



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

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**Q.1) With reference to 'Census in India', consider the following statements**

1. The responsibility of conducting the census rests with the Ministry of statistics and programme implementation
2. The Census Operations in India consists of house-listing followed by population enumeration
3. Population Enumeration phase captures individual particulars like Age, Marital status, Religion and caste

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The responsibility of conducting the decadal census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. Population census is listed in Union List (entry 69) of Seventh Schedule in Indian Constitution. Census is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.	The Census Operations in India have been carried out in two phases: House-listing and Housing Census and Population Enumeration. The Population Enumeration follows the Housing Census within a gap of six to eight months.	In Population Enumeration phase each person is enumerated and her/his individual particulars like Age, Marital status, Religion, mother tongue etc.

**Context - The Census enumeration scheduled to take place in 2021 has been pushed to 2024-25 until further orders.**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission'**

1. The Mission aims to eliminate sickle cell genetic transmission by the year 2047
2. The Mission is executed as part of the National Health Mission (NHM)
3. All tribals aged below 40 will be provided genetic cards mentioning their sickle cell anaemia status

How many of the statement(s) given above are correct

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.2) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Program, introduced in the Union Budget 2023, focuses on addressing the significant health challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among tribal populations of the country. It aims to eliminate the disease by 2047	The program is executed in a mission mode as part of the National Health Mission (NHM), aims to eliminate sickle cell genetic transmission by the year 2047, showing a long-term commitment to eradicating the disease.	The government will provide genetic status cards to the tribal people below 40 years of age. This will help to determine their sickle cell anemia or status. The card will also hold pre-marital counselling for people at risk. If they marry another sickle cell anemia patient and it is likely that they would have a child affected with sickle cell disease

**Context - Prime Minister launched National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Artemis Accords'**

1. It is a non-binding multilateral arrangement led by European Space Agency to place humans on Mars
2. India recently became a signatory to the Artemis Accords

**Select the correct 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
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Artemis Accords is a non-binding multilateral arrangement between the United States government and other world governments participating in the Artemis program, an American-led effort to return humans to the Moon by 2025, with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond	India recently became the 27 <sup>th</sup> signatory to the Accords

**Context - Recently, India became the 27th signatory to the Artemis Accords**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)'**

Statement 1 - It is a call to all the companies to align their operations with principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption

Statement 2 – It is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.4) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
UNGC is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.	Launched in 2000, UNGC is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world, with more than 15,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and more than 70 Local Networks. This UN-led initiative promotes activities that contribute to sustainable development goals to create a better world.

**Context - Nord Security, home to NordVPN, NordLayer, NordPass, and NordLocker, recently joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) community.**

**Q.5) 'Miniopterus phillipsi, Glischropus meghalayanus' which was discovered recently are**

- a) Bats
- b) Flowers
- c) Butterflies
- d) Honeybees

**Q.5) Solution (a)**

India added 664 animal species to its faunal database in the year 2022. These comprise 467 new species and 197 new records [species found in India for the first time]. The mammal species discovered include two species of bats – Miniopterus phillipsi, a long-fingered bat, and Glischropus meghalayanus, a bamboo-dwelling bat – both from Meghalaya. Sela macaque (Macaca selai), a new macaque species discovered in the western and central Arunachal Pradesh and named after the Sela Pass, is also among the highlights of Animal Discoveries 2022.

**Context - The details of new discoveries and new records were released by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change adding 664 animal species to its faunal database in 2022, 339 taxa to its flora in India.**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO)'**

1. It aims to promote and co-ordinate the fight against doping in sport in all its forms
2. It is an organization established under The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.6) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) was formed on 16th May 2007 in the South Asian Anti-Doping Program Project Development Meeting held in Maldives. It aims to promote and co-ordinate the fight against doping in sport in all its forms in among South Asia RADO member countries.	Member countries of SARADO are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. It is not an organization under SAARC

**Context - National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA India) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO)**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bharat 6G Alliance'**

1. It is a collaborative platform which aims to achieve universal and affordable connectivity
2. The platform consists of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations
3. The Alliance aims to enable the country to emerge as a global leader in 6G technology

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Bharat 6G Alliance is a collaborative platform which aims to achieve universal and affordable connectivity, promote indigenous technology, and establish India as a global leader in the telecom sector.	This platform consists of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations, aims to lead the development and deployment of 6G technology in India. It will forge coalitions and synergies with other 6G Global Alliances,	One of the key goals of B6GA is to facilitate market access for Indian telecom technology products and services, enabling the country to emerge as a global leader in 6G technology.

	fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.	
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**Context - Indian government has launched the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to spearhead the development of 6G technology in the country**

**Q.8) With reference to 'Supermoon', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - When a supermoon occurs, the size of the moon appears to be bigger but the brightness remains the same

Statement 2 – A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.8) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
When a full Moon appears at the point when the distance between the Earth and the Moon is the least, not only does it appear to be brighter but it is also larger than a regular full moon. The term "Supermoon" was coined by astrologer Richard Nolle in 1979, defining it as a special event when a full moon is within 90 percent of its closest point to Earth.	A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full. As the Moon orbits the Earth, there is a point of time when the distance between the two is the least (called the perigee when the average distance is about 360,000 km from the Earth) and a point of time when the distance is the most (called the apogee when the distance is about 405,000 km from the Earth).

**Context - The first supermoon of 2023, which will be seen in July, will appear brighter in the night sky compared to any other full moon that has been witnessed this year.**

**Q.9) 'eSARAS App' which was in news recently is related to**

- a) Tax disputes
- b) Product marketing
- c) Forest surveying
- d) Research funding

**Q.9) Solution (b)**

eSARAS App is an e-commerce mobile app which will be used as a more effective platform for marketing of the products made by women of self-help groups. It is an initiative conceptualized by the DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), towards the marketing of the best, authentic handicrafts and hand-looms. This initiative promotes the spirit of Vocal for Local even further with easier marketing of products prepared by SHGs

**Context - eSARAS mobile App was launched by the Secretary of Union Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India at New Delhi.**

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SWAMIH Fund'**

1. It is a social impact fund specifically formed for starting affordable housing projects
2. The Fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
3. It is a Category-I AIF debt fund registered with the Reserve Bank of India

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.10) Solution (d)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund I is a social impact fund specifically formed for	The Fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd., a State Bank Group company. It has one of the largest domestic real estate private equity teams focused	It is a Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund)debt fund registered with the Securities and



completing stressed and stalled residential projects.	only on funding and monitoring the completion of stressed housing projects.	Exchange Board of India.
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**Context - The Prime Minister of India congratulated new home owners in Bengaluru's first project under SWAMIH Fund.**

**Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Metallurgical Coke'**

1. It is a carbonaceous material produced by heating bituminous coal in the absence of air
2. It has a low carbon content, high ash content and high strength
3. It is used as a fuel and reducing agent in the production of iron and steel

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Metallurgical coke is a carbonaceous material produced by heating bituminous coal in the absence of air. It is produced by heating coal in coke ovens at high temperatures (around 1,000 to 1,200 degrees Celsius).	It has also a low volatile content or rather low waste product content due to the heat treatment process received. It has a high carbon content, low ash content, and high strength. Its porous structure allows for good gas flow and provides structural support in the blast furnace.	It is used as a fuel and reducing agent in the production of iron and steel.

**Context - India has started a safeguard probe into sudden and sharp increase in the imports of metallurgical coke**

**Q.12) With reference to 'Central Water Commission', consider the following statements**

1. It is a premier technical organization functioning as an independence office under the Ministry of Jal Shakti
2. It is headed by a Chairman with the status of Cabinet Minister of the Government of India
3. Monitoring the river water quality and dam safety are some of the functions of CWC

How many of the statement(s) given above are correct

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.12) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Central Water Commission (CWC) is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources and is presently functioning as an attached office of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.	CWC is headed by a Chairman, with the status of Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government of India. The work of the Commission is divided among three wings namely, Designs and Research (D&R) Wing, River Management (RM) Wing and Water Planning and Projects (WP&P) Wing	Functional domains of CWC: Basin Planning and Management Appraisal of Water Resources Projects, Establishing Project Hydrology Survey & Investigation of Water Resources Projects, Civil & Structural Design of Water Resources Projects, Hydro-Mechanical Design of Water Resources Projects, Monitoring of Water Resources Projects, Dam Safety, Flood Forecasting/ Hydrological Observation, River Management, Inter-State/ International conflict resolution in Water related Disputes, Monitoring the River Water Quality

**Context - According to recent data water levels in 110 out of the 146 reservoirs that are monitored by the Central Water Commission (CWC) are 40% or below their capacities.**

**Q.13) 'Orkney Islands' which is in news caught the international attention for which one of the following reason?**

- a) Annexation by Russia
- b) Complete submergence due to climate change
- c) Nuclear waste dumping
- d) Possibility of split off from United Kingdom

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

Orkney Islands is an archipelago consisting of 70 individual islands, of which only 20 are inhabited. The Orkney Islands can be found roughly 10 miles off the north coast of Scotland. Orkney has voted on whether or not it will look to change its relationship with the UK. The vote passed at a meeting on 4 July, that means the council will now investigate a number of different options to break away from the UK, including becoming part of Norway instead.

**Context - An iconic Orkney Islands is looking at ways to split off from the U.K. and potentially become a self-governing territory of Norway.**

**Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding 'South Asian Football Federation Championship'**

1. It is an international association football competition of the men's national football teams
2. India has won the maximum number of titles in this tournament

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.14) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The South Asian Football Federation Championship, commonly known as SAFF Cup is the main international association football competition of the men's national football teams governed by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF). All eight teams are eligible to compete in tournament.	The countries that currently compete in the tournaments are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is held every two years. India has won the maximum number of titles in this tournament, that is nine. India has been victorious in 1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009[b], 2011, 2015, 2021, 2023)

**Context – India won the 2023 edition of SAFF championship**

**Q.15) Consider the following**

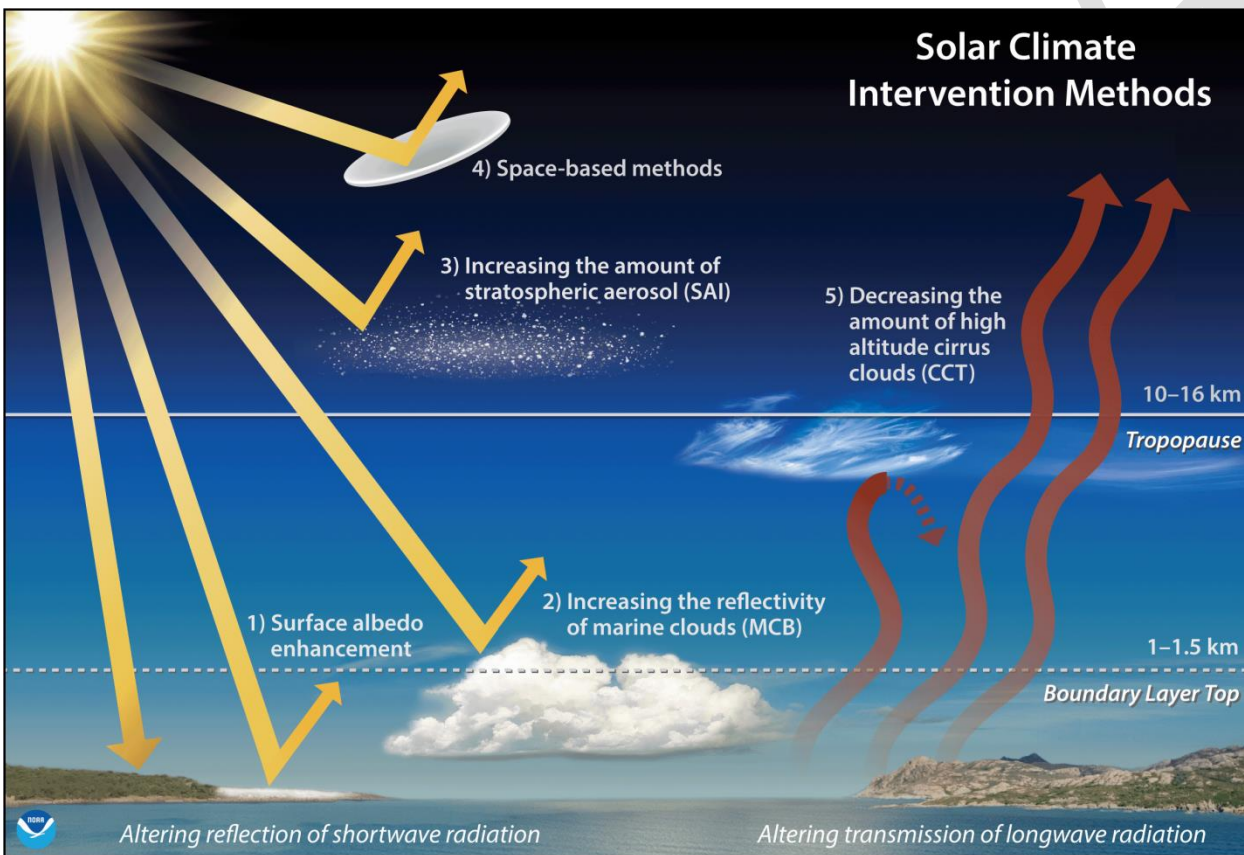
1. Stratospheric Aerosol Injection
2. Cirrus cloud thickening
3. Marine cloud brightening

4. Ocean sulphur cycle enhancement

Which of the above mentioned methods are used in solar geo-engineering

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

Q.15) Solution (c)



Context – It was in news

Q.16) Consider the following with respect to 'Currency internationalization'

- It limits the exchange rate risk
- It boosts the formation of capital
- It results in better transmission of monetary policy

How many of the statement(s) given above are correct

- Only one

- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.16) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
As the internationalisation of a country's currency broadens and deepens its financial market, domestic firms may be able to invoice and settle their exports/imports in their currency, thus shifting exchange rate risk to their foreign counterparts.	A larger, more efficient financial sector may serve the domestic non-financial sector better by reducing the cost of capital and widening the set of financial institutions that are willing and able to provide capital. This would boost capital formation in the economy thereby increasing growth and reducing unemployment.	The obligation of a country to supply its currency to meet the global demand may come in conflict with its domestic monetary policies, popularly known as the Triffin dilemma. The main costs of allowing greater international use of the currency emerge from the possible increased volatility in the exchange and money markets, thus making the conduct of monetary policy more complex.

**Context - Inter-Departmental Group of RBI has released the report & recommendations for Internationalisation of rupee.**

**Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to 'World Investment Report 2023'**

1. FDI inflows were higher in developed countries compared with those in developing economies
2. Much of the growth in international investment in renewable energy has been concentrated in developing countries
3. It is released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.17) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
FDI inflows were higher in developing countries compared with those in developed economies. India and ASEAN were the most buoyant recipients of the Foreign direct investment (FDI), with increases of 10 and 5%, respectively.	Much of the growth in international investment in renewable energy has been concentrated in developed countries. The investment gap across all sectors of the Sustainable Development Goals has increased to more than \$4 trillion per year from \$2.5 trillion in 2015.	It is released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**Context - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published its World Investment Report 2023.**

**Q.18) Consider the following pairs**

**Official butterfly: State/UT**

1. Blue Pansy: Puducherry
2. Kaiser I Hind: Arunachal Pradesh
3. Blue Duke: Sikkim
4. Southern Bird Wing: Kerala

**How many pair(s) is/are correctly matched**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Official butterfly	State/UT
Blue Pansy	Jammu and Kashmir
Kaiser I Hind	Arunachal Pradesh
Blue Duke	Sikkim
Southern Bird Wing	Karnataka

**Context - The Jammu and Kashmir government has officially declared the Blue Pansy as the official butterfly of the union territory.**

**Q.19) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022'**

Statement 1 - The bill applies to Personal data which may be processed with consent only within India

Statement 2 - The Bill grants certain rights to individuals including the right to obtain information and grievance redressal

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.19) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Bill will apply to the processing of digital personal data within India where such data is: (i) collected online, or (ii) collected offline and is digitised. Personal data is defined as any data about an individual who is identifiable by or in relation to such data. It will also apply to the processing of personal data outside India, if it is for offering goods or services or profiling individuals in India.	The Bill grants certain rights to individuals including the right to obtain information, seek correction and erasure, and grievance redressal. They will have certain duties. They must not: register a false or frivolous complaint, furnish any false particulars, suppress information, or impersonate another person in specified cases.

**Context - The Union Cabinet approved the draft data protection Bill, paving the way for its introduction in the Monsoon session of Parliament.**

**Q.20) 'Mosaic viruses' seen in news are known to mostly affect**

- a) Pollinators
- b) Ruminants
- c) Vegetables
- d) Primates



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

A mosaic virus is a parasite that destroys plants, gardens, and crops down to their molecular level. Such viruses come from a variety of unrelated lineages and consequently there is no taxon that unites all mosaic viruses. Mosaic viruses affect more than 150 types of plants, including many fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The disease is characterized by leaves mottled with yellow, white, and light or dark green spots and streaks. It affects a wide variety of horticultural and vegetable crops — roses, beans, tobacco, tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash, melons, and peppers.

**Context - Tomato crop in Maharashtra was impacted by attacks of the cucumber mosaic virus (CMV), while in Karnataka and other South Indian states the farmers blaming tomato mosaic virus (ToMV) for crop losses.**

**Q.21) Consider the following statements about 'Gravity Hole'**

1. It is a region of the ocean where the effects of gravity is the highest
2. It is caused due to differences in the density of the materials that make up the Earth's crust

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.21) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The gravity hole is a region of the ocean where the effects of gravity are less than usual. It occurs at the bottom of the ocean where there are gravitational anomalies.	These anomalies are caused by variations in the gravitational pull of the Earth due to differences in the density of the materials that make up the Earth's crust. The Indian Ocean is home to one of the most profound gravitational anomalies on Earth known as the Indian Ocean Geoid Low (IOGL). It is found in a large section of over three million sq. km in the Indian Ocean seafloor, located around 1,200 km southwest of India's southern tip.

**Context - According to researchers from the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Ocean harbours a colossal and enigmatic phenomenon known as the "Gravity Hole"**



**Q.22) Consider the following statements about 'Global Peace Index'**

1. It is released annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
2. It measures the level of peace through communal harmony, existence of democracy and political rights
3. Finland is the most peaceful country in the world according to the report

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.22) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Global Peace Index is released annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) ranked 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness.	It measures the state of peace across three domains: Societal safety and security; Ongoing domestic and international conflict; Militarization;	Iceland is the most peaceful country in the world – a title it has held since 2008. It is accompanied at the top by Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, and Austria. Conversely, Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the eighth consecutive year. It is followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. India has occupied the 126th spot in the rankings, two higher than its previous position.

**Context - The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) recently released its annual ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world.**

**Q.23) In the context of finance, the term 'Rights issue' refers to**

- a) Issuance of shares to existing shareholders
- b) Confirmation of shares to new shareholders
- c) Issuance of voting rights to shareholders
- d) Buyback of shares at a higher price from existing shareholders

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

A rights issue is an invitation to existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares in the company. This type of issue gives existing shareholders securities called rights. With the rights, the shareholder can purchase new shares at a discount to the market price on a stated future date. The company is giving shareholders a chance to increase their exposure to the stock at a discount price.

**Context - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to raise capital through rights issue of equity shares as part of a government's plan to infuse capital into three state-owned fuel retailers to fund their net zero carbon emission projects.**

**Q.24) With reference to 'Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0', consider the following statements**

1. It helps States/UTs to identify specific interventions required to make transformational changes in school education
2. It was developed the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education & Literacy
3. The PGI 2.0 framework consists two categories namely Outcomes and Governance Management (GM)

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It helps States/UTs to identify specific interventions required to make transformational changes in school education.	The Ministry of Education's Department of School Education & Literacy has developed the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and Union Territories (UTs).	The PGI 2.0 framework consists of 1000 points across two categories: Outcomes and Governance Management (GM). These categories are further divided into six domains: Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E), Governance Process (GP), and Teachers' Education and Training (TE&T).

**Context - According to the Union Ministry of Education's Performing Grade Index (PGI), Chandigarh and Punjab emerged as the best performers in school education for the year 2021-22.**

**Q.25) Consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - ECI allocates the symbols to political parties as per the provisions of the Representation of People's Act, 1951

Statement 2 - The decision of the Commission is binding on all such rival sections or groups within a party

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.25) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
ECI decides the symbols as per the provisions of the Symbols Order, 1968. This rule applies to disputes in recognised national and state parties. Para 15 of the Symbols Order, 1968 empowers EC to decide on the claim of rival factions in case of split. EC decides on the issue after taking into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case and hearing their representatives.	The decision of the Commission is binding on all such rival sections or groups. For splits in registered but unrecognised parties, the ECI usually advises the warring factions to resolve their differences internally or to approach the court.

**Context – A political party in Maharashtra split into two factions recently**

**Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to 'SCORES platform'**

- It is a web based centralized grievance redress system of Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI)
- Complaints can be lodged on SCORES for any issue covered under the provisions of Companies Act
- Mutual funds, Portfolio Managers and Foreign institutional investor are also included under the ambit of SCORES

How many of the statement(s) given above are correct

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.26) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
SCORES is a web based centralized grievance redress system of SEBI that was launched in June 2011. SCORES enables investors to lodge and follow up their complaints and track the status of redressal of such complaints online from the above website from anywhere.	According to the regulatory authority, complaints can be lodged on SCORES for any issues covered under the Sebi Act, Securities Contract Regulation Act, Depositories Act, and rules and regulations and provisions of Companies Act, 2013.	Entities against which complaints are handled by SEBI include: Listed companies / registrar & transfer agents Brokers / stock exchanges Depository participants / depository /Mutual funds Portfolio Managers

**Context - A total of 3,079 complaints against companies and market intermediaries have been disposed of through the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) SCORES platform recently.**

**Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)'**

1. Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs is responsible for investigating the offences of money laundering under the PMLA
2. The Act does not define the terms 'Money Laundering' and 'Proceeds of Crime'
3. Burden of proof lies on the person accused of having committed the offence of money laundering

How many of the statement(s) given above are correct

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.27) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is an Act to prevent money laundering and to provide for the confiscation of property derived from or involved in money laundering. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, is responsible for investigating the offences of money laundering under the PMLA.	Key definitions <b>Attachment:</b> Prohibition of transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of property by an appropriate legal order. <b>Proceeds of crime:</b> Any property derived or obtained, directly or indirectly, by any person as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence. <b>Money-laundering:</b> Whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or assist other person or actually involved in any activity connected with the proceeds of crime and projecting it as untainted property.	Burden of proof lies on the person, who is accused of having committed the offence of money laundering, has to prove that alleged proceeds of crime are in fact lawful property.

**Context - The Central Government recently issued a notification to bring the Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN) under the purview of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).**

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

1. It is a genus of double-stranded RNA viruses associated with several human and mammalian diseases
2. All enteroviruses are antigenically homogeneous and have wide geographic distribution

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.28) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Enterovirus is a genus of positive-sense single-stranded RNA viruses associated with several human and mammalian diseases.	All enteroviruses are antigenically heterogeneous and have wide geographic distribution. They can infect anyone, but are more likely to cause illnesses in people

Enteroviruses are named by their transmission-route through the intestine ('enteric' meaning intestinal).

with weak immune systems, as well as infants, children, and teens who don't have immunity against a virus yet because it's their first exposure to it.

**Context - The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned against the rising incidence of enterovirus infections in a few countries across Europe**

**Q.29) With reference to 'Geocoding', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 – It converts an address or description of a location into geographic coordinates

Statement 2 – It has been introduced to prevent fraud in schemes like MGNREGA

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Geocoding converts an address or description of a location into geographic coordinates. The functionality is available for normal, composition, SEZ units, SEZ developers, input service distributor and casual taxpayers who are active, cancelled, and suspended. This is a one-time activity and once submitted, revision in the address is not allowed.	It has been introduced to ensure the accuracy of address details in GSTN records and streamline the address location and verification process. It is different from geo-tagging of assets created under MGNREGA which involves generation of an asset ID on the NREGS Soft after completion of work and marking it as a primary asset by the programme officer or the Gram Panchayat

**Context - Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) made the geocoding functionality live for all states and union territories.**

**Q.30) 'EXERCISE – SALVEX' was recently conducted between India and**

- a) Vietnam
- b) Saudi Arabia

- c) United States of America
- d) South Africa

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

EXERCISE – SALVEX - Indian Navy – US Navy have been participating in joint Salvage and EOD exercises since 2005. It is the Seventh edition of SALVEX. The exercise saw participation from both the navies which included the ships – INS Nireekshak and USNS Salvor in addition to Specialist Diving and EOD teams.

**Context - Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX was conducted from 26 Jun – 06 Jul 23 at Kochi**

**Q.31) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Solar flares'**

1. Solar flares affect all layers of the solar atmosphere
2. Flares produce radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum at all wavelengths
3. Flares occur in active regions and are always accompanied by coronal mass ejections

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Solar flares affect all layers of the solar atmosphere (photosphere, chromosphere, and corona). The plasma medium is heated to tens of millions of kelvins, while electrons, protons, and heavier ions are accelerated to near the speed of light.	Flares produce electromagnetic radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum at all wavelengths, from radio waves to gamma rays. Most of the energy is spread over frequencies outside the visual range; the majority of the flares are not visible to the naked eye and can only be observed with special instruments.	A solar flare is an intense localized eruption of electromagnetic radiation in the Sun's atmosphere. Flares occur in active regions and are often, but not always, accompanied by coronal mass ejections, solar particle events, and other solar phenomena.

**Context - Recently, the Sun emitted an X-class solar flares which disrupted radio communications over parts of the United States and the Pacific Ocean.**

**Q.32) With reference to 'The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023', consider the following statements**

1. The Bill extends its remit to land which is not officially classified as 'forest' in State or Central government records.
2. It exempts land within 100 km of India's border needed for national security from the purview of the Act.
3. The state government requires prior approval of the central government to assign any forest land to any entity

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.32) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Act empowers the Centre to require that any forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes be duly compensated. It also extends its remit to land which is not officially classified as 'forest' in State or Central government records.	It also exempts certain types of land from the purview of the Act. These include land within 100 km of India's border needed for national security projects, small roadside amenities, and public roads leading to a habitation.	The state government requires prior approval of the central government to assign any forest land to a private entity. The Bill extends this to all entities, and allows the assignment to be made on terms and conditions specified by the central government.

**Context - Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 that is expected to be tabled in Parliament ahead of the monsoon session on July 20.**

**Q.33) Consider the following statements about 'Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Buses'**

Statement 1 - These buses do not produce any carbon emissions



Statement 2 - Hydrogen fuel cells use hydrogen as a fuel that combines hydrogen and oxygen to produce electrical energy and water

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.33) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The hydrogen buses are like an electric bus, in that hydrogen interacts with a 'fuel cell' battery producing electricity and no carbon emissions.	Hydrogen fuel cells use hydrogen as a fuel in an electrochemical process that combines hydrogen and oxygen to produce electrical energy and water. At the anode, a catalyst separates the hydrogen molecules into protons and electrons and both subatomic particles take different paths to the cathode.

**Context - The first scientific test runs of hydrogen-powered buses will likely be under way in Delhi followed by other States.**

**Q.34) 'Potato variety FC5' was recently seen in news due to**

- First GM vegetable to be approved
- Patent revocation
- Ability to grow in any type of soil
- Fungus attack

**Q.34) Solution (b)**

PepsiCo company supplies the FC5 seed variety to a group of farmers who grow the potatoes exclusively for PepsiCo at a fixed price. PepsiCo claims that it developed the FC5 variety and registered its traits in 2016. The FC5 potato variety is known for its lower moisture content, making it ideal for snack production, particularly potato chips. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Authority in 2021

revoked the intellectual protection granted to PepsiCo's FC5 potato variety, stating that Indian regulations do not permit patents on seed varieties.

**Context - Delhi High Court dismisses PepsiCo's appeal in potato variety patent case**

**Q.35) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Chemical Weapons Convention'**

1. It is an arms control treaty administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency
2. It is the only arms convention to be universally ratified

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.35) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), officially the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, is an arms control treaty administered by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, The Netherlands	As of August 2022, 193 states have become parties to the CWC and accept its obligations. Israel has signed but not ratified the agreement, while three other UN member states (Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan) have neither signed nor acceded to the treaty

**Context - The U.S. faces a September 30 deadline to eliminate its remaining chemical weapons under the international Chemical Weapons Convention.**

**Q.36) Consider the following sectors**

1. Climate change
2. Social inclusion
3. Sustainable mobility
4. Accessible healthcare

**On how many of the above sectors does Urban-20 Summit provide a platform for discussing collective solutions?**

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

**Q.36) Solution (c)**

Urban 20 (U20) Summit is a city diplomacy initiative launched on December 12, 2017, at the One Planet Summit in Paris. It provides a platform for cities from G20 countries to facilitate discussions on various important issues of urban development including **climate change, social inclusion, sustainable mobility, and affordable housing**, and propose collective solutions. C40 Cities (C40) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) convene the U20 under the leadership of a Chair city that rotates annually, based in the G20 host country.

**Context - The two-day Urban 20 Mayoral Summit, hosted by the chair city Ahmedabad, in Gandhinagar from 7-8 July, concluded with the handover of the Communiqué from the Mayors to G20 leaders**

**Q.37) This National Park lies in the western corner of Nilgiris Plateau in the state of Tamil Nadu. It was established with the prime motive of conserving its keystone species – the Nilgiri Tahr. Pykara and Kundah rivers flow through the park along with several perennial streams that originate in the park. The National Park is**

- a) Eravikulam National Park
- b) Silent Valley National Park
- c) Mudumalai National Park
- d) Mukurthi National Park

**Q.37) Solution (d)**

Mukurthi National Park lies in the western corner of Nilgiris Plateau in the state of Tamil Nadu. The park is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It is sandwiched between the Mudumalai National Park and the Silent Valley National Park. The area was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1982 and upgraded to a National Park in 1990. It was established with the prime motive of conserving its keystone species – the Nilgiri Tahr. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was formerly known as Nilgiri Tahr National Park. It is also home to Mukurthi Peak (2,554m), the fourth highest peak in the Nilgiri Hills. Pykara and Kundah rivers flow through the park along with several perennial streams that originate in the park and drain into the Bhavani Puzha.

**Context - Tamil Nadu Forest Department recently stepped up vigil around Mukurthi National Park in Nilgiris to curb poaching**

**Q.38) Consider the following statements about 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act'**

1. The Act intends to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment and also pornographic violations
2. The Act defines a child as "any person" under the age of sixteen
3. A victim may report an offence at any time, even years after the abuse has occurred

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act is the first comprehensive law in the country dealing specifically with sexual abuse of children, enacted in 2012 and is administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was intended to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornographic violations, as well as to establish Special Courts for such trials.	The Act defines a child as "any person" under the age of 18.	There is no time limit for reporting abuse. A victim may report an offence at any time, even years after the abuse has occurred.

**Context - The Commission (headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi) is set to release its report on the minimum age of consent under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012.**

**Q.39) Consider the following statements**

Statement 1 – A trough associated with a western disturbance and the monsoonal winds from Bay of Bengal reaching north can meet on certain occasions

Statement 2 – The interaction of the monsoonal winds with the western disturbance suppresses normal rainfall

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
There was a trough extending from Rajasthan to north Arabian Sea associated with a western disturbance. At the same time, due to strong monsoon conditions, the winds from Bay of Bengal were also reaching the north. There was a confluence of these two systems, centred around Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday and around Himachal Pradesh on Sunday.	The IMD confirmed that the heavy rain in parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is due to the interaction of the monsoonal winds with the western disturbance. These areas got moisture from both Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, resulting in very heavy showers.

**Context - The deluge in north India over the past two days resulted from a deadly confluence of two systems - the monsoon winds and a western disturbance.**

**Q.40) With reference to 'One District One Product (ODOP) programme', consider the following statements**

1. This initiative aims to turn one district in every state/UT of India into an export hub through promotion of the product in which the district specializes
2. This initiative is carried out with the 'Districts as Exports Hub' initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

**Q.40) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
One District One Product (ODOP) programme was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in 2018. This initiative aims to turn every district in India, into an export hub through promotion of the product in which the district specialises. The initiative plans to accomplish this by scaling manufacturing, supporting local businesses, finding potential foreign customers and so on, thus helping to achieve the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision.	This initiative is carried out with the 'Districts as Exports Hub' initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce. The ODOP Initiative has identified a total of 1102 products from 761 districts across the country.

**Context - Products under One District One Product programme onboarded and tagged on Groyyo's e-commerce platform**

**Q.41) Consider the following**

1. Prime Minister
2. Leader of Opposition
3. Chief Vigilance Commissioner
4. Chief Justice of India
5. Revenue Secretary

**How many of the above mentioned are involved in the recommendation of director of Enforcement Directorate?**

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five

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

The Enforcement Directorate was established in the year 1956 as an 'Enforcement Unit' under the Department of Economic Affairs. Later, in 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'. The ED Director is appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a committee: chaired by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and members comprising of Vigilance Commissioners, Home Secretary, Secretary DOPT and Revenue Secretary.

**Context - The Supreme Court said that the third extension to Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief was illegal and in violation of its judgment in 2021.**

**Q.42) Consider the following statements about 'Bio-fuels'**

1. It is a fuel that is produced over a short time span from biomass
2. It can be used directly as a fuel for internal combustion engines
3. The yield of 3G biofuels is approximately twice that of 2G biofuels

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.42) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Biofuel is a fuel that is produced over a short time span from biomass, rather than by the very slow natural processes involved in the formation of fossil fuels, such as oil. Since biomass can be used as a fuel directly (e.g., wood logs), some people use the words biomass and biofuel interchangeably.	Most of biofuel consumption occurs as a blend with refined petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil, and kerosene-type jet fuel. However, some biofuels do not require blending with their petroleum counterparts and are referred to as drop-in biofuels.	3G biofuels, known as 'algae fuel', are derived from algae in the form of both, biodiesel and bio-alcohols. Although the yield of 3G biofuels is approximately 10 times higher than 2G biofuels, producing adequate algal biomass and scaling up extraction techniques are as yet unresolved challenges.

**Context - E20 petrol, or petrol with 20 per cent ethanol, is now available at 1,350 fuel retail outlets and will be available all over the country by 2025.**

**Q.43) With reference to 'Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SAMARTH) scheme', consider the following statements**

1. Statement 1 - It is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling programme
2. Statement 2 - The scheme is implemented through NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts having placement tie-ups with the textile industry

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.43) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SAMARTH) is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling programme. It aims to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving.	Under this scheme skilling programme is implemented through the following Implementing Agencies: Textile Industry. Institutions/Organizations of the Ministry of Textiles/State Governments having training infrastructure and placement tie-ups with the textile industry. Reputed training institutions/ NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Organizations/ Companies /Start-Ups / Entrepreneurs active in the textile sector having placement tie-ups with the textile industry.

**Context - The panel of SAMARTH scheme implementing partners has been broadened with empanelment of 43 new implementing partners and additional target of training around 75,000 beneficiaries has been allocated to the training partners.**

**Q.44) 'Salsola oppositifolia Desfontani' a plant species recently seen in news is found to be a sustainable source for the manufacture of**

- a) Anti-bacterial
- b) Technical textile
- c) Lye and soaps
- d) Ethanol

**Q.44) Solution (c)**

Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontani is a species that belongs to the family of Amaranthaceae. It is a perennial shrub that grows in saline, arid to semi-arid environments. It is a succulent shrub that can grow one to two metres tall and have a smooth, cylindrical, woody base. It is rarely prostrate and unlike other species of Salsola, does not have any hairs. Salsola oppositifolia is used as a raw material for manufacturing soda ash. Other Salsola species are used in manufacturing lye and soaps. Research has established that the species of this genus are rich in pharmacological properties also.



**Context - Recently, a team of researchers from Gandhinagar-based Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation has discovered a new plant species called Salsola Oppositifolia Desfontani.**

**Q.45) With reference to 'Phosphine', consider the following statements**

1. It is not found naturally on earth and can only be manufactured artificially
2. It is used in the production of a flame retardant and as a pesticide in stored grain

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.45) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Phosphine on Earth is developed naturally by bacteria that live in very low-oxygen environments. To produce phosphine, Earth bacteria take up phosphate from minerals or biological material and add hydrogen. It is also called as hydrogen phosphide. It is a colourless, flammable, extremely toxic gas with a disagreeable garlic like odour.	Phosphine is used in semiconductor and plastics industries, in the production of a flame retardant, and as a pesticide in stored grain.

**Context - Scientists have detected phosphine at deeper level in Venus' atmosphere than before using the James Clark Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) at Mauna Kea Observatory, Hawaii.**

**Q.46) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Chandrayaan-3 Mission'**

1. It consists of three payloads comprising of a lander, rover and an orbiter module
2. It aims to conduct in-situ scientific experiments on the lunar surface
3. The mission will be launched onboard a LVM3 launch vehicle

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.46) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Chandrayaan-3 is a planned third lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It will consist of a lander and a rover similar to Chandrayaan-2, but would not have an orbiter. Its propulsion module will behave like a communication relay satellite. The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration until the spacecraft is in a 100 km lunar orbit	Chandrayaan-3 will have three major objectives. One is to demonstrate safe and soft landing on the surface of the moon. The second is to demonstrate rover operations on the moon. And the third objective is to conduct in-situ scientific experiments on the lunar surface	The mission will be launched onboard a LVM3 launch vehicle

**Context - India's third mission to the moon - Chandrayaan-3 - will take off on 14th July, 2023.**

**Q.47) With reference to 'Solar cycle', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - The greatest number of sunspots in any given solar cycle is designated as "solar maximum"

Statement 2 - The solar cycle is the cycle that the Sun's magnetic field goes through approximately every 100 years

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.47) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The solar cycle is marked by the increase and decrease of sunspots -- visible as dark blemishes on the sun's surface, or photosphere. The greatest number of sunspots in any given solar cycle is designated as "solar maximum." The lowest number is "solar minimum."	Every 11 years or so, the Sun's magnetic field completely flips. This means that the Sun's north and south poles switch places. Then it takes about another 11 years for the Sun's north and south poles to flip back again. Thus, the solar cycle is the cycle that the Sun's magnetic field goes through approximately every 11 years.

**Context - It has been recently reported that the sun is expected to reach "solar maximum" in the next two years.**

**Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF)'**

1. It has been constituted in each State under the Disaster Management Act, 2005
2. The Central Government contributes 50% to the SDRF in general States and 75% in North-East and Himalayan States
3. Allocation of SDRF funds to the States is based on multiple factors like past expenditure, area, population and annual rainfall

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.48) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
State Disaster Response Funds has been constituted in each State under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The fund is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.	The Central Government contributes 75% to the SDRF in general States and 90% in North-East and Himalayan States. The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.	Allocation of SDRF funds to the States is based on multiple factors like past expenditure, area, population, and disaster risk index. These factors reflect States' institutional capacity, risk exposure, and hazard and vulnerability.

**Context - Ministry of Finance released an amount of Rs. 7,532 crores to 22 State Governments for the respective State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF).**

**Q.49) 'SAGAR SAMPARK' recently seen in news is a**

- a) Maritime expedition
- b) Differential navigation satellite system
- c) Naval exercise
- d) Security doctrine

**Q.49) Solution (b)**

SAGAR SAMPARK is an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS). The Differential Global Navigation Satellite System is a terrestrial based enhancement system which corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) allowing for more accurate positioning information. Sagar Sampark at six locations will assist the Director General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) to provide radio aids to ships for marine navigation. The system will provide accurate information to the ships for safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas.

**Context - Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways inaugurated the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) 'SAGAR SAMPARK.'**

**Q.50) Consider the following statements about 'Shelf cloud'**

1. It is a type of low-lying, horizontal cloud formation characterized by an undefined line of solid clouds
2. It forms when cold and dense air is forced into a colder air mass by wind

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Shelf Cloud is a type of low-lying, horizontal cloud formation characterized by a clearly defined line of solid clouds. It is known for its distinctive wedge-shaped formation. They usually appear as a broad arc across the sky that can sometimes appear to be rotating horizontally.	Shelf clouds form when cold and dense air is forced into a warmer air mass by wind. This rush of cold air often occurs in a thunderstorm's downdraught, where cold air rushes towards the ground before spreading out to create a gust front. Shelf clouds produced by thunderstorms are always preceded by a rush of dry and cold air ahead of the cloud, with rain arriving after the shelf cloud has passed overhead.

**Context - A terrifying shelf cloud recently appeared in Uttarakhand's Haridwar.**

**Q.51) Consider the following statements with respect to 'BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation) campaign'**

1. It aims to get active involvement and support of members of commercial Banks in the public and private sector
2. It is a year-long campaign launched under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.51) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The aim of the campaign is to get active involvement and support of members of commercial Banks in the public and private sector, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, NBFCs and select cooperative Banks to promote the Scheme of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.	The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched the campaign for banks under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund titled BHARAT. BHARAT is a one month-long Campaign was launched with a target of Rs 7200 crore.

**Context - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare today launched a new campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund**

**Q.52) With reference to 'Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)', consider the following statements**

1. They are unique cryptographic tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated
2. They can represent digital or real-world items alike
3. They can be traded and exchanged for money, cryptocurrencies or other NFTs

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) are unique cryptographic tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated. Thus, NFTs are assets that have been tokenized via a blockchain. They are assigned unique identification codes and metadata that distinguish them from other tokens.	They can represent digital or real-world items like artwork, photograph, song, video, real estate, individuals' identities, property rights, and more.	NFTs can be traded and exchanged for money, cryptocurrencies, or other NFTs—it all depends on the value the market and owners have placed on them. The term 'non-fungible' simply means that each token is different as opposed to a fungible currency such as money (a ten-rupee note can be exchanged for another and so on).

**Context - Google recently said it will allow developers to offer games on the Play Store where players can buy, sell and earn tokenized digital assets—like non fungible tokens**

**Q.53) Consider the following statements about 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)'**

Statement 1 – The scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term vision

Statement 2 - The scheme shall cater for introduction of new amenities as well as upgradation and replacement of existing amenities

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.53) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term vision. The scheme will subsume all previous redevelopment projects where work is yet to begin. The scheme aims at preparation of Master Plans of the Railway stations and implementation of the Master Plan in phases to enhance the facilities including and beyond the Minimum Essential Amenities.	The model envisages low-cost redevelopment of stations which can be executed timely. The scheme shall cater for introduction of new amenities as well as upgradation and replacement of existing amenities.

**Context - Southern Railway has identified 90 stations for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).**

**Q.54) 'Aspartame', a substance seen in news recently is mostly used as**

- a) Food preservative
- b) Pesticide
- c) Artificial sweetener
- d) Flavor enhancer

**Q.54) Solution (c)**

Aspartame is an artificial non-saccharide sweetener 200 times sweeter than sucrose and is commonly used as a sugar substitute in foods and beverages. It is a methyl ester of the aspartic acid/phenylalanine dipeptide with brand names NutraSweet, Equal, and Canderel. Aspartame is one of the most studied food additives in the human food supply. Reviews by over 100 governmental regulatory bodies found the ingredient safe for consumption at the normal acceptable daily intake (ADI) limit.

**Context - A World Health Organization's (WHO) committee categorised artificial sweetener aspartame as "possibly carcinogenic to humans".**

**Q.55) Consider the following statements**

1. France is the oldest Strategic Partner of India
2. France is the first country to have signed a civil nuclear pact with India
3. India and France have a free trade agreement in place for increased economic cooperation

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.55) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
India and France have traditionally close and friendly relations. In 1998, the two countries entered into a Strategic Partnership. This Strategic Partnership is the oldest among India's almost 30 strategic partnerships around the world and one of the few that has been marked by "total convergence".	India and France inked a civil nuclear pact (2008) making France the first country to have such an agreement after the USA	India and France don't have Free Trade Agreement, which limits the potential for increased trade and economic cooperation. Also, there is a trade imbalance in favour of France (France exporting more to India).

**Context - The PM of India was the Guest of Honour at France's Bastille Day parade in Paris.**

**Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mekong Ganga Cooperation'**

1. It is an initiative between India and six ASEAN countries
2. The foundational areas of cooperation under MGC include tourism, culture, education, and transport
3. The MGC meetings are co-chaired alternatively every year between India and one of the other Mekong countries

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two



- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.56) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is an initiative by six countries for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications. It consists of India and five ASEAN countries — Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.	The four foundational areas of cooperation under MGC include tourism, culture, education, and transport & communication. It has further expanded to include new areas like health and traditional medicine, agriculture and allied sectors, small and medium enterprises, water resources management, science and technology, skill development, and capacity building.	The MGC meetings are co-chaired alternatively every year between India and one of the 5 Mekong countries.

**Context - External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar co-chaired the 12th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting in Bangkok along with his Laos counterpart.**

**Q.57) Consider the following statement with respect to 'Hoolock Gibbon'**

1. It is the only ape found in India
2. It lives in tropical and subtropical forests of southeastern part of Asia
3. They are diurnal and arboreal like the other gibbons

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India. It is native to eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India, Myanmar, and Southwest China.	Gibbons, the smallest and fastest of all apes, live in tropical and subtropical forests in the southeastern part of Asia. The Hoolock gibbon, unique to India's northeast, is one of 20 species of gibbons on Earth.	Like the other gibbons, they are diurnal and arboreal, brachiating through the trees with their long arms. They live together in monogamous pairs, which stake out a territory. Their calls serve to locate family members and ward off other gibbons from their territory.

**Context - The conservation status of India's only ape was a cause for concern at a global event on Hoolock gibbons held recently in China.**

**Q.58) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme'**

Statement 1 – The scheme will offer the opportunity to create an Integrated Textiles Value Chain from spinning to garment manufacturing at one location

Statement 2 - A Special Purpose Vehicle owned exclusively by the Centre will be set up for each park which will oversee the implementation of the project

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
PM-MITRA will offer the opportunity to create an Integrated Textiles Value Chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing etc. at one	A Special Purpose Vehicle owned by the Centre and State Government will be set up for each park which will oversee the implementation of the project. The Ministry of Textiles will provide financial support in

location and will reduce the logistics cost of the Industry.

the form of Development Capital Support up to Rs. 500 crores per park to the Park SPV.

**Context - Prime Minister of India has lauded the foundation stone laying of 2 mega textile parks in Maharashtra and Gujarat under the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme**

**Q.59) 'Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT' which began recently is conducted between India and**

- a) Vietnam
- b) Cambodia
- c) Indonesia
- d) Mongolia

**Q.59) Solution (d)**

Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event with Mongolia which is conducted alternatively in Mongolia and India, the last edition was held at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh in October 2019. The aim of this exercise is to build positive military relations, exchange best practices, develop interoperability, bonhomie, camaraderie and friendship between the two armies. The primary theme of the exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate. The scope of this exercise involves Platoon level Field Training Exercise (FTX). During the exercise, Indian and Mongolian troops will engage in various training activities designed to enhance their skills and capabilities.

**Context - A bilateral joint military exercise "NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23" is scheduled to be conducted between India and Mongolia at Ulaanbaatar from 17 to 31 July 2023.**

**Q.60) With reference to 'Standing Committee on Statistics', consider the following statements**

1. It is responsible for reviewing the framework and results of all surveys conducted under the NSO
2. It will act as the nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system in the country

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
SCoS is responsible for reviewing the framework and results of all surveys conducted under the NSO. It is also mandated to explore the use of administrative statistics to improve data outcomes.	NSO acts as the nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system in the country. It coordinates the statistical work in respect of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. While the panel will help finalise survey results, the NSC will have the ultimate authority to approve the publication of those results.

**Context - The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has replaced the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) - tasked with examining economic indicators only, with a Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS).**

**Q.61) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Constitution Bench'**

1. It is a bench of the Supreme Court having a minimum of seven judges on it
2. They are set up on an ad hoc basis as and when the need arises
3. It is set up only when there is a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of this Constitution

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.61) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Constitution bench is the name given to the benches of the Supreme Court of India which consist of at least five judges of the court which sit to decide any case "involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation" of the Constitution of India or "for the purpose of hearing any	Presently, Constitution Benches are set up on an ad hoc basis (particular purpose) as and when the need arises.	Article 145(3) provides, "The minimum number of Judges who are to sit for the purpose of deciding any case involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of this Constitution or for the purpose of hearing any

reference" made by the President of India under Article 143

reference under Article 143 shall be five."

**Context - The Supreme Court said it may refer the Delhi government's petition against a Central Ordinance to a Constitution Bench for an authoritative pronouncement.**

**Q.62) Consider the following statements about 'External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)'**

Statement 1 - ECBs refer to the borrowing of funds by Indian companies from foreign sources in the form of loans, bonds or other financial instruments.

Statement 2 - It can be used to finance a variety of purposes including the repayment of existing debt.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.62) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) refer to the borrowing of funds by Indian companies from foreign sources in the form of loans, bonds, or other financial instruments. ECB can be obtained from a variety of sources, including foreign banks, international financial institutions, and foreign subsidiaries of Indian companies.	It can be used to finance a variety of purposes, including the expansion of business, the acquisition of assets, and the repayment of existing debt. Companies must also meet certain eligibility criteria in order to access ECB, such as minimum credit ratings and debt-equity ratios.

**Context - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently said that agreements for external commercial borrowings (ECBs) signed by Corporate India jumped to a massive \$12 billion in the April-June quarter of 2023, three times the level in the year-ago period.**

**Q.63) Consider the following parameters**

1. School attendance
2. Cooking fuel

3. Housing
4. Bank accounts
5. Nutrition

**How many of the above mentioned parameters are used to compute National Multidimensional Poverty Index?**

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five

**Q.63) Solution (d)**

National Multidimensional Poverty Index is prepared based on the latest National Family Health Survey of 2019-21 and is the second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Totally 12 parameters of health, education and standard of living are examined in the report. These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank accounts. The report follows Alkire-Foster methodology developed by its technical partners -- the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was released by NITI Aayog.

**Context - A record 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21 as per NITI Aayog's Report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023'**

**Q.64) With reference to 'Advance Authorisation Scheme', consider the following statements**

1. It allows duty free import of only those inputs which are physically incorporated in an export product
2. It bars the sale of such products that has availed the scheme in the domestic market
3. This scheme is implemented by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.64) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Advance Authorisation Scheme allows duty free import of inputs, which are physically incorporated in an export product. In addition to any inputs, packaging material, fuel, oil, catalyst which is consumed / utilized in the process of production of export product, is also be allowed.	Beneficiaries under the scheme are not allowed to sell the products in the domestic market. The Advance Authorization is valid for 12 months from the date of issue of such Authorization.	Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy, which allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes. The eligibility of inputs is determined by Sector-specific Norms Committees based on input-output norms.

**Context - DGFT implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme, allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes**

**Q.65) 'Kerch Strait' connects which of the following two seas**

- Black Sea and Sea of Marmara
- Aegean Sea and Black Sea
- Sea of Azov and Black Sea
- Aegean Sea and Baltic Sea

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





**Context - Russia halted Black Sea Grain initiative that allowed Ukraine to ship grain in a hit to global food security**

**Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to 'GM (Genetically Modified) Crops'**

1. It is made using a technology that involves inserting DNA into the genome of an organism
2. They are regulated under the provisions of the Biodiversity Act, 2002
3. Bt cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation by the Government of India

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.66) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Genetic Modification is a technology that involves inserting DNA into the genome of an organism. To produce a GM plant, new DNA is transferred into cells of a plant. These cells are then grown in tissue culture where they transform into plants. The seeds produced by these plants will have new DNA. The most common way of inserting is using gene guns method.	Environment Protection Act, 1986 (EPA), Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Plant Quarantine Order, 2003, GM policy under Foreign Trade Policy, Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Drugs and Cosmetics Rule (8th Amendment), 1988 are the Acts and Rules that regulate GM Crops in India	Bt cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in 2002 by the Government of India. Long term studies were conducted by ICAR on the impact of Bt cotton which did not show any adverse effect on soil, microflora and animal health.

**Context - There has been an ongoing battle in the Supreme Court of India between environmentalists and Delhi University's genetically modified (GM) herbicide-tolerant (HT) mustard.**

**Q.67) Consider the following statements**

Statement 1 – India's merchandise exports have been decreasing since the last four quarters



Statement 2 - A country's export demand may decline if its domestic currency is strong enough to make its goods and services substantially more expensive

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.67) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The country set a record for merchandise exports in the preceding fiscal year (2022-23) by shipping a record \$450 billion worth of goods abroad. In Q1 2023–24, exports declined: However, compared to the same quarter last year, exports of goods have significantly decreased in the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2023–24) by 15.1%	Changes in exchange rates might affect an exporter's ability to compete. A country's export demand may decline if its domestic currency is strong enough to make its goods and services substantially more expensive to international consumers.

**Context - Merchandise exports shrank by 15.1% in the first quarter of this year after reaching a record \$450 billion in 2022–2023.**

**Q.68) 'Picolinic acid' which is seen in news recently has the potential to**

- Preserve specimens for centuries
- Block viruses
- Dissolve metals
- Act as psychotropic substance

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

Picolinic acid, a natural compound produced by mammalian cells, can block several viruses, including those responsible for SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A. Published in Cell Reports Medicine, the study describes the compound's remarkable ability to disrupt the entry of enveloped viruses into the host's cell and prevent infection. Picolinic acid is known to help in the absorption of zinc and other trace elements from our gut,

but, in its natural form, it stays inside the body only for a short duration, and is usually excreted out quickly. In recent years, scientists have begun noticing that it may also exhibit anti-viral activity.

**Context - IISc study reveals that picolinic acid can block viruses causing SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A**

**Q.69) With reference to 'DPT3 Vaccine', consider the following statements**

1. It is a class of combination vaccines against diarrhea, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus
2. The vaccine does not contain the pathogen itself but rather uses inactivated toxoid to generate an immune response

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- 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
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The DPT vaccine or DTP vaccine is a class of combination vaccines against three infectious diseases in humans: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus. The vaccine components include diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and either killed whole cells of the bacterium that causes pertussis or pertussis antigens	In comparison to alternative vaccine types, such as live attenuated vaccines, the DTP vaccine does not contain the pathogen itself, but rather uses inactivated toxoid to generate an immune response; therefore, there is not a risk of use in populations that are immune compromised

**Context - The coverage rate for DPT3, the third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccines, in India rose to an all-time of 93% in 2022**

**Q.70) Consider the following statements regarding 'Kakatiya Kingdom'**

1. It ruled most of eastern Deccan region in present-day India between 8th and 12th centuries
2. The period saw the emergence of mural paintings in the region surrounding Eastern Ghats
3. A notable trend during the period was the construction of reservoirs for irrigation in the uplands

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.70) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Kakatiya dynasty was a Telugu dynasty that ruled most of eastern Deccan region in present-day India between 12th and 14th centuries. Their territory comprised much of the present day Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of eastern Karnataka, northern Tamil Nadu, and southern Odisha. Their capital was Orugallu, now known as Warangal.	The Ganapati Deva Maharaja, an important ruler of Kakatiya dynasty, is considered to patronize the rich ancient mural heritage found at Rudragiri. Nestled amidst the Eastern Ghats this place has a significant historical past. At its foothill, five westward facing naturally formed rock shelters are there. These shelters shed a light on the life of people of Mesolithic age around 5000 B.C	A notable trend during the dynastic period was the construction of reservoirs for irrigation in the uplands, around 5000 of which were built by warrior families subordinate to the Kakatiyas. The dramatically altered the possibilities for development in the sparsely populated dry areas. Many of these edifices, often called "tanks", including the large examples at Pakala and Ramappa, are still used today

**Context - In Andhra Pradesh, on the Rudragiri hillock, a 1300 AD Kakatiya era Mural was found superimposed on prehistoric Mesolithic-era artwork.**

**Q.71) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indus Water Treaty'**

1. It is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan negotiated by the United Nations
2. The treaty creates the Permanent Indus Commission for adjudicating disputes arising over the implementation of the treaty
3. The Treaty gives control over the waters of the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej to India

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, arranged and negotiated by the World Bank, to use the water available in the Indus River and its tributaries. It was signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960 by then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistani president Ayub Khan.	Both countries agreed in the treaty to exchange data and co-operate in the optimum use of water from the Indus system of rivers. For this purpose, the treaty creates the Permanent Indus Commission, with a commissioner appointed by each country. It would follow the set procedure for adjudicating any future differences and disputes arising over the implementation or interpretation of the treaty.	The Treaty gives control over the waters of the three "eastern rivers" — the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej with a mean annual flow of 41 billion m <sup>3</sup> (33 million acre-ft) — to India, while control over the waters of the three "western rivers" — the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum with a mean annual flow of 99 billion m <sup>3</sup> — to Pakistan

**Context – The treaty was in news****Q.72) Consider the following statements about 'Bhoomi Samman Awards'**

1. The award aims to encourage performance in the implementation of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)
2. It is given by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Bhoomi Samman Awards aims to acknowledge and encourage outstanding performance in the implementation of the Digital India Land Records	The award is given by the Ministry of Rural Development

Modernization Programme (DILRMP). Madhya Pradesh has secured the first position in the field of Digital India Land Records modernization in the country.	
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**Context - The President of India presented the “Bhoomi Samman” 2023 awards**

**Q.73) ‘Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary’ seen in news recently is located in**

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

**Q.73) Solution (c)**

Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the southern bank of river Brahmaputra in the Sonitpur district, Assam. It is a part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system. It comprises of a mosaic of wet alluvial grassland, riparian and semi-evergreen forests dotted by wetland and river systems. The grassland is also rich in various kinds of medicinal herbs and plants. It is home to the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros, tiger, leopard, wild buffalo, hog deer, wild pig, and elephants.

**Context – The wildlife sanctuary was in news**

**Q.74) With reference to ‘Sovereign Green Bonds’, consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - These are bonds issued by any sovereign entity, inter-governmental groups or alliances and corporates

Statement 2 - The proceeds of the bonds are utilized for projects classified as environmentally sustainable

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.74) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Sovereign Green Bonds are bonds issued by any sovereign entity, inter-governmental groups or alliances and corporates. These are issued with longer maturity period.	The proceeds of the bonds are utilized for projects classified as environmentally sustainable. In India, the framework for the sovereign green bond was issued by the government on November 9, 2022. Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of statement 1

**Context - the Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) said the regulator is keen on pension funds investing in sovereign green bonds (SGBs)**

**Q.75) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)'**

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental body that deals with all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture
2. India is a member of this Commission
3. The Commission develops global plans of action, codes of conduct or other policy instruments and monitors their implementation

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.75) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) is the only permanent intergovernmental body that deals with all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. It was established in 1983.	It has 179 countries as its members. India is also a member of this commission.	The intergovernmental body guides the preparation of periodic global assessments of the status and trends of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture. It also develops global plans of action, codes of conduct or other policy instruments and monitors their implementation.

**Context - Delegates from across the world have gathered at the 19th session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) in Rome, Italy**

**Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Panel of Vice-Chairpersons'**

1. The Speaker nominates from amongst the members a panel of vice-chairpersons
2. They can preside over the House in the absence and vacancy of the presiding officer

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- 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
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Under the Rules of Rajya Sabha, the Chairman nominates from amongst the members a panel of vice-chairpersons. He/she has the same powers as the Chairman when so presiding. He/she holds office until a new panel of vice-chairpersons is nominated.	Any one of them can preside over the House in the absence of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman. It must be emphasised here that a member of the panel of vice chairpersons cannot preside over the House, when the office of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman is vacant.

**Context - Rajya Sabha Chairman reconstituted the panel of vice chairpersons of the Parliament's Upper House with half of them being women.**

**Q.77) With reference to 'Heat Index', consider the following statements**

1. It provides information about the impact of humidity on the high temperatures
2. The Index is divided into five colour coded categories
3. It has been launched by the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.77) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Heat Index provides information about the impact of humidity on the high temperatures and thus provides a feel like temperature for human beings which can be used as an indication for human discomfort. It provides guidance towards additional care to be taken by people to reduce discomfort.	Colour codes used for Experimental Heat Index are as follows: Green: - Experimental heat Index less than 35 deg C Yellow: - Experimental heat Index in the range 36-45 deg C Orange: - Experimental heat Index in the range 46-55 deg C Red: - Experimental heat Index greater than 55 deg C	India Meteorological Department (IMD) has recently launched the Heat Index on experimental basis. Heat Index is implemented on experimental basis only across the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

**Context - Union Minister of Earth Sciences informed that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched the Heat Index on experimental basis**

**Q.78) Consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - mRNA vaccines work by introducing a piece of mRNA that corresponds to a viral protein

Statement 2 - The role of mRNA is to carry protein information from the RNA in a cell's nucleus to the cell's cytoplasm (watery interior)

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.78) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis:**



Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
mRNA vaccines work by introducing a piece of mRNA that corresponds to a viral protein, usually a small piece of a protein found on the virus's outer membrane. By using this mRNA, cells can produce the viral protein. As part of a normal immune response, the immune system recognizes that the protein is foreign and produces specialized proteins called antibodies.	The role of mRNA is to carry protein information from the DNA in a cell's nucleus to the cell's cytoplasm (watery interior), where the protein-making machinery reads the mRNA sequence and translates each three-base codon into its corresponding amino acid in a growing protein chain. So, mRNA really is a form of nucleic acid which helps the human genome, which is coded in DNA, to be read by the cellular machinery.

**Context - Researchers have recently developed an mRNA-based vaccine that can effectively target and stimulate protective immune cell responses against the malaria-causing parasite Plasmodium**

**Q.79) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Credit Guarantee Scheme'**

1. The objective of the scheme is to encourage lenders to not focus on the viability of projects and provide credit facilities
2. It provides loan of up to 75 per cent of the total project cost from any Scheduled Bank, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
3. First-generation entrepreneurs and underprivileged individuals are eligible under this scheme

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.79) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The main objective of the scheme is to encourage lenders to focus on the viability of projects and provide credit facilities based on the primary security of the assets being financed. It aims to strengthen the	The scheme provides interest subvention of three per cent and loan of up to 90 per cent of the total project cost from any Scheduled Bank,	The intergovernmental body guides the preparation of periodic global assessments of the status and trends of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture. It also develops global plans of action, codes

credit delivery system and ensure smooth access to finance for entrepreneurs engaged in the Livestock sector.	National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).	of conduct or other policy instruments and monitors their implementation.
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**Context - The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (DAHD) has introduced the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme' under the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)**

**Q.80) 'Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha' which was seen in news pertains to**

- a) Breach of privilege
- b) Suspension of normal business
- c) Point of order
- d) Special mention

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

According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), Rule 267 relates to the suspension of rules. It says, "Any member may, with the consent of the Chairman, move that any rule may be suspended in its application to a motion related to the business listed before the Council of that day, Simply put, under Rule 267, Rajya Sabha MPs can submit a written notice to suspend all listed business in the House and discuss an issue of importance that the country is facing. A motion under Rule 267 indicates that a matter was serious enough for the House to suspend its normal business to take it up.

**Context - Opposition parties in Rajya Sabha recently gave notices under Rule 267 to discuss the Manipur matter.**

**Q.81) Consider the following statements about 'International Institute for Population Sciences'**

1. It serves as a regional centre for research in Population Studies for the ESCAP region
2. It publishes the World Population Report annually

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.81) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
International Institute for Population Sciences: It was formerly known as the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) till 1970. It was established in July 1956 under the joint sponsorship of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the Government of India and the United Nations. It serves as a regional centre for Training and Research in Population Studies for the ESCAP region. The Institute was re-designated to its present title in 1985 to facilitate the expansion of its academic activities.	The Institute is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Institute had conducted many prime surveys like National Family Health Survey (NFHS), District Level Household Survey (DLHS), Assessment of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), YOUTH in India Project etc. UNFPA publishes world population report

**Context - Central government has suspended the Director of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) citing irregularity in recruitment.**

**Q.82) With reference to 'Hepatitis', consider the following statements**

1. It is a bacterial disease that mainly affects the liver
2. It cannot be spread through contact with food or water
3. There is vaccination for Hepatitis A, D and E but not for B and C

**How many of the statement(s) given above are correct**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.82) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. Inflammation is swelling that happens when tissues of the body are injured or infected. It can	Hepatitis A and hepatitis E usually spread through contact with food or water that is contaminated with an infected	There is no vaccine for hepatitis C. The best way to prevent hepatitis C is by avoiding behaviors that can spread the

damage your liver. This swelling and damage can affect how well your liver functions. Viral hepatitis is the most common type. It is caused by one of several viruses -- hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D, and E.	person's You can also get hepatitis E by eating undercooked food. Hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and hepatitis D spread through contact with the blood of someone who has the disease.	disease, especially injecting drugs. There are no medicines or antibiotics to treat people who have hepatitis D. There isn't a vaccine to prevent hepatitis D. Being vaccinated against hepatitis B is the best way to protect yourself. There are vaccines for A,B and E
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**Context - World Hepatitis Day was recently observed on July 28**

**Q.83) Consider the following actions**

1. Power source for forklifts
2. Battery chargers for digital cameras and laptops
3. Mobile applications such as Mission Critical Communication

**In how many of the above actions is the function of direct methanol fuel cells (DMFCs) required?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.83) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
DMFCs have long been considered an attractive alternate power source for small vehicles such as forklifts	DMFCs are used as battery chargers for mobile phones, digital cameras, laptops, and other small electronic gadgets.	DMFCs are the market leader in fuel cell systems for off-grid and mobile applications such as Mission Critical Communication, Information Technology, Optronics, Sensors and Auxiliary Power.

**Context - Researchers have found that an alloy of Cobalt and Platinum when doped with Manganese which act to be an effective catalyst for methanol oxidation reaction (MOR) that takes place at the anode of the direct methanol fuel cells (DMFCs).**

**Q.84) Consider the following statements about 'Graded Response Action Plan'**

Statement 1 - It is a set of emergency measures that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once it reaches a certain threshold in the Delhi-NCR region

Statement 2 – It categorizes the air quality into five parameters based on which the plan kicks in

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.84) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Graded Response Action Plan is a set of emergency measures that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once it reaches a certain threshold in the Delhi-NCR region. The GRAP was first notified in January 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has constituted a sub-committee for the operationalization of the GRAP.	Stage I – 'Poor' Air Quality (AQI ranging between 201-300): Enforce NGT / Hon'ble SC's order on over aged diesel / petrol vehicles. Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400): Rigorous actions to combat air pollution at identified hotspots in the region. Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450): Impose strict restrictions on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers in certain areas and may suspend physical classes in schools for primary grade children up to Class 5. Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI greater than 450) : When the AQI exceeds 450, four-wheelers registered outside Delhi, except for electric vehicles, CNG vehicles, and BS-VI diesel vehicles, will not be allowed to enter the city. GRAP is categorized into 4 stages

**Context - Recently, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) announced revision of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which will come into force w.e.f. 1st October, 2023 in the entire National Capital Region.**

**Q.85) In the recent weeks 'Niger' a country in Central Africa caught the international attention due to?**

- Formation of new constitution

- b) Political coup
- c) Climate refugee crisis
- d) War with neighbouring countries

**Q.85) Solution (b)**

In Niger, the military coup has led to the detention of President Mohamed Bazoum. The coup plotters have named General Abdourahamane Tchiani as the new leader, citing security concerns related to jihadist violence. The mutinous soldiers, calling themselves the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country, cited reasons such as deteriorating security and poor economic and social governance. They took control of state television and announced the suspension of all institutions, asserting that security forces were managing the situation. The attempted coup was allegedly triggered by President Bazoum's decision to relieve the head of the presidential guard, General Tchiani, from his position

**Context - Two days after mutinous soldiers ousted Niger's democratically elected president, it was still unclear Friday morning who was running the country and what mediation efforts were underway, as analysts warned that political chaos could set back the fight on extremist groups and increase Russia's influence in the region.**

**Q.86) Consider the following statements about Global Forest Watch (GFW)**

1. GFW is an online platform that provides data and tools for monitoring forests.
2. It was created by International Union for Conservation of Nature.
3. Brazil and Indonesia are the two countries with the most tropical forest cover.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Forest Watch (GFW) is an online platform that provides data and tools for monitoring forests.</li> <li>• It allows anyone to access near real-time information about</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Forest Watch (GFW) was created by World Resources Institute (WRI)</li> <li>• WRI is a global research organization that works with governments, businesses, multilateral institutions and civil society groups to develop practical</li> </ul>	Highlights of the study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tropical areas lost 4.1 million hectares of forest cover in 2022 which produced 2.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.</li> </ul>

<p>where and how forests are changing around the world.</p>	<p>solutions that improve people's lives and ensure nature can thrive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the two countries with the most tropical forest cover and both registered losses of this resource in 2022.</li> <li>• The total global tree cover loss in 2022 declined by 10%.</li> <li>• Primary forests are mature, natural forests that have remained undisturbed in recent history.</li> <li>• Primary forest cover loss in tropical areas in 2022 was 10% more than in 2021.</li> <li>• There is a need for reduction in global deforestation by at least 10% every year to meet the target of ending deforestation by 2030.</li> <li>• To meet the target of restoring 350 million hectares (Mha) of forests globally by 2030, the world needs to increase tree cover by 22 Mha per year between 2021 and 2030.</li> </ul>
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**Context: A recent study conducted by Global Forest Watch (GFW) reveals that Global tropical primary forest cover continued decline in 2022.**

**Q.87) Consider the following statements about Chip 4 Initiative**

1. It is an initiative of US, India, Taiwan and South Korea.
2. It is a semiconductor supply chain initiative to secure access to semiconductors and their components.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.87) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chip 4, also called as the Fab4, is an initiative of US, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea.</li> <li>• India, Japan and Australia had announced plans in September 2021 to establish a semiconductor supply chain initiative.</li> <li>• India's current policy approach on chip manufacturing focuses on manufacturing of mature nodes which is generally defined as chips that are 40 nanometres (nm) or above.</li> </ul>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support industry efforts to diversify their manufacturing base away from China</li> <li>• Protect Intellectual property of companies in member countries</li> <li>• Develop policy regarding export of the most advanced semiconductors and equipment</li> </ul>

**Context:** Recently a deal was signed between US and India on fostering private sector cooperation in semiconductor manufacturing.

**Q.88) Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**

1. It is defined by the difference in sea surface temperature between the western Indian Ocean and the eastern Indian Ocean south of Indonesia.
2. A positive IOD brings rainfall along the African coastline and also over the Indian sub-continent.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.88) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IOD, sometimes referred to as the Indian Nino, is similar to the El Nino phenomenon, occurring in the relatively smaller area of the Indian Ocean between the Indonesian and Malaysian coastline in the east and the African coastline near Somalia in the west.</li> <li>• IOD is defined by the difference in sea surface temperature between two areas western Indian Ocean and the eastern Indian Ocean south of Indonesia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Indian Ocean, IOD exhibits an ocean-atmosphere interaction that closely resembles the fluctuations observed during El Niño events in the Pacific Ocean. However, the IOD is considerably less powerful compared to El Niño, resulting in relatively minimal impacts.</li> <li>• A positive IOD helps rainfall along the African coastline and also over the Indian sub-continent while suppressing rainfall over Indonesia, southeast Asia and Australia. The impacts are opposite during a negative IOD event.</li> </ul>



**Context: A recent prediction by Australia's Bureau of Meteorology suggest that the Indian Ocean Dipole may be positive.**

**Q.89) Consider the following statements about Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P)**

1. It is a mechanism for multilateral financing mechanism launched at the COP26 in Glasgow to support an energy transition.
2. India has become the fourth country to sign the JET-P deal, with the International Partners Group comprising France and UK.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.89) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a mechanism for multilateral financing by developed countries to support an energy transition in developing countries.</li> <li>• It aims to reduce emissions in the energy sector and accelerate the coal phase-out.</li> <li>• Transition describes the gradual movement towards lower carbon technologies, while 'Just' qualifies that this transition will not negatively impact society, jobs and livelihoods.</li> <li>• It was launched at the COP26 in Glasgow with the support of the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), France, Germany, and the European Union (EU).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senegal has become the fourth country after South Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam to sign the JET-P deal, with the International Partners Group comprising France, Germany, the European Union, the United Kingdom and Canada.</li> <li>• India refused to give its consent, saying that coal cannot be singled out as a polluting fuel and that energy transition talks need to take place on equal terms.</li> </ul>

**Context: Recently, Senegal signed the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P) deal.**

**Q.90) Amroha Dholak and Barabanki Handloom Product were granted GI Tag recently, the products belong to which of the following state?**

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Odisha
- c) Telangana
- d) Maharashtra

**Q.90) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis****Option a****Correct**

Seven Products from Uttar Pradesh have Received the GI Tag

- Amroha Dholak: A Musical Marvel
- Baghpat Home Furnishings: Baghpat and Meerut are renowned for their exclusive handloom home furnishing products.
- Barabanki Handloom Product: Barabanki and its surrounding areas are home to around 50,000 weavers and 20,000 looms.
- Kalpi Handmade Paper: Kalpi is recognized for handmade paper manufacturing.
- Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip: Represents the unique stone craft of Mahoba.
- The stone used, scientifically known as the 'Pyro Flight Stone,' is a soft and radiant white-coloured stone predominantly found in the region.
- Sambhal Horn Craft: Sambhal Horn Craft utilises raw materials procured from deceased animals and this craft form is entirely handmade.

**Context: Recently Geographical Indications was given to seven different products from Uttar Pradesh.**

**Q.91) Consider the following statements about Energy Transition Index 2023**

1. The index is released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. For the first time, India ranked in the top 5 of the Energy transition index.
3. India it is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Q.91) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The index is released by World Economic Forum in collaboration with Accenture.	India ranked 67th on Energy Transition Index which is topped by Sweden. Among the world's 10 largest economies, only France features in the top 10. Sweden is followed by Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland in the top five on the list of 120 countries.	India it is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions. Besides India, Singapore is the only other major economy showing "true momentum by advancing sustainability, energy security and equity in a balanced way.

	Even as the global energy transition is plateauing due to equity challenges, major economies are showing significant progress.	
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**Context:** Recently World Economic Forum released Energy Transition Index 2023 as part of their annual exercise.

**Q.92) Consider the following statements about Red Tide**

1. They refer to the Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on water bodies.
2. HABs grow both in fresh and sea water.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.92) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Tide is Harmful algal blooms (HABs) which are red in colour.</li> <li>• It is caused by microscopic algae that produce toxins that kill fish and make shellfish dangerous to eat.</li> <li>• The toxins may also make the surrounding air difficult to breathe.</li> <li>• Humans are unaffected unless they eat infected shellfish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmful algal blooms (HABs) can occur in fresh, marine (salt), and brackish (a mixture of fresh and salt) water bodies around the world.</li> </ul>

**Context:** In recent times the red tides is on the rise along the Florida's Gulf Coast of USA killing marine species.

**Q.93) Consider the following countries**

1. Romania
2. Moldova
3. Poland
4. Russia
5. Latvia

**How many of the above mentioned countries share a land border with Belarus?**

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five

**Q.93) Solution (b)**

- It is a landlocked country of eastern Europe.
- Bordering countries: It borders Russia to the northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest.
- The capital and largest city is Minsk.

**Context: Belarusian embassy in the Netherlands was reportedly vandalized recently.**

**Q.94) Consider the following statements about Credit Information Companies (CICs)**

1. CICs are companies registered under Credit Information Companies Act, 1956.
2. CICs collect public data, credit transactions & payment histories of both individuals and companies.
3. Both banks & Non-banking financial institutions refer to the CIC's report before granting loan or credit card.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

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

**Option c****Correct**

- “Credit Information Company” means a company formed and registered under the Companies Act, 1956.
- CICs otherwise called as Credit Information Bureaus have details about all the creditors and borrowers in the financial system.
- CICs maintain credit information of borrowers (including individuals, corporate, SMEs) which can be accessed by banks and other lending institutions.
- CICs collect public data, credit transactions & payment histories of both individuals and companies.
- Both banks & Non-banking financial institutions refer to the CIC’s report before granting loan or credit card.
- Unlike banks, people don’t have direct access to CICs’ database.
- They rate the borrowers in a scale of 300-900 with 900 being the highest rating.
- The companies often need to update the information so that the default player if subsequently make the repayment their scale should be increased accordingly.
- Banks and finance companies normally take decision on the rating given by the credit bureaus.
- Banks mandate the usage of credit information report (CIR) in their credit appraisal process.

**Context: The RBI issued penalty of Rs. 1 crore on 4 CICs for their failure to update credit information of borrowers.**

**Q.95) NANDI Portal, recently seen in news was launched by?**

- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- Ministry of Higher Education
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

**Option a****Correct**

- Nandi - NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System.
- Nandi portal to timely process applications and grant non-objection certification (NOC) for veterinary drugs and vaccines.
- The portal was launched by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The portal was developed by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying through Centre for Development of Advanced Computing in coordination with Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

**Context: Recently Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched Nandi portal to expedite regulatory process for approval of animal drugs and vaccines.**

**Q.96) Consider the following statements about Kaas Plateau**

- It is located in Maharashtra and falls in the biosphere of the Western Ghats.
- The plateau is made of igneous rock having thinner layer of soil.

3. It is a biodiversity hotspot and UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

**Q.96) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kaas plateau is locally called as 'Kas Pathar' or 'Plateau of Flowers'.</li> <li>The plateau is located in the Maharashtra, Western Ghats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plateau is made of igneous rock having thinner layer of soil.</li> <li>It experiences a natural cycle of extreme conditions.</li> <li>It becomes water logged in monsoon rains, very dry during summer and also experience dry winter conditions during winter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a biodiversity hotspot and UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.</li> </ul>

**Context: A recent study of the sediments from a seasonal lake in the Kaas Plateau has indicated a major shift in the Indian Summer Monsoons towards dry and stressed conditions with low rainfall.**

**Q.97) Consider the following statements about Namda Art**

- Namda is a traditional carpet made of sheep wool.
- The art form belongs to Arunachal Pradesh.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.97) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Namda art is a rug made of sheep wool through felting technique.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Namda is a type of traditional Kashmiri felted carpet that is created using sheep wool and has colourful hand embroidery.</li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Namada is said to have begun in the 16th century during Mughal Emperor Akbar.</li> <li>It has been practiced by the Pinjara and Mansuri communities and Sama Muslims in Kachchh.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to low availability of raw material, lack of skilled manpower and marketing techniques, the export of this craft has declined almost 100 %.</li> <li>The Namda project seeks to revive and preserve rich heritage associated with Namda craft.</li> <li>The project is public-private partnership (PPP) model in the field of skill development, as it is being implemented in collaboration with local industry partners.</li> <li>Through this special project under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has designed short-term training curriculum to preserve this endangered craft.</li> </ul> |
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**Context: The Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a Skill India's Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).**

**Q.98) Which of the following countries are the members of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**

- Canada, USA, Japan and Malaysia
- Australia, Singapore, USA and New Zealand
- Mexico, Peru, Singapore and Chile
- Vietnam, Brunei, Bolivia and Chile

**Q.98) Solution (c)**

**Option c**

**Correct**

- It is a free trade agreement (FTA) between 11 nations: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.
- It was signed in March 2018.
- It succeeded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) after the United States withdrew from the TPP in 2017.
- All 11 countries of CPTPP are members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).
- The rights and obligations under the CPTPP fall into two categories:
- Rules: for example, on how countries should make new food safety regulations or whether they can ban the transfer of data to other CPTPP member These are the same for all CPTPP parties (including any new members that may join).
- Market access: how far each CPTPP member will cut its tariffs, open up its services markets, liberalise visa conditions for business travellers, and so on. Each member has its own schedules of commitments. In some cases, the commitments are offered to all other members, while in others, they are restricted to specific negotiating partners.

**Context: The UK has formally agreed to become the first European country to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).**

**Q.99) Consider the following statements about Coal Gasification**

- It is a process in which coal is partially oxidised with air, oxygen and steam to form a fuel gas.

2. It produces Syngas which is a mixture of hydrogen and water vapour amongst other gases.
3. Syngas is used to produce fertilizers and synthetic materials.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

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

**Statement Analysis**

<b>Option c</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coal gasification is a process in which coal is partially oxidised with air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a fuel gas.</li> <li>• This gas is then used instead of piped natural gas, methane and others for deriving energy.</li> <li>• Production of Syngas: It produces Syngas which is a mixture consisting primarily of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O).</li> <li>• Syngas can be used to produce a wide range of fertilizers, fuels, solvent and synthetic materials.</li> </ul>

**Context: The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030 in line with its energy transition plans.**

**Q.100) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

<b>Dam</b>	<b>State</b>
Umiam Dam	Manipur
Hirakud Dam	Odisha
Tehri Dam	Uttarkhand

Choose the correct code:

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

**Q.100) Solution (b)**

<b>Option b</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<p>The Umiam Dam, also known as the Barapani Dam, is a large reservoir located in the state of Meghalaya in northeastern India.</p> <p>It is situated on the Umiam River, about 15 kilometres north of Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya.</p> <p>Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River, close to Sambalpur city in Odisha in India.</p>



Type: It is a composite structure of earth, concrete and masonry. It is the longest major earthen dam in India.

The Tehri Dam and Hydroelectric Project constructed on Bhagirathi River, Uttarkhand is being operated by Tehri Hydro Power Development Corporation India Limited

**Context: Authorities recently informed that the water from Umiam Dam may be released any time in case there is further rise in water level in the reservoir above the safe level.**

**Q.101) Consider the following statements about STAR-C Initiative**

1. It is joint initiative of International Solar Alliance and United Nations Development Programme.
2. The programme aims to boost solar power ecosystems in the poorest countries.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.101) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initiative is run by the International Solar Alliance in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).</li> <li>• Programme's objectives: Building solar workforces, standardizing products, setting up infrastructure, and raising awareness among policymakers in developing countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme aims to boost solar power ecosystems in the poorest countries.</li> <li>• It aims to create a strong network of institutional capacities within ISA member states to enhance quality infrastructure for the uptake of solar energy products and services.</li> </ul>

**Context: India is considering expanding its Solar Technology and Application Resource Centres (STAR -C) initiative to a number of Pacific Island countries.**

**Q.102) Consider the following statements about Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS)**

1. The service module of Gaganyaan is a regulated tri-propellant based propulsion system.
2. The SMPS helps in performing orbital injection of the spacecraft during the ascent phase.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.102) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The service module of Gaganyaan is a regulated bi-propellant based propulsion system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It caters to the requirements of the Orbital Module, performing orbit injection, circularisation, on-orbit control, de-boost manoeuvring, and SM-based abort (if any) during the ascent phase.</li> <li>The 440 N thrust LAM engines provide the main propulsive force during the ascending phase, while the RCS thrusters ensure precise altitude correction.</li> <li>With the successful completion of the hot test, the SMPS demonstrated its performance in the full configuration.</li> </ul>

**Context: ISRO successfully tests Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS).**

**Q.103) Consider the following statements about Dark Matter**

- Dark matter emits no light or energy and thus cannot be detected by conventional sensors and detectors.
- Dark matter is completely invisible and is entirely made of baryons.
- Dark energy exerts negative repulsive energy that acts in the opposite direction of gravity.

**How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None of the above

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

Option b
<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 80% of all matter in the universe is made up of dark matter.</li> <li>Dark matter is completely invisible. It emits no light or energy and thus cannot be detected by conventional sensors and detectors.</li> <li>Dark Matter could be composed of both baryons and non-baryonic matter, meaning, they could consist different types of particles.</li> <li>Generally dark matter is believed to be made up of particles that do not have a charge.</li> <li>Visible matter, also called baryonic matter, consists of baryons, an overarching name for subatomic particles such as protons, neutrons and electrons.</li> <li>The visible universe is the result of interactions of 4 fundamental forces namely, strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, electromagnetic force and gravitation.</li> <li>Dark energy is a negative repulsive force, that acts opposite to the direction of gravity.</li> </ul>

**Context: A massive galaxy with little to no dark matter is puzzling scientists.**

**Q.104) Consider the following statements**

1. E-Cigarette is a battery operated device that emits a vaporized solution to inhale.
2. Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act prohibits the production, manufacture, import and export of e-cigarettes in India.
3. PECA works under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

**Q.104) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

<b>Option b</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<p>E-Cigarettes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An electronic cigarette is a battery-operated device that emits a vaporized solution to inhale.</li> <li>• These devices have various names, including e-cigarettes, e-hookahs, vaporizer cigarettes, vapes, and vape pens.</li> <li>• They come in a range of shapes. Some look like USB drives and others look like pens, for example.</li> </ul> <p>PECA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Act the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution and advertisement of e-cigarettes in India.</li> <li>• Any person who contravenes this provision will be punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of up to one-lakh rupees, or both.</li> <li>• For any subsequent offence, the person will be punishable with an imprisonment of up to three years, along with a fine of up to five lakh rupees.</li> <li>• Under the Act, no person is allowed to use any place for the storage of any stock of e-cigarettes.</li> <li>• If any person stores any stock of e-cigarettes, he will be punishable with an imprisonment of up to six months, or a fine of up to Rs 50,000 or both.</li> </ul>

**Context: Online portal launched to report violation of ban on e-cigarettes.**

**Q.105) Batagaika Crater, recently seen in news is located in which of the following country?**

- a) China
- b) Mexico
- c) Russia
- d) Canada

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

- It is located in Russia's Far East that forms the world's biggest permafrost crater.
- Scientists believe that the crater is the result of a melting permafrost land, which was frozen during the Quaternary Ice Age 2.58 million years ago,
- It began to form after the surrounding forest was cleared in the 1960s and the permafrost underground began to melt, causing the land to sink.
- It is also called as "gateway to the underworld," by some locals in Russia's Sakha Republic It has a scientific name: a mega-slump.
- This is produced by higher air temperatures, warming climate and anthropogenic impact.
- It holds clues to prehistoric life on Earth. Researchers believe the exposed ice and soil along the crater's edges could hold up to 200,000 years of geological and biological history.

**Context: Recently, stunning drone footage has revealed details of the Batagaika crater which is getting affected due to climate change.**

**Q.106) Consider the following statements about India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0**

1. It is the country's one-stop platform for near real-time data on the energy sector.
2. It was developed by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in collaboration with the energy and climate think-tank Vasudha Foundation.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the country's one-stop platform for near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets based on government published sources.</li> <li>• Developed as a user-friendly platform, ICED 3.0 enables users to freely access and analyses datasets using an analytical engine.</li> <li>• It will facilitate insights and enhance understanding about the energy and climate sectors while identifying the key challenges.</li> <li>• The Portal will draw insights from the available data parameters and hence immensely useful in monitoring the progress of India's clean energy transition journey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the energy and climate think-tank Vasudha Foundation.</li> </ul>

- This dashboard offers more than 500 parameters, over 2000 infographics, and a number of interactive visualizations, allowing users to gain a holistic understanding of India's energy sector.

**Context: NITI Aayog recently launched India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0.**

**Q.107) Consider the following statements about DART Mission**

1. DART was the first-ever space mission to demonstrate asteroid deflection by kinetic impactor.
2. It is a joint initiative of NASA and ESA launched in 2021.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DART was the first-ever space mission to demonstrate asteroid deflection by kinetic impactor.</li> <li>• The target of the spacecraft was a 160-meter-wide asteroid known as Dimorphos, which is a moonlet in orbit around the larger asteroid, Didymos.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NASA's DART mission was a spacecraft designed to test a method of deflecting an asteroid for planetary defense, using the "kinetic impactor" technique (in simplest terms means smashing a thing into another thing).</li> <li>• It was launched in November 2021.</li> <li>• DART spacecraft successfully collided with Dimorphos on 26 September 2022, altering the asteroid's orbit by 33 minutes.</li> <li>• It is the first-time humanity intentionally changed the motion of a celestial object in space.</li> </ul>

**Context: Months after the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (Dart) mission crashed into asteroid Dimorphos, the Hubble telescope recently observed boulders escaping out.**

**Q.108) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**

1. The scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan for notified crops.
2. It includes uniform premium of 1.5% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 3% for all Rabi crops.
3. The scheme provides coverage for the entire cropping cycle, from pre-sowing to post-harvest.

**How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

**Q.108) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis****Option b****Correct**

- It was launched in 2016 and replaced all the prevailing yield insurance schemes in India.
- This scheme is being administered by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture, along with empanelled general insurance companies.
- Aim: To support production in agriculture by providing affordable crop insurance to ensure comprehensive risk cover for crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks.
- The scheme provides coverage for the entire cropping cycle, from pre-sowing to post-harvest and midseason adversities.

## Eligibility criteria:

- The scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan /KCC account for notified crops.
- The Scheme would be optional for non-loanee farmers.

## Insurance Coverage:

- Under this scheme, the insurance cover is limited to specific crops and agricultural risks related to crop yield.
- The list of notified crops includes food crops (i.e., cereals, millets, and pulses), oilseeds, annual commercial crops, and annual horticultural crops.

## Premiums:

- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.
- 95-98.5% actuarial premium is fulfilled by the state and central governments and shared on a 1:1 ratio.

**Context:** The latest data tabled in the Parliament by Union Minister for Farmers' Welfare shows that agriculture insurance premium has been going up while claims payment is down under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

**Q.109) With reference to 'Adjournment motion', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - It is introduced only in the Lok Sabha to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.

Statement 2 - It involves an element of censure against the government, therefore Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**Q.109) Solution (a)****Option a****Correct**

- Adjournment motion is introduced only in the Lok Sabha to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.
- It involves an element of censure against the government, therefore Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device
- It is regarded as an extraordinary device as it interrupts the normal business of the House. It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
- The discussion on this motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

However, right to move a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House is subject to the following restrictions. i.e. It should:

- Raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent and of public importance.
- Not cover more than one matter.
- Be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence.
- Not raise a question of privilege.
- Not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session.
- Not deal with any matter that is under adjudication of court.
- Not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.

**Context: Recently Congress MPs in Parliament moved adjournment motion to discuss alleged sexual assault of two women in Manipur.**

**Q.110) Export Preparedness Index (2022), recently seen in news is released by?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- d) Director-General of Foreign Trade

**Q.110) Solution (a)****Option a****Correct**

- The index undertakes a comprehensive analysis of States and UTs across export-related parameters in order to identify their strengths and weaknesses.
  - It is a comprehensive tool which measures the export preparedness of the States and UTs in India. Released by - NITI Aayog.
  - It seeks to assist the States and UTs in driving policy changes which are relevant to address their specific challenges rather than comparing with the previous editions.
- Pillars - EPI assess the performance of the States and UTs across 4 pillars

- Policy,
- Business Ecosystem,
- Export Ecosystem,
- Export Performance.

Each pillar is composed of sub-pillars, which in turn capture a state's performance using relevant indicators.

- The ranking is based on 4 types of states namely, Coastal states, Landlocked states, Himalayan and UT/Small States.
- The most 'Coastal States' have performed well with top 5 performers are Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Haryana and the least performing state/UT is Lakshadweep in all categories.

**Context: NITI Aayog is releasing the 3rd edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022.**

**Q.111) Consider the following statements about no-confidence motion**

1. It can be moved in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha will decide whether to admit the motion for discussion and debate.
3. The passing of no-confidence motion leads to resignation of the ruling government.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Q.111) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A no-confidence motion is a parliamentary process that allow the opposition to challenge the government's majority and ability to govern.</li> <li>• Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.</li> <li>• In other words, the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion.</li> <li>• The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.</li> <li>• It can be moved only in Lok Sabha.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No-confidence motion need not state the reasons for its adoption.</li> <li>• The Speaker of the Lok Sabha will decide whether to admit the motion for discussion and debate.</li> <li>• Since independence, 27 no-confidence motions have been moved in the Lok Sabha.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the motion is passed, the government must resign.</li> <li>• Any member of the Lok Sabha can move a no-confidence motion with a support of 50 members of the house.</li> <li>• The passing of no-confidence motion leads to resignation of the ruling government.</li> </ul>



**Context: Recently the opposition parties are in the verge of moving No-Confidence Motion against the ruling government.**

**Q.112) Consider the following pairs**

Geological eras	Key geologic events
Precambrian Era	Evolution of complex life - fish and plants
Palaeozoic Era	Oldest era of geological history
Cenozoic Era	Rise of modern animals
Mesozoic Era	Age of dinosaurs

**How many of the pairs given above are correct?**

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

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

Option b
<b>Correct</b>
<p>Geological eras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our planet is more than 4 billion years old, so experts have divided earth's history into pieces of time called aeons, eras, periods and epochs.</li> <li>• These divisions in Earth's geological timescale demarcate key geologic events and the appearance (or disappearance) of notable forms of life.</li> </ul> <p>Broadly, there are 4 geological eras:</p> <p>The Precambrian Era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It began 4.6 billion years ago with the formation of our planet and the emergence of the first life forms.</li> </ul> <p>The Palaeozoic Era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It lasted from 541 million to 252 million years ago.</li> <li>• It was characterised by the evolution of complex life, including fish, plants, insects, and amphibians</li> </ul> <p>The Mesozoic Era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It lasted from 252 million years until 66 million years ago.</li> <li>• This was the age of dinosaurs, together with the first appearance of birds and flowering plants towards the denouement.</li> </ul> <p>The Cenozoic Era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It began 66 million years ago and continues to this day.</li> <li>• It is distinguished by the rise of modern animals.</li> </ul>

**Context: Recently, a research group in Japan has uncovered an exceptionally well-preserved fossil forest which belongs to the late Miocene epoch.**

**Q.113) Consider the following statements about Mangroves**

1. Mangroves, like desert plants, store fresh water in thick succulent leaves.
2. Mangroves are Viviparous and have special roots called pneumatophores.

Choose the correct statements:

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

**Q.113) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<p><b>Correct</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Mangrove is a small tree or shrub that grows along coastlines, taking root in salty sediments, often underwater.</li> <li>• Saline environment: They can survive under extreme hostile environments such as high salt and low oxygen conditions.</li> <li>• Survival in Extreme Conditions: With their roots submerged in water, mangrove trees thrive in hot, muddy, salty conditions that would quickly kill most plants.</li> <li>• Succulent leaves: Mangroves, like desert plants, store fresh water in thick succulent leaves.</li> <li>• A waxy coating on the leaves seals in water and minimises evaporation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Correct</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low oxygen: Underground tissue of any plant needs oxygen for respiration. But in a mangrove environment, the oxygen in soil is limited or nil.</li> <li>• Hence the mangrove root system absorbs oxygen from the atmosphere.</li> <li>• Mangroves have special roots for this purpose called breathing roots or pneumatophores.</li> <li>• These roots have numerous pores through which oxygen enters the underground tissues.</li> <li>• Viviparous: Their seeds germinate while still attached to the parent tree. Once germinated, the seedling grows into a propagule.</li> <li>• The mature propagule then drops into the water and gets transported to a different spot, eventually taking root in a solid ground.</li> </ul>

**Context: International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is celebrated every year on July 26.**

**Q.114) Consider the following statements about Silvopasture systems**

1. It is an ancient practice that harmoniously integrates trees, forage and livestock on the same land.
2. The trees grown in Silvopasture Systems act as natural carbon sinks.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

**Q.114) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silvopasture is an ancient and proven practice that harmoniously integrates trees, forage and livestock on the same land.</li> <li>It also regulate local climatic conditions, buffering against temperature and wind extremes, providing a favourable living environment for livestock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees on silvopasture lands act as natural carbon sinks, sequestering significantly 5-10 times more carbon than pastures without trees, all while maintaining or enhancing productivity.</li> <li>The extensive root systems of trees within silvopasture plots contribute to nutrient cycling, improved soil stability and quality, while effectively combating erosion.</li> </ul>

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.115) Global Education Monitoring Report 2023, recently seen in news is published by?**

- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- World Bank

**Q.115) Solution (b)**

Option b
<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Global Education Monitoring Report 2023, titled Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms was released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).</li> <li>The report has endorsed banning smartphones in schools in situations where technology integration does not improve learning or if it worsens student well-being.</li> <li>Distraction – It highlighted that mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students and to have a negative impact on learning in 14 countries.</li> <li>Performance – It also cited research studies to point out that banning mobile phones from schools improves academic performance, especially for low-performing students.</li> <li>Digital infrastructure – The report also flagged the higher costs of delivering basic education where there is a dependency on the setting up of digital infrastructure.</li> <li>The situation could worsen the problem of unequal access in low-income countries.</li> <li>Privacy – Another major concern around the indiscriminate use of digital technology in education was children's privacy.</li> <li>Children's data are being exposed, yet only 16% of countries explicitly guarantee data privacy in education by law.</li> </ul>

**Context: UNESCO endorses banning smartphones from schools.**

**Q.116) Consider the following statements about ACROSS Scheme**

- It is an umbrella scheme that aims to improve agricultural supply chain.
- The scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

**Q.116) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>ACROSS - Atmosphere &amp; Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems &amp; Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The schemes aids in weather and climate forecasting.</li> </ul> <p>The Sub-scheme under the umbrella scheme ACROSS are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monsoon Convection, Clouds, and Climate Change (MC4),</li> <li>• High Performance Computing System (HPCS),</li> <li>• Monsoon Mission (MM-II),</li> <li>• Atmospheric Observations Network,</li> <li>• Weather &amp; Climate Services,</li> <li>• Upgradation of Forecast System and</li> <li>• Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs)</li> </ul>	<p>The scheme is implemented by 4 institutions under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India Meteorological Department (IMD)</li> <li>• National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)</li> <li>• Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)</li> <li>• Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)</li> </ul>

**Context: The Indian government has approved the continuation of the "ACROSS" scheme for weather and climate research, with an estimated cost of Rs. 2,135 crore.**

**Q.117) Consider the following countries**

1. Norway
2. Sweden
3. Finland
4. Poland
5. Germany

**How many of the above-mentioned countries share a border with Baltic sea?**

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five

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

**Option d****Correct**

- It is part of the North Atlantic Ocean, situated in Northern Europe.
- It extends northward from the latitude of southern Denmark almost to the Arctic Circle and separates the Scandinavian Peninsula from the rest of continental Europe.
- The Baltic Sea connects to the Atlantic Ocean through the Danish Straits.
- It is the largest expanse of brackish water in the world. Its water salinity levels are lower than that of the World Oceans due to the inflow of fresh water from the surrounding land and the sea's shallowness.
- Bordering Countries: Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden.
- Major gulfs: The Gulf of Bothnia to the north, the Gulf of Finland to the east, and the Gulf of Riga slightly to the south of that.

**Context: Citizen divers restore seagrass in just off the coast of Kiel in northern Germany, Baltic sea to fight climate change.**

**Q.118) Consider the following statements about PALNA Scheme**

1. The Palna component has been included under Mission Shakti.
2. It aims to provide for quality and affordable day-care facilities for the children of working women.
3. The scheme is implemented by Minister of Women and Child Development.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Q.118) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis**

<b>Option c</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<p>PALNA Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Creche Scheme has been revised and subsumed as Palna scheme.</li> <li>• It aims to provide for quality and affordable day-care facilities for the children (6 months to 6 years) of working women.</li> <li>• The Palna component has been included under Mission Shakti.</li> <li>• This scheme has dual role of encouraging women's participation in work force and improve nutrition and health status of children.</li> <li>• The scheme is launched by Minister of Women and Child Development.</li> <li>• It enables more women to take up gainful employment amongst all socio-economic groups both in the organized and unorganized sector, irrespective of their employment status.</li> </ul>

**Context: Total 2688 Crèches operational across the country; Number of beneficiaries is 57128 under PALNA SCHEME.**

**Q.119) Consider the following statements**

1. The Article 105 of the constitution mentions two parliamentary privileges that is freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.
2. The parliamentary privileges do not extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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



**Q.119) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis****Option c****Correct**

## Parliamentary Privileges

- Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members.
- Parliamentary Privileges can be enjoyed by the parliamentary committees.
- The Constitution has also extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees.
- These include the attorney general of India and Union ministers.
- The parliamentary privileges do not extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament.
- The breach of Parliamentary Privileges is punishable by the respective Houses of the Parliament.
- Parliamentary privileges can be classified into 2 broad categories:
  - Collective Privileges - Those that are enjoyed by each House of Parliament collectively.
  - Individual Privileges - Those that are enjoyed by the members individually.
- The Article 105 of the constitution mentions two parliamentary privileges that is freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.

**Context: As the Committee of Privileges of the Rajya Sabha investigates the alleged breach of privilege by 12 Opposition MPs.**

**Q.120) Which of the following about Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is not correct?**

- The households included are based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011).
- It provides a cover of Rs. 7 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- The scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.

**Q.120) Solution (b)****Option b****Correct**

## About Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:

- It is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- The households included are based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) for rural and urban areas respectively.
- It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- It provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital.
- There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.

- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e.; a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
- The scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority.

**Context: Over a third of hospitals empanelled under Ayushman Bharat are inactive, official data showed, in a worrying trend for the world's largest health insurance scheme aiming for universal health coverage.**

**Q.121) Consider the following statements about INDIAai**

1. It is the National artificial intelligence Portal of India.
2. It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, National e-Governance Division and NASSCOM.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.121) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the National artificial intelligence Portal of India which was launched on 28th May 2020.</li> <li>• It is a knowledge portal, research organisation, and an ecosystem-building initiative.</li> <li>• It stands to unite and promote collaborations with various entities in India's AI ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.</li> <li>• NeGD: It was created in 2009 as an Independent Business Division under the Digital India Corporation (a not-for-profit company set up by MeitY).</li> <li>• NASSCOM: It is a not-for-profit industry association and the apex body for the IT and IT-enabled products and services sector in India.</li> <li>• It is the single central knowledge hub on artificial intelligence and allied fields for aspiring entrepreneurs, students, professionals, academics, and everyone else.</li> </ul>

**Context: Recently, the INDIAai and Meta India signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for collaboration and cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies.**

**Q.122) Consider the following statements**

1. The Kiel Canal, one of the world's busiest artificial waterways, connects the North Sea with the Baltic.
2. The Rhine and the Thames rivers drain into the North Sea.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**



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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a sea in northern Europe and is part of the Atlantic ocean.</li> <li>• Borders: It is bordered by the United Kingdom and Norway to the west, Denmark to the south, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France to the east, and the Faroe Islands and Norway's Svalbard archipelago to the north.</li> <li>• The North Sea connects to the Atlantic Ocean via the English Channel in the southwest and the Baltic Sea in the east via the Kattegat and Skagerrak straits.</li> <li>• The Kiel Canal, one of the world's busiest artificial waterways, connects the North Sea with the Baltic.</li> <li>• Area: It covers an area of approximately 570,000 square kilometres (220,000 square miles).</li> </ul> <p>Depth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a relatively shallow sea with an average depth of 90 meters.</li> <li>• The sea's deepest part is the Norwegian trench which is 725 meters deep.</li> <li>• The shallowest area is the Dogger Bank, which is only 12 metres deep.</li> </ul>	<p>Climate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It experiences an oceanic temperate maritime climate characterized by slightly high temperatures.</li> <li>• Winters are long but cool, while summers are short and mild.</li> <li>• Rivers: Major rivers that drain into the North Sea include the Forth, Elbe, the Weser, the Ems, the Rhine and Meuse, the Scheldt, the Thames, and the Humber.</li> <li>• Ports: It has several major ports located along its coasts, such as Rotterdam, the busiest port in Europe, Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremerhaven and Felixstowe, all busy container seaports, as well as the Port of Bruges-Zeebrugge, Europe's leading RoRo port.</li> </ul>

**Context: An Indian crew member was killed, and several others injured after a freight ship carrying nearly 3,000 cars in the North Sea caught fire recently.**

**Q.123) Consider the following statements about Urea Gold**

1. It is a new variety of Urea coated with Sulphur.
2. Sulphur-coated urea facilitates a gradual release of nitrogen, thereby enhancing its availability and uptake by crops.
3. The inclusion of humic acid in Urea Gold extends its lifespan as a fertilizer.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

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

- It is a new variety of Urea coated with Sulphur.
- It is being introduced to address the Sulphur deficiency in soil and save input costs for the farmers.
- Urea Gold surpasses the existing Neem-coated urea in terms of both economic viability and efficiency.
- How Urea Gold Is Better Than Others?
- Sulphur-coated urea facilitates a gradual release of nitrogen, thereby enhancing its availability and uptake by crops.
- The inclusion of humic acid in Urea Gold further extends its lifespan as a fertilizer.
- This product not only substitutes traditional urea consumption but also reduces overall fertilizer usage.
- According to the report, 15 kg of Urea Gold provides comparable benefits to 20 kg of conventional urea, making it a more efficient and effective choice for farmers.

What is Neem-coated urea?

- Urea is a commonly used nitrogen-based fertilizer that provides essential nutrients to plants to promote healthy growth.
- Neem-coated urea is a specialized form of urea fertilizer that has been coated with neem oil.

Benefits:

- The neem coating on urea slows down the release of nitrogen into the soil. This controlled release helps reduce nitrogen leaching and volatilization, leading to improved nitrogen use efficiency by plants.
- It would bring down the quantity of urea per acre and consequent reduction in input cost to farmers.
- The emission of nitrous oxide is also brought down significantly.
- Neem oil, derived from the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), has natural pesticidal properties.

**Context: Prime Minister recently launched "Urea Gold", a new variety of Urea, during an event in Rajasthan's Sikar.**

**Q.124) Consider the following statements about Corporate Debt Market Development Fund**

1. It is an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. The CD MDF will purchase investment grade corporate bonds from fund houses in distress to help them meet redemption requests.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.124) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CDMDf aids to help stabilize the Indian corporate bond market in times of stress.</li> <li>Corporate bonds are debt security which is issued by a corporation and issued to bondholders/investors.</li> <li>CDMDf is an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) under Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mutual funds will have to contribute 25 basis points (bps) of the specified debt asset under management to the CDMDf.</li> <li>The initial contribution of mutual funds to CDMDf will be based on Asset Under Management of the specified Mutual Fund schemes as of last December-end.</li> <li>The CDMDf will purchase investment grade corporate bonds from fund houses in distress to help them meet redemption requests.</li> <li>CDMDf shall purchase listed corporate debt securities from the specified debt-oriented Mutual Fund schemes.</li> <li>The fund aims to avert Franklin Templeton-type debt fund crisis.</li> <li>Franklin Templeton debt fund crisis occurred aftermath of the covid-19, since it couldn't sell most of its underlying lower-rated securities.</li> </ul>

**Context: SEBI has recently created framework for CDMDf to protect the investors investing in mutual funds.**

**Q.125) Dhala Crater, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?**

- Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh
- Odisha
- Jammu and Kashmir

**Q.125) Solution (b)**

Option b
<b>Correct</b>
<p>About Ureilite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Ureilites' are a rare class of primitive meteorites that constitute just a tiny fraction of meteorites on Earth.</li> <li>It is named after the locality where the first specimen was discovered, the Novo Urei village in Russia.</li> </ul> <p>Composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They consist of silicate rock, mostly olivine and pyroxene, interspersed with less than 10% of carbon (diamond or graphite), metal sulphides and a few fine-grained silicates.</li> <li>They contain elongated cavities generally stretched in the same direction.</li> <li>Lack of Chondrules: Unlike many other stony meteorites, ureilites do not contain chondrules, which are small, spherical grains that formed in the early solar system.</li> <li>Primitive Nature: Ureilites are considered primitive meteorites because their composition closely resembles the material from which the solar system formed.</li> </ul> <p>Key Facts about Dhala Crater:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the oldest and the largest impact crater in India.</li> <li>It is estimated to have formed some 2500 million years ago.</li> </ul>

- Named after the village Dhala, the crater is an eroded leftover of the original impact structure.
- Location: It is located in Shivpuri district in Madhya Pradesh.
- Size: It is a massive 11 km in diameter, making it the largest in Asia.

**Context:** In a recent discovery, a collaborative team of scientists from Allahabad University and the University of Bern, Switzerland, revealed that the Dhala crater resulted from the collision of an exceptionally rare and ancient meteorite, known as Ureilite.

**Q.126) Consider the following statements**

1. Soligas are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Karnataka.
2. They live in the core area of Biligiri Ranganatha Temple Tiger Reserve.
3. Soliga tribes consume Silver cockscomb, a weed as nutritious leafy vegetable.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Q.126) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soligas are an indigenous tribe of Karnataka.</li> <li>• The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Karnataka - Jenu Kuruba and Koraga</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Soligas are the first tribal community living in the core area of a Biligiri Ranganatha Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve in India to get their forest rights recognised.</li> <li>• Traditionally they have been dependent on the forests for their livelihood.</li> <li>• The Soligas are also called the children of bamboo.</li> </ul>	<p>Silver Cockscomb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silver cockscomb is a nutritious leafy green vegetable that grows well even on fallow land and in drought-like conditions.</li> <li>• The scientific name is <i>Celosia argentea</i>.</li> <li>• It is a short-lived 50-60 cm-tall plant that bears simple, spirally arranged leaves around the stem with pinkish or silky white flowers.</li> <li>• For the Soligas, known for their traditional knowledge of ecology, silver cockscomb is a nutritious leafy green vegetable</li> </ul>

**Context:** The Soliga tribal community uses silver cockscomb, which is often considered to be a weed but has been discovered to have advantages.

**Q.127) Consider the following statements about National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA)**

1. NMMA was launched in 2007 to document the India's monuments and antiquities.

2. Archaeological Survey of India is the nodal agency for NMMA to implement the various activities all over the country.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.127) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NMMA was launched in 2007 to document the India's monuments and antiquities.</li> <li>It was mandated with the target to document 58 lakh of the antiquities.</li> <li>It was initially set up for a period of 5 years from 2007 to 2012.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was extended for a further 5 years till 2017 and later merged with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).</li> <li>Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the nodal agency for NMMA to implement the various activities all over the country.</li> </ul>

**Context: Due to slow pace of documentation under the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) the trafficking of Antiquities is on the rise**

**Q.128) Consider the following statements about PM-WANI**

- It is implemented by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It aims to enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.128) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM - Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) was launched by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in December 2020.</li> <li>Implementation - DOT will assist all the stakeholders in implementation and proliferation of PM WANI.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim - To enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country, especially in rural areas.</li> <li>Elements - Various entities such as PDO, PDOA, app providers, and a central registry are parts of the scheme.</li> <li>The Central Registry maintains the details of the App providers, PDOAs and POAs.</li> <li>The Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) provide public Wi-Fi services through PDOs spread across length and breadth of the country.</li> <li>PDOAs provides aggregate services such as authorization and accounting to PDOs.</li> <li>Public Data Offices (PDOs) (last-mile providers) can be found in small shops, local establishments, and even households.</li> <li>PDOs establish, maintain, and operate PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi Hotspots.</li> <li>No licence or permit is needed for operators to start operations.</li> <li>App Provider will develop an Application to register users and discover and display PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi Hotspots.</li> <li>Data PM-WANI App is the PM-WANI compliant app which help users to easily navigate and discovering PMWANI Wi-Fi hotspots.</li> </ul>

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.129) Consider the following statements about Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative**

- It aims to build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers and frontline IT officials, across all government departments about cyber crime.
- It is an initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.129) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyber Surakshit Bharat aims to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities of Chief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.</li> </ul>

Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials, across all government departments.

- It ensures adequate safety measures and defend the digital infrastructures by various organizations and become future-ready in tackling cyber-attacks.
- It will include an awareness program on the importance of cybersecurity; a series of workshops on best practices.

- This program also conducts training sessions for CISOs and technical officials to:
- The Central Government, State Governments and Union Territories, Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Units,
- Defence Forces, Defence PSUs and technical arms of the Air Force, Army and the Navy.
- CISO Deep-Dive training programme seeks to spread awareness, build capacity as well as enable Government departments on steps that need to be taken to create a cyber-resilient eco system.

**Context: Recently National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under Cyber Surakshit Bharat organised CISO Deep-Dive training programme at Central Academy for Police Training to spread awareness about cyber crimes.**

**Q.130) PRABANDH Portal, recently seen in news is related to which of the following sector?**

- Judiciary
- Education
- Health
- Energy

**Q.130) Solution (b)**

**Option b**

Correct

PRABANDH Portal

- PRABANDH - PProject Appraisal, Budgeting, Achievements and Data Handling System.
- It is a step towards leveraging technology to enhance efficiency and manage the implementation of Samagra Shiksha.
- It is for transparency and accuracy in the system with respect to approvals, releases financial position.
- Districts can submit the physical and financial expenditure on the PRABANDH portal.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for School Education.
- It envisages the school as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to Senior Secondary levels.
- It subsumes the 3 erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- Goal – To improve effectiveness of school, measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- Vision – To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education.

**Context: It was in news.**