



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

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**9169191888
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Q.1) Consider the following statements about Lakhpati Didi Initiative

It aimed at training women in self-help groups (SHGs) to earn sustainable income of at least Rs 1 lakh per annum per household.

The programme is implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

After completing the training, the group will be provided with a credit of Rs. 20 lakh to start micro-enterprises within their villages.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>It was announced by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2023.</p> <p>Objective: To encourage women to start micro-enterprises within their villages.</p> <p>Under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative, the government aims to train two crore women.</p> <p>The programme is aimed at training women in self-help groups (SHGs) so that they can earn a sustainable income of at least Rs 1 lakh per annum per household.</p>	<p>The initiative has been initiated by DAY-NRLM, wherein each SHG household is encouraged to take up multiple livelihood activities coupled with value chain interventions, resulting in a sustainable income of Rs 1 lakh or more per year.</p> <p>The ministry of rural development is adopting a whole-of-government approach for maximum impact through convergence to transform the rural economy with the enabling of 'Lakhpati Didis'.</p> <p>Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a flagship poverty alleviation program implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.</p>	<p>Under this scheme, women will be trained in various skills, such as plumbing, LED bulb making, drone operation and repair, and tailoring and weaving.</p> <p>After completing the training, women will be provided with opportunities to earn income using their skills.</p> <p>There is no monetary assistance provided.</p>

Context: Prime Minister recently chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress made in realising his dream of making 2 crore 'Lakhpati Didis' in India.

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Rim Association

It was established in 1987 as an intergovernmental organisation of States on the rim of the Indian Ocean. India, Myanmar, Iran and South Africa are members of the IORM.

Its apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets biennially.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>It was established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organisation of States on the rim of the Indian Ocean.</p> <p>IORA has identified six priority areas namely: Trade and Investment, Maritime Safety and Security, Fisheries Management, Disaster Risk Management and Blue Economy.</p>	<p>Member countries:</p> <p>It has members from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe and Oceania.</p> <p>The Association's membership has expanded to 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners.</p> <p>Asia: India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.</p> <p>Africa: Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles.</p> <p>Oceania: Australia.</p> <p>Europe: France</p>	<p>Its apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.</p> <p>The secretariat is based in Ebène Mauritius and is overseen by a secretary-general who is appointed for a three-year period.</p>

Context: Sri Lanka set to take over chairmanship of Indian Ocean Rim Association during 23rd Council of Ministers' Meeting.

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Baiga Tribe

The Baiga Tribe is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Chhattisgarh. They practice a form of shifting cultivation called, "Bewar."

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>The Baiga Tribe is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). They reside in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.</p> <p>Mahua is an important aspect of Baiga's food and drink. It is an intoxicant prepared from the fermentation and distillation of the flowers of the Mahua tree.</p>	<p>Occupation: Traditionally, the Baiga lived a semi-nomadic life and practised slash-and-burn cultivation. Now, they are mainly dependent on minor forest produce for their livelihood.</p> <p>They practice a form of shifting cultivation called, "Bewar."</p> <p>Tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture, every age and body part has a specific tattoo reserved for the occasion.</p>

Context: Recently, the Baiga Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) became the second to get habitat rights in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about Multimodal Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It refers to the integration of multiple modes of information or sensory data to facilitate human-like reasoning and decision-making.

Gemini is a multimodal large language model being developed by the OpenAI.

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>The multimodal model artificial intelligence refers to the integration of multiple modes of information or sensory data to facilitate human-like reasoning and decision-making.</p> <p>It revolutionizes the way AI systems process and interpret information by seamlessly integrating various sensory modalities.</p> <p>Multimodal systems allows users to engage with AI in several ways.</p> <p>Unlike conventional AI models, which focus on a single data type, multimodal AI systems have the capability to simultaneously comprehend and utilize data from diverse sources such as text, images, audio, and video.</p>	<p>It is the next frontier of AI models.</p> <p>Gemini is multimodal large language model being developed by the google.</p> <p>Gobi is multimodal AI being developed by the OpenAI.</p>

Context: It was in news.

Q.5) Red-rumped Hawklet, a new dragonfly species has been discovered in which of the following region?

- Western Ghats
- The Terai region of Bihar
- Indo–Myanmar border region of Arunachal Pradesh
- Eastern Ghats

Q.5) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<p>Red-rumped Hawklet</p> <p>Scientific name – <i>Epithemis wayanadensis</i></p> <p>It is named to mark the lush and biodiverse Wayanad plateau in the Western Ghats.</p> <p>Habitat - Shaded streamside marsh near Wayanad's forested terrain and parts of the Nilgiri Coorg landscapes</p> <p>Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darker pigmentation A restricted red coloration on the abdomen Absence of the yellow ante humeral stripe <p>Growing conditions – It is profoundly seasonal which is observed in during the month of October in skies.</p> <p>It spends the remainder of the year in the aquatic larval stage.</p> <p>It bore a striking resemblance to Ruby-tailed Hawklet.</p> <p>Significance– A 2% genetic variance indicates the presence of a new species. In this case, an astonishing 12% genetic difference was observed.</p> <p>This marks the 1st instance of an Indian dragonfly being documented with genetic evidence substantiating morphological distinctions.</p>

Context: A new dragonfly species has been discovered in the verdant landscapes of Wayanad.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Chilika Lake

- It is located at the mouth of the Salandi River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- It is the largest coastal lagoon in India.
- The Nalaban Island within the lake is notified as a Bird Sanctuary under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.6) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
<p>It is a brackish water lake and a shallow lagoon with estuarine character spread across the districts of Puri, Khurda and Ganjam in the state of Odisha.</p> <p>It is connected to the Bay of Bengal by a 32 km long and 1.5 km wide channel that mostly runs parallel to the Bay separated by a narrow spit.</p> <p>It is located at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 km².</p>	<p>It is the largest coastal lagoon in India.</p> <p>And the second-largest lagoon in the world</p>	<p>It is the largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian sub-continent.</p> <p>It is one of the hotspot of biodiversity in the country, and some rare, vulnerable and endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List of threatened Animals inhabit the Lake area for atleast part of their life cycle.</p> <p>In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>The Nalaban Island within the lake is notified as a Bird Sanctuary under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.</p>

Context: Migratory birds have started their annual journey to Chilika Lake—India's largest waterbird habitat in Odisha — ahead of winter this year.

Q.7) Consider the following statements about White Phosphorous Bombs

White phosphorus is a waxy, yellowish-to-clear chemical with a pungent, garlic-like odour.

It is a highly combustible chemical that burns quickly and brightly when exposed to air.

White phosphorus munitions are banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) of 1997.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.7) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<p>White phosphorus is a waxy, yellowish-to-clear chemical with a pungent, garlic-like odour.</p> <p>It is used in incendiary weapons by militaries around the world for a</p>	<p>It is a highly combustible chemical that burns quickly and brightly when exposed to air. It is a highly combustible chemical that burns quickly and brightly when exposed to air.</p> <p>It burns at a temperature of 800°C and spontaneously ignites at</p>	<p>White phosphorus munitions are not banned under international law, but because of their incendiary effects, their use is supposed to be tightly regulated.</p>

<p>variety of purposes, such as illuminating targets at night or to inflicting damage on enemies.</p> <p>White phosphorus can cause fast-moving and widespread fires on the ground.</p>	<p>up to 1,300 degrees Celsius when it is exposed to oxygen, and producing white, dense smoke, which is used by armies to create smokescreens in sensitive zones.</p> <p>Once ignited, the substance is very difficult to put out, as it clings to many surfaces, including skin and clothing.</p> <p>Since it is a wax-like substance, it is very hard to remove and often lights up again when the bandages are removed.</p>	<p>Examples of White Phosphorous usage in wars:</p> <p>The British army used it in both World Wars.</p> <p>US forces, after invading Iraq, used the chemical weapon against insurgents in the city of Fallujah.</p> <p>Israel admitted that it used phosphorus shells during the battle against Hezbollah during the 2006 Lebanon War.</p>
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Context: Several photos, videos, and claims on social media allege that Israeli forces are using white phosphorous on the civilian population of Gaza.

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0

The IGMS 2.0 is a major upgradation of Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System portal with artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities.

Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 is implemented by IIT Kanpur.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.8) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>The IGMS 2.0 is a major upgradation of Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal with artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) capabilities.</p> <p>The Dashboard provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data.</p>	<p>IGMS2.0 Dashboard has been implemented by IIT Kanpur.</p> <p>CPGRAMS is an online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.</p> <p>It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States.</p> <p>Every Ministry and States have role-based access to this system.</p>

The Dashboard will also help the officials identify the root cause of the grievance.

CPGRAMS is also accessible to the citizens through standalone mobile application downloadable through Google Play store and mobile application integrated with UMANG.

Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) is a one stop gateway to all government schemes and services through different channels like Mobile Application(iOS, Android), Chatbot, Voice Bot and Website.

Context: Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions recently launched Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard.

Q.9) Consider the following statements about Mera Yuva Bharat

It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports that provides an overarching platform for youth development.

It will benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.9) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>It is an autonomous body to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development youth led development.</p> <p>It provides equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit (advanced) Bharat across the entire spectrum of the Government.</p> <p>The primary objective of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is to make it a whole of Government platform for youth development.</p>	<p>It will benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years, which is in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy.</p> <p>The country has around 40 crore people in the age group of 15-29 years.</p> <p>In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age group of 10-19 years.</p> <p>It will centralize youth database and offer suitable opportunities to engage in voluntary work across the country.</p> <p>It will act as a one-stop shop for young people and various central government ministries.</p>

Context: Recently the Union Cabinet approved establishment of an autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) to focus on Youth led development.

Q.10) 'A-HELP' program, recently seen in news is an initiative of which of the following ministry?

- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Q.10) Solution (c)

Option c
Correct
<p>Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, introduced the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) program in the state of Jharkhand.</p> <p>This program aims to empower women by engaging them as Accredited Agents who play a vital role in disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance.</p> <p>The 'A-HELP' initiative is being implemented in various Indian states and union territories, including Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand, through an MoU between the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission</p>

Context: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, introduced the 'A-HELP' program in the state of Jharkhand.

Q.11) Consider the following statements about Global Hunger Index

- It is prepared jointly by Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe.
- GHI scores are based on the values of 3 component indicators - Child stunting, wasting and mortality.
- In GHI 2023, India ranked 121th out of 125 countries, indicating a serious level of hunger.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.11) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
It is a tool for comprehensively measuring and	GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators	In the Global Hunger Index 2023, India ranked 111th out of 125

<p>tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels.</p> <p>It is prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe.</p>	<p>Undernourishment:(the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient)</p> <p>Child stunting: (the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age)</p> <p>Child wasting: (the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height)</p> <p>Child mortality: (the share of children who die before their fifth birthday)</p> <p>The GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where zero is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.</p>	<p>countries, indicating a serious level of hunger.</p> <p>Neighboring countries, such as Pakistan (102nd), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th), and Sri Lanka (60th), scored better than India.</p> <p>India's GHI score 2023 stands at 28.7, categorized as "serious" on the GHI Severity of Hunger Scale.</p> <p>This shows a slight improvement from its GHI 2015 score of 29.2, which was also deemed serious.</p> <p>Also, compared to its alarming GHI scores of 38.4 in 2000 and 35.5 in 2008, India has made significant progress.</p>
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Context: India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023.

Q.12) Consider the following statements about One CGIAR Global Initiative

It aims to build a unified approach to transforming food, land, and water systems to address the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

One CGIAR Global Initiative is a joint initiative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and United Nations Environment Programme

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.12) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>It aims to build a unified approach to transforming food, land, and water systems to address the challenges posed by the climate crisis.</p>	<p>This initiative involves the CGIAR System Organisation and 12 One CGIAR research centres.</p> <p>The CGIAR is a publicly-funded network of agrifood systems research centres, works for transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. It is working in over 80 countries.</p>

Context: Recently, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) joined the One Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) global initiative.

Q.13) Consider the following statements about Setu Bandhan Scheme

The scheme aims to improve inter-state connectivity, especially on the rural areas at the borders.
The scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.13) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>The Setu Bandhan scheme have been introduced to improve inter-state connectivity, especially on the rural areas at the borders where state roads do not get the required attention.</p> <p>The scheme is different from “Setu Bharatam” scheme.</p> <p>Setu Bharatam is an ambitious programme with an investment of Rs. 50,000 crore to build bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways.</p>	<p>The scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (Morth).</p>

Context: Recently the ministry of road transport and highways approved 7 bridge projects in Arunachal Pradesh under the Setu Bandhan Scheme.

Q.14) Consider the following statements

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 aims to enhance immunization coverage for all vaccines provided under the Universal Immunization Programme by using U-WIN platform.
U-WIN platform is a one stop digital platform which will maintain an electronic registry of vaccinations and immunisation programs.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.14) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>IMI 5.0 campaign aims to enhance immunization coverage for all vaccines provided under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) as per the National Immunization Schedule (NIS). Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is a vaccination programme launched by the Government of India in 1985.</p> <p>IMI 5.0 campaign has a special focus on improvement of Measles and Rubella vaccination coverage with the aim of Measles & Rubella elimination by 2023.</p> <p>Vaccination will be provided free of cost on all public hospitals, health centres as well as selected public places.</p>	<p>It also aims to use U-WIN digital platform for Routine Immunization in pilot mode across all districts in the country.</p> <p>U-WIN platform is a one stop digital platform which will maintain an electronic registry of vaccinations and immunisation programs.</p> <p>It is designed on the lines of Co-WIN, will be used to register and vaccinate pregnant women, register births and record immunisation and vaccination details till age 13.</p>

Context: It was in news.

Q.15) Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative, recently seen in news is a joint initiative of?

- G7 and ASEAN
- USA and India
- World Bank and Japan
- USA and Australia

Q.15) Solution (c)

Option c
Correct
<p>The World Bank and Japan, have launched the Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative in Morocco.</p> <p>This initiative is designed to tackle the dual challenges of job creation and climate change by aiding emerging markets and developing countries in expanding their clean-energy product manufacturing and increasing their participation in the minerals industry.</p> <p>The initiative aims to stimulate economic growth and generate local employment opportunities, ultimately contributing to poverty reduction.</p> <p>This collaborative effort emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in promoting economic growth in these countries while strengthening clean energy and critical minerals supply chains.</p>

Context: The World Bank and Japan, have launched the Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative in Morocco.

Q.16) Consider the following statements about Special Leave Petition (SLP)

By virtue of Article 137 the Supreme Court of India can grant special leave to appeal from any judgment passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India.

A Special Leave Petition can be filed for any civil or criminal matter.

It can be filed against any judgment of the High Court within 6 months from the date of judgment.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.16) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Supreme Court of India has been given extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution. By virtue of this Article, the court can grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence, or order in any cause or matter, passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India (with the exception of military tribunals and court martial).	Any aggrieved party can file SLP against judgement or order of refusal of grant of certificate for appeal to SC. An SLP can be filed for any civil or criminal matter, etc.	It can be filed against any judgment of the High Court within 90 days from the date of judgment or It can be filed within 60 days against the order of the High Court refusing to grant the certificate of fitness for appeal to SC.

Context: The Supreme Court (SC) recently highlighted that Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in criminal cases often lacked crucial information.

Q.17) Consider the following statements about Green Credit Programme (GCP)

Under the farmers producer's organisations and Gram panchayats aims incentivise environmentally conscious practices and promote a sustainable lifestyle through a market-based mechanism.

The Programme is implemented by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous organisation under the MoEFCC.

Choose the incorrect statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.17) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>GCP aims to incentivise environmentally conscious practices and promote a sustainable lifestyle through a market-based mechanism.</p> <p>As per the scheme, individuals, industries, farmers producer's organisations (FPOs), urban local bodies (ULB), gram panchayats, and the private sector, among a host of other entities, will be able to earn green credit for undertaking environment-friendly actions.</p> <p>Green credits generated through such actions can be traded on a domestic market platform.</p> <p>These Green Credits will be over and above the current discourse of carbon credits. Any activity generating green credits under the GCP will also receive carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme if it leads to the reduction or removal of carbon emissions.</p>	<p>The green credits generated or procured by industries, companies and other entities to fulfil any legal obligation cannot be traded.</p> <p>Implementing Agency: The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous organisation under the MoEFCC, is responsible for effectively implementing the Green Credit programme, including its management and operation.</p> <p>Phases: The programme will be implemented in phases. In the initial phase, two to three activities from the chosen sectors will be considered, and more activities will be added subsequently.</p>

Context: The Central Government recently proposed Draft Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules.

Q.18) Consider the following statements

Statement 1 - The modification in the cellular structure allows chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) T-cells to effectively bind to the tumour and destroy it.

Statement 2 - Unlike chemotherapy or immunotherapy, which requires mass-produced injectable or oral medication, CAR T-cell therapies use a patient's own cells.

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.18) Solution (a)

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

CAR-T cell therapy:

The therapy represents a quantum leap in the sophistication of cancer treatment.

Unlike chemotherapy or immunotherapy, which requires mass-produced injectable or oral medication, CAR T-cell therapies use a patient's own cells.

They are modified in the laboratory to activate T-cells, a component of immune cells, to attack tumours. These modified cells are then infused back into the patient's bloodstream after conditioning them to multiply more effectively.

As of today, CAR T-cell therapy has been approved for leukaemias (cancers arising from the cells that produce white blood cells) and lymphomas (arising from the lymphatic system).

How does it work?

In this therapy, the patient's blood is drawn to harvest T-cells – immune cells that play a major role in destroying tumour cells.

Researchers modify these cells in the laboratory so that they express specific proteins on their surface, known as chimeric antigen receptors (CAR): they have an affinity for proteins on the surface of tumour cells.

This modification in the cellular structure allows CAR T-cells to effectively bind to the tumour and destroy it.

The final step in the tumour's destruction involves its clearance by the patient's immune system.

In CAR T-cell therapy, the immune system is activated when the modified T-cells are reintroduced into the body, which allows a gradual and sustained tumour kill as these cells multiply.

Context: Recently, IIT Bombay-incubated company Immunoadoptive Cell Therapy (ImmunoACT) has received Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's (CDSO) marketing authorisation approval of the first Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cell (CAR-T cell) therapy product called NexCAR19.

Q.19) Consider the following statements Global Health Innovation Fellowship

It is an initiative in collaboration with World Economic Forum and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.

This collaboration will leverage intellectual property, innovation and medical technology to solve local health challenges using global partnerships.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.19) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
It is an initiative in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.	This collaboration will leverage intellectual property (IP), innovation and medical technology to solve local health challenges using global partnerships. It aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among young professionals from diverse countries”.

Context: Recently, the union Minister for Science and Technology launched the Global Health Innovation Fellowship to promote medtech startups and innovators among youth.

Q.20) Poorvottar Sampark Setu portal, is an initiative of which of the following ministry?

- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

Q.20) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
It is a powerful tool designed to streamline and enhance monitoring of fortnightly visits of Union Ministers to NER. Features: The dashboard provides valuable insights and graphical information about State-wise/ District-wise visits to the North Eastern Region by Union Ministers to be used by all the stake holders in one place. The portal generates a curated list of Ministers who can be nominated for visit to NER in the upcoming months. After the visit, the Minister can submit their tour reports along with their recommendations online. MDoNER can forward the recommendations to respective line Ministries/Departments/State Governments for quick action, after analyzing the same. The Portal generates the summary report on the visits by a single click.

Context: Recently, the Union Ministry of Development of North-East Region virtually launched “MDoNER Data Analytics Dashboard” and “Poorvottar Sampark Setu” portal at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Q.21) Consider the following statements about Kanwar Lake

- It is Asia’s largest freshwater oxbow lake.
- It is a residual oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of Gandak river.
- The red-headed vulture and white-rumped vulture listed as critically endangered species in IUCN Red List inhabit the site.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
It is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake and Bihar's only Ramsar site. It is also known as Kabartal jheel.	It is a residual oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of Gandak river, a tributary of Ganga. It is covering the majority of the Indo-Gangetic plains in northern Bihar, The Wetland is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel. It is also a valuable site for fish biodiversity with over 50 species documented.	Five critically endangered species inhabit the site, including three vultures – the red-headed vulture (<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>), white-rumped vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>) and Indian vulture (<i>Gyps indicus</i>) – and two waterbirds, the sociable lapwing (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>) and Baer's pochard (<i>Aythya baeri</i>). Threats: Major threats to the site include water management activities such as drainage, water abstraction, damming and canalization.

Context: Bihar's only wetland of international importance Kanwar Lake under the Ramsar Convention lies neglected and is on the brink of drying up.

Q.22) Consider the following statements about President's Colours Award

- It is the highest honour that can be awarded to any military unit or state/UT Police Forces of India.
- It is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.22) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>It is the highest honour that can be awarded to any military unit, military training establishments, or state/UT Police Forces of India.</p> <p>History: The tradition began under colonial rule, but on November 23, 1950, the 'king's colour' of the erstwhile British Indian regiments was laid to rest in Chetwode Hall, Dehradun, to make way for the 'colours' of the President of the Republic of India.</p> <p>The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President Colour by Dr. Rajendra Prasad on May 27, 1951</p>	<p>It is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.</p> <p>It is also known as "Rashtrapati ka Nishaan" in Hindi.</p> <p>Award: It is a type of special flag, also known as 'Nishaan', which is awarded to a military unit in an organised ceremony.</p> <p>The flag consists of a golden border in the middle and the insignia of a respective military unit, training establishments, and police forces in the centre.</p> <p>Sometimes, it may also contain the motto, important achievements, and battle participation of those military units to which the award is bestowed.</p> <p>During any ceremonial parade, the President's Colour, i.e., the special flag of a military unit, is kept in a special position, and soldiers often march with the President's Colour on important dates, like their establishment anniversary.</p>

Context: The Chief of Army Staff recently presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to the Third Battalion of the Naga Regiment.

Q.23) Consider the following statements about Palk Strait

It is bounded by Piram Island, Adam's Bridge and Mannar Island.

The Vaigai River of Tamil Nadu flows into Palk Strait.

The port of Jaffna, the commercial centre for northern Sri Lanka, lies on the strait.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.23) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct

<p>It is a strait that lies between the Tamil Nadu state of India and the island nation of Sri Lanka.</p> <p>The strait is named after Robert Palk, who was a governor of Madras Presidency (1755-1763) during the British Raj period.</p> <p>It is bounded on the south by Pamban Island (India), Adam's (Rama's) Bridge (a chain of shoals), the Gulf of Mannar, and Mannar Island (Sri Lanka).</p>	<p>It connects the Bay of Bengal in the northeast with the Gulf of Mannar in the southwest.</p> <p>The southwestern portion of the strait is also called Palk Bay.</p> <p>The strait is 40 to 85 miles (64 to 137 km) wide, 85 miles long, and less than 330 feet (100 metres) deep.</p> <p>Several rivers flow into it, including the Vaigai River of Tamil Nadu.</p>	<p>The port of Jaffna, the commercial centre for northern Sri Lanka, lies on the strait.</p>
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Context: India and Sri Lanka recently launched a ferry service across the Palk Strait under a new roadmap for greater connectivity.

Q.24) Consider the following statements about Protista

- Protista are prokaryotes as they possess a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles.
- Amoeba and seaweeds are the examples of organisms that belong to Protista.
- Protista are responsible serious human diseases, such as malaria and sleeping sickness.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.24) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
<p>Protists are a diverse collection of organisms that do not fit into animal, plant, bacteria, or fungi groups.</p> <p>Kingdom Protista is one of the six kingdoms of life (the others being Eubacteria, Archae, Fungi, Plantae, and Animalia).</p> <p>Protists are believed to be the common ancestral link between plants, animals, and fungi from which these three groups branched out in the process of evolution.</p>	<p>The majority of them are unicellular, like an amoeba; however, a few protists are multicellular, like seaweed.</p> <p>However, multicellular protists do not have highly specialized tissues or organs.</p> <p>Most protists have mitochondria, the organelle that generates energy for cells to use. The exceptions are some protists that live in anoxic conditions or</p>	<p>Habitat: Nearly all protists exist in some type of aquatic environment, including freshwater and marine environments, damp soil, and even snow.</p> <p>Many protists, such as algae, are photosynthetic and are vital primary producers in ecosystems.</p> <p>Some protists are responsible for a range of serious human diseases, such as</p>

Protists are eukaryotes as they possess a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles (structures that perform a specific job).	environments lacking in oxygen.	malaria and sleeping sickness.
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Context: A recent DNA analysis of a protist has revealed surprising deviations in the genetic code of a microscopic organism.

Q.25) Ecomark Scheme, recently seen in news is implemented by which of the following ministry?

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Q.25) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<p>Ecomark Scheme</p> <p>Ecomark Scheme promotes Eco-Friendly Products. It provides accreditation and labelling for household and consumer products that meet specific environmental criteria while maintaining quality standards as per Indian norms. The Central Pollution Control Board administers the Eco mark Scheme in partnership with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Products accredited under the Ecomark Scheme will adhere to specific environmental criteria, ensuring minimal environmental impact. It will build consumer awareness of environmental issues and encourage eco-conscious choices. It will also motivate manufacturers to shift towards environmentally friendly production.</p>

Context: Ahead of the COP 28, set to held in Dubai in November-December 2023, the Union government has notified two initiatives namely Eco Mark Scheme and Green Credit Programme.

Q.26) Consider the following statements about Niobium

- It has the property of becoming superconducting at low temperatures.
- Its property of very high resistance to heat and wear makes it one of the five major refractory metals.
- China is the world's largest supplier of Niobium

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.26) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<p>It is a rare, soft, malleable, ductile, gray-white metal. Atomic symbol: Nb It has a body-centered cubic crystalline structure. It must be placed in a protective atmosphere when processed at even moderate temperatures because it tends to react with oxygen, carbon, the halogens, nitrogen, and sulfur. It has the property of becoming superconducting at low temperatures. Sources: It is not found free in nature but in minerals such as columbite and tantalite. Commercially, niobium is extracted by first forming the oxide (Nb₂O₅). The oxide is then reduced using carbon or hydrogen.</p>	<p>In air, an oxide layer forms over it whose color depends on its thickness. Shades of blue, green, and yellow are typical. Niobium resists corrosion due to the oxide film. The metal starts to oxidize rapidly in the air at 200 degrees Celsius. The metal is inert to acids, even to aqua regia at room temperature, but is attacked by hot, concentrated acids, and especially by alkalis and oxidizing agents. It is one of the five major refractory metals (metals with very high resistance to heat and wear). Refractory metals are a group of metallic elements that are highly resistant to heat and wear. It is generally accepted that tungsten, molybdenum, niobium, tantalum and rhenium best fit most definitions of refractory metals.</p>	<p>Major Producers: Brazil is the world's largest supplier, with Canada a distant second. Applications: It is used for the production of high-temperature-resistant alloys and special stainless steels. It is also used in its pure form to make superconducting accelerating structures for particle accelerators. Niobium alloys are used in surgical implants because they do not react with human tissue. Niobium carbide is used in cutting tools. Niobium-tin and niobium-titanium alloys are used as wires for superconducting magnets capable of producing exceedingly strong magnetic fields.</p>

Context: The Union Cabinet recently approved royalty rates in respect of 3 critical and strategic minerals, namely, lithium, niobium, and Rare Earth Elements.

Q.27) Consider the following statements about Pallikaranai marshland

It is a freshwater marsh and partly saline marshland situated in Puri, India.
It is one of the Ramsar sites from India.

Choose the correct statement:

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

Q.27) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>It is a freshwater marsh and partly saline wetland situated about 20 kilometres south of the city of Chennai, Tamil Nadu.</p> <p>On its eastern periphery, the Marsh is flanked by the Buckingham Canal.</p> <p>The diverse ecosystem of the marshland supports some 115 bird species, ten mammals, 21 reptiles, ten amphibians, 46 fish, nine molluscs, five crustaceans, and seven butterfly species.</p> <p>These include notable species such as Russell's viper (<i>Daboia siamensis</i>) and birds such as the glossy ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>), grey-headed lapwings (<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>) and Pheasant-tailed jacana (<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>).</p>	<p>The site is threatened by invasive and non-native species, household sewage, urban wastewater and droughts.</p> <p>It is one of the Ramsar sites from India.</p>

Context: Despite threats of new infrastructure and encroachments, winged visitors continue to arrive at the Pallikaranai marshland.

Q.28) Consider the following statements about Stock Split

A stock split happens when a company increases the number of its shares to boost the stock's liquidity. In stock split the number of shares increases, but the price per share goes down in proportion.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.28) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>A stock split happens when a company increases the number of its shares to boost the stock's liquidity.</p> <p>It is a corporate action in which a company issues additional shares to shareholders, increasing the total by the specified ratio based on the shares they held previously.</p> <p>Why is a stock split done?</p> <p>It is done to infuse liquidity and to make shares affordable for various investors who could not buy the shares of that company before due to high prices.</p> <p>It is sometimes aimed at helping a company meet the minimum requirements to remain listed on an exchange.</p> <p>This is because some stock indexes are price-weighted, meaning a company wishing to join the index would</p>	<p>Although the number of shares outstanding increases, there is no change to the company's total market capitalization as the price of each share will split as well.</p> <p>The most common split ratios are 2-for-1 or 3-for-1 (sometimes denoted as 2:1 or 3:1). This means that for every share held before the split, each stockholder will have two or three shares, respectively, after the split.</p> <p>The number of shares increases, but the price per share goes down in proportion.</p>

need to have, among other criteria, a price that falls within a certain band.	
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Context: Sigachi Industries (SIGACHI) recently initiated its long-anticipated 10:1 stock split.

Q.29) Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body established which of the following convention?

- Rotterdam Convention
- Basel Convention
- Bonn Convention
- Convention on Biological Diversity

Q.29) Solution (d)

Option d

Correct

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body established by the article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

It provides the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention.

It is a subsidiary body of the COP that report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work.

SBSTTA comprises government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise.

Its functions include:

Providing assessments of the status of biological diversity,

Providing assessments of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and

Responding to questions that the COP may put to the body.

The 25th meeting of SBSTTA was held at Nairobi, Kenya.

Context: SBSTTA recently conducted a meeting in Nairobi to gauge progress on Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Q.30) Consider the following statements about Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) Network

It provides precise Location based services, which are capable of providing centimetre level positioning services in real-time.

These stations are operated by the Survey of India, the National Survey and Mapping Organization of the country, under Ministry of Science & Technology.

Choose the correct statement:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>It is capable of precise Location based services, which are capable of providing centimetre level positioning services in real-time</p> <p>These stations are capable of providing Real Time Positioning Service through Real Time-Kinematic with an accuracy of + / - 3cm.</p> <p>The CORS network is available 24 /7 throughout the year.</p> <p>Significance</p> <p>CORS based precision services will boost auto navigation and machine control-based solution in Agriculture, Mining, Construction, Transport and Civil Aviation sector.</p> <p>This will open new domains of innovation and research and create a Geospatial based ecosystem in these sectors.</p> <p>CORS data will also aid in various scientific studies like Upper Atmosphere and Space weather studies, Meteorology and weather forecast, Plate motion and Tectonic studies, Seismology and Hydrology etc.</p>	<p>These stations will be operated by the Survey of India.</p> <p>The Survey of India has set up more than 1,000 CORS stations across India.</p> <p>Survey of India</p> <p>It is the National Survey and Mapping Organization of the country under the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.</p> <p>It is the oldest scientific department of India.</p> <p>It was set up in 1767 and has evolved rich traditions over the years</p> <p>It is assigned the role as the nation's Principal Mapping Agency, Survey of India bears a special responsibility to ensure that the country's domain is explored and mapped suitably.</p>

Context: Recently, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology launched the state-of-art National Survey network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations" (CORS).

Q.31) Consider the following statements about Cloud Brightening

Cloud brightening is a phenomenon that occurs when aerosols are injected into clouds by natural events such as volcanic eruptions.

Marine Cloud Brightening is a solar geo-engineering technique that involves spraying sea salt into low-lying clouds to increase the reflectance of cloud cover

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Cloud brightening is a phenomenon that occurs when aerosols are injected into clouds by natural events such as volcanic eruptions.	Marine Cloud Brightening – Also called as cloud whitening or cloud brightening, it was originally proposed by John Latham in 1990 to control global warming by altering Earth's energy balance. It is a solar geo-engineering technique that involves spraying sea salt into low-lying clouds to increase the reflectance of cloud cover that will reduce the amount of incoming solar radiation striking the surface. Spraying large quantities of microscopic seawater droplets will create extra droplets and make the cloud brighter. Sea salt scatters light directly and provides additional shade.

Context: Australia's Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program is exploring whether cloud brightening could reduce coral bleaching.

Q.32) Consider the following pairs

App/Portal	Ojective
Suvidha Portal	Helps in coordination between Booth Level officers
cVIGIL Application	For filing Model Code of Conduct Violation
ESMS platform	Enables the entitled service voters to cast their vote.
GARUDA	Real-time updates on seizures by state and central enforcement agencies

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.32) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
Use of technology in Indian elections cVIGIL Application – For filing Model Code of Conduct Violation) Suvidha Portal – For online nomination, permission etc for political parties and candidates. GARUDA – Geographical Asset Reconnaissance Unified Digital App helps in coordination between Booth Level officers (BLOs). Linking of Aadhaar with voter ID ETPBS – Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System enables the entitled service voters to cast their vote. A voter verification system that uses biometric software, such as facial recognition.

Election Seizure Management System (ESMS)

A tech platform for real-time updates on seizures from the field by state and central enforcement agencies.

Objective - To check the flow of illegal cash, drugs and freebies such as sarees, liquor etc. thereby ensuring free and fair elections

Features –It ensures seamless coordination and intelligence sharing amongst enforcement agencies.

It will be used for the 1st time during the State Assembly Elections that are scheduled for November 2023 in the 5 states of Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana.

Context: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has developed Election Seizure Management System (ESMS) for real-time updates.

Q.33) Dhanauri Wetland, sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state/UT?

Karnataka

Jammu & Kashmir

Tamil Nadu

Uttar Pradesh

Q.33) Solution (d)

Option d

Correct

Dhanauri Wetland is to be notified as Balmiki Ramsar Wetland and Sarus Sanctuary/Conservation Reserve whose proposal is pending before the Uttar Pradesh Wetland authority.

Location - Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Area coverage – 98 hectares

Importance – It is home to over 217 species of birds including Sarus Crane.

It is possibly the largest roosting site for sarus cranes in north India.

It recharges groundwater and helps the community sustain its agricultural practices in the region.

Recognition – It has been recognised as an Important Bird Area by Bird Life International and so recorded by the BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society).

Context: National Green Tribunal (NGT) has granted the UP government 4 weeks' time to update on the status of obtaining the Ramsar tag for Dhanauri Wetland.

Q.34) Consider the following statements about Gulf of Guinea

It is found at the junction of the Prime Meridian and the Equator at 0°0'N and 0°0'E.

The Orange and Niger rivers drain into the Gulf of Guinea.

Choose the incorrect statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>It is the northeasternmost portion of the tropical Atlantic Ocean, located off the western coast of the African continent.</p> <p>It is found at the junction of the Prime Meridian and the Equator at 0°0'N and 0°0'E.</p> <p>The area covers 2.3 million square kilometers, with approximately 6,000 kilometers of coastline.</p> <p>It has a narrow continental shelf.</p>	<p>It has warm tropical waters with relatively low salinity because of the rivers that drain into it and also due to the high rainfall in the region.</p> <p>Its major tributaries are the Volta and Niger rivers.</p> <p>Coastline: The 16 coastal countries that are situated along the Gulf of Guinea are Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gabon, Nigeria, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe, Togo, and Sierra Leone.</p> <p>The coastal region of the Gulf is mostly low-lying and is interspersed with mangrove swamps, marshes, and lagoons.</p> <p>The coastline of the Gulf of Guinea is remarkably similar to the continental margin of South America (that runs from Brazil to the Guianas), thus establishing a clear confirmation of the theory of continental drift.</p> <p>The Gulf of Guinea region accounts for more than 35% of the world's total petroleum reserves.</p>

Context: Indian Naval Ship INS Sumedha recently made a port visit at Lagos, Nigeria as part of its deployment to the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).

Q.35) Consider the following statements about Future Skill PRIME Project

It is India's Technology Skilling Hub designed to equip learners with cutting-edge skills in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

It is a joint initiative of Nasscom & Ministry of Science and Technology.

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
FutureSkills Prime is an innovative and evolutionary ecosystem designed to equip	FutureSkills Prime is India's Technology Skilling Hub which is a joint initiative by Nasscom & Ministry

<p>learners with cutting-edge skills essential in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape. It is aimed at making India a Digital Talent Nation. FutureSkills Prime's industry-backed NASSCOM certification programs are aligned with National Occupational Standards (NOS) and National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).</p>	<p>of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). It empowers Empowering learners at every step of their journey, from course selection to skill-building to finding employment. One can begin by assessing their technical aptitude with the Competency Diagnostic Test. The people can progress with learning content aligned to industry standards, choose courses among 10 digital technologies and 10 professional skills.</p>
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Context: Recently the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab under Future Skill PRIME Project.

Q.36) Which of the following is/are the determinants of the Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

- Inter-crop price parity
- Price trends in the market, both domestic and international
- Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture

Choose the correct code:

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

Q.36) Solution (a)

Option a
Correct
<p>Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.</p> <p>MSP are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).</p> <p>MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer (farmers) against excessive fall in price during bumper production years.</p> <p>It is the minimum price at which the government procures crops from farmers.</p> <p>They are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government.</p> <p>The determinates of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand and supply. Cost of production. Price trends in the market, both domestic and international. Inter-crop price parity. Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture. A minimum of 50 percent as the margin over cost of production. Likely implications of MSP on consumers of that product.

Context: Recently the union government announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 6 Rabi crops for the 2024-25 marketing season with the old formula for MSP.

Q.37) Consider the following statements about Golden Peacock Award

It was instituted by the Institute of Directors, India in 1991, is now regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited received the award the Golden Peacock Award in Risk Management in 2023.

REC is a 'Navratna' company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Rural Development.

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<p>The Golden Peacock Awards, instituted by the Institute of Directors, India in 1991, are now regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.</p> <p>Golden Peacock Awards for Corporate Leadership and Institutional Excellence, over the time, have become a hallmark of excellence, both locally and globally.</p> <p>The award process involves transparency and has a 3 Tier evaluation process, based on internationally recognized criteria.</p> <p>Award winners are eligible to use the Golden Peacock Awards Logo with year on all printed and promotional materials, which evidences the highest accolade received by the organisation.</p>	<p>REC Limited honoured with Golden Peacock Award in Risk Management in 2023.</p>	<p>REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.</p> <p>It is registered with RBI as non-banking finance company (NBFC), Public Financial Institution (PFI) and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).</p> <p>REC was incorporated in 1969 to energise agricultural pump-sets for irrigation purposes, thereby reducing the dependency of agriculture on monsoons.</p>

Context: Recently REC Limited was honoured with Golden Peacock Award in Risk Management.

Q.38) Consider the following statements about Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP)

TYEP aims to raise aspirations of youth from remote tribal areas of worst affected by the left wing extremism districts of selective states in the country.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan organizes TYEP for the development of tribal youth with the support of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.38) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP) aims to raise aspirations of youth from remote tribal areas of worst affected by the left wing extremism districts of selective states in the country.</p> <p>It provides them opportunity to visit 26 different places of the country to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people, Socio-economic & Cultural Development, Process and unity in diversity aspect of our national life.</p>	<p>Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan organizes Tribal Youth Exchange Programme for the development of tribal youth with the support of Ministry of Home Affairs.</p> <p>The Ministry of Home Affairs has been running the TYEP for 15 years through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.</p> <p>The objectives of this programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the aspirations of the youth in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism and deepening the confidence in democratic system in these areas. Countering the propaganda against the government being spread by CPI Maoists. Informing the youth of tribal areas about the development activities and industrial progress and to sensitize them about the rich cultural heritage of India. Spreading awareness about major development and welfare schemes among the youth of the tribal community. Developing an emotional bonding between youth belonging to the tribal community and their peer groups in other parts of the country. <p>In the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme 25,880 youngsters from the tribal community have participated from 2006-07 to 2022-23.</p>

Context: Recently the union home minister interacted with the 200 tribal youth under the Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP) that is held at New Delhi.

Q.39) Consider the following statements about Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

The vision aims to make major ports carbon-neutral and push for domestic hydrogen production and distribution.

It aims to quadruple port capacity to 25,000 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by 2050.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.39) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 is the long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy for enhancing port, promoting sustainable practices and facilitating global collaboration.</p> <p>The blueprint outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices and facilitating international collaboration.</p> <p>It includes strategies to make major ports carbon-neutral and push for domestic hydrogen production and distribution.</p>	<p>It aims to quadruple port capacity to 10,000 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by 2047, aiming to get 100 % public private partnership (PPP) for 12 major ports.</p> <p>The investments worth Rs 75-80 trillion over the next 25 years will be used to achieve the following goals:</p> <p>Carbon neutrality at all major ports, Attaining the highest rank in cruise tourism, Development of 25 cruise terminals, Increasing operational waterways more than two-fold and 500 million tonne (mt) of cargo, development of 2 new major ports and Becoming the leading nation in ship recycling.</p> <p>Global Maritime India Summit 2023 is the 3rd edition of the summit that was held at Mumbai.</p>

Context: At the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 the Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047', a blueprint for the Indian Maritime blue economy.

Q.40) Operation 'Nanhe Faristey', recently seen in news is related to?

- Curb the evil plans of Human traffickers
Redress security related complaints of train passengers
Rescue children and reunite them with their family.
To step up the process of development of Regional Rapid Transit System

Q.40) Solution (c)

Option c
Correct
<p>Operation 'Nanhe Faristey' – The operation aims to rescue children and reunite them with their family. It was launched on Indian Railways by the Railway Protection Force (RPF).</p> <p>Operation 'AAHT' – It is an effective operation to curb the evil plans of Human traffickers.</p> <p>Operation 'Uplabdh' – In this operation the touts were arrested and legal action was taken against them as per law.</p> <p>Touts are the persons who sell tickets unofficially, at a much higher price than the official price, especially outside a theatre, stadium, railway station and other places.</p>

Operation 'Yatri Suraksha' - In order to redress security related complaints of passengers in distress and for immediate assistance, this operation was launched.

Context: Nanhe Faristey, AAHT, Uplabdh and Yatri Suraksha are operations of Railway Protection Force (RPF) to protect railway property, passenger areas and passengers.

Q.41) Consider the following statements about U.N. Environment Programme's (UNEP) Cool Coalition

It is a global multi-stakeholder network that aims to inspire ambition and accelerate action on the transition to clean and efficient cooling.

It is led by UN Environment, IUNC and World Economic Forum.

It is a unified initiative that links action across the Kigali Amendment, Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.41) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
<p>Cool Coalition is dedicated to inspiring ambition, mobilizing action, and accelerating progress toward UN 2019 Climate Change Summit.</p> <p>The Cool Coalition is a global multi-stakeholder network that connects a wide range of key actors towards a rapid global transition to efficient and climate-friendly cooling.</p> <p>The key actors include government, cities, international organizations, businesses, finance, academia and civil society groups.</p>	<p>The Cool Coalition is led by: UN Environment, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).</p>	<p>It is a unified initiative that links action across the Kigali Amendment, Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The 3 pillars of the cool coalition includes: Advocacy Action Knowledge Exchange</p>

Context: The COP28 Presidency held by the United Arab Emirates is leading the Global Cooling Pledge alongside the U.N. Environment Programme's (UNEP) Cool Coalition.

Q.42) Consider the following statements about Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF)

A Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF) is a corpus used for settlement of trades during defaults.

The Clearing Corporation or the Stock Exchange should maintain Settlement Guarantee Fund(s) either separately or jointly.

SGF is received only in the form of cash.

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<p>The primary objective of SGF is to have a fund for each segment to guarantee the settlement of trades executed in respective segment of the stock exchange.</p> <p>A Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF) is a corpus used for settlement of trades during defaults.</p> <p>In the event of clearing member failing to honour his settlement obligation, the SGF is utilised to complete the settlement.</p>	<p>All intermediaries such as stock exchanges, clearing corporations and brokers contribute towards SGF.</p> <p>The Clearing Corporation or the Exchange shall maintain Settlement Guarantee Fund(s) either separately or jointly.</p>	<p>SGF is received in the form of cash and securities.</p> <p>Members are required to maintain a minimum of 10% of their Securities Segment margin requirements in the form of cash contributions to SGF.</p> <p>Members have the option to maintain their entire SGF contribution in the form of Cash.</p> <p>The SEBI has recently notified that excess contribution may be returned to the contributing stakeholders on a pro-rata basis, after taking due approval from SEBI.</p>

Context: Recently Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF) have regulated norms for the Settlement Guarantee Fund in commodity derivatives segment.

Q.43) Consider the following statements about Agni-D

It is an AI based surveillance software system.

It is deployed in the eastern Ladakh sector, a region of strategic importance due to its closeness to China.

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Agni-D is a defence software that has been developed by Captain Vikas Tripathi, an electrical engineer with the army.</p> <p>The software system was showcased Aero India.</p> <p>Agni-D has been tested in internal camps and during army exercises over the last few months.</p> <p>Agni-D is a coded system that aims to automate surveillance centers and outposts.</p> <p>The army's forward posts in the northern sector have started testing an artificial intelligence (AI) based software Agni-D for surveillance and thwarting transgressions.</p>	<p>The system can recognize heat signatures of various types, including weapons, tanks, armored vehicles and missiles captured by surveillance cameras.</p> <p>It can also prove to be vital for security proposes of static formations of forces at peace stations across the country.</p> <p>Agni-D is deployed in the eastern Ladakh sector, a region of strategic importance due to its closeness to China.</p>

Context: The army's forward posts in the northern sector have started testing an artificial intelligence (AI) based software Agni-D for surveillance and thwarting transgressions.

Q.44) Consider the following statements

Statement 1 - Jet streams form when warm air masses meet cold air masses in the atmosphere.

Statement 2 - The Sun doesn't heat the whole earth evenly.

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.44) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis**

Option a
Correct
<p>Jet streams are bands of strong wind that generally blow from west to east all across the globe. Earth has four primary jet streams: two polar jet streams, near the north and south poles, and two subtropical jet streams closer to the equator.</p> <p>They impact weather, air travel, and many other things that take place in our atmosphere.</p> <p>What causes Jet Streams?</p> <p>Jet streams form when warm air masses meet cold air masses in the atmosphere.</p>

The Sun doesn't heat the whole earth evenly. That's why areas near the equator are hot and areas near the poles are cold.

So when Earth's warmer air masses meet cooler air masses, the warmer air rises up higher in the atmosphere while cooler air sinks down to replace the warm air.

This movement creates an air current, or wind.

A jet stream is a type of air current that forms high in the atmosphere.

They are located about five to nine miles above Earth's surface in the mid to upper troposphere, the layer of Earth's atmosphere where we live and breathe.

How Do Jet Streams Affect Weather?

They play a crucial role in shaping weather patterns. They can affect the movement of weather systems, such as high-pressure and low-pressure areas, and influence the direction and intensity of storms.

Storms tend to follow the edge of the jet stream, where the difference between cool and warm air creates the turbulent conditions for storms.

How Do Jet Streams Affect Air Travel?

Airplanes also fly in the mid to upper troposphere. So, if an airplane flies in a powerful jet stream and they are traveling in the same direction, the airplane can get a boost.

That's why an airplane flying a route from west to east can generally make the trip faster than an airplane traveling the same route from east to west.

Context: The James Webb Telescope recently unveiled a stunning image of Jupiter, featuring snapshots of extraordinarily fast jet streams racing across the planet's equator.

Q.45) Edakkal Caves, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?

Bihar

Karnataka

Kerala

Andhra Pradesh

Q.45) Solution (c)

Option c

Correct

These caves are located 3,900 ft above the sea level on the majestic Ambukuthi hills.

The name Edakkal itself means "a stone in between".

The unique intricate stone carvings that date back to the Neolithic and Mesolithic ages.

The caves are two natural formations that are believed to have been formed by a large split in a huge rock.

These feature Neolithic-era pictorial writings believed to be dating to at least 6,000 BCE.

Features:

The caves sport human and animal figures besides symbols and letters.

Inside the caves are pictorial drawings and engravings that indicate the presence of ancient human settlements in the region.

Despite their name, the Edakkal Caves are not actually caves. They are part of a prehistoric rock shelter, formed naturally when one huge boulder got wedged between two bigger ones.

Human figures, animals, tools, vehicles, day-to-day occurrences and scripts in different language scripts have been discovered here.

The diversity of the engravings suggest that the Edakkal caves were inhabited several times at different points in history.

The Muniyaras, or ancient burial sites that have been discovered in these hills have yielded a rich collection of ancient earthenware and pottery.

Context: Recently, Kerala Tourism has launched a 2.9-crore rupees project to improve civic amenities around the Edakkal Caves in Wayanad.

Q.46) Consider the following statements about Montreux Convention

It is an agreement concerning the Turkish straits.

The convention gives the control over the Turkish Straits to Turkey in the event of war.

The Turkish straits are the only maritime passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.46) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
It is an agreement concerning the Dardanelles strait and the Bosphorus strait, also known as the Turkish straits or the Black Sea straits.	According to the 1936 Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits, often referred to simply as the Montreux Convention, Turkey has control over the Turkish Straits. In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict. Merchant vessels enjoy freedom of passage through the Turkish Straits, while passages of vessels of war are subject to some restrictions that vary	The Turkish straits are the only maritime passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. The principal provisions of the Convention ruling the passage of vessels of war are: Aircraft carriers, whether belonging to the littoral States or not, can in no way pass through the Turkish Straits. Only submarines belonging to littoral States can pass through the Turkish Straits for the purpose of rejoining their base in the Black Sea for the first time after their construction or purchase, or for the purpose of repair in dockyards outside the Black Sea. The total number and maximum aggregate tonnage of all foreign naval forces which may be in the course of passage through the Turkish Straits are limited to 9 and 15.000 tons respectively. The maximum aggregate tonnage which non-littoral States may have in the Black Sea is 45.000 tons.

	<p>depending on whether these vessels belong to the Black Sea littoral States or not.</p> <p>Besides some general restrictions applicable to all, vessels of war belonging to non-littoral States are subject to specific restrictions, such as those regarding maximum aggregate tonnage and duration of stay in the Black Sea.</p>	<p>In this regard, the maximum aggregate tonnage of the vessels of war that one non-littoral State may have in the Black Sea is 30,000 tons.</p> <p>Vessels of war belonging to non-littoral States cannot stay more than 21 days in the Black Sea.</p> <p>Passages through the Turkish Straits are notified to Türkiye through diplomatic channels prior to intended passages.</p> <p>The notification time is 8 days for vessels of war belonging to littoral States, and 15 days for those of non-littoral States.</p>
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Context: The Turkish Ministry of National Defense recently announced that it will impose restrictions on the passage of warships belonging to countries not bordering the Black Sea within the framework of the Montreux Convention.

Q.47) It is located on the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra in Assam. It was declared a reserve forest in 1971 and a wildlife sanctuary in 1987. It is home to the highest population density of the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros species. It is dominated by alluvial lowlands and marshland. The Brahmaputra River offers a natural boundary to this sanctuary on the north, while the Garanga Beel offers a natural boundary to its south.

Which of the following Sanctuary suits the above description?

- Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary
- Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.47) Solution (c)

Option c
Correct
<p>Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary</p> <p>Location: It is located on the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra in Morigaon district, adjacent to Guwahati in Assam.</p> <p>It was declared a reserve forest in 1971 and a wildlife sanctuary in 1987.</p> <p>It is home to the highest population density of the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros species (around 102 rhinos in an area of 38.8 sq. km).</p> <p>Landscape: It is dominated by alluvial lowlands and marshland.</p> <p>The Brahmaputra River offers a natural boundary to the premises of the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary on the north, while the Garanga Beel offers a natural boundary to its south.</p> <p>Flora:</p> <p>72% of Pabitora consists of wet savannah of <i>Arundo donax</i>, <i>Erianthus ravennae</i>, <i>Phragmites karka</i>, <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>, and <i>Saccharum spp.</i></p>

Water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) is a major problem, especially to waterfowl, as it forms thick mats on the water surface.

Fauna:

Besides rhinoceros, the other animals are leopard, wild boar, Barking deer, wild buffalo, etc.

It is also home to more than 375 species of resident and migratory birds, such as the Indian pied Hornbill, Osprey, Hill Myna, Kalij Pheasant, etc.

Context: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, renowned for its population of one-horned rhinoceros, welcomed tourists once again as it officially reopened recently.

Q.48) Consider the following statements about Graphite

Graphite is the unstable form of carbon.

It is extremely resistant to heat and nearly inert in contact with almost any other material.

Polishes, batteries and cores of nuclear reactors are the areas of applications of the graphite.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.48) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
<p>It consists of a ring of six carbon atoms closely bonded together hexagonally in widely spaced layers.</p> <p>The bonds within the layers are strong but the bonds between the layers are less in number and therefore are weaker.</p> <p>Graphite is the stable form of carbon.</p>	<p>It is an opaque, non-metallic carbon polymorph that is blackish silver in colour and metallic to dull in sheen.</p> <p>Since it resembles the metal lead, it is also known colloquially as black lead or plumbago.</p> <p>It is formed by the metamorphosis of sediments containing carbonaceous material.</p> <p>It is a naturally occurring form of crystalline carbon.</p> <p>It is extremely soft, cleaves with very light pressure, and has a very low specific gravity.</p> <p>In contrast, it is extremely resistant to heat and nearly inert in contact with almost any other material.</p> <p>These extreme properties give it a wide range of uses in metallurgy and manufacturing.</p>	<p>Applications: It is used in pencils, lubricants, crucibles, foundry facings, polishes, arc lamps, batteries, brushes for electric motors, and cores of nuclear reactors.</p> <p>It is mined extensively in China, India, Brazil, North Korea, and Canada.</p>

Context: Recently, China has unveiled plans to restrict exports of graphite — a mineral crucial to the manufacture of batteries for electric vehicles (EVs) — on national security grounds.

Q.49) Consider the following statements about Civil Union

Civil Union is similar to a marriage like legal sanction given to two individuals of same sex.

Civil Union resembles a marriage and brings with it employment, inheritance, property and parental rights.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.49) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Civil Union is similar to a marriage like legal sanction given to two individuals of same sex. Marriage is a religious institution recognized by law that allow two individuals (generally from opposite sex) to marry each other. Same sex marriage is outside the scope of religion-based definition of marriage. Civil Union is the tool devised to grant such similar legal protection to the couples of same sex marriage.	Civil Union is the legal status that grants same-sex couples certain rights and responsibilities which are normally given to married couples. Civil Union resembles a marriage and brings with it employment, inheritance, property and parental rights.

Context: It was in news.

Q.50) Consider the following statements about Best Tourism Village

Dhordo village of Gujarat has been conferred the prestigious title of Best Tourism Village - 2023

The award is given by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.50) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Dhordo village in Gujarat made it to the UN World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTOs) best villages list for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.</p> <p>Dhordo village is nestled in the Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat which hosts the annual cultural festival Rann Utsav that showcases the region's traditional art, music, and crafts. It also hosted the 1st Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G-20 held under India's presidency in 2023.</p>	<p>Best Tourism Village Initiative Global initiative to highlight those villages where tourism preserves cultures and traditions, celebrates diversity, provides opportunities and safeguards biodiversity.</p> <p>Recognition to – Outstanding rural tourism destinations with accredited cultural and natural assets based on 9 key evaluation criterias.</p> <p>Objectives Reduce regional inequalities in income and development. Fight rural depopulation. Progress gender equality and women's and youth empowerment. Enhance education and skills development.</p> <p>Best Tourism Village 2023 – It is the 3rd edition where 54 villages from all regions were selected. A further 20 villages have joined the Upgrade Programme. All 74 villages are part of the UNWTO Best Tourism Villages Network.</p>

Context: Dhordo village in Gujarat made it to the UN World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTOs) best villages list for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.

Q.51) Consider the following statements about Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSBs)

FRSBs are interest-bearing, tradable bonds issued by the Government of India.

Non-Resident Indians (NRI) are eligible to invest in these bonds.

Interest received through the bonds will be taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.51) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
<p>It was introduced by the Government of India on July 1, 2020.</p> <p>FRSBs are interest-bearing, non-tradable bonds</p>	<p>Eligibility: The bonds may be held by A person resident in India, in her or his individual capacity, or in individual capacity on a joint basis, or in individual capacity on any one or survivor basis, or</p>	<p>Interest Rate: The interest on the bonds is payable semi-annually on 1st January and 1st July every year. The interest rate of the bond would be re-set half-yearly in sync with the coupon payment date.</p>

<p>issued by the Government of India, which are repayable on the expiration of seven years from the date of issue.</p>	<p>on behalf of a minor as father/mother/legal guardian. A Hindu undivided family. Non-Resident Indians (NRI) are not eligible to invest in these bonds. Minimum Subscription: The bonds will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs. 1000 (face value) and in multiples thereof. Maximum Limit: There will be no maximum limit for investment in the bonds. A certificate of holding will be issued to the customer as proof of subscription.</p>	<p>It is linked to the prevailing National Savings Certificate (NSC) rate with a spread of (+) 35 bps over the respective NSC rate. There is no option to pay interest on a cumulative basis. Repayment/Tenure: The bonds shall be repayable on the expiration of 7 (Seven) years from the date of issue. Premature redemption shall be allowed for specified categories of senior citizens. Tax Treatment: Interest received will be taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961, as amended from time to time and as applicable according to the relevant tax status of the Bond holder.</p>
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Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently expanded the basket of products offered through the Retail Direct Portal, allowing retail investors to subscribe to Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSBs), 2020 (Taxable).

Q.52) Consider the following statements

Statement 1 - DANGER analysis is a new software tool that makes genome editing safer by overcoming limitations in current CRISPR technology

Statement 2 - Unlike traditional method (CRISPR) which does not rely on a reference genome, DANGER works by depending on the basic genomic data, including the reference genome.

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.52) Solution (c)

Option c

Correct

For about a decade, researchers have used the CRISPR technology for genome editing. However, there are some challenges in the use of CRISPR.

The first challenge is that the phenotypic, or observable, effects caused by unexpected CRISPR dynamics are not quantitatively monitored.

A second challenge is that the CRISPR technology generally depends on basic genomic data, including the reference genome. The reference genome is like a template that provides researchers with general information on the genome. Unexpected sequence editing with mismatches can occur. These off-target sites are always unexpected.

The DANGER analysis overcomes these challenges and allows researchers to perform safer on- and off-target assessments without a reference genome.

DANGER (Deleterious and ANTicipatable Guides Evaluated by RNA-sequencing)

DANGER analysis is a new software tool that makes genome editing safer by overcoming limitations in current CRISPR technology.

Unlike traditional methods that rely on a reference genome, DANGER works by conducting risk-averse on- and off-target assessments using RNA-sequencing data.

It evaluates phenotypic effects based on gene expression changes caused by deleterious off-target sites.

The software quantifies the phenotypic risk at the gene ontology level without the need for a reference genome.

The tool successfully evaluated the phenotypic effects of gene editing in human cells and zebrafish brains.

It can be performed on various organisms, personal human genomes, and atypical genomes created by diseases and viruses.

The open-source nature of the software allows for its adaptation to different genome editing systems beyond CRISPR-Cas9.

Context: A team of researchers recently developed a software tool called DANGER (Deleterious and ANTicipatable Guides Evaluated by RNA-sequencing) analysis that provides a way for the safer design of genome editing in all organisms.

Q.53) Consider the following statements about Small Savings Instruments (SSIs)

All deposits received under various small savings schemes are pooled in the National Small Savings Fund. Public provident fund (PPF) and Kisan Vikas Patra are the examples of Small Savings Instruments. The money in the fund is used by the central government to finance its fiscal deficit.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.53) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
These are a set of savings instruments managed by the central government with an aim	These instruments can be classified under three heads:	National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) was established in 1999 within the Public

<p>to encourage citizens to save regularly irrespective of their age.</p> <p>Features</p> <p>They provide returns that are generally higher than bank fixed deposits.</p> <p>Also gives a sovereign guarantee and tax benefits.</p> <p>The interest rates on small savings schemes on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>All deposits received under various small savings schemes are pooled in the National Small Savings Fund.</p>	<p>Postal deposits (comprising savings account, recurring deposits, time deposits of varying maturities and monthly income scheme(MIS);</p> <p>Savings certificates (National Small Savings Certificate VIII (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP));</p> <p>Social security schemes [(public provident fund (PPF) and Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme(SCSS)]</p>	<p>Account of India for pooling the money from different small saving schemes (SSs). Collections from all small savings schemes are credited to the NSSF.</p> <p>Similarly, withdrawals under small savings schemes by the depositors are made out of this Fund. The money in the account is used by the centre and states to finance their fiscal deficit.</p>
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Context: The government of India has raised the rates offered for most small savings instruments (SSIs) in the range of 40 basis points (bps) to 150 bps over the last five quarters.

Q.54) Consider the following statements

Development of SC dominated villages into an “Adarsh Gram”.

‘Grants-in-aid’ for District/State-level Projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs

Financial assistance towards loans taken by beneficiaries for acquisition/creation of assets required for livelihood generation.

Which among the following are the components of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana?

2 and 3

3 only

1 and 2

1, 2 and 3

Q.54) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
<p>Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana</p> <p>It is a merged scheme of 3 Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana(BJRCY).</p> <p>Aim:</p> <p>To reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment opportunities through Skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives</p> <p>To improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages.</p> <p>The following are the components of the scheme:</p> <p>Development of SC dominated villages into an “Adarsh Gram”: The objective of this component is to ensure integrated development of SC majority villages so that, inter alia, there is; Adequate</p>

infrastructure, all requisite infrastructure necessary for socio-economic development needs are to be provided under the Scheme.

'Grants-in-aid' for District/State-level Projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs that may include creation of infrastructure in SC dominated villages including those selected under Adarsh Gram component, construction of Hostels/Residential schools.

Comprehensive Livelihood Projects which may include components such as Skill development, related infrastructure development, financial assistance towards loans taken by beneficiaries for acquisition/creation of assets required for livelihood generation etc.

Construction of Hostels in higher educational institutions which are top-ranked as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of Government of India and are funded by the Centre/State/UT Governments either fully or partially.

Context: The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM- AJAY) has been implemented since 2021-22.

Q.55) The Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023, recently seen in news is a joint bilateral training exercise between the India and which of the following country's army?

- Nepal
- Malaysia
- Sri Lanka
- Indonesia

Q.55) Solution (b)

Option
Correct
<p>It is a joint bilateral training exercise between the Indian & Malaysian Army.</p> <p>The Malaysian Army contingent comprises troops from 5th Royal Battalion of Malaysian Army. The Indian contingent is being represented by a Battalion of THE RAJPUT REGIMENT.</p> <p>Aim: To enhance military capability for conduct of Multi Domain Operations in a sub conventional scenario.</p> <p>During the exercise, both contingents will establish a Joint Command Post & establish an integrated surveillance grid along with a Joint Surveillance Centre.</p> <p>Both sides will rehearse employment of joint forces in jungle/ semi urban / urban environments. In addition, intelligence collection, collation and dissemination drills will also be rehearsed.</p> <p>The Exercise will also witness employment of Drones/UAVs & Helicopters. Two sides will also practice casualty management and evacuation drills.</p> <p>Both the contingents will discuss logistics management and practice survival training at the Battalion level. The training will focus primarily on high degree of physical fitness, conduct of drills at tactical level and sharing of best practices with each other.</p> <p>The Exercise will culminate with a 48-hour long validation exercise in a semi-urban area.</p> <p>Last edition of the Exercise was conducted in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia in November 2022.</p>

Context: Recently, the Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.

Q.56) Consider the following statements about Article 142 of the Indian Constitution

It provides the apex court with a special and extraordinary power and is meant to provide justice to litigants who have suffered traversed illegality or injustice.

If a legislative enactment seeks to make unenforceable the order of the Supreme Court made under Article 142, such law would be void for contravening Article 142.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy and Babri Masjid Case are the examples where SC invoked its powers under Article 142.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.56) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<p>It deals with the Supreme Court's power to exercise its jurisdiction and pass an order for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.</p> <p>It provides the apex court with a special and extraordinary power and is meant to provide justice to litigants who have suffered traversed illegality or injustice in the course of legal proceedings.</p> <p>Article 142(1) states that "The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction, may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe".</p>	<p>Article 142 allows the Supreme Court to deliver justice in exceptional cases where existing provisions or laws are not applicable.</p> <p>If a legislative enactment seeks to make unenforceable the decree or order of the Supreme Court made under Article 142, in relation to the cause and the parties between whom it was made, such law would be void for contravening Article 142</p>	<p>Significant cases where Article 142 was invoked:</p> <p>Babri Masjid Case: The article was used in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case and was instrumental in the handover of the disputed land to a trust to be formed by the union government.</p> <p>Bhopal Gas Tragedy: The SC invoked its plenary powers in the Union Carbide vs Union Govt case and intervened to provide compensation to victims of the deadly Bhopal Gas Tragedy.</p>

Context: The Supreme Court recently directed sale of ancestral property of a man to pay arrears of maintenance of Rs. 1.25 Crores to his wife under its inherent powers under Article 142.

Q.57) Consider the following statements about International Migration Outlook 2023

The 'International Migration Outlook 2023' was released by the International Organization for Migration. India saw the highest migration flows to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in 2021 and 2022.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.57) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>Recently, the 'International Migration Outlook 2023' was released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).</p> <p>OECD</p> <p>It is an international organisation of 38 countries committed to democracy and the market economy.</p> <p>Its members are typically democratic countries that support free-market economies.</p> <p>It was established on Dec. 14, 1960, by 18 European nations, plus the United States and Canada.</p> <p>Goal: To shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.</p> <p>It publishes economic reports, statistical databases, analyses, and forecasts on the outlook for economic growth worldwide.</p> <p>The organization also seeks to eliminate bribery and other financial crime worldwide.</p> <p>It maintains a so-called "black list" of nations that are considered uncooperative tax havens.</p> <p>India is one of the many non-member economies with which the OECD has working relationships in addition to its member countries.</p>	<p>India saw the highest migration flows to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>In terms of nationalities, 0.13 million Indian citizens acquired the nationality of an OECD country in 2021.</p> <p>Inflows of refugees from Ukraine reached the highest level on record, OECD-wide, due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war; more than 10 million people have become either internally displaced or refugees in the OECD region.</p> <p>In terms of workers, migration flows from India (+172 per cent), Uzbekistan (+122 per cent) and Turkey (+240 per cent) rose sharply, making them primary countries of origin after Ukraine.</p>

Context: Recently, the 'International Migration Outlook 2023' was released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Q.58) Consider the following statements about Kasturi Cotton Bharat

It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Cotton Corporation of India, Trade Bodies & Industry.

Objective is to work on the principle of self-regulation by owning complete responsibility of Branding, Traceability and Certification of Indian Cotton.

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council has been designated as the implementing agency for Traceability, Certification and Branding of "KASTURI Cotton India".

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.58) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India, Trade Bodies & Industry.	Objective: To work on the principle of self-regulation by owning complete responsibility of Branding, Traceability and Certification of Indian Cotton to enhance its' competitiveness in the global market and create a sustainable ecosystem for all stakeholders involved. The website provides a digital platform for necessary information and updates on this initiatives and highlights the registration process for ginners to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat Brand. All the ginners in the country have been empowered to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand as per stipulated protocol.	The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) the apex body has been designated as the implementing agency for Traceability, Certification and Branding of "KASTURI Cotton India".

Context: Recently, the union Minister of Textile, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution launched the website of Kasturi Cotton Bharat.

Q.59) Long Valley Caldera, recently seen in news is located in which of the following country?

- Iceland
- United States of America
- Indonesia
- Japan

Q.59) Solution (b)

Option b
Correct

It is located in the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, United states of America (USA).
It is a dormant supervolcano.

It was formed by a super-eruption about 760,000 years ago that blasted 140 cubic miles of magma, covering much of east-central California in hot ash that was blown as far away as present-day Nebraska.

It has been unleashing earthquake swarms on a regular basis since 1978, raising concerns that it might be at risk of erupting.

What is Caldera?

It is a depression created after a volcano releases the majority of the contents of its magma chamber in an explosive eruption.

Without any structural support below, the land around the erupting volcanic vent or vents collapses inwardly, creating the bowl-shaped caldera.

A caldera-causing eruption is the most devastating type of volcanic eruption.

These are formed by the inward collapse of a volcano.

Calderas may have parts of their sides missing because land collapses unevenly.

Context: More than 2,000 earthquakes were identified rumbling across the Long Valley Caldera in the last few years by scientists at the California Institute of Technology

Q.60) Consider the following statements about 'Loss and Damage' Fund

It is a financing mechanism to compensate the most vulnerable countries from climate-linked disasters.
'Loss and Damage' Fund is managed by the Global Environment Facility which was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.60) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>Loss and Damage Fund (L&D fund) is a financing mechanism to compensate the most vulnerable countries from climate-linked disasters.</p> <p>Loss and Damage refers to impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided either by mitigation or adaptation.</p> <p>In the 1990s, the Alliance of Small Island States, began calling for the establishment of a loss and damage fund.</p> <p>The G-77 (India is part of the group) and China had called for the immediate creation of an L&D fund at COP 27 which was agreed.</p>	<p>The COP is yet to finalize on the authority to oversee the Loss and Damage Fund.</p> <p>There is still no clear affirmation on which entity should oversee the fund, who should pay and which countries would be eligible to receive funding.</p>

Context: Few countries involved in a committee tasked with designing a "loss and damage" have recently agreed to meet on November before the COP 28 to address the issues with the fund.

Q.61) Consider the following statements about United Nations Forum on Forests

It was established in 2010 by the UN Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

India is a founding member of UNFF.

Country-Led Initiative of UNFF contributes to the discussions regarding the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management.

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct
It promotes the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests. It was established in 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).	The Forum meets annually at the UN Headquarters in New York, bringing together representatives of all member states and forests-related agencies for high-level dialogue on technical matters in odd years and policy matters in even years. The forum has universal membership, and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies. India is a founding member of UNFF.	Country-Led Initiative (CLI) Its primary goal is to contribute to the discussions of UNFF regarding the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests. It also aims to facilitate the sharing of best practices among UNFF member States for the implementation of SFM and the UNSPF. This year CLI will discuss thematic areas involving forest fires and forest certification.

Context: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is organising a Country-Led Initiative (CLI) event as part of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) from 26-28 October, 2023 at the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Q.62) Consider the following statements about Dust Suppressants

Dust suppressants are salts of calcium or magnesium that can absorb moisture.

The use of dust suppressants in water is more effective than plain water sprinkling to reduce particulate matter emission.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Q.62) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Dust suppressants are salts of calcium or magnesium that can absorb moisture.</p> <p>Magnesium chloride absorbs moisture.</p> <p>About 30% reduction in dust concentration (PM10, PM2.5 and PM1) was observed up to 6 hours for construction sites as well as roads with the use of dust suppressant.</p>	<p>The use of dust suppressant along with water is relatively more effective in control of pollution than conventional methods of dust control that is plain water spraying.</p> <p>The use of dust suppressants in water can be more effective than plain water sprinkling as it shows more efficiency to reduce particulate matter emission.</p> <p>This is not the first time it has been used in the Capital and parts of NCR to reduce the Delhi pollution.</p> <p>In 2019, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee had also issued directions that all construction agencies to use dust suppressants to control dust emissions and road-owning agencies.</p> <p>The effort by the Delhi government aids Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and seeks to improve Air Quality Index.</p>

Context: Delhi government to use dust suppressants to combat poor Air Quality Index.

Q.63) Consider the following statements about Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR)

HDSR aims to control man-made light pollution in the area in order to preserve the pristine dark skies for astronomical research.

India's first Night Sky Sanctuary is located within the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.63) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct

HDSR aims to control man-made light pollution in the area in order to preserve the pristine dark skies for astronomical research.

A dark sky is the night sky as nature meant for it to be, without any light pollution.

The Reserve is promoted as a tourist destination for enjoying the night sky and also helps in socio-economic development of the local villages.

HDSR is India's first dark sky region which is centred at Hanle in Eastern Ladakh, around the Indian Astronomical Observatory.

It is India's first Night Sky Sanctuary is located within the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Wildlife Sanctuary is adjacent to the Indian Astronomical Observatory, the second-highest optical telescope in the world.

This Dark Sky Reserve is among only the 15 or 16 of its kind in the world that will offer a spectacular view of the night sky.

The Star Party is also likely to evolve into an annual event.

Context: Recently the 1st official star party for experienced amateur astronomers was organised by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in eastern Ladakh.

Q.64) Project Udbhav, recently is in news is an initiative of which of the following ministry?

Ministry of Tourism

Ministry of Science and Technology

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Q.64) Solution (c)

Option b

Correct

Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence services think tank.

Aim: To revive and integrate India's ancient military wisdom with contemporary military practices.

Objectives of the project:

Understanding ancient military systems and India's indigenous military culture.

Studying the evolution of the Indian military system and strategic idea.

Educating junior and senior military leaders about concepts in classical texts.

Creating a knowledge resource for scholars and defense personnel.

Considering the inclusion of historical military concepts in modern practices.

Features:

The project involves organizing events and workshops focusing on various aspects of India's strategic culture.

It will culminate in a publication scheduled for January 2024, which will document and institutionalize this knowledge.

What are the major military practices Project UDBHAV takes inspiration from?

Chanakya's Arthashastra

Thirukkural

Prominent Military Campaigns and Leaders

Clever Diplomacy and Military Intelligence

Context: The Defence Minister has launched 'Project UDBHAV'.

Q.65) Consider the following statements about "25 by 25 target"

It is an initiative of World Health Organisation to reduce by 25% in malnutrition compared to 2010 by 2025.

It was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2015.

India has reached the target as the researchers projected a decline of 15.6 % from 2015 to 2030.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.65) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
"25 by 25 target" is an initiative of World Health Organisation (WHO) to reduce by 25% in premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) compared to 2010 by 2025.	It was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2012. The framework is expected to drive progress in prevention and control of NCDs. It provides the foundation for advocacy, raising awareness, reinforcing political commitment and promoting global action to tackle these deadly diseases. The framework is comprised of nine global targets and 25 indicators and was adopted by Member States during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2013. The WHO has defined the unconditional probability of dying (UPoD) between the ages of 30 and 69 as the progress indicator for monitoring the reduction in premature mortality.	The 9 voluntary global targets are aimed at combatting global mortality from the 4 main NCDs. The 4 main NCDs includes heart disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes. The premature mortality rate for 4 major NCDs is projected to decrease by 13.9 % from 2010 to 2025 in India. The SDG target to reduce premature deaths from the 4 major NCDs by a 1/3rd from 2015 to 2030. This target will also be missed by India as the researchers projected a decline of 15.6 % from 2015 to 2030. The recent analysis indicate that the UPoD from the 4NCDs was 24.4 % in 2010 and is projected to be 21.0 % and 20.0 % in 2025 and 2030. This data indicate that a relative reduction of 13.9 % by 2025 from 2010 and 15.6 % by 2030 from 2015.

Context: Recent analysis by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) indicate that India will likely to miss target set by world health organisation in its 25 by 25 target.

Q.66) How many of the below mentioned sites are Neolithic sites of India?

Brahmagiri
Utnur
Langhnaj
Belan Valley

Choose the correct code:

Only one
Only two
Only three
All four

Q.66) Solution (c)

Option c

Correct

Burzahom, Gufkaral - Kashmir; Chopani, Mahagarha - UP; Chechar - Bihar; Brahmagiri, Tekkalkota, Sanganakallu, Narsipur, Hallur, Kuggal and Kodekal - Karnataka; Utnur and Piklihal - AP; and Poyampali - Tamil Nadu.

The Neolithic Age, also called the New Stone Age, is the final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans.

The term Neolithic is most frequently used in connection with agriculture, which is the time when cereal cultivation and animal domestication were introduced.

The Neolithic stage of development was attained during the Holocene Epoch (the last 11,700 years of Earth's history).

The starting point of the Neolithic is generally thought to have occurred sometime around 10,000 BCE.

The Neolithic followed the Paleolithic Period, or the age of chipped-stone tools, and preceded the Bronze Age, or the early period of metal tools.

The Neolithic Revolution started in the Fertile Crescent, a region of the Middle East, where humans first took up farming.

Features of the Neolithic Age:

It was characterized by stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding, dependence on domesticated plants or animals, settlement in permanent villages, and the appearance of such crafts as pottery and weaving.

The houses were built of mud and reed in rectangular or circular shapes.

Alcohol was first produced during this period, and architecture, as well as its interior and exterior decoration, first appeared.

Context: A rock art dating back to the Neolithic period was recently found in the Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Q.67) Consider the following statements about Bering Sea

It is bordered by the US state of Alaska to the east and the Kamchatka Peninsula in the west.

The Aleutian island group and Karagin Island are located in Bering Sea.

The two rivers that drain into the sea are the Ob and Lena Rivers.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<p>It is a marginal sea in the northernmost part of the Pacific Ocean, separating the continents of Asia and North America.</p> <p>To the north, the Bering Sea connects with the Arctic Ocean through the Bering Strait, at the narrowest point of which the two continents are about 53 miles (85 kilometres) apart.</p> <p>It is bordered by the US state of Alaska to the east and northeast, the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Far Eastern region of Russia in the west, and the chain of the Aleutian Islands in the south.</p> <p>The boundary between the United States and Russia passes through the sea and the strait.</p>	<p>Islands:</p> <p>In addition to the Aleutian and Komandor groups, there are several other large islands in both the sea and strait.</p> <p>These include Nunivak, St. Lawrence, and Nelson islands in Alaskan waters and Karagin Island in Russian waters.</p>	<p>Rivers:</p> <p>The two rivers that drain into the sea are the Anadyr and the Yukon Rivers.</p> <p>There are five major rivers that flow into the Arctic, the Mackenzie and Yukon in North America, and the three largest in Asia, the Ob, Yenisey and Lena Rivers.</p>

Context: A recent study links a decline in sea ice moving from the Arctic to the Bering Sea in the North Pacific Ocean to an increased occurrence of wildfire hazards in northeast China.

Q.68) Consider the following statements

- Global Declaration for River Dolphins is a UN administered declaration with a focus on responsible freshwater dolphin conservation.
- All six species of river dolphins are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>This declaration is designed to guide 14 nations where river dolphins inhabit, with a focus on responsible freshwater dolphin conservation.</p> <p>It aims to halt the decline of all river dolphin species and increase the most vulnerable populations.</p> <p>The declaration will escalate collaborative endeavours to safeguard the surviving river dolphin species.</p> <p>Countries that adopted the declaration include Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, and Venezuela.</p> <p>The countries involved agreed to improve water quality in the dolphins' habitat, create protected areas, tackle overfishing, and involve Indigenous communities in the affected regions in protecting the animals.</p> <p>There is no role of UN here.</p>	<p>River Dolphins are any of six species of small, usually freshwater aquatic mammals that are related to whales (order Cetacea).</p> <p>A seventh river dolphin species, the Chinese river dolphin, or baiji, was declared extinct in 2007.</p> <p>Distribution: These dolphins are found in rivers of south-central Asia, China, and South America and in the coastal waters of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay.</p> <p>Common Features: They have slender beaks lined with lots of teeth, small eyes, flexible necks and bodies, pronounced forehead melons, large flippers, and small dorsal fins.</p> <p>The six surviving species of river dolphins are the Amazon, Indus, Ganges, Irrawaddy, Tucuxi, and Yangtze finless porpoise.</p> <p>All six species of river dolphins are classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.</p> <p>The largest is the Amazon River dolphin (<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>).</p>

Context: In a ground-breaking development, 11 Asian and South American countries recently signed a global declaration, the "Global Declaration for River Dolphins," aimed at preserving the world's six remaining river dolphin species.

Q.69) Consider the following statements about Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project (JDMP)

Recently the JDMP project was included under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

The project involves building a concrete gravity dam across the Gola River.

The Gola River is a tributary of the Ramganga River.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.69) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approves inclusion of Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project of Uttarakhand under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)	JDMP is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The project involves building a concrete gravity dam across the Gola River.	The Gola River is a tributary of the Ramganga river. The Ramganga River originates in the southern slopes of Dudhatoli Hill in Chamoli district of the Indian state of Uttarakhand.

Context: It was in news.

Q.70) World Energy Outlook 2023, recently in news is published by which of the following organization?

- International Renewable Energy Agency
- International Energy Agency
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

Q.70) Solution (b)

Option b
Correct
<p>Launched By - International Energy Agency (IEA) Time Period - Annual report</p> <p>It is the world's most authoritative source of energy analysis and projections.</p> <p>Findings of World Energy Outlook 2023 for India</p> <p>Power consumption – India will exceed the whole of Africa now. Air-conditioner usage – Residential ownership to see 9 fold increase by 2050. Energy demand – A sharp rise as temperatures cross the 25-degree Celsius threshold. Energy supply - To rise to 60.3 exajoules (EJ) by 2050. Investments – Need to nearly triple by the end of this decade to be on a trajectory to meet its net zero emissions target. Annual CO2 emissions – To rises nearly 30% by 2050, which is one of the largest increases in the world. Implication over India's climate – Over the past 5 decades, more than 700 heatwave events occurred.</p>

Context: According to World Energy Outlook 2023, India will see the largest energy demand growth of any country or region in the world over the next 3 decades.

Q.71) Consider the following statements about East China Sea

- It connects with the Japan Sea via the Tsushima Strait and the South China Sea via the Taiwan Strait.
- The Yellow River and the Yangtze River discharge into the East China Sea.
- Ryukyu Islands and Senkaku Islands are the islands in the East China Sea.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.71) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
<p>It is an arm of the Western Pacific Ocean, located in East Asia.</p> <p>It covers an area of roughly 1,249,000 square kilometers (482,000 sq mi).</p> <p>It is situated between the eastern coast of China, including the Shanghai coast, and the southwestern coast of Japan, including the Ryukyu Islands.</p> <p>The Korean peninsula, China, Japan, and Taiwan lie within or border the East China Sea.</p> <p>The East China Sea and the South China Sea together form the China Sea.</p> <p>It connects with the Japan Sea via the Tsushima Strait and the South China Sea via the Taiwan Strait.</p>	<p>Its northern extension between mainland China and the Korean Peninsula is the Yellow Sea.</p> <p>Rivers: The Yellow River (Huanghe) and the Yangtze River (Changjiang) discharge into the East China Sea, providing much fresh water and suspended particles.</p> <p>Weather is dominated by the monsoon wind system, the result of differential heating between land and water.</p>	<p>Islands: The sea contains several islands, with the most significant being the Ryukyu Islands, which are part of Japan, and the Diaoyu Islands (known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan), which are a source of territorial dispute between China and Japan.</p>

Context: Japan's Foreign Ministry recently asked Google Inc. to revert the map names of disputed East China Sea islets to only using Japan's name

Q.72) Consider the following statements about Saras Aajeevika Mela

It aims to bring rural women SHG members under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products and linkages with potential market players.

It is organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

Choose the correct statements:

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
It is an initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of Ministry of Rural Development. Aim: To bring the rural women Self Help Group members under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with potential market players.	It is organised by the Ministry of Rural Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)

Context: Recently, the union Minister of State for Rural Development, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated the popular SARAS Mela Gurugram.

Q.73) Which of the following are the Indigenous cattle breeds of India?

- Harian
- Kankrej
- Rathi
- Jamunapari

Choose the correct code:

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

Q.73) Solution (d)

Option d
Correct
Rashtriya Gokul Mission aims to genetically improve the cattle population and promote and conserve indigenous cattle breeds. Indian Indigenous dairy breeds of cattle – Gir, Red Sindhi and Sahiwal. Indian Indigenous Draught breeds of cattle – Hallikar, Amritmahal, Khillari, Kangayam, Bargur, Umblachery, Pulikulam and Alambadi. Indian Indigenous Dual purpose breeds of Cattle – Tharparkar, Hariana, Kankrej, Ongole, Krishna Valley and Deoni.

Exotic dairy breeds of cattle – Jersey, Holstein Friesian, Brown Swiss, Red Dane, Ayrshire and Guernsey.
 Cross bred Dairy Cattle – Jersey cross and Holstein Friesian cross.
 Jamunapari is a goat breed of India.

Context: The Rashtriya Gokul Mission seeks to improve all Indigenous cattle breeds of India but recently it is found that it has promoted only the Gir indigenous cow breed.

Q.74) Consider the following statements about NISAR

NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.

NISAR is the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies to measure changes in our planet's surface.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Q.74) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO. It is an SUV-size satellite weighing 2,800 kilograms. NASA has provided the L-band radar, GPS, a high-capacity solid-state recorder to store data, and a payload data subsystem. ISRO has provided the S-band radar, the GSLV launch system, and spacecraft.</p> <p>Mission Objectives: It will measure Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses, providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater. NISAR will observe Earth's land and ice-covered surfaces globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes.</p>	<p>It consists of both L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) instruments, which makes it a dual-frequency imaging radar satellite. NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface. SAR is capable of penetrating clouds and can collect data day and night regardless of the weather conditions. It also consists of a large 39-foot stationary antenna reflector made of a gold-plated wire mesh which will be used to focus "the radar signals emitted and received by the upward-facing feed on the instrument structure.</p>

Context: The 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar' (NISAR) is poised to facilitate the exploration of how shifts in Earth's forest and wetland ecosystems impact the global carbon cycle and influence climate change.

Q.75) Melghat Tiger Reserve, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?

Maharashtra
Madhya Pradesh
Rajasthan
Andhra Pradesh

Q.75) Solution (a)**Option a****Correct**

Location:

It is located in the Amaravati district of Maharashtra.

It is located on the southern offshoot of the Satpura Hill Range in Central India, called Gavilgarh Hill.

It was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1967 and was declared a tiger reserve in 1974.

It was the first tiger reserve in Maharashtra.

It was among the first nine tiger reserves notified in 1973-74 under Project Tiger.

The name 'Melghat' means the confluence of various 'ghats' or valleys, as is typical from the landscape of this tiger Reserve.

Vegetation: The forest is tropical dry deciduous in nature, dominated by teak.

Rivers: The reserve is a catchment area for five major rivers: the Khandu, Khapra, Sipna, Gadga, and Dolar, all are tributaries of the river Tapti.

The Tapti River and the Gawilgadh ridge of the Satpura Range form the boundaries of the reserve.

Tribes: The Korkus are the largest tribal community in Melghat. Other communities include the Gawli community, the Gond tribe, and several other smaller tribal communities.

Flora: Some of the common species are teak, Lagerstroemia Parviflora, Terminalia Tomentosa, Ougeinia Oojeinensis, Emblica Officinalis, Bamboo, etc.

Fauna:

Apart from Tigers the other prominent animals are Sloth Bear, Indian Gaur, Sambar deer, Leopard, Nilgais, dhole, hyena, jungle cat, langur, etc.

It is considered a stronghold of the critically endangered forest owlet.

Context: A tiger was recently found dead in the Susarda range in the Paratwada division of Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR) buffer zone.

Q.76) Consider the following statements about Kasanka Colony

It is the largest bat colony in the world and this bat migration is the Earth's largest mammal migration.

The colony is located in the border between African countries of Gabon and Congo.

Choose the correct statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.76) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>Kasanka Colony is the largest bat colony in the world and the migration is the planet's largest mammal migration.</p> <p>The bats (<i>Eidolon helvum</i>) arrive at Kasanka every year around October. The numbers swell rapidly until they peak in November.</p> <p>Large colonies indicate a healthier, more food-rich landscape, and are also key to maintaining the collective behaviour of migration.</p> <p>The Kasanka colony of straw coloured fruit bats is the largest (by weight) in the world by at least an order of magnitude.</p> <p>The African straw-coloured fruit bat is the only long-distance migrant fruit bat in the African continent.</p>	<p>Kasanka Colony is located in the Kasanka national park of Zambia, Africa.</p>

Context: World's biggest bat colony gathers in Kasanka Colony Zambia every year in the month of October and this year, Artificial intelligence (AI) is being used to count the bat population.

Q.77) Consider the following statements

Possession of Schedule-1 animal articles is a non-bailable cognisable offence and bail can be given only by a magistrate.

The ownership certificate for an animal article will be issued by the District Forest Officer (DFO).

An ownership certificate gives one the right to gift, buy or sell a wildlife article.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

Only one

Only two

All three

None of the above

Q.77) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>Any artefact which is made with a part or a whole of a wild animal listed under the Wildlife Protection Act is an animal article or a trophy.</p> <p>Possession or selling of animal articles is a criminal offence under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.</p> <p>Possession of Schedule-1 animal articles is a non-bailable cognisable offence and bail can be given only by a magistrate.</p>	<p>If one comes in possession of an animal artefact does not have an ownership certificate, the law requires them to inform an authorised officer within 48 hours of possession.</p> <p>The possession of any animal article needs an ownership certificate.</p> <p>Anybody who is in possession of animal articles without an ownership certificate is in</p>	<p>An ownership certificate doesn't give one the right to gift, buy or sell a wildlife article.</p> <p>A wildlife article should not be accepted as a gift.</p>

<p>The animals protected under Schedule 1 includes tiger, blackbuck, brow-antlered deer, cheetah, golden langur, lion, lion-tailed macaque, Malabar civet, loris and rhinoceros are among the 40+ mammals.</p>	<p>violation of the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.</p> <p>The ownership certificates are issued by the chief wildlife wardens of each state.</p> <p>The ownership certificate, however, does not grant one absolute ownership of the artefact but only provides custodianship of the same.</p>	
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Context: Recently Varthur Santhosh, a contestant of Big Boss Kannada reality show was arrested for possession of tiger claw pendant.

Q.78) Consider the following statements about Bru community

They are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in Tripura.

They are a nomadic tribe involving Hilltop Jhum Cultivation and other food gathering activities.

Choose the incorrect statements:

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.78) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
<p>Bru, also known Reang is a community indigenous to the Northeast, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam.</p> <p>In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.</p> <p>They belong to Indo-Mongoloid racial stock. Their languages have an affinity with Austro-Asiatic groups under the Tibeto-Burman family.</p> <p>Ethnically they are divided into 2 major clans namely Meska and Molsoi.</p>	<p>They speak a language known as “Kaubru” which has a tonal effect on the Kuki language though broadly it is the Kok-Borok dialect.</p> <p>Occupation: They are still a nomadic tribe and a large number among them maintain their livelihood involving Hilltop Jhum Cultivation and other food gathering activities.</p> <p>They believe in spirits and the existence of a soul.</p> <p>By religion they are Hindus and most of their deities are akin to gods and goddesses of the Hindu faith.</p> <p>They are traditionally endogamous and do not marry outside their community.</p> <p>In their tradition the village council chief known as “RAI” permits Divorce and Widow marriage.</p>

Context: For the first time Bru refugees will not participate in elections in Mizoram as they were given permanent settlement in Tripura under a Central government sponsored rehabilitation arrangement.

Q.79) Consider the following statements about Lignite

Lignite carries 40 to 55% carbon content with high moisture content thus, gives smoke when burnt.
Rajasthan has the highest lignite reserves in India.
Tamil Nadu was the largest producer of lignite in 2022-23.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.79) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
Lignite carries 40 to 55% carbon content and is often brown in colour with high moisture content thus, gives smoke when burnt. Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam) and Tamil Nadu has deposits of Lignite.	Lignite deposits in India are primarily located in the tertiary sediments in the Southern & Western parts of the peninsular shield, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Pudhucherry, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir. Lignite is also available in minor quantities in Odisha, Kerala & West Bengal. Tamil Nadu accounts for about 82% of India's lignite reserves. Tamil Nadu has lignite reserves of 33,309.53 million tonnes. At present, only a small percentage of the total lignite reserves have been exploited.	Tamil Nadu was the largest producer of lignite in 2022-23. Tamil Nadu accounted for 49.97% of the production, followed by Gujarat at 27.37% and Rajasthan at 22.67%. In terms of export of lignite, Tamil Nadu had the highest share of 51.61%, followed by Gujarat at 26.27% and Rajasthan at 22.12%.a

Context: The provisional statistics was released by Union Ministry of Coal which indicate that Tamil Nadu was the largest producer of lignite in 2022-2023.

Q.80) Which of the following countries are included under the grey list of FATF?

- United Arab Emirates
- South Africa
- Cayman Islands
- Vietnam

Choose the correct code:

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

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

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. It is 39-member body that was established in 1989 and is based in Paris.

India is one of the member of it.

Barbados, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gibraltar, Haiti, Jamaica, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Türkiye, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen

Along with Cayman Islands, Jordan, Panama, and Albania were also removed from the FATF Grey List.

Context: Recently the Cayman Islands, British Overseas Territories were excluded from the FATF Grey List.

Q.86) Consider the following with respect to 'Stable Coins'

It is digital currency whose value is pegged to a stable asset like US dollar or gold.

Tether is one of the many stable coins.

Stable Coins are authorized by the Central banks as they are linked to stable asset.

Select the correct statement(s)

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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Stable coins are crypto currencies whose value is pegged, or tied, to that of another currency, commodity, or financial instrument. Stable coins aim to provide an alternative to the high volatility of the most popular crypto currencies,	The most popular and largest stable coin by market capitalization is Tether (USDT). It is pegged to the U.S. dollar at a 1:1 ratio and backed by gold reserves. It's also consistently in the top five crypto currencies by	Stable coins are not authorized for use by country lawmaker or central banks, which means that investors take on legal and financial risk to hold them.

including Bitcoin (BTC), which has made crypto investments less suitable for common transactions.	market cap. You can find Tether on most major crypto exchanges, including Kraken, Binance, and Coinbase.	
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Context: Ex-SoftBank Executive Unveils A UAE Stable coin to Dodge Inflation.

Q.87) With reference to 'Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)', consider the following statements

Statement 1- It is global navigation satellite system developed by ISRO.

Statement 2- It comprises 7 satellites, three in geostationary and four in inclined geosynchronous orbits.

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:

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

To meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of the nation, ISRO has established a regional navigation satellite system called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC). NavIC was erstwhile known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

NavIC is designed with a constellation of 7 satellites and a network of ground stations operating 24 x 7. Three satellites of the constellation are placed in geostationary orbit, and four satellites are placed in inclined geosynchronous orbit.

NavIC offers two services: Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users and Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users.

NavIC coverage area includes India and a region up to 1500 km beyond Indian boundary.

NavIC signals are designed to provide user position accuracy better than 20m and timing accuracy better than 50ns.

NavIC SPS signals are interoperable with the other global navigation satellite system (GNSS) signals namely GPS, Glonass, Galileo and BeiDou

Context: India's NavIC Will Now Be supported By 'Made In India' Chipsets.

Q.88) With reference to 'SARAS 3' consider the following statements

- It is an x-ray telescope to observe luminous galaxies.
- It is developed by Indian Space Research Organization.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement

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

Q.88) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
SARAS aims to design, build and deploy in India a precision radio telescope to detect extremely faint radio wave signals from the depths of time, from our "Cosmic Dawn" when the first stars and galaxies formed in the early Universe.	SARAS is a niche high-risk high-gain experimental effort of Raman Research Institute (RRI) The RRI is an autonomous research institute engaged in research in basic sciences. The institute was founded in 1948 by the Indian physicist and Nobel Laureate Sir C V Raman.

Context: Indian researchers at RRI (Raman Research Institute) in a study using the SARAS 3 radio telescope, have conclusively denied a recent claim of the discovery of a radio wave signal from cosmic dawn.

Q.89) 'Five Point Consensus' which was recently in news is related to

- Afghanistan
- North Korea
- Myanmar
- Ukraine

Q.89) Solution (c)

ASEAN's five points Consensus states that there shall be an immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar. All parties shall exercise utmost restraint; constructive dialogue among all parties concerned shall commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people.

- An immediate end to violence in the country;
- Dialogue among all parties;
- The appointment of a special envoy;
- Humanitarian assistance by ASEAN; and
- The special envoy's visit to Myanmar to meet with all parties.

Context: ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of The Five-Point Consensus

Q.90) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Apis Karinjodian'

The common name is Indian black honey bee.

The species is endemic to Western Ghats.

It has been spotted for the first time in Western Ghats

Select the correct statement(s)

Only one

Only two

Only three

None

Q.90) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Common Name: Indian black honeybee. Apis karinjodian has evolved from Apis cerana morphotypes that got acclimatised to the hot and humid environment of the Western Ghats.	The distribution of Apis karinjodian ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu. Protection: IUCN Red List: Near Threatened (NT)	The last honeybee described from India was Apis indica in 1798 by Fabricius. The new find has increased the species of honeybees in the world to 11.

Context: Recently, a new species of endemic honeybee named Apis karinjodian has been discovered in the Western Ghats after a gap of more than 200 years.

Q.91) Consider the following with respect to 'Graded response Action Plan (GRAP)'

GRAP is exclusively implemented in Delhi NCR region to prevent air quality deterioration.

It is implemented by Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).

Based on Air Quality Index (AQI) level of Delhi, it is divided into four stages

Select the correct statement(s)

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

- 1 and 3 only
All the above

Q.91) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
GRAP is a set of emergency measures that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once it reaches a certain threshold in the Delhi-NCR region. It was approved by the Supreme Court in 2016 after the Supreme Court's order in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India (2016) and notified in 2017.	From 2021 onwards, the GRAP is being implemented by the CAQM. Till 2020, the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) used to order States to implement GRAP measures. The EPCA was dissolved and replaced by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in 2020.	It covers Adjoining Area including areas in states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh adjoining NCR AQI stages are Stage 1 – Poor Air Quality Stage 2 – Very Poor Air Quality Stage 3 – Severe Air Quality Stage 4 – Severe +Air Quality

Context: Delhi air turns 'poor'; GRAP measures kick in.

Q.92) With reference to 'Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme', consider the following statements

Statement 1- Its objective is to increase the number of payment acceptance devices in tier-3 to tier-6 cities
Statement 2- Successful implementation of PIDF would promote financial inclusion 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.92) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

About Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme

It was first launched by the RBI in January 2021 for a period of three years.

Objective: Increasing the number of payment acceptance devices multifold in the country.

PIDF is a fund set up by the RBI, in consultation with major authorized card networks, to facilitate the development of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 cities and the north-eastern states of India.

The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will also be given special focus.

Beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi Scheme in Tier-1 and 2 centres were later included in August 2021.

Funding:

The PIDF is funded by the RBI and the major authorized card networks in India.

The scheme provides financial assistance to banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) for the deployment of PoS terminals and other payment acceptance infrastructure in eligible regions.

Allocation:

When establishing criteria for fund allocation, the primary objective will be to identify and assist merchants who have not yet adopted payment acceptance technology, specifically those who lack any payment acceptance devices.

These merchants may be eligible to receive one physical and one digital acceptance device each through the program.

Governance:

The PIDF will be governed through an Advisory Council and managed and administered by the RBI.

The implementation of targets shall be monitored by the RBI with assistance from card networks, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Payments Council of India (PCI).

Context: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently extended the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme by another two years and will include beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

Q.93) With reference to 'Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)' consider the following statements

CTBT is a multilateral treaty which prohibits nuclear weapon test explosion whether for military or peaceful purposes.

All permanent member (P5) of UNSC have ratified the treaty except China.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement(s)

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.93) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
It is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, whether for military or peaceful purposes; and the improvement of existing nuclear weapon designs.	India, China, the USA, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, Pakistan, Israel, and Egypt have not ratified CTBT.

Its negotiation started in the 1990s and it opened for signatures in 1996.

It will enter into force after all 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty have ratified it.

Once it enters into force, it will be legally binding against nuclear testing.

CTBT does not explicitly define nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices.

Context Russia might revoke its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Q.94) 'PUSA-44' which was recently in news is related to

- Jowar
- Wheat
- Paddy
- Barley

Q.94) Solution (c)

About PUSA-44

It is a paddy variety which was developed in 1993 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

By the end of 2010s, it had gained widespread popularity among farmers across the Punjab, covering approximately 70 to 80% of the area under paddy cultivation.

Farmers claim that PUSA-44 yields nearly 85 to 100 mann (34 to 40 quintals) per acre, while other varieties' yield average

Concerns

It is a long-duration variety, taking around 160 days to mature.

This is around 35 to 40 days more than other varieties, requiring 5-6 extra cycles of irrigation.

With Punjab facing severe groundwater depletion

Issue of stubble burning in the state.

Context: Recently, Punjab Chief Minister announced that the state will ban the cultivation of the PUSA-44 paddy variety from next year onwards.

Q.95) Consider the following pairs

Group/Organization	Country of operation
Hamas	Lebanon
Hezbollah	Gaza
Kurdistan Democratic Party	Syria

Select the correct pair(s)

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.95) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
Hamas is the largest Palestinian militant Islamist group and one of the two major political parties in the region. Currently, it governs more than two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.	Hezbollah is a Shia militia-cum-political party in Lebanon. Hezbollah and Israel have fought two wars before. They have been observing a tenuous ceasefire for 14 years.	Kurds are the world's largest stateless ethnic group. The majority among the Kurdish people today are Sunni Muslim, but there are adherents of other faiths too, including Sufism and other mystical practices. Kurdistan is made up of five different regions: southeastern Turkey, northeastern Syria, northern Iraq, northwestern Iran and southwestern Armenia. The Kurdistan Democratic Party was founded in 1957 by Kurdish nationalists in northern Syria. The party is based in Hamburg, Germany and has various branches in France, United Kingdom etc.

Context: Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that has attacked Israel.

Q.96) Consider the following with respect to 'Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)'

It was established under the Constitution (101st) Amendment Act, 2016.

It is responsible for gathering, organizing, and sharing intelligence regarding the evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Central Excise and Service Tax duties throughout India.

It works under Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Select the correct statement(s)

- 1 and 2 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>It was earlier known as the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion (DGAE).</p> <p>It was established in 1979 as an independent wing under the control of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi with the Regional Units located at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.</p> <p>In 1988, the Directorate was upgraded to Directorate General under a Director General.</p>	<p>The main responsibilities of the DGGI are:</p> <p>Intelligence gathering: The DGGI is responsible for gathering intelligence about potential violations of the GST law. This includes collecting information from various sources, such as GST returns, financial statements, and other documents.</p> <p>Investigation: The DGGI has the power to conduct investigations into suspected cases of GST evasion or non-compliance. This may involve summoning persons, examining records, and carrying out searches and seizures.</p> <p>Enforcement: The DGGI is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the GST law. This includes taking legal action against offenders, imposing penalties, and recovering any taxes or duties due.</p>	<p>The DGGI works closely with other agencies, such as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the State GST authorities, to ensure effective implementation of the GST law.</p> <p>It also plays a key role in creating awareness about GST compliance and educating taxpayers about their obligations under the law.</p> <p>It works under Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance</p>

Context: DGGI issues GST Notices of Rs 922 Crore to Reliance General Insurance.

Q.97) With reference to 'Territorial Army (TA)', consider the following statements

Statement 1- The Indian Territorial Army (TA) is a second line of defense after the regular Indian Army; it is not a profession, occupation or a source of employment

Statement 2- It was established after independence by an act of Parliament.

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 (c)

Statement Analysis:

About Territorial Army (TA)

The Indian Territorial Army (TA) is a second line of defense after the regular Indian Army; it is not a profession, occupation or a source of employment.

It is only meant for those people who are already in mainstay civilian professions; in fact, gainful employment or self-employment in a civil profession is a prerequisite for joining the TA.

Role

The duties of the TA include "relieving the Regular Army from static duties", while also providing assistance to civil authorities in times of natural calamities and tragedies.

They also help civil administration with providing essential services in areas where state machinery is stretched or there are security threats.

History

TA was raised by the Britishers in 1920 through Indian Territorial Act of 1920 and it was org into two wings namely - 'The Auxiliary Force' for Europeans & Anglo-Indians and 'The Indian Territorial Force' for Indian Volunteers.

After Independence Territorial Army Act was passed in 1948 and the Territorial Army was formally inaugurated by the first Indian Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari on 09 Oct 1949.

Motto: Savdhani Va Shoorta (Vigilance and Valour).

Conditions of Eligibility

Nationality: Citizens of India. (Men & Women).

Age: 18 to 42 years

Educational Qualifications: Graduate from any recognized university

Context: The Territorial Army (TA) recently inducted its first batch of Mandarin-trained officers to support the regular Army's efforts to enhance expertise in the Chinese language.

Q.98) With reference to 'Atmospheric Perturbations around the Eclipse Path (APEP) mission' consider the following statements

It is a mission launched by European Space Agency (ESA).

Its objective is to study the upper atmosphere during the eclipse, when there would be a sudden reduction in light.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement(s)

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.98) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>NASA is set to launch a mission called APEP to study how a solar eclipse affects the upper atmosphere. The mission will involve launching three rockets equipped with scientific instruments.</p> <p>Objective: To know how the upper atmosphere will change during the eclipse, especially the moment when there would be a sudden reduction in light. During an eclipse, the sudden drop in sunlight causes changes in the ionosphere, creating waves that ripple through this atmospheric layer.</p>	<p>It will measure changes in electric and magnetic fields, density, and temperature. This launch will take place at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, with a specific focus on the ionosphere.</p> <p>According to NASA, the ionosphere's temperature and density are projected to decrease during the eclipse, resulting in a wave-like disturbance that has the potential to disrupt GPS and other satellite communications.</p> <p>The process: The rockets will be positioned just outside the path of annularity, where the Moon moves directly in front of the Sun. Each rocket will deploy four small scientific instruments designed to record changes in electric and magnetic fields, density, and temperature.</p>

Context Indian-origin NASA scientist to lead rocket mission to 'ring of fire' eclipse..

Q.99) 'Panangkarupatti' which recently received GI tag belong to which state

Kerala

Andhra Pradesh

Tamil Nadu

Telangana

Q.99) Solution (c)**About Udangudi Panangrupatti**

The palm jaggery preparation procedure in this area is traditional till date without inclusion of any additional modern strategies.

Uniqueness:

The karupatti prepared from the palm sap from the region around Udangudi in Tiruchendur taluk in Thoothukudi district has some uniqueness.

This is due to the presence of red sand dune soil found in the region.

This soil holds less groundwater. The moisture content in the atmosphere is less because of the dry climatic condition, which leads to high sucrose content, in turn adding taste.

The region's dry climate is also suitable for storage of karupatti for a longer duration.

No chemical additives like Triple super phosphate and phosphoric acid are used in its preparation.

Key facts about Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

This is typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts and industrial products.

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

This GI tag is valid for 10 years following which it can be renewed.

Context: Recently, Udangudi 'Panangrupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur) from Tamil Nadu has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Q.100) With reference to 'Pink Dolphin' consider the following statements

It is a unique saltwater species found only in the rivers of South America.

Its IUCN Red List Conservation status is Critically Endangered

Their presence is confirmed in Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina

Select the correct statement(s)

Only one

Only two

All three

None

Q.100) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p>The Amazon river dolphin is a unique freshwater species found only in the rivers of South America.</p> <p>Amazon river dolphins look very different from marine dolphins. Born grey, adult Amazon river dolphins turn pink or pinkish-grey as they mature²⁰. Mature males are pinker than females, which could be due to frequent aggressive interactions with other males. As wounds heal, they are covered with pink scar tissue that eventually replaces their grey skin</p>	<p>IUCN Red List Conservation status: Endangered</p>	<p>Amazon river dolphins are found in the Amazon, Orinoco, and Tocantins-Araguaia River Basins with their presence confirmed in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.</p> <p>The species is found in freshwater environments ranging from deltas to inland river systems and streams and even flooded forests in the heart of the South American continent.</p> <p>There are two recognized subspecies, the Bolivian bufeo (I. g. boliviensis), and the Common bot</p>

Context: Over 100 endangered pink dolphins found dead in the Brazilian Amazon.

Q.101) Consider the following with respect to 'International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'

It is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies.

It was established in 1947 as International Telegraph Union.

ITU's membership includes Member States, companies, universities, and international and regional organizations.

Select the correct statement(s)

1 and 2 only

2 and 3 only

1 and 3 only

All the above

Q.101) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct

It is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies.	It was established in 1865 as International Telegraph Union.	Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
It is an intergovernmental organization that coordinates between governments and private sector bodies with respect to global telecommunication and information communication technology (ICT) services.	In 1947 the ITU became a specialized agency of the United Nations. India has been an active member of the ITU since 1869 and has been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952.	Membership: It has a membership of 193 countries and nearly 800 private sector entities and academic institutions.

Context: The Elon Musk vs Mukesh Ambani battle on whether to auction or allocate satellite spectrum.

Q.102) With reference to 'International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)', consider the following statements

Statement 1- It was launched by India, for the conservation of seven big cats.

Statement 2- It is open for all member countries in the United Nations.

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 (c)

Statement Analysis:

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

It was launched by India on April 9, 2023, for the conservation of seven big cats, namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma harboring our planet..

It is open to 97 'range' countries, which contain the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organizations, etc.

It will provide a platform for the member nations to share knowledge and expertise and extend support to recovery efforts in potential habitats.

Its major activities will include advocacy, partnership, knowledge e-portal, capacity building, eco-tourism, partnerships between expert groups, and finance tapping.

IBCA will also assist existing species-specific inter-governmental platforms to boost conservation efforts.

Funding:

After the first five years, which will be supported by India's 'total grant assistance' of \$100 million, the IBCA is expected to sustain itself through membership fees and contributions from bilateral and multilateral institutions and the private sector.

Governance Structure:

A General Assembly consisting of all member countries.

A Council of at least seven but not more than 15 member countries elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years, and a Secretariat.

Upon the recommendation of the Council, the General Assembly will appoint the IBCA Secretary General for a specific term.

Context: Tanzanian President recently conveyed approval to join flagship Indian programs like the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Q.103) With reference to 'Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)' consider the following statements

The goal is to unite researchers and climate information users to make informed decisions for long-term improvement.

It was established during the COP 21 Paris, France.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement(s)

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.103) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<p>Aim: to facilitate researchers and users of climate information and services to join hands in order to make informed and actionable decisions for the long-term betterment.</p> <p>It is led by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in respective nations.</p> <p>The five major components under GFCS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observations and Monitoring, 2. Research, 3. Modelling and Prediction, 4. Climate Services Information System, 	<p>Establishment: During the third World Climate Conference held in Geneva in 2009.</p> <p>It is mandated to generate high-quality data from national and international databases on temperature, rainfall, wind, soil moisture and ocean conditions and other vital weather parameters.</p> <p>Priority sectors: agriculture and food security, energy, health, water and disaster risk reduction.</p>

5. User Interface Platform and Capacity Building.	
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Context India is embarking on a major programme to launch its maiden national-level framework towards providing climate services and information.

Q.104) 'Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)' passes through which of the following protected area

- Kanha Tiger reserve
- Panna Tiger reserve
- Satpura National Park
- Palpur Kuno Wildlife sanctuary

Q.104) Solution (b)

About The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)

The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the river interlinking project that aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh (MP) to Betwa in Uttar Pradesh (UP) to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.

The region spread across the districts of two states mainly Jhansi, Banda, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts of UP and Tikamgarh, Panna and Chhatarpur districts of MP.

The project involves building a 77-metre tall and a 2-km wide Dhaudhan dam (to be built within Panna Tiger Reserve) and a 230-km canal.

Ken-Betwa is one of the 30 river interlinking projects conceived across the country.

Significance:

It will not only accelerate the water conservation by construction of a multipurpose dam but will also produce 103 MW of hydropower and will supply drinking water to 62 lakh people.

Context: The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), a major irrigation project in India, has recently secured its final forest clearance after six years.

Q.105) With reference to 'Curative Petition' consider the following statements

It is the last resort to the highest court that can be petitioned for redressal of grievances in court, and its ruling is final.

The concept of curative petition originated from the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra and another case (2002)

Article 137 of the Indian Constitution broadly supports the idea of a curative petition

Select the correct statement(s)

Only one

- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.105) Solution (c)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
It is the last resort to the highest court that can be petitioned for redressal of grievances in court, and its ruling is final. It is a way to ask the court to review and revise their own decision, and it is filed after a review petition is dismissed or used. It is the final and last option for the people to acquire justice, as mentioned and promised by the Constitution of India.	The concept of curative petition originated from the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra and another case (2002) where the following question arose before the court of law: 'whether an aggrieved person is entitled to any relief against the final judgment/order of the Supreme Court, after the dismissal of a review petition?'	The concept evolved in the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs, Ashok Hurra is not newer to the constitution itself. Article 137 of the Indian Constitution broadly supports the idea of a curative petition. It states that the "Supreme Court has the power to review any judgment pronounced (or order made) by it if the matter concerns the laws and rules made under Article 145.

Context: The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear curative petitions filed by Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel citing arithmetical errors in calculation of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues by the department of telecommunications (DoT), in an open court.

Q.106) Consider the following statements

- National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to promote palm cultivation.
- India is the world's largest palm oil importer.
- Oil palm trees are native to South-East Asia.

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
<p>NMEO-OP is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It is proposed to have an additional 6.5 lakh hectares for palm oil by 2025-26.</p> <p>Oil palm farmers will be provided financial assistance and will get remuneration under a price and viability formula.</p> <p>The Viability Formula is a Minimum Support Price-type mechanism and the government will fix this at 14.3% of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) price.</p>	<p>India is the world's largest palm oil importer. It imported 8.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) of palm oil in 2020-21, constituting around 18 % of global imports.</p>	<p>Oil palm trees are native to Africa but were brought to South-East Asia just over 100 years ago as an ornamental tree crop. Now, Indonesia and Malaysia make up over 85% of global supply but there are 42 other countries that also produce palm oil.</p>

Context: Union government to extend Palm-oil plantation in north-eastern states under NMEO-OP.

Q.107) With reference to 'Muthuvan Tribe', consider the following statements

Statement 1- Population of Muthuvan tribe is limited to fragmented habitats in the Eastern Ghats.

Statement 2- Traditionally, Muthuvans are nomadic agriculturists, hunters and trappers.

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 (d)

Statement Analysis:

About the Muthuvan tribe:

The Muthuvan people live on the border hill forests of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

They speak slightly two different dialects and call each other Malayalam Muthuvan and Pandi Muthuvan.

Muthuvan are animists and spirit worshippers and also worship the forest gods,

They believe that the spirits of their ancestors are to be the first migrants to the hill forests.

The Muthuvan tribe has a unique system of governance called the 'Kani System'.

Under this system, each village is headed by a 'Kani', who is responsible for the administration of the village.

They have expertise in traditional medicines which are very effective and these medicines and the medicine men are confidentially preserved and passed on to the generations.

Occupation: Agriculture is the main occupation of these Muthuvan tribes, producing quite a number of products like ragi, cardamom and lemon grass.

Context: According to the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Muthuvan tribe will be part of Nilgiri Tahr conservation project.

Q.108) With reference to 'General Provident Fund (GPF)' consider the following statements

It is a provident fund account that is available for both government and private employees.

It is a mandatory scheme, requiring them to contribute a certain percentage of their salary towards the fund.

Select the **INCORRECT** statement(s)

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.108) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
<p>It is a type of provident fund account that is available only for government employees in India. The primary objective of this fund is to provide a dependable source of retirement income for government employees. It allows government employees to accumulate savings over their employment tenure.</p> <p>Eligibility: The following are eligible to subscribe to a GPF account: All temporary government servants who have given their service continuously for one year All re-employed pensioners (except those eligible for admission to the contributory provident fund) All permanent government servants</p>	<p>It is a mandatory scheme for government employees, requiring them to contribute a certain percentage of their salary towards the fund. The contributions are deducted from the employee's monthly salary, and the amount earns interest at a predetermined rate. Employees can also increase the GPF deductions as per their choice.</p> <p>Withdrawal: Employees can withdraw their savings from the fund upon retirement or resignation from service. A GPF is flexible, allowing employees to withdraw money from the fund for various reasons, such as marriage, education, and medical emergencies. Employees can also take out loans against their GPF account, subject to certain conditions.</p>

A private sector worker is not eligible for the General Provident Fund	Employees who transfer to another government department or leave their job can withdraw their GPF balance or transfer it to their new employer. The GPF sum will be paid to their nominee if the employee passes away.
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Context The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) recently issued a letter explaining the procedure retiring AIS officers on central deputation can follow to claim GPF.

Q.109) 'TV-D1 Mission' which was recently in news is related to

- Chandrayaan 3
- Gaganyaan
- Aditya L1 mission
- Mangalyaan

Q.109) Solution (b)

TV-D1 Mission

Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) will evaluate the crew module's readiness for the Gaganyaan mission.

It is a single-stage liquid rocket developed specifically for this abort mission.

The payloads consist of the Crew Module (CM) and Crew Escape Systems (CES) with their fast-acting solid motors, along with CM fairing (CMF) and Interface Adapters.

This flight will simulate the abort condition during the ascent trajectory corresponding to a Mach number of 1.2 encountered in the Gaganyaan mission.

The Crew Escape System is engineered to automatically function across various altitudes should the onboard computer detect any malfunctions.

This test flight will simulate an abort condition during the ascent trajectory.

Objective:

To test a crucial system to be deployed on the Gaganyaan mission that will ensure the safety of the Indian astronauts in case of an emergency in the initial phase of the launch.

CES with CM will be separated from the Test Vehicle at an altitude of about 17 km.

Subsequently, the abort sequence will be executed autonomously commencing with the separation of CES and deployment of the series of parachutes, finally culminating in the safe touchdown of CM in the sea, about 10 km from the coast of Sriharikota.

Context: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its first-ever test flight, TV-D1, for the Gaganyaan mission, marking a pivotal moment in India's pursuit of human spaceflight.

Q.110) With reference to 'Niemann-Pick Disease' consider the following statements

It is a rare genetic disorder in which sphingomyelin accumulates in lysosomes inside cells.

This disease can affect the brain, nerves, liver, spleen, bone marrow and, in severe cases, lungs

It is notified as the ailment under the National Policy for Rare Diseases.

How many statement(s) given above are correct ?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.110) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<p>It is a rare genetic disorder in which sphingomyelin accumulates in lysosomes inside cells.</p> <p>This disease involves dysfunctional metabolism of sphingolipids.</p> <p>The three most commonly recognized forms are Niemann-Pick Types A and B and Type C.</p>	<p>Causes:</p> <p>It is inherited in a c pattern, which means both copies of the gene must be defective to cause the disease.</p> <p>Most often, the parents of a child with an autosomal recessive disorder are carriers: they have one copy of the altered gene, but are not affected because the other copy produces the enzyme.</p> <p>If both parents are carriers, each pregnancy has a 25% chance of producing an affected child.</p>	<p>Symptoms</p> <p>Enlargement of the liver and spleen (Hepatosplenomegaly)</p> <p>Low levels of platelets in the blood(Thrombocytopenia)</p> <p>Slurring of speech (dysarthria)</p> <p>Difficulty in swallowing (dysphagia)</p> <p>Abnormal posturing of the limbs, trunk, and face (dystonia).</p> <p>Voluntary rapid eye movements (supranuclear gaze palsy).</p> <p>Gradual loss of intellectual abilities, causing dementia and seizures</p> <p>It is not notified as a rare disease under the National Policy for Rare Diseases</p>

Context: Recently, parents of children suffering from Niemann-Pick disease have urged the Union government to notify the ailment under the National Policy for Rare Diseases.

Q.106) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0'

It provides instant tabular analysis of state-wise & district-wise grievances filed & ministry-wise data.

It has been enabled with Artificial Intelligence capabilities and can also identify the root cause of grievances

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.106) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The Dashboard provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data. It is a public grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).	The Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Dashboard has been implemented by IIT Kanpur following an MoU with DARPG on December 14, 2021 for upgrading DARPG Information Systems (CPGRAMS) with Artificial Intelligence capabilities. The Dashboard will also help the officials identify the root cause of the grievance.

Context – IGMS 2.0 Public Grievance portal was launched

Q.107) With reference to 'Pygmy Hogs', consider the following statements

- It is the smallest and rarest species of wild pig in the world
- It is an indicator species as its presence reflects the health of mangrove habitats
- The IUCN has listed Pygmy Hogs as Critically Endangered

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.107) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The pygmy hog (<i>Porcula salvania</i>) is the rarest species of pig in the world today, and is the only species in the genus <i>Porcula</i> . It is also the smallest species of pig in the world.	It is an indicator species as its presence reflects the health of its primary habitat, tall and wet grasslands. It prefers undisturbed patches of grassland dominated by early succession riverine communities, typically comprising dense tall grass intermixed with a wide variety of herbs, shrubs and young trees.	The IUCN has listed Pygmy Hogs as Critically Endangered. It is also listed in the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Context – Eighteen captive-bred pygmy hogs were released in western Assam's Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve.

Q.108) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Financial Stability Board (FSB)'

It brings together national authorities responsible for financial stability, international organizations and standard-setting bodies

FSB was established by the World Bank in the wake of the financial crisis.

The decisions of FSB are legally binding on its members

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.108) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect
The FSB brings together national authorities responsible for financial stability (central banks, supervisory authorities, and finance ministries), international	FSB was established by the G20 in 2009 in the wake of the financial crisis. The FSB consists of 68 member institutions. The	The FSB's decisions are not legally binding on its members.

organisations, and standard-setting bodies.

board includes all G20 major economies.

Context – FSB sought global clampdown on hedge borrowing

Q.109) With reference to 'Sastra Ramanujan Prize', consider the following statements

Statement 1 - The prize is conferred annually to mathematicians from across the world who is less than 32 years of age

Statement 2 - It is awarded by the SASTRA University on Ramanujan's birth anniversary

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

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

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

Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect

Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

Q.109) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
The prize is conferred annually to mathematicians from across the world who is less than 32 years of age, working in an area influenced by the Srinivasa Ramanujan. The age limit is 32 years to commemorate the fact that Ramanujan accomplished a phenomenal body of work in this short span.	Sastra Ramanujan Prize was instituted in the year 2005. It is awarded every year by the SASTRA University on its campus near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, on Ramanujan's birth anniversary, December 22.

Context - Ruixiang Zhang will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his outstanding contributions in mathematics

Q.110) 'Project Udbhav' which was launched by Indian Army aims to

Build good relations with local population

Teach self-defense to volunteers

Provide scholarship to the kin of martyrs

Rediscover Indic heritage in statecraft

Q.110) Solution (d)

The Indian Army has started an initiative, named Project Udbhav, to rediscover the “profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts” derived from ancient Indian texts of “statecraft, warcraft, diplomacy and grand strategy” in collaboration with the United Service Institution of India, a defence think-tank.

Context – It was launched by the Indian Army recently

Q.111) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Controller General of Accounts (CGA)’

CGA is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India
 CGA formulates policies relating to procedures of accounting for the Central and State Governments.
 CGA audits the receipts and expenditure of the Union and each State and the Union Territory Governments.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.111) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India. It was established in October 1975 to administer matters pertaining to the departmentalization of the accounts of the Union.	The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings, and various fiscal indicators for the Union Government. It further formulates policies relating to general principles, forms, and procedures of accounting for the Central and State Governments.	It is the duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General to audit receipts and expenditure of the Union and each State and the Union Territory Governments. The audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General are placed before Parliament or the legislature of the State or the Union Territory

Context – The Central Government’s fiscal deficit in the first five months of 2023-24 touched 36 percent of the full-year target, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Q.112) Consider the following statements with respect to 'R21/Matrix-M vaccine'

The R21 vaccine is the first malaria vaccine to be recommended by the WHO
It was developed by the University of Oxford and Bharat Biotech

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.112) Solution (d)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Incorrect
The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine recommended by the WHO, following the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine, which received a WHO recommendation in 2021. It is a new vaccine approved for the prevention of malaria in children.	It was developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India with support from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ('EDCTP'), the Wellcome Trust, and the European Investment Bank ('EIB').

Context – The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently recommended a new vaccine, R21/Matrix-M, for the prevention of malaria in children.

Q.113) 'Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary' seen in news recently is located in

- Assam
- Jharkhand
- Bihar
- Odisha

Q.113) Solution (c)

Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest sanctuary located in the Kaimur District of Bihar. It is nestled in the Vindhayachal hill ranges. The sanctuary forms a very important catchment for theKav, Sone, and Durgawati river systems, with important tributaries. It is connected with Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary of UP, which again has links with Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve and Panna landscape in Madhya Pradesh.

Context - Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year or early 2024.

Q.114) With reference to 'Green Ammonia', consider the following statements

Statement 1 - Green ammonia production is where the process of making ammonia is 100% renewable and carbon-free

Statement 2 - It is produced by using hydrogen from water electrolysis and oxygen separated from the air

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 (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Green ammonia production is where the process of making ammonia is 100% renewable and carbon-free. Green ammonia is made with hydrogen that comes from water electrolysis powered by alternative energy.	Green Ammonia is produced by using hydrogen from water electrolysis and nitrogen separated from the air. These are then fed into the Haber process (also known as Haber-Bosch) which is powered by sustainable electricity.

Context - V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tamil Nadu, successfully received and handled Green Ammonia Containers from Damietta Port, Egypt

Q.115) Consider the following statements

Karman Line is an imaginary line that demarcates the earth's atmosphere from space

There is significant difference in the pressure of air on either side of the line and the effect of gravity ends there

Select the correct statement(s)

1 only

2 only

- Both 1 and 2
Neither 1 nor 2

Q.115) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Karman Line It is located at 100 km above sea level, it is an imaginary line that demarcates the earth's atmosphere from space. Though not all scientists and spacefarers accept it, a majority of countries and space organisations recognise this boundary between earthsky and space.	Within a short distance on either side of the line, there is no significant difference in the pressure or the composition of air. The earth's gravity continues to exert its pull here. Even the earth's atmosphere doesn't end here.

Context – It was in news recently**Q.116) Consider the following statements with respect to 'International Coral Reef Initiative'**

- It is a global partnership between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs
The work of ICRI is regularly acknowledged in United Nations documents
It was launched at Conference of Parties to Convention on Biodiversity by UAE and Indonesia

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
International Coral Reef Initiative is a global partnership between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around	The work of ICRI is regularly acknowledged in United Nations documents, highlighting the Initiative's important cooperation, collaboration and	International Coral Reef Initiative was launched in 1994 by Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, Britain and the United States. Its members now include 45

the world. Its decisions are not binding on its members.

advocacy role within the international arena.

countries that represent three quarters of the world's coral reefs. India is also a member country of this initiative.

Context – Countries pledged to raise \$12 billion to fund coral reef protection in hopes to save them from dying

Q.117) With reference to 'Attosecond pulses', consider the following statements

It is an extremely short unit of time equivalent to one-billionth of a second

The motion of electrons within atoms can be frozen to view chemical reactions real-time using these pulses

Select the correct statement(s)

1 only

2 only

Both 1 and 2

Neither 1 nor 2

Q.117) Solution (b)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
An attosecond is an astonishingly short unit of time, equivalent to one quintillionth of a second (1×10^{-18} of a second) or one-billionth of a nanosecond. To put this into perspective, if a second were stretched to cover the entire age of the universe, which is approximately 13.8 billion years, an attosecond would be just a fraction of a second.	Attosecond pulses are produced using high-intensity laser systems that generate attosecond bursts of light. With these attosecond pulses, scientists can "freeze" the motion of electrons within atoms and molecules, providing a real-time view of electron movement during chemical reactions.

Context – Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to three physicists for their research into attosecond pulses of light.

Q.118) 'Exercise SAMPRITI' which started recently is conducted between India and

Nepal

Thailand
Maldives
Bangladesh

Q.118) Solution (d)

Exercise SAMPRITI is an annual joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh. It was started in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022. This exercise, alternatingly organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives. SAMPRITI-XI, scheduled for 14 days, will engage approximately 350 personnel from both sides.

Context - India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI on 03rd October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya

Q.119) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Unlawful Activities Prevention Act'

The Act empowers the government to designate only individuals as terrorists
It is applicable to Indian and foreign nationals but only if the offence is committed inside India
The Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

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

Only one
Only two
All three
None

Q.119) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The Act provides wide-ranging powers to the Central Government to designate organisations as terrorist organisations. The amendment Act in 2019 additionally empowers the government to	It is also applicable if the offences are committed outside India. Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.	The Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act. 1. The Schedule lists nine treaties, including the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), the Convention

designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.	against Taking of Hostages (1979) and the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).
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Context – The Delhi Police has sealed the office of news portal NewsClick, by invoking the UAPA Act, alleging it received money for pro-China propaganda.

Q.120) Consider the following statements about 'Morocco'

It lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain and the Tropic of Cancer passes through it
It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.120) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Morocco is a mountainous country of western North Africa. It lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain. The Tropic of Cancer passes through eight countries in Africa, namely Egypt, Libya, Chad, Niger, Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Western Sahara	It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. 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.

Context – A powerful earthquake struck Morocco, claiming more than 2,800 lives.

Q.121) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Quantum dots'

Statement 1 - They are used in display technology to enhance the color and efficiency of displays for TVs, monitors, and other electronic devices

Statement 2 - The smallest quantum dots emit higher energy waves and produce blue light, and the biggest dots release lower energy waves creating red light

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.121) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
Quantum dots are used in display technology to enhance the color and efficiency of displays for TVs, monitors, and other electronic devices. Compared to organic luminescent materials used in organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs), QD-based materials have purer colors, a longer lifetime, lower manufacturing costs, and lower power consumption.	They can be engineered to emit light across the entire visible spectrum and into the infrared and ultraviolet ranges, offering a wide palette of colors for various applications. The smallest quantum dots emit higher energy waves and produce blue light, and the biggest dots release lower energy waves, creating red light, with the middle sizes creating the colours in between.

Context - The 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was recently awarded to Mounqi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I. Ekimov recently for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.

Q.122) An interesting feature of this site is that it shows features of all the three phases of Buddhism. It is located in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The site was excavated under the aegis of Alexander Rim. The site is

Guntupalle
Bojjanakonda
Jaggayyapeta
Erravaram

Q.122) Solution (b)

Bojjanakonda is located in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The site was excavated under the aegis of Alexander Rim in 1906. It was originally known as 'Buddhuni konda' (hill of the Buddha), but it came to be known as 'Bojjanakonda' in the course of time. Buddhist monks used to practice on the hill about 2,000

years ago. An interesting feature of this site is that it shows features of all the three phases of Buddhism: Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana. The caves at Bojjannakonda and those in Takshasila are similar.

Context - the Central government has taken up landscaping and development of tourist amenities at Bojjannakonda site

Q.123) With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)', consider the following statements

It is an institution for enhancing infrastructure financing by investing only in greenfield (new) projects
It is India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund (SWF) anchored by the Government of India in collaboration with leading global institutional investors.
The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Reserve Bank of India

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.123) Solution (a)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
It is an institution for enhancing infrastructure financing by investing in greenfield (new), brownfield (existing) and stalled projects. The primary goal of setting up NIIF was to optimize the economic impact largely through investing in infrastructure-related projects.	National Investment and Infrastructure Fund is an investor-owned fund manager, anchored by the Government of India (GoI) in collaboration with leading global and domestic institutional investors. It is India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund (SWF) which was set up in the year 2015.	The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Context – The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund has entered into collaboration with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to unveil a \$600 million India-Japan Fund

Q.124) Consider the following statements about 'Dynamic Injunction'

It is passed to protect copyrighted works even before they are publicly released, distributed, or created
 Certain sections of the Copyright Act provides the legal basis for such injunctions in India

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.124) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
A dynamic injunction is passed to protect copyrighted works even before they are publicly released, distributed, or created. It ensures that no irreparable loss is caused to its authors and owner, owing to the imminent possibility of such works being uploaded on rogue websites or their newer versions immediately after their creation or release, given the challenges posed by online piracy.	The legal basis for such injunctions in India is Section 37 of the Copyright Act, 1957. Section 37 pertains to the "broadcast reproduction right," which is a special right extended to broadcasting organizations. Section 39 of the Copyright Act provides exceptions to when the reproduction of copyrighted content can be considered "fair dealing" and not copyright infringement

Context – The Delhi High Court has passed a “dynamic injunction” in favour of the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2023 broadcaster, Star India Private Limited, before the Cup’s commencement.

Q.125) Consider the following statements

Turmeric is a perennial flowering plant which grows in drained red loamy soil receiving an annual rainfall of 1500 mm or more

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.

National Turmeric Board constituted under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare promotes the interests of turmeric farmers

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three

None

Q.125) Solution (b)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Turmeric is a perennial flowering plant in the ginger family Zingiberaceae. It prefers well drained red loamy soil. Turmeric can be grown in diverse tropical conditions from sea level to 1500 m above sea level, at a temperature range of 20-35o C with an annual rainfall of 1500 mm	India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. India has 62% share of world trade in turmeric. The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.	The Ministry of Commerce will be the nodal department providing funds and infrastructure for the NTB, which will look into increased demand, usage, production, research, market linkage, exports and so on.

Context – The Centre recently notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board, a long-standing demand of turmeric farmers across the country.

Q.126) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Project Veer Gatha 3.0'

It aims to raise awareness about the brave acts and sacrifices of the freedom fighters among school students

It has been launched by The Ministry of Defence in collaboration with the Ministry of Education

Select the INCORRECT statement(s)

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

Q.126) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Project Veer Gatha was instituted under Gallantry Awards Portal (GAP) in 2021 with the aim to	The Ministry of Defence (MoD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) has launched

disseminate the details of acts of bravery of the Gallantry Awardees and the life stories of these brave hearts among the students so as to raise the spirit of patriotism and instill amongst them values of civic consciousness. Project Veer Gatha deepened this noble aim by providing a platform to the school students to do creative projects/activities based on gallantry award winners.

Project Veer Gatha 3.0. The best project is rewarded nationally by the Ministry of Defence on the forthcoming Republic Day.

Context – Over 1.36 crore school students from across the country participate in Veer Gatha Project 3.0

Q.127) 'South Lhonak lake' recently seen in news is a type of

- Volcanic lake
- Tectonic lake
- Glacial lake
- Aeolian lake

Q.127) Solution (c)

South Lhonak Lake is a glacial-moraine-dammed lake, located in Sikkim's far northwestern region. It is one of the fastest expanding lakes in the Sikkim Himalaya region, and one of the 14 potentially dangerous lakes susceptible to Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOFs). Its formation is attributed to the melting glaciers of the region, a process accelerated by rising global temperatures. It plays a role in the hydrological cycle, releasing water downstream, ultimately benefiting the Teesta River basin.

Context - Recent flash floods in north Sikkim resulted from the bursting of the South Lhonak Lake.

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

The Declaration called for urgent global emissions reduction and for operationalizing the new Loss and Damage Fund

It was adopted under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme

Select the correct statement(s)

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

Q.128) Solution (a)**Statement Analysis:**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
The Dakar Declaration called for urgent global emissions reductions, increased climate finance, a strong outcome operationalising the new Loss and Damage Fund and an ambitious Global Stocktake to close the gaps in global climate action.	Ministers from the world's 46 least developed countries (LDC) issued a joint Dakar Declaration on Climate Change 2023 outlining their expectation and priorities for 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Context – Least developed countries set expectations for COP28 with Dakar Declaration**Q.129) Consider the following statements with respect to 'NanoPtA'**

Statement 1 – It is a nanozyme can then degrade pollutants present in wastewater by oxidizing them in the presence of sunlight

Statement 2 - This nanozyme could be a potentially useful diagnostic tool for neurological and neurodegenerative diseases

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
NanoPtA can then degrade pollutants present in wastewater by oxidising them in the presence of sunlight, thereby reducing the toxicity of wastewater. Individual NanoPtA molecules connect together to form tape-like structures that	The nanozyme can also have applications in healthcare and could be a potentially useful diagnostic tool for neurological and neurodegenerative diseases. The researchers also found that the NanoPtA complex was quite stable,

start emitting light, which is the origin of its oxidizing capacity.

lasting for up to 75 days at room temperature.
Applications:

Context - Scientists at the Materials Research Centre (MRC), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have developed a new type of enzyme mimetic called NanoPtA

Q.130) Consider the following statements about 'National Investigation Agency (NIA)'

It is a central agency which investigates all offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India

The law under which the agency operates extends to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India

State governments can refer the cases pertaining to the scheduled offences for NIA investigation

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

Only one

Only two

All three

None

Q.130) Solution (c)

Statement Analysis:

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Correct
The NIA is a central agency which investigates all offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, and the offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties.	The law under which the agency operates extends to the whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country; persons in the service of the government wherever they are posted; persons on ships and aircraft registered in India wherever they may be; persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.	As provided under Section 6 of the Act, State governments can refer the cases pertaining to the scheduled offences registered at any police station to the Central government (Union Home Ministry) for NIA investigation.

Context – Union Home Minister suggested uniform anti-terrorism structure under NIA for all States