



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

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Q.1) Consider the following statements about DIKSHA platform

It is a national platform launched in 2017 that provides e-content for schools via an online portal and a mobile application.

It has embedded assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing impairments.

It currently supports 22 languages mentioned 8th schedule of Indian Constitution only.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

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

DIKSHA - Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing.

DIKSHA is a national platform for school education, an initiative of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Education (MoE).

It was launched in 2017.

It provides e-content for schools via an online portal and a mobile application.

It also has embedded assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing impairments. However, DIKSHA is a static content repository.

It features digitised National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks used national and State Boards.

This has been adopted by almost all the States, Union Territories, and central autonomous bodies/boards including CBSE.

This can be accessed by learners and teachers across the country and currently supports 36 Indian languages.

DIKSHA is built using MIT licensed open source technology called Sunbird Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL)

PAL is software-based approach will allow each student to have an individualised learning experience over the course of the curriculum based on their unique needs and abilities.

DIKSHA platform is set to be integrated with PAL with the help of the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Context: Recently the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) is set to integrate Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into its existing Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform.

Q.2) Consider the following statements

Statement 1 - Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs determines the date and duration of parliamentary sessions.

Statement 2 - India's Parliament has no fixed calendar of sittings.

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.2) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Option a

Correct

The Constitution does not use the term "special session". However, Article 352 (Proclamation of Emergency) of the Constitution does refer to a "special sitting of the House".

The term "special session" refers to sessions the government has convened for specific occasions, like commemorating parliamentary or national milestones.

Parliament added the part relating to the special sitting through the Constitution (42th Amendment) Act, 1976.

Its purpose was to add safeguards to the power of proclaiming Emergency in the country.

It specifies that if a Proclamation of Emergency is issued and Parliament is not in session then 1/10th of Lok Sabha MPs can ask the President to convene a special meeting to disapprove the Emergency.

India's Parliament has no fixed calendar of sittings.

The government determines the date and duration of parliamentary sessions.

Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs determines the date and duration of parliamentary sessions.

It currently has 10 Ministers including ministers of Defence, Home, Finance, Agriculture, Tribal Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, and Information and Broadcasting.

The Law Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs are special invitees to the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.

The President is informed about the Committee's decision, who then summons Members of Parliament to meet for the session.

Context: Recently the government has announced a 'Special Session of Parliament' which will take place from Sept 18-22

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY)

It is one of the two components of the Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Yojana which is a Central Sector Scheme. GVY aims to promote and develop the village industries through common facilities and technological modernization.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

- 2 only
Both 1 and 2
Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>It was launched in March 2020.</p> <p>It is one of the two components of the Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Yojana which is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS).</p> <p>The other component of Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Yojana is the Khadi Vikas Yojana (KVY) which includes two new components such as Rozgar Yukt Gaon, Design House (DH)</p>	<p>GVY aims to promote and develop the village industries through common facilities, technological modernization, training etc.</p> <p>Included Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agro-Based & Food Processing Industry (ABFPI) Mineral-Based Industry (MBI) Wellness & Cosmetics Industry (WCI) Handmade Paper, Leather & Plastic Industry (HPLPI) Rural Engineering & New Technology Industry (RENTI) Service Industry

Context: The Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), recently, distributed toolkits and machinery to artisans in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, as part of the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana.

Q.4) Nine-dash line, sometimes seen in news is associated with which of the following water body?

- Arabian Sea
South China Sea
Black Sea
Mediterranean Sea

Q.4) Solution (b)

Option b
Correct
<p>The nine-dash line is a historical demarcation line on a map used by China to assert territorial claims in the South China Sea.</p> <p>China asserts a claim to 90% of the South China Sea, primarily based on the historical U-shaped nine-dash line drawn on a map in the 1940s and encompassing several islands, notably the Paracels and Spratlys.</p> <p>However, the Permanent Court of Arbitration under UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) has determined that China's claim in this region lacks a legal foundation</p>

Context: Several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Taiwan, have joined India in rejecting China's new national map and 9 Dashed Line in the South China Sea.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about GRIHA Rating

GRIHA is the India's National Rating System for Green buildings.

This tool is developed by The Energy and Resources Institute and is endorsed by Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b
Correct
<p>GRIHA is the India's National Rating System for Green buildings. Developed by - TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute). This tool has been endorsed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Criteria - GRIHA assesses a building out of 34 criteria and awards points on a scale of 100. In order to qualify for GRIHA certification, a project must achieve at least 50 points. Certain criteria / sub-criteria are mandatory and have to be complied for the project to be at all eligible for rating. Project scoring 50-60 points is certified as a 1 star GRIHA rated building, 61-70 is a 2 star GRIHA rated building, 71-80 is a 3 star GRIHA rating building, 81-90 is a 4 star GRIHA rated building and 91-100 is a 5 star GRIHA rated building The guidelines/criteria and appraisal norms is revised every 3 years or sooner to take into account the latest innovations/best practices happening during this period. SVA GRIHA (Simple Versatile Affordable GRIHA) has been developed by ADaRSH in collaboration with TERI and is currently under pilot stage. This variant of GRIHA is meant to simplify, and make the greening of small buildings (less than 2500 sqm built-up area) affordable.</p>

Context: It was in news.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about PM-DAKSH Yojana

It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

It aims to enhance competency level of the target groups to make them employable both in self-employment and wage-employment.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.6) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>The Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana is a Central Sector Scheme.</p> <p>It was launched during 2020-21.</p> <p>Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E).</p>	<p>The main objective of the Scheme is to enhance competency level of the target groups to make them employable both in self-employment and wage-employment for their socio-economic development.</p> <p>It is a National Action Plan for skilling marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.</p> <p>Target Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artisans- who may be able to improve their revenue generation capacities within their practicing vocations; Women- who may be able to enter into self-employment and financially empower themselves without neglecting their domestic activities; and Youth- who may acquire long-term training and specialization in employable vocations and gain a better standing in the job market. <p>The age criterion of scheme between 18-45 years and income criteria is no income limit for SCs, SafaiKaramcharis Including waste picker and DNT.</p> <p>The annual family income should be below Rs.3 lakh for OBCs and the EBCs (Economically Backward Classes) annual family income below Rs.1 lakh.</p>

Context: It was in news.

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Gilbert Hill, recently seen in news

It is a 200-foot monolith column of black basalt rock located at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.
The rock has a sheer vertical face and was formed during Cenozoic Era of the Earth formation.
The 'hill' is only one of three outcrops of volcanic rock worldwide.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.7) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Option a

Correct

Gilbert Hill:

It is a 200-foot monolith column of black basalt rock located at Andheri in Mumbai.

The rock has a sheer vertical face and was formed when molten lava was squeezed out of the Earth's clefts during the Mesozoic Era about 66 million years ago.

It was declared a National Park in 1952, while the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation categorised it as a Grade II heritage structure in 2007.

The 'hill' is only one of three outcrops of volcanic rock worldwide.

Arguably the oldest heritage site in the country in its original form, Gilbert Hill has a few temples and a small garden atop. These are accessed by a steep staircase carved into the rock.

Key Facts about Mesozoic Era:

It is one of the major geologic eras in Earth's history, lasting approximately from 252 million years ago to 66 million years ago.

It is also known as the "Age of Dinosaurs" because dinosaurs were the dominant land animals during this time.

The Mesozoic Era was divided into three periods:

Triassic Period (252 to 201 million years ago)

Jurassic Period (201 to 145 million years ago)

Cretaceous Period (145 to 66 million years ago)

Context: Gilbert Hill to be developed on the lines of Burj Khalifa.

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Ecocide

The term 'Ecocide' translates to 'killing one's home' or 'environment'.

Ecocide is a crime in 11 countries including India.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.8) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect

The term 'Ecocide' translates to 'killing one's home' or 'environment'.

Such 'killing' could include port expansion projects that destroy fragile marine life and local livelihoods, deforestation, illegal sand mining, polluting rivers with untreated sewage.

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court deals with 4 atrocities:

- Genocide
- Crimes against humanity
- War crimes
- Crime of aggression

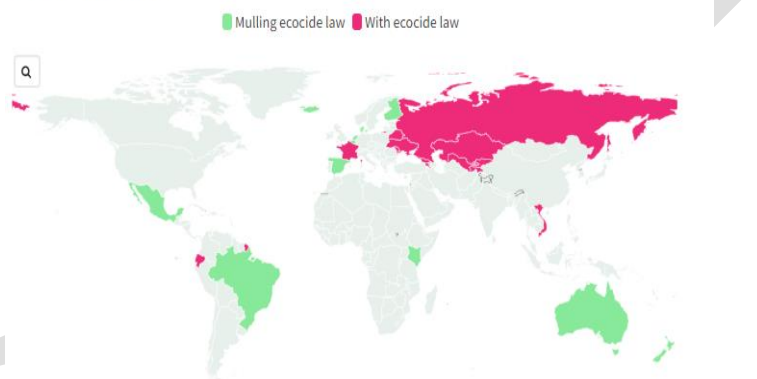
The provision on war crimes is the only statute that can hold a perpetrator responsible for environmental damage, although if it is intentionally caused and during wartime situations.

There is no accepted legal definition of ecocide.

Ecocide is a crime in 11 countries which doesn't include India.

Global status of ecocide laws

Ecocide is a crime in 11 countries, with 27 other nations deliberating laws around criminalising environmental damage.



Context: The Mexico's Maya train project that has been described as a "megaproject of death" as it imperils the Yucatán peninsula's rich wilderness, ancient cave systems and indigenous communities

Q.9) Gujarat Declaration, recently seen in news is an outcome of?

- WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit
- UNDP guidelines on achieving SDG by 2030
- East Asia Summit on UNSC reforms
- BRICS Summit to include new members

Q.9) Solution (a)

Option a

Correct

Gujarat Declaration

The declaration reaffirmed global commitments towards indigenous knowledge, biodiversity and traditional complementary and integrative medicine.

Gujarat declaration talks about scaling up efforts to further implement:

- Evidence-based TCIM (Traditional complimentary integrative medicine) interventions,
- Approaches in support of the goal of universal health coverage (UHC) and
- All health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It states the role of multi-regional, multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder collaborations demonstrated at the Global Summit.

It is aligned with and complementary to the work of WHO major offices, to maximize evidence based benefits of TCIM in global health.

It also strives enable the artificial intelligence (AI) in particular, to advance digital health resources on TCIM for people's health and well-being.

The 1st global summit on Traditional Medicine was organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in august 2023.

Context: World Health Organization (WHO) has recently released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of "Gujarat Declaration"

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan (MIPP)

It is an initiative Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

It aims to synchronize infrastructure requirements of the Navy through a comprehensive perspective plan model for the next 15 years.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.10) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
The Minister of State for Defence released the Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan (MIPP) 2023-37	MIPP aims to synchronize and enmesh the infrastructure requirements of the Navy through a comprehensive perspective plan model for the next 15 years. The Plan Document is aligned with the Government's vision on creation of sustainable infrastructure. It is also in compliances with broader policy directives on PM Gati Shakti project, disaster resilience, transition to net zero, etc.

Context: The Minister of State for Defence released the Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan (MIPP) 2023-37 at the 2nd edition of the biennial Naval Commanders Conference recently.

Q.11) Consider the following statements about Treasury Bills

These are long term debt instruments issued by the Government of India.

These are zero coupon securities and pay no interest.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.11) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>T-Bills are money market instruments. These are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India. Tenure: These are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day.</p>	<p>These are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity. Treasury bills are issued at a discount to original value and the buyer gets the original value upon maturity.</p>

Context: T-Bill yields ease by up to 7 bps in three weeks as liquidity conditions improve.

Q.12) Consider the following statements

- Cauvery wildlife sanctuary is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- The area is drained by three rivers, namely, Cauvery, Arkavathi and Shimsha.
- Sambar Deer listed as critically endangered in IUCN Red list can be found here.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.12) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Option a
Correct
<p>Cauvery wildlife sanctuary</p> <p>It is extended over three districts, namely, Chamarajanagar, Mandya and Ramanagara in Karnataka. The sanctuary provides a vital link between Bannerghatta National Park in the north and BRT Tiger Reserve and Male Mahadev Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in the south.</p> <p>The area is drained by three rivers, namely, Cauvery, Arkavathi and Shimsha.</p> <p>Flora: The forest is primarily of dry deciduous and scrub types, but a wide range of forest types including moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen, shola, riverine, Hardwicke forest, etc.</p> <p>Fauna: Important animals found in the sanctuary are tigers, elephants, leopards, bison, wild dog etc.</p>

Sambar Deer

The Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*) is a large deer native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

They are quite elusive and are most active at dusk and at night.

They are found in a broad range of forest habitats like dry deciduous forest, rainforest and mixed forests.

These deer play an important role in the ecosystem they live in by dispersing seeds throughout their native range.

Distribution: Their range is distributed from the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains across southern Asia and reaching the islands of Taiwan, Sumatra and Borneo.

Threats

Hunting and habitat encroachment are the main threats.

Sambar have developed more of a nocturnal activity pattern as a response to hunting by humans, who hunt them for trade and for food.

Conservation status

IUCN: Vulnerable

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule-III

Context: Researchers discover 'white' sambar in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary**Q.13) Consider the following statements about Marine Sand Watch portal**

The portal monitors large vessels dredging sand, sediment and rock in the marine environment all around the world.

The portal is developed by The Global Resource Information Database - Geneva (GRID-Geneva).

GRID-Geneva, is a partnership between the UNEP and IUCN.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.13) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis****Option b****Correct**

the Marine Sand Watch portal was developed by The Global Resource Information Database – Geneva to monitor dredging activities all around the world

The portal will track and monitor dredging activities of sand, clay, silt, gravel, and rock in the world's marine environment including hotspots like the North Sea, Southeast Asia, and the East Coast of the US.

The portal is developed by The Global Resource Information Database - Geneva (GRID-Geneva).

Geneva (GRID-Geneva), is a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the University of Geneva (UniGe).

This platform provides all stakeholders and the dredging sector with the required data and information to engage in talks with UNEP to improve dredging standards around the world.

It will use Automatic Identification System signals from vessels and Artificial Intelligence to identify the operations of dredging vessels.

The platform identifies:

Dredging vessels around the world,

Areas where sediment is being extracted,

Estimation of volume of sediment extracted and

Other types of activities such as cleaning channels, land reclamation projects, etc.

Context: Recently the Marine Sand Watch portal was developed by The Global Resource Information Database – Geneva to monitor dredging activities all around the world

Q.14) Consider the following statements about Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Scheme

It provides financial support of up to 60% of the capital cost as budgetary support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

The entire VGF for this scheme will be borne by the Central Government.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.14) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>The scheme aims to provide clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to the citizens.</p> <p>The scheme envisages development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31, with a financial support of up to 40% of the capital cost as budgetary support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF).</p> <p>The VGF for development of BESS Scheme, with an initial outlay of Rs.9,400 crore, including a budgetary support of Rs.3,760 crore.</p>	<p>The entire VGF of Rs. 3,760 crore for this scheme will be borne by the Central Government</p> <p>The VGF shall be disbursed in 5 tranches linked with the various stages of implementation of BESS projects.</p> <p>To ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach the consumers, a minimum of 85% of the BESS project capacity will be made available to Distribution Companies (Discoms).</p> <p>VGF grants will be carried out through a transparent competitive bidding process, promoting a level playing field for both public and private sector entities.</p>

Context: Recently the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister approved the Scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for development of BESS to Energize the Nation for a Brighter Tomorrow

Q.15) Erg Chech 002, recently seen in the news is related to?

- A new variant of Coronavirus
- It is the oldest volcanic rock ever found
- It refers to a comet that appear twice in a decade
- It is an ESA Space initiative to clear space debris

Q.15) Solution (b)

Option b

Correct

Erg Chech - It is a sandy region of the Sahara in western Algeria and northern Mali. It consists largely of shifting dunes.

Erg Chech 002 - On close inspection of the rocks containing distinctive greenish crystals, it turned out to be from outer space, left over from the dawn of the Solar System.

They were all pieces of a meteorite known as Erg Chech 002, which is the oldest volcanic rock ever found.

Erg Chech 002 is an "ungrouped achondrite" (its parent body and family relationship is unknown.) Achondrites are rocks formed from melted planetesimals, which is what we call solid lumps in the cloud of gas and debris that formed the Solar System. Ex – Angrites, Erg Chech 002.

Chondrites are the most abundant meteorite class, constituting more than 85 % of meteorite falls. Erg Chech 002 contains abundant lead-206 and lead-207, as well as undecayed uranium-238 and uranium-235.

Findings - By analyzing it, it was found that it is some 4.56556 billion years old (around 120,000 years). It was also found that the Aluminium-26 was distributed quite unevenly throughout the cloud of dust and gas which formed the solar system.

Aluminium-26 decays relatively quickly (after around 705,000 years). It is useful for determining the relative ages of different objects, but not their absolute age in years.

Context: Sahara space rock, 4.5 billion years old, upends assumptions about the early Solar System.

Q.16) Consider the following statements about Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- It is a statutory body established in 2002 under the Competition Act, 2002.
- The commission is a quasi-judicial body that gives opinions to statutory authorities.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.16) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>CCI, a statutory body of the Government of India, was established in March 2009 under the Competition Act, 2002.</p> <p>The goal of CCI is to create and sustain fair competition in the economy that will provide a 'level playing field' to the producers and make the markets work for the welfare of consumers.</p> <p>The priority of the Commission is to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.</p>	<p>Mandate: To implement provisions of The Competition Act, 2002 which –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibits anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position by enterprises; regulates mergers and acquisitions (M&A) which can have an adverse effect on competition within India. Thus, deals beyond a certain threshold are required to get clearance from CCI. It oversees the operations of big enterprises to ensure they are not abusing their 'dominant position' or power by controlling supply, setting up high purchase prices, or adopting practices that are unethical and may harm budding enterprises. <p>Composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has the composition of a quasi-judicial body, with one chairperson and six additional members. All members of the CCI are appointed by the Central Government.

Context: CCI releases draft norms for regulation of combinations

Q.17) Consider the following statements about National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)

The idea of NCMC was floated by the Nandan Nilekani committee set up by the RBI.

It is an initiative of the Ministry of Road and Transport to promote cashless transactions and offer a unified payment platform for commuters.

NCMC feature enables the Bank's customers to use their Debit Cards as travel cards.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.17) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b
Correct
<p>Nation First Transit Card:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to facilitate a seamless and convenient customer commuting experience and ensure easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc., through a single card. In addition, individuals can also use this card for making retail and e-commerce payments.

It is powered by RuPay and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology.

National Common Mobility Card (NCMC):

NCMC feature enables the Bank's customers to use their Debit Cards as travel cards for travelling in Metro Rail and Buses where this facility is enabled.

The idea of NCMC was floated by the Nandan Nilekani committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

NCMC is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in India designed to promote cashless transactions and offer a unified payment platform for commuters.

It was launched on March 4, 2019.

It offers a unified contactless transport solution through the RuPay platform, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

NCMC is an automatic fare collection system. It will turn smartphones into an inter-operable transport card that commuters can use eventually to pay for Metro, bus and suburban railway services.

Context: SBI launches RuPay NCMC Prepaid Card

Q.18) Consider the following statements about Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

It was set up in 2002 by the Supreme Court.

It served as a watchdog for issues pertaining child labour and bonded labour in India.

There is a provision to include 2 NGOs in the committee.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.18) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b

Correct

Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

It was set up in 2002, and reconstituted in 2008 by the Supreme Court.

It served as a watchdog for issues pertaining to environmental conservation and compliance.

Recent notification - Instead of an ad hoc body, CEC should be instituted as a permanent statutory body on environmental issues under the administrative control of the Environmental ministry.

The notification completely removes non-governmental members from the committee.

In the revised structure all (chairperson, a member secretary and three expert members) will now be civil servants appointed by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The chairperson

A minimum of 25 years of experience in environmental, forestry, or wildlife fields or substantial administrative expertise in government.

Term - 3 years.

The member secretary

He must hold a rank not lower than deputy inspector general or director in the government and Possess at least 12 years of experience in environmental, forestry, or wildlife matters.
 The 3 expert members - One each from the environment, forest, and wildlife sectors, should have a minimum of 20 years of expertise.
 The committee will report to the ministry, instead of the SC.
 The ministry will fund the committee;
 The provision of having 2 NGOs in the committee has been done away with

Context: Govt to now nominate all members of top panel on environment issues

Q.19) Schizostachyum andamanicum, sometimes seen in the news is related to?

- An invasive species responsible for declining Indian oil sardine species
- A species of Bamboo which can be used as reusable straw
- A Bull frog species found in Andamans and Nicobar
- A new variant of Coronavirus

Q.19) Solution (b)

Option b

Correct

Schizostachyum andamanicum is a Bamboo species which can be used as reusable straw. The bamboo species Schizostachyum andamanicum was discovered on the Andamans and Nicobar Islands about 3 decades ago. This species of bamboo is characterized by a thin large hollow erect culm (stem) with long internodes and has potential for developing into a straw. The germplasm of the bamboo species is only found in some forested areas of Andamans and large-scale production of the straw will be dependent on commercial cultivation of the species.

Context: The bamboo species Schizostachyum andamanicum has recently received the patent for reusable straw and its manufacturing

Q.20) Consider the following statements about Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC)

- It is a primary payload of Aditya-L1 Mission.
- VELC has the capability to capture images of the solar corona closer to the Sun's disc than any other solar space observatory.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.20) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>The Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC) is the primary payload that Aditya-L1 will use to focus on the Sun's Corona.</p> <p>VELC aims to collect data to understand how the temperature of the solar corona can reach about a million degrees while the Sun's surface remains at just over 6000 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>It is designed to create a 'total solar eclipse' all the time once Aditya-L1 is placed in L1 (Lagrangian Point 1).</p>	<p>VELC's ability to capture close-up images of the solar corona is attributed to its extremely accurately polished primary mirror, which was crafted by ISRO's Laboratory for Electro Optics Systems (LEOS).</p> <p>The payload will send 1,440 images per day to the ground station for analysis once it reaches its intended orbit.</p> <p>VELC has the capability to capture images of the solar corona closer to the Sun's disc than any other solar space observatory.</p>

Context: It was in news.

Q.21) Consider the following pairs :

Painting	State
Kangra	Himachal Pradesh
Cheriyal Scroll	Telangana
Rogan	Odisha
Warli	Maharashtra

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- Only one pair
- Only two pairs
- Only three pairs
- All four pairs

Q.21) Solution (c)

Option c
Correct
<p>Kangra Paintings</p> <p>Kangra painting is the pictorial art of Kangra, named after Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, a former princely state, which patronized the art.</p> <p>It became prevalent with the fading of Basohli school of painting in mid-18th century, and soon produced such a magnitude in paintings both in content as well as volume, that the Pahari painting school, came to be known as Kangra paintings.</p>
<p>Cheriyal Scroll Paintings</p> <p>Cheriyal Scroll Painting is a stylized version of Nakashi art, rich in the local motifs peculiar to the Telangana.</p>

They are at present made only in Hyderabad, Telangana, The scrolls are painted in a narrative format, much like a film roll or a comic strip, depicting stories from Indian mythology, and intimately tied to the shorter stories from the Puranas and Epics.

Painted in vivid hues, mostly primary colors, with a predominance of red in the background, the paintings are characterised by the unbridled imagination of the local artisans who were not constrained by the academic rigour that characterised the more classical Tanjore painting and Mysore painting.

Cheriyal scroll painting received Intellectual Property Rights Protection or Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2007

Rogan

The word Rogan means “Oil” in Persian. With origins in Persia, it came to Kutch around 300 years ago. This rare craft is practised by a lone Muslim family, the Khatris of Nirona Village, Gujarat.

Technique:

Rogan is a form of textile painting which uses a rich, brightly coloured paint made from castor oil and natural colors. Castor is a crop commonly grown in the Kutch region of Gujarat and the artists source it from the local farmers.

Warli

Warli is a traditional art form of Maharashtra.

Its roots can be traced to as early as the 10th century A.D.

These paintings are distinctive with their vivid contrast expressions.

These paintings are mainly dominated by basic geometric shapes like circles, triangles and squares.

These geometric shapes stand as a symbol of natural elements in our environment.

People and animals are represented by two inverted triangles joined together, where the upper triangle is the torso and the lower triangle is the pelvis.

Context: Gifts to spouses of G20 heads draw on the art heritage of India.

Q.22) Consider the following statements about India-Middle East-Europe Economic corridor IMEC

The project includes India, UAE, Israel, European Union and USA.

The IMEC comprises an Eastern Corridor connecting India to the Gulf region and a Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe.

The corridor only includes road and air routes.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.22) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Option a**Correct**

India-Middle East-Europe Economic corridor:

The project includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US.

The project will aim to enable greater trade among the involved countries, including energy products. The IMEC comprises an Eastern Corridor connecting India to the Gulf region and a Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe.

It will include a railway and ship-rail transit network and road transport routes.

The corridor will include a rail link as well as an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.

In the coming times, it will be a major medium of economic integration between India, West Asia and Europe.

The rail and shipping corridor is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)

Significance

It would increase prosperity among the countries involved through an increased flow of energy and digital communications.

The project would help deal with the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower- and middle-income nations.

Context: It was in news.

Q.23) Consider the following statements about Global Biofuels Alliance

India, Brazil and the US are the founding members of the alliance.

It was launched on the side-lines of COP26 Glasgow Summit with an aim to intensify the use of sustainable biofuels

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>It is an India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations and Industry to facilitate adoption of biofuels.</p> <p>A total of 19 countries and 12 international organizations have so far agreed to join the alliance, including both G20 members and non-member countries.</p>	<p>India proposed the creation of a Global Biofuels Alliance during the G20 summit.</p> <p>This Alliance will be aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector.</p>

India, Brazil and the US are the founding members of the alliance.	
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Context: PM Modi launches Global Biofuels Alliance.

Q.24) Consider the following statements about Morocco

It is a mountainous country of western North Africa that lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar.
It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

The major Atlantic Ocean port is Casablanca, is located in Morocco.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.24) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Option c

Correct

It is a mountainous country of western North Africa that lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar. It retains much of its ancient architecture and even more of its traditional customs. Morocco's largest city and major Atlantic Ocean port is Casablanca, an industrial and commercial centre.
Capital: Rabat
It borders Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
Two small Spanish enclaves, Ceuta and Melilla, are situated on the country's northern coast.
Major mountain ranges: Atlas and Rif
Spoken Languages: Arabic and Amazigh (Tamazight).
Religion: Predominantly Islam with a rich Islamic heritage.
Political System: Morocco has a constitutional monarchy with two legislative houses.
Economy: The Moroccan economy remains heavily dependent on the export of raw materials.

Context: Over 2,000 dead in Morocco earthquake: Aid pours in from across the world

Q.25) Bilateral Naval Exercise Varuna was recently held between India and which of the following country?

- France
- Russia
- Nepal
- USA

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

It is the bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France.

This bilateral exercise between the two navies was initiated in 1993.

It was named 'VARUNA' in 2001 and has become a hallmark of India France strategic bilateral relationship.

The exercise witnessed participation of guided missile frigates, tanker, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters from the two sides.

The exercise was conducted over three days and witnessed joint operations, underway replenishment and various tactical manoeuvres.

Units of both navies endeavoured to enhance and hone their war fighting skills, improve interoperability and demonstrate their ability to promote peace, security and stability in the region.

The first phase of 'Varuna-2023' was conducted off India's Western Seaboard from 16 to 20 Jan 23.

The exercise also facilitates operational level interaction between the two Navies to foster mutual cooperation for good order at sea, underscoring the shared commitment to ensuring security, safety and freedom of the global maritime commons.

Context: 21st EDITION of INDIA FRANCE BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE 'VARUNA' – 2023.

Q.26) Consider the following statements about Global Stocktake

It refers to a proposed five-yearly review of the impact of countries' climate change actions.

Under the Paris Agreement, every country must present a climate action plan in five-yearly cycles.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>It refers to a proposed five-yearly review of the impact of countries' climate change actions.</p> <p>It will assess whether the net result of the climate actions being taken was consistent with the goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature from pre-industrial times to within 2 degree Celsius.</p>	<p>Under the Paris Agreement, every country must present a climate action plan in five-yearly cycles.</p> <p>Under the Paris Agreement, the first global stocktake was to be happened in 2023.</p> <p>It will help the world determine whether it needs to do more — and how much more.</p> <p>It also recognises that money needs to be made available for Loss and Damage and energy transition in developing countries.</p>

Context: Global efforts falling short of climate goals says UN report

Q.27) Consider the following statements about Food Price Index

It is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.

It is published by Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO)

It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices weighted with the average export shares.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.27) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Option c

Correct

FAO Food Price Index

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.

It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices (cereal, vegetable, dairy, meat and sugar), weighted with the average export shares.

Base year: 2014-16

Key facts about FAO

It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.

Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

Head Quarter: Rome (Italy).

Member countries: With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

Its sister bodies are the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Reports published by the FAO: The State of the World's Forests (SOFO), The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)

Context: World food price index back at two-year low despite rice surge, Food and Agriculture Organization says

Q.28) Consider the following statements about Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

IT is an initiative of G7 to fund infrastructure projects across the world.

The India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor is a project under PGII.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.28) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) is a joint initiative of G7 to fund infrastructure projects across the world.</p> <p>PGII is a developmental initiative aimed at narrowing the infrastructure gap in developing countries as well as help towards accelerating progress on SDGs globally.</p> <p>It has announced several projects in Indonesia, among other countries, on clean energy, telecommunications, etc.</p>	<p>Its recent project is India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor.</p> <p>India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)</p> <p>The IMEC is being envisioned as a network of transport corridors, including railway lines and sea lanes that is expected to aid economic growth through integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf and Europe.</p> <p>The IMEC comprises of an Eastern Corridor connecting India to the Gulf region and a Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe.</p> <p>It is seen as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).</p>

Context: On the side lines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to create India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor which will be funded by PGII

Q.29) Consider the following statements

- Banglar mati, Banglar jol is a prayer written by Rabindranath Tagore in the context of Viceroy Lord Curzon's partition of Bengal in 1905.
- It is the state anthem of West Bengal and national anthem of Bangladesh respectively.

Choose the incorrect statement(s)

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

Q.29) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Banglar mati, Banglar jol is a prayer for Bengali unity and harmony which was written by Rabindranath Tagore in the context of Viceroy Lord Curzon's partition of Bengal in 1905.	The song became an anthem for those fighting against Britain's divide and rule policy during Bengal partition. Banglar mati, Banglar jol is the state anthem of Bangladesh. Amar sonar Bangla (My golden Bengal) written by Rabindranath Tagore is the national anthem of Bangladesh.

Context: Recently the West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution making Poila Baishakh (April 15) as the statehood day and declaring Rabindranath Tagore's Banglar mati, Banglar jol as the state anthem

Q.30) Which of the following statement about Konark Temple is not correct?

It was built in 1003 AD by King Vidyadhar of the Eastern Ganga dynasty

The wheel with 24 spokes representing the wheels of Lord Surya's sun chariot

The temple's architecture is built in Kalinga style of architecture

It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its exquisite architecture and intricate stone carvings

Q.30) Solution (a)

Option a

Correct

Konark Temple wheel:

The Konark wheel was built during the 13th century under the reign of King Narasimhadeva-I.

The wheel with 24 spokes is also adapted into India's national flag embodies India's ancient wisdom, advanced civilisation, and architectural excellence.

The rotating motion of the Konark Wheel symbolises time, Kalachakra as well as progress and continuous change.

It serves as a powerful symbol of the wheel of democracy that reflects the resilience of democratic ideals, and commitment to progress in society.

Key facts about Konark Sun temple

It is located on the eastern shores of the India.

It is the culmination of Kalingan temple architecture, with all its defining elements in complete and perfect form

It was built in 1250 CE by King Narasimhadeva I (r. 1238-1264 CE) of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.

The temple in its present state was declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site in 1984.

The word 'Konark' is a combination of two Sanskrit words kona (corner or angle) and arka (the sun).

It thus implies that the main deity was the sun god, and the temple was built in an angular format.

The temple follows the Kalinga or Orissa style of architecture, which is a subset of the nagara style of Hindu temple architecture.

Context: Konark Wheel replica serves as the backdrop of PM Modi's welcome handshake with G20 leaders.

Q.31) Consider the following statements about International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

It is an independent judicial body established by the 1992 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Members are elected by United Nation General Assembly by secret ballot

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.31) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>It is an independent judicial body established by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.</p> <p>Jurisdiction</p> <p>It has jurisdiction over any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, and over all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement which confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal.</p> <p>Disputes relating to the Convention may concern the delimitation of maritime zones, navigation, conservation and management of the living resources of the sea, protection and preservation of the marine environment and marine scientific research.</p> <p>The Tribunal is open to States Parties to the Convention (i.e. States and international organisations which are parties to the Convention).</p>	<p>Members elected by secret ballot by the States Parties to the Convention.</p> <p>Each State Party may nominate up to two candidates.</p>

Context: Small islands take ocean protection case to UN court

Q.32) Consider the following statements about Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSKs)

VSK is a data repository which will have data from all schemes run by the Ministry of Education. Repository will include regularly updated data from Performance Grading Index and PM-POSHAN.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.32) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSKs) is a data repository which will have data from all schemes run by the Ministry of Education (MoE).</p> <p>The control rooms of this Kendras will collect data to track key performance indicators as well as analyse data collated from govt schemes 'using AI & machine-learning.'</p>	<p>This repository will include regularly updated data from</p> <p>The PM-POSHAN mid-day meal programmes;</p> <p>Teacher training data from National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement portal;</p> <p>Textbook content from Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing;</p> <p>School dropout and attendance-related data on Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+);</p> <p>Students' learning outcomes from National Achievement Survey;</p> <p>Performance Grading Index which evaluates school education system at the State/U.T. level.</p>

Context: Education Ministry asks States to bring all data under one platform

Q.33) Consider the following statements about Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards

It is instituted in the memory of the first Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of 45 years is eligible for the award.

The awardee is provided with the value of Rs 10, 00,000.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.33) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option c
Correct
<p>The award is named after the founder Director of the CSIR India, the late Dr (Sir) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and is known as the 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology'.</p> <p>The award is given each year for outstanding contributions to science and technology.</p>

Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of 45 years is eligible for the award.

Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of 45 years as reckoned on 31st December of the year preceding the year of the Prize is eligible for the award.

The awardees are provided with the value of Rs 5, 00,000 each.

In awarding the Prize, the Governing Body of CSIR is guided by the recommendations of the Advisory Committees constituted with the approval of the Chairman of the Governing body of CSIR.

The Prize is bestowed on a person who, in the opinion of CSIR, has made conspicuously important and outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress both fundamental and applied in the particular field of endeavour.

Context: Recently the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards, 2022 was awarded to 12 persons for their contribution to science and technology in India

Q.34) Consider the following statements about Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights

The 1st ever Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights was held in India.

It is organised by International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

It works to implement Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Choose the correct statements:

1 and 2

2 only

1 and 3

1, 2 and 3

Q.34) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
The first 'Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights' (GSFR) is held at the ICAR Convention Centre in New Delhi.	Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights' (GSFR) Organised by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The Global Symposium is being hosted by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in collaboration with the following: Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Authority,	It aids to discuss issues related to Farmers' Rights as enshrined in Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Article 9 of the Treaty focuses on recognizing, realizing, and promoting Farmers' Rights concerning plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). The Treaty places the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights on national

	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR).	governments and outlines potential measures to safeguard, enhance and achieve these rights. Plant breeder rights and farmer's rights are part of the PPVFR Act 2001 and Section 39 has all provisions for Farmers Rights.
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Context: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the first 'Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights' (GSFR) at the ICAR Convention Centre, National Agricultural Science Centre Complex in New Delhi

Q.35) Moodbidri, a place where unique terracotta figurines were discovered is located which of the following state?

- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Telangana
- Maharashtra

Q.35) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<p>In recent archaeological explorations near Moodbidri, Dakshina Kannada, unique terracotta figurines were discovered (related to the Megalithic Dolmen site). These figurines provide valuable insights into the study of the Bhoota cult or Daiva Aradhane. They are datable to the period of 800-700 B.C. The discovery includes various figurines, such as cow bovines, a mother goddess, peacocks, a horse, and more. Mudbidri is a town and taluk in Dakshina Kannada district. It lies 34 km northeast of the district headquarters, Mangalore, in Karnataka. Because of the widely grown bamboo in ancient days, this place was named Moodabidri.</p>

Context: In recent archaeological explorations near Moodbidri, Dakshina Kannada, unique terracotta figurines were discovered (related to the Megalithic Dolmen site).

Q.36) Consider the following statements about Overnight Index Swap

- It is a derivative instrument where returns under a fixed rate asset are swapped against a pre-determined published index
- The primary purpose of an OIS is to manage interest rate risk.

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
It is a derivative instrument where returns under a fixed rate asset are swapped against a pre-determined published index of a daily overnight reference rate for an agreed period of time. An overnight index swap rate is calculated each day.	The primary purpose of an OIS is to manage interest rate risk, particularly the risk associated with fluctuations in the overnight lending rate. This rate is based on the average interest rate institutions with loans based on the overnight rate have paid for that day.

Context: Overnight index swap rates at 10-month high; government bond yields rise

Q.37) Consider the following statements about Lucy Mission

- It is a 12-year mission which will take close observations of nine of Jupiter's Trojans.
- It is a joint initiative of NASA and ESA
- Trojan asteroids are a group of asteroids that share Jupiter's orbit around the sun.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

Option b
Correct
Dinkinesh asteroid: It was discovered in 1999 by the LINEAR survey. Dinkinesh is a slow rotator with moderately large light-curve amplitude. It is an S-type asteroid means it is composed mainly of silicates and some metal. It will be the first fly-by target of the Lucy mission on 2023 November 1, during its cruise to the Trojan clouds. The observations were made by Lucy's high-resolution camera, the Lucy LOnG Range Reconnaissance Imager (L'LORRI instrument).

Key Facts about Lucy Mission

It was launched by NASA from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida in 2021.

It is a 12-year mission which will take close observations of nine of Jupiter's Trojans and two main belt asteroids along with that.

It is the first spacecraft sent to study the Trojan asteroids, which orbit the Sun in the same path that the planet Jupiter takes.

It has recently captured the images of Eurybates, Polymele, Leucus and Leucus asteroids.

Context: Lucy captures first image of Dinkinesh on its way to ancient asteroids**Q.38) Consider the following statements about India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council**

The council will be headed by the Prime Minister of India and Crown Prince Mohammed.

The council will meet twice in one year.

India is the fourth country with which Saudi Arabia has formed such a strategic partnership, after the UK, France and China.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.38) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis****Option d****Correct**

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held extensive talks, agreeing to expand trade and security ties.

The leaders also co-chaired the first summit-level meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC).

The council will be headed by the Prime Minister of India and Crown Prince Mohammed.

The council will meet twice in one year.

India is the fourth country with which Saudi Arabia has formed such a strategic partnership, after the UK, France and China.

What is the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council?

The pact to establish the SPC was signed during PM Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia in October 2019.

The Strategic Partnership Council essentially aimed to establish a high-level council to steer the Indo-Saudi relationship.

The SPC has two main pillars:

Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation; and

Committee on Economy and Investments.

Both sub-committees have four functional levels of engagements:

Summit level (Prime Minister & Crown Prince);
Ministerial-level;
Senior Officials' Meetings; and
Joint Working Groups (JWGs).

Context: Recently the first summit-level meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was co-chaired by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud and Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Q.39) Consider the following statements about Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF)

It is a state-owned investment fund comprised of money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.

The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) is India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.39) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Sovereign wealth fund – It is a state-owned investment fund comprised of money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.</p> <p>An SWF is used to invest in capital assets such as real estate, metals, stocks, and bonds.</p> <p>SWFs also invest in alternative investments such as private equity funds and hedge funds.</p>	<p>The main objective of the SWFs is to allocate funds for the betterment of the country's economy.</p> <p>India's SWF - The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) is India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund (SWF).</p> <p>The funding for a SWF can come from a variety of sources.</p>

Context: The investments of SWFs in India have seen a steady rise over the past few years.

Q.40) BRSR framework, sometimes seen in news related to?

Guidelines to conserve biodiversity by UNEP

An initiative of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme to assist countries to preserve biodiversity
It encourages listed companies to disclose information related to their environmental, social, and governance performance.

None of the above

Q.40) Solution (c)

Option c**Correct**

BRSR - Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting.

Launched by- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) in 2021.

Predecessor – Business Responsibility Report (BRR), launched in 2012, has evolved into BRSR.

Aim - To encourage listed companies to adopt sustainable business practices and disclose information related to their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance.

Features – It mandates the top 1,000 listed entities (by market capitalisation) to file BRSR as part of the Annual Report with SEBI.

Principle - These listed entities report on their performance against the 9 principles as per 'National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct' (NGBRCs).

Advantages

Increased value creation

Attraction and retention of talent

Stronger brand positioning

Context: IICA and UNICEF jointly organize workshop to provide a comprehensive understanding of the BRSR framework.

Q.41) Consider the following statements about Bhoj wetland

It consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs located in the city of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Recently Keoladeo National Park and Bhoj wetland were added under the Montreux record, maintained under the Ramsar convention.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>It consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs, the upper and lower lakes located in the city of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.</p> <p>The Upper lake is called Bhojtal (Bada Talaab) and Lower Lake is known as Chhota Talaab.</p>	<p>The Montreux record is a register of wetland sites on the list of wetlands of international importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.</p> <p>Currently, 48 sites were listed in the Montreux Record.</p> <p>Indian sites in the like Keoladeo National Park-</p>

The lakes are very rich in biodiversity, particularly for macrophytes, phytoplankton and zooplankton. It has more than 15 kinds of fishes and several vulnerable species including turtles, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates. It is designated as the Ramsar site in 2002.

Rajasthan, Loktak Lake – Manipur are included in Montreux Record.

Context: NGT tells M.P. govt. to stop motorised boats, cruise in wetlands

Q.42) Consider the following statements

SID Platform serves as India's Digital Public Infrastructure for the skill development and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The platform is part of the World Bank-assisted Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) programme.

SANKALP is a programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to with loan assistance from the World Bank to improve short term skill training.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.42) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b

Correct

SID serves as India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the skill development, education, employment and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

SID Platform aims to bring all skilling initiatives under a single umbrella and provide skill development and entrepreneurial support to people.

Built by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with multiple industry players, the platform is part of the World Bank-assisted Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) programme.

The platform aligns with the vision articulated in the G20 framework for building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and the digital economy.

Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion ("SANKALP") is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development with loan assistance from the World Bank. It aims to improve short term skill training qualitatively and quantitatively through strengthening institutions,

bringing in better market connectivity and inclusion of marginalized sections of the society. SANKALP was launched on 19th January 2018 and has a tenure till March 2023.

Context: Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'Skill India Digital' platform for education and employment revolution

Q.43) Consider the following statements about Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR)

It is located at an ecological confluence of the Western and Eastern Ghats.

It is part of the larger Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is surrounded by River Kabini in its north and River Moyar in its south.

Choose the correct statements:

1 and 2

2 and 3

1 and 3

1, 2 and 3

Q.43) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<p>It is situated in two contiguous districts (Mysore and Chamarajanagar) of Karnataka and located at the tri-junction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.</p> <p>Geographically, it is an "ecological confluence" of the Western and Eastern Ghats.</p>	<p>It is part of the larger Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>BTR is surrounded by: Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in the North West (Kabini Reservoir separates the two). Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in the South. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the South West.</p>	<p>Rivers: It is surrounded by River Kabini in its north and River Moyar in its south.</p> <p>Climate: Bandipur has a typical tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons.</p> <p>Flora: It comprises diverse vegetation of dry deciduous to tropical mixed deciduous. It includes rosewood, Indian kino tree, sandalwood, Indian laurel, clumping bamboo and giant clumping bamboo etc.</p> <p>Fauna: It is a shelter for the largest population of wild Asian elephants in South Asia.</p>

		It comprises other mammals such as Bengal tiger, gaur, sloth bear, golden jackal, dhole and four-horned antelope etc.
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Context: Forest Department directs ESZ monitoring committee to take action against illegal cottages in Bandipur Tiger Reserve

Q.44) MotoGP, recently seen in news is?

- An autonomous load-bearing robot developed for the Indian Army.
- The oldest motorsport championship in the world
- India's first polarimetry mission
- World's first powerful AI Supercomputer

Q.44) Solution (b)

Option b
Correct
<p>The MotoGP, or Grand Prix Motorcycle Racing, is the premier motorcycle championship in the world. It is the oldest motorsport championship in the world, with the first-ever annual competition being held in 1949.</p> <p>The governing body for MotoGP is the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM).</p> <p>About MotoGP 2023:</p> <p>The 2023 season has 11 teams and 22 riders - two riders from each team.</p> <p>This season has 21 Grand Prix races in 2023 around the world. One of these locations this season is India.</p> <p>Where is the Moto GP race in India?</p> <p>Moto GP Bharat this year will be hosted at the Buddh International Circuit in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It is a five-kilometre-long track with a width of 12 metres.</p> <p>This track has 16 corners, 8 being left-hand corners and 8 being right-hand corners.</p> <p>The longest straight on this track is 1006 metres.</p>

Context: It was in news

Q.45) Consider the following initiatives

- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)
- eSewa Kendras
- National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP)
- Virtual Courts

How many of the above initiatives are launched under the eCourts Project?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three

All four

Q.45) Solution (d)

Option d

Correct

The eCourts 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 – 2005” submitted by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, with a vision to transform the Indian Judiciary by ICT enablement of Courts.

Ecommittee is a body constituted by the Government of India in pursuance of a proposal received from Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India to constitute an eCommittee to assist him in formulating a National Policy on computerization of the Indian Judiciary and advise on technological communication and management-related changes.

It is a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India for the District Courts across the country.

Major Initiatives Launched under the Project:

Case Information Software (CIS) based on customised Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed.

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a flagship project launched in 2015 for monitoring the pendency and disposal of cases in HCs and Subordinate Courts.

Virtual Courts (as of July 2022, there are 20 Virtual Courts in 16 States/UTs) and using Video Conferencing.

An eFiling system has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with advanced features like online submission of Vakalatnama, eSigning, online video recording of oath, etc.

eSewa Kendras: To make justice delivery inclusive and to mitigate handicaps caused by digital divide, eSewa Kendras have been rolled out to provide e-filing services to lawyers and litigants.

National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been developed for technology-enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 HCs.

Secure, Scalable & Sugamya Website as a Service (S3WAAS) Website: A new divyang- friendly website in 13 regional languages to enable them to access the information using assistive technologies.

IEC and Training: As part of the IEC campaign, several initiatives have been taken to educate the Judicial Officers, lawyers and public about the facilities available.

Context: Cabinet approves third phase of the eCourts project.

Q.46) Consider the following statements about DiCRA platform

DiCRA is a collaborative digital public good which provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate resilient agriculture.

In India NABARD will host and maintain the DiCRA platform and use its key geospatial datasets for policy making with UNEP's technical support.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA) is a collaborative digital public good which provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate resilient agriculture.</p> <p>It is curated by UNDP and partner organizations to inform public investments in agriculture, and already provides intelligence on climate resilience for 50 million hectares of farmland across India.</p> <p>It is guided by the digital public good principles of open access, open software, open code and open APIs.</p> <p>It uses cutting edge data science and machine learning to identify farms that are resilient to climate change and those that are highly vulnerable.</p>	<p>By partnering for enhancing and scaling its use, NABARD will host and maintain the DiCRA platform and use its key geospatial datasets for policy making, research and development activities, with UNDP's technical support.</p> <p>This five-year technical cooperation is envisaged to foster collective climate action, create innovative platforms and new product offerings to enhance economic empowerment in rural India.</p> <p>Such open data innovations can highlight best practices, optimize agriculture investments and shelter populations from risk.</p>

Context: UNDP and NABARD sign MoU to co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture

Q.47) Consider the following statements about Advocate-on-Record (AoR)

The concept of AoR was introduced by the SC with the power given to it under Article 145(1) of the Indian Constitution.

Advocate on record is a title given to an advocate who can represent a cause or pleading before the SC. The Advocate is required to have a prior experience of at least 10 years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.47) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis**

Option b
Correct

The concept of AoR was introduced by the SC with the power given to it under Article 145(1) of the Indian Constitution, which states that the SC may, from time to time, make rules for regulating the practices and procedures in the court.

“Advocate on record” is a title given to an advocate who can represent a cause or pleading before the SC.

Only these advocates are entitled to file any matter or document before the SC. They can also file an appearance or act for a party in the SC.

No other High Court in India has a similar provision.

Order IV rule 5 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 lays down the requirements to be fulfilled to become an AoR. They are as follows:

The Advocate is required to be enrolled with any State Bar Council.

The Advocate is required to have a prior experience of at least 4 years.

The Advocate has undergone a training of 1 year under a senior AoR.

The Advocate has appeared for the examination conducted by the SC.

The Advocate is required to have an office in Delhi within a radius of 10 miles from the SC house and give an undertaking to employ a clerk, who shall be a registered clerk, within one month of being registered as an advocate on record.

Once registered, an AOR is issued a unique identification number that must be used on all documents filed in the SC.

Whether an Advocate is allowed to assist in a matter held before the SC?

An advocate is allowed to assist, brief, collect all documents related to the case and help in the drafting as well.

He can also argue and plead a case with the instructions of an AoR.

Only the filing of a case under his Vakalatnama is restricted.

Context: Supreme Court imposes cost on advocate-on-record for letting a young junior appear without papers

Q.48) Consider the following statements about International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML)

It is an intergovernmental treaty organization that was established in 1955, headquartered at Paris.

It aims to develop model regulations, standards and related documents for use by legal metrology authorities and industry.

India is a member of the organisation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.48) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Option c

Correct

The OIML stands for International Organisation of Legal Metrology. Established in 1955 and headquartered in Paris.

The OIML is an international standard-setting body.

It develops model regulations, standards and related documents for use by legal metrology authorities and industry.

It is an intergovernmental treaty organization that provides mutual recognition systems which reduce trade barriers and costs in a global market.

OIML has 63 Member States.

It plays a crucial role in harmonising national laws and regulations on the performance of measuring instruments such as:

Clinical thermometers

Alcohol breath analysers,

Radar speed measuring instruments,

Ship tanks found at ports and

Petrol dispensing unit.

OIML is a single certificate accepted worldwide.

OIML-CS is a system for issuing, registering and using OIML certificates, and their associated OIML type evaluation/test reports, for instruments like digital balance, clinical thermometers, etc.

With the addition of India, the number of countries authorised to issue OIML certificates has increased to 13.

India

India became a member of the OIML in 1956.

India signed the metric convention in 1956.

India has recently become OIML certificate issuing authority which will help the Indian economy in several ways, including:

Increase in exports,

Earning of foreign exchange and

Generation of employment.

Since only 13 countries are authorised for OIML certification, neighbouring countries and manufacturers can come to India to get their certification done.

Context: India has recently become an OIML certificate-issuing authority which will help the Indian economy in several ways, including an increase in exports, earning of foreign exchange, and generation of employment

Q.49) Consider the following statements National Judicial Data Grid portal (NJDG)

It is the flagship project under the e-Courts project.

It is the national repository of all case related information pertaining to the Supreme Court, High Courts, District and Taluka Courts.

Choose the incorrect statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.49) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>National Judicial Data Grid portal (NJDG) is the national repository of all case related information pertaining to the Supreme Court, High Courts, District and Taluka Courts.</p> <p>NJDG has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in close coordination with the in-house software development team of the Computer Cell, Registry.</p>	<p>It is the flagship project under the e-Courts project. The entire database shall be periodically updated on the NJDG portal.</p> <p>The portal provide access to case related information, statistics such as institution, pendency and disposal of cases, case-types, year-wise break-up of the Supreme Court of India.</p> <p>NJDG is the only website which offers single window access to the entire information relating to cases and Courts starting from the Taluka level Courts to the Apex Court of our country in a searchable manner.</p>

Context: Recently the Supreme Court of India has on boarded the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal that will aid the ease of doing business initiative of the Government of India

Q.50) Harami Nala, a tidal channel recently seen innews is located in which of the following state?

- Maharashtra
- West Bengal
- Odisha
- Gujarat

Q.50) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
<p>Harami Nala is a 22-kilometer tidal channel that serves as a natural boundary between India and Pakistan. The channel carries water and mud and is inhabited by protected marine species. Vast marshy mudflats surround it, with temperatures reaching above 50° Celsius in summer.</p> <p>Sir Creek, originally Ban Ganga, is a 96-km tidal estuary in the uninhabited marshlands of the Indus River Delta on the border between India and Pakistan. The creek flows into the Arabian Sea and separates Gujarat state in India from Sindh province in Pakistan.</p>

Context: Recently, Union Home Minister visited “Harami Nala” in the Sir Creek area of Kutch, Gujarat, along the India-Pakistan international border.

Q.51) Consider the following statements about Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

- It is a multi-disciplinary statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- It was setup in 2003 on the basis of recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee on corporate governance.
- SFIO has powers to arrest people for the violation of the Company law.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.51) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Option c

Correct

It is a multi-disciplinary organization under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

It consists of experts in the fields of accountancy, forensic auditing, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital market and taxation.

Objective: For detecting and prosecuting or recommending for prosecution white-collar crimes and frauds.

History: It was setup in 2003 on the basis of recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee on corporate governance in the backdrop of stock market scams, failure of non-financial banking companies and the phenomena of vanishing companies and plantation companies.

Investigation into the affairs of a company is assigned to SFIO, where the Government is of the opinion that it is necessary to investigate into the affairs of a company-

On receipt of a report of the Registrar or inspector under section 208 of the Companies Act, 2013

On intimation of a special resolution passed by a company that its affairs are required to be investigated

In the public interest or on request from any department of the Central Government or a State Government

Function and Roles:

Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013, has accorded statutory status to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

SFIO also has powers to arrest people for the violation of the Company law.

Context: SFIO arrests chartered accountant for role during demonetisation

Q.52) Consider the following statements about Matsya-6000

It is a manned submersible vehicle developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

It relies only on gravity, water, and lithium-ion batteries for power.

It was developed under the Samudrayaan mission to facilitate humans in the deep ocean in exploring mineral resources.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

Q.52) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis****Option d****Correct**

It is a manned submersible vehicle developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.

It was developed under the Samudrayaan mission to facilitate humans in the deep ocean in exploring mineral resources.

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.

Objectives:

It will look at chemosynthetic biodiversity in hydrothermal vents and low-temperature methane seeps in the ocean.

It will also promote tourism and ocean literacy.

Features:

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.

Made of 80mm-thick titanium alloy, it will be able to withstand a pressure 600 times greater than that at sea level.

It relies only on gravity, water, and lithium-ion batteries for power.

It will also feature the ultra-short baseline acoustic positioning system (USBL). This will allow the mothership carrying the transponder to send information and the submersible to respond, which will then let the mothership know where the submersible is.

This is a flotation device that will rise to the top of the ocean — thus helping to find the submersible even in case it cannot resurface.

Context: India's first manned submersible Matsya-6000 to take a dip in Bay of Bengal**Q.53) Consider the following statements**

The Psyche mission is a journey to a unique metal-rich asteroid orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.

The Outer Space Treaty states that entities can extract and sell resources derived from asteroid for private profit.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.53) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis****Statement 1****Statement 2**

Correct	Correct
<p>The Psyche mission is a journey to a unique metal-rich asteroid orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.</p> <p>What makes the asteroid Psyche unique is that it appears to be the exposed nickel-iron core of an early planet, one of the building blocks of our solar system.</p>	<p>As per the Outer Space Treaty, a state or other legal entity cannot own a planet or space object (such as an asteroid), but such entities can extract and sell resources derived from these objects for private profit.</p>

Context: It was in news.

Q.54) Consider the following statements about Anamudi Shola national park

It is located in the state of Tamil Nadu surrounded by Mathikettan Shola Park and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.

It consists of montane wet temperate forests and moist deciduous forests.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.54) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>It is located in the state of Kerala.</p> <p>It is surrounded by Eravikulam National park, Pampadum Shola National park, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Mathikettan Shola Park.</p> <p>Flora: The place is home to around 174 species of herbs and shrubs, 62 species of trees and around 40 species of climbers of which quite a few of them are endemic.</p>	<p>Vegetation:</p> <p>It consists of southern subtropical hill forests, southern montane wet temperate forests and moist deciduous forests.</p> <p>The unique thing in the dense shola woods that houses a dense patch of stunted trees will be the luxurious presence of lichen, mosses, and climbers.</p> <p>Fauna: Leopards, civet cats, wolves, Indian bison, wild boars, elephants, tigers, Panther, and sloth bears etc.</p>

Context: The eco-restoration project covers the Anamudi Shola National Park area in Munnar with natural grasslands.

Q.55) Liptako-Gourma, recently seen in news belong to which of the following region?

West African region

Central Africam region
 East South American region
 South East Asian region

Q.55) Solution (a)**Option a****Correct****Liptako-Gourma Charter**

The military leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger has recently signed a mutual defence pact, Liptako-Gourma Charter in Mali's capital Bamako.

AES - The Charter established the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

Aim - It aims to establish architecture of collective defence and mutual assistance.

Binding - The charter binds the signatories to assist one another — including militarily — in the event of an attack on any one of them.

It also binds the 3 countries to work to prevent or settle armed rebellions.

Liptako-Gourma Region

The region is the meeting point of the borders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger

Armed rebellion - The region has been ravaged by jihadist insurgency which erupted in northern Mali in 2012 and later spreaded to Niger and Burkina Faso in 2015.

Context: Mali, Niger, Burkina sign mutual defence pact.

Q.56) Consider the following statements about Dhruvastra Missile

It is a long-range surface-to-surface helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system.

The fire and forget missile has a minimum range of 500 metres and a maximum range of 7 kilometres.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
It is a helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system. It is a short-range air-to-surface missile. It was indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).	Features: It is equipped with Imaging Infra Red (IIR) seeker and operates in “lock on before launch” mode. The fire and forget missile has a minimum range of 500 metres and a maximum range of 7 kilometres.

Dhruvastra is the Air Force's version of Helina (Helicopter-launched Nag missile) ATGM.

It can be launched from an altitude of up to 4 kilometres and can hit targets moving at speeds of up to 70 kilometres per hour. The missile can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode. It works in all kinds of weather, during the day or night, and in various types of terrain, such as deserts, plains, hills and forests.

Context: India's Dhruvastra Missile To Provide Precision Strikes Against Enemy Armor

Q.57) Consider the following statements about Rwanda


Rwanda is a landlocked country through which equator passes in the Great Rift Valley of Central Africa. Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Kenya.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.57) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>Rwanda is a landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley of Central Africa, where the African Great Lakes region and Southeast Africa converge. Located a few degrees south of the Equator</p>	<p>Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.</p> 

Context: Rwanda has a high representation of women in its Parliament, with around 61 per cent of Lower House seats occupied by women.

Q.58) Consider the following statements about Kisan Rin Portal

It aims to revolutionize credit services under the Kisan Credit Card.

The portal is developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with Department of Financial Services.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.58) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>The portal helps farmers avail subsidised loans under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).</p> <p>It was developed in collaboration with multiple government departments.</p> <p>It offers a comprehensive view of farmer data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and scheme utilisation progress.</p> <p>It fosters seamless integration with banks for more focused and efficient agriculture credit.</p>	<p>The portal helps farmers avail subsidised loans under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).</p> <p>The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998 to issue KCC to farmers on the basis of their holdings for uniform adoption by the banks so that farmers may use them to readily purchase agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs.</p>

Context: Kisan Rin Portal was launched.

Q.59) The Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme- SHREYAS comprises 4 central sector sub-schemes. Which of the below given schemes are the sub schemes under the SHREYAS scheme

- Prime Minister's Research Fellow Scheme
- National Overseas Scheme for SCs
- The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration
- Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs

Choose the correct code:

- 2 and 4
- 1 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3
- All four

Q.59) Solution (a)**Option a****Correct**

All these sub-schemes are central sector schemes.

Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs:

The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them appear in competitive and entrance examinations for obtaining appropriate jobs in Public/Private Sector as well as for securing admission in reputed technical and professional higher education institutions.

Top Class Education for SCs:

The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education amongst students belonging to SCs, by providing full financial support.

The Scheme will cover SC students for pursuing studies beyond 12th class.

National Overseas Scheme for SCs:

Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to the selected students from SCs, De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisan categories for pursuing masters and Ph.D. level courses abroad.

National Fellowship for SC Students:

Under the scheme fellowship is provided to Scheduled Castes students for pursuing higher education leading to M.Phil/ Ph.D degrees in Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences in Indian Universities/Institutions/ Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC).

PMRF

The scheme was announced in the Budget 2018-19.

To attract the talent pool of the country to doctoral (Ph.D.) programs of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for carrying out research in cutting edge science and technology domains, with focus on national priorities.

SPARC

The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) is a Ministry of Human Resource Development initiative that aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

Context: SHREYAS scheme empowers thousands: over 2300 crore rupees allocated for the education of SC and OBC students since 2014

Q.60) WINDS portal recently seen in news is an initiative of which of the following Ministry?

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
 Ministry of Earth Sciences
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 Ministry of Jal Shakti

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

Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) portal:

It was launched in July, 2023 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to leverage advanced weather data analytics to give stakeholders actionable insight to make informed weather decisions on agriculture.

Crucial weather-related information and data will be available to the farmers through WINDS.

The portal also shares the ministry's parametric crop insurance scheme, along with non-scheme parametric insurance programmes for crop risk mitigation and disaster risk reduction and mitigation being run by the insurance industry.

The WINDS initiative is laying emphasis on setting up a strong network of weather stations.

Through this initiative, the target is to establish a wide network of weather stations at the block and gram panchayat level.

This extensive network of weather stations will enable accurate monitoring of weather patterns, effective planning, risk assessment and timely response to meteorological challenges.

The goal is to bridge the gap in weather information availability and empower decision makers, farmers and stakeholders at the grassroots level.

Context: Govt launches Kisan Rin Portal and weather WINDS manual.

Q.61) Consider the following statements about Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023

The Data Principal has to give written consent to generate and process the data indicating the specific purpose of its use.

Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) will function as an impartial adjudicatory body responsible for resolving privacy-related grievances and disputes between relevant parties.

An appeal against any order of the DPBI shall lie only with the Supreme Court.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

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

The DPDP Act is a legal framework introduced in India to safeguard the personal data of individuals and ensure that their data is shared only with their consent.

Key Stakeholders:

Data Principal (DP): – the data owner.

DP could be individuals or entities whose data is to be protected.

The DP has to give written consent to generate and process the data indicating the specific purpose of its use.

DP can withdraw the consent at any time or can restrict its use.

Data Fiduciary– A data collecting, storing, and sharing entity.

A data fiduciary also acts as a “Consent Manager” who enables a DP to give, manage, review, and withdraw consent through an accessible, transparent, and interoperable platform.

The Central Government may notify any Data Fiduciary or class of Data Fiduciaries as Significant Data Fiduciaries, on the basis of an assessment of relevant factors when they turn out to be systemically significant.

Data Processor–an entity processing the data on behalf of a data fiduciary. Both Data fiduciary and data processor could also be the same in certain small entities.

Data Protection Officer (DPO): – could be any individual appointed as DPO by a Data Fiduciary under the provisions of this Act.

Establishment of a Data Protection Board of India (DPBI):

It will function as an impartial adjudicatory body responsible for resolving privacy-related grievances and disputes between relevant parties.

As an independent regulator, it will possess the authority to ascertain instances of non-compliance with the Act’s provisions and impose penalties accordingly.

The appointment of the chief executive and board members of the Data Protection Board will be carried out by the central government.

An appeal against any order of the DPBI shall lie with the High Court. The High Court could take up any breach Suo moto.

No civil court shall have the jurisdiction to entertain any suit or take any action in respect of any matter under the provisions of this Act and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken under the provisions of this Act.

Context: Entities may be given a year’s time to comply with DPDP Act: Government

Q.62) Consider the following statements about Rafflesia

Statement 1: Rafflesia depend on a host vine called Tetrastigma for nutrients and support.

Statement 2: Rafflesia are parasitic, meaning they do not have leaves, stems, or roots like traditional plants.

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.62) Solution (a)

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

Rafflesia is a genus of parasitic flowering plants native to Southeast Asia.

These plants are renowned for producing the largest individual flowers in the world, both in terms of size and weight.

They are often referred to as "corpse flowers" due to their foul odour.

Distribution: They inhabit specialised localities in the tropical rainforests of Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Peninsular Malaysia, southern Thailand and the Philippines.

There are 42 known species of Rafflesia, and the most famous species within this genus is Rafflesia arnoldii.

Features:

They are massive and can reach up to 3 feet (almost 1 meter) in diameter and weigh up to 7 kg.

Parasitic Lifestyle:

They are parasitic, meaning they do not have leaves, stems, or roots like traditional plants.

Instead, they depend on a host vine called Tetrastigma for nutrients and support.

Rafflesia's only visible part is the flower.

Limited Blooming Period: They have a short blooming period, often lasting only a few days to a week.

Context: It was in news.**Q.63) Consider the following statements about World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)**

It is a global organisation dedicated to enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) is not recognised by the WFME.

Choose the incorrect statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>WFME was established in 1972 as a common platform for agreeing on principles and standards for medical education over the full life cycle of professional activities.</p> <p>WFME is a global organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide.</p> <p>WFME's accreditation program plays a pivotal role in ensuring that medical institutes</p>	<p>The National Medical Commission (NMC), India has been granted the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status for a remarkable tenure of 10 years.</p> <p>The recognition will enhance the quality and standards of medical education in India by aligning them with the global best practices and benchmarks.</p>

meet and uphold the highest international standards of education and training.

The recognition will enable Indian medical graduates to pursue postgraduate training and practice in other countries that require WFME recognition.

Such countries include the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Context: National Medical Commission (NMC), has been granted the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status for 10 years.

Q.64) Consider the following statements about Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) is non-metallic chemical element of the nitrogen family.

The world's largest Phosphorus reserve is in West Australian region.

India is the world's largest importer of phosphorus.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.64) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b

Correct

Phosphorus (P) is non-metallic chemical element of the nitrogen family.

At room temperature, the phosphorous is a colourless, semi-transparent, soft, waxy solid that glows in the dark.

Phosphorus is a component of bones, teeth, DNA and RNA.

The world's largest Phosphorus reserves are in Morocco and the Western Sahara region.

India is the world's largest importer of phosphorus; most of it are imported from the cadmium-laden deposits of West Africa.

Context: India is facing a critical shortage of phosphorus, which is essential for fertilizers but also a major environmental pollutant.

Q.65) Paryushan Parv is a significant festival associated with which of the following religion?

Buddhism

Jainism

Sikhism

Hinduism

Q.65) Solution (b)

Option b**Correct**

Paryushan Parv is a significant festival in Jainism, observed by both Digambara and Shwetambar communities.

It is a time for deep reflection, repentance, and redemption for Jains.

Significance:

Spiritual Significance: Paryushan Parv inspires individuals to cultivate virtuous qualities.

It involves fasting, penance, meditation, and self-reflection, aiming for soul purification and vowing to avoid future transgressions.

It's a time for seeking righteousness and spiritual purity, ultimately aiming for salvation.

Five Duties of Paryushan: These include Samvatsari (forgiveness and reconciliation), Keshlochan (introspection and self-improvement), Pratikraman (seeking forgiveness for past wrongdoings), Penance (commitment to spiritual growth), and self-criticism and apology for past mistakes.

Context: It was in news.

Q.66) Consider the following statements about Fatehpur Sikri

It was founded in 1589 by the great Mughal emperor Akbar.

It is a city predominantly in red sandstone and is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Jama Masjid, Buland Darwaza and Panch Mahal are the notable buildings in the Fatehpur Sikri complex.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

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

It is a city predominantly in red sandstone, situated at a distance of 37 km from Agra, Uttar Pradesh. It was founded in 1569 by the great Mughal emperor Akbar, and from 1571 to 1585, Fatehpur Sikri was the capital of the Mughal Empire.

The Mughal capital was moved to Delhi in 1586 because of Fatehpur Sikri's inadequate water supply. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986.

Architecture:

The structures in Fatehpur Sikri combine elements of Persian, Indian, and Central Asian styles.

The structures are made primarily of red sandstone, which gives the city its distinctive appearance.

It is enclosed by an 11 km long fortification wall interspersed with numerous gateways.

Notable buildings in the complex include:

Jama Masjid: It is home to the Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India. It is known for its imposing structure, graceful arches, and intricately designed prayer hall.

Buland Darwaza: This colossal gateway, also known as the "Gate of Magnificence," is an iconic monument of Fatehpur Sikri. It was built to commemorate Akbar's victorious campaign in Gujarat and is a grand example of Mughal architecture.

Diwan-i-Khas and Diwan-i-Aam: These are two prominent buildings within the complex. The Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience) was where Akbar held private meetings, while the Diwan-i-Aam (Hall of Public Audience) was for conducting public affairs.

Panch Mahal: This five-storied palace is a unique structure with open pavilions on each level. It served as a place for relaxation and entertainment.

Context: It was in news.

Q.67) Consider the following statements about Free Movement Regime

The FMR was implemented in 2014 as part of the Central government's Act East policy.

Under the FMR, all the hill tribes, whether they are citizens of India or Myanmar, can travel within 16 km on either side of the Indo-Myanmar Border.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.67) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>Under the FMR, all the hill tribes, whether they are citizens of India or Myanmar, can travel within 16 km on either side of the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB).</p> <p>The FMR was implemented in 2018 as part of the Central government's Act East policy.</p> <p>FMR is implemented by both governments for the people living along the IMB.</p> <p>This helps locals to get more culturally assimilated with trans-border villages through weddings, celebrating common festivals together and trans-border trade.</p> <p>It is a reflection of the physical, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and fraternal linkages among the trans-border villagers.</p>	<p>Under the FMR, all the hill tribes, whether they are citizens of India or Myanmar, can travel within 16 km on either side of the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB).</p> <p>They can cross the border by producing a border pass with a one-year validity issued by the competent authority and can stay up to two weeks per visit.</p>

Context: Cancel free movement along Myanmar border: Manipur Chief Minister tells Centre

Q.68) Consider the following statements about Hirakud Dam

Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River in the state of Jharkhand.

The dam forms a vast reservoir known as the Hirakud Lake which is the biggest artificial lake in Asia.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.68) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River, about 15 kilometres from Sambalpur in the state of Odisha.</p> <p>It is the longest earthen dam in the world, about 16 miles and around 26 km in length.</p> <p>History:</p> <p>It is one of the first multipurpose projects by India after independence.</p> <p>The construction began in 1948 and was completed in 1953.</p> <p>It was built to control the flow of the Mahanadi River and manage the perennial problem of floods in the region.</p> <p>The inauguration of the dam was done by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the year 1957.</p>	<p>The dam forms a vast reservoir known as the Hirakud Reservoir or Hirakud Lake. It is the biggest artificial lake in Asia.</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>Irrigation facility to 1,08,385 hectares of Rabi crops and 1, 55,635 hectares of Kharif crops of Bolangir, Subarnapur, Bargarh and Sambalpur.</p> <p>The capacity of power generation installed at Hirakud dam is 359.8 MW.</p> <p>More than 436,000 hectors of land in the Mahanadi delta also get irrigated by the water which is released from the powerhouse.</p> <p>The delta area in Cuttack and Puri district of an area of 9500 sq Km also gets flood protection because of the Hirakud Project.</p> <p>Structure:</p> <p>Granite, hard concrete and earth are the most used substances in building the dam.</p> <p>Stretched from the Chandidungri hills on the right to the Lamdungri hills on the left the main structure of Hirakud Dam is about 4.8 km long.</p> <p>About 83400 Sq. Km is the catchments area, and the dam is a composite structure of Concrete, Masonry and Earth.</p>

Context: 16 More Gates Of Odisha's Hirakud Dam Opened; Excess Water Being Released Through 22

Q.69) VB_HmeY_H4907, recently seen in news is related to?

- Pollution-Control Vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- Indigenously developed drug to cure Covid

A Bacteriophage discovered in the Pacific Ocean
An asteroid that contains precious metals

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

It is a new virus discovered nearly 11,000 metres below the surface of the Pacific Ocean. The virus has been understood as a Bacteriophage, which means 'bacteria eater'. It infects halophilic bacteria (bacteria that inhabit environments with high salt concentrations) from the genus Halomonas. Such bacteria are generally found in deep-sea hydrothermal vents. The virus is actually very genetically similar to its host and is a lysogenic phage, meaning that it inserts its genetic material into the bacteria but usually doesn't kill it; instead, both virus and bacteria replicate at the same time.

What are Bacteriophages?

Bacteriophages, also known as phages, are viruses that infect and replicate in bacterial cells.

They also infect the single-celled prokaryotic organisms known as archaea.

They were discovered independently by Frederick W. Twort in Great Britain (1915) and Félix d'Hérelle in France (1917).

They are ubiquitous in the environment and are recognized as the most abundant biological agent on earth.

Context: The New Virus Found In Pacific In Earth's Oceans.

Q.70) Consider the following statements about Nadi Utsav

The initiative aims to create awareness and sensitize people about their ecology and environment.

It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Jal Shakti

It is an attempt to document riverine culture, its tradition, rituals and water wisdom.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.70) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis****Option a****Correct**

This noble initiative 'Nadi Utsav' was conceived by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi to create awareness and sensitize people about their ecology and environment.

'Nadi Utsav' is an attempt to document riverine culture, its tradition, rituals and water wisdom.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture has been organizing the 'Nadi Utsav' on a grand scale for the last few years.

The 'Nadi Utsav' commenced in 2018, with its inaugural event held in Nashik (Maharashtra) city situated on the banks of River Godavri.

Context: The 4th 'Nadi Utsav' is scheduled from September 22nd to September 24th, 2023 to create awareness and sensitize people about their ecology and environment.

Q.71) Consider the following statements about Five Eyes Alliance

It is a Secret agreement that allow secretive intelligence agencies in the alliance countries to spy on the world.

The United Nation Security Council's resolution 1253 is the foundation of the Five Eyes alliance.

USA, UK and France are the members of the Five Eyes Alliance.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.71) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Option a

Correct

In 1946, Five Eyes Alliance was formed between 5 anglophone countries and their security agencies that includes:

The USA (NSA)

The UK (GCHQ)

Australia (ASD)

Canada (CSEC)

New Zealand (GCSB)

It is a Secret agreements that allow secretive intelligence agencies in in the alliance countries to spy on the world.

The alliance comprises series of bilateral agreements on surveillance and intelligence-sharing.

The United Kingdom-United States Communication Intelligence Act (UKUSA Agreement) is the foundation of the Five Eyes alliance.

Though these arrangements are commonly referred UKUSA agreement, the documents underpinning the Five Eyes alliance are numerous, intricate and secret.

Intelligence-sharing agreements have now expanded beyond the Five Eyes to include other states such as:

9 Eyes – The Five Eyes, with the addition of Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Norway.

14 Eyes – The 9 Eyes, with the addition of Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

41 Eyes – All of the above, with the addition of the allied coalition in Afghanistan.

Context: The Five Eyes Alliance has recently informed the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about the Indian government's possible involvement in the killing of Nijjar, a Canadian citizen.

Q.72) Consider the following statements about Sea Urchins

Marine creatures like starfish and sea cucumbers belong to Sea urchins group.
They are herbivorous, primarily feeding on algae and plant material.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Sea urchins belong to a group of marine invertebrates called echinoderms, which means spiny-skinned animals.</p> <p>It includes other well-known marine creatures like starfish and sea cucumbers.</p> <p>Sea urchins are characterized by their spherical to somewhat flattened, spiny bodies, and they are found in oceans worldwide, from shallow coastal waters to deep-sea environments.</p> <p>They live on the ocean floor, usually on hard surfaces, and use tube feet or spines to move about.</p> <p>The largest urchin (known from a single specimen) is <i>Sperostoma giganteum</i> of deep waters off Japan.</p>	<p>Features:</p> <p>They have a globular body and a radial arrangement of organs, shown by five bands of pores running from mouth to anus over the test (internal skeleton).</p> <p>The pores accommodate tube feet, which are slender, extensible, and often sucker-tipped.</p> <p>They have a hard exoskeleton, or test, made up of interlocking plates or ossicles, which are often covered with movable spines.</p> <p>From nodules on the test arise long, movable spines and pedicellariae (pincerlike organs); these structures may have poison glands.</p> <p>Feeding:</p> <p>They are herbivorous, primarily feeding on algae and plant material.</p> <p>They use their specialized mouthparts, called Aristotle's lantern, to scrape algae and other food sources from rocks or the seafloor.</p>

Context: Red Sea corals threatened by mystery sea urchin deaths

Q.73) Consider the following statements

He/she is exempted from registration with the Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer for any length of stay in India.

He/she can become a member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of the Parliament of India.

Government of India has conferred political rights to vote to OCI cardholder.

Which of the above give entitlements is/are given to the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.73) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Option a

Correct

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI):

It is given to overseas Indians.

OCI Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, in August 2005.

It provides long-term visa-free travel and stay in India and gives the cardholders a host of privileges normally not given to a foreign national.

Who is eligible for an OCI card? As per the ministry's statement, a foreign national -

who was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after 26 January, 1950;

who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January, 1950;

who belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947; who is a child or a grandchild or a great-grandchild of such a citizen;

who is a minor child of such persons mentioned above;

who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India - is eligible for registration as an OCI cardholder.

Entitlements:

A registered OCI is granted multiple entry, multipurpose, life-long visa for visiting India.

He/she is exempted from registration with the Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer for any length of stay in India.

He/she is entitled to general 'parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

OCI cardholder is NOT entitled to:

OCI is not to be misconstrued as 'dual citizenship'. OCI does not confer political rights to vote;

to be a member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of the Parliament of India;

to hold Indian constitutional posts such as that of the President, Vice President, Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court etc.;

He/she cannot normally hold employment in the Government;

to undertake any Missionary work, Mountaineering and Journalism work without prior permission of the Govt. of India;

OCI cardholder shall also require Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit any place which falls within the Protected/Restricted Area notified by the Government as in the case of any other foreigner.

Context: As Centre plans to cancel OCI cards

Q.74) Kole wetland, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state of India?

- Kerala
- Gujarat
- Madhya Pradesh
- Jharkhand

Q.74) Solution (a)

Option a

Correct

It is an internationally important Ramsar site of high value biodiversity situated in Kerala. The wetland gets its name from its high productivity Kole literally translates to bumper crop in Malayalam. It contributes to 40% of rice production in the state. It is one of the largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem on the southwest coast of India. The wetlands are fed by 10 rivers and is a typical large estuarine systems on the western coast. One of the specialties of this wetland cultivation is its dewatering scheme. Each year, before the season starts, all farming clusters, known as padasekharams, have to follow dewater their land before sowing. This collaborative ritual or kootaima reeti is what protects Kole as a wetland.

Cabomba furcuta

Cabomba furcuta is a species of aquatic plant in the water and is popularly called as Pink Bloom. The submerged perennial aquatic plant grows in stagnant to slow-flowing freshwater. Threats - Due its massive flowering, has been a new threat to the kole fields, in addition to water hyacinth and Salvinia molesta. It is a visual treat and a potential outspread in water bodies by active stem propagation, hindering penetration of light into the water.

Context: Kole wetlands of Kerala face threat of alien plants recently.

Q.75) Consider the following statements

South China Sea is bordered by China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Malaysia.
It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Bass Strait with the Philippine Sea.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.75) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>It is an arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.</p> <p>Boundaries: It is bordered by China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam.</p> <p>The South China Sea and the East China Sea together form the China Sea.</p> <p>The two major archipelagos are known as the Paracel Islands, controlled by China, and the Spratly Islands.</p>	<p>It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).</p> <p>Climate: Weather in the sea is tropical and largely controlled by monsoons.</p> <p>It is the second most used sea lane in the world. It is a significant trade route for crude oil from the Persian Gulf and Africa through the Strait of Malacca to Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.</p> <p>Major Ports: Hong Kong, Singapore, and Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan.</p>

Context: Philippines accuse China of installing 'floating barrier' in South China Sea.

Q.76) Consider the following statements about Global Fund

It is a worldwide movement to defeat HIV, TB and malaria.

It is a joint initiative of WHO and UNDP.

The Global Fund raises funds on a 3-year cycle, bringing longer term predictability in the fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All Three

None

Q.76) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b
Correct
<p>The Global Fund is a worldwide movement to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all.</p> <p>The Global Fund pools the world's resources to invest in ending AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.</p> <p>It is a partnership of governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.</p> <p>The Global Fund raises funds on a 3 year cycle, bringing longer term predictability in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria.</p> <p>The fund provides the advanced pill known as TLD for under 45 USD per person per year.</p>

Context: Recently the Global Fund announced a deal with generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to significantly slash the price of a cutting-edge HIV drug to save lives of the people.

Q.77) Consider the following statements about Kakapo (owl parrot)

- It is a large, nocturnal and flightless parrot.
- It is found only in Arunachal Pradesh state of India.
- It is listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN Red List.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

Q.77) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b
Correct
<p>It is a large, nocturnal, flightless, lek-breeding parrot</p> <p>Appearance:</p> <p>It has a pale owl-like face.</p> <p>It consists moss green mottled with yellow and black above, and similar but more yellow below.</p> <p>The bill is grey, and the legs and feet grey with pale soles.</p> <p>These are remarkable and unusual birds, found only in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>They only breed every few years, triggered by the availability of certain forest foods such as the fruits of the native rimu tree.</p> <p>Threats:</p> <p>This bird suffers from diseases such as the fungal infection aspergillosis and many of their eggs are infertile.</p> <p>Conservation status</p> <p>IUCN: Critically Endangered</p> <p>A lek is an aggregation of males that gather to engage in competitive displays that may entice visiting females who are surveying prospective partners for copulation.</p> <p>Aspergillosis is a group of fungal infections caused by the Aspergillus species. These fungi are commonly found in the environment, particularly in soil, decaying vegetation, and compost piles.</p>

Context: The genetic mapping of almost the entire kākāpō population has shed new light on specific traits that will help conservation biologists in their efforts to save the critically endangered flightless night parrots.

Q.78) Consider the following statements about Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess

- It was introduced in the Union Budget 2020-21.

It is a tax that the government imposes on the commercial production of agricultural produce.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.78) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b
Correct
<p>It was introduced in the Union Budget 2021-22. It is a tax that the government imposes on the commercial production of agricultural produce. The cess is imposed at a specific rate on the value of these goods. Purpose: The primary objective of AIDC is to provide financial support for the development of agricultural infrastructure in India. The funds collected through this cess will be utilized for the creation and maintenance of agricultural infrastructure such as cold storage facilities, warehouses, and market yards. It aims to enhance the overall efficiency of the agricultural sector and improve farmers' income. Collection: The AIDC is collected by the government at the point of sale or import of the applicable goods.</p>

Context: Government Exempts LPG Imports From Agriculture Cess

Q.79) Consider the following statements

Statement I - Stem cell therapies is used to treat inflammatory and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Statement II - Stem cells is characterized by their self-renewal capacity and ability to differentiate into various cell types.

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.79) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Option d**Correct**

Stem cell therapy is a form of regenerative medicine designed to repair damaged cells within the body by reducing inflammation and modulating the immune system.

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is the most common U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved stem cell-based therapy which treats blood cancers like leukaemia.

Stem cells can also be regenerative therapy for severe skin burns and seriously damaged corneas.

Stem cell therapy, a type of regenerative medicine, utilizes stem cells or their derivatives to stimulate the body's own healing processes and repair damaged, diseased or injured tissue.

Stem cell therapy to treat autism is very much at an experimental stage and currently there is no cure for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Stem cells is characterized by their self-renewal capacity and ability to differentiate into various cell types, hold immense potential in the field of regenerative medicine and medical research.

Context: Recently the Delhi High Court permitted two children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to undergo stem cell therapy for treatment of their condition.

Q.80) Pulikkali, the folk art form recently seen in news, belong to which of the following state?

Odisha

Jharkhand

Kerala

West Bengal

Q.80) Solution (c)

Option c**Correct**

Pulikkali (Tiger Dance) is one among the folk art forms of Kerala.

On the fourth day of Onam festival, artists paint their bodies like tigers with stripes of yellow, red and black and dance to the rhythm of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda.

The Swaraj Ground in Thrissur district plays host to this carnival that has people appearing in various unique hues and masks.

The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.

It was introduced by the erstwhile ruler of Cochin, Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran.

Context: Thrissur rocks to the rhythm of Pulikkali.

Q.81) Consider the following statements

Ozone is both a natural and a man-made product that occurs in the Earth's upper and lower atmosphere. Ground-level ozone is formed primarily from photochemical reactions between volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides.

Kyoto Protocol aims to phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons which are used as replacements for ozone-depleting substances.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

Q.81) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Option b

Correct

World Ozone Day, or International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone layer, is observed annually on September 16.

The theme for World Ozone Day 2023 is “Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change”

What is the Montreal Protocol?

It is an international treaty that aimed to phase out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, primarily chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride, and other chemicals.

These substances were commonly used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and aerosol propellants.

Kigali Agreement:

It is an amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

It was adopted on October 15, 2016, in Kigali, Rwanda, as an extension of the Montreal Protocol.

While the original Montreal Protocol focused on phasing out ozone-depleting substances, the Kigali Amendment addresses the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are used as replacements for those ozone-depleting substances.

The primary goal of the Kigali Amendment is to reduce the production and consumption of HFCs, with the aim of mitigating their contribution to global warming.

What is Ozone?

Ozone is a gas made up of three oxygen atoms (O₃).

It is both a natural and a man-made product that occurs in the Earth's upper atmosphere (the stratosphere) and lower atmosphere (the troposphere).

Ozone in the stratosphere, known as the “ozone layer,” occurs naturally and forms a protective barrier that prevents ultraviolet sunlight (UV-B) radiation from the sun from reaching the Earth's surface and harming plant and animal life. This is commonly referred to as “good ozone.”

Tropospheric or ground-level ozone – what we breathe – is formed primarily from photochemical reactions between two major classes of air pollutants, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

At ground level, high concentrations of ozone are toxic to people and plants.

Context: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrates 29th World Ozone Day

Q.82) Consider the following statements about Santiniketan

It was established in 1901 by Rabindranath Tagore in West Bengal.

In 1921, a world university was established at Santiniketan, later recognised as 'Visva Bharati'.

Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan is the only central university in India which has Prime Minister as its chancellor.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

- Only one
- Only two
- All Three
- None

Q.82) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Option d
Correct
<p>About Santiniketan</p> <p>It is located in the state of West Bengal.</p> <p>It was established in 1901 by Rabindranath Tagore.</p> <p>It was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions.</p> <p>In 1921, a 'world university' was established at Santiniketan, later recognised as 'Visva Bharati'.</p> <p>Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan is only central university whose chancellor is the Prime Minister.</p> <p>It is distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism.</p> <p>It represents approaches toward pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region.</p>

Context: Tagore's home Santiniketan added to UNESCO World Heritage List

Q.83) With reference to Pralay Ballistic Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- It is a quasi-ballistic surface-to-air missile.
- It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads about 3500 km away.

Choose the correct code:

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

Q.83) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
It is a quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile.	Range: It can hit targets 150-500 km away.

It is developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO)
It is powered by a solid propellant rocket motor and other new technologies.

Capacity: The missile can carry 350-700 kg of high-grade explosives.
The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation and integrated avionics.
It can change its path after covering a certain range in mid-air.

Context: Defence ministry clears proposal to buy Pralay ballistic missiles for Army

Q.84) UPAg Portal, recently seen in news is an initiative of which of the following Ministry?

- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Ministry of Labour & Employment

Q.84) Solution (c)

Option c

Correct

It is a platform designed to generate crop estimates and is integrated with other systems generating agriculture statistics such as price, trade, procurement, stock.

It is a crucial component of the Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture.

Initiative by - Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Objective – To streamline and enhance data management in the agricultural domain.

Key Features

Data Standardization – It consolidates data from various sources into a standardized format for easier access and understanding.

Data Analysis – It offers insights such as production trends and consumption patterns for making informed decisions.

Granular Production Estimates – It improves the government's ability to respond to agricultural crises swiftly.

Commodity Profile Reports – The reports will be produced using algorithms, and provides users with comprehensive insights.

Plug and Play – Users will have the flexibility to use the portal's data to prepare their own reports, promoting data-driven decision-making.

Context: The Centre launched the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg) to address the complex governance challenges India's farm sector is facing now.

Q.85) Consider the following statements about Samudra Prahari

It is an Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) specially designed for pollution control.

It is equipped with the most advanced pollution Response and Control equipment for mitigating oil spills in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

- 2 only
Both 1 and 2
Neither 1 nor 2

Q.85) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>It is an Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) specially designed for pollution control.</p> <p>It is the first pollution control vessel of its kind in South East Asia.</p>	<p>It is equipped with the most advanced pollution Response and Control equipment for mitigating oil spills in the Exclusive Economic Zone.</p> <p>It has tanks and inflatable barges for storage of oil spills.</p> <p>The ship is capable of unhindered oil recovery operations with a storage capacity of 500 KL.</p> <p>The vessel is designed to operate a twin-engine Advanced Light Helicopter and to operate and embark Chetak helicopter.</p> <p>Special features include an integrated platform management system, power management system, high power external fire fighting system and one indigenous gun mount with fire fighting system.</p> <p>The ship has unmanned machinery operation capability.</p>

Context: Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Prahari Deployed To Fight Marine Pollution In ASEAN Region.

Q.86) Consider the following with respect to 'Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):'

- It is an independent intergovernmental body established at COP 21.
- It provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems.
- It is not a United Nations body

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.86) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct

It is an independent intergovernmental body established in 2012.	It provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people, as well as the tools and methods to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets.	It is not a United Nations body. However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
This independent body inspired by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.		
India is a member country of this organization		

Context: Invasive alien species in focus at 10th plenary of IPBES

Q.87) With reference to 'Millennium Challenge Corporation', consider the following statements

Statement 1- MCC is an agency of UNEP that has the goal of reducing pollution in developing countries.
Statement 2 – It was created by the U.S. Congress in 2004 to promote economic growth, open markets, and increased living standards in select countries.

.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.87) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

About Millennium Challenge Corporation

MCC is an independent U.S. foreign assistance agency that has the goal of reducing poverty in developing countries.

It was created by the U.S. Congress in 2004 to promote economic growth, open markets, and increased living standards in select countries.

How does it work?

MCC forms partnerships with countries that are committed to good governance, economic freedom and investing in their citizens.

MCC provides selected countries with large-scale grants to fund projects for reducing poverty through sustainable economic growth.

These projects include building infrastructure, reforming institutions, and promoting access to healthcare and education.

MCC grants may complement other U.S. and international development programs.

Governing Body: The US Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the USAID Administrator serve on the MCC board along with four private sector representatives.

Context: Formal implementation of multi-million US Dollar MCC pact begins in Nepal

Q.88) With reference to 'Super Blue Moon', consider the following statements

It is the convergence of three lunar occurrences- a full moon, a Super moon and Blue moon

Super moon happens when the moon is passing through or is close to apogee and is also full moon.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.88) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
It is the convergence of three lunar occurrences- a full moon, a Super moon and Blue moon	Super moon happens when the moon is passing through or is close to perigee and is also full moon.
Blue moon refers to the second full moon within a single month a rare event since full moons typically occur once a month	

Context: Last Super Blue Moon until 2037 lights up skies around the world

Q.89) 'Project 17A' which was recently in news is related to

Frigates

Submarines

Artillery

Aircraft carrier

Q.89) Solution (a)

What is Project 17A?

The project was launched by the defense forces of India to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates.

Under the Project 17A programme, four ships by Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) are being built.

These warships follow the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class) and boast enhanced stealth features, advanced weapons, sensors, and platform management systems.

Project 17A ships have been designed in-house by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau WDB.

As much as 75% of the orders for equipment and systems of Project 17A ships are from indigenous firms, including MSMEs.

The first six ships of the project have been launched so far by MDL & GRSE, between 2019-2023.

About Mahendragiri Frigate

It is the seventh and last stealth frigate of Project 17A Frigates.

It is named after a mountain peak in Eastern Ghats located in Odisha.

The ship is being built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.

Context: Mahendragiri, India's new warship, to be launched in Mumbai on September 1

Q.90) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Red Sand Boa'

It is a non-venomous species found throughout the dry parts of the Indian subcontinent

It is viviparous and nocturnal and spends the majority of its time under the ground.

It is Endangered in IUCN red list

Select the correct statement(s)

Only one

Only two

All the above

None

Q.90) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>Red Sand Boa (<i>Eryx johnii</i>) is a species in the subfamily Erycinae of the family Boidae.</p> <p>It is commonly called the Indian Sand Boa, is a non-venomous species found throughout the dry parts of the Indian subcontinent.</p> <p>Distribution: The species is endemic to Iran, Pakistan, and India.</p>	<p>It is ovoviviparous and nocturnal and spends the majority of its time under the ground.</p> <p>Appearance: It is a primarily reddish-brown and thick-set snake that grows to an average length of 75 cm.</p> <p>Unlike most snakes, the tail is almost as thick as the body and gives the</p>	<p>Conservation Status IUCN: Near Threatened Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule IV CITES: Appendix II</p>

	reptile the appearance of being "double-headed"	
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Context: 172 incidents of seizures of red sand boa recorded from 2016 to 2021: WCS-India report

Q.91) Consider the following with respect to 'Fin Whales:'

It is the second largest mammal in the world after blue whale.

They inhabit the tropical zones of all major oceans and open seas.

It is Endangered in IUCN red list

Select the correct statement(s)

1 only

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

All the above

Q.91) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>Next to the blue whale, the fin whale is the second largest mammal in the world.</p> <p>It gets its name from an easy-to-spot fin on its back, near its tail.</p> <p>It is the fastest swimming of the large whales, known as the greyhound of the seas.</p>	<p>Distribution: They inhabit the temperate and polar zones of all major oceans and open seas and, less commonly, in tropical oceans and seas.</p> <p>Some populations are migratory, moving into colder waters during the spring and summer months to feed. In autumn, they return to temperate or tropical oceans.</p>	<p>Lifespan: They can live for 80 to 90 years.</p> <p>Females are slightly longer than males.</p> <p>Conservation Status: IUCN Red List: Vulnerable</p>

Context: Iceland resumes fin whale hunting, but killing needs to be faster

Q.92) With reference to 'The International Solar Alliance (ISA)', consider the following statements

Statement 1- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a member-driven platform promoting solar energy deployment to enhance energy access, security, and transition in member countries.

Statement 2- ISA's 'Towards 1000' strategy targets \$1,000 billion in solar investments by 2030, providing clean energy to 1 billion people and installing 1,000 GW of solar capacity to reduce global CO2 emissions by 1 billion tonnes annually.

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.92) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

About The International Solar Alliance (ISA)

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a member-driven platform promoting solar energy deployment for energy access, security, and transition. Focused on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

ISA's 'Towards 1000' strategy seeks \$1 trillion in solar investments by 2030, providing clean energy to 1 billion people and installing 1,000 GW of solar capacity, reducing global solar emissions by 1 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually.

ISA uses a programmatic approach with 9 comprehensive programs and prioritizes Analytics & Advocacy, Capacity Building, and Programmatic Support. Originating from a joint effort by India and France during COP21 in 2015, ISA has expanded to include all UN member states, with 116 countries as signatories and 94 as full members as of 2020.

Context: Recently, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held its 5th regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.

Q.93) With reference to 'Kokborok Language', consider the following statements

It is the language spoken by people belonging to Manipur

It is one of the official language of Manipur.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.93) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect

It is the language spoken by the Borok people belonging to Tripura,	Doulot Ahammad wrote the first Kokborok Grammar in 1897
Borok are branch of Boro people of Assam belonging to Sino-Tibetian linguistic and racially Mongoloids	It is one of the state languages of Tripura.
Kokborok belong to Tibeto-Burman family and has close affinity with other language family like Bodo, Garo, Dimasa etc	It is declared as official language of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

Context: Over 260 detained during Tripura students' strike demanding Roman script for Kokborok

Q.94) 'Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary' which was recently in news is located in

- Chhattisgarh
- West Bengal
- Rajasthan
- Jharkhand

Q.94) Solution (a)

About Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary

Location: It is situated in the Kawardha district of Chhattisgarh.

It is named after the famous 11th- century Bhoramdeo Temple situated near the Sanctuary.

It shares a border with Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh, making it an important tiger habitat in central India.

Size: The sanctuary covers an area of approximately 325 square kilometers (125 square miles).

Rivers: This wildlife sanctuary is the origin of the Fen and Sankari rivers.

Landscape: The sanctuary is characterized by its lush green forests, rolling hills, and the Maikal Range of the Satpura Hills.

Vegetation: It offers a mix of dense forests and open grasslands.

Flora: The main species of plants in the Sanctuary include sal, saja, tinsa, kara and haldu.

Fauna: It is home to a variety of wildlife species, including tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, sambar deer, barking deer, chital (spotted deer), gaur (Indian bison), and various species of birds and reptiles.

Context: Chhattisgarh HC dismisses plea seeking tiger reserve status for Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.95) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP3)'

Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP3) is located in Gujarat

KAPP-3 is the country's first 700 MWe unit and the biggest indigenously developed variant of the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).

It uses Plutonium as fuel and heavy water as moderator.

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.95) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 2
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<p>The third unit of the indigenously developed 700-megawatt electric (MWe) nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP3) in Gujarat has commenced operations at full capacity.</p> <p>This comes a little over three years since the unit achieved its 'first criticality' – a technical term that signifies the initiation of a controlled, but sustained nuclear fission reaction – in July 2020. On June 30 this year, the unit had started commercial operations.</p>	<p>KAPP-3 is the country's first 700 MWe unit and the biggest indigenously developed variant of the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).. Till now, the biggest reactor of indigenous design was the 540 MWe PHWR, two of which have been deployed in Tarapur, Maharashtra</p>	<p>It uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator, constitute the mainstay of India's nuclear power fleet</p>

Context: Largest indigenously developed N-plant unit in Gujarat starts ops at full capacity

Q.96) Consider the following with respect to 'One Future Alliance' (OFA)'

It is an initiative of India and UNEP.

It is a part of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) partnership.

It enables countries to innovate using existing open-source customizable stacks for their own and the world's future.

Select the correct statement(s)

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
<p>One Future Alliance' (OFA)</p> <p>It is a voluntary initiative proposed by the G20 India Presidency with support from UNDP and its knowledge partners.</p> <p>It aims to unite governments, the private sector, academia, donor agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders to enhance global efforts in the DPI ecosystem.</p>	<p>Digital public infrastructure (DPI) is a shared means to many ends. It is a critical enabler of digital transformation and is helping to improve public service delivery at scale.</p> <p>At the 77th UN General Assembly, countries pledged to share digital resources and best practices for the Global Goals, while funders dedicated \$295 million to enhance inclusive digital infrastructure.</p>	<p>Countries can leverage existing open-source customizable stacks to innovate and adapt them for their own needs and for the benefit of the world.</p> <p>The event was attended by representatives of 15 countries and international experts working in areas of digital governance</p>

Context: India to share its digital success stories under One Future Alliance**Q.97) With reference to 'White Label ATMs', consider the following statements**

Statement 1- RBI has allowed White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) to buy wholesale cash from the RBI and currency chests.

Statement 2- By allowing WLAO to source cash directly from RBI, will encourage more WLATM to be opened across the country, thereby leading to deepening of financial inclusion

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.97) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

In order to enhance the viability of White Label ATMs (WLAs), the RBI has allowed White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) to buy wholesale cash from the RBI and currency chests.

This will provide the functionality to WLATMs, as they are cash-starved because the banks used to give preference to the ATMs deployed by them.

Until now cash Management at the WLAs was the responsibility of the Sponsor Bank.

By allowing WLAO to source cash directly from RBI, will encourage more WLATM to be opened across the country, thereby leading to deepening of financial inclusion

White-Label ATMs

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called "White Label ATMs" (WLAs).

Non-bank entities incorporated in India under the Companies Act 1956 are allowed to operate WLAs. In September 2015, Government permitted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), up to 100%, under the automatic route.

Non-bank entities are permitted to set up WLAs in India, after obtaining authorization from RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act 2007.

Such non-bank entities should have a minimum net worth of Rs 100 crore.

Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited (TCPSL) was the first company authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open White Label ATMs in the country. It got launched under the brand name 'Indicash'.

White Label ATMs are like normal ATM. However, cash deposit or cash acceptance facility is not permitted at the WLA. The difference is this ATM machine does not have any branding of Bank. These machines are usually deployed by NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Institutions).

The basic idea about White Label ATM is to increase the geographical spread of ATM to enhance financial inclusion.

Context: Hitachi Payment Services in collaboration with NPCI recently launched India's first UPI ATM.

Q.98) With reference to 'Crypto asset in India' consider the following statements

There is currently no regulation or ban on crypto currencies in India.

Under Union budget 2022-23, a 30% tax was imposed on any income from the transfer of Virtual digital assets.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.98) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Crypto assets are a digital representation of value that you can transfer, store, or trade	According to Finance Act, "virtual digital asset mean any information or code or number or token (not being Indian currency or foreign currency),

electronically. This also includes non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

Crypto assets are a subset of digital assets that use cryptography to protect digital data and distributed ledger technology to record transactions. They may run on their own blockchain or use an existing platform such as Ethereum. A blockchain is a form of secure digital ledger used to store a record of crypto transactions.

Crypto currency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021 introduced.

Under this, a plan to ban private digital currencies favors RBI backed currency. A 3-6 month exit period prior to banning the trading, mining and issuing of cryptos.

Finally, Crypto currencies, though unregulated, are not illegal in India.

generated through cryptographic means or otherwise, by whatever name called, providing a digital representation of value exchanged with or without consideration, with the promise or representation of having inherent value, or functions as a store of value or a unit of account including its use in any financial transaction or investment, but not limited ..

Under Union budget 2022-23, a 30% tax was imposed on any income from the transfer of Virtual digital assets.

TDS will be imposed on payments for the transfer of crypto assets at a rate of 1% for transactions over a certain threshold. Furthermore, gifts of crypto assets will be taxed in the recipient's hands. With effect from April 1, 2023, the 115BBH sections on income from virtual digital assets will be introduced.

Context: G20 could pave way for crypto regulation, financial inclusion push

Q.99) Justice Amitvaroy Committee' which was recently in news is related to

- Prison reforms
- Criminal Justice System
- Police reforms
- Election reforms

Q.99) Solution (a)

Amitava Roy Committee (Prison Reforms)

The Supreme Court has formed a Committee on Prison Reforms chaired by former apex court judge, Justice Amitava Roy, to examine the various problems plaguing prisons in the country, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.

Terms of reference:

Apart from the above four issues, committee will comprehensively examine and respond to the dire necessity of reforms in prisons.

Committee to examine the extent of overcrowding in prisons and correctional homes and recommend remedial measures, including an examination of the functioning of Under Trial Review Committees, availability of legal aid and advice, grant of remission, parole and furlough.

The panel would also probe the reasons for violence in prisons and correctional homes and recommend preventive measures.

Context: Supreme Court sought the views of the Centre and the states on the Justice Amitava Roy Committee report submitted on December 27, 2022, underlining that the correctional justice system is "evidently gender exclusionary".

Q.100) Consider the following statements with respect to teachers training in India

Malaviya Mission focus on various themes identified for course curriculum/content for capacity building of faculty members at elementary stage.

NISHTHA aims to build competencies among faculty members at the higher educational institutions.

Select the correct statement(s)

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.100) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>Malaviya Mission - Teacher Training Programme is organized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), in association with the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>The two-week online programme shall focus on various themes identified for course curriculum/content for capacity building of faculty members at higher educational institutions.</p> <p>Significance</p> <p>The programme shall help develop innovative teaching methods and high-level institutional facilities in all the constituent areas of higher education.</p> <p>It aims to improve the quality of teachers training, build leadership skills in teachers and help realize the goals of National Education Policy (NEP).</p>	<p>NISHTHA is a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2019-20.</p> <p>It has been launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy.</p> <p>It is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".</p> <p>It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage. It is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind.</p>

Context: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches the Malaviya Mission - Teachers Training Programme by University Grants Commission

Q.101) Consider the following with respect to 'ciTRAN'

It is a RNA molecule in living cells that carries genetic information and protein production.

Unlike DNA, RNA is most often single-stranded.

While most RNAs forms a closed-loop, ciTRAN have a linear structure with free ends.

Select the correct statement(s)

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 3 only

All the above

Q.101) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
It is a molecule in living cells that carries genetic information and helps in production of proteins. Its role in HIV-1 replication has remained unclear for a long time.	Unlike DNA, however, RNA is most often single-stranded.	While most RNAs have a linear structure with free ends, a unique type known as circular RNA (circRNA) forms a closed-loop.

Context: Recently, the researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Bhopal have identified a Circular RNA virus, ciTRAN.

Q.102) With reference to 'Compulsory licensing', consider the following statements

Statement 1- Compulsory licensing is government permission for entities to utilize, make, import, or sell a patented invention without the patent owner's consent.

Statement 2- Compulsory licensing is issued in the event of a national emergency, severe urgency, or public non-commercial usage

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

Compulsory licenses are permissions granted by the Controller General to a third party to manufacture, use, or sell a patented product or process without the approval of the patent owner.

This idea is recognized at both the national and international levels, with the Indian Patent Act, 1970 and the TRIPS Agreement specifically mentioning it.

According to Section 84, any person, regardless of whether he is the holder of the patent's license, can apply to the Controller for a compulsory license after three years if any of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The reasonable requirements of the public with respect to the patented invention have not been satisfied
- The patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonably affordable price
- The patented invention is not worked in the territory of India.

Compulsory licenses on notifications by Central Government (Section 92)

If the Central Government determines that compulsory licenses must be granted at any time after the patent is sealed to work the invention in the event of a national emergency, severe urgency, or public non-commercial usage, it may make a declaration in the Official Gazette to that effect.

Context: Central government released The Draft Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2023.

Q.103) With reference to 'Amazon Future Engineer Programme' consider the following statements

It is a computer science and STEM education program that seeks to afford all young people the opportunity to explore their potential.

The Programme has been launched by Ministry of Education to train tribal students in advanced coding and Artificial Intelligence.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

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

Q.103) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Amazon Future Engineer is a computer science and STEM education program that seeks to afford all young people the opportunity to explore their potential. The Programme has been launched to train tribal students in advanced coding and Artificial Intelligence.	National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, launched the Phase II of the 'Amazon Future Engineer Programme' in 54 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).

The three-day in-person teachers training workshop has been inaugurated along with the EMRS Coders Expo.

The expo is an exhibition of the top 20 Coding Projects.

The second phase of the programme would include an Advanced Block Programming and Artificial Intelligence curriculum.

Need of the Programme

Context: National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, launched the Phase II of the 'Amazon Future Engineer Programme'.

Q.104) 'Justice Gita Mittal Committee' which was recently in news is related to

- Prison reforms
- Women reservation
- Manipur violence
- Election reforms

Q.104) Solution (c)

Justice Gita Mittal Committee

It was constituted by the Supreme Court of India to intervene and monitor relief and rehabilitation, and restoration of homesteads, religious places of worship, and to oversee relief and rehabilitation of victims of violence in Manipur.

It is a three member committee, headed by former Jammu and Kashmir high court Chief Justice Gita Mittal. It has Justices Shalini Phansalkar Joshi and Asha Menon, as other two members.

Context: Justice Geeta Mittal, appointed by SC to oversee Manipur violence relief and probe

Q.105) Consider the following statements with respect to OSIRIS-REX

It is a mission to Mars to bring back samples back to earth.

It is a joint mission by NASA and Japan space agency (JAXA).

Select the correct statement(s)

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.105) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
OSIRIS-REx is an acronym for "Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security-Regolith Explorer." The goal of the mission was to collect a sample weighing at least 2.1 ounces (59.5 grams) from near-Earth asteroid 101955 Bennu (formerly known as 1999 RQ36) and then bring the sample to Earth.	OSIRIS-REx is the first U.S. mission to collect a sample from an asteroid. It was the sole mission of NASA The mission team selected a sample site called "Nightingale" located in a northern crater 460 feet (140 meters) wide. The crater is thought to be relatively young, and the regolith, or rocks and dust, is freshly exposed. This means the site would likely allow for a pristine sample of the asteroid, giving the team insight into Bennu's history.

Context: NASA'S OSIRIS-REX ASTEROID SAMPLES CAPSULE FROM ASTEROID BENNU LANDS ON EARTH

Q.106) Consider the following with respect to 'Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)'

AFT is a military tribunal in India established under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007.

Any appeal by a person against a decision given by the tribunal can only be taken up in the Supreme Court.

All proceedings in the Tribunal will be either in English or Hindi.

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.106) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
AFT is a military tribunal in India established in 2009 under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007. To provide for the adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints with respect	To provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of courts-martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected	Composition: Each Bench comprises of a Judicial Member and an Administrative Member. The Judicial Members are retired High Court Judges, and Administrative Members are retired

to commission, appointments, enrolment and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950. The Tribunal shall transact their proceedings as per the Armed Forces Tribunal (Procedure) rules, 2008.	therewith or incidental thereto. Any appeal by a person against a decision given by the tribunal can only be taken up in the Supreme Court.	Members of the Armed Forces who have held the rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more. All proceedings in the Tribunal will be in English. The Tribunal will normally follow the procedure as is practiced in the High Courts of India.
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Context: Armed Forces Tribunal Chandigarh bar association goes on indefinite strike over transfer of judge.

Q.107) With reference to 'Social Impact Bond (SIB)', consider the following statements

Statement 1- A SIB is a contract in which the public sector or governing authority pays for improved social outcomes in specific areas and shares some of the resulting savings with investors.

Statement 2- NABARD SIB is first externally certified AAA rated Indian Rupee social bond in the country.

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.107) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

A SIB is a contract in which the public sector or governing authority pays for improved social outcomes in specific areas and shares some of the resulting savings with investors.

NABARD SIB is first externally certified AAA rated Indian Rupee social bond in the country.

How are SIBs different from other bonds

All SIBs have two important elements: accountability and up-front financing

Financing is provided upfront rather than when results are attained.

Projects financed are required to report on outcomes basis as opposed to outputs of projects

Improve delivery of services as opposed to building physical infrastructure only

Advantages of SIBs:

Improve efficiency of social program, strengthen collaborative approach, boost responsible social investing

Context: NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NABARD) RAISES ₹1,040 CRORE VIA SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS (SIBS).

Q.108) With reference to 'Breakthrough Agenda' consider the following statements

It was launched by a coalition of 45 world leaders at the COP21.

The Breakthrough Agenda is an international clean technology plan to help keep 1.5°C in reach.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement(s)

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

Q.108) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>Breakthrough Agenda, launched by a coalition of 45 world leaders, whose countries collectively represent over 70% of global GDP, at the COP26 World Leaders' Summit.</p> <p>UK COP Presidency-initiated international government-led programme will be taken forwards under the joint stewardship of Mission Innovation and Clean Energy Ministerial from COP27 onwards, with the backing of the UN High Level Champions</p> <p>Breakthrough Agenda is an action plan that aims to align actions and coordinate investment across 5 key sectors viz. Power, Road transport, Steel, Hydrogen, and Agriculture..</p>	<p>The Breakthrough Agenda is an unprecedented international clean technology plan to help keep 1.5°C in reach. It provides a framework for countries and businesses and civil society to join up and strengthen their actions every year in key emitting sectors, through a coalition of leading public, private and public-private global initiatives.</p> <p>The first set of government-led Breakthrough goals launched at COP26 (known as the 'Glasgow Breakthroughs') covered five key Emitting sectors that together represent more than 50% of global emissions. More countries are coming forward to lead the charge with the launch of new Breakthroughs in new sectors, and there are also business-led commitments such as the 2030</p>

Context: BREAKTHROUGH AGENDA REPORT 2023 Joint released by International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, and UN Climate Change High-Level Champions.

Q.109) 'Mutual Evaluation Reports (MER)' which was recently in news is related to

- World bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- International Energy Agency (IEA)

Q.109) Solution (c)

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

It is 39 member body that was set up in 1989 out of a G7 meeting of developed nations, is today made up of 37 countries and two regional organizations: the European Commission, the European Union 's executive body and the Gulf Cooperation Council .

India joined with observer status in 2006 and became a full time member in 2010

The decision making body of FATF or Plenary meets thrice a year in February, June and October to take stock of “Mutual Evaluation Reports (MER) of the countries they review.

Deliberations of FATF are made in complete secrecy.

All FATF decisions are made by consensus

Context: Canada Financing Khalistani Extremism...': Ex-Pentagon Official Seeks FATF 'Grey List' For Ottawa

Q.110) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Rabies’

Rabies is a zoonotic, bacterial disease affecting the central nervous system.

It is one of the neglected tropical diseases (NTD).

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.110) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>Rabies is a zoonotic, viral disease affecting the central nervous system. It causes progressive and fatal inflammation of the brain and spinal cord.</p> <p>Rabies Virus, its scientific name is ‘genus Lyssavirus’</p> <p>Transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through a deep bite or scratch from an animal with rabies Direct contact with the saliva of infected animals <p>Symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever, Headache, Nausea, Vomiting Anxiety, Confusion, Hyperactivity, Hallucinations, Insomnia Difficulty swallowing Excessive salivation Partial paralysis 	<p>It is one of the neglected tropical diseases (NTD) that predominantly affects already marginalized, poor and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive washing with water and soap for at least 15 minutes and local treatment of the wound as soon as possible after a suspected exposure; A course of potent and effective rabies vaccine that meets WHO standards; and The administration of rabies immunoglobulin or monoclonal antibodies into the wound, if indicated. <p>Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabies can be prevented by vaccinating pets, staying away from wildlife, and seeking

Fear brought on by attempts to drink fluids because of difficulty swallowing water, etc
Severity: If a person does not receive the appropriate medical care after a potential rabies exposure, the virus can cause disease in the brain, ultimately resulting in death.

medical care after potential exposures before symptoms start.

Context: World Rabies Day will be celebrated globally on Thursday, September 28.

Q.111) Consider the following statements about 'PM Vishwakarma scheme'

It is a central sector scheme which aims to provide subsidised loans to traditional artisans and craftsmen

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme

It is available for rural and urban artisans and craftsmen across India

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.111) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
PM Vishwakarma is a new scheme with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore and is fully funded by the Central government. It aims to provide subsidised loans of up to Rs 2 lakh to traditional artisans and craftsmen including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers. The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftsmen.	Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) is the nodal ministry. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, would provide active support for implementation of the scheme for the wellbeing of the Vishwakarmas.	It is available for rural and urban artisans and craftsmen across India. This list included 18 traditional crafts such as Boat Maker; Armourer; Blacksmith; Hammer and Tool Kit Maker; etc. Five lakh families will be covered in the first year and 30 lakh families over five years.

Context - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM Vishwakarma scheme in New Delhi on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti.

Q.112) 'Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures' a term seen in news is used in the context of

- Naxal combing operations
- Cyber security
- Maritime patrols
- Jungle warfare

Q.112) Solution (b)

Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures is the term used by cybersecurity professionals to describe the behaviours, processes, actions, and strategies used by a threat actor to develop threats and engage in cyberattacks.

Context - IIT Kanpur recently developed a TTPs-based cybercrime investigation framework.

Q.113) With reference to 'Leptospirosis', consider the following statements

- It is a potentially fatal zoonotic disease caused by a bacterium called Leptospira interrogans
- It is a contagious disease in animals but can be transmitted to humans under certain environmental conditions

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.113) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
It is a potentially fatal zoonotic bacterial disease. The disease is caused by a bacterium called Leptospira interrogans, or Leptospira. It is more prevalent in	It is a contagious disease in animals but is occasionally transmitted to humans under certain environmental conditions. The carriers of the disease can be either wild or domestic animals, including rodents, cattle, pigs, and dogs.

warm, humid countries and in both urban and rural areas.

The cycle of disease transmission begins with the shedding of *Leptospira*, usually in the urine of infected animals.

Context – Odisha has been hit by Leptospirosis.

Q.114) With reference to ‘Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards’, consider the following statements

Statement 1 - The award was constituted to honour Indian artists aged above 75 years who have not been accorded any national honour in their career

Statement 2 - It is a national honour bestowed on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.

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.114) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The award was constituted to honour Indian artists aged above 75 years who have not been accorded any national honour in their career so far. The honour carries a purse money of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh) besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.	It is a national honour bestowed on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts. The recipients are selected by the Akademi's General Council.

Context - Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 artists from varied fields of performing arts

Q.115) Consider the following statements

Rubber trees require moist and humid climates with heavy rainfall of more than 200 cm.

Coastal regions of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra are the traditional rubber growing areas In India India is the largest producer of Rubber in the world

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
Rubber trees require moist and humid climates with heavy rainfall of more than 200 cm. It grows well in equatorial climates and temperatures above 25 degrees Celsius.	Traditional Areas: Primarily in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari District and Kerala. Non-traditional regions: Coastal Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra's Konkan Region, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the northeastern provinces, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, among other places.	India is the third largest producer, the fourth largest consumer of natural rubber and the fifth largest consumer of natural rubber and synthetic rubber together in the world.

Context - The Rubber Board is implementing a project to expand the area under natural rubber in the Northeastern States.

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

- Ethanol is an agricultural by-product obtained from sources such as rice husk or maize
- It aids in more complete combustion, lowers emissions, and improves the fuel's environmental performance
- All vehicles in India will have E20 (20% ethanol in petrol) compatible material by 2030

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Ethanol is an agricultural by-product, mainly obtained from the processing of sugar. It can also be obtained from other sources such as rice husk or maize.	Since ethanol contains oxygen, it aids in more complete combustion, lowers emissions, and improves the fuel's environmental performance.	In 2022, after a coordinated policy push for five years, India's blending programme achieved the significant milestone of 10 per cent ethanol blending in petrol. The government is planning to increase the blending share to 20 per cent (E20) by FY25-26, a target that was brought ahead by five years.

Context – It was in news due to hike in international crude oil prices

Q.117) With reference to 'Perovskite', consider the following statements

Statement 1 – It is recognized as potential inexpensive base materials for high-efficiency commercial photovoltaics

Statement 2 - They can efficiently absorb and emit light across wavelengths ranging from visible to ultra-violet.

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 (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Perovskites are a class of materials that share a similar structure and display a myriad of exciting properties like superconductivity, magnetoresistance, etc. Solar cells are currently the most prominent perovskite application, as synthetic perovskites are recognized as potential inexpensive base materials for high-efficiency commercial photovoltaics.	They are known for their exceptional optical properties. They can efficiently absorb and emit light across a wide range of wavelengths, from visible to near-infrared. This property has made them a promising candidate for solar cells and light-emitting devices.

Context - Scientists recently discovered that a nanoscale “ink” coating could improve stability enough to make next-generation perovskite solar cells suitable for mass production.

Q.118) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards’

It shall be one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India
All the scientists working in India except those working for the Government shall be eligible for the awards

The award will be provided at par status with other National Awards

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.118) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India. The objective of the award is to recognize the notable and inspiring contribution made by the scientists, technologists, and innovators individually or in teams in various fields of science, technology and technology led innovation.	Scientists/ technologists/innovators working in government, private sector organizations or any individual working outside any organization, who have made distinguished contributions in terms of path-breaking research or innovation or discovery in any field of science, technology, or technology-led innovation shall be eligible for the awards. People of Indian Origin staying abroad with exceptional contributions benefiting the Indian communities or society shall also be eligible for the awards.	All Awards will have a Sanad & a medal It will be awarded providing at par status with other National Awards.

Context - The Government of India has come out with a new set of National Awards in the field of science, technology, and innovation known as “Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar”

Q.119) ‘Pterygotrigla intermedica’ a species recently seen in news are

- Wasps
- Bats

Amphibians
Fishes

Q.119) Solution (d)

'Pterygotrigla intermedica' commonly known as gurnards or sea-robins and belongs to the family Triglidae. The specimens of this fish were found to be very distinct from other gurnad species in various aspects, such as snout length, shape of the internuchal space, and size of the cleithral spine. It is the fourth species of Pterygotrigla genus reported in India so far, and there are a total of 178 species of the Triglidae family worldwide.

Context - The scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of vibrant orange-colored deep-water marine fish from Digha Mohana in West Bengal

Q.120) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Asia Pacific Forum'

Institutions that partially comply with the Paris Principles are granted associate membership
It addresses some of the most serious environmental challenges in Asia Pacific region

Select the correct statement(s)

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
To be admitted as a full member, a National Human Rights Institution must fully comply with the minimum international standards set out in the Paris Principles. National Human Rights Institutions that partially comply with the Paris Principles are granted associate membership.	Asia Pacific Forum was founded in 1996. It has created a strong and united platform that brings together National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from all corners of the Asia Pacific. It addresses some of the most serious human rights challenges in Asia Pacific region. It has 17 full members and eight associate members. India has been a full time member since 1996.

Context – The President of India inaugurated Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum on Human Rights in New Delhi.

Q.121) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)'

It is a secure database for information on terrorists and economic crimes

The information will be available to police departments of all states and union territories

It was set up as an attached Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs

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
Correct	Correct	Correct
National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is conceptualised as a seamless and secure database for information on terrorists, economic crimes and similar incidents to help bolster India's capabilities.	Natgrid services will be available to 11 central agencies and police departments of all states and union territories. The data is end-to-end encrypted and can be accessed only after proper authorization and authentication have been completed.	The project was started in 2009 in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. NATGRID was set up as an attached Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs with effect from December 1, 2010. It started its operations on December 31, 2020.

Context – The Central Government recently extended the tenure of senior bureaucrat Piyush Goyal as the chief executive officer of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

Q.122) With reference to 'Sonobuoys', consider the following statements

Statement 1 – They are large, expandable devices used in underwater acoustics to detect and analyze sound in the ocean

Statement 2 - They sink to a predetermined depth and begin listening for acoustic signals, helping pin-point potential submarine threats.

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.122) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
A sonobuoy is a relatively small buoy – typically 13 cm (5 in) diameter and 91 cm (3 ft) long – expendable sonar system that is dropped/ejected from aircraft or ships conducting anti-submarine warfare or underwater acoustic research. They are used to detect and analyze sound in the ocean, particularly for tracking submarines and other underwater objects.	Sonobuoys are deployed by dropping them into the ocean from aircraft or launching them from ships or submarines. They sink to a predetermined depth and begin listening for acoustic signals, helping pin-point potential submarine threats.

Context - The Indian Navy plans to equip the MQ-9B Sea Guardian medium altitude long-endurance (MALE) drones with sonobuoys.

Q.123) 'Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)' recently seen in news is a mission of

European Space Agency

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Canadian Space Agency

National Centre for Space Studies

Q.123) Solution (b)

Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a NASA mission to discover exoplanets around nearby bright stars. TESS circles Earth in a unique high Earth orbit of 12 to 15 days, which is inclined in a way that the telescope's sky view is largely free from obstructions by our bright planet and the Moon. The prime mission ended on July 4, 2020, and TESS is now on an extended mission. TESS is finding planets ranging from small, rocky worlds to giant planets, showcasing the diversity of planets in the galaxy.

Context - Using NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), an international team of astronomers recently detected a new exoplanet orbiting a distant star

Q.124) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)'

It provides reimbursement of taxes and duties levied at the central, state and also local level incurred by the export entities in the process of exports

It is a WTO-compliant scheme and follows the global principle that taxes should not be exported.

It is applicable to all the sectors involved in the export of goods excluding e-commerce platforms

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

Only one

Only two

All three

None

Q.124) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The Scheme provides a mechanism for reimbursement of taxes, duties and levies, which are currently not being refunded under any other mechanism at the central, state and local level but which are incurred by the export entities in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products.	It is a WTO-compliant scheme and follows the global principle that taxes/duties should not be exported. RoDTEP replaced the Merchandise Export Incentive Schemes (MIES), in response to the US challenging the Indian export subsidies under the MEIS at the WTO	It is applicable to all the sectors involved in the export of goods irrespective of their turnover, provided the country of manufacturing of the exported goods should be in India. Such an exporter may either be the merchant or manufacturer exporter. Goods exported through e-commerce platforms are also eligible under this scheme.

Context - The Government recently extended export benefits under the RoDTEP scheme for one more year.

Q.125) Consider the following statements about 'India Ageing Report 2023'

The report represents a thorough review of the living conditions and welfare of all individuals in India

The report was released by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.125) Solution (d)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The India Ageing Report 2023 represents a thorough review of the living conditions and welfare of older individuals in India. It leverages the latest data available from the Longitudinal Ageing Survey in India (LASI), 2017–18, Census of India, Population Projections by the Government of India (2011–2036) and World Population Prospects 2022 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide an up-to-date perspective.	UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) India, in collaboration with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), unveiled the highly anticipated "India Ageing Report 2023." This report sheds light on the challenges, opportunities and institutional responses surrounding elderly care in India, as India navigates a demographic shift towards an ageing population.

Context – India Ageing Report 2023 Unveils Critical Insights into Elderly Care in India**Q.126) Consider the following statements about 'CRILLO 4 GOOD' programme**

It is a series of cricket-based animation films to promote gender equality among girls and boys
It was launched by The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in association with the International Cricket Council

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.126) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect

'CRIIO 4 GOOD' is a new online, life skills learning modules, to promote gender equality among girls and boys. 'CRIIO 4 GOOD' is a series of 8 cricket-based animation films to promote gender parity, equip girls with life skills and encourage their participation in sports. The themes of the eight modules are: leadership, problem-solving, confidence, decision-making, negotiation, empathy, teamwork and goal setting and are visualized through state-of-the-art animation using cricketing examples. In-depth research into local nuances has made these films real and relatable.

The programme was launched by the Ministry of Education in association with the International Cricket Council, UNICEF, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

Context – Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched 'CRIIO 4 GOOD'

Q.127) With reference to 'Anti-matter, consider the following statements

Statement 1 – Antimatter is the same as ordinary matter except that it has the opposite electric charge.

Statement 2 - An electron, which has a negative charge has an antimatter partner known as a proton.

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
Correct	Incorrect
Antimatter is the same as ordinary matter except that it has the opposite electric charge. It is also known as "mirror" matter. Matter and antimatter cannot coexist at close range for more than a small fraction of a second because they collide with and annihilate each other, releasing large	An electron, which has a negative charge, has an antimatter partner known as a positron. A positron is a particle with the same mass as an electron but a positive charge. The antimatter particles corresponding to electrons, protons, and neutrons are called positrons, antiprotons, and antineutrons; collectively they are referred to as antiparticles.

quantities of energy in the form of gamma rays or elementary particles.	
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Context - Recent experiments at CERN have demonstrated that antimatter falls, validating yet another aspect of the general theory.

Q.128) 'Toto' language which is said to be endangered belongs to which language family

- Dravidian
- Sino-Tibetan
- Austric
- Indo-European

Q.128) Solution (b)

Toto is a language spoken by barely 1,600 people living in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan. Toto is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by the tribal Toto people and is written in the Bengali script. Even though prominent community member Dhaniram Toto developed a script as recently as in 2015, most people either write it in Bengali script or write in Bengali language.

Context - Toto Shabda Sangraha will be released in Kolkata on October 7, 2023

Q.129) Consider the following statements with respect to 'United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime'

The Convention is the first comprehensive and global legally binding instrument to fight transnational organized crime.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the custodian of the UNTOC

India is the only South Asian country to ratify the Convention

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.129) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
The UNTOC was adopted by General Assembly in 2000 and came into force in 2003. The Convention is the first comprehensive and global legally binding instrument to fight transnational organized crime. States that have ratified UNTOC commit themselves to taking a series of measures to prevent and control transnational organized crime, including (i) the criminalising of the participation in an organized criminal group, of money laundering, related corruption and obstruction of justice and (ii) the adoption of frameworks for extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation.	The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the custodian of the UNTOC.	In May 2011, the Indian Government ratified two UN Conventions - the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its three protocols. India became the fourth South Asian country after Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to ratify the UNTOC.

Context – Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai attended two day conference to mark the 20th anniversary of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crimes (UNTOC) at Palermo in Italy.

Q.130) Consider the following statements about 'Sarnaism'

- The followers of Sarnaism pray to trees and hills and believe in protecting forest areas
- It is mainly practised by the tribal community of the Himalayan ranges
- The main festival of Sarnaism is Sarhul, a festival in which devotees worship their ancestors

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.130) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The Sarna religion is a nature-worshipping faith that is also known as “Sarna Dharma” or “Religion of the Holy Woods”. Followers of the Sarna religion pray to trees and hills and believe in protecting forest areas. Their holy grail is “Jal (water), Jungle (forest), Zameen (land)”.	Sarnaism is an Indian religious belief in eastern regions of the subcontinent. The belief is based on worship at Sarna, the sacred groves in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region in the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.	The main festival of Sarnaism is Sarhul, a festival in which devotees worship their ancestors. During the festival, the pahan brings three water pots to the sarna. If the water pots reduce in level, they believe the monsoon will fail, but if it stays the same the monsoon will come as normal. Men then offer sakua flowers and leaves

Context - Jharkhand Chief Minister wrote a letter to Prime Minister seeking recognition of Sarna religious code for tribals