



**IASBABA'S  
DAILY CURRENT  
AFFAIRS QUIZ  
COMPILATION  
UPSC 2023**

**August-2023**

**9169191888  
[www.iasbaba.com](http://www.iasbaba.com)**



**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)**

It is a framework of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

It is the assessment of the Protected Areas in the country.

India is the only nation in the world to have effectively completed five cycles of MEE of Tiger Reserves in the country.

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

Only one

Only two

All Three

None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
MEE is the framework of the World Commission on Protected Areas of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).	MEE is defined as the assessment of how well protected areas (PAs) are being managed, primarily, whether they are protecting their values and achieving the goals and objectives agreed upon.	India is the only nation in the world to have institutionalised and effectively completed five cycles of MEE of Tiger Reserves in the country. 5th cycle of MEE of Tiger Reserves It is jointly conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). India has a network of 53 Tiger Reserves spread across 18 States. Of these, a total of 51 Tiger Reserves have been independently evaluated through the MEE process. Results of the fifth cycle of MEE of Tiger Reserves in 2022 indicate an overall mean score of 78.01% (ranging between 50% to 94%) for 51 Tiger Reserves. A total of 12 Tiger Reserves have achieved 'Excellent' category, followed by 21 Tiger Reserves in 'Very Good' category, 13 Tiger Reserves in 'Good' category and 5 Tiger Reserves in 'Fair' category. Periyar Tiger Reserve achieved the top score of 94.53.

**Context: Recently Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves: Final Report- 5th cycle was published by National Tiger Conservation Authority.**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Cell-free DNA**

Cell-free DNA are fragments of nucleic acids that are present in the circulatory system.

The genetic abnormality such as Down's syndrome can be screened using Cell-free DNA in prenatal testing.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>Cell-free DNA (cfDNA) are some fragments of nucleic acids that are present in the circulatory system.</p> <p>cfDNA can be generated and released from a cell in a number of ways including when a cell is dying and the nucleic acids become degraded.</p> <p>The release of cfDNA could occur together with a variety of processes, including those required for normal development, those related to the development of certain cancers and those associated with several other diseases.</p>	<p>cfDNA is useful tool to understand human diseases and to use the knowledge to improve diagnosis, monitoring, and prognosis.</p> <p>The genetic abnormality such as Trisomy 21 (Down's syndrome) can be screened using Cell-free DNA in prenatal testing.</p> <p>Another emerging application of cfDNA is in the early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancers.</p>

**Context: In the last two decades or so, since genome sequencing technologies started to become more accessible, scientists have really figured out the application of the Cell-free DNA.**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS)**

SFMS is a messaging system that provides secure financial messages to financial institutions within India. The system is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>SFMS is a messaging system that provides secure financial messages to financial institutions within India.</p> <p>SFMS supports ISO 20022 which is superior to MT (Message Text) standards that is used by SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications).</p> <p>SFMS provides certain additional message types for interbank transactions such as Letters of Credit which can be used by foreign banks as well.</p> <p>India's SFMS is both cheaper and technically more capable than SWIFT.</p> <p>It has the capacity to be internationalised owing to its advanced capabilities.</p>	<p>It is developed by the Indian Financial Technology &amp; Allied Services (IFTAS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).</p> <p>IFTAS designs, deploys &amp; provides the essential IT-related services, required by the Reserve Bank of India, banks, and financial institutions.</p>

**Context: It was news****Q.4) Keeling Islands, recently seen in news is located in which of the following ocean of the world?**

- Indian Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean

**Q.4) Solution (a)**

<b>Option a</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<p>Cocos (Keeling) Islands:</p> <p>The Cocos (Keeling) Islands lie in the eastern Indian Ocean, about 2,900 kilometers (1,800 miles) northwest of the Australian city of Perth.</p> <p>It comprises of coral atolls and islands, the archipelago includes North Keeling Island and the South Keeling Islands.</p> <p>The territory's administrative headquarters are on West Island in the southern atoll.</p> <p>Climate: Warm and humid climate.</p> <p>Vegetation: The vegetation consists chiefly of coconut palms, which were formerly cultivated for copra on plantations.</p> <p>The northern atoll consists of Australia's most remote Commonwealth National Park, the Pulu Keeling National Park.</p> <p>On North Keeling and Horsburgh islands, coarse grass serves as a ground cover.</p> <p>The inhabitants of this Island are predominantly the descendants of the original plantation workers, mostly of Malay origin.</p>

**Administration:** An administrator appointed by the Australian governor-general is the senior governmental official in the Cocos. The islands became an Australian territory under the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955.

**Context:** Recently, an Indian Navy Dornier maritime patrol aircraft and an Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130 transport aircraft visited Australia's Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI).

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign**

The campaign is envisaged as a culminating event of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration of 75 years of Indian Independence.

Amrit Vatika and Vasudha Vandhan are the programmes that will be organised across the country in the memory of immortal martyrs.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>The campaign is envisaged as a culminating event of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration of 75 years of Indian Independence.</p> <p>Aim – The campaign aims to honour the memory of brave men and women who laid down their lives for the country.</p> <p>The campaign will be launched in the run-up to Independence Day, with special inscriptions to be installed in panchayats in their memory.</p>	<p>Under this campaign, several programmes will be organised across the country in the memory of immortal martyrs.</p> <p>Amrit Kalash Yatra – 7,500 pots carrying soil from different corners of the country will be brought to the national capital along with saplings.</p> <p>Amrit Vatika – It is a unique garden built by fusing the soil and saplings that would arrive in 7500 urns. It will be built near the National War Memorial and will become a grand symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat'.</p> <p>Vasudha Vandhan – It envisages every gram panchayat or village renewing Mother Earth by planting 75 saplings of indigenous species and developing an Amrit Vatika.</p>

**Context:** Prime Minister has recently announced the launch of a new campaign 'Meri Mati Mera Desh'.

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects**

The Space Liability Convention of 1972 defines responsibility in case a space object causes harm.

Under the Convention a launching State shall be absolutely liable to pay compensation for damage caused by its space objects on the surface of the earth.

The only settlement using the Liability Convention was between the erstwhile Soviet Union and Canada.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

**Q.6) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

<b>Option c</b>
<b>Correct</b>
Space Liability Convention of 1972
<p>The Space Liability Convention of 1972 defines responsibility in case a space object causes harm. The treaty says that a launching State shall be absolutely liable to pay compensation for damage caused by its space objects on the surface of the earth or to aircraft, and liable for damage due to its faults in space. The Convention also provides for procedures for the settlement of claims for damages. However, there is no law against space junk crashing back to earth. In 1979, re-entry of NASA's 76-ton Skylab had scattered debris over uninhabited parts of Australia, and the space agency was fined \$400 for littering by a local government. The only settlement using the Liability Convention was between the erstwhile Soviet Union and Canada over debris of Soviet Cosmos 954 falling in a barren region. Canada was paid CAD 3 million in accordance with international law for cleaning up the mess.</p>

**Context: Recently ISRO rocket debris was found on Australian shore**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about Trilateral Highway project**

The project spans 1,400 kilometres and will connect Moreh in Manipur with Mae Sot in Thailand, while passing through Myanmar.

The project was first proposed by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

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

It is also referred as “The Road to East” which connects India, Myanmar and Thailand. The project spans 1,400 kilometres and will connect Moreh in Manipur with Mae Sot in Thailand, while passing through Myanmar. It will be a gateway to ASEAN countries.

The project has the power to revolutionise tourism, cultural interchange and improve regional trade among India, Myanmar and Thailand. The project was first proposed by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and was approved at ministerial-level meeting between India, Myanmar and Thailand in 2002.

**Context: It was news.**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about Kuril Islands**

The Islands are located in the far east of Russia.  
It is a disputed territory between Japan and South Korea.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.8) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

**Option a**

**Correct**

Kuril Islands are located in the far east of Russia. They were seized by Soviet (Russian) forces in the closing days of World War II. Japanese call Kuril Islands as the Northern Territories. Modern Japan has no plans of using military force to resolve the dispute. Beijing would also have strategic incentives to assume control of the territory.



**Context: The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine might give Japan a chance to recover the territories in Kuril Islands that they lost during World War II**

**Q.9) Which the following is correctly matched?**

GI Products	State/UT
Jaderi namakatti	Tamil Nadu
Mushqbudji rice	Kashmir
Nathdwara Pichhwai Painting	Rajasthan

**Choose the correct code:**

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

**Q.9) Solution (d)**

Option d
<b>Correct</b>
Tamil Nadu – Chedibutta saree, Jaderi namakatti and Kanniyakumari Matti banana. Rajasthan – Nathdwara Pichhwai Painting. Kashmir's – Mushqbudji rice.
Jaderi namakatti – Are clay sticks that are white in colour, usually available in finger-like shape with a smooth texture. Kanniyakumari Matti banana – It is a traditional table banana cultivar of medicinal value and the fruit is highly fragrant, sweet with sub-acid flavour, firm texture and powdery nature. Chedibutta saree - Is a handloom saree which depicts the Chedibutta design in art silk and cotton mix fabric.

**Context: Three famous products from Tamil Nadu - Jaderi namakatti, Kanniyakumari Matti banana, Chedibutta saree - were given the GI tag.**

**Q.10) Hathnikund Barrage, recently seen in news is located on which of the following state?**

- Ganga
- Yamuna
- Godavari
- Kaveri

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

Option b
<b>Correct</b>
The Hathnikund is a barrage on the river Yamuna. The Hathnikund barrage's main function is to divert Yamuna's water to the canals. Location - The Hathnikund barrage is located on the UP-Haryana border with the left side maintained by the UP government and the right by Haryana. The water management is, however, managed entirely by Haryana. The water from Hathnikund barrage is supplied to three channel. Regulating authority - Water regulation through Hathinikund barrage is regulated by the Upper Yamuna River Board.



The board has representatives of all riparian stakeholders of the river - Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.  
Every state gets the share of the water as agreed upon the agreement signed on May 12, 1994 between the states.

**Context: The over release of water from the Hathnikund barrage is causing flooding in the national capital, New Delhi.**

**Q.11) Consider the following statements about PM SVANidhi scheme**

It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan of Rs 10,000.  
The scheme is implemented by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.11) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.</p> <p>Purpose: To provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.</p> <p>It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan of Rs 10,000 with low rates of interest (below 12%) for a period of one year, aiding the vendors in getting back on their feet financially.</p> <p>The duration of the scheme initially was until March 2022. It has been extended till December 2024, with a focus on enhanced collateral-free affordable loan corpus, increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socio-economic development of the Street Vendors and their families.</p>	<p>Scheme Benefits:</p> <p>Vendors can avail of a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.</p> <p>On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.</p> <p>The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.</p> <p>The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.</p> <p>Implementation agency: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)</p>

**Context: The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry recently set a new target for its PM SVANidhi scheme for street vendors.**

**Q.12) Consider the following statements about PM –YASASVI**

It is Centrally Sponsored Scheme that provides scholarship for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/S-NT).

Scholarship under the Scheme will be available for studies in India and abroad.

The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.12) Solution (a)****Statement Analysis****Option a****Correct**

PM –YASASVI is Centrally Sponsored Schemes for vulnerable groups comprising of Other Backward Class (OBCs), Economically Backward Class (EBC) and Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/S-NT).

Scholarship under the Scheme will be available for studies in India only and will be awarded by the Government of the State/Union Territory to which the applicant belongs.

The scholarship will be provided for students studying in Government Schools only.

The students should be studying in class IX and X on a full-time basis in Government Schools only.

The students shall be given a consolidated academic allowance of Rs. 4000 per annum.

**Context: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing an umbrella scheme namely PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM –YASASVI) for OBC and others.**

**Q.13) Consider the following statements Cadalmin Immunalgin Extract (Cadalmin IMe)**

It is a nutraceutical product from select seaweeds that can boost the innate immunity.

It is 100% natural blend of highly nutritious bioactive ingredients extracted with eco-friendly 'green' technology.

It is developed by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

**How many of the following statements are incorrect?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

**Option d****Correct**

Cadalmin Immunalgin Extract (Cadalmim IMe) is nutraceutical product from select seaweeds that can boost the innate immunity related to post-Covid complications.

A nutraceutical product is a substance, which has physiological benefit or provides protection against chronic disease.

Cadalmin IME also has antiviral properties against the delta variant of the SARS CoV-2 virus.

It is a synergistic combination of seaweed-based nutraceutical product, which is a 100% natural blend of highly nutritious bioactive ingredients extracted with eco-friendly 'green' technology.

It is developed by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)

CMFRI was established by Government of India on February 1947 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

It later joined the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) family in 1967.

It is devoted its research towards the estimation of marine fisheries landings and effort, taxonomy of marine organisms and the bio-economic characteristics of the exploited stocks of finfish and shellfish.

**Context: Recently the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute developed Cadalmim Immunalgin Extract (Cadalmim IMe) that can boost the innate immunity related to post-Covid complications.**

**Q.14) Consider the following statements about eSanjeevani**

It is a telemedicine app that provides both doctor-to-doctor and doctor-to-patient telecommunication.

It is designed and developed by The Centre for Development and Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

**Choose the correct statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It is a cloud-based integrated telemedicine solution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. It is a telemedicine app that provides both doctor-to-doctor and doctor-to-patient telecommunication.	It is being designed, developed, deployed, and maintained by The Centre for Development and Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali. Two modules of eSanjeevani: eSanjeevani AB-HWC: The doctor-to-doctor telemedicine platform, being implemented at all the Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) in the country under the Ayushman Bharat (AB) Scheme of Government of India.

	<p>It operates on a Hub-and-Spoke model wherein the 'Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers' (HWCs) are set up at the state level, which is connected with the hub (comprising MBBS/ Specialty/Super-Specialty doctors) at the zonal level.</p> <p>It was rolled out in 2019.</p> <p>eSanjeevani OPD:</p> <p>It is the Patient-to-Doctor remote consultation services rolled out in 2020 amid the first lockdown imposed to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, while the Outpatient Departments (OPDs) in the country were closed.</p> <p>It enables people to get outpatient services in the confines of their homes.</p>
--	---

**Context: Union Health Minister recently informed the Rajya Sabha that the Centre's telemedicine application eSanjeevani has completed 14,17,81,384 teleconsultations.**

**Q.15) Akira, recently seen in news is related to?**

- A ransomware
- A superconductor
- Newly found plant species in Western Ghats
- A natural satellite of Jupiter

**Q.15) Solution (a)**

<b>Option a</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<p>Akira is a new family of ransomware that was used for cyber-attacks in the US and Canada in March 2023. In the US, the ransomware was reported to actively target several organisations and expose their sensitive data.</p> <p>This is different from the Akira ransomware that was flagged by Microsoft Defender Antivirus in 2017. Akira uses a double-extortion technique to exfiltrate and encrypt data to increase the chances of extracting money from its victims.</p> <p>The Akira leak site has compromised at least 63 organisations since its inception. Companies that do not have secure backups to restore files are prone to be attacked by Akira. The ransomware can lead to the loss of valuable data.</p> <p>To combat Akira, companies need to upgrade their cybersecurity practices.</p>

**Context: Computer emergency response team (CERT) – India have recently issued an advisory flagging the emergence of a new ransomware called Akira.**

**Q.16) Consider the following statements MASI Portal**

- It serves as a single platform for inspections of all the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across the country.
- The portal was developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>MASI - Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection for real time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country.</p> <p>It serves as a single platform for inspections of all the CCIs across the country by the following authorities:</p> <p>Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), State Inspection Committees, District Inspection Committees, Members of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs).</p> <p>CWC is the authority that dispose the cases for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children in need of care &amp; protection.</p> <p>CWC also provides basic needs and protection of human rights for children</p>	<p>National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application 'MASI'.</p> <p>The app is linked to the monitoring Portal where the automatic reports are generated.</p> <p>The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021).</p> <p>The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, makes it mandatory to establish at least one Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in each district.</p>

**Context: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application called 'MASI' (Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection) for real-time monitoring of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across the country.**

**Q.17) Consider the following statements about JALDOST airboat**

- It is designed to remove excess aquatic weed and floating waste from water bodies.
- It has a hybrid propulsion system, comprising air propulsion and paddle wheel propulsion.
- It was designed and developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.17) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis****Option c****Correct**

It is an airboat that operates on water.

It is designed to remove excess aquatic weed and floating waste from water bodies.

It has a closed airtight pontoon type hull to make it inherently unsinkable.

According to NAL, it has a hybrid propulsion system, comprising air propulsion and paddle wheel propulsion.

How it works?

The ability to travel through weed makes JALDOST an ideal platform to collect them and bring them to the shore.

A steel mesh belt conveyor system fixed in the front collects the waste. The collected waste falls on the horizontal deck conveyor.

After reaching the shore, the collected waste is unloaded by a rear conveyor system to trucks or tractors.

NAL has developed two versions of the airboat — JALDOST Mark-1 and an upgraded version JALDOST Mark-2.

Key facts about National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)

It is a constituent of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India, established in the year 1959.

It is the only government aerospace R&D laboratory in the country's civilian sector.

CSIR-NAL is a high-technology-oriented institution focusing on advanced disciplines in aerospace.

It has several advanced test facilities, and many of them are recognized as National Facilities.

It has provided significant value-added inputs to all the Indian national aerospace programmes.

**Context: Recently, the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) unveiled the JALDOST airboat.**

**Q.18) Consider the following statements about World Heritage Committee**

The Committee works under the aegis of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The Committee representatives are elected by UN General Assembly.

**How many of the following statements are incorrect?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.18) Solution (d)****Statement Analysis****Option d****Correct**

The World Heritage Committee

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

The World Heritage Committee consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties including India to the Convention elected by their General Assembly.

It meets once a year in ordinary session and in extraordinary session upon request of two-thirds of its members.

**Functions**

The world Heritage Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

It defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties.

It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed.

It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Context: Recently the UNESCO heritage committee stopped short of listing Australia's Great Barrier Reef as a site that is "in danger".**

**Q.19) Which of the below given pairs is/are correctly matched?**

Places in news	Country
Latakia	Syria
Kemer	Turkey
Islands of Rhodes	Italy

**Choose the correct code:**

1, 2 and 3

1 and 3

1 and 2

2 and 3

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

Wildfires and heatwaves have been raging across the Northern Hemisphere in the past month (July), even as many countries across Europe, Asia and northern America have been experiencing record-high temperatures.

Spain – Has been bearing the brunt of wildfires, particularly in the Canary Islands where 4,000 people to flee and forced others to wear face masks.

Syria – The fires in Latakia raged for five days before rescuers could control it.

Turkey – The seaside town of Kemer was affected by wildfire.

In the western coastal province of Izmir, towns of Kinik and Odemis were also affected by wildfires.

Greece – Wildfires which were initially confined to the islands of Rhodes and Corfu spread towards the mainland with the city of Volos facing a large brunt of the crisis.

Italy – Is facing extreme weather events that are occurring in both the northern and southern regions of the country.

The Palermo airport in Sicily has been closed down due to raging wildfires.

Sardinia and Calabria have also reported dozens of fires while evacuations were ordered.

In the north, Lombardy is being battered by severe storms that have already killed a woman and a sixteen-year-old girl.

**Context: Wildfires and heatwaves have been raging across the Northern Hemisphere in the past month (July), even as many countries across Europe, Asia and northern America have been experiencing record-high temperatures.**

**Q.20) MPOWER measures, recently seen in news is related to which of the following field?**

Measures to achieve Sustainable development goal

Measures to fight the tobacco epidemic

Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Measures to fight neglected tropical diseases

**Q.20) Solution (b)**

**Option b**

**Correct**

MPOWER measures – Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies;  
Protect people from tobacco smoke;  
Offer help to quit tobacco;  
Warn about dangers of tobacco;  
Enforce bans on tobacco advertising;  
Raise taxes on tobacco products.

MPOWER measures is an initiative by WHO (World Health Organization)

WHO urges all countries to put in place all of the MPOWER measures at best-practice level to fight the tobacco epidemic.

There are at least 44 countries in the world that still do not implement any MPOWER measure.

The number of countries implementing at least one MPOWER measure has increased from 44 countries in 2008 to 151 in 2022.

India has also banned the sale of e-cigarettes, and banned smoking in healthcare facilities and educational institutions.

The report ranks the implementation of these bans an 8 out of 10 in healthcare facilities, 6 in schools, and 5 in universities.

**Context: Recently WHO (world health organization) released a report that assesses the implementation of MPOWER Measures.**



**Q.21) Consider the following statements about Mahanadi River**

The river originates from the Sihawa range of hills of Madhya Pradesh state.

The Hirakud Dam, the world's longest earthen dam is constructed across the Mahanadi River.

It ranks second to the Godavari River among the peninsular rivers in respect of water potential.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>It is one of the major east-flowing peninsular rivers in India.</p> <p>Origin: The river originates from the Sihawa range of hills in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh state.</p> <p>Length: It flows a total of 860 km by distance before it ends up in the Bay of Bengal.</p> <p>Course: It flows in a southeastern direction through Chhattisgarh and Odisha.</p> <p>The catchment area of the basin extends over major parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.</p> <p>It passes through several major cities and towns, including Raipur, Sambalpur, and Cuttack.</p>	<p>The river is bounded in the north by Central India hills, in the south and east by the Eastern Ghats and in the west by Maikal hill range.</p> <p>Tributaries: The main tributaries of Mahanadi are Seonath River, Jonk River, Hasdeo River, Mand River, Ib River, Ong River and Telen River.</p> <p>Hirakud Dam: The Hirakud Dam, the world's longest earthen dam (26km), is constructed across the Mahanadi River, about 15 km from Sambalpur in Odisha.</p> <p>The dam is used for irrigation, flood control, and power generation.</p>	<p>Chilika Lake: Chilika, named wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, gets 61% of its inland flow from the Mahanadi river system, mainly from its distributaries - Daya and Bhargabi.</p> <p>It ranks second to the Godavari River among the peninsular rivers in respect of water potential.</p>

**Context: The Odisha government recently alerted the districts in the Mahanadi delta area as it apprehends a “medium” flood in the river system following heavy rains for three consecutive days in the state.**

**Q.22) Consider the following statements about Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)**

It is a single-window, independent, nodal agency that functions as an autonomous agency in the Department of Space.

The agency acts as an interface between ISRO and Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs).

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>It is a single-window, independent, nodal agency that functions as an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS). It is formed following the Space sector reforms to enable and facilitate the participation of private players.</p> <p>IN-SPACE is responsible to promote, enable authorize and supervise various space activities of non-governmental entities including building launch vehicles &amp; satellites and providing space-based services; sharing space infrastructure and premises under the control of DOS/ISRO; and establishing of new space infrastructure and facilities</p>	<p>The agency acts as an interface between ISRO and Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) and assesses how to utilize India's space resources better and increase space-based activities.</p> <p>It also assesses the needs and demands of private players, including educational and research institutions, and explores ways to accommodate these requirements in consultation with ISRO.</p> <p>Headquarters: Bopal, Ahmedabad.</p>

**Context: Three private sector satellite makers are expected to send their earth observation satellites this fiscal, according to the sectoral regulator Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE).**

**Q.23) Consider the following statements about Sagar Setu Portal**

It is a single window platform that provides end-to-end logistics solutions to help exporters, importers, and service providers.

The Port Health Organisation (PHO) works under the aegis of the Sagar Setu.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>Sagar Setu is a national maritime single window platform that provides end-to-end logistics solutions to help exporters, importers, and service providers.</p> <p>It is an "open platform" that allows coexistence of multiple service providers to provide EXIM related services independently or by using connectivity options.</p> <p>It will facilitate real-time information of activities that are generally not in reach of the importer, exporter and customs broker.</p> <p>It also enables digital transactions for payments required for the clearance process of import and export like CFS charges, shipping line charges, transportation charges, etc.</p> <p>It also includes a single-window certification device to approve transactions, as well as the integration of an online payment service.</p> <p>All services and documents generated will be in line with global best practices and standards.</p> <p>Port Health Organisation (PHO) was recently launched under Sagar Setu.</p>	<p>Port Health Organisation (PHO)</p> <p>PHO enables Sagar Setu to be faster &amp; simpler ecosystem to promote Ease of Doing Business.</p> <p>PHO will conduct disease surveillance, health inspection, and quarantine measures to safeguard citizens and port workers.</p> <p>This module has been envisaged as a part of 'Ease of Doing business' by covering features like request for PHO clearance certificates, approval by PHO, etc.</p>

**Context: Recently Sarbananda Sonowal, minister of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) launched Port Health Organisation (PHO) under Sagar Setu.**

**Q.24) Consider the following statements about Himalayan vulture**

- Himalayan vultures are indigenous to the uplands of central Asia.
- They are a common winter migrant to the Indian plains.
- It is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN Red List.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

**Q.24) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis****Option c****Correct**

The Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) or Himalayan griffon vulture is an Old World vulture. It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors.

The Himalayan vulture is a common winter migrant to the Indian plains and a resident of the high Himalayas.

Himalayan vultures are indigenous to the uplands of central Asia, ranging from Kazakhstan and Afghanistan in the west to western China and Mongolia in the east.

This species predominately inhabits the mountainous terrain of the Tibetan plateau with migration usually only occurring altitudinally.

Breeding typically occurs at elevations between 600 and 4,500 m.

These birds generally mate at the nest site, but never on the ground.

Conservation status - IUCN: Near Threatened

**Context: Recently Researchers have recorded the first instance of captive breeding of the Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) in India at the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati**

**Q.25) Rajmargyatra, recently seen in news is related to?**

Unified Mobile Application for National Highway Users

Initiative of Ministry of Tourism to prioritize the safety of Amarnath yatrīs

Infrastructure initiative of India-Nepal in Kailash parvat region

Initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs to control drug trafficking

**Q.25) Solution (a)****Option a****Correct**

Rajmargyatra is a citizen-centric unified mobile application for National Highway Users.

It aims to create a seamless, user-friendly experience for highway users, fostering a safer and more enjoyable journey on Indian National Highways.

The app is available on both Google Play Store and iOS App Store.

The app is launched by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The key features of the app includes:

Comprehensive Highway Information

Hassle-Free Complaint Redressal

Seamless FASTag Services

Over-speeding notifications and voice-assistance

**Context: Recently National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched Rajmargyatra, a Unified Mobile Application for National Highway Users.**

**Q.26) Consider the following statements about Kali Gandaki River**

It is formed by the union of the Kali & Trisuli Rivers.

The river originates in Nepal and joins the river Ganga in the state of Bihar.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.26) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>The Kali Gandaki River or Gandaki River is also known as the Narayani River in southern Nepal &amp; the Gandak in India.</p> <p>It is also called as Krishna Gandaki in Nepal.</p> <p>This Gandaki River is one of the major rivers of Nepal and a left-bank tributary of the Ganges in India.</p> <p>It is formed by the union of the Kali &amp; Trisuli Rivers and both of these rivers rise in the Great Himalaya Range in Nepal.</p>	<p>It originates in northern Nepal and enters as Gandaki River into India and then turns southeast along the Bihar-Uttar Pradesh state border.</p> <p>The 5 main tributaries of the Kali Gandaki River are:</p> <p>Daraudi</p> <p>Seti</p> <p>Madi</p> <p>Marsyandi</p> <p>Budhi Gandaki</p>

**Context: Climate change, faster glacial melting and gravel mining in the Kali Gandaki are changing the course of the river.**

**Q.27) Consider the following statements**

- A charge sheet is a report generated by police officers after investigating a case.
- It is to be filed within 120 days from the date of arrest of the accused in cases triable by lower courts.
- If the charge sheet is not filed within the prescribed time, the accused has a right to default bail.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.27) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

<b>Option b</b>
<b>Correct</b>
About Charge Sheet:

According to Section 173 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), a charge sheet is a report generated by police officers after investigating a case.

It contains all the stringent records right from the commencement of investigation procedure of lodging an FIR to till the completion of investigation and preparation of final report.

It contains the names of the people brought in the custody, the charges they are brought in for and the identity of the accusers.

Once the charge sheet has been submitted to a court of law, prosecution proceedings against the accused begin.

Time limit for filing a Charge Sheet:

It is to be filed within 60 days from the date of arrest of the accused in cases triable by lower courts and 90 days in cases triable by Court of Sessions.

If the charge sheet is not filed within the prescribed time mentioned above, the accused has a right to default bail.

**Context: Rajasthan DGP recently ordered the preparation of a charge sheet against the accused in the rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl.**

**Q.28) Consider the following statements**

The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority.

Ministry of Home Affairs is the parent body of NDMA.

Incident Response Teams are the lowest administrative unit and will be the 'first responder'.

**How many of the following statements are incorrect?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option d**

**Correct**

Incident Response System:

IRS is a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedure and communications operating within a common organizational structure, with responsibility for the management of assigned resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives pertaining to an incident.

Functions:

In line with administrative structure and DM Act 2005, Responsible Officer (RO) is designated at the State and District level as overall in charge of the incident response management.

RO may delegate responsibilities to the Incident Commander (IC), who in turn will lead/manage the incident through Incident Response Teams (IRTs).

IRS functions through Incident Response Teams (IRTs) in the field. An IRT is a team comprising all positions of IRS organization; headed by Incident Commander (IC).

On receipt of Early Warning, RO activates IRTs. In case of a disaster without any warning, local IRT will respond and contact RO for further support, if required.

IRTs pre-designated at all levels, i.e. State, District, Sub-Division and Tehsil/Block.

IRT's lowest administrative unit (Sub-Division / Tehsil / Block) will be the 'first responder'.

If the incident becomes complex and beyond the control of local IRT, higher level IRT will be informed / take over the response management. In such cases the lower level IRT will merge with the higher level IRT.

When lower level of IRT merges with a higher level, IC of lower level may play the role of Deputy IC or Operations Sections Chief (OSC) or any other duty that the IC of higher authority assigns.

Key Facts about National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

Parent body: Ministry of Home Affairs.

Primary Objective: To coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.

It is responsible for framing policies, laying down guidelines and best-practices and coordinating with the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) to ensure a holistic and distributed approach to disaster management.

Origin: NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India in 2005.

Organisation setup:

The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA, who chairs a 9-member board.

The remainder of the board consists of members nominated based on their expertise in areas such as, planning, infrastructure management, communications, meteorology etc.

**Context: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) recently said several states and Union territories (UTs) are yet to implement the Incident Response System (IRS).**

**Q.29) Consider the following statements about Railway Protection Force (RPF)**

It is an armed force under the operational and administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.  
This force is responsible for the protection and security of railway property.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is an armed force under the operational and administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.	This force is responsible for the protection and security of railway property.

The RPF was set up as a consequence of The Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

The RPF guards proves its mettle and worthiness 24x7, all the 365 days of the year.

**Context: Recently a Railway Protection Force personnel shot 4 passengers in Mumbai-bound train in Maharashtra station.**

**Q.30) The publication '75 Endemic Birds of India' recently seen in news is released by?**

- Zoological Survey of India
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- Bombay Natural History Society
- National Biodiversity Authority

**Q.30) Solution (a)**

**Option a**

**Correct**

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was established on 1916 to promote survey, exploration and research leading to the advancement in our knowledge of various aspects of exceptionally rich life of the erstwhile 'British Indian Empire'.

The survey has its genesis in the establishment of the Zoological Section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta in 1875.

Primary Objectives of ZSI includes:

- Taxonomic studies of all faunal components collected.
- Periodic review of the Status of Threatened and Endemic
- Publication of results including Fauna of India and Fauna of States.

Secondary Objectives of ZSI includes:

- Chromosomal Mapping and DNA finger printing.
- Environmental Impact Studies.

'75 Endemic Birds of India' is a publication released by ZSI.

**Context: The publication '75 Endemic Birds of India' was recently released by Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).**

**Q.31) Consider the following statements about Vaquita porpoise**

- It is the world's rarest and the smallest carnivore plant.
- It is found only in the northern Gulf of California in Mexico.
- It is categorized as Critically Endangered in IUCN Red List.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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



**Statement Analysis****Option b****Correct**

Vaquita porpoise is the world's rarest and the smallest marine mammal.

It is also known as the panda of the sea for the distinctive black circles around its eyes.

This porpoise was discovered in 1958.

It is unique among the porpoises as it is the only species of that family found in warm waters, and the size of the dorsal fin is believed to be an adaptation to that, allowing for extra body heat to dissipate.

Habitats – Found only in the northern Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) in Mexico.

They are found most commonly seen in shallow waters up to 50 metres deep.

Threats – They are caught and drowned in gillnets set up by poachers to catch totoaba, an endangered species of marine fish sought by Chinese buyers on the black market for its prized swim bladders.

This species die more each year in fishing nets than are being born.

IUCN Status – Critically Endangered

**Context: The plight of the Vaquita forces International Whaling Commission to issue first extinction alert.**

**Q.32) Consider the following statements about Emblems and Names Act, 1950**

It prohibits the improper usage of the name, emblem, seal of the Government of India or of any state specified in the Schedule.

It extends to the whole of India and also applies to citizens of India outside India.

The Central Government has the authority to modify or expand the Schedule by issuing a notification in the Official Gazette.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.32) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis****Option c****Correct**

It extends to the whole of India and also applies to citizens of India outside India.

Terms:

Emblem: Any emblem, seal, flag, insignia, coat-of-arms, or pictorial representation specified in the Schedule;

Competent Authority: Any authority competent under any law for the time being in force to register any company, firm, or other body of persons or any trademark or design or to grant a patent;

Name: Includes any abbreviation of a name.

Prohibition of Improper Use (Section 3):

Regardless of any existing laws, individuals are not allowed to use or keep using, without prior permission from the Central Government or its authorized officer, any name or emblem listed in the Schedule or any imitation of it that looks similar.

This applies to using them for trade, business, profession, patent titles, trademarks, or designs. The Central Government may specify certain cases and conditions where such usage is allowed.

Penalty:

Any person who contravenes the provisions of section 3 shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to 500 rupees.

The Previous Sanctions for Prosecution:

No legal action for any offense punishable under this Act can be initiated without prior approval from the Central Government or an authorised officer designated by the Central Government through a general or specific order.

Exemption:

This Act does not provide any exemption to individuals from any legal action or proceeding that could be filed against them independently of this Act.

Power to Amend the Schedule:

The Central Government has the authority to modify or expand the Schedule by issuing a notification in the Official Gazette. Any such additions or changes made to the Schedule will be considered valid and enforceable as if they were originally part of the Act itself.

Power to Make Rules:

The Central Government has the authority to create rules, which will be published in the Official Gazette, to fulfil the objectives of this Act.

**Context: Delhi HC sought responses from the Centre, the Election Commission of India, and an alliance of 26 opposition parties in a public interest litigation against these parties' use of the acronym I.N.D.I.A.**

**Q.33) Consider the following statements about Devika Rejuvenation Project**

The project works under the aegis of the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

NRCP is a centrally funded scheme aimed at preventing the pollution of rivers.

**Choose the correct statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.33) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Devika River is also known as the sister of the river Ganges. The river presently runs under its sandy surface.	NRCP is a centrally funded scheme aimed at preventing the pollution of rivers. A federally financed program called the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) was established in 1995 with the goal of reducing river pollution. The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA

The river is located in Udhampur district of Jammu & Kashmir. The project works under the aegis of the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).	both have river conservation initiatives in place (National Ganga River Basin Authority).
---	---

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.34) Which of the below given pairs is/are correctly matched?**

Ramsar Site	State
Deepor Beel	Assam
Chandra Taal	Tripura
Pala Wetland	West Bengal

**Choose the correct code:**

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

**Q.34) Solution (a)**

Option a
<b>Correct</b>
Deepor Beel – Assam Chandra Taal – Himachal Pradesh Pala Wetland – Mizoram
Deepor Beel, a vital wetland in Guwahati, Assam, faces anthropogenic threats despite its protected status. Indigenous names like “beel” signify cultural and ecological connections, with local livelihoods intertwined with the wetland’s resources. Efforts to sustainably coexist with the wetland include initiatives by local women who convert water hyacinths into products, offering employment and improving the ecosystem’s health. Similarly, “Kumbhi Kagaz” produces biodegradable paper from water hyacinths, enhancing the wetland’s condition and supporting alternative livelihoods. Usage: The example can be used to highlight how local knowledge and communities can be incorporated into sustainable conservation efforts.

**Context: Some initiatives, along with bettering the health of the beel, have also provided employment to women.**

**Q.35) Neerakshi, recently seen in news is related to?**

- Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV)
- Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of Indian Air force
- Air Defence Fire Control Radar by DRDO

A supercomputer by CSIR

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

**Option a**

**Correct**

'Neerakshi' designed for mine detection (currently in the prototype stage)

Developed by: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and AEPL, an MSME entity.

Features: 2.1-meter-long cylindrical AUV, weighing around 45 kg, can perform various tasks such as mine detection, disposal, and underwater surveys.

It has an endurance of four hours and a depth of up to 300 meters, making it a versatile tool for ensuring coastal safety and protection.

Significance: Important for Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Army

**Context: India has introduced an innovative Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) named 'Neerakshi' designed for mine detection.**

**Q.36) Consider the following statements about APEDA**

It is a statutory body that functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It aims to develop and promote the export of scheduled products mentioned in APEDA act, 1985.

It provides financial assistance, information, and guidelines for the development of scheduled products.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c**

**Correct**

APEDA was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act of 1985.

It works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Objective: To develop and promote the export of scheduled products.

The products specified under the APEDA ACT are called scheduled products, and exporters of such scheduled products are required to register under APEDA.

It provides financial assistance, information, and guidelines for the development of scheduled products.

Headquarters: New Delhi

Functions:

Setting the standards and specifications for the scheduled products.

Registration of exporters of the scheduled products on payment of required fees.

Improving packaging and marketing of the Scheduled products.  
 Carrying out an inspection of products to ensure the quality of such products.  
 Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products.  
 Development of industries relating to the scheduled products and undertaking surveys, feasibility studies, etc.  
 Collection of statistics from the owners of factories or establishments and publication of such statistics.  
 Examples of scheduled products: Fruits, Vegetable, Meat, Poultry Dairy Products, Confectionery, Biscuits, Bakery Products, Honey, Jaggery, etc.

**Context: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has successfully orchestrated the export of the maiden trial shipment of fresh pomegranates to the United States via the air route.**

**Q.37) Consider the following statements about Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**

The primary objective of RGSA is to develop the governance capabilities of the Panchayats to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals.

It is launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as a centrally sponsored scheme.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was launched on 24th April 2018 as an umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It is a unique scheme proposed to develop and strengthen the Panchayati Raj System across India in the rural areas.</p> <p>The primary objective of Revamped RGSA is to develop the governance capabilities of the Panchayats to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>	<p>It is launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as a centrally sponsored scheme. For effective implementation of the scheme, utilization of funds is closely monitored with the States through meetings, video-conferences, etc.</p>

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.38) Consider the following statements**

An Operating System is a software program that acts as an intermediary between computer hardware and the computer user.

Maya OS is a new OS based on an open-source platform developed by Indian government development agencies.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>It is a new Operation System (OS) based on an open-source platform.</p> <p>It has the interface and all functionality like Windows and users will not feel much difference as they transition to it.</p> <p>What is an Operating System (OS)?</p> <p>An OS is a software program that acts as an intermediary between computer hardware and the computer user.</p> <p>It provides a user-friendly interface and manages the hardware and software resources of a computer system.</p> <p>In essence, an operating system enables a user to interact with a computer and run applications efficiently</p>	<p>Maya was developed by government development agencies within six months.</p> <p>Aim: To prevent malware attacks and other cyberattacks which had seen a steep increase.</p> <p>Currently, Maya is being installed only in Defence Ministry systems and not on computers connected to the networks of the three Services.</p>

**Context: The Defence Ministry recently decided to drop the Microsoft operating system and go for a local one named Maya operating system.**

**Q.39) Consider the following statements about Assam Rifles**

- It is the oldest Central Para Military Force in India.
- It is designated by the Constitution of Group of Ministers committee as the Border Guarding Force for the Indo - Myanmar border.
- The headquarters of the Director-General of Assam Rifles (DGAR) is in Shillong.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three

None

**Q.39) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c**

**Correct**

The Assam Rifles raised as Cachar Levy in 1835 to protect British tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids.

It is the oldest Central Para Military Force in India.

During times of peace and 'proxy war', it has to ensure the security of the India-China and India-Myanmar borders.

In internal security matters, it acts under the purview of the Army, as the penultimate interventionist force of the Central government

When the situation goes beyond the control of other paramilitary forces.

Similar to the Rashtriya Rifles in J & K, the Assam Rifles is the specialised force that carries out anti-insurgency operations in difficult terrain of Northeastern States.

Its operational control is with the Indian Army, with an officer of the rank of Lieutenant General commanding the force.

The headquarters of the Director-General of Assam Rifles (DGAR) is in Shillong.

It is designated by the Constitution of Group of Ministers (GoM) committee as the Border Guarding Force for the Indo - Myanmar border.

It is also its lead intelligence agency Constitution of Group of Ministers (GoM).

**Context: Recently Manipur Police register criminal case against Assam Rifles accusing them of "giving a chance to the accused Kuki militants to escape freely to a safe zone".**

**Q.40) Omkareshwar Reservoir, is located on which of the following river?**

- Narmada
- Mahanadi
- Krishna
- Godavari

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

**Option a**

**Correct**

NTPC Renewable Energy Limited has successfully secured a bid for an 80 MW floating solar project at the Omkareshwar Reservoir in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.

The largest floating solar project in India is a 100 MW installation located at NTPC Ramagundam in Telangana.

The Omkareshwar Dam is a gravity dam on the Narmada River just upstream of Mandhata in Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh, India. It is named after the Omkareshwar temple located just downstream.

**Context: NTPC Renewable Energy Limited has successfully secured a bid for an 80 MW floating solar project at the Omkareshwar Reservoir in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.**

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

Belem Declaration is the outcome of the Amazon Summit organised by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

ACTO is an intergovernmental organization formed by the eight Amazonian countries by signing the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT).

Belem Declaration promotes sustainable use of biodiversity resources in the Amazon Region.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.41) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis****Option c****Correct**

The Belem Declaration was initiated during the Amazon Summit which was organized by Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

ACTO is an international organisation that is aimed at the promotion of sustainable development of the Amazon Basin.

The declaration recognises Indigenous knowledge as a condition for biodiversity conservation and calls for ensuring full and effective participation of Indigenous People.

In the Declaration member countries have also agreed to establish a new scientific body to conduct research and report annually on the state of the rainforest.

In addition, the Declaration promises closer cooperation between governments on other shared environmental priorities such as:

Water management,

Tackling cross-border environmental crimes and

Joint negotiating positions for future global climate summits.

**Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization:**

It is an intergovernmental organization formed by the eight Amazonian countries by signing the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT).

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty was drafted and signed on July 3, 1978.

In 1995, the eight nations decided to create the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), to strengthen and implement the objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Member countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

It was founded to promote the preservation of the Amazon basin and regulate Amazonian development through international cooperation.

It is the only socio-environmental block in Latin America.

It works in different dimensions within the framework of the implementation of the ACT: political-diplomatic, strategic, and technical, building synergies among governments etc.

It has four official languages: Dutch, English, Portuguese, and Spanish.



The Directorate of the Permanent Secretariat and the coordination of the projects plan and execute their activities in close collaboration and through consultations with the Member Countries.

**Context: Amazon nations seek common voice on climate change, urge developed world to help protect rainforest.**

**Q.42) Consider the following statements about Green Minerals**

Green minerals are the mineral needed to support the transition to clean energy technologies.  
The green minerals include Bauxite, cobalt, copper, lithium, granite, manganese and nickel.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.42) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Green minerals are metals and other mineral resources that are needed to support the transition to clean energy technologies aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Green minerals are also referred to as “minerals of the future”.	These include bauxite, cobalt, copper, lithium, granite, manganese and nickel. According to the International Energy Agency, electric vehicles (EV) and battery storage account for about half of the mineral demand.

**Context: Recently Ghana Approved Green Minerals Policy to Develop Lithium Industry.**

**Q.43) Udyam Assist Platform, recently seen in news is an initiative of which of the following ministry?**

- Ministry of Labour & Employment
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

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

Option b
<b>Correct</b>
The Government launched UAP under the MSME formalization project on 11.01.2023 to bring Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) under the formal ambit for availing benefits under Priority Sector Lending. The platform has been developed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The Government of India has clarified that IMEs are those enterprises which are unable to get registered on the Udyam Registration Portal (URP) due to lack of mandatory required documents

such as Permanent Account Number (PAN) or Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN).

Benefits:

A large number of IMEs aren't registered under GST. To facilitate such IMEs to get a registration certificate through Assist mode of Designated Agencies (Das) such as banks/ NBFCs/MFIs, who have information about IMEs available with them.

The certificate issued on the Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) would be treated at par with Udyam Registration Certificate for IMEs for availing of the benefits of Priority Sector Lending (PSL).

Implementation Process:

Registration of DAs, who are eligible regulated entities to assist IMEs for generation of Udyam Registration in the UAP.

Registration of IMEs by the DAs. IMEs are not required to share any documents for registration with DAs separately.

DAs have to share the required information as available with them of IMEs on UAP.

The registered IMEs can then download their certificate from UAP.

The Udyam Registration Number (URN) generated for enterprises via UAP is of an exclusive number series called the Udyam-I

**Context:** As per latest data, the government's new Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) has 35 lakh units registered as of August 3, 2023.

**Q.44) Consider the following statements about Select Committee in the Parliament of India**

Select Committee is an ad hoc or temporary committees, which are set up for a specific purpose.

If select committee is a Joint Committee, the proportion of members from the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha is 1:2.

The report of the committee is of a recommendatory nature.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c**

**Correct**

Select Committee is an ad hoc or temporary committees, which are set up for a specific purpose, such as examining a particular Bill and are dissolved after it.

Under Rule 125 of the Rajya Sabha Rules and Procedures, any member may move an amendment that a Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

According to the Rajya Sabha rules, "The Select Committees on Bills are constituted by the House(s) on specific motion moved by the Minister in-charge of the Bill or any member.

A Joint Committee has members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

No member is appointed to a Select Committee if he is not willing to serve on the Committee.

The actual number of membership of the Select Committee is not fixed. It varies from Committee to Committee.

If it is a Joint Committee, the proportion of members from the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha is 1:2.

The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha from among the members of the Committee.

The quorum for each sitting needs to be 1/3rd of the total number of members of the committee.

In case of equality of votes on any matter, the chairman (or any other person presiding) will have a second or casting vote.

A select committee may appoint a sub-committee to examine any special points connected with the Bill.

The report of the committee is of a recommendatory nature.

**Context: Recently Raghav Chadha, Member of the Parliament proposed to refer the Delhi Services Bill to Select Committee.**

**Q.45) Consider the following statements about Fractional Ownership Platforms (FOP)**

It is an ownership cum investment model in which the cost of an asset is split between individual shareholders.

It is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

**Choose the correct statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>Fractional Ownership Platforms (FOP) is an ownership cum investment model in which the cost of an asset is split between individual shareholders.</p> <p>Fractional Ownership is a concept wherein a percentage of an asset is owned as a fraction, on payment of a proportionate sum of money, which in turn provides the investor the following benefits:</p> <p>Usage rights and income sharing.</p> <p>Priority access and capital gains from the upside potential of high-value assets.</p> <p>It provides investors with a unique investment opportunity that offers benefits such as access to high-value assets, diversification, liquidity, professional management and fixed passive income.</p>	<p>As of now there is no regulator for FOP but Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is expected to formalise a framework soon to regulate the web-based FOP platforms.</p>

Fractional Ownership is not just limited to real estate investing, it works wonders for a plethora of high-value asset classes.	
---	--

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.46) Consider the following statements about Takakia**

Takakia is a rare genus of moss and Oldest surviving plant species.  
It only has two species and both of them are found together only in Tibetan Plateau.  
It combines features found in mosses, liverworts and green algae.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.46) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

<b>Option c</b>
<b>Correct</b>
<p>Takakia is a rare genus of moss and Oldest surviving plant species. Takakia looks like a later of moss or green algae on the rocks where it grows. But closer inspection would reveal slender turf around 1centimetre in length with an arrangement of short, finger-like leaves. Takakia is a genus that only has two species and both of them are found together only in one place which is the Tibetan Plateau. It combines features found in mosses, liverworts and green algae.</p> 



**Context: Takakia is being threatened by climate change.**

**Q.47) Consider the following statements**

Cluster munitions are weapons that release multiple explosive sub munitions, also called bomblets, into the air.

Convention on Cluster Munitions envisages banning the possession, transfer, supply and use of cluster bombs.

India is a member of the convention.

**How many of the following statements are incorrect?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.47) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>Cluster munitions or cluster bombs are weapons that release multiple explosive sub munitions, also called bomblets, into the air.</p> <p>These sub munitions explode as soon as they hit the ground, killing and maiming people in the area.</p> <p>Many bomblets do not blow up instantly and remain dormant for years (also known as the dud rate).</p> <p>These inactive bomblets act as precarious landmines, posing a grave threat to the civilian population, including women and children, for a long time.</p> <p>They were used in the Second World War.</p> <p>Since then, cluster bombs have been used on multiple occasions</p>	<p>The convention envisages banning the possession, transfer, supply and use of cluster bombs.</p> <p>The treaty is not universal but 112 countries have acceded to the including many North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members such as Canada, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>Other important countries such as the U.S., Russia, China, Israel, and India have not signed the CCM. Ukraine is not a member of the convention.</p> <p>Since these countries are not signatories to the CCM, they are not bound by international law banning cluster bombs.</p> <p>Countries are also legally bound to develop a victim assistance programme to provide support the cluster bomb victims.</p>

<p>including by the U.S. in the wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq.</p> <p>The international campaign against cluster bombs led by the civil society organisations such as Human Rights Watch also gathered momentum.</p> <p>This resulted in an international treaty called the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was enacted on 2008.</p>		
---	--	--

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.48) Consider the following statements about Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority**

It is a statutory body set up under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the Chairperson of the Authority.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.48) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>It is set up under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India as a statutory body under Companies Act 2013.</p> <p>It aims to administer the Investor Education and Protection Fund with the objective of promoting Investor's Education, Awareness and Protection.</p> <p>The Authority takes various initiatives to fulfil its objectives through Investor Awareness Programmes and various other mediums like Print, Electronic, Social Media, and Community Radio etc.</p>	<p>Composition: Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs is the Chairperson of the Authority. Joint Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs is the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.</p>

**Context:** The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Common Service Centre (CSC) have jointly launched “Niveshak Sarathi” (translates to “Investor Guide” or “Investor Mentor”) Vans in Delhi-NCR as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

**Q.49) Consider the following statements about Glyphosate**

Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide that can kill certain weeds and grasses.

Glyphosate is a systemic herbicide as it is absorbed by the plant's leaves and then translocated throughout the plant's vascular system.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.49) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide that can kill certain weeds and grasses.</p> <p>The product is used primarily in agriculture but also in forestry and lawn and garden care.</p> <p>Glyphosate is a small molecule made of a linear carbon chain with weaker bonds, which makes glyphosate less persistent in the environment.</p> <p>In India, it goes by various brand names, including Roundup, Glycel, and Brake.</p>	<p>Systemic Nature:</p> <p>Glyphosate is a systemic herbicide, which means it is absorbed by the plant's leaves and then translocated throughout the plant's vascular system.</p> <p>This allows it to reach various parts of the plant, including the roots, leading to effective control of both above-ground and below-ground plant parts.</p> <p>Glyphosate is degraded in soil and water by microbes and binds tightly to soil particles, which prevents the leaching of glyphosate into groundwater.</p> <p>Glyphosate does not degrade quickly in plants. As a result, it is possible that glyphosate residues can occur in food products.</p>

**Context:** Experts have recently warned pesticide sellers against the sale and storage of glyphosate as its exposure is known to cause cancer.

**Q.50) Exercise Zayed Talwar, recently is news was a bilateral exercise conducted between which of the following two countries?**

- India and Saudi Arabia
- India and UAE
- India and Indonesia



India and Egypt

**Q.50) Solution (b)**

**Option b**

**Correct**

The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and cooperation between the two naval forces. The visit seeks to strengthen the maritime partnership, share best practices, and foster a common understanding of security challenges in the region.

Other exercises between India and UAE:

Exercise Desert Flag (Air Force)

In-UAE BILAT (bilateral naval exercise)

Desert Eagle (bilateral air force exercise)

**Context: Indian Navy and United Arab Emirates conducted bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar.**

**Q.51) Consider the following statements about Nandakini River**

It is a tributary of the River Ganga.

It flows through Nanda Devi National Park and the Valley of Flowers National Park.

The Nandprayag temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu along Nandakini River was built by Adi Shankaracharya.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.51) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c**

**Correct**

Nandakini is one of the five main tributaries of the Ganges River.

Origin: Originating in the glaciers below Nanda Ghunti on the Nanda Devi Sanctuary, the river joins the Alaknanda at Nandprayag (870m), which is one of the panch prayags or holy confluences on the Alaknanda.

Course of Nandakini River

It flows through the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand primarily in the Garhwal region, covering a distance of approximately 105 kilometers before merging with the Alaknanda River at Nandprayag. At this point, the combined waters of the Nandakini and Alaknanda form the Ganges River.

It is surrounded by the majestic Himalayan peaks, including Nanda Devi, Trisul, and Kamet.

Cultural Significance of Nandakini River

The river holds great significance in Hindu mythology and is considered sacred. It is believed to be the abode of Lord Vishnu.

The region surrounding the river is dotted with ancient temples and shrines.



The most famous temple along the Nandakini River is the Nandprayag Temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

The temple is believed to have been built by Adi Shankaracharya, a renowned philosopher and saint.

Tributaries: Several smaller streams and rivers join the Nandakini as it makes its way through the mountainous terrain. One of the notable tributaries is the Pindar River.

The banks of the Nandakini River are rich with wildlife and biodiversity. The region is home to several protected areas, including the Nanda Devi National Park and the Valley of Flowers National Park.

The Nanda Devi National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to a wide range of flora and fauna. The park is known for its diverse ecosystem, which includes alpine meadows, high-altitude forests, and snow-capped peaks.

The Valley of Flowers National Park, on the other hand, is famous for its vibrant alpine flowers that bloom during the monsoon season. It is also home to several rare and endangered plant species.

**Context: The water level of the Nandakini River recently crossed the danger mark in the Nandanagar area in Uttarakhand's Chamoli due to incessant rainfall.**

**Q.52) Consider the following statements about Plague**

Plague is an infectious disease caused by a specific type of bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*.

*Y. pestis* can affect humans and animals and is spread mainly by fleas.

**Choose the correct statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c**

**Correct**

Bubonic Plague

Plague is an infectious disease caused by a specific type of bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*.

*Y. pestis* can affect humans and animals and is spread mainly by fleas.

Bubonic plague, also known as Black Death, is one type of plague. It gets its name from the swollen lymph nodes (buboes) caused by the disease.

The other types of plague are:

Septicemic plague, which happens when the infection goes all through the body.

Pneumonic plague, which happens when the lungs are infected.

Symptoms: Bubonic plague symptoms include

Sudden high fever and chills.

Pains in the areas of the abdomen, arms and legs.

Headaches.

Large and swollen lumps in the lymph nodes (buboes) that develop and leak pus.

Transmission:

Y. pestis is spread mostly by fleas on rodents and other animals.

It is transmitted between animals and humans by the bite of infected fleas, direct contact with infected tissues, and inhalation of infected respiratory droplets.

It's an example of a disease that can spread between animals and people (a zoonotic disease).

Treatment:

It can be treated and cured with antibiotics.

Antibiotics that treat bubonic plague include Ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, Gentamicin and Doxycycline.

It can be fatal if it's not treated.

**Context: China's northern region of Inner Mongolia recently reported two cases of bubonic plague.**

**Q.53) Consider the following statements about Katchatheevu Island**

It is an island in the Palk Strait that was formed due to volcanic eruption in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1974, Katchatheevu was given to Sri Lanka by India under the Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>Katchatheevu is an uninhabited islet in the Palk Strait that was formed due to volcanic eruption in the 14th century.</p> <p>This 285-acre land was owned by the Raja of Ramanathapuram.</p> <p>Later, it became part of the Madras Presidency after the delimitation of Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait during British rule between the then governments of Madras and Ceylon.</p> <p>During the British rule, it was administered jointly by India and Sri Lanka.</p>	<p>This island is strategically important for fishing activities.</p> <p>In 1921, both Sri Lanka and India claimed this piece of land for fishing and the dispute remained unsettled.</p> <p>In 1974, then prime minister Indira Gandhi accepted Katchatheevu as Sri Lankan territory under the Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement.</p> <p>The Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord was an accord signed in Colombo on 29 July 1987, between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene.</p>

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.54) Consider the following statement about Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI)**

It is an initiative endorsed by World Wide Fund for Nature in 2022.

It aims to enhance Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' efforts to steward land, waters and natural resources to deliver global environmental benefits.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

**Q.54) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>Endorsed by GEF in 2022</p> <p>GEF (est. during 1992 Rio Conference; HQ: Washington, D.C) is a multi-stakeholder partnership to tackle various environmental issues. Its funding is provided by participating donor countries and is mobilized through a replenishment process every four years.</p>	<p>The Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) supports IP and LC-designed and -led activities that protect biodiversity and result in other global environmental benefits. Supervision and technical guidance are provided by Conservation International (CI) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), serving as joint GEF Implementing Agencies.</p> <p>Both organizations bring their decades of collective experience working with IPs and LCs, as well as their regional and global expertise, to the implementation of the GEF Inclusive Conservation Initiative. A concept (Project Information Form) for the Inclusive Conservation Initiative was approved by the GEF Council in December 2019 and the project proposal was endorsed by the GEF in January 2022.</p>

**Context:** A recent report focusing on the first phase of the Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) highlights that although there has been an increase in funding commitments for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP and LC) to enhance conservation efforts, the overall funding landscape for them remains largely unchanged..

**Q.55) 'Mushkbudji' an aromatic rice recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) by Government of India. The above mentioned rice belonged to which of the following State/UT?**

- Uttar Pradesh
- Puducherry
- Jammu & Kashmir
- Kerala

**Q.55) Solution (c)****Option c****Correct**

An aromatic rice named “Mushkbudji” from Kashmir received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag recently.

Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir, is known for its short, bold grains and rich aroma.

In the past, the consumption of this aromatic rice was restricted to special events due to its limited availability and high cost.

The government’s efforts to revive this rice variety in 2007 after its decline in the 1970s due to blast disease have also contributed to its resurgence. More farmers are now drawn to cultivate this unique and fragrant rice variety due to its promising qualities and potential for higher income.

**Context: An aromatic rice named “Mushkbudji” from Kashmir received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag recently.**

**Q.56) Consider the following statements about Gallantry Awards**

Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra are the peacetime gallantry awards in India.

The gallantry awards are announced twice in a year —on the occasion of the Republic Day and on the occasion of the Independence Day.

Kirti Chakra is the second-highest peacetime gallantry award.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
	The gallantry awards are announced twice in a year — first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.	It is the peacetime equivalent of the Maha Vir Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award. Awarded for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty. or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle. Eligibility and Design:

		Open to civilians as well as military personnel, including posthumous awards. A circular silver medal with a lotus flower in the center and a chakra around it, suspended from a green ribbon with two orange stripes.
--	--	---

**Context: President Droupadi Murmu has sanctioned 76 gallantry awards for armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the eve of India's 77th Independence Day.**

**Q.57) Consider the following statement about PM-USHA Scheme**

It aims to improve the quality of higher education in State Universities.

It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by Ministry of Education.

**Choose the correct statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.57) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme</p> <p>PM-USHA is the new name for the Ministry of Education's scheme to improve the quality of higher education in State Universities.</p> <p>Aim – To improve quality through curricular &amp; programme changes, teacher training, physical and digital infrastructure, accreditation, and enhancing employability, while ensuring equity, access, and inclusion.</p> <p>States are required to sign a MoU with the Centre.</p> <p>The MoU mandates the implementation of the National Education Policy in order to avail funds for the next 3 years, under the Centre's flagship scheme for State-run higher education.</p>	<p>RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan) Scheme has been renamed as "Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)" (a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ) in June 2023 in light of National Education Policy.</p> <p>Nearly 40% of the PM USHA budget must be borne by the States themselves, and no extra funds have been earmarked for NEP reforms.</p> <p>The MoU makes it mandatory for States to undertake the administrative, academic, accreditation, and governance reforms detailed in the NEP.</p> <p>These include an academic credit bank, entry and exit flexibility, and the Samarth e-governance platform.</p>

PM-USHA carries forward the vision of the earlier Rashtriya Uchstar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), to improve the access, equity and quality of higher education in States.

PM-USHA reduces the fragmentation of resources by streamlining the number of (scheme) components to six.

**Context: Around 14 States yet to join Centre's flagship education scheme.**

**Q.58) Consider the following countries**

Yemen  
Oman  
Ethiopia  
Eritrea  
Egypt  
Saudi Arabia

**How many of the above countries are bordered by Red Sea?**

Only two  
Only four  
Only five  
All six

**Q.58) Solution (b)**



**Option b**

**Correct**

Red Sea is situated between Africa (Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea) and the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia and Yemen).

It is a part of the Great Rift Valley.

The northern portion of the Red Sea is bifurcated by the Sinai Peninsula into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez, where it is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the famous Suez Canal.

The Red Sea is linked with the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea by the straits of Bab el Mandeb.

The Red Sea contains some of the world's hottest and saltiest seawater.

With its connection to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal, it is one of the most heavily traveled waterways in the world, carrying maritime traffic between Europe and Asia.

Its name is derived from the colour changes observed in its waters. Normally, the Red Sea is an intense blue-green.

Sometimes it is populated by extensive blooms of the algae *Trichodesmium erythraeum*, turn the sea a reddish brown colour.

**Context: More than 3,000 United States military personnel have arrived in the Red Sea aboard two warships after tanker seizures by Iran.**

**Q.59) Consider the following statements**

Aditya L1 is the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.

The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system.

Lagrange points are specific locations in space where the gravitational forces of two large bodies produce enhanced regions of gravitational equilibrium.

**How many of the following statements are incorrect?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option d**

**Correct**

Aditya L1 is the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.

It will be launched by the PSLV-XL launch vehicle.

The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.

A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/eclipses.

This will provide a greater advantage in observing solar activities and their effect on space weather in real-time.

Lagrangian points, also known as Lagrange points or libration points, are specific locations in space where the gravitational forces of two large bodies, such as a planet and its moon or a planet and the Sun, produce enhanced regions of gravitational equilibrium.

In these points, the gravitational pull from the two bodies creates a stable or quasi-stable region where a third, smaller object can maintain a relatively constant position relative to the larger bodies.

There are five primary Lagrangian points, labeled L1 through L5, in a Sun-Earth system.



**Context: India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1, has recently reached the spaceport in Sriharikota.**

**Q.60) Which of the following site does not belong to Sangam Age?**

- Keeladi
- Porpanaikottai
- Adichanallur
- Poyyilkotta

**Q.60) Solution (d)**

**Option d**

**Correct**

The excavation sites of Sangam Age include:

- Keeladi
- Sivagalai
- Adichanallur
- Kodumanal

**Keeladi-**

Located in Sivaganga district on the banks of river Vaigai.  
It is an urban settlement of Sangam Age.

**Kodumanal-**

Village located in Erode district, TN.  
Flourishing ancient trade city known as Kodumanam (as inscribed in Pathitru Pathu of Sangam Literature).  
It is located on the northern banks of Noyyal River (a tributary of the Cauvery).

**Sivagalai-**

Village in the Tuticorin district, TN.  
It was once known as 'Small Ceylon' by Britishers.  
Evidence of megalithic archaeological remains were found here in 2018.

**Adichanallur-**

Located in Thoothukudi district, TN.  
In 2004, iron-age (1500 BC to 500 BC) burial sites were unearthed by ASI from here.

**Porpanaikottai**

Porpanaikottai is situated at Pudukottai, Tamilnadu.  
The name Porpanaikottai could have been derived from the designative name of the Paana chieftain clan or based on the village's name Porpanai.  
The site had grave goods indicating a burial site, conch bangles, fragments of red and black pots, of pots engraved with Tamil, iron fragments, glass beads and weapons made of bones.  
A golden nose stud or earring weighing 0.2g, a bone point and a fragment of carnelian bead was found at this site.  
The fort area had temples for Muneeswaran and Karuppan on all four sides, ruins of a palace and there were signs of waterbodies inside too.  
A hero stone mentioning the name of one Kanangkumaran who hailed from Adhavanur was found at the site.



Poyyilkotta is an archeological site in Kasargod, Kerala.

**Context: A portion of a circular brick structure has been unearthed by archaeologists at Porpanaikottai, a Sangam-age site, in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu.**

**Q.61) Consider the following statement about 'A-HELP' Programme**

The programme aims to empower women by engaging them as trained agents under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).

The program is spearheaded by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
A-HELP – Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production. It aims to empower women by engaging them as trained agents who contribute significantly to disease control, artificial insemination under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), animal tagging, and livestock insurance.	The program is spearheaded by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The program equips farmers with knowledge and resources that address critical areas of livestock health, disease management and animal infertility concerns.

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.62) Consider the following statements about Graphene**

Graphene is referred to as a wonder material for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties. Its thermal conductivity is much higher than that of silver.

Graphene-Aurora Program is an initiative of Ministry of Science and Technology that foster innovation of graphene technologies.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Graphene is often referred to as a wonder material for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties. Graphene was discovered in 2004 by Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov. It is stronger than steel, very stretchable and can be used as a flexible conductor.	Its thermal conductivity is much higher than that of silver. It is an ultimately thin, mechanically very strong, transparent and flexible conductor. It can be used in applications such as touch screens, light panels and solar cells.	The program aims to foster innovation of graphene technologies. The program is launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). The program shall be implemented by Digital University Kerala with joint funding from MeitY, Government of India and Government of Kerala and Industry partners. India Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre (I-GEIC) shall be set up under the program.

**Context: Recently 'Graphene-Aurora Program' was launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).**

**Q.63) Consider the following statements about Mudumalai Tiger Reserve**

It is part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.

The tall grasses, commonly referred to as "Elephant Grass" are found here.

Theppakadu Elephant Camp, is located inside the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

**How many of the following statements are incorrect?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

Option d
<b>Correct</b>
Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
Location: It is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, spread over 321 sq. km. at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. It lies on the Northeastern and Northwestern slopes of Nilgiri hills which is a part of the Western Ghats. It is part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, the first Biosphere Reserve in India.

It has a common boundary with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) on the West, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) on the North, the Nilgiris North Division on the South and East, and Gudalur Forest Division on the South West.

The name Mudumalai means " the ancient hill range". Indeed, it is as old as 65 million years when the Western Ghats were formed.

**Terrain:** The terrain is undulating, with the elevation ranging from 960m to 1266m.

**Habitat:** A variety of habitats ranging from tropical evergreen forest, moist deciduous forest, moist teak forest, dry teak forest, secondary grasslands, and swamps are found here.

**Flora:**

It has tall grasses, commonly referred to as "Elephant Grass", bamboo of the giant variety, and valuable timber species like Teak, Rosewood, etc.

It has wild relatives of cultivated plants, viz. wild rice, ginger, turmeric, cinnamon, etc.

**Fauna:** Includes Tiger, Elephant, Indian Gaur, Panther, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Common Langur, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Mongoose, Hyena, among others.

The recent Oscar-winning 'Elephant Whisperers' was filmed at the Theppakadu Elephant Camp, located inside the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

**Context:** The Madras High Court recently directed the Central government to release funds to relocate all 495 residents of the Thengumarahada village in Tamil Nadu (TN), as the village falls within the protected area of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

**Q.64) Consider the following statements about National Company Law Tribunal**

It was established based on the recommendation of the Balakrishna Eradi committee.

It is not bound by the rules laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.64) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>National Company Law Tribunal</p> <p>It is a quasi-judicial authority incorporated for dealing with corporate disputes that are of civil nature arising under the Companies Act, 2013.</p> <p>It was constituted on 1 June 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013.</p> <p>It was established based on the recommendation of the Balakrishna</p>	<p>What are the Powers of NCLT?</p> <p>It is not limited or bound by the rules laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure and is guided by the principles of natural justice, subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules that are made by the Central Government.</p> <p>It can enforce any order that it gives in the same manner as a court would enforce it.</p> <p>It has the power to scrutinize its own orders.</p> <p>It has the power to regulate their own procedure.</p>

Eradi committee on law relating to the insolvency and the winding up of companies.

Composition: It shall consist of a President and such number of Judicial and Technical Members as may be required.

It is the adjudicating authority for the insolvency resolution process of companies and limited liability partnerships under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

**Context: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) is finalising draft guidelines to reduce delays at the National Company Law Tribunal.**

**Q.65) Murmansk Port, recently seen in news is located in which of the following country?**

- Ukraine
- Russia
- Norway
- Iran

**Q.65) Solution (b)**

**Option b**

**Correct**

Murmansk Port

The seaport of Murmansk is one of the largest ice-free ports in Russia. It is located on the Kola Peninsula at the coast of Barents Sea. It is about 2,000 km northwest of Moscow.

The port is navigated all year round. The dimensions of vessels calling at the port of Murmansk are not limited.

The main port capabilities are located on the western coast of Kola Bay, among them the mooring berths of the commercial port (including passenger area), fishing port, ship-repair yard, shipyard, oil terminal, and FSUE Atomflot premises.

On the eastern coast of Kola Bay there is a number of small fish and fleet maintenance terminals.

**Context: India's engagement with Russia's Arctic region has been strengthening with India-bound goods constituting the maximum share of cargo handled this year by Murmansk Port.**

**Q.66) Consider the following statements about Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme**

The scheme promotes self-reliance in AI technology as a part of the 'Make in India' initiative. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Science and Technology and NITI Aayog.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>TDF Scheme has been established to promote self-reliance in defence technology as a part of the 'Make in India' initiative.</p> <p>The scheme encourages participation of public/private industries especially MSMEs to create an eco-system for enhancing cutting edge technology capability for defence application.</p> <p>It supports indigenous development of components, products, systems and technologies by MSMEs and start-ups.</p> <p><b>Eligibility:</b></p> <p>MSMEs and Startups registered in India.</p> <p>Public limited company, private limited company, partnership firms, limited liability partnership, one-person company, sole proprietorship registered as per applicable Indian laws.</p> <p>The industry has to be owned and controlled by an Indian citizen.</p> <p>Industries with foreign investments of 49% or less.</p>	<p>It is a programme of MoD (Ministry of Defence) executed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) meeting the requirements of Tri-Services, Defence Production and DRDO.</p> <p><b>Funding Support:</b></p> <p>The funding will be through provision of grants to the Industry.</p> <p>The project cost of up to INR 10 Cr will be considered for funding, subject to a maximum of 90% of the total project cost.</p> <p>Industry may work in collaboration with academia or research institutions.</p> <p>The work involvement of academia cannot exceed 40% of the total project cost.</p> <p>The funding will be linked to mutually agreed milestones.</p> <p>Funds will be released either in advance against a bank guarantee of the same amount as collateral, or reimbursement based on the completion of milestones.</p> <p>Subsequent installments will be released on successful completion of milestones.</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> Maximum development period will be two years.</p>

**Context:** The Minister of State in the Defence Ministry recently said the Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme has so far supported 41 MSMEs and 20 startups.

**Q.67) Consider the following statements about Pong Dam**

It is an earth-fill embankment dam on the Ravi River in the state of Himachal Pradesh.  
The artificial lake called the Maharana Pratap Sagar is created by the Pong reservoir.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>The Pong Dam, also known as the Beas Dam, is an earth-fill embankment dam on the Beas River in the state of Himachal Pradesh.</p> <p>The purpose of the dam is water storage for irrigation and hydroelectric power generation.</p> <p>The construction of the dam began in the year 1961 and was completed in 1974 and at that time was known as the tallest of its type in the country.</p> <p>Features:</p> <p>The Pong Dam is a 133 m tall and 1,951 m long earth-fill embankment dam with a gravel shell.</p> <p>The dam is 13.72 m wide at its crest, which sits at an elevation of about 435.86 m above sea level.</p> <p>The base of the Pong Dam is about 610 m wide and has a total volume of 35,500,000 metre cube.</p>	<p>The raised water level thus invariably created an artificial lake called the Maharana Pratap Sagar, after the great ruler of Mewar. The lake became a renowned bird sanctuary for birds of numerous species including Bar-headed Goose and the Red-necked Grebe.</p>

**Context: Several villages within the Beas River catchment area in Punjab have been submerged following the release of a substantial amount of water from the Pong Dam.**

**Q.68) Consider the following statements about PM Vishwakarma**

It aims to strengthen and nurture the family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople.

It is a Central Sector Scheme.

It includes a Credit Support upto Rs.5 lakh per annum.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

**Statement Analysis**

<b>Option b</b>
<b>Correct</b>
The scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.

It also aims to improve the quality, reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains. Under the scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through: PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%. The scheme will further provide skill upgradation, toolkit incentive, incentive for digital transactions and marketing support. The scheme was announced in the Budget 2023-2024.

**Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approves the scheme, announced by Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day speech, with an outlay of ₹13,000 crore**

**Q.69) Consider the following statements about PM-eBus Sewa**

The scheme will promote e-mobility and augments city bus operations.  
The scheme will cover cities of 3 lakh and above population as per census 2011.  
The scheme is based on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

**How many of the following statements are incorrect?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c**

**Correct**

The scheme will promote e-mobility and augments city bus operations.  
The scheme will cover cities of 3 lakh and above population as per census 2011 including all the Capital cities of Union Territories, North Eastern Region and Hill States.  
Priority will be given to cities having no organized bus service.  
The Scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.  
The scheme is based on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.  
The Scheme has 2 segments  
Segment A – Augmenting the City bus services (169 cities)  
Segment B – Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI) (181 cities)  
The scheme envisages green initiatives like bus priority, infrastructure, multimodal interchange facilities, Charging infrastructure, etc.  
The scheme will promote e-mobility and provide full support for behind-the-meter power infrastructure.  
The scheme is Expected to generate direct employment over 45,000.

**Context: Recently the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a bus scheme “PM-eBus Sewa” for augmenting city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses on PPP model.**



**Q.70) Sulina Channel, recently seen in news is situated in which of the following country?**

- Romania
- Poland
- Ukraine
- Russia

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

**Option a**

**Correct**

It is situated in Romania (a NATO member).

It is the only one deep and wide enough channel fits for freight transport among the three channels. Ships carry grain from Ukraine leave from Ukrainian ports such as Izmail and Reni on the mainstream (or the Chilia Channel), and head to the port of Sulina.

Grains are shipped downriver through territorial waters of European Union and Romania, and onwards from Romania's Black Sea port of Constanta.

It is a sort of a riverine 'expressway' crucial for transport of goods from Ukraine (one of the world's top grain exporters) to the Black Sea.

This route is under constant surveillance and protection of NATO.



**Danube River** - Danube is the Europe's second longest river which has been historically crucial for the movement of freight.

It starts at the intersection of two smaller rivers in Southwestern Germany - Brigach and Brech Rivers. It passes through countries including Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine.

Before Russia pulled out of the safe passage corridor, the Danube ports accounted for around a quarter of Ukraine's grain exports.

Recently, Russia attacked the inland Danube ports of Reni and Izmail.

Channels - Chilia, Sulina and St George.



**Context:** The Sulina Channel is the new alternative trade route after Russia's drone strikes on ports and grain storage facilities along the Danube river in Ukraine.

**Q.71) Consider the following statements about Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD)**

Agnibaan SOrTeD is a double-stage launch vehicle powered by Agnilet engine.

Agnilet engine is an entirely 3D-printed, single-piece semi-cryogenic engine.

It is capable of carrying payloads up to 100 kg to an altitude of 700 km in five different configurations.

**How many of the following statements are correct?**

Only one

Only two

All three

None

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Agnibaan SOrTeD is a single-stage launch vehicle powered by AgniKul's patented Agnilet engine	Agnibaan SOrTeD is an entirely 3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kilonewton (kN) semi-cryogenic engine. Unlike traditional sounding rockets that launch from guide rails, Agnibaan SOrTeD will lift off vertically and follow a predetermined trajectory to perform a precisely orchestrated set of manoeuvres during flight.	It is a customisable launch vehicle that could be launched in one or two stages. The rocket stands 18 metres tall and has a mass of 14,000 kg. It is capable of carrying payloads up to 100 kg to an altitude of 700 km in five different configurations. The rocket's first stage could have up to seven Agnilet engines, depending on the mission, which are powered by Liquid Oxygen and Kerosene. The rocket is also designed for launch from more than 10 different launch ports. To ensure its compatibility with multiple launch ports, AgniKul has built a launch pedestal named 'Dhanush' that will support the rocket's

		<p>mobility across all its configurations.</p> <p>The Agnilet engine, which powers the entire operation, is the world's sole single-piece 3D-printed engine.</p>
--	--	--

**Context:** Chennai-based start-up AgniKul Cosmos recently commenced the process of integrating its cutting-edge Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD) at its private launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota.

**Q.72) Consider the following statements about UDGAM Portal**

It has been developed by RBI for use by public to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.

Unclaimed Deposits refers to funds held in savings or current accounts that have remained inactive for duration of 5 years.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>It has been developed by RBI for use by members of public to facilitate and make it easier for them to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.</p> <p>Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology &amp; Allied Services (IFTAS), and participating banks have collaborated on developing the portal.</p> <p>The portal will enable users to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operative at their respective banks.</p>	<p>Unclaimed Deposits</p> <p>According to RBI, "Unclaimed Deposits" refers to funds held in savings or current accounts that have remained inactive for a duration of 10 years, or in the case of fixed deposits (FDs), have not been withdrawn within 10 years from the maturity date.</p>

**Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently launched a Centralised Web Portal, UD GAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation), for the public to search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.**

**Q.73) Gandhinagar Declaration, recently seen in news is related to?**

- Antimicrobial resistance
- Monitor progress towards ending TB
- Implementation of Uniform Civil Code
- Strengthening India-African Relationship

**Q.73) Solution (b)**

**Option b**

**Correct**

It was adopted at the end of the two-day meeting held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to follow up on the progress made to end tuberculosis (TB) by the countries of the WHO South-East Asia Region. The Declaration calls for establishing high-level multisectoral commission reporting to the highest political level in each country for synergy of efforts among various stakeholders and to monitor progress towards ending TB and other priority diseases. These high-level multisectoral commission on TB could also help build responsive health systems and advance universal health coverage and health security. The declaration calls for ensuring appropriate adoption and use of science and technology for equitable and human rights-based TB services that are accessible to all, irrespective of any social, cultural, or demographic divide, through an integrated, primary health care approach. It emphasises on the allocation of necessary resources to meet TB service coverage targets and address social determinants to have a multi-disease impact. The declaration calls on WHO to maintain TB as a Flagship Priority Programme over the coming years and provide leadership and technical support to countries for sustained and accelerated approaches supported by research and innovation. It calls upon all partners to enhance their support to end TB and priority diseases in the Region as per the UN Sustainable Development Goals target 3.3 - End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

**Context: The WHO South-East Asia Region recently committed to further accelerate efforts to end tuberculosis by 2030, with member countries adopting the Gandhinagar Declaration.**

**Q.74) Consider the following statements about e-Courts Project**

The e-Courts Project is based on hybrid model that allows for both physical and virtual courts to co-exist. The project aims for universal computerisation of district and subordinate courts in the country.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

**Q.74) Solution (c)****Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>The eCourt project is an integrated Mission Mode Project under implementation since 2007 for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary as part of the National eGovernance Plan.</p> <p>It is based on the National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary.</p> <p>The project is monitored and funded by Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice for the District Courts across the country.</p>	<p>The e-Courts Project was conceptualized on the basis of the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary in 2005.</p> <p>The project envisages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide efficient &amp; time-bound citizen centric services delivery as detailed in e-Court Project Litigant’s Charter.</li> <li>To develop, install &amp; implement decision support systems in courts.</li> <li>To automate the processes to provide transparency in accessibility of information to its stakeholders.</li> <li>To enhance judicial productivity, both qualitatively &amp; quantitatively, to make the justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost effective, predictable, reliable and transparent.</li> </ul>

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.75) Consider the following statements about ‘Floodwatch’ Mobile App**

The App provides real time information of flood like situation up to 7 days.

The App is launched by Central Water Commission (CWC).

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.75) Solution (d)****Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>The App aims to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.</p>	<p>The App is launched by Central Water Commission (CWC).</p> <p>Other key features include forecast using an Interactive Map where users can check the</p>

<p>The App has readable and audio broadcast and all the information is available in 2 languages that is English and Hindi. The App utilizes near real-time river flow data from various sources. The App also provides flood forecast at nearest location where users can check the flood advisory at the station nearest to them on the App.</p>	<p>CWC Flood Forecast (up to 24 hours) or Flood Advisory (up to 7 days). It utilizes advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts.</p>
---	---

**Context: Central Water Commission launches 'FloodWatch' mobile app to forecast flood.**

**Q.76) Consider the following statements about Bhu-Vision**

Bhu-Vision is an automated soil testing and advisory platform that is backed by artificial intelligence (AI). It can test the sample for 12 parameters and send a soil health card to mobile phones in 30 minutes. It is jointly developed by Food and Agriculture Organization and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

**Q.76) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>Bhu-Vision is also known as KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System. It is an automated soil testing and advisory platform backed by artificial intelligence (AI).</p>	<p>The 12 parameters tested by the machine include: The pH value (acidity or alkalinity). Electrical conductivity (a measure to test the ability of a substance to conduct an electrical current. In soil testing, EC is used to measure the amount of soluble salts in the soil). Organic carbon, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, nitrogen and zinc.</p>	<p>It is jointly developed by Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR) and KrishiTantra, a start-up. It is manufactured by HiMedia Laboratories and marketed by BhoomiSeva (HCF Tech Services Pvt Ltd).</p>

**Context: Recently Bhu-Vision was officially launched at Institute of Rice Research (ICAR), Hyderabad.**

**Q.77) Consider the following statements**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is the nodal ministry to implement Samudrayaan Project. MATSYA 6000 is a manned submersible vehicle developed under Samudrayaan mission by the National Institute of Ocean Technology to deep ocean mineral exploration.

**Choose the incorrect statements:**

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

**Q.77) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>Samudrayaan Project</p> <p>It is India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean.</p> <p>It is designed to study the deep ocean resources and conduct biodiversity assessments as well.</p> <p>The mission will not disturb the ecosystem as the submersible is used solely for exploration purposes.</p> <p>The project is part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the Central Government's Blue Economy policy.</p> <p>The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the nodal ministry to implement this multi-institutional ambitious mission.</p>	<p>What is MATSYA 6000?</p> <p>It is a manned submersible vehicle developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.</p> <p>It was developed under the Samudrayaan mission to facilitate humans in the deep ocean in exploring mineral resources.</p> <p>It is designed with the capability of operating in the deep sea for 12 hours while in case of emergency, it can also operate up to 96 hours with all the necessary measures for human safety.</p> <p>Expected to be launched in 2024-25, it would make India only one among six countries (US, Russia, Japan, France, and China) to have piloted a crewed under-sea expedition beyond 5,000 metres</p>

**Context: Three-member team to explore depths of the ocean in first manned ocean mission.**

**Q.78) Consider the following statements about Committee of Privileges**

- The functions of the Committee of Privileges are semi-judicial in nature.
- Presiding officer of the house before taking the final decision on defection case may refer the matter to the committee of privileges for inquiry.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c****Correct**

It is a Parliamentary Committee present in both the Houses of the Parliament.

The functions of the Committee of Privileges are semi-judicial in nature.

It examines the cases of breach of privileges of the House and its members and recommends appropriate action.

The Lok Sabha committee has 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members.

Presiding officer of the house before taking the final decision on defection case may refer the matter to the committee of privileges for inquiry.

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.79) Consider the following statements about Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a plan that envisions the re-development of railway stations.

It aims to integrate the railway stations with urban areas, improve connectivity and provide facilities for specially-abled individuals.

**Choose the correct statements:**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.79) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis**

**Option c****Correct**

Re-development – The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a plan that envisions the re-development of railway stations.

It aims to improve the infrastructure of selected railway stations on a continuous basis.

The identified stations include 87 in Gujarat, 83 in Rajasthan, 80 in Madhya Pradesh and 34 in Haryana.

Integrate stations – The scheme also aims to integrate the railway stations with urban areas, improve connectivity and provide facilities for specially-abled individuals.

Master Plan – The scheme aims at preparing a master plan for the stations and the work on the master plan will be completed in phases.

Lounges – The scheme hopes to enhance the information system for passengers and also provide executive lounges.

Amenities – The plan will improve amenities such as a waiting hall, toilets, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi and local product vending machines in the stations under the 'one station one product' scheme.

The platforms will also be revamped under the scheme.

**Context: PM laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations spread across the country.**

**Q.80) NIDHI Program, recently seen in news is an initiative of which of the following ministry?**

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises  
 Ministry of Finance  
 Ministry of Science and Technology  
 Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Q.80) Solution (c)****Option c****Correct**

National Initiative For Developing And Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) is an end-to-end plan for startups to double the number of incubators and startups in the duration of five years.

The NIDHI Program, initiated by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) in 2016, aims to foster innovation and startup culture in India.

**Objectives**

Promote S&T-based entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem across the country

Nurture start-ups through scouting, supporting, and scaling innovations

**Components**

NIDHI-Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR): Inspires graduating students to pursue entrepreneurship through fellowships

NIDHI-Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring Technology Entrepreneurs (PRAYAS): Supports innovators and startups from Idea to Prototype stage

NIDHI-Inclusive-Technology Business Incubator (iTBI): Expands incubation programs to various geographies and genders

NIDHI-Technology Business Incubator (TBI): Supports and nurtures knowledge-driven innovative start-ups

NIDHI-Seed Support Program (SSP): Provides early-stage funding to promising start-ups

NIDHI-Center of Excellence (CoE): Creates a world-class facility to help startups go global

NIDHI-Accelerator: Accelerates startups through focused interventions

**Context: It was news.**

**Q.81) Consider the following schemes**

National Family Benefit Scheme

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme

Annapurna

**How many of the above schemes does National Social Assistance Programme comprise?**

Only three

Only four

Only two

All five



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

National Social Assistance Programme:

It was launched on 15th August, 1995

Objective

It is a social security and welfare programme to provide support to aged persons, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on death of primary breadwinner, belonging to below poverty line households.

Eligibility

For getting benefits under NSAP the applicant must belong to a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family according to the criteria prescribed by the Govt. of India.

The other eligibility criteria and the scale of central assistance under the sub - schemes of NSAP are as follows

Presently NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely –

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): The eligible age for IGNOAPS is 60 years. The pension is Rs.200 p.m. for persons between 60 years and 79 years. For persons who are 80 years and above the pension is Rs.500/- per month.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): Widow aged 40 years will get pension is Rs.300 per month. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary will get Rs.500/- per month.

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): An individual aged 18 years and above and the disability level has to be 80% will get Rs.300 per month and after attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary will get Rs 500/- per month .

National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) : In the event of death of the bread – winner Rs. 20000/- will be given as a lumpsum assistance to the bereaved household. The breadwinner should have been between 18-60 years of age.

Annapurna: The scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirements of those eligible old aged persons who have remained uncovered under the IGNOAPS. Under this programme 10 kgs of food grains (wheat or rice) is given per month per beneficiary.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development

**Context: Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India submitted the report on the performance audit of the National Social Assistance Programme from 2017-18 to 2020-21.**

**Q.82) Consider the following statements about India Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBCD)**

The challenge is spearheaded by MeitY in collaboration with the Controller of Certifying Authorities and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.

The entity must have at least 51% shareholding with Indian citizens or persons of Indian origin to participate in challenge.

As part of the challenge the government has announced a cash prize of Rs 3.4 crores for the developers.

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

Only one

Only two

All Three

None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>The challenge is spearheaded by MeitY in collaboration with the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Bangalore.</p> <p>The Challenge seeks to inspire and empower technology enthusiasts, innovators, and developers from all corners of the country to create an indigenous web browser.</p> <p>The desired browser will have its own trust store, use a root certificate from India's CCA, and offer cutting-edge functionalities and enhanced security &amp; data privacy protection features.</p>	<p>Qualifications for Participants: The Indian Tech Start-ups, MSMEs, Companies, and LLPs registered in India under the Companies Act 2013 can apply.</p> <p>The entity must have at least 51% shareholding with Indian citizens or persons of Indian origin.</p> <p>The applicant's entity should not be a subsidiary company of any foreign corporation.</p> <p>Participants can apply either as "individuals" or "organization". Members applying as "individuals" should have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 members in their Group.</p> <p>All other applicants (Startups, MSME, etc.) should apply under the "organization" category only.</p>	<p>As part of the challenge the government has announced a cash prize of Rs 3.4 crores for the developers.</p> <p>Desired features in an Indian web browser: The ministry has also laid down the features desired in an Indian web browser.</p> <p>It must be compatible with all platforms, including iOS, Android and Desktop.</p> <p>It should offer built-in accessibility support.</p> <p>The browser should also have the ability to digitally sign the documents using a crypto token.</p> <p>It should also have parental control and a web filter for child-friendly browsing.</p> <p>It should come with support for Web3 and compliance with W3C standards.</p> <p>Lastly, it should also support all the official Indian languages.</p>

**Context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) recently launched the Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBD).**

**Q.83) Consider the following statements about Suswagatam Portal**

It is a joint initiative of Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Finance.

It is a web-based and mobile-friendly application that allows Indian origin foreign citizens to invest in Indian start-ups.

**Choose the correct statements:**

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

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

**Statement Analysis**

**Option d**

**Correct**

It is a portal for e-passes to enter Supreme Court.

Suswagatam is a web-based and mobile-friendly application that allows users to register themselves online.

The app enables advocates, visitors, interns and others to register themselves online and get e-passes to enter the apex court.

The users can request for e-passes for various purposes such as attending court hearing, meeting etc.

The CJI Chandrachud announced about the new digital facility in presence of a five-judge bench hearing the matter related to abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

**Context: CJI Chandrachud announces launch of 'Suswagatam' portal for e-passes to enter Supreme Court.**

**Q.84) Consider the following statements about SATAT Scheme**

The scheme aims to produce compressed biogas from Waste and Bio-mass sources like Municipal Solid Waste and cattle dung.

The scheme encourages entrepreneurs to produce & supply Compressed Bio Gas to Oil Marketing Companies.

In order to facilitate financing, CBG plants have been included under priority sector lending by Reserve Bank of India.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

**Q.84) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis**

**Option d**

**Correct**

SATAT – Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation.

SATAT scheme was launched on 2018.

The scheme envisages to target production of 15 MMT (million tons) of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) by 2023 from 5000 Plants.

Under the scheme, entrepreneurs shall set up CBG plants, produce & supply CBG to OMCs for sale as automotive & industrial fuels.

In order to facilitate financing and access to funds to the entrepreneurs, CBG plants have been included under priority sector lending by Reserve Bank of India.

The initiative aims to produce compressed biogas (CBG) from Waste and Bio-mass sources like:

Agricultural residue,

Cattle dung,

Sugarcane press mud,

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and

Sewage treatment plant waste.

The initiative offers an efficient solution for treatment and disposal of municipal solid waste management and help in tackling problem urban air pollution due to farm stubble-burning.

It will also help to bring down nation's dependency on natural gas and crude oil imports and act as a buffer against crude oil and gas price fluctuations.

**Context: It was in news.**

**Q.85) Maui Island, recently seen in news belongs to which of the following country?**

Japan

United States of America

Chile

China

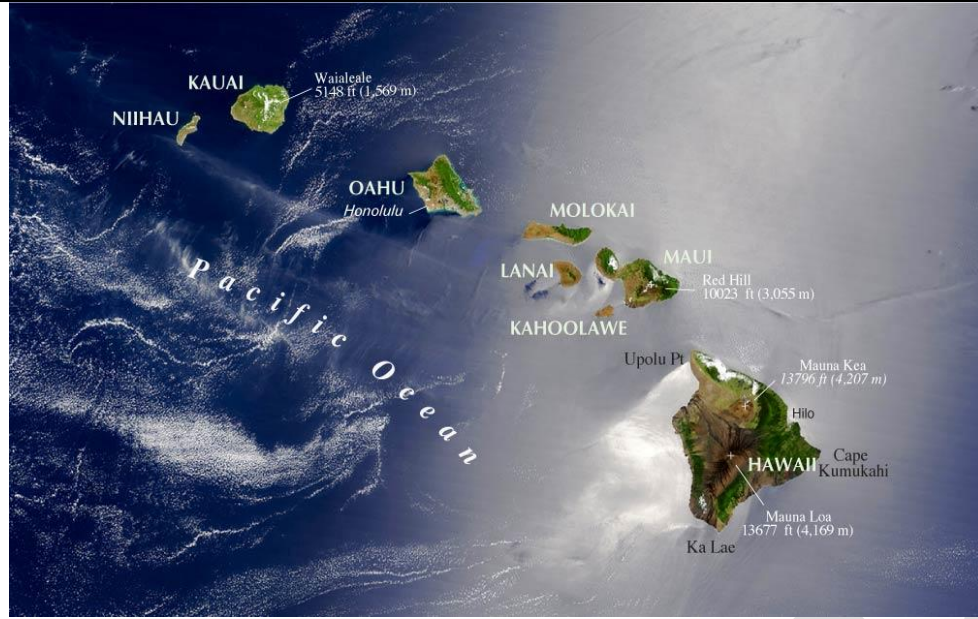
**Q.85) Solution (b)**

**Option b**

**Correct**

Maui is located in Hawaii which belongs to United States of America.

The recent Wildfire in Maui, Hawaii leaves destruction and death, with at least 53 people dead and over 1,000 structures destroyed.



**Context:** The rapidly spreading wildfires that swept through Maui in recent days had devastating consequences for both people and property.

Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI):'

The institute's primary mission is to conduct research and development activities related to various aspects of environmental management, pollution control, and sustainable development.

NEERI falls under the Ministry of Jal Shakti of the central government

It is headquartered in New Delhi

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- All the above

**Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It is a premier research institute created and funded by the Government of India dedicated to environmental science and engineering.	NEERI falls under the Ministry of Science and Technology of the central government.	It was established in Nagpur in 1958 with a focus on water supply, sewage disposal, and communicable diseases, and to some extent on industrial pollution and occupational diseases

<p>The institute's primary mission is to conduct research and development activities related to various aspects of environmental management, pollution control, and sustainable development.</p>		<p>found common in post-independent India. Headquarters: Nagpur</p>
--	--	---

Context: CSIR-NEERI plans grid based strategy to combat Delhi pollution

**With reference to 'Coil Guns', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - It is a type of electromagnetic weapon capable of launching projectiles with extremely high speed in the blink of an eye.

Statement 2 – A coil gun uses a series of coils to create a magnetic field that propels a projectile forward.

**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

**Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>It is a type of electromagnetic weapon capable of launching projectiles with extremely high speed in the blink of an eye. They are also known as Gauss guns or magnetic accelerators. It operates on the principle of electromagnetic induction, applying the principles of electromagnetism to propel a projectile.</p>	<p>Coil guns feature a series of coils arranged along the barrel of the gun, each one constituting a stage. Each coil is energized one after another to create a magnetic field that can levitate and propel a projectile forward. The projectile typically stays suspended in the Centre of the coil during launch. The larger a coil gun, the better its ability to fire projectiles similar to those fired by traditional artillery.</p>

**Context: Chinese Navy is testing the most powerful Coil gun ever**

**With reference to 'Seethakali', consider the following statements**

It is a centuries-old folk art form that is believed to have originated in Telangana  
This art form is performed by the people of Vedar and Pulayar communities.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

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

**Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
<p>It is a unique centuries-old folk art form that is believed to have originated at Perinad in Kollam district of Kerala.</p> <p>It is based on certain episodes taken from the Indian epic Ramayana.</p> <p>Mythic characters such as Rama, Seetha, Ravana and Hanuman come alive in Seethakali performances that portray the tale of Seetha's journey, from the time she accompanied Rama to the woods till her ascent to the heavens.</p> <p>In the early times, Seethakali was performed as part of the harvest festival Onam.</p> <p>The props and instruments used during performances are all made of natural materials like bamboo and palm leaves.</p>	<p>This art form was first performed some 150 years back by the people of Vedar and Pulayar communities.</p> <p>Themes</p> <p>Currently, in Kerala, there is only one registered Seethakali performing group – Perinad Seethakali Sangham.</p>

Context:: The Perinad Seethakali Sangham was formed by T.N. Shajimon, a Kerala Folklore Akademi award winner who was in the forefront to revive the art form. They are performing Seethakali outside Kerala for the first time.

**Consider the following countries**

- Bulgaria
- Ukraine
- Russia
- Belarus
- India
- Iraq
- Uzbekistan

**How many of the above countries constitute the 'North-South Transport Corridor'?**

- Only two
- Only three



Only four

Only five

**Solution (c)**

The member states in the NSTC project: India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Ukraine, Syria.

Observer member — Bulgaria.

**Consider the following statements with respect to 'Parboiled Rice'**

It is also called converted rice, is partially precooked in its inedible husk before being processed for eating.

Parboiling rice improves its texture, increases its shelf life, and provides health benefits.

Parboiled rice is higher in fiber and protein than white rice

It's more nutritious than brown rice

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

Only one

Only two

Only three

All four

**Context: PM Modi and Iran's Raisi give renewed push to new trade routes, Chabahar port and North-South corridor in arc lights**

**Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Parboiled rice, also called converted rice, is partially precooked in its inedible husk before being processed for eating. It happens before rice is milled, that is before the inedible outer husk is removed to yield brown rice but before brown	Parboiling changes the color of rice to a light yellow or amber, which differs from the pale, white color of regular rice. During parboiling, some water-soluble nutrients move from the bran of the rice kernel into the starchy endosperm. This minimizes some of the nutrient loss that normally happens	Parboiling rice improves its texture, increases its shelf life, and provides health benefits. Parboiled rice is higher in fiber and protein than white rice. Parboiling reduces the stickiness of rice so it yields fluffy and separate kernels once cooked.	It's less nutritious than brown rice. It takes a little longer to cook



rice is refined to make white rice.	during refining when making white rice.	Additionally, parboiling inactivates the enzymes that break down the fat in rice. This helps prevent rancidity and off-flavors, increasing shelf-life Notably, parboiled rice has significantly more thiamine and niacin than white rice. These nutrients are important for energy production	
-------------------------------------	---	--	--

**Context: India extends curbs on rice exports with 20% duty on parboiled variety**

**Consider the following statements with respect to 'ORON Aircraft'**

It is an Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR) mission aircraft.

It was developed by Lockheed Martin for United States of America air force.

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
<p>It is an Intelligence, Surveillance &amp; Reconnaissance (ISR) mission aircraft.</p> <p>It is based on the Gulfstream G550 executive jet platform, which has been outfitted with a bevy of sensors and data collection equipment that allows it to rapidly locate targets in all weather conditions.</p> <p>The aircraft combines several capabilities, including aerial imaging, control and radar, and maritime intelligence gathering for the Navy.</p> <p>It will be equipped with layers of automatic data systems based on advanced algorithms and AI.</p>	<p>It was developed by the Israel defense ministry's Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&amp;D), the Israel Air Force and the Israel Defense Force (IDF) Intelligence unit's naval arm and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).</p>

Context: The Oron, a Gulfstream jet undergoing final test flights, has been outfitted with advanced sensors to rapidly identify targets across the Middle East in all weather conditions

**With reference to 'Fujiwhara effect', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 when two hurricanes or cyclones spinning in same direction are brought close together, they begin 'an intense dance around their common center.

Statement 2 – It was observed for the first time over western Pacific Ocean and was first identified in 1921 in China.

**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

**Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
As per National Weather Service, when two hurricanes or cyclones spinning in same direction are brought close together, they begin 'an intense dance around their common center'. This interaction between two cyclones is called the Fujiwhara effect.	It was observed for the first time over western Pacific ocean, when typhoons Marie and Kathy merged in 1964. It was first Identified by Sakuhei Fujiwhara in 1921 in Japan.

**Context: The United States west coast recently witnessed Hurricane Hilary (a sub-tropical storm by the time it hit the US), prompting the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) to issue its first ever tropical storm watch for parts of Southern California. This was the latest incident in a string of unusual weather phenomena in the region.**

**With reference to 'The X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM)', consider the following statements**

It is a joint mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The mission aims to observe X-rays coming from deep space and to identify their wavelengths with unprecedented precision.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

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

**Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) is a joint mission of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), involving contributions from the European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency as well.	The mission aims to observe X-rays coming from deep space and to identify their wavelengths with unprecedented precision. It will use state-of-the-art spectroscopy to measure changes in the brightness of celestial objects at different wavelengths.

Context: The satellite was slated to launch atop an H-IIA rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center on August 27.

**With reference to 'Exercise Bright Star-23', is hosted by**

- Egypt
- Saudi Arabia
- Iran
- UAE

**Solution (a)**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has sent a contingent to participate in Exercise Bright Star-23, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise held in Egypt, marking the first time IAF is participating in this exercise.

The IAF contingent includes aircraft, Garud Special Forces, and personnel from several squadrons, along with airlift support for approximately 150 Indian Army personnel. This move follows the elevation of India-Egypt bilateral relations to a "Strategic Partnership" earlier this year, which aims to strengthen cooperation in political, defense, security, energy, and economic areas.

**Context: The Indian Air Force (IAF) a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise, marking the first time IAF is participating in this exercise.**

**Consider the following statements with respect to 'Zonal Councils'**

Zonal Councils are constitutional bodies.

The Prime Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.

The North Eastern States are not included in the Zonal Councils

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

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

**Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organization Act, 1956. Hence, they are statutory bodies.	The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.	The North Eastern, are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.  The State of Sikkim has also been included in the North Eastern Council vide North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002

**Context: Amit Shah to Head Western Zonal Council Meet**

**Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Elephants'**

The leader of an elephant group is led by a female known as the matriarch

It is classified as Critically endangered under the IUCN red list

Project Elephant was a Center Sector scheme which was recently merged with Project Tiger

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All the above

**Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The herds is led by oldest female, the 'matriarch' They have longest gestation period of all the mammals (18 to 22 months) Karnataka has highest number of elephants in India	The IUCN status is endangered whereas the IUCN status of African elephant is Critically endangered	Project Elephant was Centrally sponsored scheme started in 1992 and was recently merged with Project Tiger

Context: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released Elephant corridors of India report  
**With reference to 'National Carbon Registry', consider the following statements**

Statement 1- It is an open source software that allows countries to manage national data and processes for trading carbon credits

Statement 2 – It was launched by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**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

**Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It is an open source software that allows countries to manage national data and processes for trading carbon credits  It has been accredited as digital public good and can be integrated with national measurement reporting and verification (MRV) systems to meet international reporting requirements  It will promote development of Carbon Market	It was launched by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Context: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launches National Carbon Registry'**

**With reference to 'Census in India', consider the following statements**

Certain sections of the Census Act 1948 empowers 'only the Central Government' to conduct the census

The office of the Registrar General and Census commissioner of India comes under Ministry of Home affairs.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

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

**Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Section 3 of the Census Act 1948 empowers 'only the Central Government' to conduct the census It is covered in Union List under Entry 69 in the Seventh schedule The last census was conducted in 2011	The office of the Registrar General and Census commissioner of India comes under Ministry of Home affairs.

Context: 2021 decadal census delayed

**'Digital Services Act (DSA)' which was recently in news was enacted by**

- USA
- European Union
- Germany
- United Kingdom

**Solution (b)**

Digital Services Act was passed by the European Parliament in July 2022. The Digital Services Act (DSA) is a new set of rules that aims to make the online world safer and more transparent for users in the European Union. It applies to online platforms that offer goods, services, or content to EU citizens, such as social media, e-commerce, or cloud services.

The key provisions of DSA are:

- Removal of content
- Monitoring

Prohibits using person's sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity and political belief as criteria for targeted advertisement  
 Mandates disclosure of algorithms that influence content  
 Penalties for non-compliance

**Context: European Union's new Digital services act comes in to effect**

**Consider the following statements with respect to 'Aditya L1 mission'**

It will be the first Indian space mission to study the sun

L1 refers to Lagrange Point in space where the object is said to be in equilibrium

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- Only one
- Only two
- Both
- None

**Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It will be the first Indian space mission to study the sun to be launched by PSLV Objectives: Study the Sun's corona, Solar emissions, solar winds, and flares and Coronal Mass Ejections and will carry out round the clock imaging of the Sun	Lagrange Point in space where the force of gravity of the nearest celestial entities cancels each other out and helping an object in equilibrium

**Context: ISRO will launch Aditya L1 mission on September 2**

**Consider the following advantages with respect to 'Tethered Drone'**

They dramatically reduce technical and human error crashes in flight.

They provide a secure line of communication between the ground station and the aircraft

It also does not require GPS navigation

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- All the above

**Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

**About Tethered Drone**

A tethered drone is an unmanned aerial vehicle tethered to the ground.

It consists of a base station on the ground and the drone, which is connected to the station through the tether (cable).

This tether provides power and data communication to the drone, allowing it to operate for extended periods without the limitations of a finite onboard battery.

The drone can be operated remotely to perform specific tasks.

**Advantages:**

Tethered UAVs are perfect for data capture and telemetry due to the reliability of tethered connections.

They dramatically reduce technical and human error crashes in flight.

They provide a secure line of communication between the ground station and the aircraft.

The physical connection to the ground makes tethered drones less vulnerable to interference or hacking compared to wireless drones.

It also does not require GPS navigation.

Many tethered drones have longer flight times compared to free-flying, battery-operated drones.

Due to the restricted movement of a tethered drone, the operator does not need piloting skills and can mainly focus on their tasks.

Context Army signs deals for 130 tethered drones and 19 tank driving simulators

**With reference to 'Somatic Genetic Variants', consider the following statements**

Statement 1- It refers to alterations in the DNA sequence that occur specifically within the cells of an individual's body, excluding the germ line cells (sperm and egg cells).

Statement 2 – Somatic genetic mutations occur after birth during development and are not inherited from parents.

**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

### Solution (a)

#### Statement Analysis:

Somatic genetic variants also known as somatic mutations refer to alterations in the DNA sequence that occur specifically within the cells of an individual's body (somatic cells), excluding the germ line cells (sperm and egg cells).

Somatic genetic mutations occur after birth during development and are not inherited from parents.

#### Somatic Mutation Progression:

The human genome consists of 23 pairs of chromosomes, inherited from each parent, forming the blueprint of our genetic identity.

Following the fertilization of an egg cell by a sperm cell, the resultant single cell amalgamates genetic material from both parents.

Through subsequent rounds of division, this initial cell proliferates extensively, ultimately generating the countless trillions of cells constituting the human body.

During the process of DNA replication, the incorporation of errors is notably minimized by error-correcting proteins. Nevertheless, a minute error rate persists and occurs at different times, contributing to the emergence of somatic genetic mutations.

As cells continue to renew and replace old ones throughout life, errors keep occurring, leading to the gradual accumulation of somatic mutations over time.

This is why differences in genetic makeup are observed between different tissues in the body as people get older.

#### With reference to 'Aadhar Based Payment System (ABPS)', consider the following statements

ABPS is a unique payment system implemented by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Only citizen of India having an Aadhaar number linked to a bank account - can utilize the Aadhaar Enabled Payment Service (AePS) service.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

### Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) is a bank-led model developed by NPCI, which allows online transactions at Micro TM/Kiosk/mobile devices through the authorized Business	Any resident of India having an Aadhaar number linked to a bank account - referred to as an Aadhaar Enabled Bank Account (AEBA) - can utilise the AePS service.

Correspondent (BC) of any bank using Aadhaar authentication.

This solution has been designed by NPCI to handle various kinds of service requests effectively by enabling an authentication gateway for all Aadhaar linked account holders.

Bank customers with an Aadhaar enabled bank account can use the AePS solution for banking transactions as listed below:

- Balance Enquiry
- Cash Withdrawal
- Cash Deposit
- Aadhaar to Aadhaar Fund Transfer
- Mini Statement
- Purchase
- Self-Help Group (SHG) Transaction

Context: MGNREGS deadline for mandatory Aadhaar-based wage payments extended till December 31

**'GREAT Scheme' which was recently in news is related to**

- Defense
- Textiles
- Tourism
- Super Computers

**Solution (b)**

Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) Scheme focuses on supporting individuals and companies to translate prototypes to technologies & products, including commercialization.

**Aim:** To provide much-needed impetus for the development of the technical textiles startup ecosystem in India, especially in niche sub-segments such as bio-degradable and sustainable textiles, high-performance and specialty fibers, and smart textiles.

**About National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**

It was launched to increase the penetration level of technical textiles in India while leveraging the extraordinary growth rate of the sector.

The mission aims to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles.

The mission will comprise the following four components:

- Research, Innovation and Development
- Promotion and Market Development
- Export Promotion
- Education, Training, Skill Development

**Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles

Implementation: It has been approved with an implementation period of four years starting from FY 2020-21 till FY 2023-24.

**Context: Centre announces up to Rs 50 lakh grant for technical textiles startups under GREAT scheme**

Consider the following statements with respect to 'Takahe Bird'

It is one of the world's rarest creatures native to Japan  
The birds has been formally declared extinct.

Select the correct statement(s)

- Only one
- Only two
- Both
- None

**Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It is hailed as one of the world's rarest creatures native to New Zealand. They have been an intrinsic part of New Zealand's ecosystem since the prehistoric Pleistocene era, as evidenced by fossil remains.	The birds had been formally declared extinct in 1898. It was rediscovered in 1948 in several remote valleys on New Zealand's South Island, and their numbers have been steadily growing since then.

**Context: Prehistoric bird declared extinct decades ago makes return to the forests of New Zealand**

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

It is a type of neutron star that has an ultra-powerful magnetic field.  
They release energy in the form of X – ray and gamma ray bursts

Select the correct statement(s)

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

**Q.106) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
A magnetar is an exotic type of neutron star, its defining feature that it has an ultra-powerful magnetic field. The field is about 1,000 times stronger than a normal neutron star and about a trillion times stronger than the Earth's.	Magnetars release vast amounts of energy in the form of flares, X-rays, and gamma-ray bursts. They are therefore associated with extreme events in the universe, making them perhaps the most bizarre objects in the cosmos next to black holes.

**Context - According to a new study, helium-rich Wolf-Rayet star indicate that it will produce a magnetar when it explodes as a supernova.**

**Q.107) With reference to 'Green Hydrogen Standard', consider the following statements**

It is defined as having a well-to-gate emission of not more than 10 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent / kg H<sub>2</sub>

The Standard has been issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

The scope of the definition encompasses only electrolysis-based and not biomass-based hydrogen production methods

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

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.107) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Green Hydrogen is defined as having a well-to-gate emission (i.e., including water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, drying and compression of hydrogen) of not more than 2 kg CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent / kg H <sub>2</sub> .	The standard has been issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The notification also specifies that the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.	The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods.

**Context - In a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the government has notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India.**

**Q.108) 'Nagaparamba' a place is recently seen in news due to**

- Discovery of uranium deposits
- Excavation of Megalithic site
- Serpent festival
- Formation of meteor lake

**Q.108) Solution (b)**

A large number of megalithic hat stones were found from a single site during a recent archaeological salvage excavation conducted by the State Archaeology Department at Nagaparamba in Kuttippuram village, near Tirunavaya. Hat stones, popularly called Thoppikkallu in Malayalam, are hemispherical laterite stones used as lid on burial urns during the megalithic period. Archaeologists say it could arguably be the largest number of hat stones in an unprotected site in the State. Many hat stones are feared to have been destroyed inadvertently by the local people in recent times.

**Context - A large number of megalithic hat stones were found from a single site**

**Q.109) Consider the following statements about 'Heron'**

Statement 1 - These are widely distributed over the world but are most common in the tropics.

Statement 2 - They nest in rough platforms of sticks constructed in bushes or trees near water called heronries

**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.109) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct

Hérons are classified in the family Ardeidae (order Ciconiiformes) and generally including several species usually called egrets. The Ardeidae also include the bitterns (subfamily Botaurinae). These are widely distributed over the world but are most common in the tropics.

They usually feed while wading quietly in the shallow waters of pools, marshes, and swamps, catching frogs, fishes, and other aquatic animals. They nest in rough platforms of sticks constructed in bushes or trees near water; the nests usually are grouped in colonies called heronries

**Context - The annual heronry count jointly organised by WWF-India in association with the Forest department in Thiruvananthapuram district has recorded more heronries than in the past**

**Q.110) Consider the following statements about 'International Criminal Court'**

- It tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community
- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations
- All the permanent members of the UN Security Council recognize ICC

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
ICC was created by the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (its founding and governing document), and began functioning on 1 July 2002 when the Statute came into force. It investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community	While not a United Nations organization, the Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations. When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC, granting it jurisdiction.	123 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognize the ICC's authority; the notable exceptions being the US, China, Russia, and India.

**Context - Russia recently announced sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor and British ministers.**

**Q.111) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Acoustic Side Channel Attacks'**

Statement 1 - The AI model employed to perform the attack has 100% accuracy without the use of a language model

Statement 2 - This technique uses the sounds produced by typing on a keyboard to determine what keys are being pressed

**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.111) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
When a deep learning model was trained on the data with default values, the model was able to acquire a meaningful interpretation of the data. Additionally, when the AI model was made to recognise keystrokes using audio captured through a smartphone microphone, it was able to achieve 95% accuracy.	This technique uses the sounds produced by typing on a keyboard to determine what keys are being pressed. By analysing these unique sounds, hackers equipped with the right tools can decode the precise letters and numbers being typed.

**Context - A research paper revealed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used to decode passwords by analysing the sound produced by keystrokes**

**Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)'**

It is a fund managed by the Central Government to meet the expenses for emergency response and compensation

It is placed in the Public Account of Government of India under reserve funds not bearing interest

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the NDMA takes decisions on the expenses from National Disaster Response Fund

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
It is a fund managed by the Central Government to meet the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster. The financial assistance from NDRF is for providing immediate relief and is not compensation for loss/damage to properties /crops.	It is placed in the “Public Account” of Government of India under “reserve funds not bearing interest”.	The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the National Disaster Management Authority takes decisions on the expenses from National Disaster Response Fund.

**Context - The Central Government recently approved the release of Rs 200 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund as advance assistance to Himachal Pradesh**

**Q.113) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Gene-edited mustard’**

- It is based on CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing while being non-genetically modified
- It is India’s first ever low pungent mustard that is pest and disease resistant

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

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

**Statement Analysis:**



<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
CRISPR/Cas9 – a gene-editing tool deploying an enzyme was used, which acts as a “molecular scissors” to cut the DNA at precise targeted locations of the gene, and then letting the natural DNA repair process to take over. The new GTR genes-edited mustard lines are transgene-free or non-genetically modified (GM).	Indian scientists have developed the first ever low-pungent mustard that is pest and disease-resistant.

**Context - Indian scientists developed the first ever Gene edited low-pungent mustard that is pest and disease-resistant.**

**Q.114) With reference to ‘Kashmir Stag’, consider the following statements**

- It is a Critically Endangered animal and is included in Appendix 1 of CITES
- The society of Kashmir stag is matriarchal
- It is primarily found in Hemis National Park in Kashmir

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.114) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

<b>Statement 1</b>	<b>Statement 2</b>	<b>Statement 3</b>
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It is a critically endangered animal found in Jammu & Kashmir. It is also included in Appendix 1 of the CITES	It is essentially a forest animal and is found either singly or in small groups of 2 to 16 members. The social system is matriarchal	It is found in dense riverine forests in the high valleys and mountains of Jammu and Kashmir and northern Himachal Pradesh. In Kashmir, it is found primarily in the Dachigam National Park where it receives protection, and elsewhere it is more at risk.

**Context -** In a recent Census conducted at Kashmir's Dachigam National Park, it was found that the population of Hangul or Kashmiri Stag has gradually increased over time.

**Q.115) Four astronauts are to perform a flyby of the Moon and return to Earth, being the first crewed mission beyond low Earth orbit since Apollo 17 in 1972. The space mission is**

- Artemis II Mission
- Hope Mission
- Luna Mission
- Zeus Mission

**Q.115) Solution (a)**

Artemis 2 Mission will be the first mission to carry humans to the moon's vicinity since 1972. It is the second scheduled flight of the Artemis program and the first crewed Artemis mission. During Artemis II, four astronauts will fly around the moon before returning to Earth. It will use the huge Space Launch System (SLS) mega-rocket and Orion spacecraft to launch the crew on the lunar flyby mission.

**Context -** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently said that it moved the mobile launch tower for the crewed Artemis 2 mission to Launchpad 39B of the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

**Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Indian Council of Social Science Research'**

- It is an autonomous organization funded by the Ministry of Culture
- It provides grants for fellowships and international collaboration to promote research in social sciences in India

**Select the INCORRECT statement(s)**

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

**Q.116) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Indian Council of Social Science Research was established in the year of 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country on the recommendation of Prof. V. K. R. V. Rao Committee. It is an autonomous organisation funded by the Ministry of Education.	The council aims to review the progress of social science research and give advice to its users and sponsor social science research programmes and projects and administer grants to institutions and individuals for research in social sciences.

**Context - ICSSR will study socio-economic impact of Centre's schemes**

**Q.117) With reference to 'Irregular Galaxy', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - An irregular galaxy is a galaxy that does not have a distinct regular shape, like a spiral or an elliptical galaxy

Statement 2 – It happens when there is a collision between galaxies and gravitational forces between separate galaxies interact causing an irregular type of rotation

**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.117) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
An irregular galaxy is a galaxy that does not have a distinct regular shape, like a spiral or an elliptical galaxy. They range from dwarf irregular galaxies with 100 million times the Sun's mass to large ones weighing 10 billion solar masses. They also contain abundant amounts of gas and dust.	It can happen when there is a collision between galaxies and gravitational forces between separate galaxies interact causing an irregular type of rotation. A young galaxy can also take an irregular form, suggesting that it has not yet reached a symmetrical rotation.

**Context - The Hubble Space Telescope recently captured an image of the irregular galaxy ESO 300-16, located at a distance of 28.7 million light years in the southern constellation of Eridanus.**

**Q.118) 'Tagaeri' and 'Taromenani' seen in news recently are**

- Land formations
- Icebergs
- Indigenous tribes
- Ancient burials

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

Yasuni National Park is a national park located between Napo and Curaray Rivers of the Amazon forests in Ecuador. It is a UNESCO designated Biosphere Reserve. This national park houses Tagaeri, Taromenane, Huaorani indigenous tribes. This tribe lives in self-isolation.

**Context - Ecuadorians voted against drilling for oil in a protected area of the Amazon, an important decision that will require the state oil company to end its operations in a region that's home to two uncontacted tribes**

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

- Ethiopia
- Nigeria
- Libya
- Eritrea
- Somalia
- Djibouti
- Morocco

**How many of the above countries constitute the 'Horn of Africa'?**

- Only two
- Only three
- Only four
- Only five

**Q.119) Solution (c)**

The Horn of Africa (HoA), also known as the Somali Peninsula, is a large peninsula and geopolitical region in East Africa. Located on the easternmost part of the African mainland, it is the fourth largest peninsula in the world. It is composed of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti; broader definitions also include parts or all of Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda.

**Context – There are allegations of human rights abuse along the route from 'Horn of Africa' to Saudi Arabia**

**Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Cholera'**

- It is a viral disease usually spread through contaminated water
- The disease is endemic to South Asia
- There is treatment available but vaccines do not exist for the prevention

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.120) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> . It remains a global threat to public health and an indicator of inequity and lack of social development.	During the 19th century, cholera spread across the world from its original reservoir in the Ganges delta in India. Six subsequent pandemics killed millions of people across all continents. The current (seventh) pandemic started in South Asia in 1961, reached Africa in 1971 and the Americas in 1991. Cholera is now endemic in many countries.	Currently, there are three WHO pre-qualified oral cholera vaccines (OCV), Dukoral, Shanchol, and Euvichol-Plus. All three vaccines require two doses for full protection.

**Context - UNICEF said that since 2017, a spike in conflict and displacement in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is pushing children into the worst cholera crisis.**

**Q.121) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bharat NCAP(New Car Assessment Programme'**

- Bharat NCAP will give a unified rating for the vehicles Unlike Global NCAP
- Car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars tested under this programme
- Cars will be assigned a rating between one star to five stars after being evaluated on adult occupant protection, child occupant protection and safety assist technologies

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Unlike Global NCAP, Bharat NCAP will give a unified rating for the vehicles, combining crash test results for adults and children alike.	The programme aims to provide a tool for car customers to make a comparative assessment of the crash safety of motor vehicles available in the market. Under this programme, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars tested as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.	Cars will be assigned a rating between one star to five stars after being evaluated on three parameters — adult occupant protection, child occupant protection and safety assist technologies present in the car.

**Context - Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)**

**Q.122) 'Lily Thomas case' often found in news is related to**

- Right to Life
- Abortion rights
- Disqualification of legislators
- Anti-defection laws

**Q.122) Solution (c)**

The Lily Thomas case pertains to the Supreme Court of India's judgment that invalidated Section 8(4) of the Representation of People Act. This provision allowed a three-month period for convicted legislators to appeal before disqualification. The court's ruling led to instant disqualification upon conviction, impacting the careers of sitting legislators. The judgment was based on the premise that Article 102(1) doesn't distinguish between sitting members and candidates for disqualification.

**Context – It was recently in news**

**Q.123) With reference to 'Methanotrophs', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - Methanotrophic microorganisms oxidize methane to harness energy under oxic and anoxic conditions.

Statement 2 – They grow best when the methane concentration is around 5,000-10,000 parts per million (ppm).

**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.123) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Methane-utilizing bacteria (methanotrophs) are a diverse group of gram-negative bacteria that are related to other members of the Proteobacteria. Methanotrophic microorganisms oxidise methane to harness energy under oxic and anoxic conditions.	They grow best when the methane concentration is around 5,000-10,000 parts per million (ppm). It can grow at low methane concentrations ranging from 200-1,000 ppm. These features make this strain a promising candidate for methane removal technology.

**Context - The recent study revealed that the Methylotheobacterium buryatense 5GB1C a Methanotroph could potentially remove methane from major emission sites.**

**Q.124) Consider the following statements about 'Commonwealth Parliamentary Association'**

It is an international organization of only national parliaments which aims to promote good governance  
The patronship of the CPA rotates amongst Heads of State and of Government of the Commonwealth nations

**Select the correct statement(s)**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.124) Solution (d)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
At present there are fifty four countries in the Commonwealth Association, in which one sixty four CPA Branches are Parliaments and Legislatures, with a total membership of eighteen thousand Parliamentarians and Legislators, were established.	In 1989 the patron of the CPA was the Head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II. The vice-patronship rotates amongst Heads of State and of Government of the Commonwealth nations who host its forthcoming annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The Association's supreme authority is the General Assembly, constituted by delegates to the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

**Context - Ninth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference took place in Udaipur, India, and was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker.**

**Q.125) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Curriculum Framework for School Education'**

It makes the study of Indian languages optional across schools and boards

It offers students the freedom to pursue a mix of science and humanities

It was framed by the National Steering Committee under the chairmanship of K. Kasturirangan

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

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.125) Solution (b)****Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The final NCF makes the study of Indian languages imperative across schools and boards, contrary to the optional nature	It offers students the freedom to pursue a mix of science and humanities to reduce the rigid boundaries separating arts,	The National Steering Committee under the chairmanship of (former ISRO chief) K. Kasturirangan was set up by the



of these subjects at present. It mandates the compulsory instruction of 3 languages (referred to as R1, R2 and R3) up to Class 10. At least 2 of these 3 languages must be native to India.	commerce and science in Classes 11 and 12 across school boards. It also offers freedom to all boards to change to semester or term-based systems in Class 12 in the long term.	MoE to undertake and develop NCFs. These 4 NCFs are - National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCFECE) National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE)
---	--	--

**Context - The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) was released by the Union Minister of Education recently.**

**Q.126) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission'**

It is a quasi-judicial commission established as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

It can entertain complaints valued above five crores

The Commission is headed by a sitting or a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India

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

Only one

Only two

All three

None

**Q.126) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or the NCDRC is a quasi-judicial commission established as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. It was established in 1988. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.	The Commission is headed by a sitting or a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India or a sitting or retired Chief Justice of the High Court. The Act mandates the establishment of Consumer Protection Councils at the Centre as well as in each	Cars will be assigned a rating between one star to five stars after being evaluated on three parameters — adult occupant protection, child occupant protection and safety assist technologies present in the car.

	State and District to promote consumer awareness. The Central Council is headed by the Minister in charge of the Department of Consumer Affairs in the Central Government, and the State Councils by the Minister in charge of Consumer Affairs in the State Governments.	
--	---	--

**Context - National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) dismissed an appeal filed by Cloudtail India Pvt. Ltd. challenging the Order passed by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**

**Q.127) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Minimum Export Price'**

Statement 1 - The government fixes MEP for the selected commodities to arrest domestic price rise under Foreign Trade (Development And Regulation) Act, 1992

Statement 2 – The application of MEP helps farmers/exporters realize better and remunerative prices

**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.127) Solution (c)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
Minimum export price is imposed in view of the rising domestic retail/wholesale price or production disruptions in the country. It is a kind of quantitative restriction to trade. The government fixes MEP for the selected commodities to arrest domestic price rises and augment domestic supply	This is intended to be imposed for short durations and is removed when situations change. The removal of MEP helps farmers/exporters realize better and remunerative prices.

under Foreign Trade (Development And Regulation) Act, 1992	
--	--

**Context - The Central government of India may be considering a minimum export price (MEP) for a host of speciality rice, including the basmati variety**

**Q.128) 'Equal Contrast Technique' seen in news recently is mostly used for**

- Medical imaging
- 3D printing
- Sun analysis
- Detect gravitational waves

**Q.128) Solution (c)**

A new methodology called Equal Contrast Technique (ECT) developed to analyze images of the Sun in white light can help obviate temporal and latitudinal variations in observations related to instrument and sky conditions. It can help in accurate analysis of the historic time series of images of Sun and in understanding the dynamics of the sun, solar cycle variations, dynamo processes in the convection zone and resulting long term climatic variations on the earth.

**Context - New methodology developed can give accurate analysis of the historic time series of images of Sun**

**Q.129) Consider the following statements about 'Microsites Project'**

- Microsites are defined geographical regions where focused outreach efforts would be made to onboard small and medium-scale private healthcare providers
- The project would be implemented by the National Health Authority
- Meghalaya became the first state to operationalize Microsites in India

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.129) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The ABDM Microsites are defined geographical regions where focused outreach efforts would be made to onboard small and medium scale private healthcare providers.	These Microsites would be majorly implemented by State Mission Directors of ABDM while the financial resources and overall guidance would be provided by NHA. An interfacing agency under this program will have an on-ground team to reach out to the healthcare providers in the area.	Mizoram becomes the first state in India to operationalize an ABDM Microsite in its capital city Aizawl. Under this, all healthcare facilities including the private clinics, small hospitals and labs in the region shall be made ABDM-enabled and will offer digital health services to the patients.

**Context - The National Health Authority (NHA) had announced 100 Microsites project for accelerated adoption of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) across the country.**

**Q.130) Consider the following statements with respect 'XV summit of BRICS'**

It was hosted by South Africa for the first time since the inception  
'Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development' was the theme of the summit

**Select the correct statement(s)**

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

**Q.130) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It was hosted by South Africa for the third time since the inception of BRICS	'BRICS in Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism' was the theme of the summit

**Context - 15th BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg from 22-24 August 2023.**

**Q.131) Consider the following countries which were admitted as members in recent summit of BRICS**

1. Iran

2. Saudi Arabia
3. Chile
4. UAE
5. Ethiopia

**Select the correct code**

- Only two
- Only three
- Only four
- All five

**Q.131) Solution (c)**

BRICS marked its 15th summit by expanding its membership from five to eleven countries, reflecting a concerted effort to enhance its global standing. Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina joined the BRICS fold, amplifying the group's representation across the Middle East, Africa, and South America. Full membership will take effect on January 1, 2024.

**Context - The 15th BRICS summit hosted by South Africa in Johannesburg, holds significant importance against the backdrop of geopolitical changes and global economic dynamics.**

**Q.132) 'Murmansk port' seen in news recently is located in**

- a) Mediterranean sea
- b) Sea of Okhotsk
- c) Barents Sea
- d) Bering Sea

**Q.132) Solution (c)**

Murmansk Commercial Seaport is a seaport located on the eastern shore of the Kola Bay of the Barents Sea in the city of Murmansk. The port ranks fourth in Russia in terms of processed goods and is the second-largest port in northwest Russia (after the port of St. Petersburg). Murmansk seaport is one of the largest ice-free ports in Russia

**Context - Murmansk, popularly called the capital of the Arctic region and the beginning point of the Northern Sea Route (NSR), is witnessing the rising trend of Indian involvement in cargo traffic**

**Q.133) With reference to 'Insurance Surety Bonds', consider the following statements**

Statement 1 - These are instruments where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provide the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfill its obligation

Statement 2 – If the principal fails to perform the act as promised, the surety is contractually liable for losses sustained.

**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.133) Solution (a)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Insurance Surety Bonds can be defined in their simplest form as a written agreement to guarantee compliance, payment, or performance of an act. These are instruments where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provide the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfil its obligation as per the agreed terms.	The insurance company or surety company that guarantees the obligation will be performed. If the principal fails to perform the act as promised, the surety is contractually liable for losses sustained.

**Context - The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) organised a brainstorming session with stakeholders to expedite the adoption of Insurance Surety Bonds for its contracts.**

**Q.134) Consider the following statements with respect to 'FIDE World Cup'**

It is a 256-player single-elimination chess tournament

The event is held every four years

**Select the correct statement(s)**

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.134) Solution (d)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
It is a 128-player single-elimination chess tournament, a vital part of the World Chess Championship qualification. The format includes 7 rounds of “mini-matches” with 2 games each, followed by rapid and blitz tiebreaks if needed. The final consists of 4 games before tiebreaks. From the 2021 edition on, the number of players increased to 206.	The event is held every two years

**Context - In the FIDE World Cup finals, Magnus Carlsen secured his first-ever title, defeating Indian chess prodigy R. Praggnanandhaa in Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Q.135) Consider the following statements about ‘Lion Tailed Macaque’**

- These are native only to India in the wild
- It is a diurnal animal which leads an arboreal life
- It is classified as ‘critically endangered’ according to the IUCN

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.135) Solution (b)**

**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<b>Correct</b>	<b>Correct</b>	<b>Incorrect</b>
The lion-tailed macaque also known as the wanderoo, is an Old World monkey endemic to the Western Ghats of South India.	It is diurnal, meaning it is active exclusively in daylight hours. When they’re active, they will spend half the day foraging, and the other half will be spent resting or finding new areas to forage. Lion-tailed macaque behavior is characterized by typical patterns of arboreal living.	IUCN: Endangered CITES: Appendix I The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

**Context - Conservationists call for study after rare spotting of lion-tailed macaques in Nadugani**