wind and renewables associations and finance and insurance companies
3. It publishes the 'Global Wind Report' annually

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.133) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) was established in 2005 to provide a credible and representative forum for the entire wind energy sector at an international level. GWEC's mission is to ensure that wind power is established as one of the world's leading energy sources, providing substantial environmental and economic benefits. It is not related to IRENA	The members of GWEC represent over 1,500 companies, organisations and institutions in more than 80 countries, including manufacturers, developers, component suppliers, research institutes, national wind and renewables associations, electricity providers, and finance and insurance companies.	GWEC has been producing comprehensive annual reports on the latest status of the wind industry since 2005. The reports are Global Wind Report, Global Offshore Wind Report, Floating Offshore Wind Report and Green Recovery Report 2022

Context - India, targeting wind capacity addition of 100 GW by 2030, has an opportunity to emerge as a major player in supply chain if facilitative policy measures are put in place, the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

Q.134) With reference to 'Second Summit for Democracy', consider the following statements

1. The Summit is centered around the themes of defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption and establishing democracies worldwide
2. It is being hosted by the United States of America, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, South Korea and Zambia
3. The first summit was held in 2017 in the aftermath of prolonged humanitarian crisis in the Middle East and North Korean crisis

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

Q.134) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Summit is centered around three principal themes: Defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption and advancing respect for human rights	The second Summit for Democracy was co-hosted by the U.S., Costa Rica, the Netherlands, South Korea and Zambia. The text for Summit for Democracy Declaration was finalised and is left open to be endorsed by the participating leaders.	On December 9-10, 2021, US President Biden hosted the first Summit for Democracy. This summit brought together leaders all over the world to set forth an affirmative agenda for democratic renewal and to tackle the greatest threats faced by democracies today through collective action.

Context - United States President Joe Biden has kicked off his second Summit for Democracy by announcing \$690m in new funding for democracy programmes across the world.

Q.135) Consider the following statements about 'National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)'

1. It is a quasi-judicial body that was established under the Companies Act, 2013 and is also the Appellate Tribunal for order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)
2. The decisions of the NCLAT are final and binding on the parties involved and no appeal can be made against the orders

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.135) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
NCLAT is a quasi-judicial body in India that was established under the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against the orders passed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). It is also the Appellate Tribunal for order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) as well for orders of the National Financial Reporting Authority.	It is the second-highest forum for company law cases in India after the Supreme Court. The decisions of the NCLAT are final and binding on the parties involved, and the orders passed by the NCLAT can be challenged only in the Supreme Court of India.

Context - The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) partially upheld Competition Commission of India's (CCI) Android dominance order against Google.